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**20 DAYS TO GO**

**SOUTH AFRICA 2010**  
FIFA WORLD CUP

## BAYERN MUNICH V INTER MILAN

# All roads lead to Bernabeu

AFP, Madrid

One of the great ironies of the 2010 Champions League final between Bayern Munich and Inter Milan at Real Madrid's Bernabeu stadium on Saturday is that the main protagonist for each side will be a Real reject.

Coming back now is great. "Real's dream was to be in the final at their home ground, but it's not worked out. We left, found new clubs, and now we're in the final."

The two Dutch friends have been exchanging jovial banter over sms messages in the run up to the final but once they get out on the pitch their friendship will have to be on pause.

"We're both aware of the situation. Everyone wants to win. We can both be proud of the season so far," added Robben, who rubbished

reports from Italy that Sneijder might be ruled out of the final with injury. "He'll play, I'm 100 per cent certain. He may need 100 injections, but he'll play."

Another interesting backdrop to the final is that both teams have completed domestic doubles already and whoever wins will become only the third team in history to complete the treble following Manchester United in 1999 (who denied Bayern that feat) and Barcelona last season.

Also the two coaches have already won this competition

with other clubs and whoever wins the final will join Ottmar Hitzfeld (Borussia Dortmund in 1997 and Bayern in 2001) and Ernst Happel (Feyenoord in 1970 and Hamburg in 1983) as winners with two different clubs.

Inter's Jose Mourinho won the title with Porto in 2004 while Bayern's Louis van Gaal won it with Ajax in 1995.

But there is no love lost between the two as Van Gaal accused Inter of being negative and having help from the referees to reach the final, something which angered the Portuguese.

"In this Champions League I don't remember another match like Inter-Barcelona at the San Siro," said Mourinho. "No one else has played the football we played, no one else attacked the champions of Europe as much as we did."

"No one attacked as we did at Stamford Bridge (against Chelsea). We played two matches like no one else."

Dutch winger said he is looking forward to seeing his old boss, who he likens to his new gaffer.

"We won everything there is to win in England, and we made history, because Chelsea won the league for the first time in 50 years," he said.

"I had nothing but positive experiences there, and I'm looking forward to seeing him."

"Van Gaal sets up teams to attack and thinks offensively. Mourinho's only aim is to win, and he thinks more about defensive organisation."

"Both are equally strict and both are huge characters. That's critical in football. When they speak, you listen."

### FACTS

Bayern are bidding for their fifth European success while Inter Milan are attempting to lift the trophy for the first time in 45 years.

The Germans have already beaten two Italian sides in this season's competition, beating Juventus and Fiorentina.

José Mourinho, the Inter Milan coach, was assistant to Bayern's Louis van Gaal at Barcelona between 1997 and 2000.

Both coaches have already won the trophy and the winner will join the exclusive club of coaches who have guided more than one team to success in the competition.



## Germans rust Clockwork Orange

WORLD CUP 1974 CONTINUED

If you believe Van Hanegem, Holland lost the match there and then. Half the team wanted to push on and look for a second goal, the rest to play keep-ball and humiliate the Germans.

More to the point perhaps, Vogts' marking of Cruyff began to bite. Virtually all of Holland's fifteen goals in the tournament started or finished with their captain, who protested about Vogts' treatment at half-time and was booked. By then Taylor had made a bigger den in Holland's chances.

As against Poland, Holzenbein ran into the penalty area from the left and went over an outstretched foot, this time Jansen's. There was something oddly inevitable about it, as if Taylor was always likely to give a second penalty the other way.

But this one was far more controversial. On the screen, Holzenbein dives after the event -- but Jansen does seem to catch him, so a penalty wasn't unjustified.

After Hoeness' miss against Poland, Breitner took the kick and beat a stationary Jongbloed.

The turning point, if there was one, came when Cruyff broke away, drew Beckenbauer, and gave the ball to Rep on his left. Maier saved the rather unimaginative shot. Almost on half-time, Bonhof's running made its biggest impact, taking him past Haan to the right-hand goal line. When he pulled the ball back, Muller stopped it with an exaggerated action that looked like a miskick, then shot low across Jongbloed (immobile again) as Krol made a desperate attempt to block. It was Muller's 68th goal in 62 matches for West Germany, an astounding average in such a defensive era. Like Schiavio in 1934, he retired from international football after scoring the winner in the final for the host country.

Maier, vastly improved since 1970, made another of his marvellous saves from Neeskens' close-range volley, and Holland pressed throughout the second half -- but Beckenbauer and Overath kept the play away from them and Cruyff couldn't escape Vogts, who had his most famous match. General disappointment at Holland's defeat, especially as West Germany had no Netzer to compensate -- but the hosts had shown there was more than one way to win a football match, and it was only right that Beckenbauer, Overath, Grabowski and Muller should have World Cup winners' medals, hard though it was on Krol, Neeskens, Van Hanegem and the inimitable Cruyff, who was cut down on the one day Holland, and the football world, wanted to see him blossom.



## 'Our World Cup has started'

AFP, Buenos Aires

Argentina coach Maradona held his first training session with his World Cup squad on Thursday, and said he had high hopes for the June 11-July 11 tournament in South Africa.

"Our World Cup starts today because we start work with 17 players. We have high hopes," said Maradona, who led Argentina to World Cup glory in 1986.

Maradona was without five players for his first trip onto the paddock with his South Africa-bound squad.

Sergio Aguero played in Wednesday's King's Cup in Spain for his club Atletico Madrid, while Inter Milan duo Walter Samuel and Diego Milito, and Bayern Munich's Martin Demichelis were all in Madrid ahead of Saturday's Champions League final.

Clemente Rodriguez and Juan Sebastian Veron were to play for Estudiantes later Thursday.

## Tigers lose in three days

SPORTS REPORTER

It could have ended on the second day but still, losing a four-day game on the third day would be embarrassing enough for Bangladesh after they conceded a morale-shattering 9-wicket defeat to the English Lions at the County Ground in Derby yesterday.

The second string English side completed the formalities of chasing down a simple 86-run target in only 16.4 overs of their second innings.

Jahurul Islam, one of the few batsmen to have shown some fight with the bat, remained unbeaten on 58 as the final wicket, that of Rubel Hossain, fell nearly an hour after play started on the third day to part-time seamer Ravi Bopara. The number eleven's 43-ball stay at the crease must have been heartening for the team management but the pleasure would be badly misplaced as the main batsmen struggled to stay for more than 57 overs in the last match before the first Test that begins

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## Nayan the difference

SPORTS REPORTER

A last gasp strike from Nayan helped Wanderers Club defeat Mohakhali XI 3-2 in the Bashundhara Senior Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

Dipu gave Wanderers a 10th minute lead before Shaheen leveled the margin three minutes into the second half and then he gave Mohakhali the advantage striking his second goal in the 73rd minute.

Two minutes later, Motiur brought Wanderers back in the game to level the margin before Nayan sealed the fate of the match in the stoppage time.

**What to WATCH**

**TEN Sports & SuperSport3**  
UEFA Champions League FINAL  
Bayern Munich v Inter Milan  
Live at 12:45am (Sunday)

**SuperSport2**  
West Indies v South Africa  
First ODI  
Live from 7:30pm

**DAY'S EVENT**

Bangladesh League  
Brothers Union v Shuktara  
Time: 4:00pm  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Ctg Mohammedan v Muktijoddha  
Time: 3:30pm  
Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chittagong



Abahani's premier striker Enamul Haque takes a shot on goal during his side's Bangladesh League match against Sheikh Russel at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

# Abahani's hat-trick closer

SPORTS REPORTER

Two-time champions Abahani are just one point away from a hat-trick of Bangladesh League titles when the Sky Blues managed a 2-1 win over Sheikh Russel KC in their home match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Shahedul Alam put Abahani ahead in the first half only to have the lead canceled out by Mohammad Rony five minutes from time and prolific striker Enamul Haque struck the decisive goal in the dying moments to put Abahani on the verge of yet another glory.

With ten straight victories in the second leg of the country's most prestigious football competition, an unbeaten Abahani lifted their points tally to 64 from 22 matches and need only a single point from their two remaining matches against Farashganj and rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club to take an unassailable lead in the 13-team table as their nearest rivals Mohammedan have 58 points with two matches in hand.

Abahani coach Amalesh Sen said that it was because of the absence of injured playmaker Pranotosh Kumar and defender Mohammad Sujan. Besides, defenders Atiqur Rahman Mishu and Rajani Kanta Barman played the game with injuries and that's why his charges could not play their natural game, claimed Amalesh.

Sheikh Russel started the game with great pace to keep their mighty opponents at bay and they should have taken a lead in the initial moments, but it was not understandable when Moroccan midfielder Salah Maslouh, with only Abahani goalkeeper Biplob Bhattacharjee to beat, cut the ball back to his compatriot Samir Omari instead of taking a shot on the target on the edge of the right-hand corner of the eight-yard box and the chance went begging.

Abahani, who remained unbeaten for 33 matches including 11 in the previous league, also came close to opening their account when Ghanaian striker Awudu Ibrahim flicked a Mehdi Hasan Ujjal cross only to be blocked by a defender inside the danger zone after 15 minutes.

Sheikh Russel midfielder Maruf Ahmed tried his luck from distance when he let loose a dipping shot that was fisted by Biplob on the half-hour mark.

Sheikh Russel goalkeeper Mamun Khan in the 33rd minute.

After resumption, Enamul set by Ibrahim struck straight to goalkeeper Mamun Khan to disapprove Abahani in the 64th minute before Sheikh Russel striker Rony capitalising on a right-side cross from Rajon Mia, leveled the margin with a placing shot in the 85th minute. Interesting no players celebrated after the equaliser.

With two minutes to go, Enamul, after failing to beat goalkeeper Mamun in a one-on-one situation, struck the decisive goal seemingly facing no challenge from the opponent defenders and raised his goal tally to 19, one more than rivals Mohammedan's striker Zahid Hasan Emily.

"It might seem to you (that it was too easy)," was the reply of Abahani coach Amalesh, who was asked about the seemingly trouble-free decider scored by Enamul. Amalesh however blamed defender Nazrul Islam and Rajani for conceding the equaliser.

Sheikh Russel coach Mahmudul Haq Liton said, "We always play a fighting game and look at the past, we also went down against Mohammedan despite putting up a fighting show."

"I will ask the defenders at the team briefing how they conceded the second goal," said a smiling Sheikh Russel coach on way to the dressing room.

## Doulatpur, BL College post wins

SPORTS REPORTER

The inter-college Clear Men Confidence Cup football tournament got underway yesterday in Khulna and Rangpur.

In Khulna, BL College recorded a 1-0 win over Shundarban in the competitive first match of the day while Doulatpur Day Night College posted an easy 3-0 win over MA Majid Memorial City College in the day's other fixture.

In Rangpur, Cantonment Public College thumped RCCI Public School and College 7-0 in the one-way traffic while Lions College beat Police Line School & College by tiebreaker after the regulation time ended in a 1-1 draw.

## LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Gregarious Club posted a crucial 71-66 win over Europa Youth Club in the Premier Bank First Division Basketball League at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

The winners led the first-half 34-31. Vinod top-scored with 22 points while Mithun netted 14 points.

In the day's other matches, Flame Boys Club beat Rangers Club by a 54-45 margin and Wraiths Club earned a 54-33 win over Bakshibazar Club.

**NAVY FOOTBALL**  
BNS Issa Khan defeated BNS Titumir 2-0 in the final of Bangladesh Navy's inter-base football competition at the BNS Titumir football ground on Thursday.

MA Salam, AB of the champions' side was adjudged best player of the tournament for his performance.

Commodore Commanding Khulna Commodore K Taufiquzzaman was present as chief guest and distributed prizes.

Eight teams from different naval ships and establishments took part in the competition that began on May 16.

**ARMY AQUATIC MEET**  
Chittagong area team became champions after they clinched 15 gold, four silver and five bronze medals in the Army Aquatic

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South Africa fans sing and dance during the official celebration marking 20 days ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2010 kick-off at Vilakazi Street in Soweto yesterday. South Africa will host the FIFA World Cup from June 11 to July 11.