



# STEADY FENG FENDS OFF S. KOREAN TRIO

Feng Shanshan watching her shot from the 16th tee during the US Women's Open. She held a two-shot lead at the halfway mark. PHOTO: AGENCY FRANCE-PRESSE

**US Women's Open anything but 'America First', as the leading nine are all foreign golfers**

BEDMINSTER (New Jersey) • China's Feng Shanshan held off a trio of South Koreans at the US Women's Open, but her performance was overshadowed by the grand entrance of American President Donald Trump to the golf club that bears his name. Riding in a motorcade of more than a dozen black SUVs, the president rolled in to the 202nd Trump National, becoming the first sitting US head of state to attend the women's golf Major. His arrival was met by applause and some cheers, but the second-round leaderboard was anything but "America First", with the top nine all internationals on the rain-soaked 6,732-yard Old Course on Friday. Feng, the overnight leader at 66, was her steady self, following her first bogey of the tournament at the 10th hole with back-to-back birdies for a 70 and an eight-under 136 to

tal, good for a two-shot lead over South Koreans Amy Yang (71), Lee Jeong Eun (69) and amateur Choi Hye Jin (69). "On my front nine, the rain was really heavy," said Feng, the world No. 6 who has won seven Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) events, including one Major. "But luckily my ball-striking was pretty good, so I hit most of the balls on the greens. "Overall, I did really well today." Surprises came in the form of Lee, known as Jeong Eun - the sixth player with her exact name to play on the Korean LPGA Tour - and 17-year-old Choi, the world No. 2-ranked amateur. The 21-year-old Lee, in her first visit to the US, carried on the sub-

lime form that landed her 10 top-10s from 14 events on the KLPGA Tour. "I'm nervous," the 40th-ranked player said, "I'm not sure if I can finish well in the last two days." Teenager Choi, a winner on the KLPGA this year, reeled off four successive birdies from the 18th hole, her ninth, and had a share of the lead before two late bogeys pulled her back. Lurking a bit further back were some of the biggest names in women's golf. World No. 1 Ryu So Yeon (72) and 2015 winner Chun In Gee (70) were among those on 140. The top American was Marina Alex (70), on 141 along with former No. 1 Lydia Ko (73) of New Zealand, who overcame four bogeys in a row on the front nine with four birdies on the homeward half. Sixty-two players made the cut, set at two over. Missing by one stroke was KPMG Women's PGA Championship winner Danielle Kang, with Park In Bee and Ariya Jutanugarn both seven over. REUTERS

# 13

Greens in regulation Feng Shanshan hit in the US Women's Open second round, despite the rain.

**US WOMEN'S OPEN**  
Day 4: Singtel TV Ch115 & StarHub Ch209, tomorrow, 3am

# A Barcelona dream come true for two youngsters

Nicholas De Silva

Wayne Lim began his love affair with football when he was eight years old, spending hours after school kicking a ball around on a street soccer court, imitating his idol - Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi. Now 14, Wayne was one of two youngsters selected by FCBEscola Soccer School - the official Singapore outpost of Barca's renowned La Masia youth academy - to spend a couple of days training at the very place that nurtured his hero. Together with Mohammed Faizaan Shaikh, 13, Wayne followed in the footsteps of Messi, Andres Iniesta and Xavi Hernandez for a few days of training at the La Masia academy earlier this month. During the week-long training camp, the duo also received a holistic education covering diverse topics including nutrition, Catalan



Wayne Lim (above) juggling a ball during the freestyle skills competition at the La Masia academy, while Mohammed Faizaan Shaikh practises during a training session. PHOTOS: FCBEscOLA SOCCER SCHOOL SINGAPORE

lessons and club history. For Wayne, the highlight of the trip was experiencing going to a school that is wholly focused on football. "I like the idea of having two training sessions a day. The intensity is really high. We have to run a lot. It's also more tactical," said the Queenstown Secondary 2 student. "They allow you to make mistakes and then stop the game to explain where you went wrong." Faizaan found the dedication to player nutrition eye-opening.

"You hear a lot about eating pasta before training or matches. It really was the case. We ate pasta for almost every meal," noted the Secondary 2 Overseas Family School student from India. The duo were chosen from a pool of 400 youth players by FCBEscola technical director Marc Reyes Custal and his coaching team. Said Custal: "It's not just individual abilities. They embody our values and use their talents for the best of the team. "They represent what FC



Barcelona is all about." Wayne believes he is a more confident player after placing second in the camp's freestyle skills competition. The captain of Queenstown Secondary's C Division football team intends to build on the experience and lead his team to a medal in next year's inter-school tournament. "I really want to win something with my school team. I want us to finish in the top three," he said.

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## Weekly tweetbits



**Sweet tweets**  
Tennis player Ana Ivanovic and German footballer Bastian Schweinsteiger on holiday.



**Memeorable**  
AC Milan, who have already signed nine players.



**Caught on camera**  
Hands up, those who think Bethanie Mattek-Sands (right, with Lucie Safarova) is a Survivor after her horrific knee injury at Wimbledon: <http://bit.ly/2upb3d1>

Photos: TWITTER/ANAIIVANOVIC, INSTAGRAM/MATTEKSANDS, FACEBOOK/FOOTBALL.TROLLS.AND.MEMES

## SportsWorld

### Loh stuns Tan and will play Cheam in final

Unseeded Singaporean shuttler Loh Kean Yew upset his 10th-seeded local opponent Tan Jia Wei 21-10, 18-21, 21-14 in the Malaysia International Series men's singles semi-finals in Putrajaya yesterday. The 20-year-old, ranked a lowly 307th in the world, plays another Malaysian, 11th seed Cheam June Wei, in today's final.

### Cubs still awaiting first goal and point

Singapore lost 0-2 to hosts Thailand last night - their fourth straight defeat in the Asean Football Federation Under-15 Championship. The Cubs, without a goal as well, face Indonesia (one point) tomorrow in Chonburi needing a win to avoid finishing bottom of Group A. Thailand (12 points) are almost certain to top the group, with Australia (nine points) likely to go through to the semi-finals as well.

### Roberts cleared, kiss led to failed drug test

LOS ANGELES • Gil Roberts, who won Rio Olympic gold with the US men's 4x400m relay team, was cleared of doping after an arbitrator found he ingested a banned substance by kissing his girlfriend. A US Anti-Doping Agency report on the case said that his girlfriend, Alex Salazar, took medicine for a sinus infection that contained the banned masking agent probenecid. AGENCY FRANCE-PRESSE

### Sunwolves shock Blues in final game

TOKYO • Japan's Sunwolves stunned the Auckland Blues 48-21 yesterday to finish a second chastening Super Rugby season on a high note, ending above the Melbourne Rebels in the overall standings. Boosted by a Timothy Lafaele hat-trick, the Singapore co-based side posted only their second win of the campaign, erasing a seven-point half-time deficit with a pulsating comeback as the Blues faded in the Tokyo heat. AGENCY FRANCE-PRESSE

### Arsenal end tour after beating Sydney side

SYDNEY • Arsenal finished their Australian tour yesterday with a 3-1 win over Western Sydney Wanderers. The English football giants scored their goals in a 11-minute period late in the first half through Olivier Giroud, Aaron Ramsey and Mohamed Elneny, while Steven Lustica reduced the margin for the home side in the second half. AGENCY FRANCE-PRESSE

### Mourinho may re-sign Zlatan, go for Matic

LONDON • Jose Mourinho has admitted re-signing Zlatan Ibrahimovic is an option, with the Manchester United manager also refusing to rule out a move for Chelsea's Nemanja Matic. The 35-year-old Swede is recovering from a serious knee injury at United's Carrington training base and is a free agent after being released by the English Premier League club in the close season. THE GUARDIAN