

TEN Cricket
Zimbabwe v Pakistan
Second ODI
Live from 1:30pm
STAR Cricket
England v Australia
First T20I (D/N)
Live from 11:30pm

TEN Action
UEFA Champions League
Group Stage Draw & Best Player in Europe Award
Live from 9:30pm
TEN Sports
US Open
Men's & Women's 2nd Rd
Live from 9:00pm

Willian seals Chelsea deal

REUTERS, Undated

Brazilian playmaker Willian has sealed a move to Chelsea from Russian club Anzhi Makhachkala after being granted a work permit, the English Premier League club said on Wednesday.

The 25-year-old has signed a five-year-deal after last week appearing set to join London rivals Tottenham Hotspur following a medical at White Hart Lane before Chelsea swooped.

The club did not disclose a transfer fee but British media estimated he cost about 30 million pounds (\$46.62 million). "I'm very happy to be here. It has been a dream of mine to come and play here," Willian, who has played twice for Brazil, told the club's official website. "Chelsea are one of the best clubs in the world, and now I'm going to play for one of the best managers in the world (Jose Mourinho), so I'm very happy and looking forward to it."

Willian, who can play as an attacking midfielder or winger, joined Anzhi from Ukraine's Shakhtar Donetsk in January, where he scored 20 goals in 140 league appearances.

Willian joins Germany forward Andre Schurrle, Dutch midfielder Marco van Ginkel and Australia goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer as recent arrivals at Stamford Bridge.

Ljajic set for Roma

AFP, Milan

Fiorentina's Adem Ljajic was set to sign for Roma on Wednesday in a deal that would pave the way for the capital club's highly-rated forward Erik Lamela to move to Tottenham.

ANSA news agency said Ljajic, who had also been courted by AC Milan, had arrived in Rome on Wednesday morning where he was welcomed by a group of Roma supporters, to whom he responded 'Forza Roma' (Go Roma).

The highly-rated Serb is expected to sign for the Giallorossi after undergoing a medical at the club.

Reports in several Italian newspapers said Lamela, an Argentinian who holds a Spanish passport, would be allowed to leave Roma for Spurs if Ljajic put pen to paper at the Olympic Stadium.

Despite spending a month out injured during last season, Lamela scored 15 times in 33 games for Roma to finish as Serie A's joint-fifth scorer and his club's second behind Pablo Osvaldo (16).



Arsenal midfielder Aaron Ramsey (L) celebrates his second goal with teammate Yaya Sanogo during their Champions League qualifier at the Emirates Stadium on Tuesday.

Wenger coy on Mata

AFP, London

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has expressed admiration for Juan Mata, but he was reluctant to reveal the extent of the club's interest in the Chelsea midfielder.

Mata's father and agent, also called Juan, was reportedly in attendance at the Emirates Stadium on Tuesday, when Arsenal beat Fenerbahce 2-0 to complete a 5-0 aggregate win in their Champions League play-off tie.

Mata was an unused substitute in Chelsea's 0-0 draw at Manchester United on Monday, sparking media speculation about his status at Stamford Bridge, and Wenger admitted he was a fan of the Spain international.

"I've heard like you, because I watched the game last night (Monday), that Juan Mata could be on the market," Wenger told journalists.

"I don't know. There is always a reluctance in England to sell to each other. Yes, I like him."

However, when asked if Mata's father had attended the game against Fenerbahce as a guest of the club, Wenger replied in enigmatic fashion, saying: "No. I don't know. Maybe."

He was even less willing to discuss a possible bid for United striker Wayne Rooney, with whom Arsenal were linked earlier in the transfer window.

"We cannot speak about players who are under contract with other clubs," Wenger said.

"Because when a player is under contract in another club, he has to respect the contract. So if you want to buy the player, you have to speak to the club first."

Many of Arsenal's fans are desperate for Wenger to invest in new players.

Arsenal amble, Schalke struggle

AFP, Paris



Arsenal made sure of a 16th consecutive appearance in the Champions League group stage on Tuesday, while German outfit Schalke joined them with a dramatic win in Greece.

The Gunners had more than one foot in Thursday's group-stage draw already after easing to a 3-0 win against Fenerbahce in Istanbul in last week's first leg, but they finished the job in style too, and once again Aaron Ramsey was the star of the show.

The Welshman netted in the first leg and scored both goals in the return at the Emirates Stadium, rolling the ball into an empty net in the 25th minute after Lukas Podolski and Theo Walcott combined to set him up.

Ramsey then got his second on the night in the 72nd minute with a superb first-time

finish on the volley from a Kieran Gibbs assist.

That saw Arsenal win 2-0 on the night and progress 5-0 on aggregate, but the loss of Podolski to injury right at the start of the second half took some of the gloss off a fine evening's work for Arsene Wenger's side.

Semifinalists in 2011, and knocked out in the last 16 last season, Schalke also returned to the group stage after getting the better of Greek club PAOK.

Coached by former Schalke boss Huub Stevens, PAOK held the upper hand in this tie after a 1-1 draw in the first leg in Germany, but some of their advantage was lost by the fact that the return at their own Stadio Toumbia was played behind closed doors.

Robbed of their passionate support, PAOK then lost their advantage in the tie when Atsuto Uchida squared for Adam Szalai to put Schalke ahead just before the interval.

The hosts turned up the pressure in the second half and got their reward when Stefanos Athanasiadis fired home, and

Schalke were then reduced to 10 men when Jermaine Jones was shown a second yellow card just after the hour.

However, Julian Draxler put the Bundesliga club back in front, leaving PAOK -- who were late replacements for banned Ukrainian club Metalist Kharkiv -- needing to score twice to progress.

The veteran Kostas Katsouranis got one, but Draxler set up Szalai to clinch a 3-2 win on the night for Schalke, who progress 4-3 on aggregate.

Elsewhere, 1986 European champions Steaua Bucharest of Romania returned to the group stage for the first time since the 2008-09 season after sneaking past Legia Warsaw on away goals.

After the first leg ended in a 1-1 draw, early goals from Nicolae Stanciu and Federico Piovaccari effectively ended the tie as a contest. Legia came back to draw 2-2 on the night, but the 3-3 aggregate saw Steaua progress.

RESULTS

Austria Vienna (AUT) 2 (Mader 4, Kienast 82)

Dinamo Zagreb (CRO) 3 (Brozovic 33, Fernandez 42, Beciraj 70)

Austria Vienna win 4-3 on aggregate

Basel (SUI) 2 (F. Frei 11, P. Degen 79) Ludogorets Razgrad (BUL) 0

Basel win 6-2 on aggregate

Legia Warsaw (POL) 2 (M Radovic 27, Rzezniczak 90+4) Steaua Bucharest (ROM) 2

(Stanciu 7, Piovaccari 9) Steaua Bucharest win on away goals rule after tie ended 3-3 on aggregate

PAOK (GRE) 2 (Athanasiadis 52, Katsouranis 79)

Schalke 04 (GER) 3 (Szalai 43, 90, Draxler 67)

Schalke 04 win 4-3 on aggregate

Arsenal (ENG) 2 (Ramsey 25, 72) Fenerbahce (TUR) 0 Arsenal win 5-0 on aggregate

Spurs could fine Bale

REUTERS, London



Tottenham Hotspur manager Andre Villas-Boas said the club could fine forward Gareth Bale for failing to attend training ahead of an expected world record "dream" move to Real Madrid.

Bale, who has not been training with the squad due to injury, was granted three days off but did not report back to the club on Tuesday despite being pictured in London.

"(We) gave the player the weekend off, Monday was a day off for the squad, obviously he is involved in a big transfer move to Real Madrid, in the end if it happens we wish him all the best," Villas-Boas told reporters on Wednesday.

"He left here with great memories

and the fact that he hasn't turned up, I don't think it is the correct behaviour, but in the end that's the position of pressure and... that's the position that he chose to take.

"It's up to the club now to decide if it's a fineable offence."

Speculation about Bale's move to nine-times European champions Madrid has mounted in recent weeks, and Villas-Boas acknowledged that the deal should be sealed before the transfer window closes on September 2.

"At the moment the two clubs are speaking, Tottenham and Real Madrid, a final decision or final statement and drafts of the contracts, I'm not sure how much time it's going to take.

"It could happen very, very soon, it might not happen so soon, so I suppose it could happen on the last day, it could

happen in the next two days, I'm not sure."

Wales international Bale enjoyed a stunning Premier League campaign last season, scoring 21 goals in 33 league appearances, and appeared to thrive in a free-role under Villas-Boas.

Despite that, the Portuguese coach said he did not feel let down by the ongoing saga amid reports of a world record 86 million pounds (\$133.64 million) transfer to Madrid.

"What is happening is a dream move for him..." said Villas-Boas on the eve of Tottenham's Europa League playoff second-leg tie at home to Dinamo Tbilisi on Thursday.

"This (transfer) can happen in a different way, in the end there will be a three way agreement so... Tottenham will accept most likely the biggest transfer in world football."

Bayern drop 1st pts

AFP, Berlin



European champions Bayern Munich dropped their first points of the Bundesliga season in a 1-1 draw at Freiburg on Tuesday ahead of their Super Cup clash against Chelsea.

Bayern were on course to maintain their perfect start to the season after three league wins until they leaked a late equaliser and also suffered an injury blow when midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger came off with an ankle problem.

Bayern still moved a point clear at the top of the table, although Mainz, Borussia Dortmund and Bayer Leverkusen can all leapfrog them should they win their game in hand this weekend.

Bayern coach Pep Guardiola - who has introduced a new 4-1-4-1 system since coming in to replace Jupp Heynckes - made several changes to his line-up from the one

that beat Nuremberg 2-0 on Saturday.

He rested six of his first-choice side, leaving out wingers Arjen Robben and Franck Ribery, who both netted at the weekend.

Bayern dominated the game but, not for the first time, failed to convert a string of chances despite enjoying 75 percent possession after setting a new Bundesliga record of 81 in Saturday's win over Nuremberg.

Bayern had got off to a promising start and showed their class when German international Thomas Mueller beat three defenders on the right and crossed to the far post where Swiss winger Xherdan Shaqiri drilled the ball home on 23 minutes.

Freiburg started to exert some second-half pressure, however, and were rewarded with the equaliser four minutes from time.

Substitute Mike Hanke switched play from the left to the right wing, where Sebastian Freis swung in a cross which midfielder Nicolas Hoefler fired past goalkeeper Manuel Neuer from close range.



Jamaican sprint superstar Usain Bolt (R) receives Fuleco, the mascot of the 2014 World Cup, from FIFA president Sepp Blatter at the Home of FIFA in Zurich yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Bolt not worried

REUTERS, Zurich



Usain Bolt is not worried about tarnishing his career by failing to retain his 100 and 200 metres Olympic titles in Rio de Janeiro in three years' time.

"In life you don't always get what you want," the Jamaican told Reuters television after visiting FIFA president Sepp Blatter at the headquarters of soccer's world governing body.

"It wouldn't be the greatest moment, but I would understand because I've had my time, I've been dominant for a long time."

"So, if I get to Rio and it doesn't happen, I would have to understand because I'm getting older and there are greater athletes coming up," added Bolt who turned 27 a week ago.

"I know the athletes have to work harder to step their game up, and be the best. For me, I'll be happy for the sport because it would mean its stepping up and moving on."

Earlier, Bolt, who will compete in the

Zurich Diamond League meeting on Thursday, was handed a ticket for the 2014 World Cup final by Blatter along with a furry toy depicting the tournament mascot, a grinning blue and yellow armadillo named Fuleco.

"To go to Rio and win again would be a feat in itself, because it would be the first time anybody has ever won three times in a row so that would also add to my greatness," he said.

"As an athlete you are always pushing the limit and for me I want to continue pushing the barrier," added Bolt, who won the 100 and 200 metres double at the 2008 and 2012 Olympics and will be approaching his 30th birthday in Rio in 2016.

"At the end of the day I want to be remembered among the greatest athletes, Pele, (Diego) Maradona, Michael Johnson."

Bolt also commented on a suggestion that he could take up a sports administration role after retiring as an athlete, but said he might be "too lazy" for the role.

"I have thought about it, I have to admit I'm slightly lazy, but we'll see where it goes," he said.

Reds leave it late

REUTERS, London

Liverpool needed two extra-time goals to beat Notts County 4-2 at Anfield on an eventful night for the Premier League clubs in the League Cup second round on Tuesday.

England forward Daniel Sturridge and substitute Jordan Henderson spared Liverpool's blushes after their League One opponents stormed back to level at 2-2 after 90 minutes.

Hull City also advanced with a 1-0 extra-time win at Leyton Orient while Fulham won a penalty shootout 5-4 at League Two Burton Albion after their topsy-turvy showdown finished 2-2.

Southampton thrashed Barnsley 5-1 away and Norwich City enjoyed a 6-3 win over Bury in a goalfest at Carrow Road.