

Di Maria lets switch slip

AFP, Paris

Argentina winger Angel Di Maria said he is "delighted" to be joining Paris-Saint Germain in an interview screened on BeIn Sports, despite not officially signing for the Parisians ahead of a move from Manchester.

In an interview with BeIn Sports, Di Maria spoke of his joy at securing a move to the French champions.

"I'm delighted to sign for PSG because the club has done everything to bring me here," said Di Maria, who passed a medical in Doha on Tuesday.

"I'll try to do my best, I'll work hard to give my utmost and if everything goes well, we'll win a lot of trophies."

Manchester United have agreed a £44.3 million fee with PSG.



Monaco forward Stephan El Shaarawy celebrates after scoring a goal against BSC Young Boys during the second leg of the third round qualifying phase of their UEFA Champions League clash at the Louis II Stadium in Monaco. PHOTO: AFP

TRANSFORMATION TO RONALDO

A 17-year-old from Denmark has spent thousands of pounds in an attempt to emulate his idol, Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo. Shanta, who refers to himself as Cristiano and also adopts the Portuguese footballer's surname, has made five trips to Madrid this year alone, and has met his hero on a number of occasions. Shanta told the Mirror, "All my friends, my family call me Cristiano Ronaldo. They know my passion and respect it. Some may think I'm crazy, but that's the way I am. People tell me, 'be yourself' but I cannot be myself more



Ajax Rapidly ousted Monaco cruise into next stage

AFP, Paris

Four-time European champions Ajax have been eliminated at the third qualifying round stage of the Champions League after a humiliating 3-2 second-leg defeat to Rapid Vienna on Tuesday as Monaco advanced with a 4-0 win over Swiss side Young Boys.

After a 2-2 first-leg draw in the Austrian capital last week, Ajax were strong favourites to progress to the play-off round, but they suffered a torturous night at the Amsterdam Arena.

Frank de Boer's men let a two-goal lead slip at the Ernt-Happel Stadion last week and the visitors -- seemingly buoyed by that comeback -- started where they left off last week.

Slovenian international Robert Beric -- the scorer of Rapid's equaliser in the first leg -- tormented Ajax again as he put the Austrian side in front after 12 minutes before Louis Schaub doubled their lead before half-time.

Ajax, who had reached the group stages in each of the last four seasons, hauled themselves back into the match and levelled the aggregate scores at 4-4 thanks to goals by Polish international Arkadiusz Milik and Serbian midfielder Nemanja Gudelj.

But just as the tie seemed set for extra time, Rapid Vienna -- who last reached the Champions League group stages in the 2005/06 season -- struck a decisive blow after 77 minutes via Schaub's second goal of the night.

Rapid progress to the play-off round after a 5-4 aggregate victory.

Last season's quarter-finalists Monaco are into the play-off round after a thumping 4-0 second-leg win over Swiss side Young Boys.

The Ligue 1 side -- who reached the 2004 final where they were beaten by Portuguese giants Porto -- were already 3-1 up from last week's first leg in Bern and finished the job handsomely at the Stade Louis II thanks to a blistering second-half display.

"I liked our performance. We managed to put our game plan into practice - to contain the opposition at first, then counter-attack after we scored the first goal," said Monaco boss Leonardo Jardim.

"We took control of the game. The first half was very good from a strategic perspective. Our goal was to not concede before half-time and force our opponent to attack. That's exactly what happened."

Young Boys, who were semi-finalists of the European Cup back in 1958/59, retained some hope of getting back into the tie with the second leg goalless at half-time.

But Monaco -- third in Ligue 1 last season -- struck four times in 23 devastating second-half minutes to inflict a crushing 7-1 aggregate defeat on the Swiss capital club.

Ivan Cavaleiro -- a big-money summer arrival from Portuguese champions Benfica -- curled in a superb opener after 54 minutes before further goals from Layvin Kurzawa, Anthony Martial and another new signing Stephan El Shaarawy saw Monaco run riot.

Meanwhile, Croatian champions Dinamo Zagreb survived a thrilling comeback by Norwegian side Molde to progress on away goals after a 3-3 second-leg draw.

With the tie level after a 1-1 draw in Zagreb last week, the visitors looked to be out of sight after scoring three goals in the opening 22 minutes at the Molde Stadion.

The Norwegian champions -- who missed two penalties and had Vegard Forren sent off -- hit back with three second-half goals to leave Zagreb hanging on, but the hosts couldn't get the fourth goal that would have put them through at the visitors' expense.

Cyriot champions APOEL remain on course for a second successive appearance in the group stages despite a 1-0 second-leg loss to Danish champions FC Midtjylland in scorching heat in Nicosia.

In temperatures of 35 degrees celsius, the Cypriots -- who played for an hour with ten men after Vinicius' straight red card -- were beaten by Erik Sviatchenko's early goal but progressed on away goals after a 2-1 first-leg success last week.

Bale downs Tottenham Bayern crush AC Milan

AFP, Munich

Gareth Bale scored against former club Tottenham Hotspur as Real Madrid won 2-0 on Tuesday to set up a final against Bayern Munich in the pre-season Audi Cup friendly tournament in Germany.

The Wales international was playing against Spurs for the first time since his £85.3m world record transfer to Madrid in September 2013.

The 26-year-old found the net on 79 minutes after James Rodriguez headed home the opener after 36 minutes at Munich's Allianz Arena.

Last year's tournament winners Bayern Munich later dominated AC Milan 3-0 to join the Spaniards in Wednesday's final.

It will be the first meeting between

RESULTS

Real Madrid 2 (Rodriguez 36, Bale 79) **Tottenham Hotspur 0**

Bayern Munich 3 (Bernat 24, Goetze 74,

the two teams since April 2014 when the Spaniards ran riot in a 4-0 Champions League semi-final second leg win en route to their record tenth European Cup triumph.

The win boosted Pep Guardiola's Bayern side three days after their German Super Cup loss on penalties to Wolfsburg, the only title the Spaniard has failed to win since his arrival in Bavaria.

Juan Bernat opened the scoring after 24 minutes for the hosts with the help of a Cristian Zapata deflection, but it was new signing Douglas Costa who was the man of the match until his substitution at the break.

The Brazilian midfielder has had a good pre-season since his arrival from Ukrainian side Shakhtar Donetsk last month and he was inspirational in combination with Mario Gotze and fellow new signing Arturo Vidal.

Chilean Vidal -- who arrived from Italian champions Juventus last week -- almost scored twice with two thumping headers - the first hitting the crossbar on 36 minutes with the second just missing the target seven minutes later.

Despite dominating, Bayern had to wait until the 74th minute to get a second with Gotze scoring as Robert Lewandowski completed the scoreline five minutes from time with a powerful shot that left Diego Lopez with no chance in the Milan goal.

Overrun by the Bundesliga champions, AC Milan will look to save face against Tottenham in the third-place play-off, also on Wednesday.

Dzeko set to join Roma?

THE GUARDIAN

Manchester City have agreed a £14m fee with AS Roma for Edin Dzeko, according to reports in Italy. The striker is understood to have already agreed personal terms with the Serie A club and will now travel to Italy to conclude a deal in the next 24 hours.

Dzeko only managed six goals last season and City have let him go after the Bosnian fell down the pecking order under Manuel Pellegrini.

The Chilean coach has already loaned out Stevan Jovetic to Inter Milan but has Sergio Agüero, Wilfried Bony plus new £49m signing Raheem Sterling.

Sagor short of his best

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh swimmer Mahfizur Rahman Sagor failed to qualify for the semifinals of 100-metre freestyle event FINA World Championship in Kazan, Russia yesterday despite finishing top in the third heat of the event.

Sagor took 52.89 seconds to complete the distance, 0.01 seconds more than his career best which he had set in the 2013 Bangladesh Games, to finish 79th overall among 115 participants.

"I was confident of eclipsing my personal best in the World Championship because I have been training hard for the last one month in Thailand," Mahfizur said through a social networking site. "But it is not the end. I will try to produce my personal best timing in the 50-metre freestyle event on Saturday," said the 22-year old swimmer of Bangladesh Navy.

Meanwhile, Sonia Akter Tumpa, the only female representative of the Bangladesh contingent, will compete in 50-metre butterfly event on August 7.

SANCTIONS ON FARASHGANJ SC Bylaws bypassed?

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) on Tuesday night took an unprecedented decision to banish a professional league outfit from top. The club in question, Farashganj Sporting Club, have been suspended from top-tier football for two seasons - the current one and the next one -- and have also been slapped with a fine of Tk 5 lacs while being asked to return Tk 13 lacs, an appearance fee that they had received from the BFF.

The suspension, first of its kind in domestic football, was taken by a five-member disciplinary committee after Farashganj walked-out during their match against Sheikh Russel on Monday.

The committee also declared Sheikh Russel 3-0 winners for that match, while declaring the other teams who have remaining matches against Farashganj, 3-0 winners by default.

However, the committee did not clearly define if Farashganj have been relegated to the second tier or been expelled completely from professional football. But if it had gone strictly according to the sub-clauses 20.3.1 to

4 of the Bangladesh Premier League bylaws, there would not have been any scope for ambiguity.

In fact, those clauses clearly state that if a team refuses to play at any stage of a match, it will be withdrawn from that competition and all the matches of the team will be considered null and void. This clause (20.3.2) also implies that the team will automatically be relegated to the immediate lower league, if no further sanctions are imposed.

It is believed that the decision was taken overlooking that clause so as not to make the league standings any more complicated, especially regarding the fate of the championship, which has already been won by Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club.

Meanwhile, Farashganj, who claimed to have not received the letter of punishment yet, yesterday submitted two letters to the BFF general secretary explaining their position and arguments behind their refusal to play.

Meanwhile, the decisions evoked mixed reactions among the football organisers. While everyone agreed that this has been an unprecedented decision which will make other teams aware of the professional attitude, some have questioned whether a similar penalty would have been imposed had it been

any club with a bit more clout.

Former national footballer-turned-coach Shafiqul Islam Manik believes other teams have walked out with lesser punishment despite committing graver offences in the past.

"Such a decision is a first time in the history of Bangladesh football. I think it is a bit harsh on Farashganj and they (the committee) might reconsider their decision because no clubs were suspended from the Bangladesh Premier League despite committing more serious offences, like playing compromised match," said Manik.

That incident happened during the 2010-11 season where the eventual champions Sheikh Jamal and Rahmatganj MFS were proved to have played a 'compromised match'. Both the teams were scrapped points and fined monetarily, while the latter had a couple of players and officials suspended.

However, there was one similar instance when Mohammedan refused to play against Muktiyoddha Sangsad in 2002 during the now-defunct Dhaka Premier League, but the club was only docked points. Mohammedan and Abahani were also slashed points due to a brawl which led to the abandonment of a match before the professional football era.

United chase Pedro

MAIL ONLINE

Manchester United are clear to sign Pedro but Barcelona will wait until after the European Super Cup clash with Sevilla before releasing him, but United must stump up the £22million release clause.

While Barcelona are keen for the winger to stay in La Liga, Pedro is wary of leaving his beloved club as they won't be able to replace him due to the transfer embargo hanging over the Catalan giants until 2016.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS Happy faces return

SPORTS REPORTER

They may be challenged, but there was no shortage of enthusiasm among the intellectually challenged athletes when they returned home yesterday morning with 18 gold, 22 silver and 14 bronze medals from the Special Olympic Games which concluded in Los Angeles on Tuesday.

The winners of the gold medals could hardly express their feelings in words at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. However, the expressions on their faces spoke of the delight of taking part in such a global sporting event and returning home with such success.

"The girls and boys enjoyed the Games much and they performed really brilliantly," said Faruquul Islam, head of delega-

tion of the Bangladesh contingent.

Bangladesh had won 31 gold medals in the 2011 Greece Special Olympics, but this time they the gold tally decreased drastically. Islam gave the explanation for this dip.

"The quotas for Bangladesh have been reduced in the 2015 edition. This time only 77 athletes participated in only six events. If we could bring more athletes, the medal tally could have been bigger," said Islam, who is also the national director of Special Olympics Bangladesh.

Islam informed that the intellectually challenged children are being groomed in 300 special schools across the country and they scout these players in October-November each year before providing them with further training under different coaches.

The harshest punishment

AFP, Berlin

A German judge ordered two football hooligans who attacked a fan of a rival club and tore off his team gear to take the "painful" step of buying him new Bayern Munich merchandise.

The judge in the southern city of Munich, Karin Jung, said that she presented the defendants, both supporters of 1860 Munich, with the choice of replacing the Bayern Munich gear or going to jail.

The defendants' lawyer said his clients bought a hat, scarf and jersey from the team shop.



Dutch-Bangla Bank

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited is looking for bright, self-motivated and forward-looking professional accountants for the following position of the Bank:

01. Head of Accounts
Position: 01 position
Duties and Responsibilities:
 Overall responsibility for independently managing the activities of the Accounts Division of the Bank including but not limited to:

- Planning, budgeting, monitoring and achieving financial targets of the bank.
- All internal financial reporting including periodic MIS.
- All external reporting particularly to Bangladesh Bank.
- Dealing with all Tax and VAT related matters.
- Rationalization of cost and improving productivity of resources.
- Quarterly, Half-Yearly and Annual Financial Reporting in compliance with IFRS and regulatory requirements.
- Dealing with internal, external and Bangladesh Bank audits.
- Capital Management and Capital Adequacy related matters under Basel III.
- Preparation of Annual Report.
- Conversant with asset-liability management of the bank, money market and forex market.
- Matters of market, market players and competitive strategy.
- In depth knowledge on Accounting & Financial rules, regulations of Bangladesh Bank and well conversant with Income Tax Law, VAT, Banking Companies Act and other regulatory provisions.
- Coordination with other divisions, branches, senior management.

Requirements:

- Candidate should be capable of independently managing and leading the Accounts Division for achieving overall short and long term objectives of the Bank.
- The candidate should be an FCA having no 3rd Division/ Class in any examination.
- Minimum 07 (seven) years of working experience in Finance/ Accounts Division in any private Commercial Bank.
- Excellent organizational, problem solving, interpersonal and leadership skills.
- The candidate should be capable of working in highly sophisticated IT environment.
- The candidate should be proficient in English and Bangla.
- The candidate should be a Bangladeshi National.

02. Executives for Accounts Division
Position & Post: 03 positions in the rank of AVP/FAVP
Duties and Responsibilities:

- Planning, budgeting, budget variance analysis, monitoring and achieving financial targets of the bank.
- All internal financial reporting including periodic MIS, cost/benefit and performance analysis.
- All external reporting particularly to Bangladesh Bank.
- Dealing with all Tax and VAT related matters.
- Rationalization of cost and improving productivity of resources.
- Quarterly, Half-Yearly and Annual Financial Reporting in compliance with IFRS and regulatory requirements.
- Dealing with internal, external and Bangladesh Bank audits.
- Capital Management and Capital Adequacy related matters under Basel III.
- In depth knowledge on Accounting & Financial rules, regulations of Bangladesh Bank, Companies Act, Banking Companies Act and other regulatory provisions.

Requirements:

- Should be an ACA/FCA having no 3rd Division/ Class in any examination.
- Minimum 02 (two) years of working experience in any reputed organization/bank is desirable but not essential for otherwise competent candidates.
- The candidate should be capable of working in highly sophisticated IT environment.
- The candidate should be proficient in English and Bangla.
- The candidate should be a Bangladeshi National.
- Age should not exceed 40 years as on August 30, 2015.

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No direct application will be accepted. Only short listed candidates will be called for interview.