

**BTV**  
SAFF C'ship Final  
India v Afghanistan  
Live from 6:45pm

**TEN Cricket**  
Zimbabwe v Pakistan  
Second Test, Day 2  
Live from 2:00pm

**STAR Cricket**  
England v Australia  
Third ODI (D/N)  
Live from 7:00pm

## IPL games in Bangladesh?

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh may host the next season of the Indian Premier League (IPL) or at least some matches of the T20 tournament that overlap dates of Indian parliamentary elections due early next year, an Indian English daily reported on Tuesday. Quoting a top Indian cricket board official, The Indian Express reported that some of the matches may be held outside of India and Bangladesh and Sri Lanka could be the likely hosts.

When contacted, Nizamuddin Chowdhury, acting chief executive officer of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) said, "We haven't got any thing official from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)."

"We will have an Asian Cricket Council meeting in Chennai on September 14. In that meeting, there might be a possibility of any such development," he added.

## Hodgson forgives Walker

AFP, Kiev

England manager Roy Hodgson says he has forgiven Kyle Walker after pictures of the Tottenham Hotspur full-back inhaling nitrous oxide were published in British newspapers.

The 23-year-old was pictured inhaling the substance, popularly known as laughing gas, from a balloon during a night out with friends.

While not illegal, usage of nitrous oxide can prove fatal, and Walker issued an apology for his behaviour on Twitter on Monday.

"Now I know the health risks, it was poor judgement on my part," he said.

"I won't be doing this again and hope that no-one else is influenced into putting their health at risk by my actions."

The Football Association said it would not be taking action against the player and Hodgson said he was prepared to draw a line beneath the affair.

"I am happy, he has made his apologies and admitted a mistake," Hodgson said, during a press conference prior to England's World Cup qualifier against Ukraine in Kiev on Tuesday.

"It was a long time ago, he'd forgotten it. It would have been much worse had it happened this weekend."



Japan playmaker Shinji Kagawa (L) heads the ball during their international friendly against Ghana in Yokohama yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

# Kagawa stars in win

AFP, Yokohama



Live-wire Shinji Kagawa gave Manchester United manager David Moyes a reminder of his value by firing a superb individual goal as Asian champions Japan fought

back to beat Ghana 3-1 in a friendly on Tuesday.

Japan's playmaker, left out of the English champions' first three Premier League games this season, cut in from the left to unleash a fierce shot into the bottom corner five minutes into the second half, cancelling out Frank Acheampong's

opener for a weakened Ghana side in Yokohama.

Yasuhito Endo, making his 136th appearance for Japan, put the Blue Samurai in front in the 64th minute with a crisp, low drive before Keisuke Honda headed a third as 2010 World Cup quarter-finalists Ghana began to tire in rainy conditions.

Acheampong put the visitors in front against the run of play with a left-foot volley from the edge of the box which deflected off Atsuto Uchida and fizzed past goalkeeper Eiji Kawashima.

Ghana, who booked their place in the African qualifying play-offs for next year's

World Cup in Brazil with a 2-1 win over Zambia last Friday before an 18-hour flight to the Far East, rode their luck until Kagawa's moment of magic.

Honda somehow missed an open goal and the busy Kagawa blasted just over as Japan, producing some neat one-touch football, pushed for an equaliser.

Kagawa, twice voted German player of the year with Borussia Dortmund, has played just seven minutes for United this season, coming on as a substitute in the 2-0 Community Shield win against Wigan at Wembley on August 11.

The 24-year-old made the bench for the

games against Swansea and Chelsea but was unused, and was left out of United's squad for the 1-0 defeat at Liverpool prior to the international break, sparking criticism of Moyes in the British media.

Japan, who have already secured their fifth successive World Cup appearance, were beaten 4-2 by a Luis Suarez-inspired Uruguay last month and failed to set pulses racing in a 3-0 win over Guatemala last week.

Alberto Zaccheroni's side lost all three of their games at the Confederations Cup in June but gained a measure of solace by winning the East Asian championship a month later.

## Bale back in training

AFP, Cardiff



Real Madrid new-boy Gareth Bale took part in a training session with his Wales teammates on Monday after going for a scan on a groin strain.

Bale joined Spanish giants Real from Tottenham Hotspur last week in a deal widely reported to be the world's most expensive transfer at around 100 million euros (\$132.5 million).

But Bale was an unused substitute for his country's 2-1 loss to Macedonia in Skopje on Friday and Wales manager Chris Coleman revealed on Monday that the winger was left on the sidelines because of a groin injury suffered in training.

However, Bale's groin problem doesn't appear that serious as, after the scan, he trained with Wales ahead of their World Cup qualifier against Serbia in Cardiff.

"We had a conversation with Gareth before the game, he had a tight groin from the day before and we could not take that

chance," Coleman said.

Bale has not played since mid-July due to a foot problem and his latest injury concern comes just days before he is scheduled to make his Madrid debut at Villarreal this weekend.

Coleman admitted the 24-year-old suffered the problem during Wales's training session at the Philip II Arena on Thursday. But he is still hopeful Bale will play some part against Serbia on Tuesday.

"We went into the Macedonia game with everything great," said Coleman, whose team can't qualify for next year's finals in Brazil.

"Gareth gets his move to Real Madrid, everything is positive.

"Then Gareth picks up a strain in training and can't play in the game, which is disappointing.

"He was never going to be available to start either of these games but at best he would have come on for maybe half an hour.

"There is a small chance of that tomorrow (Tuesday) night, we will see when we get the scan results back and how he feels."

## Hamilton defies Pak

REUTERS



Senior batsmen Hamilton Masakadza and Brendan Taylor led from the front as they put together a 110-run partnership for Zimbabwe, who reached 237 for eight wickets at stumps on the opening day of the second test against Pakistan on Tuesday.

Masakadza and Taylor offered Zimbabwe hope of an impressive first-innings total on a green top at the Harare Sports Club but the loss of five wickets after tea allowed Pakistan to gain the ascendancy.

Taylor returned to the team after the birth of his son last week and regained the captaincy from Masakadza, who top scored with 75 before being caught in the slips as he pushed at a delivery from off spinner Saeed Ajmal.

Taylor, who chose to bat after winning the toss, reached his half-century off a risky shot that Rahat Ali let slip through his hands in what looked a routine catch but departed

soon after for 51, trapped leg before to spinner Abdur Rehman.

Zimbabwe, beaten by 221 runs by Pakistan in the first test last week, lost opener Tino Mawoyo to the second ball of the day but steadied their innings to go to lunch on 65 for two and later looked to be setting up an impressive score as they were 165 for three at tea after scoring 100 runs in the middle session.

Progress was halted as wickets fell in quick succession in the final session. Junaid Khan's fiery bowling delivered the best figures of 3-55 as the seamers shared five wickets.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**ZIMBABWE:** First innings 237 for 8 in 90 overs (Sibanda 14, Masakadza 75, Taylor 51, Waller 23, Chigubura 15, Utsuya 14 not out, Panyangara 24; Junaid 3-5, Rahat 2-48, Rehman 2-37)

**PAKISTAN:** Hafeez, Manzoor, Younis, Azhar, Misbah (capt), Shafiq, Akmal (wkt), Rehman, Ajmal, Junaid, Rahat. Toss: Zimbabwe.

## Messi's tax hearing put back

REUTERS, Madrid

Barcelona forward Lionel Messi and his father will appear in court to answer charges of tax evasion on Sept. 27 after a hearing scheduled for next week was postponed, a court statement said on Tuesday.

The World Player of the Year and his father Jorge Messi, who both denied wrongdoing, allegedly hid more than four million euros (\$5.3 million) by filing incomplete returns for the years 2006 to 2009.

They have already made a "corrective payment" to Spanish authorities of just over five million euros.

A lawyer for the Argentine pair asked for a September 17 hearing to be postponed as he had another commitment that day.

Jorge Messi will now appear at the court in Gava near Barcelona at 1000 local time (0800 GMT) 10 days later with Lionel due an hour later.

According to the prosecutor's office for tax crimes in Catalonia, income from the sale of Messi's image rights was hidden using a complex web of shell companies in Uruguay, Belize, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

He has been resident in Barcelona since joining the club's academy in 2000 and he gained Spanish citizenship five years later.

"I never take care of that (tax) stuff myself and neither does my father," Messi, 26, said in July. "We have our lawyers and our wealth managers to take care of that and we trust them and they will sort this out."

"The truth is I don't have a clue about all this and that is why we have people taking care of it."

## Andy suffers new foot injury

REUTERS, London

West Ham United striker Andy Carroll has re-injured his right foot after returning to training, the Premier League club said on Monday.

"Although it is in the same part of his foot as his previous injury, it is a new injury and therefore there will be no prognosis until he has seen a specialist," West Ham said in a statement on their website.

The 24-year-old England forward, signed for 15 million pounds (\$23.6 million) from Liverpool on a permanent transfer in June after spending a year on loan at the London club, has not played this season.

## Wiese still in exile

AFP, Berlin



Werder Bremen have ruled out re-signing Germany goalkeeper Tim Wiese while Hoffenheim investor Dietmar Hopp has said he wants to resolve the ongoing feud with the exiled shot-stopper.

Wiese, who made the last of his six appearances for Germany in February 2012, is under contract with Hoffenheim until 2016, but has not played in the Bundesliga since January, despite earning a reported salary of 3.5m euros (US\$4.6m).

"We need to talk about things in the next few days and weeks," Hopp has told magazine Sport Bild, but Wiese has said he has no interest in dissolving his Hoffenheim contract.

Since being fined by the club in February for an incident at a party to celebrate carnival, Wiese has been exiled from the first team and trains with a separate group.

His former club Bremen have said they have no interest in re-signing Wiese, who was part of the Germany squad which finished third at the 2010 World Cup in South

Africa.

"A discussion about goalkeepers is not up for debate," said Bremen's director of sport Thomas Eichin.

Having signed for Hoffenheim in May 2012 after nearly 200 Bundesliga appearances for Werder, Wiese has said there is no end in sight to his first-team exile.

"I have no interest in dissolving my contract," the 31-year-old said over the weekend.

"I didn't sign a four-year deal to dissolve it after just one.

"No one has spoken to me about it and I haven't had contact with the coach or manager for two months."

Wiese made a rare appearance on Saturday when he played in a benefit match for Bremen's ex-Germany midfielder Torsten Frings.

Belgian goalkeeper Koen Casteels has played all four of Hoffenheim's German league games so far this season and Wiese has said he does not want to leave.

"I'm fit and ready to play," said the goalkeeper, who has ruled out taking legal action, like his former Hoffenheim teammate Eren Derdiyok, who took his case to an industrial tribunal before joining Bayer Leverkusen last month.



## Scolari pleased with form

REUTERS



Brazil have recovered their Confederations Cup-winning form in time for Tuesday's friendly against Portugal in Boston, coach Luiz Felipe Scolari said.

The 2014 World Cup hosts, despite being depleted by injuries, bounced back from a poor 1-0 defeat by Switzerland last month to romp to a 6-0 win over Australia in Brasilia on Saturday.

"The 6-0 was marvellous. We played at a very good rhythm, it didn't look like a friendly, the team performed as in the Confederations Cup," Scolari was quoted as saying on the Brazilian Football Confederation's website.

"It's in this shape that we're going to Boston to play against Portugal."

Striker Jo, standing in for the injured Fred among several reserves given a chance to start a match, scored twice in the win over Australia.

Scolari was impressed by midfielder Ramires, whom he overlooked for the June tournament which Brazil hosted and won with a 3-0 victory over world champions Spain in the final.

"He's a very agile player, he gets up front in attacking moves and 10 seconds later he's back marking," Scolari said after giving Ramires a start.

"He's a modern player who can be very useful," he added with a hint that Ramires could play a part in Brazil's World Cup plans.