

BTV
SAFF Championship
Bangladesh v India
Live from 3:45pm
TEN Sports
US Open
Men's Rd of 16 & Women's Qtr
Live from 9:00pm

TEN Cricket
Zimbabwe v Pakistan
First Test, Day 1
Live from 2:00pm
ESPN
Ireland v England
Only ODI
Live from 3:30pm

U19s start preparations

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh U-19 football team started their preparation yesterday for the qualifying round of the AFC U-19 Championship with 33 players joining the residential camp.

The players, who were picked through an open trial, are following the training schedule prepared by Dutch coach Rene Koster. Local coaches Mahbub Hossain Roxy and Golam Rabbani Choton are conducting the training and Rene will take charge following the completion of his role with the national team which is playing the SAFF Championship in Nepal at present.

Bangladesh were drawn along with last edition's runners-up Iraq, mighty Kuwait and Pakistan in Group C of the qualifying round of the AFC U-19 Championship, which will be held in Iraq from October 8-12. The top team from each of the nine groups and six-best second place side will qualify for the 16-team finals where hosts Myanmar will be playing directly.

The AFC U-19 Championship will also serve as the qualifiers from Asia for the FIFA U-20 World Cup with top four sides of the 2014 finals booking their places in the 2015 U-20 World Cup to be held in New Zealand. Bangladesh finished fourth among five teams in the last edition of the qualifying round which was held in Dhaka.

Stoke sign Arnautovic

AFP, London

Controversial Austrian forward Marko Arnautovic has joined Stoke City from Werder Bremen on a four-year contract, the Premier League club announced on Monday.

The 24-year-old Austria international is new manager Mark Hughes's fourth close-season signing, following the arrivals of Dutch left-back Erik Pieters, Spanish defender Marc Muniesa and Moroccan midfielder Oussama Assaidi, who joined on loan from Liverpool.

"Stoke City are delighted to sign Austria international winger Marko Arnautovic from German side Werder Bremen," read a statement on Stoke's Facebook page.

Real unveil Bale

AFP, Madrid



Gareth Bale's prolonged transfer from Tottenham Hotspur to Real Madrid was finally completed for an unconfirmed world record fee on Sunday after the Spanish club officially announced the move.

"Real Madrid and Tottenham have reached an agreement for the transfer of Gareth Bale," confirmed a statement on the club's website.

"The player will be tied to the club for the next six seasons."

Widespread reports in England have suggested that the move will make Bale the world's most expensive player with Real set to pay 101 million euros (\$133.5 million, £86 million) for his services.

However, media in Spain insisted on Sunday that Real will only pay 91 million euros, three million less than Los Blancos paid for Cristiano Ronaldo back in 2009.

Gareth Bale hailed his move to Real Madrid as a "dream come true" as he was officially unveiled in front of 20,000 fans at the Santiago Bernabeu on Monday.

"It is a dream come true for me to play for Real Madrid," he said in Spanish, to the delight of the local fans.

"I hope to be able to help the team have success and win the 10th European Cup this year."

Bale then took to the pitch at the Bernabeu for the first time in his new Real kit to perform a series of tricks and to kick

balls into the stands for the adoring fans.

Real Madrid president Florentino Perez had earlier welcomed Bale to the club and repeated Spurs chairman Daniel Levy's sentiment that the player's desire to move to Madrid had played a key role in the deal.

"We are in this temple of Real Madrid to incorporate a new man who knows very clearly what are the values of this club," Perez said.

"A man who has been chosen as the best player in the Premier League last season. A young footballer but with great qualities, committed to the sport and whose dream has been to be a Real Madrid player."

"Gareth you are going to help us to make the legend of this club even greater and stronger. This is your stadium, your shirt, your badge and your fans. From today this is your home."

The 24-year-old arrived in the Spanish capital on Sunday night before undergoing a medical on Monday morning, which he passed without any problems despite not having played since mid-July due to an apparent foot injury.

"The truth is that he has arrived in excellent physical condition and is at the disposition of the coaching team for use whenever they think it is convenient," Carlos Diez, head of Madrid's medical team, told the club's website.

"I would underline his physical condition. He has come to the club marvelously in this sense and I think he is going to take advantage of that very well."



100M EURO MAN? Real Madrid's latest signing Welsh winger Gareth Bale gives the thumbs up during his official unveiling at the Bernabeu yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Kaka back in Milan

AFP, Rome



Brazilian midfielder Kaka has completed a return to AC Milan on a two-year contract after the Serie A side agreed a deal with Real Madrid, the Italian club confirmed Monday.

"Done deal", Milan CEO Adriano Galliani announced on the club's website, adding that discussions ran until "around 0235-0240 CET" Monday morning before the move was completed.

According to the Italian press, Real allowed the 31-year-old to return to his former club on a free transfer, having paid 65 million euros to bring Kaka to Madrid in 2009.

"I'm going home!" the player told journalists at a Madrid airport before boarding a flight to Milan, where he landed shortly after Monday lunchtime.

The Brazilian was said to have taken a significant pay cut to facilitate his move to the San Siro, accepting an annual salary of four million euros plus bonuses, a considerable reduction from the 10 million euros a year he received in Madrid.

"I'm very happy, the talks took a long time. Money was never one of my priorities," Kaka told Milan Channel, the Italian club's TV station, upon his arrival at the Milan-Linate airport.

The Brazilian had fallen out of favour in Madrid while former boss Jose Mourinho was in charge and had yet to feature for the Spanish side this season following the arrival of new coach Carlo Ancelotti.

"When I understood that there was no longer space for me (at Real), I had to leave," said Kaka.

"I really want to play. It's a special year because there is the World Cup. First of all I have to do well for Milan, but I think the club can help me play in the World Cup," added the Brazilian, who has scored 29 goals in 87 appearances for his country.

Kaka's first spell at the Rossoneri, from 2003 to 2009, coincided with his rise to prominence that culminated in him winning the 2007 Ballon d'Or after leading Milan to the Champions League title that year.

Demichelis joins City

AFP, Manchester

Atletico Madrid defender Martin Demichelis has joined Manchester City on a two year contract, the Premier League side announced on Sunday.

The 32-year-old Argentina international is renewing his ties with City's Chilean manager Manuel Pellegrini, the pair having worked together at both River Plate and Malaga.

"I am delighted to have joined City because I am still hungry for success and want to improve," Demichelis told City's website.

"I have been in Europe for 11 years now and this was a great chance for me to play in the Premier League with such a big club."

"When there is a change, there is always a process. There's always a period of adjustment you have to go through. Moving from South America to Europe is a big change and you need some time to settle in because everything is new."

"But in my case, I have lived in Europe for many years and I don't think there'll be any problems in adjusting to life here."

Inter go joint top

REUTERS, Rome



Inter Milan moved joint top of Serie A after winning 3-0 at Catania while Mario Gomez scored his first Serie A goals and Giuseppe Rossi made it three for the season as Fiorentina defeated Genoa 5-2 on Sunday.

AC Milan bounced back from last week's defeat at Hellas Verona with a 3-1 win at home to Cagliari in an entertaining evening featuring 32 goals in eight games.

It was one-way traffic in Sicily as Walter Mazzari's Inter showed that they have put last season's troubles behind them.

Smartly worked goals from Rodrigo Palacio, Yuto Nagatomo and Ricky Alvarez helped them beat a fired-up Catania team who have yet to get a point after two defeats.

Alberto Aquilani give Vincenzo Montella's Fiorentina the lead at Genoa after 10 minutes before Giuseppe Rossi scored his second in as many games four minutes later and Gomez tapped in his goal four minutes before the break.

Alberto Gilardino gave the home side some hope nine minutes after the break with a stunning volley, but Rossi tapped in his second almost immediately afterwards.

Francesco Lodi reduced the deficit again on the hour with a penalty following a foul on Gilardino, but an injury time penalty from Mario Gomez ruined Genoa's celebrations for their 140th anniversary, in which cricket was played on the Stadio Luigi Ferraris pitch before the match.

The club's official name is Genoa Cricket and Football Club, and it has a cricket team which was re-established in 2007 and plays

RESULTS

Roma 3 (Cacciatore 56-og, Pjanic 59, Ljajic 66) **Verona 0**
Atalanta 2 (Stendardo 57, Lucchini 81) **Torino 0**
Bologna 2 (Moscardelli 41, Kone 64) **Sampdoria 2** (Eder 25, Gabbiadini 71)
Catania 0 **Inter 3** (Palacio 19, Nagatomo 56, Alvarez 80)
Genoa 2 (Gilardino 54, Lodi 60) **Fiorentina 5** (Aquilani 10, Rossi 14, 55, Gomez 41, 90+4-pen)
AC Milan 3 (Robinho 8, Mexes 30, Balotelli 62) Cagliari 1 (Sau 32)
Sassuolo 1 (Zaza 66) **Livorno 4** (Greco 43, Emeghara 69, 85-pen, Paulinho 74)
Udinese 3 (Badu 11, Heurtaux 72, Muriel 69-pen) Parma 1 (Cassano 82)

in Italy's top division.

Goals from Robinho, Philippe Mexes and Mario Balotelli were enough for AC Milan against a plucky Cagliari team.

Brazilian Robinho and Mexes put Massimiliano Allegri's side two goals up after half an hour, only for Marco Sau to pull one back for the away side three minutes later.

However, Balotelli's first league goal of the season in the 62nd minute put the result beyond doubt.

Earlier on Sunday Roma moved into second place on goal difference after splendid goals from Miralem Pjanic and Adem Ljajic gave them a comfortable 3-0 win over newly promoted Hellas Verona.

Rudi Garcia's side moved to six points after Bosnia international Pjanic's delightful chip from more than 20 metres out in the 59th minute and a powerful long range drive from Ljajic on his Roma debut six minutes later.

Korea invites two cyclists

SPORTS REPORTER

Two cyclists Iftekhar Alam Rifat and Azizur Rahman left here yesterday for Korea to take part in a seven-week training following the invitation from Korean Cycling Federation (KCF), said a press release yesterday.

The KCF in association with International Cycling Union is holding the 2nd camp of World Cycling Centre Korea Satellite 2013 from September 3 to October 20. Bangladesh Cycling Federation also decided to send coach Jahid Chowdhury for the camp apart from cyclists Rifat and Azizur.

Bangladesh out of Junior TT

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh were eliminated from the first-round of the Asian Junior Table Tennis Championship being held at Doha, Qatar after losing to Thailand, Chinese Taipei and Korea in the team event.

Bangladesh team comprising Javed Ahemd and Imran Hossain suffered identical 3-0 defeats against all three opponents in U-15 section.



PHOTO: AFP

Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi celebrates one of his three goals against Valencia during their Primera Liga encounter at the Mestalla on Sunday.

Barca win a thriller

AFP, Madrid



A first-half hattrick by Lionel Messi ensured Barcelona maintained their 100% start to the La Liga season with a thrilling 3-2 win over Valencia as Real Madrid also made it three wins from three games on Sunday.

Messi had looked far from his best in Barca's Super Cup victory over Atletico Madrid in midweek, but looked more like his old self as he put Barca 2-0 up inside 39 minutes and was then brilliantly set up by Neymar to complete his hattrick.

However, Valencia were amazingly back in the game by half-time as Helder Postiga struck twice in first-half stoppage time.

Barca then passed up a host of chances to put the game to bed in the second-half and were nearly punished when Jonas struck the post four minutes from time.

Neymar had already had a goal ruled out for offside when Cesc Fabregas sprung Valencia's high line with a fine through ball on 10 minutes and Messi evaded challenge from Adil Rami and Diego Alves to bundle home from close range.

Victor Valdes was then forced into a fine save to deny Dorlan Pabon levelling on his debut for Los Che.

But just when it appeared Valencia were

in control of the game, Barca struck twice in two minutes.

Firstly, Sergio Busquets robbed the ball in midfield to allow Fabregas to set Messi free again to roll into the far corner.

And then a wonderful piece of individual skill from Neymar teed-up the Argentine to side foot home his 23rd hat-trick for the Catalans.

Valencia responded wonderfully though and were back in the game before half-time thanks to Postiga's double.

The Portuguese firstly produced a stunning overhead kick to turn Joao Pereira's cross into the top corner.

And moments later the former Spurs man rose highest to flick home Ever Banega's corner.

The frantic pace continued after the break as Messi forced Alves into a stunning save from the edge of the area before Pedro somehow managed to head wide from Andres Iniesta's cross from point-blank range.

Messi was next to let Valencia off the hook as he unbelievably pulled his shot wide after more great work from Neymar and Jordi Alba down the left and then fired straight at Alves when clean through on goal.

And the champions were nearly made to pay for their profligacy as Jonas' curling effort from the edge of the area was brilliantly turned onto the post by Valdes.