

Singapore's fighter Angela Lee (L) face off with Japan's fighter Mei Yamaguchi (R) during the ONE Women's Atomweight World Championship press conference held in Singapore's on May 14, 2018.

Anne Hansen of Hungary tries to score a goal against Macedonia during the final of EHF Women's Champions League at the Papp Laszlo Sports Arena in Budapest, Hungary, on May 13, 2018.

Italy's Roberta Vinci ends professional tennis career

ROME, May 15

Italy's Roberta Vinci on Monday played her last professional tennis match at age 35, losing to Aleksandra Krunic of Serbia in the first round of the Italian Open here.

During Vinci's farewell ceremony held at Pietrangeli court following her defeat, a video of key moments from her career was shown on a large screen, reports Efe.

"I'm crying now but I'm happy, I'm happy for what I've accomplished," Vinci said. "I would have liked to do better but it doesn't matter that I lost." Vinci had an opportunity to stretch her career for at least one more match, but lost 2-6, 6-0, 6-3 in her last tournament as a professional. Over her long career, Vinci won 10 singles titles, but lost her biggest singles final at the US Open to fellow Italian Flavia Pennetta.

However, Vinci had a successful doubles partnership with Sara Errani, also of Italy, earning five Grand Slam titles; French Open (2012), US Open (2012), Australian Open (2013, 2014) and Wimbledon (2014).

Feyenoord's Van Persie not ready to retire

AMSTERDAM, May 15

Feyenoord forward Robin van Persie has said he will play on for at least another season.

After helping Feyenoord win the Dutch Cup last month the 34-year-old said he would take a few weeks to decide whether it was time to hang up his boots but the former Arsenal and Manchester United forward told reporters he wanted to play on.

"I'm continuing, I'm too much of an enthusiast to stop," he said. "A lot of people were shocked when I said was not sure whether I wanted to play again but I found it a real struggle to get to the cup final. Every time I had an injury setback, I felt really down."

Novak Djokovic, Kei Nishikori advance to second round in Rome

ROME, May 15

Former world number one Novak Djokovic strolled into the second round of the Italian Open on Monday with a morale-boosting 6-1 6-3 victory over Ukrainian Alexandr Dolgoplov. Djokovic has struggled to rediscover his best form since returning from a troublesome elbow injury and has not reached the quarter-finals of a tournament since last year's Wimbledon.

The Serb was beaten by Briton Kyle Edmund in the second round of the Madrid Open last week, but turned in a convincing display to see off Dolgoplov in under an hour in Rome, returning deep and controlling play from the baseline. Djokovic plunged to 18th in the latest world rankings released on Monday, but is optimistic he can go deep in this year's tournament, where he finished runner-up last year.

Japan's Kei Nishikori, who like Djokovic is making his way back from injury, also got off to a solid start, striking 18 winners en route to beating Spaniard Feliciano Lopez 7-6(5) 6-4. Nishikori will face third seed Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria in the second round.

Lopez refused to go down without a fight, forcing a first-set tiebreak that Nishikori edged. The Japanese got an early break in the second, but Lopez clawed his way back to tie 3-3 before Nishikori broke again and held until Kohlschreiber got his nose in front in the tiebreak and converted his third match point.



Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta, the 10th seed, was pushed to three sets by hard-hitting American Jared Donaldson, but held on before flattening his opponent in the decider to win 6-4 3-6 6-0.

Carreno Busta will face Donaldson's compatriot Steve Johnson in the second round. Germany's Philipp Kohlschreiber was forced to play two tiebreaks before edging out Russia's Karen Khachanov 7-5 6-7(7) 7-6(6) in an encounter that stretched over three hours.

Kohlschreiber came from behind to win the first set, but passed up on an opportunity to serve out the match in the second, allowing the Russian to force the decider.

The two went toe-to-toe in the third set, with neither able to gain a decisive advantage until Kohlschreiber got his nose in front in the tiebreak and converted his third match point.

Naomi Osaka eases past Victoria Azarenka in Rome

Rising Japanese sensation Naomi Osaka eased into the second round of the Italian Open on Monday with a 6-0 6-3 victory over former world number one Victoria Azarenka, on a day in which local favourite Roberta Vinci called time on her career.

Osaka, whose current form could see her mount a strong challenge at the French Open next month, stormed out of the gates, riding her powerful forehand as she pummeled her Belarusian opponent into submission in an hour and 13 minutes.

The 20-year-old Japanese was dumped out of last week's Madrid Open in the first round, but showed she could compete on clay, hitting winners at will as Azarenka crumbled in the face of her relentless pressure.

Next up for Osaka is a second-round clash with world number one Simona Halep. Roberta Vinci was beaten 2-6 6-0 6-3 by Serbia's Aleksandra Krunic in an emotionally charged encounter in front of a packed crowd on Court Pietrangeli. The 35-year-old had announced her intention to retire from tennis after the tournament, and her exit brings down the curtain on her 20-year career in the sport.

American Coco Vandeweghe, the 12th seed, suffered a shock 6-1 6-1 opening round defeat by Estonia's Anett Kontaveit, but Vandeweghe's compatriot, Madison Keys eased past Russian Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-4 6-1.

Britain's Johanna Konta battled back from a break down in either set to see off the challenge of Magdalena Rybarikova 6-4 6-3 and improve her head-to-head record against the Slovak to four victories without a single defeat.

US Open champion Sloane Stephens takes on Czech Barbora Strycova in the day's last match.

Costa Rica head to World Cup with veterans of 2014

SAN JOSE, May 15

The squad to represent Costa Rica in the 2018 World Cup witnessed very few changes from the unit that reached the quarter-finals of the 2014 tournament in Brazil.

"There are players with characteristics for certain moments. The coming friendly matches will be tough and that will be the way to bring the lads toward the intensity we need," coach Oscar Ramirez told the media on Monday, reports Efe.

The core of the roster is the starting 11 from 2014: goalkeeper Keylor Navas; defenders Oscar Duarte, Johnny Acosta, Giancarlo Gonzalez and Cristian Gamboa; midfielders Yeltsin Tejada, Christian Bolaños,

Celso Borges and Bryan Ruiz, and forwards Joel Campbell and Marco Ureña. Costa Rica will compete in Group E against five-time champions Brazil, Serbia and Switzerland.

Ramirez said he expects the 2018 World Cup, set to begin a month from now in Russia, to be a competition "of much dynamism".

He pointed to Spain, defending champions Germany, France, Brazil and Argentina as the pre-tournament favourites.

Roster:

Goalkeepers: Keylor Navas (Real Madrid), Leonel Moreira (Hereditano) and Patrick Pemberton (Alajuelense). Defenders: Cristian Gamboa (Celtic), Ian Smith

(Norra Köping), Ronald Matarrita (New York City FC), Bryan Oviedo (Sunderland), Oscar Duarte (Espanyol), Giancarlo Gonzalez (Bologna), Francisco Calvo (Minnesota United), Kendall Waston (Vancouver) and Johnny Acosta (Aguilas Doradas).

Midfielders: David Guzman (Portland), Yeltsin Tejada (Lausanne), Celso Borges (Deportivo A Coruña), Randall Azofeifa (Hereditano), Rodney Wallace (New York City FC), Bryan Ruiz (Sporting) and Christian Bolaños (Saprissa).

Forwards: Daniel Colindres (Saprissa), Johan Venegas (Saprissa), Joel Campbell (Betis) and Marco Ureña (Los Angeles FC).

Peru's Guerrero barred from FIFA World Cup

LAUSANNE, May 15

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) has extended the doping sanction against Peru national football team captain Paolo Guerrero to 14 months total, which means the veteran striker will miss the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

Guerrero, 34, was originally suspended for a year after a routine doping test in October 2017 detected a cocaine metabolite. But world football's governing body FIFA subsequently reduced the penalty to six months and the player returned to action May 6 with Brazilian club Flamengo, reports Efe.

The Peruvian appeared before the Lausanne, Switzerland-based CAS earlier this month to argue that the suspension was unjustified, maintaining that the cocaine metabolite entered his system via tea made in a pot that previously contained coca leaf.

At the same time, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) asked CAS to increase the length of Guerrero's suspension to two years.

Monday's CAS ruling will keep Guerrero off the field until January 2019.



While the judges accepted that Guerrero "did not attempt to enhance his performance by ingesting the prohibited substance", the CAS said in its decision, "the Panel considered that the Player did bear some fault or negligence, even if it was not significant, and that he could have taken some measures to prevent him from committing the (doping violations)".

The ruling comes a day after Peru, whose last World Cup appearance was in 1982, included Guerrero on the 25-man roster submitted to FIFA ahead of next month's tournament in Russia.

Sport Australia warns missing African athletes to comply with visas

CANBERRA, May 15

Australia's Minister for Home Affairs Peter Dutton said on Tuesday that a group of African athletes who went missing during the Commonwealth Games must give themselves up or face being deported.

Eight athletes from Cameroon, two from Uganda and a Rwandan para-powerlifting coach went

missing from the April 4-15 Games at the Gold Coast, local media have reported.

The athletes will be in Australia illegally from midnight on Tuesday when their visas expire, unless they have taken legal steps to stay.

"If they breach the conditions, they're subject to enforcement action," Dutton told reporters on Tuesday.

"Like anyone else, they're

expected to operate within the law, and enforcement action will take place to identify those people and to deport them if they don't self-declare."

Some of the athletes had contacted a refugee advice centre in Sydney, the Daily Telegraph newspaper reported.

"Some have been to us for advice," Ben Lumsdaine, a

solicitor at the Refugee Advice and Casework Service, told the paper on Tuesday.

Australia's immigration authorities often grant temporary 'bridging' visas that allow in-country residency applicants to remain while their cases are assessed.

The eight Cameroon athletes comprised one-third of its 24-athlete delegation to the Gold Coast Games.

Memorable Matches of FIFA WC Korea/Japan 2002, group stage: S Korea-2, Poland-0

BBC Sports

The Korean team sent their country into raptures as goals from Hwang Sun-Hong and Yoo Sung-Chul capped off a superb performance from the co-hosts.

Fuelled by an almost fanatical support, Korea's pace and enthusiasm was too much for a plodding and pedestrian Poland.

Unlike previous games to date, there was nothing cagey

the lead.

The 33-year-old who plays in Japan's J-League connected sweetly with Lee Eul-Yong's left-wing cross to volley his 50th international goal past Dudek from 12 yards.

If the goal lifted Korea, it deflated Poland who looked increasingly ragged as the first-half drew to a close.

Polish coach Jerzy Engel tried to inject some urgency into his side with the half-time introduction of striker Pawel Kryszalowicz.

But it was Korea who came out fired up for the second-half.

Within three minutes of the restart a corner was half-cleared to Park Ji-Sung whose volley was tipped over by Dudek.

Poland's ponderous defence looked increasingly creaky against the pacy Korean forwards and it was little surprise when the co-hosts stretched their lead on 53 minutes.

Sloppy play saw Tomasz Hajto lose the ball and Yoo Sung-Chul snapped up possession to fire in a rasping 20-yard shot which Dudek got both hands to, but was unable to keep out.

Even when Poland did mount a rare raid Hong Myung-Bo read the situation perfectly to nod Jacek Krzyzowek's cross behind as Marcin Zewlakow closed in.

Poland's late attempts to salvage something from the game seemed to lack conviction and it needed a sharp save from Dudek to deny substitute Ahn Jung-Hwan a third goal.

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