

STAR Cricket
England v Australia
First Test, Day 1
Live from 4:00pm
TEN Action
Tour de France
Stage 11
Live from 6:10pm



PHOTO: REUTERS

El Salvador forward Rodolfo Zelaya jumps for joy after his goal against Trinidad and Tobago during their CONCACAF Gold Cup match in Harrison, New Jersey on Monday.

El Salvador, T&T share spoils

AFP, Harrison

Striker Rodolfo Zelaya scored two goals as El Salvador tied Trinidad & Tobago 2-2 in the group B draw in the CONCACAF Gold Cup tournament on Monday.

El Salvador's Zelaya scored in the 21st and 68th minutes in the tournament opener for both teams at Red Bull Arena.

Keon Daniel (10th) and Kenwyne Jones (72nd) scored for Trinidad & Tobago.

Daniel opened the scoring for Trinidad by beating El Salvador goalkeeper Dagoberto Portillo with a well-placed shot. But the lead didn't last long as Zelaya tied it 1-1 off a free kick that was out of the reach of Trinidad keeper Jan Michael Williams.

Zelaya notched his second goal in the 68th minute as he headed in a superb cross from teammate Darwin Ceren.

Just four minutes later, Trinidad's Jones tied it 2-2, fighting off defender Steve Purdy before hammering a shot past Portillo.

Honduras beat Haiti 2-0 in the other group B match on Monday.

Haiti will play Trinidad & Tobago in the first game of a doubleheader in Florida on Friday, while Honduras and El Salvador face off in the nightcap.

PCB reveals SA series schedule

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan on Tuesday announced the schedule for its series against South Africa in October, involving two Tests, five one-day matches and two Twenty20 games.

The series will be played in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) -- Pakistan's de facto home grounds for international cricket since 2009.

Pakistan have been forced to play abroad because foreign teams have refused to tour the country since Islamist gunmen attacked the Sri Lankan cricket team in Lahore in 2009.

It will be South Africa's second series against Pakistan in the UAE, following two Tests, five one-dayers and two Twenty20s in 2010.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said the matches will be played between October 14 and November 15.

South Africa, ranked number one in Tests, will open the tour with a three-day warm-up match before the first Test in Abu Dhabi on October 14.

Pitch invader kisses Fred's feet

INTERNET, Undated

Usually when a fan invades the pitch during a match, they have no discernable reason for being there other than to waste everyone's time and it requires a spine-denting tackle from one or 12 members of stadium security to remove them so the game can continue. But during Botafogo's 1-0 win against Fluminense (in which Clarence Seedorf scored the winner in the 83rd minute), a Fluminense supporter invaded the pitch just to kiss Fred's feet. He then jogged off, giving the crowd two thumbs up as he made his way back to the stands.

Fans feel cheated

INTERNET, Undated



The US leg of the Messi and Friends Tour got off to about as bad a start as it possibly could with the cancellation of Lionel Messi's charity match in

Los Angeles on a day's notice and accusations of a "blatant attempt to defraud American citizens" from one of the game's sponsors.

Though the final match of the tour in Chicago was played as scheduled on July 6, it was wrought with egregious problems that left its highest paying attendees feeling scammed.

While Messi sat poolside in Las Vegas at a party thrown by (retired) Ronaldo the day before the Chicago match, fear of another cancellation and news that the squads would be rounded out with former players from Northwestern University limited ticket sales to less than half of Soldier Field's 60,000 capacity.

Still, the match's promoters, Numero 5

(different from the LA organizer), were able to sell about 80 "VIP" packages that promised to include "tickets with unprecedented field access following a meet and greet with the players, as well as a jersey and ball autographed by Messi" for a whopping \$2,500 a piece.

But the fans from all over the country who purchased those VIP packages thinking they would get the rare chance to meet Lionel Messi in person ended up feeling they were the victims of a "classic bait and switch."

The autographed ball and jersey turned out to be "a cheap plastic ball" and a "T-shirt" with the Messi autographs either stamped on or smudged and the pre-match meet and greet consisted of only a few of the professional footballers in a hot, windowless room. Lionel Messi -- who was substituted in the 68th minute of the match and left the stadium before the final whistle so he could relax in Ibiza with friends and family -- was not one of them.

Tendulkar awaits another record

HINDUSTAN TIMES, Mumbai



Maybe it's the beautiful backdrop of the **T a b l e M o u n t a i n s**, there's something about the Newlands cricket ground that has always inspired Sachin Tendulkar.

He has got at least a half-century in each of the four Tests he has played at the venue, converting two of them into spectacular hundreds. The last time he played there, he got 146 against Dale Steyn and Co to help India draw a series for the first time in South Africa.

Given his average of 81.50 with scores of 73, 169 and 9, 64 and 14 and 146 and 14, it is among his favourite venues outside India. And if all goes to plan, it's the venue where he will be playing his 200th Test.

According to the schedule of matches released by Cricket South Africa on Monday, the three Tests on the tour will be played at Kingsmead (Durban), Sahara Park Newlands (Capetown) and the Wanderers (Johannesburg). Tendulkar is on 198 Tests



and is poised to become the first man to play 200 Tests. Like each of his four previous Tests at Newlands, this one will also be played on the same dates, starting January 2.

Prof Andre Odendaal, CEO of the Newlands-based Western Province Cricket Association, told HT there was great excitement at the news: "It's an amazing thing for us that Tendulkar, one of the true greats of the game, will be playing his 200th Test at Newlands. It is also fitting for we have great memories of the earlier occasions he played here as well."

He scored a superb century in 2011 and in 1997 he had a breathtaking partnership with Azharuddin. It also brings us the memories of the great Nelson Mandela, at a time when he is not well, for here Tendulkar had met Mandela during India's first-ever visit in 1992-93. We have a beautiful picture that captures the meeting," said Odendaal, who was also the founding director of the Robben Islands museum project when the prison was shut and turned into a national museum in honour of Mandela.

Sri Lanka make things complicated

AFP, Port Of Spain



Sri Lanka weathered a middle-order revival by the West Indies and held on for a 39-run victory on the Duckworth-Lewis Scoring Method in a rain-affected fifth match of the Tri-Nation Series at Queen's Park Oval on Monday.

Kumar Sangakkara crafted a superb, unbeaten 90 to lift the visitors to a competitive 219 for eight in a match forced into the reserve day because of the elements and reduced to 41 overs-per-side.

Half-centuries by Daren Bravo (70) and Lendl Simmons (67) then threatened to take the home team to a revised target of 230 before a sense of haste in the midst of light rain and the cooler heads of the Sri Lankans saw the West Indies restricted to 190 for nine in reply.

While the result pushes Sri Lanka to the top of the standings ahead of the Caribbean side by virtue of a better net run-rate, a victory for India over Angelo Mathews's team in the final pre-

liminary match on Tuesday will result in the calculators again being deployed to determine the qualifiers for Thursday's final.

Sangakkara claimed the player-of-the-match award for his excellent innings, but Mathews also made vital contributions with bat and ball in ensuring his side avenged the six-wicket defeat suffered at the hands of the West Indies in the opening match of the tournament in Kingston ten days earlier.

His 30 off 27 balls gave the innings important impetus towards the end and figures of four for 29, including the vital scalp of Chris Gayle at the start of the West Indies chase, proved critical in completing victory.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA: 219 for 8 in 41 overs (Sangakkara 90 not out, Thirimanne 23, Mathews 30; Roach 4-27, Holder 2-50)
WEST INDIES: 190 for 9 in 41 overs (Bravo 70, Simmons 67; Eranga 3-46-3, Mathews 4-29)
Result: Sri Lanka won by 39 runs on the D-L Method.

Player-of-the-match: Kumar Sangakkara.

Barca, Real face off in October

AFP, Madrid

Spanish archrivals Barcelona and Real Madrid will face off in October in next season's first "El Clasico", a highly charged football clash that stops the nation.

The dates were decided by a draw held by the Spanish football federation Tuesday, which set the fixtures for the 38 match days of the 2013-14 season running from August 17 this year to May 18, 2014.

Real Madrid, under new coach Carlo Ancelotti, will head to the Camp Nou to face Barcelona on the weekend of October 27, with the return match in the Santiago Bernabeu on the weekend of March 23.

Bayern stars lead way

AFP, Paris

Four Bayern Munich stars were nominated in a 10-man list by UEFA on Tuesday to decide the top player plying his trade in Europe.

The award will be handed out on August 29 in Monaco, the day of the Champions League group stage draw and day before the European Super Cup.

Franck Ribery, Thomas Mueller, Arjen Robben and Bastian Schweinsteiger made the list alongside Barcelona's World Player of the Year Lionel Messi and Tottenham's English Premier League Player of the Year Gareth Bale.

Messi was one of only two Spain-based players alongside Cristiano Ronaldo, the man he deposed as World Player of the Year.

English champions Manchester United's Robin van Persie is the only other Premier League based player while Zlatan Ibrahimovic represents Paris Saint-Germain and France with Borussia Dortmund's Robert Lewandowski ensuring Germany provided half the nominees, hardly surprising as Bayern and Dortmund contested May's champions League final, won by the Bavarians.

It will be the third edition of the award won by Messi in 2011 and Andres Iniesta last year.

10-MAN SHORTLIST

Gareth Bale (WAL/Tottenham), Cristiano Ronaldo (POR/Real Madrid), Zlatan Ibrahimovic (SWE/Paris Saint-Germain), Robert Lewandowski (POL/Borussia Dortmund), Lionel Messi (ARG/Barcelona), Thomas Mueller (GER/Bayern Munich), Franck Ribery (FRA/Bayern Munich), Arjen Robben (NED/Bayern Munich), Bastian Schweinsteiger (GER/Bayern Munich), Robin van Persie (NED/Manchester United).

Spotlight on Rooney

AFP, Bangkok



Intense speculation over Wayne Rooney's future looks set to dominate the headlines this week as Manchester United begin their new era under David Moyes at the start of a bumper series of pre-season tours to Asia.

Moyes's first outing as United boss, starting with Saturday's friendly in Bangkok, will be forensically scrutinised for clues about the want-away star, who made a transfer request just before the departure of legendary boss Alex Ferguson.

Britain's Daily Mail on Tuesday linked Rooney with a 60-million-pound (\$90-million) bid from United's English Premier League rivals Chelsea -- who also arrive in the Thai capital this week, led by returning manager Jose Mourinho.

The new starts by Moyes and Mourinho, and the opening of the July-August transfer window, will put extra focus on this year's Asian visits with Barcelona, Liverpool, Manchester City and Spurs also among the clubs headed east.

With Manchester City led by incoming manager Manuel Pellegrini, the three biggest powers of English football will all be under new leadership during the pre-season spree, spread over a giant arc from Kuala Lumpur to Sydney.

Arsenal will break new ground by becoming the first Premiership team to play in Vietnam, indicating a widening reach for a competition that is hugely popular in Asia and earns a significant share of its income from the region.

Liverpool's tour of Indonesia, Australia and Thailand will be under the microscope for news about striker Luis Suarez, while Moyes will also face questions about the possible return of Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo.

It is a sign of the times that

Moyes will make his United bow not at Old Trafford or even Oxford's Manor Ground -- where Ferguson debuted in 1986 -- but at Rajamangala Stadium in suburban Bangkok, against a Thai All-Star XI.

But the ex-Everton manager may be glad to run the rule over his squad, and make inroads towards retaining Rooney, away from the full glare of the English media as he faces the unenviable task of following Ferguson's 38-trophy reign.

"Whoever was going to take over this job knows what the manager did before," Moyes said this week. "The manager before was incredible. His achievements, there are no better."

"All I can do is what David Moyes has done before. I will definitely continue the traditions of Manchester United, but I have to put my own stamp on the club."

Mourinho is also hoping to build a legacy in his second stint at Chelsea, after forays to Inter Milan and Real Madrid, and is likely to parade new signings Andre Schurrle and Marco van Ginkel during the club's tour to Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

The Portuguese, styling himself as the "Happy One" after returning to London, is said to be on the look-out for a new target man while he chews over the future of erratic striker Fernando Torres, as well as veteran club captain John Terry.

Manchester United head to Sydney after Bangkok and they will also visit Japan, home country of their forward Shinji Kagawa, as well as Hong Kong.

Arsenal are playing in Jakarta and Hanoi before also heading to Japan, where their games include a fixture against Nagoya Grampus, former club of their manager Arsene Wenger.

Manchester City, Spurs and Sunderland are due to play a mini-tournament in Hong Kong and Spanish giants Barcelona will visit Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur, the Malaysian capital, in early August.



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