AFCU-16 C'ship Qualifiers

Bangladesh v Saudi Arabia

Time: 6:00pm

TEN SPORTS Champions League Chelsea v Maccabi Tel Aviv Live from 12:45am (Thursday)

DIEGO BLASTS SEPP, MICHEL

Former Argentina superstar Diego Maradona on Tuesday blasted FIFA president Sepp Blatter and his UEFA counterpart Michel Platini as two of a kind. "I'm outside all that because someone called Blatter closed all doors on me," former Argentina great Maradona told Naples television station PiuEnne. "But I'm not a thief. Blatter did a lot of harm to football and with Platini it's a farce. They pretend to be separated, one at FIFA and the other at UEFA, while in fact they were always side by side," said Maradona.--AFP



Mass exodus from Sheikh Jamal?

SPORTS REPORTER

The transfer market for the Bangladesh Premier League has heated up already as four big clubs have lined up to form strong teams with bagful of money.

Four-time champions Abahani, last season's runners-up Sheikh Russel KC and big-spending Chittagong Abahani have apparently been hankering after star players ever since Sheikh Jamal DC retained the league title back in July.

The players themselves were lukewarm till late, but suddenly the market became volatile after Sheikh Jamal's management sought few weeks' time to clear the dues of the third and final payment of the 2014-15 season. With the champions delaying their payments and signing of new agreements, the high-profile players have already started to communicate with other clubs, with some of them reportedly making verbal assurances to join interested clubs.

It has been learnt that national team's defender Yeasin Khan and striker Toklish Ahmed have verbally promised to play for Chittagong Abahani while defender Nasiruddin Chowdhury, midfielder Jamal Bhuiyan, striker Shakhawat Hossain Rony, midfielder Monaem Khan Raju and winger Shohel Rana are set to join Sheikh Russel KC.

Abahani have reportedly confirmed Zahid Hasan Emily, Tapu Barman, Hemanta Vincent Biswas, Wali Faisal, Shahidul Alam Shohel and Jewel Rana for the next season.

Serie A

Eder, Soriano sink Bologna

AFP, Milan

Late strikes by Italy internationals Eder and Roberto Soriano secured a precious 2-0 win over depleted Serie A new boys Bologna and pushed Sampdoria up to third place on Monday. The fixture was origi-

nally scheduled for Sunday but was postponed due to heavy rain around Liguria.

Bologna have been counting on former Roma and AC Milan striker Mattia Destro to provide the goals this season following their promotion from Serie B.

And the visitors were holding on for a share of the points until second-hal substitute Luca Rizzo saw red on 62 minutes for a second bookable offence.



LET'S START WITH A SMILE: Bangladesh's new coach Fabio Lopez (L) and skipper Mamunul Islam share a light moment during the Italian's official introductory meeting with his charges at the BFF House yesterday.

STAR

Lopez's warning

SPORTS REPORTER

OUALIFIERS

A new chapter in Bangladesh football started yesterday as Italian coach Fabio Lopez was officially introduced to his charges, who reported to the team management at the BFF House.

Among the 41 booters called up for camp, only Jamal Bhuiyan, Yeasin Khan, Hemanta Vincent Biswas and Shahedul Alam Shahed did not report while the rest were either physically present or reported to the team manager over phone. The training camp will get underway tomorrow after the arrival of assistant coach Costantino Zuccarini and fitness trainer Angelo Pavia today.

anything about his training regime or his they can reach new heights. criteria for selection, skipper Mamunul Islam believes that the Italian will give special emphasis on fitness as the 42-year-old coach has already warned he would only

choose those players who would perform on the pitch, regardless of their previous profile. "He [Lopez] told us that all the 41 players

are equal to him and that he would prefer those who will perform on the pitch," said Mamunul. "It is a new challenge for us to show our worth again and secure our places in the final squad. It is a new chapter and we will have to perform to impress the new coach.' As Bangladesh play their next World

Kyrgyzstan on October 13, he would get close to a month to make his final selection even though the coach is expected to reduce the size of the squad after a while. Mamunul believes there is no limit to

Cup-Asian Cup Qualifier away to

learning and if they can combine the things they learned from Lodewijk de Kruif with Even though Lopez did not disclose the things they would learn from Lopez, The Italian has also warned his players

that he would take disciplinary issues seriously when considering who to choose for the final squad.

Champs start defence at Roma

AFP, Paris



Champions Barcelona begin their bid to become the first side since AC Milan in 1990 to

retain Europe's premier club trophy away to Roma while faltering Chelsea host Israelis Maccabi Tel Aviv on the second day of the opening round of Champions League matches.

Bayer Leverkusen and BATE Borisov meet for the first time in their opening Champions League Group E fixture at the BayArena. Leverkusen, who reached the round of 16 last season, advanced to the group stage following a 3-1 aggregate play-off win over Lazio. Difficult to break down on their home ground, Roger Schmidt's side have won five of their last six home fixtures in Europe, and conceded just two goals in their last 12 homes matches. BATE advanced through three qualifying rounds to reach the group stage.

Lionel Messi-powered Barcelona open their title defence Augsburg. in Rome's Stadio Olimpico as they bid to become the first team since AC Milan in 1989 and 1990 to win back-to-back titles. The Spaniards arrive at the former club of coach Luis Enrique buoyed by a hardfought 2-1 victory at Atletico Madrid in which Messi came off the bench to score the winner to keep their perfect start to the La Liga season at the weekend. No team has ever retained the European Cup in the UEFA Champions League era but Enrique will be looking to get off to a strong start at the club he managed in the 2011-2012 season. Roma warmed up for the tie with a 2-0 win away to Serie A new boys Frosinone at the weekend.

Dinamo are on a 15-game winless run in the Champions

League, failing to make it out of the group stage in four attempts. The Croatian champions came up against Arsenal in the third qualifying round in 2006/2007, losing 5-1 on aggregate to the Premier League giants. Dinamo have found goals hard to come by, mustering only four in their last dozen group outings. Wenger says his side, sitting fourth in the league, need to find the right balance between "urgency and confidence" in Zagreb. Theo Walcott, who scored against Stoke at the weekend, is set to once again be deployed as a central striker rather than in his more usual role as a winger.

Olympiakos, under recently appointed coach Marco Silva, are making their fifth successive appearance in the competition, and have proved tough to dismantle at their Piraeus HQ. The Greeks are on an 11-match unbeaten run in all competitions. Bayern, fivetime European champions, welcome back Mario Goetze, the Germany international who is fit after missing Saturday's 2-1 comefrom-behind Bundesliga win over

Returning to the Champions League after missing out for the last two years, Dynamo Kiev aim to defeat a Porto side who are unbeaten in their six visits to Ukraine. Ukrainian double winners Dynamo are competing in the group stage for the 15th time, but manager Seri Rebrov is in charge of a team in the tournament for the first time.

With their defence of the Premier League title already in turmoil after three defeats in their first five matches, Chelsea kick off their European campaign hoping for a morale-boosting victory over a Maccabi Tel-Aviv team returning to the competition after a 10-year absence. Condemned to a disappointing Champions League last 16 exit by Paris Saint Germain last

TEAMS	LAST MEETING	SCORE
Dinamo Zagreb – Arsenal	August 23, 2006	1-2
Bayer – BATE	(First meeting)	
Dynamo Kyiv - Porto	November 6, 2012	0-0
Chelsea - MTel Aviv	(First meeting)	24
Roma - Barcelona	February 26, 2002	3-0
Bayern Munich – Olympiakos	January 10, 1980	3-0
Valencia - Zenit	(First meeting)	W/25
Gent-Lvon	(First meeting)	227

EIVTLIDEC

season, the west Londoners, reeling after Saturday's 3-1 loss at Everton, will be facing Maccabi for the first time in a competitive together under Jose Mourinho in fixture.

The omens are not good for Zenit in a match that sees two Portuguese former colleagues

lead their sides into battle. Valencia's Nuno and Andre Villas-Boas of Zenit worked their Porto days when the former was a reserve goalkeeper and the latter a coach.

Nuno leads Valencia back into

the Champions League after a twoyear absence against a side that have lost every time they've played in Spain. Valencia also have four wins and a draw form their home matches against Russian outfits.

Hein Vanhaezebrouck's Ghent are perhaps unique in the Champions League as they would have preferred a tougher group. Denied the chance to take on a Barcelona, Bayern Munich or Manchester United, their debut in the competition sees them tackle it with limited ambitions. Lyon, semifinalists in 2010, will be expecting to take three points to boost their chances of a place in the knock-out rounds, although they are missing injured forward Nabil Fekir.

Eng names squads for Pak series

AFP, London

England included the uncapped pair of opening batsman Alex Hales and offspinning all-rounder Zafar Ansari in a 16-man Test squad announced Tuesday for their upcoming threematch series against Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates.

Hales, who has played white-ball cricket for England, was brought into the Test squad after Adam Lyth was dropped. Despite impressing for

county champions Yorkshire and scoring a hundred in his second Test against New Zealand at his Headingley home ground, Lyth averaged just 12.77 after playing in all five matches of England's 3-2 Ashes series win.

TEST SQUAD

Alastair Cook (captain), Moeen Ali, James Anderson, Zafar Ansari, Jonny Bairstow, Ian Bell, Stuart Broad, Jos Buttler, Steven Finn, Alex Hales, Liam Plunkett, Adil Rashid, Joe Root, Ben Stokes, James Taylor and Mark Wood.

ODI SQUAD

Eoin Morgan (captain), Moeen Ali, Jonny Bairstow, Sam Billings, Jos Buttler, Steven Finn, Alex Hales, Adil Rashid, Joe Root, Jason Roy, James Taylor, Reece Topley, David Willey, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood.

T20 SQUAD

Eoin Morgan (captain), Moeen Ali, Sam Billings, Jos Buttler, Alex Hales, Chris Jordan, Stephen Parry, Adil Rashid, Joe Root, Jason Roy, Reece Topley, James Vince, David Willey, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood.



Chelsea striker Diego Costa (C) moves the ball during a training session in Stoke D'Abernon yesterday ahead of their Champions League Group G match against Maccabi Tel Aviv.

РНОТО: AFP

