

# Baridhara relegated

SPORTS REPORTER

**NITOL TATA**  
BANGLADESH PREMIER  
FOOTBALL LEAGUE  
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Having played for only one season in the top flight, Uttar Baridhara Club have been relegated from the professional football league when the newcomers suffered a 6-0 defeat to Sheikh Jamal DC in the Bangladesh Premier League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Baridhara had no alternative but to beat-champions Sheikh Jamal in their penultimate match to keep their relegation's play-off match alive against Feni Soccer Club, but they had to taste their 18th defeat in 26 matches that left the side unable to close a six-point gap from their nearest rivals Feni Soccer with only one match in hand.

Uttar Baridhara have now 12 points, six behind ninth-placed Feni Soccer, who still have two matches in hand.

Uttar Baridhara are the third team after Shuktara Jubo Sangsad of Narayanganj and Sylhet's Beanibazar SC in history of the professional football league to be demoted from the country's top league after playing just one season.

Of the 30 matches that Uttar Baridhara played this season till yesterday, they posted only two wins -- over Brothers Union and Team BJMC -- and six draws against 22 defeats, with their biggest defeat, 8-0, com-

ing against Sheikh Jamal. Baridhara also probably made the ignominious record of conceding maximum goals in a single season after conceding 91 goals so far.

On the other hand, after having confirmed the coveted title in the previous season, Sheikh Jamal drafted in the benchers like Sakhawat Hossain Rony, Tokligh Ahmed, Shahedul Alam in place of Mamunul Islam, Emeka Darlington and Sony Norde (who left Bangladesh on Saturday night to join Belgian club Oostende FC in coming season) and Rony slammed a treble only in his second match that he was drafted in the starting eleven.

Rony provided Sheikh Jamal the lead after five minutes with an angular shot before Ghanaian hitman Wedson Anselme doubled it in the 17th minute with a shot that found the back of the net after kissing the post.

Rony then made it 3-0 with a low drive in the 24th minute and Tokligh widened it 4-0 in the 78th minute while Rony completed his hattrick in the 89th minute with a nice volley.

Wedson finally sealed the match, striking in the stoppage time that also raised his tally to 24 goals, three short of Abdus Salam Murshed's all-time record of 27 goals in a league and the Ghanaian striker will get another chance against Sheikh Russell to break the record.



Players and officials of Uttar Baridhara Club on Sunday ended a bitter top flight campaign with a 6-0 drubbing by Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club that also confirmed their demotion from the Bangladesh Premier League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOT: STAR

## Int'l players shun Ukraine

AFP, Kiev

At least seven foreign players for two top Ukrainian football teams have refused to return to the country as tensions mount after the Malaysia Airlines crash, media reported Sunday.

Six players for champions Shakhtar Donetsk players and an Argentine with Metalist Kharkiv are too worried for their safety, the reports said.

The six Donetsk players refused to fly back to Ukraine after their side were beaten 4-1 by Lyon in a friendly Saturday in the French town of Annecy, ITAR-TASS news agency said.

It named five of the players as Brazilians Alex Teixeira, Fred, Douglas Costa, Dentinho and Argentine Facundo Ferreyra.

"I don't want to give any comments for the moment," Shakhtar general manager Sergei Palkin was quoted as saying by Tribuna information site.

Meanwhile, Metalist Kharkiv's Argentine midfielder Sebastian Blanco refused to return to Ukraine from a training camp in Austria, the R-Sport agency reported.

"After the Malaysian plane's crash I have no intention to return to Ukraine," the 26-year-old footballer was quoted as saying.

**Wilshere's bad habit shocks Wenger**

AFP, London

Arsene Wenger admits he will speak to Jack Wilshere after the Arsenal midfielder was pictured smoking while on holiday in Las Vegas.

Wilshere was criticised by Wenger last season after he was seen smoking a cigarette outside a night-club and the England international responded by insisting it would not happen again.

Yet the 22-year-old was photographed smoking this week during a swimming pool party while on holiday with members of his family.

Wenger wants to find out what exactly happened and plans to speak to Wilshere shortly.

Speaking after Arsenal's 2-0 friendly win at Boreham Wood on Saturday, he told his club's official website: "I know what you can make of pictures -- I have to speak to him really to see what happened before I come out publicly."

## Brazil eye Dunga

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Brazil could appoint former coach Dunga to replace Luiz Felipe Scolari as national team boss, media reports indicated Saturday, despite ex-Corinthians coach Tite being considered the long-time favourite.

The Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) earlier confirmed it will unveil its choice of Scolari's successor on Tuesday at 11 a.m. (1400 GMT) in western Rio and a clutch of Brazilian newspapers said Dunga, 50, would return for a second spell.

Front-runner, at least until Saturday, was believed to be Tite, full name Adenor Leonardo Bacchi, who oversaw wins in the Copa Libertadores and FIFA Club World Cup, at Chelsea's expense, in 2012.

Last Thursday, the CBF Thursday took the wraps off a revamped technical commission under new technical coordinator Gilmar Rinaldi, replacing Carlos Alberto Parreira, the coach of the Brazil side that won the World Cup in 1994.

Gilmar -- not to be confused with the

Gilmar who kept goal for the 1958 and 1962 world champions -- was a reserve keeper on the 1994 championship-winning side, which was skippered by Dunga.

Outgoing CBF president Jose Maria Marin, who will give way next year to septuagenarian lawyer Marco Polo Del Nero, said the federation would reflect further on the top job before a final decision.

Dunga, who replaced Parreira in the top job after the 2006 World Cup, went on to lead Brazil to Copa America success in 2007 and then won the Confederations Cup in 2009.

But the former Fiorentina midfielder was fired after a 2010 World Cup quarter-final loss to Holland.

The CBF would Saturday only reiterate that Marin would present the new man on Tuesday but Rio daily O Dia described Dunga as "close to returning," highlighting his "good relationship" with Gilmar.

Globo indicated for its part reported that Gilmar and Dunga had reached a rapid agreement in principle with the CBF electing not to pursue the Tite option.

## Gourcuff new Algeria coach

AFP, Algiers

Former Lorient coach Christian Gourcuff has succeeded Vahid Halilhodzic as coach of Algeria, the Algerian football federation has announced.

Gourcuff has been handed a contract leading up to the 2018 World Cup in Russia, with a more immediate target the 2015 Africa Cup of Nations in Morocco.

Over more than 25 years in management Gourcuff has coached Lorient on three separate occasions.

Halilhodzic stood down after leading Algeria to the last 16 at the World Cup for the first time. The Bosnian has taken up a job with Turkish side Trabzonspor.

## Sabella to decide soon

REUTERS, Buenos Aires

With a September friendly looming for Argentina against their World Cup final conquerors Germany, coach Alejandro Sabella is aware of the urgency of a decision on his future.

Sabella, whose side lost 1-0 after extra time to Germany in the Maracana final a week ago, told reporters on Friday he would be mulling over his future this weekend and then arrange a Wednesday meeting with Argentine FA chief Julio Grondona.

"I know there are friendlies scheduled. In the middle of the week I'll talk with Julio," Sabella said.

"It's a situation that can't wait much, this weekend I'll think about it and I'll call Julio to have a meeting with him... I have to feel capable of doing (the job)," the 59-year-old said.

Argentina play Germany in Duesseldorf on Sept. 3 in a match that will serve as a warm-up for the world champions' opening Euro 2016 qualifier against Scotland four days later. Argentina also face Brazil and

Hong Kong in friendlies in October.

Argentina's World Cup squad have said they want Sabella to stay at the helm and prepare the team for the Copa America in Chile next year.

"That makes me proud but my decision doesn't depend on that... It's down to whether I feel strong enough to give 100 percent," he said.

"If I can't give the players what I ask of them, it wouldn't be honest."

Sabella said he was not analysing alternative job offers.

"If I leave the national team it won't be to work elsewhere, it will be to rest."

He added he believed Argentina played their best match of the tournament in the final.

"I think that, taking into account who our opponents were, it was our best match at the World Cup. It was very even with the clearest chances for us. We should have won it in 90 minutes, then it got harder physically," he said.

"With Germany it's hard to go blow for blow because, like great boxers, they have an extraordinary punch."



PHOTO: AFP

New Barcelona coach Luis Enrique Martinez (L) instructs his players from the touchline during the Trofeo Colombino friendly match against Recreativo Huelva at the Nuevo Colombino Stadium in Huelva on Saturday.

## Enrique's winning debut

AFP, Huelva

Barcelona's new coach Luis Enrique Martinez notched up a 1-0 win Saturday in his first game in charge, a pre-season friendly against second division club Recreativo de Huelva.

In the absence of star strikers Lionel Messi, Neymar and new signing Luis Suarez, Enrique gave a workout to substitutes and B-team youngsters such as Joan Roman, 21, who scored Barca's 65th-minute winner.

Seconds earlier Barcelona's returning first-team forward Gerard Deulofeu, 20, had a powerful shot blocked by Huelva's goalkeeper Dani Sotres only for Roman to slam home the rebound from close range.

Barcelona dominated possession over their Andalusian hosts but laboured to hit their target in the first half.

In the second half Enrique changed the line-up, introducing Deulofeu, who has returned to the club after a season on loan to Everton.

As well as his saved shot, he hit the cross-bar two minutes from full time after being

## MLS All-Stars against Bayern named

AFP, New York

English standouts Jermain Defoe and Bradley Wright-Phillips, Australian Tim Cahill and Ireland's Robbie Keane were among those named Saturday to the Major League Soccer All-Stars who will play Bayern Munich.

The US league announced a 23-player roster that will be drawn upon when the elite MLS lineup faces the reigning Bundesliga champions and 2013 European Champions League winners on August 6 at Portland, Oregon.

Wright-Phillips, a striker for the New York Red Bulls, leads MLS with 16 goals in 18 matches while Defoe has 11 goals for Toronto in his first MLS season after leaving Tottenham.

Cahill, a Red Bulls midfielder, netted two World Cup goals last month for the Socceroos while Keane, the Irish captain and all-time scoring leader with 53 goals, has 43 goals in three MLS seasons for the Los Angeles Galaxy.

France boasts two MLS all-Stars in Red Bulls forward Thierry Henry and 2012 MLS Defender of the Year Aurelien Collin for reigning MLS champion Sporting Kansas City.

Other internationals on the roster included Cuban midfielder Osvaldo Alonso and Nigerian forward Obafemi Martins, Canadian midfielder Will Johnson and Argentine midfielder Diego Valeri and Mexican forward Erick Torres of Chivas USA.

## Uruguay president sides with Suarez

GOAL.COM

Uruguay President Jose Mujica has slammed FIFA for its treatment of Luis Suarez, claiming he needs help from a psychiatrist rather than a ban from soccer.

President Mujica was scathing in his assessment of FIFA in the immediate aftermath of the punishment, calling the sport's administrators "a bunch of old sons of b--," and has now added that the new Barcelona signing would be better off with psychiatric help, rather than a widespread ban.

"He comes from a poor background and

his main intelligence is in his feet," the Uruguayan leader said in an interview with Brazilian newspaper Folha de Sao Paulo. "It's better to take him to hospital and once there, see a psychiatrist. I'm not disputing the sporting sanctions, they're fine. What I'm disputing is that there are certain things that shouldn't have anything to do with the ban."

The fact he can't go on any football pitch, that he can't be with any of his teammates in the national team, he can't go to a football stadium or even support a charity event linked with football -- it's crazy. Not even a government can prohibit someone from entering a football stadium, without the signature of a judge."