

INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE  
Kerala to face  
Kolkata in  
final

INTERNET  
Atletico de Kolkata got their act right in the nick of time to humble crowd favourites FC Goa 4-2 in tie-breaker and advance to the final of the inaugural Indian Super League (ISL) on Wednesday.  
Atletico de Kolkata will lock horns with Kerala Blasters FC in the summit showdown in Mumbai on Saturday.  
The second leg semifinal between the two fierce rivals went into extra time after they were locked goal-less in the regulation time. With both teams failing to break the deadlock even in the 30 minutes of extra time, the game was decided via penalty shootout in which the visitors emerged winners.  
The first leg semifinal between the two sides in Kolkata had ended in a goal-less stalemate.  
Things panned out pretty much in the same manner before the Sourav Ganguly co-owned side edged past the hosts on penalties after playing out yet another drab draw in the 120 minutes of play. Atletico de Kolkata's Josemi, Mohammed Rafi, Jofre Mateu and Borja Fernandez were bang on target at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.  
For the Goa outfit, Andre Santos's spot-kick sailed over the bar while Haroon Amiri's effort struck the upright.  
Tolgay Ozbey and Clifford Miranda successfully converted but that was not enough.

Johnson out  
for a month

REUTERS, London  
Liverpool defender Glen Johnson will be out for around a month with a groin injury, British media reported on Wednesday.  
The 30-year-old tore his groin during the first half of Liverpool's 3-0 defeat against Manchester United at Old Trafford on Sunday and according to the Liverpool Echo, the England defender will be missing for at least a month.  
Johnson, who is out of contract at the end of the season, will undergo a scan to confirm the full extent of the injury, but he expected to miss Liverpool's hectic Christmas and New Year Premier League programme.

'Ronaldo will  
score in final'

GOAL.COM  
Carlo Ancelotti says that Cristiano Ronaldo is "saving a goal" for the Club World Cup final after he failed to score in Real Madrid's 4-0 hammering of Cruz Azul on Tuesday.  
The Portuguese forward was excellent in the semi-final clash but Sergio Ramos, Karim Benzema, Gareth Bale and Isco were the four players who instead adorned the scoresheet.  
Most memorably, Ronaldo tested the Mexican opposition goalkeeper with an audacious, half-volleyed rabona, and Ancelotti was full of praise for his Ballon d'Or holder.  
"Ronaldo played very well, he provided assists," the Italian coach is quoted as saying by AS.  
"He's always very effective, even when he doesn't score. He is surely saving a goal for the final," added the veteran Italian tactician.

Negre promises  
high-profile  
foreign coach

SPORTS REPORTER  
Leandro Negre, president of the International Hockey Federation (FIH), yesterday promised to help Bangladesh appoint a high-profile foreign coach for the national team.  
The FIH president made the promise after meeting with Syed Shahed Reza, the secretary general of Bangladesh Olympic Association, at the BOA Bhawan yesterday.  
"I will extend full support to Bangladesh. I have taken the matter of foreign coach seriously. The FIH will try to help to partly finance the foreign coach along with the International Olympic Committee and the Bangladesh Hockey Federation."  
Earlier, Shahed Reza proposed Negre to provide a coach either from Germany, Netherlands, Spain or Australia for one year or six month term so that Bangladeshi players as well as the local coaches can learn from the coach.  
"As per the discussion, Bangladesh Hockey Federation and Bangladesh Olympic Association will write to the IOC and the Olympic Committee of Asia for the coach and they will initiate the process" said Reza.  
Earlier in the morning, Negre met with State Minister for Youth and Sports, Biren Sikder, and promised to help Bangladesh in installing floodlights at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium, subject to the allocation of Tk one crore by the Bangladesh government.  
The Spaniard later inaugurated the 120-team National School Hockey Championship, which will get underway from January 15 at 11 venues across the country.



International Hockey Federation president Leandro Negre goes on a rickshaw ride with singer SI Tutul during a colourful inaugural ceremony of the National School Hockey Championship at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium on Wednesday. PHOTO: COURTESY

Robben's landmark

REUTERS, Berlin  
Arjen Robben grabbed his 100th goal for the club as undefeated Bayern Munich outclassed Freiburg 2-0 on Tuesday to extend their lead at the top of the table to 12 points and create a Bundesliga defensive record.  
Despite losing Xabi Alonso, Mehdi Benatia and Robert Lewandowski to injury during the match, Bayern claimed an 11th win in 12 league outings and their powerful back line prevented Freiburg producing an effort on goal for the opening 75 minutes.  
The Bavarians have let in just three goals in 16 league matches this season, a new record that improves on VfB Stuttgart's mark from season 2003-04.  
"We did really well today," Robben told reporters. "We worked hard for our chances and could have scored one or two more goals."  
It was one-way traffic from the start as Bayern, in their last home game before the start of the winter break next week, had a staggering 80 percent possession of the ball and Freiburg keeper Roman Buerki had to be at his best to keep the scoreline respectable.  
The Swiss, who has been in good form in his first Bundesliga season, pulled off a spectacular save to thwart a Mario Goetze effort from seven metres.  
Buerki denied Bayern several more times but could do nothing to stop them going in front when Franck Ribery nodded

Robben scores his 100th goal for Bayern.  
Bavarians notch their 11th win from

**RESULTS**

Bayern Munich 2 (Robben 41, Mueller 48) Freiburg 0  
Hanover 96 2 (Sane 20, Joselu 55-pen) Augsburg 0  
Hamburg 0 VfB Stuttgart 1 (Klein 42)  
Cologne 0 Mainz 0

on an Alonso cross for Robben and the Dutchman scored with a diving header in the 41st minute.  
Thomas Mueller almost made it 2-0 before the break when he hit the post.  
The Germany forward made amends three minutes after the restart, heading in after a Juan Bernat shot came back off the bar.  
Spaniard Bernat forced another brilliant save from Buerki as Bayern carved out a plethora of chances and had a season-best 31 shots on goal.  
Elsewhere, Stuttgart beat fellow strugglers Hamburg SV 1-0 to climb off the foot of the table.  
Florian Klein grabbed the only goal in the first half to lift his side to 15th place on 16 points.  
Eighth-placed Hanover 96 notched their first victory in five games as they beat Augsburg 2-0 with goals from Salif Sane and Joselu (penalty).

Dream tie  
for Yeovil

AFP, London  
Third-division Yeovil Town earned a dream FA Cup third-round tie at home to giants Manchester United after beating fourth-tier Accrington Stanley 2-0 in a second-round replay on Tuesday.  
The game at Yeovil's Huish Park ground, played in front of 6,373 fans, looked to be heading to extra time until Simon Gillett and Kieffer Moore scored twice in the final six minutes.  
Yeovil were relegated from the second-tier Championship last season and currently sit in the League One relegation zone, 62 places below 11-time cup-winners United in the English league system.  
The two teams have met only twice before, with both games coming in the FA Cup. United crushed Yeovil 8-0 in the fifth round in February 1949, having beaten them 3-0 in the third round 11 years earlier.  
The third-round ties are due to be played on the weekend of January 3-4.

CLUB WORLD CUP  
Real sail into final

AFP, Marrakech  
European champions Real Madrid crushed Cruz Azul 4-0 to cruise into the Club World Cup final on Tuesday, totally outclassing their Mexican rivals.  
Goals from Sergio Ramos, Karim Benzema, Gareth Bale and Isco saw Madrid record a 21st consecutive win in this semi-final at a packed and noisy Grand Stade de Marrakech, scene of last year's final where Bayern Munich beat Raja Casablanca 2-0.  
"This team deserves to win the world title," said Real Madrid's Italian coach Carlo Ancelotti after the easy and impressive win.  
Iker Casillas did have to face a penalty in the 40th minute after Ramos was harshly judged to have pushed Cruz's Argentine striker Mariano Pavone, but the veteran Spain stopper was equal to Gerardo Torrado's weak spot-kick.  
With FIFA and UEFA bosses Sepp Blatter and Michel Platini in the crowd, Ramos proved in the 15th minute what a lethal header of the ball he is, taking advantage of a mistimed run by goalkeeper Jose Corona to open Madrid's account from a trademark Toni Kroos cross.  
French centre-forward Benzema showed his astonishing speed in the 36th minute to pounce on Daniel Carvajal's cross before the defence had even flinched to make it 2-0

after 36 minutes.  
Cristiano Ronaldo provided the ammunition for the next two. Weaving unchallenged down the left-wing Ronaldo provided an inch perfect delivery that Bale nodded home totally unmarked in the 50th minute.  
The Portuguese icon who was cheered every time he got the ball, then teed up the impressive Isco, who weaved past two defenders before unleashing a precise shot into the bottom corner in the 72nd.  
The World Player of the Year Ronaldo had come close to opening the scores in the second minute, and also sent a couple of free-kicks fizzing narrowly wide, but the man who has scored 25 league goals in 15 games this season was unable to score here.  
Luis Fernando Tena's North American champions had struggled to beat Western Sydney Wanderers to make the semis and rarely troubled Ancelotti's almost full strength side.  
"We knew it was going to be hard and my players gave everything. But they were so much better than we were and the result reflects that fairly," said Tena.  
New Zealanders Auckland City take on South American champions San Lorenzo of Argentina on Wednesday to see who will meet Madrid in the final on December 20th, when Real should also welcome back Colombia's World Cup star James Rodriguez, who missed Tuesday's game with a calf strain.



Arjen Robben celebrates his 100th goal for Bayern Munich as the Bavarians beat Freiburg 2-0 during their Bundesliga clash in Munich on Tuesday. PHOTO: AFP

Chelsea in League  
Cup semifinal

AFP, London  
Premier League leaders Chelsea beat second-tier Derby County 3-1 to reach the League Cup semifinals on Tuesday, but at the cost of injuries to Kurt Zouma and Didier Drogba.  
Eden Hazard and Filipe Luis, with his first goal for the club, put Chelsea in control on a rain-soaked night at the iPro Stadium, before Craig Bryson replied for Derby in the 71st minute.  
But the hosts' hopes of a comeback were extinguished when centre-back Jake Buxton was sent off for impeding substitute Loic Remy and Andre Schuerrle made the game safe with eight minutes to play.  
Remy was only on the pitch because Drogba had been forced off by an ankle injury earlier in the second half, while Zouma was stretched off in first-half injury time after colliding with goalkeeper Petr Cech.  
Jose Mourinho won the League Cup twice in his first stint as Chelsea manager and he named a strong side against Championship high-fliers Derby, with Hazard, John Terry, Nemanja Matic and Cesc Fabregas all in the team.  
The visitors made the breakthrough in the 23rd minute after Hazard blocked an attempted pass from Derby captain Richard Keogh on the edge of the hosts' penalty area.  
Fabregas steered the ball back into Hazard's path and the Belgian winger drifted infield before drilling a low shot into the bottom-left corner.  
After Cech had saved well from Derby midfielder Will Hughes, Luis doubled Chelsea's lead in the 56th minute by arcing a fine free-kick over the wall and into the net from 25 yards.  
Fate appeared to be conspiring against Chelsea after Drogba hobbled off and Bryson swept home Johnny Russell's lay-off from outside the box to give Steve McClaren's side hope.  
But after Buxton had been contentiously dismissed for wrestling with Remy as the Frenchman bore down on goal, Schuerrle completed the scoring by following in after Remy's shot was parried by Lee Grant.

Barca enjoy  
Copa stroll

AFP, Madrid  
Pedro gave Barcelona coach Luis Enrique a reminder of his talents on Tuesday with a hat-trick in the Spanish giant's 8-1 second leg thrashing of third tier Huesca to secure a 12-1 aggregate win in their last 32 Copa del Rey tie.  
Pedro, who has largely been relegated to the bench for Liga and Champions League games since Uruguayan Luis Suarez' long suspension ended, scored with a header, despite being off balance, a neat left-footed shot and then a bullet of a right-foot effort all the goals coming in a 23 minute period of the first-half.  
The treble took his tally for the season to five.  
Sergi Roberto, Andres Iniesta, Adriano, Adama Traore and Sandro also got on the scoresheet as a far from first choice Barcelona gave Enrique a much needed healthy win, albeit against lower league opposition, after the disappointment of the 0-0 draw with Getafe in La Liga at the weekend.  
Barcelona, who join fellow La Liga rivals Real Madrid, Sevilla and Valencia in the last 16, will play either Elche or Valladolid in the next round.