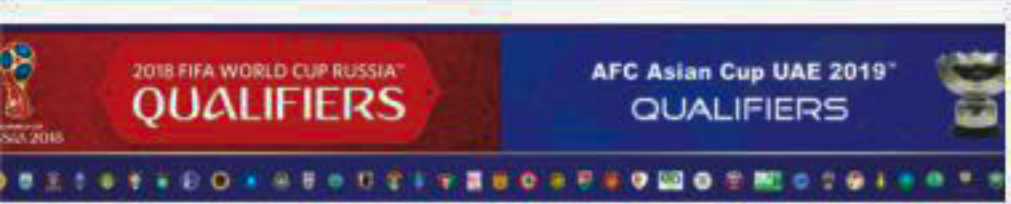


Enamul returns, Reasat called up

De Kruif names 32-member preliminary squad

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh national team's head coach Lodewijk de Kruif recalled four senior players and included three new faces into the preliminary 32-member squad for the first two matches of the Joint Qualifiers (World Cup and Asian Cup) as well as the two friendly matches against Singapore and Afghanistan later this month.

Muktijoddha Sangsad's striker Enamul Haque has been rewarded for his rich vein of form with a recall after five years while striker Towhidul Alam Sabuz, midfielder Emon Babu and defenders Rezaul Karim and Mohammad Linkon have also got call-ups back into the national squad. The three fresh faces are Mohammedan goalkeeper Ashraf Islam Rana, Team BJMC goalkeeper Mohammedan Nayeem and under-23 squad's winger Jewel Rana. The Dutch coach has also kept Germany-based midfielder Reasat Khaton, who once had a trial with the national team ahead of the 2013 SAFF Championship, in his 32-member preliminary squad.

Goalkeepers Nayeem and Rana played only one and two matches for their respective clubs during the ongoing league while Sabuz returned to the national fold after five years and Reza after four years.



ENAMUL HAQUE

REASAT KHATON

Meanwhile, strikers Mithun Chowdhury and Shakhawat Hossain Rony and defender Atiqur Rahman Meshu – all three part of the 23-member squad for the Bangabandhu Gold Cup -- have lost their places.

"The coach (de Kruif) observed the performance and fitness level of the all players who were already in his reckoning. But he also picked up a few new faces after watching 20 to 25 matches of the league. He scrutinised every player before taking a decision on them," said goalkeeping coach Christian Schweichler, in the absence of de Kruif who left Bangladesh yesterday to attend the marriage ceremony of his brother in Germany.

The Dutch coach is expected to return to Bangladesh on May 19, two days after the

residential camp starts at the BFF House.

Schweichler said that they would emphasise on goalkeeping and defending set-pieces during the camp as Bangladesh suffers badly from set-pieces.

"Goalkeeping is very complex job and it is not just catching the ball on the line. Goalkeepers need football skill, catching skill, tactical skill and the problem is that goalkeepers in Bangladesh, in general, lack the tactical skill. Even though we have short time, we will have to improve the overall standard of the goalkeepers," said the German goalkeeping coach.

This squad is expected to be trimmed to 23 members before Bangladesh host Singapore on May 30 and Afghanistan on June 2 for the two friendly matches. Bangladesh will then host Kyrgyzstan on June 11 and Tajikistan on June 16 for the first two matches of the Joint Qualifiers for the 2018 World Cup and 2019 Asian Cup.

PRELIMINARY SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Liton, Sohel, Himel, Nayeem, Ashraf.

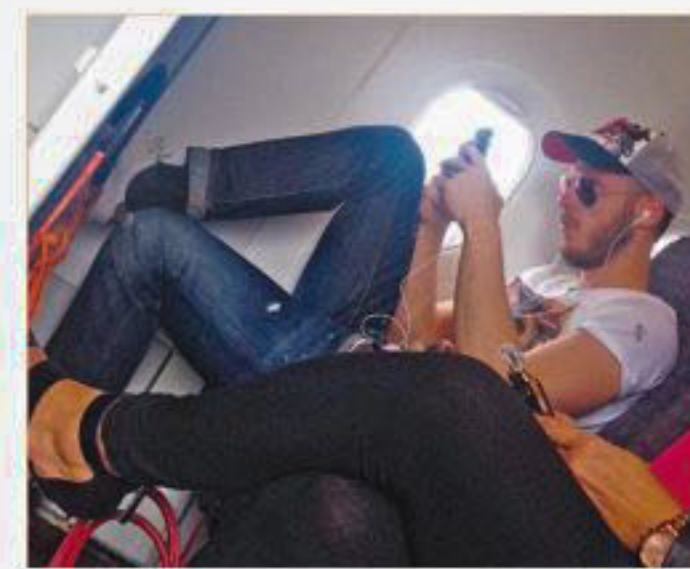
Defenders: Raihan, Nasiruddin, Tapu, Nasir, Yeasin, Yeamin, Linkon, Reza, Kesto.

Midfielders: Hemanta, Jamal, Mamunul, Sohel, Raju, Shahed, Reasat, Emon, Toklish.

Forwards: Wahed, Zahid, Emily, Komol, Jewel, Sajib, Rubel, Enamul Sabuz

DE GEA VISITS MADRID

With Champions League football wrapped up for next season, David De Gea was given some time off by Louis van Gaal and he was photographed flying from Liverpool to Madrid yesterday. Rumoured to be going home to spend time with family and long term girlfriend, the news set alarm bells ringing with the Manchester United fan community. The 24-year old shot-stopper has been linked with Real Madrid for a summer move and with only one year left on his contract and his fleeting trips to Madrid, the move is looking more and more



Walson's seventh rescues Brothers

SPORTS REPORTER



Augustine Walson joined Enamul Haque at the top of the scorer's chart of the Manyavar Bangladesh Premier League with a single goal yesterday, which helped Brothers

Union to a 1-0 victory over Rahmatganj MFS.

The Haitian marksman scored the decisive goal, his seventh in the league and 11th of the season, in the 77th minute of an otherwise insipid affair at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The Haitian threatened to break the deadlock with a dipping shot which missed the target by inches in the 53rd minute before finding the target in the 77th minute with a placing shot after receiving a back-heel from his captain Kester Akon.

Walson's seventh goal took the Oranges

to 14 points, nine behind Sheikh Jama having played eight matches, one less than the league leaders, while Rahmatganj collected eight points from similar number of matches.

TEAM BJMC, CTG ABAHANI SHARE POINTS

Meanwhile Team BJMC snapped a six-match losing streak after coming from behind to hold Chittagong Abahani to a 1-1 draw in the first match of the day.

Chittagong

Abahani went ahead in the 24th minute with a fortuitous strike from

Abdul Hannan Raju, whose shot deflected off a BJMC defender before ending up at the back of the net. But the port city side could not hold on to the lead in the face of constant pressure from Team BJMC.

The relegation threatened side's forward Samson Iliasu ratted the crossbar in the 49th minute before Khan Mohammad Tara cleverly flicked a free-kick into the net in the 57th minute.

TEAM BJMC	1	-	1	CTG ABAHANI
RAHMATGANJ	0	-	1	BROTHERS

Arsenal's 10-game streak ends

AFP, London



Bafetimbi Gomis scored a late, technology-assisted winner as Swansea City compromised Arsenal's quest for automatic Champions League qualification with a smash-and-grab 1-0 away victory on Monday.

Arsenal had won nine of their previous 10 games, only dropping points in a goalless draw with champions Chelsea, but after being kept at bay by their former goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski, they were undone in the 85th minute.

Gomis, a 74th-minute replacement for Ki Sung-yueng, sent a header towards goal and although Arsenal goalkeeper David Ospina appeared to have clawed it away, the Goal Decision System showed that the ball had in fact crossed the line.

It was Arsenal's first home defeat in the league since November, when they lost 2-1 to Manchester United, two weeks after going down by the same scoreline at Swansea.

United can overtake Arsenal and take possession of third place by beating them at Old Trafford on Sunday, although Arsene Wenger's side retain a game in hand at home to relegation-threatened Sunderland.

Garry Monk's Swansea, meanwhile, are now a point off seventh place, which will yield a Europa League spot if Arsenal beat Aston Villa in the FA Cup final on May 30.

With Aaron Ramsey overcoming a knock sustained in last week's 3-1 win at Hull City, Arsenal fielded an unchanged team for the fifth league game running, something that last happened in January 1994.

It was a sign of Wenger's satisfaction with recent performances, but although Arsenal dominated possession in the first half, Swansea's well-organised 4-1-4-1 system kept them at bay.

Ramsey set up Olivier Giroud for an early header that landed on the roof of the net, but Swansea, who deployed Gylfi Sigurdsson as a lone forward, carried menace on the break.

Ospina was required to saved from Angel Rangel and Jonjo Shelvey, and though willing to drop deep in search of the ball, Arsenal dangermen Alexis Sanchez and Mesut Ozil struggled to make inroads.

Swansea began to commit more men forward after the interval, and belatedly Arsenal had some grass to run onto.

With 23 minutes left, Wenger introduced Jack Wilshere in place of Francis Coquelin to add yet more guile to the hosts' midfield and Theo Walcott followed soon after.

Still Fabianski denied his former team-mates. It was turning into a bravura performance by the 30-year-old Polish international, who left the Emirates Stadium for South Wales in 2014, and there was more to come.

Frustration turned to disbelief minutes later when Montero clipped a cross into the box from the Swansea left and Ospina was unable to prevent Gomis's downward header from crossing the line.



REAL MADRID-JUVENTUS FACTFILE

LEADING SCORERS (ALL COMPETITIONS)

Real Madrid - Cristiano Ronaldo (54 goals)	Juventus - Carlos Tevez (29 goals)
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PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS LEAGUE MEETINGS:

Real Madrid 1 Juventus 0 1995/96 (Quarterfinal)	2004/05 (Rd of 16)
Juventus 2 Real Madrid 0 1995/96 (Quarterfinal)	Juventus 2 Real Madrid 0 2004/05 (Rd of 16)
Juventus 0 Real Madrid 1 1997/98 (Final)	Juventus 2 Real Madrid 1 2008/09 (Group stage)
Real Madrid 2 Juventus 1 2002/03 (Semifinal)	Real Madrid 0 Juventus 2 2008/09 (Group stage)
Juventus 3 Real Madrid 1 2002/03 (Semifinal)	Real Madrid 2 Juventus 1 2013/14 (Group stage)
Real Madrid 1 Juventus 0	Juventus 2 Real Madrid 2 2013/14 (Group stage)

ALL EYES ON ME: All the Real Madrid players will be looking at their star Cristiano Ronaldo (C) to overturn the first-leg deficit against Juventus at the Santiago Bernabeu today.

PHOTO: AFP

Juve block Real's only path

AFP, Madrid



Real Madrid must overcome a 2-1 first-leg deficit to keep their season alive when a Juventus side boosted by the return of Paul Pogba visit the Santiago Bernabeu in the return of their Champions League semi-final on Wednesday.

Los Blancos' La Liga title hopes are all but over despite coming from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 with Valencia on Saturday as Barcelona moved four points clear at the top with just two games remaining.

However, Carlo Ancelotti's men recovered from exactly the same result against Valencia that proved an almost fatal blow to their title hopes at the same stage last season to go on and win the club's 10th European Cup in Lisbon a few weeks later.

Defensive lapses have cost Madrid in recent weeks as they have conceded twice in four of their last five matches and right-back Dani Carvajal insists they can't go for a clinical Juventus side from the off and risk being caught on the counter-attack.

"We need to win, that is fundamental. However, above all, we need to have a cool head, be patient and not go crazy," he told the club's website.

"The game is 90 minutes long and we need to make that seem like a long time for Juventus and make them suffer without the ball."

Carvajal gave away the penalty, converted by Carlos Tevez, at the end of a counter-attack which gave the Italian champions the advantage in last week's first leg.

And he believes Madrid will not be so generous in front of a packed house at the Bernabeu.

"They created danger from us giving the ball away or our errors. I think if we stay calm, have patience, move them

around, then we will win the game.

"After the first leg the feelings of the coach and the players were clear. We cannot commit too many errors in easy passes because that breathed life into them."

Madrid could be back close to full strength as Toni Kroos is expected to shrug off a hip injury picked up against Valencia, while Karim Benzema is set to feature up front after a month out with a knee problem.

Benzema's French international teammate Pogba is certain to play a part after making a goalscoring return from a near two-month injury layoff in a 1-1 draw at home to Cagliari on Saturday.

Juventus have waited 12 years to get back to the biggest game in European football, when they also beat Real in the semi-finals in 2003, and defender Giorgio Chiellini described the game as the biggest in his 10 years with the club.

"We can't wait for Wednesday evening to come. This is the most prestigious and

important game I'll be playing in since I joined the club," he said.

"I've been here for 10 years and 12 have gone past since we last reached a semi-final.

"We've got better and matured as the competition has worn on and getting past the last 16 and then the quarter-finals gave us added awareness in our own abilities.

"We've never been as close as we are now, but we've still got 95 really tough minutes to get through. The final is still a long way away and we'll need a super performance to get there."

Juventus' biggest threat could come from a very familiar source for the Madrid faithful as Real academy product Alvaro Morata returns to the Bernabeu after scoring the opener in the first leg.

The Spanish international joined the Bianconeri last summer and could still return to his boyhood club should they exercise a buy-back clause at the end of the season.

Hazard gets FWA award

AFP, London



Chelsea midfielder Eden Hazard has been voted the 2015 Footballer of the Year by England's Football Writers' Association, just weeks after receiving a similar award from the country's Professional Footballers' Association.

The Belgium international, who joined Chelsea from Lille for £32 million (\$50 million, 45 million euros), topped the poll of more than 300 journalists with 53 percent of the vote.

Tottenham Hotspur striker Harry Kane was the runner-up, with Chelsea captain John Terry third.

Hazard, 24, has scored 20 goals in all competitions so far this season and created plenty more as Chelsea won a first Premier League title since 2010.

He will receive his latest honour, which was first awarded in 1948, at a dinner in London on May 21.

FWA chairman Andy Dunn, of the Sunday Mirror, said: "The list of truly world-class players on the Football Writers' Association roll of honour is a long one and Eden Hazard is a worthy addition.

"A creator, a goalscorer and the hardest of workers, Hazard has been a constant source of threat for the Barclays Premier League champions.

"But it is not just his trickery, his pace, his artistry and his marksmanship that make Hazard such an invaluable component of Jose Mourinho's Chelsea squad, it is his durability.

"Hazard has started all 36 Premier League matches and, considering the particularly close attention he receives from opponents, that is a feat in itself," Dunn



Kaka returns for Selecao

GOAL.COM



Brazil veteran Kaká and emerging talent Felipe Anderson have been named as members of Dunga's preliminary 30-man squad for the 2015 Copa América.

The Seleção actually announced their 23-man party last week, but have now added seven further names in line with Conmebol protocol.

Kaká, who missed out on the 2014 World Cup, has featured in two matches under Dunga, coming on as a substitute during the wins against Argentina and Japan last October.

He is joined in the party by 22-year-old Felipe Anderson, who is yet to be capped by the national side but is regarded as one of their brightest young players. Corinthians defender Gil and Cruzeiro striker Leandro Damiao have also been named, with goalkeeper Neto and midfield duo Fred and Rafael Alcántara completing the list. Given that Brazil named their 23-man squad prior to adding the additional players, it appears unlikely that any of the seven will make the final cut unless one or more of the initial selected men are forced to drop out.

Brazil has been drawn in Group C for the tournament in Chile this summer, where they will face Colombia, Peru and

Nadal drops three places

AFP, Paris

Rafael Nadal has dropped three places to number seven in the latest ATP rankings released on Monday a day after his defeat in the Madrid Open final to Andy Murray.

Novak Djokovic, who did not compete in Spain, continues to dominate.

TOP 10

1. Novak Djokovic (SRB) **13,845 pts**
2. Roger Federer (SUI) **8,645**
3. Andy Murray (GBR) **7,130**
4. Milos Raonic (CAN) **5,160 (+2)**
5. Tomas Berdych (CZE) **5,140 (+2)**
6. Kei Nishikori (JPN) **5,040 (-1)**
7. Rafael Nadal (ESP) **4,990 (-3)**
8. David Ferrer (ESP) **4,310**
9. Stan Wawrinka (SUI) **3,575**



Bafatemi Gomis celebrates his goal against Arsenal at the Emirates Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP