

Portugal great Coluna dies

AFP, Lisbon

Mario Coluna, who captained Benfica to two European Cup wins and Portugal to third place in the 1966 World Cup, has died aged 78 in the Mozambique capital Maputo, his former club announced on Tuesday. Coluna, who like his legendary teammate Eusebio was born in Mozambique, then a Portuguese colony, had been hospitalised since Sunday because of a "serious lung infection" according to Benfica.

Coluna, who captained a fine Portugal side which included Eusebio and Jose Torres and eventually went out in the semifinals to hosts England in 1966, scored a goal in both the European Cup finals. Benfica won in 1961 and 1962.

Aside from those wins, in his 16 seasons with Benfica he also won 10 domestic league crowns and the Portuguese Cup on seven occasions.

Chelsea fans hurt in violence

AFP, Istanbul

Chelsea on Wednesday confirmed that two of their supporters were attacked in Istanbul on the eve of the English club's Champions League last 16, first leg against Galatasaray.

"Chelsea Football Club is aware of two incidents involving fans in the city last night. The club is working with all relevant agencies, including the police and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to best ensure the safety of all supporters," read a statement on their website.

The confirmation comes after it was reported on Tuesday that two supporters of the London side were stabbed following trouble around Taksim Square, in the heart of the city, as fans gathered for Wednesday's match at the Turk Telecom Arena.

A UK Foreign Office spokesman told AFP on Wednesday morning that they had received no confirmation of any incidents but were "looking into reports". English fans have been victims of violence in Istanbul before, with Leeds United supporters Christopher Loftus and Kevin Speight stabbed to death before a UEFA Cup tie against Galatasaray in 2000.

MU stare at exit

AFP, Piraeus



Manchester United were shunted towards an unscheduled exit in the Champions League after crashing to a shock 2-0 defeat at Olympiakos in their last 16 first-leg match on Tuesday.

Goals from Alejandro Dominguez and Arsenal loanee Joel Campbell gave Olympiakos victory at a raucous Karaiskakis Stadium, to leave the Greek champions on the brink of the last eight for the first time since 1999.

It was the first time United had ever lost to a Greek team, but their error-prone display was fully in keeping with a season in which the self-belief of the Alex Ferguson era has thoroughly abandoned them.

Previously unbeaten in the group phase, David Moyes's side conceded defeat with a whimper on a chastening night in the Athenian port of Piraeus, failing to muster a single shot on target.

Eleven points off fourth-place Liverpool in the Premier League, their hopes of playing in next season's Champions League were already fading, and they now face a fight to stay alive in this season's competition in the return leg on March 19.

A sloppy pass from Rio Ferdinand gave Hernan Perez a free run down the left flank and although that came to nought, moments later Nemanja Vidic had to launch himself into a last-ditch block after an untimely slip by Chris Smalling enabled Dominguez to drive into the United box.

Perez then slammed a shot into the side-netting after leaving Smalling in his wake, and with a wayward Tom Cleverley shot the best United could muster in reply, the hosts' 38th-minute opener came as little surprise.

Campbell's cross from the right was only partially cleared and although Giannis Maniatis's low shot appeared to be heading straight at United goalkeeper David de Gea, Dominguez's opportunistic flick sent the ball skidding into the opposite corner.

It was the first time United had gone behind in this season's competition, and there was worse to come.

It was a goal that shone with the invention that United had been missing, as Campbell picked up the ball on the right, insouciantly nutmegged Michael Carrick, and arced a



PHOTO: AFP

Borussia Dortmund striker Robert Lewandowski celebrates one of his two goals against Zenit Saint Petersburg during their Champions League last 16 match at the Petrovsky Stadium on Tuesday.

Dortmund rediscover old fire

AFP, Saint Petersburg



Borussia Dortmund are poised for the Champions League's quarterfinals after Robert Lewandowski scored twice in Tuesday's 4-2 win at Zenit St Petersburg in their last 16, first-leg clash.

Dortmund raced into a 2-0 lead after only five minutes as Henrikh Mkhitaryan, then Marco Reus scored to leave the Russians reeling.

The hosts pulled two goals back after the break as central midfielder Oleg Shatov scored, then Brazil's Hulk converted a penalty.

On both occasions Dortmund gave the perfect response as Lewandowski scored just seconds later as the Germans take a commanding lead home for the

second leg on March 19.

Zenit got off to a nightmare start as both of Reus' first two touches led to goals.

With barely four minutes gone, the Germany winger muscled through the Zenit defence and on to a Lewandowski pass.

When he went to ground, central midfielder Mkhitaryan fired home to put last season's Champions League finalists ahead.

Only 70 seconds later, Mkhitaryan crossed from the right for left winger Kevin Grosskreutz to lay off to Reus, who fired a right-footed shot past Zenit goalkeeper Yuri Lodygin.

Zenit leaked nine goals in the group stages and their back four were woeful for both goals.

The hosts' coach Luciano

Spalletti responded by replacing former Russian captain Andrei Arshavin, who looked to have injured a hamstring, with ex-Bayern Munich midfielder Anatoliy Tymoshchuk.

Dortmund struggled to maintain the lightning tempo after the initial goals, while Zenit were left subdued.

It finished 2-0 at the break, but the hosts pulled one back on 57 minutes after a goalmouth scramble.

New signing Jose Rondon's shot was cleared by Dortmund's Marcel Schmelzer, but the Venezuelan hit the post with the rebound before Shatov rifled his shot home.

The goal sparked Dortmund's attack as Lewandowski scored twice to maintain their two-goal

advantage.

Lewandowski exchanged passes with Poland team-mate Lukasz Piszczek then slotted the ball past Zenit goalkeeper Yuri Lodygin on 61 minutes.

Piszczek then conceded a penalty when he blocked Viktor Fayzulin's run into the area and Brazilian right winger Hulk stepped up and smashed home the 69th-minute penalty.

It took Dortmund just 90 seconds to reply when Lewandowski snapped up Reus' pass and fired his 71st-minute shot past Lodygin for his second of the game.

Spalletti's Zenit looked rusty, having played their last competitive game in December, and face an uphill task in Germany in three

Moyes shell-shocked

AFP, Piraeus



Manchester United manager David Moyes admitted that he had been taken aback by the abject quality of his team's performance in their shock 2-0 Champions League loss to Olympiakos.

The English champions must attempt to overturn a two-goal deficit in the home leg of the last 16 tie on March 19 after a limp display at the Karaiskakis Stadium in Piraeus in Tuesday's first leg.

Olympiakos were good value for their victory, secured through goals in each half from Alejandro Dominguez and Joel Campbell, who is on loan at the club from Arsenal, but in United they came across surprisingly generous opponents.

Careless in defence and short of ideas in midfield, United failed to muster a single shot on target during the game and did not seriously threaten until Robin van Persie shot over the bar in the 82nd minute.

"I'm just surprised," a shell-shocked Moyes told journalists afterwards.

"I didn't see that level of performance coming. I didn't see that. I still didn't think we were necessarily two goals worse off in the game.

"We have a shot which gets deflected (for

Dominguez's goal), but we didn't offer enough on the night to create a goal, really."

Democratic in his criticism of his players, Moyes added: "We never really got to grips with things. To a man, you could hardly pick anybody out (who played well)."

"We just didn't perform well tonight (Tuesday). We came into the game in good form, with a good mindset, but it didn't show tonight."

The defeat, United's first against a Greek team, was the latest sorry chapter in a season of misery for Moyes and his faltering side.

Knocked out of both domestic cup competitions, United trail Liverpool by 11 points in the battle for a top-four finish in the Premier League and face the stark prospect of missing out on a place in the Champions League for the first time since 1995.

They last overturned a two-goal deficit in a European tie in 1984, when they came from 2-0 down to beat Barcelona in the Cup Winners' Cup, but Moyes believes the club can harness the mystique of their famous stadium to turn the tie around in the second leg.

"The players are hurting as well. They know how they performed," he said.

"But there's a team here, and we won't change. We'll stick together. There's a second game to come and Old Trafford has seen some great nights in the past and I'm looking

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SCAN CEMENT

HEIDELBERG CEMENT Group

THE STAR CAST

MISBAHUL HAQ

in Bangladesh

Matches played: 12

Runs scored: 366

Average: 45.75

Highest score: 73

Recent performance

Runs scored last ten innings: 429

Average in last ten innings: 42.9

MOHAMMAD NABI

in Bangladesh (2013, list A)

Runs scored: 223

Highest score: 146

Average: 44.60

Bowling average: 29.85

Recent performance

Runs/wickets in last 10 innings: 391 and 10

Batting average in last 10: 39.1

Klopp over the moon

AFP, Saint Petersburg

Coach Jurgen Klopp said Borussia Dortmund had produced a near-perfect performance to leave them on the verge of the Champions League's quarter-finals after routing Zenit St Petersburg away on Tuesday.

Poland striker Robert Lewandowski scored twice as Dortmund romped to a 4-2 win at Zenit's Petrovsky Stadium in the last 16, first-leg clash.

Klopp was delighted as Borussia bounced back from Saturday's shock 3-0 defeat at relegation-threatened Hamburg in the Bundesliga to dominate Zenit.

Last season's finalists raced into a 2-0 lead with goals by Henrikh Mkhitaryan and Marco Reus inside the first five minutes to leave the Russians reeling.

Six MSC players show-caused

SPORTS REPORTER

Six Mohammedan SC players of the national football team have been served show-cause notice by the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) after they failed to turn up at the training camp yesterday for the March 5 FIFA Friendly against India.

Of 28-member preliminary squad, only 14 players were available for yesterday's morning session of training at the Bangabandhu National Stadium while 11 players from Sheikh Jamal DC and two from Sheikh Russel KC are supposed to join the camp after their Bangladesh Premier League game on Friday. Expatriate Jamal Hossain Bhuiyan is expected to catch up with the rest of the team on March 3 in Mumbai.

Only eight players from Abahani, Brothers Union and Team BJMC attended the training session in the morning, but all 28 players except for Jamal, turned up for the afternoon's theoretical class. However, coach Lodewijk de Kruijf did not allow the Mohammedan players in his class.

"Six Mohammedan players have been asked by the BFF to answer why they should not be punished for their failure to join the camp and they have been given ten hours to reply," said BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag adding that BFF would take further decision on the basis of the players' replies.

Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan, director in charge of Mohammedan, told the reporters that his players could not join the morning session as the club coach had a briefing

3 cricket stars made GP brand ambassadors

SPORTS REPORTER

Cricket superstars Mushfiquur Rahim, Tamim Iqbal and Nasir Hossain have recently been appointed as Grameenphone's brand ambassadors. The three national cricketers will promote the mobile phone operator's ambition to provide "Internet for All" in Bangladesh.

Speaking on the occasion Grameenphone's chief corporate affairs officer Mahmud Hossain said, "The cricketers of this country have put us on the global stage, and proper use of internet can ensure we take part in global progress. For these reasons, we believe Mushfiq, Tamim and Nasir will be great ambassadors for our ambition.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal (2nd from L) and captain Mushfiquur Rahim (2nd from R) have been appointed as Grameenphone's brand ambassadors.