

GAZI TV & TEN CRICKET
West Indies v Bangladesh
Second Test, Day 3
Live from 8:00pm
STAR SPORTS4
English Premiership
Hull City v West Ham

Live from 1:00am (Tuesday)
STAR SPORTS1
Serie A
Verona v Palermo
Live from 12:45am (Tuesday)
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Abahani win, MSC held

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani made a winning start in the Airtel U-18 Football Tournament by beating Uttar Baridhara by 2-1 goals at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Abahani were given a scare as Baridhara, whose senior side were relegated at the end of last season, took the lead in the ninth minute through a wonderful goal from Harunur Rashid Limon. However, Abahani got back in level terms in the second minute of stoppage time of the first half, thanks to a powerful header from forward Ariful.

Three minutes later, Ibrahim Hossain Rana made it 2-1 for Abahani with a strike from outside the box, which eventually ensured the Sky Blues' win.

The second match of the day, between Mohammmedan SC and Brothers Union ended goalless.

Ambassadors cricket held in the US

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC organised the 2nd Ambassadors Cricket Cup in Calverton-Galway Local Park in the US capital on Saturday.

Nine Test playing embassies participated in the competition.

Bangladesh Embassy lost to Pakistan Embassy in the semifinals. Pakistan went on to win the title defeating the Embassy of United Kingdom by 48 runs in the final.

The presentation ceremony was held at the Bangabandhu Auditorium which was attended by various dignitaries. The winning team's ambassador thanked Bangladesh embassy for organising such a tournament so perfectly.

PSG slip from top

REUTERS, Paris

Paris St Germain missed an opportunity to snatch the Ligue 1 lead when they were held 1-1 at Stade Rennais on Saturday.

Zoumana Camara gave PSG a first-half lead but Paul Georges Ntep equalised shortly after the break as PSG were left in second place on nine points after five games.

They trail leaders Girondins de Bordeaux, who travel to En Avant Guingamp on Sunday, by one point and lead third-placed Rennes by one point.

PSG were the first in action and Zlatan Ibrahimovic came close in the 42nd minute when his volley shook the crossbar.

One minute later, however, centre back Camara, who started the game as Brazilians David Luiz and Thiago Silva are out injured, tapped in from Gregory van der Wiel's cross to put the French champions ahead.

It was not the best of warm-ups for PSG ahead of Wednesday's trip to Ajax Amsterdam for their Champions League opener.

The visitors lacked creativity in the midfield and barely threatened the Rennes defence in the second half.

Ten minutes after the break, substitute Ntep gave the hosts a deserved

equaliser from close range.

"We could have done better, surely," PSG keeper Salvatore Sirigu told Canal Plus.



Looking for a winning start

Boomers take on Afghanistan today

ANISUR RAHMAN from Incheon, Korea



In one of the practice sessions on the eve of Bangladesh's first match of the Asian Games, right-winger Yousuf Sifat and right-back Tapu Barman were whipping crosses for forwards Wahed Ahmed and Aminur Rahman Sajib at the greenish practice ground adjacent to Gayong Stadium yesterday afternoon as head coach Lodewijk de Kruif was constantly shouting 'I need one goal'.

In another session, assistant coach Rene Koster was yelling at his defenders 'You make one mistake and it leads to one goal. Keep yourselves away from

mistakes as much as you can.'

The appeal of the Dutch duo showed how eager they were for a winning start as Bangladesh take on Afghanistan at the Munhak Stadium at 2:00pm (Bangladesh Time) today.

But away from the field, in front of this reporter, De Kruif wasn't making any big promises. He was just hoping his side would play good football against an Afghanistan side who are ranked 129th in the FIFA rankings and are the second best side of Group B after favourites Uzbekistan.

"The level expectation from

Bangladesh team is very high which is not realistic. We have to face the reality that we are the 175th-ranked (in fact 170) side and we are not favourites in

the group because we are way below the level of the other teams," said De Kruif after the one-and-a-half hour practice session.

"We had six weeks of preparation, which had ups and downs and tomorrow it is our first game, which is always important," said De Kruif. "It will be tough but we can't run away, we have to play and get something from the match."

De Kruif informed that he has analysed the way Afghanistan played in the AFC Challenge Cup finals and also informed that the Afghan side have players who play in Germany and Australia.

"Six to seven of their players are based in Germany and one is from

Australia. So they are few steps ahead of us. But I am trying to prepare my boys as much as I can tactically and mentally and in football, anything can happen on the day," said De Kruif.

In practice of last few days especially after conceding a 4-2 defeat to Vietnam in a warm-up match, Bangladesh had emphasised on defending first and then going to quick attack, which was practised during yesterday's training.

As the backline is a cause of concern for Bangladesh, especially deepened by the injury which ruled out Atiqur Rahman Meshu, regular right-back Ryahan Hasan may play in centre-back position alongside Yesmin Khan while Yeamin Munna and Tapu may play as fullbacks.

Galacticos fall again

REUTERS, Madrid



Real Madrid's early-season woes deepened when they lost 2-1 at home to La Liga champions Atletico Madrid.

In their last league outing at the end of August, Real let slip a two-goal lead and lost 4-2 at Real Sociedad and it was another disappointing display from the European champions, who have spent heavily to bolster their star-studded squad after winning a 10th continental crown last term.

Tiago beat Karim Benzema to the ball at a corner to head Atletico in front in the 10th minute before Cristiano Ronaldo levelled for the hosts with a 29th-minute spot kick after being brought down by Guilherme Siqueira.

Real dominated for long periods without threatening a typically dogged Atletico side and paid dearly for failing to press home their advantage when substitute Arda Turan swept the ball

low past Iker Casillas with about 15 minutes left.

"We play as a team, we all give 100 percent and it came off superbly," Tiago said in an interview with Spanish television broadcaster Canal Plus.

"It is not easy to win here and it was a demonstration of the strength of this side," added the Portuguese midfielder.

The Real fans made their displeasure plain at the final whistle and a cacophony of whistles rang out around the Bernabeu stadium as the players trudged off.

There were calls in one section of the crowd for president Florentino Perez to resign, while goalkeeper and captain Iker Casillas was also whistled by some of the home support.

"We have to lift ourselves and fight and prepare for the next game," Real's Portuguese centre back Pepe told Canal Plus ahead of Tuesday's Champions League Group B opener at home to Swiss side FC Basel.

"It is hard to find explanations immediately after the end of the

game," Pepe added.

"As always, they scored against us from a set piece. We work at it but perhaps we are not focused enough to stop these kinds of balls."

Atletico's latest win over their cross-town rivals, the first time they have secured consecutive victories against Real at the Bernabeu, suggests they are genuine contenders for silverware again this season despite losing top scorer Diego Costa to Chelsea. Atletico lost 4-1 to Real in last term's Champions League final but gained a measure of revenge by beating their local rivals 2-1 on aggregate in the season-opening Spanish Super Cup.

Real, meanwhile, are left wondering whether the decision to sell midfielders Xabi Alonso and Angel Di Maria and replace them with Toni Kroos and James Rodriguez was the right one.

The pacy Di Maria was one of the team's best performers in recent seasons, while the experienced Alonso gave the team solidity and control in midfield.

DAVIS CUP

France to face Switzerland in final

AFP, Geneva

France will host Switzerland in the Davis Cup final in November after Roger Federer gave the Swiss the winning point against Italy in Geneva on Sunday.

Federer reached the first Davis Cup final of his career with a comfortable 6-2, 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) win over Fabio Fognini in the first of the semi-final's reverse singles.

That made it 3-1 for the Swiss thus ensuring they would contest the final of the annual team event for the first time since 1992 when they lost to the United States.

Andreas Seppi edged Michael Lammer 6-4, 1-6, 6-4 in the remaining dead rubber to make the final score 3-2.

France made sure of playing in the final for the first time since 2010 on Saturday when their doubles team of Richard Gasquet and Jo-Wilfried Tsonga defeated Czechs Tomas Berdych and Radek Stepanek in four sets.

The final will be played in France from November 21-23, with the northern city of Lille being touted as the likely host.

The last time the two countries met in a Davis Cup tie was in the 2004 quarter-finals when the Swiss won 3-2 at home.

"The most classical match-ups I've had have come against France so I'm happy," said Federer.

"We've had some great ties here in Switzerland so we're very pleased to be in the finals and we'll see how it's going to go."

"It's nice sharing emotions with your fans and your loved ones. You have to fight with what you've got and I'm happy I was able to make a difference."

Mancini keen on Portugal job

GOAL.COM



Roberto Mancini admits that getting the chance to coach Ballon d'Or winner Cristiano Ronaldo makes the Portugal job very appealing.

Paulo Bento departed as coach of the Seleccao during this month's international break after Portugal suffered a shock defeat at home to minnows Albania.

Mancini, is one of the highest profile European coaches currently unemployed and he accepts that the lure of working with Ronaldo is strong.

"Above all, it would be a pleasure to coach a team like Portugal," he said, when asked if the Real Madrid forward makes him want the job.

"But obviously Cristiano Ronaldo is one of the best players in the world at this time and is part of the team makes it great."

"He creates goals in every game, he is an extraordinary player and any coach would like to work with him."

Despite his praise for Ronaldo, Mancini refrained from branding the Real Madrid man better than Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi.

"Messi and Ronaldo are two amazing superstars. It is a huge pleasure to see the best performers in the world play. In my playing career, I saw amazing players. When one reaches that level, it becomes difficult to choose between them."

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Seven-star Inter

AFP, Milan

Mauro Icardi scored a hat-trick and Pablo Osvaldo added a brace as Inter routed Sassuolo 7-0 for the second successive season in Serie A on Sunday.

Elsewhere, Napoli suffered a shock 1-0 home defeat to Chievo thanks to Maxi Lopez's strike, hosts Fiorentina were held to a scoreless draw by Genoa, Lazio routed Cesena 3-0 and Atlanta claimed a precious 2-1 win away at Cagliari.

Juventus and Roma top the fledgling table after respective wins over Udinese and Empoli on Saturday left last season's top two with maximum points.

It was Massimiliano Allegri's first home game in charge of Juve and the former Milan handler, who has yet to win over many fans, told Sky Sports: "It was a pretty special night, my first as Juventus manager in this incredible stadium."

"We succumbed to a few too many of their counter-attacks in the first half

and in the second there was a 10-minute period in which they gave us some trouble."

"But overall I'm happy with our performance."

Udinese's hopes of building on last week's 2-0 home win over Empoli, thanks to a brace from veteran striker Antonio Di Natale, were soon kept in check.

Juve were unbeaten at home all of last season and after just eight minutes an alert Tevez pounced on a cutback from Stephane Lichsteiner to fire through one defender's legs and beat keeper Orestis Karnezis from 18 metres out.

Juventus' keeper Gianluigi Buffon was given little to worry him in the opening half, and only a correct off-side decision halfway through the second period prevented Udinese from claiming a well-worked equaliser.

Defender Igor Bubnjic was well-placed when he got on the end of Danilo's drive from the edge of the area to beat Buffon from close range, but the goal was ruled out.

Minutes later Tevez forced Karnezis to parry his angled drive from the right of goal after being set up by Llorente as the Udinese defence stalled.

The hosts had the momentum and Tevez turned provider in the 75th minute, setting up Marchisio on the edge of the area to beat Karnezis with the outside of his boot.

Tevez was soon replaced by Kingsley Coman in the closing minutes and the young Frenchman was involved as fellow substitute Alvaro Morata, who had replaced Llorente to make his Juve debut, spurned the chance for a memorable maiden goal when he shot straight at Karnezis from 12 metres out.

Earlier, an own goal by Empoli's keeper Luigi Sepe gave Roma the points four days before the Giallorossi make their much-awaited return to European competition at home against CSKA Moscow.

Roma coach Rudi Garcia opted to rest a number of first team regulars for their first away trip of the season, including Ivorian striker Gervinho and iconic playmaker Francesco Totti.