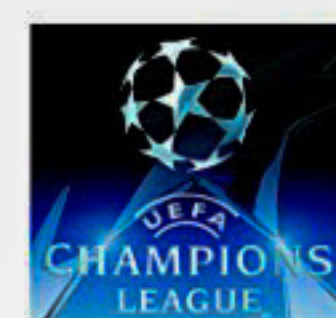


Benfica cruise

AFP, Paris



Benfica claimed a 2-0 win over Trabzonspor in the Champions League third qualifying round first leg on Wednesday, piling on more misery for the Turkish game which is embroiled in a corruption scandal.

The Portuguese side, twice winners of the tournament, dominated the tie but had to wait until the 71st minute to open their account when debutant Nolito, recently signed from Barcelona, found the target.

Nicolas Gaitan added the second two minutes from time to give the Portuguese a two-goal cushion to defend in next Wednesday's second leg.

Trabzonspor, who finished runners-up in the Turkish league last season, went into the game having been implicated in the massive match-fixing scandal that has rocked the country and which has also taken in champions Besiktas and another of the country's biggest clubs, Fenerbahce.

Sadri Sener, the president of Trabzonspor, was arrested but released on condition that he remains in Turkey.

Some 30 people have been charged and jailed pending trial month as part of the investigation while, earlier this week, the start of the new league season was put back by a month.

Elsewhere on Wednesday, Greek side Panathinaikos, who played in the group stages last season, were held 1-1 at Danish side Odense.

Sebastian Leto gave the Greeks the lead early in the second half before the home side levelled in injury time thanks to a header from centre-back Tore Reginiussen.



PHOTO: AFP
Benfica forward Nicolas Gaitan (L) is challenged by Trabzonspor midfielder Serkan Balci during their Champions League qualifier at the Luz Stadium on Wednesday.

Goal-line tech at 2014 WC

AFP, Rio De Janeiro

FIFA president Sepp Blatter said goal-line technology could be in use for the 2014 World Cup finals if a system is proved to be reliable and affordable.

There has been a huge push for football to follow sports such as cricket and tennis in embracing technological help for officials with the argument brought into sharp focus by England having a 'goal' ruled out against Germany at the last World Cup despite replays having shown that the ball had crossed the line.

"In March next year, we will have a final decision on goal-line technology. If it's proved to be accurate and affordable, it's possible that the international board will adopt this technology during the 2014 World Cup," Blatter told a news conference.

"If this is the case then other football associations will have the right to use the goal-line technology."

FIFA will also decide in 2012 whether or not to have two extra officials behind the goalline as a "general rule".

"It is not yet decided if the assistance of two additional assistant referees will be included a general rule," said Blatter.

Marseille win a thriller

AFP, Tangiers

Marseille picked up the first silverware of the French season after an incredible finale to their Champions Trophy game with Lille saw them prevail 5-4 through a 95th-minute penalty.

League and French Cup winners last year after a 56-year trophy drought, Lille led 3-1 with five minutes remaining but saw Marseille draw level through goals from Jeremy Morel and Loic Remy.

Andre Ayew put Marseille ahead for the first time in the match with a penalty on the stroke of full-time, but Lille hit back immediately with a header from new signing Marko Basa.

The match in the Moroccan city of Tangiers looked set for penalties, but Jordan Ayew won another penalty after tumbling theatrically in the Lille box and his elder brother Andre kept his cool to give Marseille victory and complete his hat-trick.

The Champions Trophy, played

overseas for the fourth year in a row, usually pits the league champions against the cup winners, but Lille's double triumph last May obliged Marseille, second last season, to provide the opposition.

Despite having made plain his desire to leave the club, Argentine playmaker Lucho Gonzalez started for Marseille in place of the injured Mathieu Valbuena.

New recruits Morel, Alou Diarra and Morgan Amalfitano were also named in the Marseille starting XI, with Lille coach Rudi Garcia handing starts to his new signings Basa, Benoit Pedretti and Dimitri Payet.

Marseille opened with purpose, Amalfitano rattling the post and Lille goalkeeper Mickael Landreau saving well from Lucho and Stephane Mbia, before Lille took the lead with a neat set-piece in the ninth minute.

Eden Hazard cut back a free-kick from the right towards the edge of the box and after Payet had stepped over the ball, Florent Balmont rattled home a low shot into the bottom-right cor-

ner.

Hazard doubled Lille's advantage just before the hour, driving past OM centre-back Souleymane Diawara and burying a crisp shot between the legs of goalkeeper Steve Mandanda.

Ayew pulled a goal back for Marseille with a shot on the turn that went straight through Landreau, but Moussa Sow replied immediately, slipping the ball past Mandanda from Ludovic Obraniak's through-ball.

The game looked up for Marseille, but Morel reduced the arrears with a low shot in the 85th minute before Remy equalised by dispatching Lucho's dinked cross with a downward header two minutes later.

Remy's goal proved but a taste of the drama that was to come, with Lille left to curse Jordan Ayew's dive and their own fragility for letting victory slip from their grasp.

The 2011-12 Ligue 1 season begins on August 6, with Lille visiting Nancy and 2010 champions Marseille hosting Sochaux.

Chelsea lodge racism protest

AFP, London

Chelsea have lodged an official protest with the Malaysian Football Association over what they claim was racist abuse suffered by their Israeli player Yossi Benayoun in Kuala Lumpur last week.

The midfielder was booed and jeered whenever he touched the ball in the 1-0 win against Malaysia in the capital of the Muslim-majority country last Friday.

Benayoun was the first Israeli to play in Malaysia, which strongly supports the Palestinians and does not recognise Israel, maintaining no diplomatic ties with the country. Some 60 per cent of Malaysia's population is Muslim.

Chelsea had initially downplayed the abuse, saying after the match it was a consequence of a bad tackle by the Blues midfielder.

But after reviewing the match the Premier

League giants announced they had decided to make a formal complaint.

A statement on the club's website read: "Notwithstanding most fans behaving appropriately on the night, we believe Yossi was subjected to anti-semitic abuse by a number of supporters at the game.

"Such behaviour is offensive, totally unacceptable and has no place in football.

"The club did not make representations at the time as it was initially unclear as to the nature of the abuse Yossi received, as several players from both teams experienced similar treatment, sometimes louder and longer.

"However, having taken time to consider the issue fully, it has become apparent that a formal complaint was necessary.

"Our stay in Malaysia was, on the whole, a very positive experience for all the team travelling on the pre-season tour. It is a shame, therefore, that the behaviour of a minority of supporters is also a memory we take away."

MU outclass All-Stars



AFP, Harrison

English Premier League champions Manchester United outclassed Major League Soccer's All-Stars for the second straight year on Wednesday, beating the hosts 4-0 in their friendly.

Goals from Anderson, Park Ji-Sung, Dimitar Berbatov and Danny Welbeck eased United to victory, with star forward Wayne Rooney creating two.

The visitors have now scored 18 and conceded two in their four matches across North America.

Sir Alex Ferguson's side will conclude their pre-season tour in suburban Washington on Saturday at against Barcelona, in

a rematch of the Champions League final, which the Spanish side won 3-1.

The final score on Wednesday might have been a little misleading because David Beckham and his MLS All-Star teammates created a few good scoring opportunities. But they were nowhere near the level of the visitors in a match that drew a sell out crowd of 26,760 to Red Bull Arena.

The MLS's showcase exhibition started with plenty of fanfare with parachutists floating into the arena, fireworks and a helicopter flyover.

Former Manchester United hero Beckham, now in his final year of a contract with MLS's Los Angeles Galaxy, had an early chance to give the All Stars the lead but his 25-yard shot flew wide.

Rooney played a key role in United's first goal, delivering a pass to Berbatov at the top of the area, taking a return pass and finding Anderson for a shot that beat MLS goalkeeper Faryd Mondragon.

Park doubled the score in the 45th minute, taking a pass from Patrice Evra at the top of the box, evading defender Sean Franklin and blasting a left-footed shot into the top right corner of the net.

In the 52nd, Rooney lifted a pass over the defence to Berbatov, who chipped the ball over rushing substitute goalkeeper Tally Hall only for it to hit the crossbar. Berbatov collected the rebound and fired into the net.

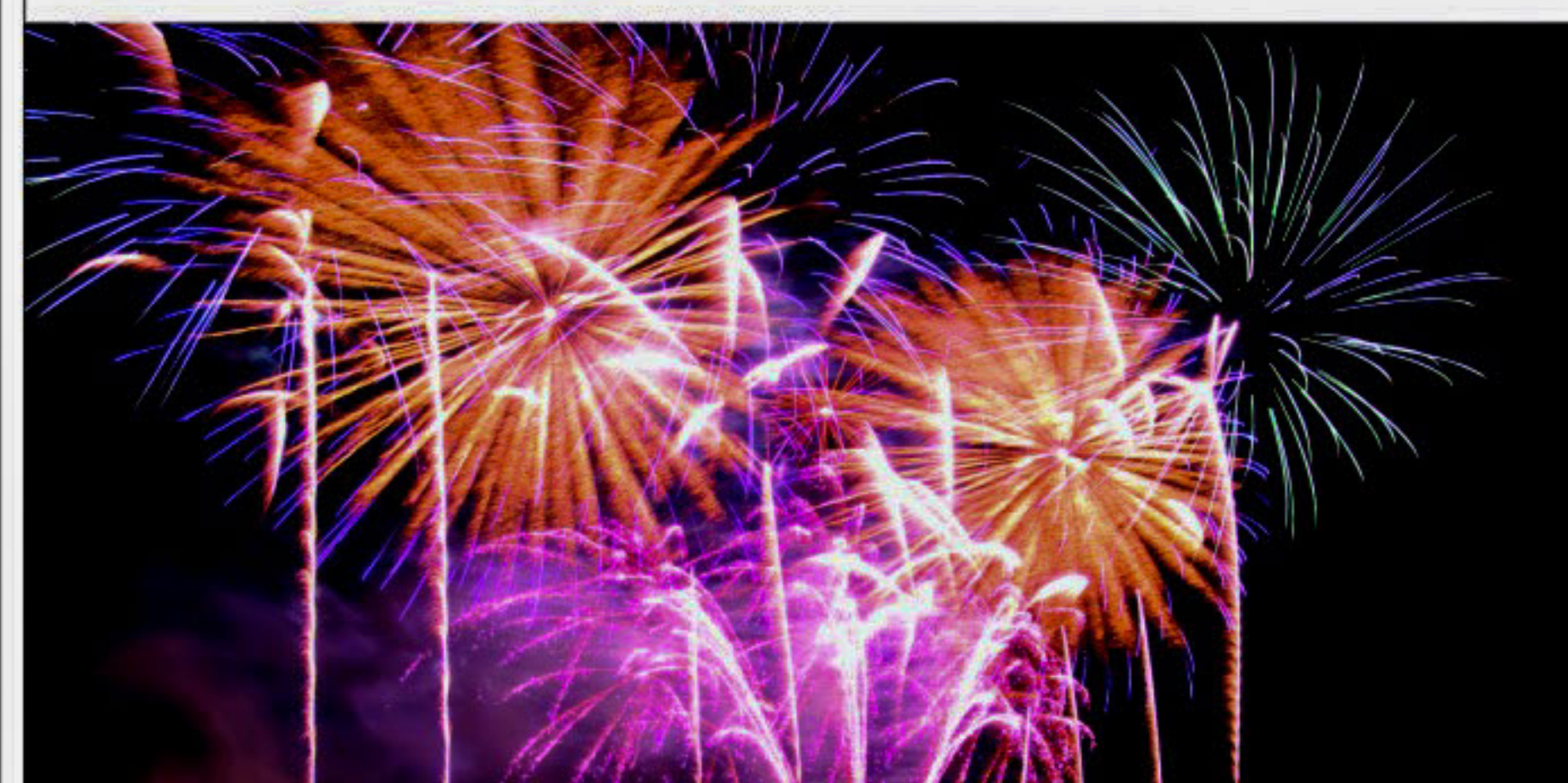
Welbeck completed the scoring in the 68th with a shot that deflected off defender Geoff Cameron.

BRITISH COUNCIL

CAREER SUCCESS
THROUGH UK QUALIFICATIONS

WE CONGRATULATE

All HSC candidates who have passed their examinations and wish them every success in the future



Your journey towards globally recognised qualifications begins with the British Council

For information please contact:

E-mail: exams@bd.britishcouncil.org

www.britishcouncil.org/bangladesh

SPORTS POLL

WEEKLY QUESTION

Does Stuart Law give you hope?

Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote

Follow The Daily Star Sport on

twitter
www.twitter.com/dssport

What to WATCH

STAR Cricket
England v India
Second Test, Day 1
Live from 4:00pm

ESPN
Sportscentre India
Sports News
Live from 8:30pm

DAY'S EVENT

Sk Kamal Int'l Basketball
India v Bhutan
Time: 9:30am
Malaysia v Maldives
Time: 4:00pm
Venue: Dhanmondi Indoor Basketball Gymnasium