

SPORTS
sports

Arsenal open US tour with win

Arsenal began their preseason tour with 3-0 friendly win in Colorado

AFP | Los Angeles

Brazilian Gabriel Martinelli scored in his Arsenal debut Monday as the English Premier League club launched their pre-season tour of the United States with a 3-0 friendly win over the Colorado Rapids.

Bukayo Saka and James Olayinka also scored for the Gunners, who cruised to the victory at Dick's Sporting Goods Park in suburban Denver.

Martinelli, the 18-year-old forward signed from Ituano on July 2, was given a surprise start in attack by Unai Emery and sent an early chance wide.

Saka, 17, was an energetic presence and put Arsenal up 1-0 in the 13th minute as he collected a through-ball from Eddie Nketiah.

Another teenager -- 18-year-old Olayinka -- doubled the score in the 29th, seizing a stray pass from defence and racing in to fire into the top left corner of the net.

Martinelli, having missed his early chance, capped the scoring in the 61st when he slotted home



Eddie Nketiah of Arsenal takes on Kellyn Acosta of Colorado

a cross from close range.

The Rapids, in the midst of the Major League Soccer season, fielded a mostly reserve side that featured several players

from the lower-rung Colorado Springs Switchbacks.

Arsenal, too, started a reserve team as they begin their build up to the Premier League season

after again failing to secure a Champions League berth.

The tour hasn't started without controversy. Captain Laurent Koscielny refused to travel



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to the US, and a group of influential Arsenal supporters' organisations published a statement on Monday hitting out at Stan Kroenke's "passive ownership". Under a hashtag "WeCareDo You" the statement decried a "soulless" atmosphere at Arsenal's Emirates Stadium and a lack of transfer strategy.

Kroenke, who began investing in the club in 2007 through his company Kroenke Sports Enterprises and took full ownership in 2018, also owns the Rapids as well as the NFL's Los Angeles Rams.

Brazil government delegates show appreciation to Shaikh Khalid

TDI | Manama

BRAVE Combat Federation has been a key player in Brazil's MMA community since the Bahraini promotion first landed in the country, more than two years ago. Since then, BRAVE CF has elevated that market and has given opportunities to dozens of Brazilian fighters to grow on an international platform. During the Brazilian government delegation visit, they showed their appreciation for the efforts of BRAVE CF.

The delegates pointed out that BRAVE Combat Federation has made a huge impact in the country and thanked HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa for the interest shown by the promotion in reviving the mixed martial arts scene in the country.

The delegates sent their appreciation from Brazil president Jair Bolsonaro.

Marcos Ferraz and Thiago Jose Zanini Godinho, Special Advisor of Foreign Affairs of the Ministry of Tourism of Brazil, travelled to Bahrain to sign a new deal between BRAVE CF and Brazil, and to discuss possible cooperations through BRAVE CF to elevate both countries in the fields of tourism and sports.

Bahrain's fans to enjoy packed schedule of FIVB U21 Worlds



Action from Bahrain's friendly match with Iran played on Monday night

TDI | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain's volleyball fans are in for a special treat this weekend as a packed three days of matches are set to take place in the preliminary round of the FIVB Volleyball Men's U21 World Championship 2019.

Eight games are scheduled for each day of the opening phase, beginning on Thursday, July 18, at two of the indoor arenas at Shaikh Isa Sports City in Riffa.

The first pair of contests are scheduled to get underway at 11.30am, while each day's final clashes begin no earlier than 7pm.

Fans are invited to attend all the fixtures and cheer on their favourite teams. Entrance is free of charge.

In the preliminary round, the 16 participating under-21 national teams have been

divided into four groups of four. Pool A consists of China, Morocco, Puerto Rico and hosts Bahrain, while Pool B is composed of Cuba, Argentina, Egypt and Korea. Pool C includes Russia, Iran, the Czech Republic and Tunisia, while Pool D features Italy, Canada, Brazil and Poland, who are the defending champions.

On Thursday, action begins with Cuba taking on Korea and Iran facing Tunisia. They will be followed at 2pm by Argentina playing Egypt and Russia battling the Czech Republic.

At 4.30pm, Morocco and China play in one game while Poland and Brazil go head to head in the other. That then leads to the day's final two contests between Bahrain and Puerto Rico, and between Italy and Canada.

The preliminaries continue until Saturday, July 20.

Shoukat CC lift NHSC trophy



Players and officials after the final match

TDI | Manama

In a thrilling encounter Shoukat CC defeated Jai Karnataka by one wicket to lift the prestigious Indian Club NHSC trophy 2019.

Chasing 39 runs in the final of the 7 a side softball cricket tournament, Shoukat crossed the mark in 5.5 overs with a wicket spare.

Man of the final Zahid (9 not out, 7 balls, 1x4) hit a boundary to seal the match for his side. Opener Muneeb (10) gave winning team a good start.

Batting 1st Jai Karnataka gathered a good score of 38 for 2 wickets in 6 overs. Openers Arun Shetty 18*(16b, 1x6) & Sunil 15(15b, 1x6) played well.

In the earlier semifinal matches, Shoukat CC defeated

Physio Zone by 6 runs while Jai Karnataka won against Super Tools, Fire & Safety by 11 runs

Individual prizes:

Best batsman: Arun Shetty (Jai Karnataka)

Best bowler: Muneeb (Shoukat CC)

Man of the Final: Zahid (Shoukat CC)

Man of the series: Muneeb (Shoukat CC)

Over 8mln watch World Cup final

Reuters | London

More than 8 million people in Britain tuned in to watch England win the Cricket World Cup on Sunday following the decision by Sky decision to allow the final to be shown on a free-to-air channel.

After criticism that England's earlier matches had only been watched by under a million viewers on Sky's subscription-based channels, the broadcaster made Sunday's finale against New Zealand available on Channel 4.

However, cricket failed to top numbers who watched the BBC's coverage of the thrilling Wimbledon tennis Men's Singles Final.



Everton sign midfielder Delph from Man City

AFP | Liverpool

Everton said on Monday that they have signed England midfielder Fabian Delph from Manchester City on a three-year deal.

Everton did not say how much they had paid for the 29-year-old England international-Fabian Delph

al, who joined City from Aston Villa in 2015.

Delph played 89 games for City, winning two Premier League medals. He also has 20 England caps.

"When I look to bring a new player into our squad, the first thing I look for above all the other things is quality and Fabian is a player with high quality," Everton manager Marco Silva told the club web site.

"But what they can bring to our dressing room is also im-

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MARCO SILVA

portant.”

The site also quoted Delph. "Every time I have played against Everton, whether it was home or away, straight away the first thing that comes to mind when you see the fans is passion," he said.

"You are always going to hear Evertonians and I'm excited to play at home and hear them when I am playing."

"Hopefully we can push together, fans and players, to do something special."