

STAR Sports1
Australia v England
Fourth Test, Day 2
Live from 5:30am (Friday)
TEN HD
South Africa v India

Second Test, Day 1
Live from 2:30pm
STAR Sports 4
English Premiership
Hull City v Man United
Live from 6:45pm

Chelsea v Swansea City
Live from 9:00pm
Man City v Liverpool
Live from 11:00pm
STAR Sports HD1
English Premiership

Tottenham v West Bromwich
Live from 9:00pm
STAR Sports HD2
English Premiership
West Ham v Arsenal
Live from 9:00pm

NEO Prime
New Zealand v West Indies
First ODI
Live from 7:00am

Victory Day T20 Cup
Abahani v UCB BCB XI

Time: 12:30pm
Mohammedan v Prime Bank CC

Time: 4:30pm
Venue: Sylhet Divisional Stadium

Jack reacted to jibes

REUTERS, London

The abusive hand gesture Jack Wilshere directed at Manchester City fans this month was a reaction to jibes about his children, the Arsenal and England midfielder explained on Tuesday.

The 21-year-old said he regretted his reaction, which resulted in a two-game suspension, and he would have to learn his lesson.

"Suppose I will just have to take the abuse about my kids in future," Wilshere said on his Twitter account.

"Anyway, one more game to go! Can't wait to be back."

Having missed second-placed Arsenal's goalless draw with Chelsea on Monday, Wilshere will complete his ban by sitting out Thursday's Premier League visit to West Ham United.

The player will be back for the match at Newcastle

Home town honour Rafinha

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Bayern Munich's Brazilian defender Rafinha, fresh from winning the World Club Cup, picked up another honour on Tuesday when he was given the freedom of the city in his home town of Londrina.

The city hall bestowed the award on the 28-year-old, who has gone from strength to strength in recent weeks, winning praise from coach Pep Guardiola, who moved Philipp Lahm into midfield to accommodate the South American.

Rafinha has not as yet managed to force his way into the World Cup reckoning for Brazil but Bayern have just extended his contract to 2017.

Dempsey returns to Fulham

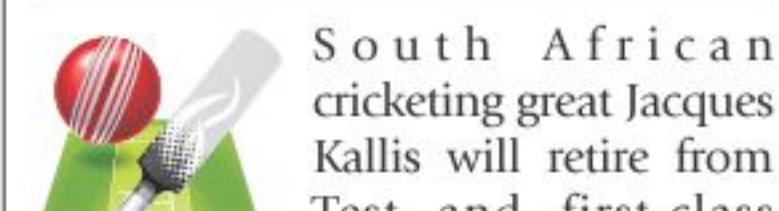
REUTERS, London

United States forward Clint Dempsey is rejoining Fulham on loan for two months from Major League Soccer's Seattle Sounders, the struggling Premier League club said on its website on Tuesday.

The 30-year-old, who can play as a deep-lying striker or in midfield, returns to Craven Cottage having previously joined the west London club in January 2007 from New England Revolution.

Kallis set to retire

AFP, Johannesburg



matches for the Proteas.

"The last two years specifically have been a memorable journey with an exceptional group of cricketers," he said.

"I am fortunate enough to have ended my Test career amongst a group of talented cricketers but more importantly, friends whom I will cherish for years to come."

Captain Graeme Smith praised the veteran's achievements, but expressed sadness at his retirement.

"It's been an emotional few days knowing JK (Jacques Kallis) is retiring," Smith posted on Twitter.

"All I can say, what a privilege to have played with the great man! Hopefully we can give him the send off he deserves over the next 5 days! Gonna miss him immensely."

Kallis will hope to bow out with a victory in his final Test, and a series win, after the first Test ended in a thrilling draw last Sunday.

South Africa coach Russell Domingo said they would do their best to get Kallis to the World Cup and added he would leave a huge vacuum in the Test team dressing room.

"The impact Jacques has made on South African cricket has been immense, not just as a player but as a human being," said Domingo in a statement issued by CSA.

"It wasn't an easy decision to come to, especially with Australia around the corner and the success this team is enjoying, but I feel that I have made my contribution in this format."

Having started playing internationally aged 20, Kallis ends his career the highest-placed active player. He scored 13,174 runs and took 292 wickets in 165 Test



statement posted on the CSA website.

"I'm not sure we will ever see another player of that stature very soon."

"Jacques' calmness, maturity and presence in the change room will sorely be missed and hopefully he will still be able to play a role in this team's success in the near future."

"He has ambitions of playing in the 2015 World Cup and it will be important for us to manage him accordingly so that he is in prime form leading into the tournament."

Lorgat too paid him a handsome tribute.

"Although we all knew the retirement of a great player like Jacques Kallis was going to happen

sooner rather than later, his decision still comes as a blow when the reality dawns that Cricket South Africa's greatest ever player and arguably the world's best all-rounder, will be playing his last Test match in this last week of 2013 when the series concludes against India."

Jacques Kallis has simply been the Proteas Rock of Gibraltar. He has been a stalwart for many years and their recent triumphs and greatness has been built around him.

"He is a legend and his statistics speak volumes. For the number of Test centuries scored, he is second only to Sachin Tendulkar and he is statistically the greatest all-rounder

BUILDING BLOCKS OF A MONUMENT

30 December, 1997

Kallis arrived on the world stage when he saved the first Test against Australia in Melbourne with 101 on the last day.

2-6 January, 1999

Becomes only the second South African to score a century, fifty and take five wickets in a Test after Aubrey Faulkner. Following his 110 in the first innings against West Indies in Cape Town.

25 August, 2003

Kallis takes six for 54 -- his best bowling figures -- against England in the fourth Test at Leeds to speed the home team to defeat.

December 2003 – March 2004

The dream run, from Johannesburg to Hamilton - 158, 177, 130*, 130*, 150* - hundreds in five consecutive Tests, an achievement only bettered by Don Bradman.

27 December, 2003

During an innings of 177 in the second Test against West Indies in Durban, Kallis goes past the 5000-run mark and becomes the fourth player to achieve the double of 5000 runs and 150 wickets in Tests.

4 March, 2005

Kallis uncharacteristically hits Test cricket's fastest half-century (off 24 balls) in a two-day demolition of Zimbabwe in the first Test at Cape Town.

30 April, 2005

By scoring 147 in the fourth Test against West Indies in Antigua, Kallis becomes the highest scorer for South Africa after passing Gary Kirsten's 7289 runs and also overtakes Kirsten in the list of South African centurions, taking top spot with 22.

30 April, 2006

In the second Test against New Zealand at Johannesburg Kallis surpasses

Boxing Day shoot-out

AFP, London



The concertina effect at the top of the Premier League table means that no fewer than five teams will have designs on top spot in Thursday's traditional Boxing Day fixtures.

For the first time in the post-1992 Premier League era, just two points separate the top five teams on Christmas Day, and the erosion of Arsenal's seven-point lead has also given hope to seventh-place Tottenham Hotspur and eighth-place Manchester United.

Arsenal's bruising 0-0 draw at home to Chelsea on Monday left Liverpool top at Christmas for the first time since 2008.

However, the new leaders face a stern test on Thursday when they visit a Manchester City side who have won all eight of their home games to date this

FIXTURES

Thursday

(1500GMT unless otherwise stated):

Aston Villa v Crystal Palace, Cardiff City v Southampton, Chelsea v Swansea City, Everton v Sunderland, Hull City v Manchester United (1245GMT), Manchester City v Liverpool (1730GMT), Newcastle United v Stoke City, Norwich City v Fulham, Tottenham Hotspur v West Bromwich Albion, West Ham United v

season, scoring 35 goals.

City, 4-2 victors at Fulham in their last outing, will leapfrog Liverpool if they prevail at the Etihad Stadium.

Second-place Arsenal, behind Liverpool on goal difference, will hope to capitalise on any slip-ups by Rodgers's side when they visit London

rivals West Ham United.

Fourth-place Chelsea, meanwhile, host Swansea City, with fifth-place Everton hosting bottom club Sunderland.

Chelsea have failed to sparkle during the first half of the season, but with Liverpool only two points ahead of them, captain John Terry knows that Jose Mourinho's side remain very much in contention.

Tottenham, four points below the top five, host West Bromwich Albion, with Tim Sherwood set to experience life as a full-time Premier League manager for the first time after being appointed as the permanent successor to Andre Villas-Boas on Monday.

Defending champions United, meanwhile, will look to close the eight-point gap that separates them from arch rivals Liverpool when they visit Hull City.

Roof trouble at stadium

REUTERS, Sao Paulo



The most expensive of the 12 stadiums built or revamped for the 2014 World Cup has a leaking roof less than eight months after it was finished, the stadium's operators said on Tuesday.

Secopa, the local government agency that runs the Mane Garrincha National Stadium in Brasilia, will ask the company that rebuilt it to explain why parts of the roof let in rain during last weekend's women's match between Brazil and Chile.

Local media reported that almost the entire lower ring of the stands was soaked although Secopa played down the problem, saying the leaks were not serious and would not affect any of the matches being played there during next year's World Cup.

"Because it is a new, grandiose and complex stadium, some small points are still being corrected and tested but there is

nothing that compromises the running of the stadium or the holding of events there," Secopa said in a statement.

The stadium comes with a five-year guarantee and any repair work will be paid for by the builders, Secopa added.

The national stadium in the capital Brasilia cost more than 1.2 billion real (\$508.99 million). It will stage six World Cup matches including a quarter-final and the third-place playoff.

The venue was inaugurated in May and hosted the opening match of the Confederations Cup between Brazil and Japan in June. It has held 17 major events since then, including several first division football matches, stadium officials said.

The uproar over the scandal of a leaky roof at the 73,000 seat arena is not the first time construction work at Brazilian stadiums has been called into question.

The Joao Havelange stadium in Rio was closed earlier this year, six years after it was built for the Pan American Games.

Moyes praises Rooney

AFP, Manchester



England and Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney has turned into a selfless player who is now playing for the team, United manager David Moyes said on Tuesday.

The 28-year-old -- who was given his Premier League debut by Moyes when he was at Everton -- has scored 10 goals this term but it has been his all-round play that has pleased the manager.

"What Wayne is doing is making the others play well because he is playing well. He has turned himself into a real team

player," Moyes said.

"With the assists for the team and the goals, his all-round contribution has been fantastic."

Rooney, who has scored 207 goals in 423 games for United, had been thought to be on the verge of leaving in the close season after a rocky end to last term when his relationship with Moyes's predecessor Alex Ferguson deteriorated.

However, Moyes believes that now his future has been settled the sometimes fiery Rooney can play a role in setting an example for the younger players at United.

"He has a big responsibility to show the next generation the standards that Manchester United set."



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