

# Real, Barca both lose

AFP, Madrid



Valencia came from behind to snap Real Madrid's winning streak at 22 games, however Barcelona failed to take advantage as they also lost 1-0 at David Moyes's Real Sociedad on Sunday.

Jordi Alba's early own goal was enough to consign Barca to defeat after coach Luis Enrique had left Lionel Messi and Neymar on the bench.

Earlier, Cristiano Ronaldo's first-half penalty looked to have Madrid on course to start the new year as they finished 2014, but Valencia roared back after the break with goals from Antonio Barragan and Nicolas Otamendi to move above Sevilla into fourth.

Madrid now lead Barcelona and Atletico Madrid by just a point, but the European champions have also played one game less than their title rivals.

Victory for Valencia, meanwhile, was a huge boost to start the year they hope will culminate with a return to the Champions League.

Despite a bright start Valencia had to come from behind at Mestalla when Alvaro Negredo handled Gareth Bale's flick on from Toni Kroos's free-kick and Ronaldo duly stepped up to fire home his 33rd goal of the season from the penalty spot.

The World Player of the Year should have doubled his tally and his side's lead 12

## RESULTS

Getafe 1 (Vazquez 3) **Rayo Vallecano 2** (Jozabed 39, Baena 64)

**Valencia 2** (Barragan 52, Otamendi 65) Real Madrid 1 (Ronaldo 14-pen)

Espanyol 1 (Caicedo 80) **Eibar 2** (Del Moral 34, Boveda 38)

minutes later when Bale's deflected cross fell perfectly into his path, but after rounding Diego Alves, Ronaldo could only turn the ball into the side-netting with the goal gaping.

Valencia also started the second-half in the ascendancy as Andre Gomes sent a thunderous volley inches wide, but they were finally rewarded when Pepe turned a low drive from Barragan past the helpless Iker Casillas.

Bale had a great chance to restore Madrid's lead when he galloped in behind the Valencia defence seven minutes later, however the Welshman was denied by a fine saving challenge from Otamendi.

And just moments later, the Argentine centre-back was the star at the other end of the pitch as he towered above Ramos to power a header high past Casillas.

Madrid rallied in the final 15 minutes, but couldn't find an equaliser as Ramos sent a header inches wide before Alves denied Isco with a brilliant save from point-blank range and Otamendi cleared the danger before a Madrid player could pounce on the rebound.



Valencia defender Nicolas Otamendi (L) celebrates his winning goal with teammate Lucas Orban during their Primera Liga encounter at the Mestalla on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

# Known faces on hockey squad

SPORTS REPORTER

Experienced campaigners Rasel Mahmud Jimmy, Kamruzzaman Rana and Imran Hasan Pintoo were yesterday recalled for national duties when the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) announced the 18-member final squad for the Hockey World League (Round-2) to be held in Singapore from January 17 to 25.

Jimmy, Rana and Pintoo, who were recently exempted from their respective suspensions by the game's governing body, have proved their worth in a one-and-a-half month training under new Malaysian coach Gobinathan Krishna Murti to come back to the national team after one year but goalkeeper Zahid Hossain, who was also exempted from punishment, failed to get back his place along with experienced Sheikh Mohammad Nannu and Taposh Barman.

Defender Ashraf Islam is the only new face on the squad which includes as many as ten youngsters from the under-21 side who recently emerged champions in the AHF U-21 Cup held in Dhaka.

"During the training, we have observed each of the players and things like physical fitness, sincerity in practice, fighting spirit, concentration to video sessions have been considered before picking the final squad," said selector Rafiqul Islam Kamal adding, they have also given priority to the opinions of coach Gobinathan.

Bangladesh, who emerged champions in Hockey World League (Round-1), have been placed along with Poland, Japan and Singapore in Pool A of Round-2 while Pool B includes Malaysia, Oman, Ukraine and Fiji. Top three teams from these eight nations will qualify for Round-3.

"We are hoping to reach the semifinals as all participating teams will play the quarterfinals as per the new format of the competition," said the former national striker. "If we can finish third in group, we will get either Oman or Ukraine in semifinals."

Striker Krishna Kumar has been named captain while midfielder Sarwar Hossain will be his deputy.

# 1-year ban on Zahid

SPORTS REPORTER

Zahid Hossain was handed a one-year global transfer ban yesterday by BFF disciplinary committee after Mohammedan lodged a complaint against him on August 25 last year.

"Zahid failed to clarify the allegations brought against him during his last season's stint with Mohammedan," said BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag.

Zahid can take part in the transfers if he gives back half of the payment he had received last season from Mohammedan.

# Sayem Sk Russel chairman

SPORTS REPORTER

Sayem Sobhan Anvir, managing director of Bashundhara Group, has been nominated the chairman of Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra, one of country's top football clubs.

The board of directors of the club initiated the move to add one more member to the 27-member board and an extra general meeting on December 31 approved the proposal.

# Big guns progress

AFP, London



Chelsea, Manchester United, Manchester City and holders Arsenal reached the FA Cup fourth round on Sunday, while third-tier Sheffield United demonstrated their cup pedigree by eliminating Queens Park Rangers.

Arsenal progressed after winning 2-0 at home to Hull City in a repeat of last season's final, which saw Arsene Wenger's side end their nine-year trophy drought by coming from behind to win 3-2.

The reunion with Steve Bruce's Hull was a less dramatic affair. Per Mertesacker headed Arsenal in front from Alexis Sanchez's 20th-minute corner and Sanchez sealed victory with a precise shot eight minutes from time.

Premier League joint-leaders Manchester City were given a scare by second-tier Sheffield Wednesday before coming through 2-1 at the Etihad Stadium thanks to a 91st-minute winner from James Milner.

Wednesday had lost 7-0 at City in the League Cup in September, but they took a 14th-minute lead through Atdhe Nuhiu, only for Milner, on his 29th birthday, to equalise in the 66th minute before snatching a last-gasp winner.

City's cross-town rivals Manchester United also recorded a hard-fought victory over lower-league opposition, winning 2-0 at third-tier Yeovil Town.

United manager Louis van Gaal named a strong side featuring Wayne Rooney and Radamel Falcao for his first FA Cup tie, but had to wait until the 64th minute for Ander Herrera to put the visitors in front with a glorious, looping strike from 20 yards.

Yeovil continued to press, but United killed the game off in the last minute when Rooney freed substitute Angel di Maria to run through and chip home.

Chelsea enjoyed a rather more straightforward victory, winning 3-0 at home to second-division Watford courtesy of second-half strikes by Willian, Loic Remy and Kurt Zouma.

It could prove a positive omen for Jose

## RESULTS

**Arsenal 2** (Mertesacker 20, Sanchez 82) Hull City 0  
Aston Villa 1 (Benteke 88) Blackpool 0

**Chelsea 3** (Willian 58, Remy 70, Zouma 72) Watford 0  
Dover Athletic 0 **Crystal Palace 4** (Dann 10, 34, Gayle 68, Doyle 87)

**Manchester City 2** (Milner 66, 90+1) Sheffield Wednesday 1 (Nuhiu 14)  
Queens Park Rangers 0 **Sheffield United 3** (McNulty 36, Campbell-Ryce 49, 90+4)

Southampton 1 (Schneiderlin 33) Ipswich Town 1 (Ambrose 19)

**Stoke City 3** (Arnautovic 80, Ireland 88, 90+4) Wrexham 1 (Carrington 73)

**Sunderland 1** (Van Aanholt 33) Leeds United 0

Yeovil Town 0 **Manchester United 2**

Mourinho's side, as Chelsea beat Watford en route to glory in the competition in 1970, 2009 and 2010.

Sheffield United, who reached last season's semi-finals and face Tottenham Hotspur in the last four of this season's League Cup, won 3-0 at QPR via a Marc McNulty goal and a second-half brace from Jamal Campbell-Ryce.

QPR became the second top-flight team to be knocked out in the third round following Newcastle United's 1-0 loss at Leicester City on Saturday.

Southampton were taken to a replay by Championship side Ipswich Town after a 1-1 draw at St Mary's, while it took a powerful late effort by Christian Benteke for Aston Villa to overcome second-tier Blackpool 1-0.

Meanwhile, non-league Wrexham of the fifth-tier Football Conference came within 10 minutes of creating another piece of FA Cup history, only to lose 3-1 at top-flight Stoke City.

The Welsh side, who knocked out holders Arsenal in the third round in January 1992, went 1-0 up in the 73rd minute at the Britannia Stadium when Mark Carrington headed home a right-wing cross from Connor Jennings.

But with another famous upset beckoning, Marko Arnautovic stabbed home an equaliser in the 80th minute before Stephen Ireland claimed a late brace to send Mark Hughes's side through.

# Kane fights to keep NZ alive

AFP, Wellington



Kane Williamson and BJ Watling produced an unbroken sixth wicket stand of 94 to keep New Zealand alive on the third day of the second Test against Sri Lanka in Wellington on Monday.

New Zealand were 253-5 at stumps, a 118-run advantage with five wickets in hand, after the stubborn Williamson-Watling partnership recovered the innings from a perilous 159-5.

Williamson was on 80, in sight of his ninth Test century, and Watling was on 48, nearing his ninth half century.

However, despite their dogged fight, the odds remained in favour of Sri Lanka pulling off a series-leveling win after losing the first Test in Christchurch by eight wickets.

For New Zealand skipper Brendon McCullum, returning to the Basin Reserve for the first time since his match-saving 302 against India a year ago, there were to be no heroics this time.

He was out for 22 while Jimmy Neesham, who scored a century in the India Test, was out for 19.

After McCullum's departure it fell to Williamson to shoulder responsibility for keeping New Zealand afloat.

He was dropped on 29 and again on 60 in an otherwise cautious innings in which the partnership has seen off the second new ball and ensured the Test should extend deep into the fourth day at least.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
NEW ZEALAND: First innings 221 (Williamson 69; Pradeep 4-63, Lakmal 3-71)

SRI LANKA: First innings 356 (Sangakkara 203, Chandimal 67; Neesham 3-42, Bracewell 3-93)

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings 253 for 5 (Latham 35, Rutherford 40, Williamson 80 not out, McCullum 22, Neesham 19, Watling 48 not out; Pradeep 3-57)

# Afghanistan pick 15 for World Cup

AFP, Dubai

Former county cricket stalwart Andy Pick was Sunday named as bowling coach of Afghanistan, six weeks away from the Asian minnows making their World Cup debut.

The 51-year-old Pick played almost 200 matches for Nottinghamshire, ending his career with 495 first class wickets before going on to work with the Canada and United States cricket associations.

He will join up with the Afghanistan squad in Dubai next week where they will play four practice games against fellow World Cup qualifiers Scotland and Ireland.

## SQUAD

Mohammad Nabi (captain), Nawroz Mangal, Asghar Stanikzai, Samiullah Shenwari, Afsar Zazai (wkt), Najibullah Zadran, Nasir Jamal, Mirwais Ashraf, Gulbadin Naib, Hamid Hassan, Shapoor Zadran, Dawlat Zadran, Aftab Alam, Javed Ahmadi, Usman Ghani.

# Kohli era begins

## Aus-India 4th Test starts today

AFP, Sydney



New India skipper Virat Kohli says he will encourage his team to play positively and not back down against Australia in the final Test in Sydney, which begins on Tuesday.

Kohli has been thrust into the captaincy following the shock Test retirement of Mahendra Singh Dhoni following last week's drawn third Test in Melbourne.

India's premier batsman said India will continue to stand up to the Australians, who have already reclaimed the Border-Gavaskar Trophy with an unassailable 2-0 lead in the four-match series.

"It's important for the players to know that we need to be in a positive frame of mind, a line doesn't need to be crossed," Kohli told reporters Monday.

"But we are not here to back down from any sort of confrontation or any sort of battle. You will still see positive cricket and the same aggressive intent."

Kohli, who led India in the first Test in Adelaide while Dhoni was recovering from a fractured thumb, has been his side's leading batsman in the series, averaging 83.16 with three centuries and a fifty.

Kohli has been at the forefront of on-field confrontations with Australian players, notably Mitchell Johnson, Brad Haddin and David Warner and his style of leadership will be under scrutiny in the wake of Dhoni's sudden exit.

"We were all taken aback by his decision because it was so sudden," Kohli said of Dhoni.

"We had no clue. We never saw it coming, so it was pretty shocking."

"There's so much to learn from him, especially in tough situations: his composure, his decision-making at important times."

"These are the things which are priceless. Any captain would love to have them. I hope I can be as calm as him, but everyone has different styles."

## ঠিকানা পরিবর্তন

আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়, ঢাকা কেন্দ্রীয় অঞ্চল, ঢাকা

পুরাতন ঠিকানা

পূর্বালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড  
আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়  
ঢাকা কেন্দ্রীয় অঞ্চল  
২৮/১ ডি.আই.পি.রোড, নয়াপল্টন  
থানা- পল্টন  
জেলা- ঢাকা

বর্তমান ঠিকানা

পূর্বালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড  
আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়  
ঢাকা কেন্দ্রীয় অঞ্চল  
আলাউদ্দিন ভবন (৬ষ্ঠ তলা)  
১/এ, ডি.আই.টি প্রক্টেকশন রোড  
ফকিরাপুল  
থানা- পল্টন, জেলা- ঢাকা

সম্মানিত গ্রাহক ও শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের আধুনিক ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানের প্রত্যয় নিয়ে আমাদের আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়, ঢাকা কেন্দ্রীয় অঞ্চল আজ ০৬ জানুয়ারি ২০১৫ মঙ্গলবার নতুন ঠিকানায় স্থানান্তরিত হয়ে নবপর্ধ্যয়ে বৃহৎ পরিসরে কার্যক্রম শুরু করতে যাচ্ছে।

সম্মানিত গ্রাহক ও শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের ঢাকা কেন্দ্রীয় অঞ্চল এর নতুন ঠিকানায় ব্যাংকিং সেবা গ্রহণের সর্বিনয় আমন্ত্রণ জানানো হচ্ছে।

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