

BTV
AFC U-19 C'ship Qualifiers
Uzbekistan v Bhutan
Live from 3:00pm
Bangladesh v Sri Lanka

SONY KIX
La Liga
Celta Vigo v Getafe
Live from 12:30am
(Saturday)

STAR SPORTS 1
South Africa v India
First T20
Live from 7:30pm

BECKHAM'S MILAN GAFFE

Italian media on Thursday ridiculed the latest in a long line of gaffes by David Beckham after the former England star said he wanted to see AC Milan win the Champions League this season. AC Milan, along with city rivals Inter, failed to qualify for any European competition this season and so are not involved in the Champions League or its poorer cousin, the Europa League. Beckham, 40, reportedly made the blunder at the opening of a new Adidas store in Dubai, where he was asked who he would like to



Moreno to take over at BFF academy

SPORTS REPORTER
The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is likely to appoint former FC Barcelona youth team's player as the head coach of its academy in Sylhet. The former Spanish footballer is Gonzalo Sanchez Moreno, who played as right back for Barcelona B from 1992 to 1995 according to the available information on the internet and also played for Almeria for one season. Though his coaching career was not found on the internet, it has been learnt that he had worked with Madagascar U-17 team for six months in 2013. The 43-year-old former footballer had watched two international matches of Bangladesh against Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan. Moreno is scheduled to meet BFF president Kazi Salahuddin today afternoon to discuss the details.

Spain surge

AFP, Paris
European champions Spain leapt five places to sixth in the FIFA world rankings for October, released on Thursday. Seven wins in eight games have taken Spain to the verge of Euro 2016 qualification, where they can challenge for an unprecedented third consecutive continental title. World champions Germany are back up to second above Belgium, but behind the team they beat in the 2014 World Cup final, Argentina.

Joachim Loew's impressive charges are on a roll with five wins and a draw from their last six performances. Colombia, renowned for their rousing 'football with a smile', are fifth, Brazil are seventh and Wales will raise a few eyebrows, moving up a place to eighth, while England are tenth.

- TOP 10**
1. Argentina
 2. Germany
 3. Belgium
 4. Portugal
 5. Colombia
 6. Spain
 7. Brazil
 8. Wales
 9. Chile
 10. England



C'Ron casts doubt on Real future

AFP, Madrid
Cristiano Ronaldo refused to commit his future to Real Madrid just hours after becoming the club's joint leading scorer of all time with two goals on Wednesday. Ronaldo has long been linked with a return to Manchester United, where he starred between 2003 and 2009 before a then world record 80 million euro (\$90 million, £59 million) transfer to Madrid. A move to Paris Saint Germain or even a shock transfer to Major League Soccer in the United States have also been rumoured. "I am happy here, I want to win things here. I feel good, but as I have said millions of times no one knows what will happen in the future," the three-time World Player of the Year told Spanish radio station Cadena SER. "We will see what happens tomorrow but at this moment in time I am happy at Real Madrid," he added. "No one knows what will happen next year. I am happy here, but you never know what will happen in the future."

Socceroos flag security fears to FIFA

AFP, Sydney
The Socceroos' World Cup qualifier in Bangladesh next month was thrown into doubt on Thursday when Football Federation Australia (FFA) officially notified FIFA of their security fears. The group-topping Socceroos are due to take on Bangladesh in Dhaka on November 17. The death of an Italian aid worker in Dhaka's diplomatic quarter -- shot three times on Monday night in a murder claimed by Islamic State group -- escalated safety fears. "FFA is concerned about the security situation in Bangladesh and will continue ongoing discussions with DFAT, relevant government agencies and security experts," the body said. "FFA has formally raised the matter with FIFA and AFC (Asian Football Confederation)." The Socceroos faced heightened security issues around their September World Cup qualifier in Dushanbe, capital of central Asian nation Tajikistan.

Benitez hails Ronaldo

AFP, Malmo
Real Madrid coach Rafael Benitez lauded the historic feats of Cristiano Ronaldo after he netted his 500th career goal and levelled Raul as the club's all-time leading scorer with a double against Malmo on Wednesday. The three-time World Player of the Year has now scored 501 goals in 753 career games, including 323 for Madrid despite playing over 400 games fewer for the Spanish giants than Raul. According to club records, though, Ronaldo is already Madrid's top scorer of all-time as they add a goal officially awarded by the Spanish league to Pepe in a 2-1 defeat of Real Sociedad in 2010. "He has surpassed Raul, who was a phenomenon and that shows that he has scored a lot of goals," said Madrid coach Rafael Benitez. "Hopefully, he has no limits. I said he was unquestionable in the past and his merit is what he has done in far less time than the rest. That adds more value to what he has achieved." Ronaldo's return to goalscoring form was a relief for the Portuguese and Benitez after a frustrating 0-0 draw at home to Malaga on Saturday in which Ronaldo had 14 attempts on goal. Madrid were far from their best in Sweden as Benitez took the chance to rotate his squad ahead of Sunday's Madrid derby away to Atletico. Ronaldo opened the scoring just before the half hour mark with a cool finish, but the visitors had to wait until the final minute to secure the three points when Ronaldo prodded home Lucas Vazquez's cross.

Happy night for Manchester

AFP, Paris
The two Manchester clubs enjoyed victories in a happier night for England in the Champions League on Wednesday, while the individual performance of the evening came, not for the first time, from Cristiano Ronaldo. Manchester United and City were made to work hard for 2-1 wins against German clubs Wolfsburg and Borussia Moenchengladbach respectively, 24 hours after Chelsea and Arsenal had both crashed to defeats. Former United star Ronaldo, meanwhile, scored his 500th career goal and then equalled Raul Gonzalez Blanco's club record tally of 323 goals for Real Madrid as the Spaniards won 2-0 against Malmo in Sweden. Both Manchester sides were looking to bounce back from defeats in their opening Champions League group games two weeks ago and United got their campaign back on track in Group B, although only after falling behind. Daniel Caligiuri put Wolfsburg in front after just five minutes at Old Trafford, but Juan Mata won and converted a penalty to pull United level before the break, and the Spaniard then produced a superb flick to set up Chris Smalling, who scored the winner early in the second half. The Premier League leaders now find themselves in a four-way tie on three points in Group B after CSKA Moscow defeated PSV Eindhoven 3-2 in Russia in the night's other game. PSV had beaten United in the Netherlands a fortnight ago but they were taken apart in the first half at the Arena Khimki, Ahmed Musa opening the scoring before Seydou Doumbia headed in a second and then scored a penalty. Doumbia might have had a hat-trick, only to blaze another spot-kick over the bar, and PSV were given hope when Maxime Lestienne scored a second-half brace. However, CSKA held on as the visitors finished with 10 men after Santiago Arias was sent off. Meanwhile, City had Sergio Aguero to thank for winning and then scoring a last-gasp penalty as they beat Gladbach 2-1 at Borussia-Park in Group D, securing a precious victory after they lost at home to Juventus in their first outing. It was a happy ending to a difficult evening, with the Bundesliga side missing the chance

RESULTS

Shakhtar	0 - 3	PSG (Aurier 7, David Luiz 23, Sma 90-og)
Malmo	0 - 2	Real Madrid (Ronaldo 29, 90)
Man Utd (Mata 34-pen, Smalling 53)	2 - 1	Wolfsburg (Caligiuri 4)
CSKA Moscow (Musa 7, Doumbia 21, 36-pen)	3 - 2	PSV (Lestienne 60, 68)
Astana (Hakan Balta 77-og, Canas 89)	2 - 2	Galatasaray (Bilal Kisa 31, Eric 86-og)
Ati Madrid (Correa 23)	1 - 2	Benfica (Gaitan 36, Goncalo Guedes 51)
M'gladbach (Stindl 54)	1 - 2	Man City (Christensen 65-og, Aguero 90-pen)

to open the scoring in the first half when Raffael won a penalty only to see his kick saved by Joe Hart. They did go in front through Lars Stindl nine minutes after the restart, but City equalised when a Nicolas Otamendi shot took a decisive deflection off Andreas Christensen before Aguero's heroics. It is Juventus who top the section, though, after Alvaro Morata and Simone Zaza netted to clinch a

merited 2-0 win over Sevilla in Turin. In Sweden, Mateo Kovacic and Isco combined to set up Ronaldo for the opener, his 500th career goal in 753 games, in the first half of Madrid's clash with Malmo in Group A. The hosts had Yoshimar Yotun sent off before Ronaldo made sure of the win at the death, and equalled Raul's tally. Paris Saint-Germain are level with Madrid on six points at the top of Group A after easing to a 3-0 victory over Shakhtar Donetsk in Ukraine, Serge Aurier and David Luiz netting in the first half before a Darijo Srna own goal late on put the seal on the win. Meanwhile, Portuguese champions Benfica took control of Group C after coming from behind to beat Atletico Madrid 2-1, Nicolas Gaitan and Goncalo Guedes with their goals after Angel Correa put Atletico ahead. Earlier, Astana claimed a first point in the competition as they drew 2-2 with Galatasaray in Kazakhstan. Bilal Kisa and a Nenad Eric own-goal had the visitors ahead twice, but a Hakan Balta own-goal and a Roger Canas effort that was helped in by Lionel Carole gave Astana a draw.

FA backing Platini

AFP, London
England's Football Association on Wednesday gave new backing to Frenchman Michel Platini to become FIFA president but said questions over his naming in a Swiss criminal investigation have to be answered. The fast-moving FIFA corruption storm was discussed at an FA meeting on Wednesday, and the English game's governing body said it still supports Platini. "In July, The FA board decided unanimously to support Michel Platini if he intended to stand for the presidency of FIFA. We did so because we thought he was an excellent president of UEFA and could bring those same leadership qualities to FIFA. We are still of that view," said the statement. "However, events of recent days have raised a number of issues which do need to be fully examined." The FA board said it was "following the ongoing investigation initiated by the Swiss attorney general with which Mr Platini is co-operating with in full. "We also recognise that Mr Platini has contacted the FIFA ethics committee inviting them to look into the matter and to interview him. "As we said back in July, the most important matter is the urgent reform of FIFA. We believe the whole structure of FIFA needs to be fundamentally changed and we are committed to our efforts to ensure this happens." Swiss investigators have placed FIFA president Sepp Blatter under criminal

investigation, and part of their inquiry is into a \$2 million payment made by football's world governing body to Platini, president of UEFA. Platini worked for FIFA as an advisor to Blatter from 1998 until 2002, but only received a \$2 million payment authorised by Blatter in 2011. Switzerland's Attorney General Michael Lauber has said there is evidence that the payment was against FIFA's interests. Platini, 60, told AFP on Tuesday his compensation was delayed because of financial constraints at FIFA in 1998-2002. The state of the world body's finances for the period are unclear, however. According to a FIFA financial report published in April 2003, the world governing body had a surplus of 115 million Swiss francs (\$118m) for 1999-2002. But, in the same report, FIFA said it expected a loss of 134 million Swiss francs in May of 2002, when Platini finished his work as an advisor and joined FIFA's executive committee. Those losses were linked to a bankruptcy scandal that hit International Sports and Leisure (ISL), a Swiss media and marketing firm that was a key FIFA partner. A source familiar with FIFA's finances at the time, but who requested anonymity, said the organisation had enough money to pay Platini. The English FA threw its weight behind Platini in July having nominated and backed Prince Ali bin al Hussein, a Jordanian former FIFA vice president, when he challenged Blatter in May's elections. Prince Ali remains a candidate in the election to be held on February 26 along



Manchester City star Sergio Aguero is ecstatic after his winning goal against Borussia Monchengladbach during their Champions League encounter in Monchengladbach on Wednesday.

'Dortmund can't match Bayern'

AFP, Berlin
Borussia Dortmund's CEO Hans-Joachim Watzke insists his side are not capable of ending Bayern Munich's domination over the course of a Bundesliga season, ahead of Sunday's top-of-the-table clash. German league leaders Bayern host second-placed Dortmund at Munich's Allianz Arena with Borussia four points behind Pep Guardiola's Bavarians, who have won all seven league games so far this season. Dortmund won the Bundesliga title in 2011 and 2012, but ever since Bayern have dominated the German league, winning at a canter for the last three seasons running. Under new coach Thomas Tuchel, Dortmund are unbeaten with five league wins, but have drawn their last two games and Watzke rejects the notion that they are "hunting" Bayern. "We never saw ourselves as, don't see ourselves as, and aren't Bayern hunters," Watzke told German daily Bild as Dortmund finished seventh last season. "We see ourselves as challengers of teams who finished ahead of us last season in the league. "We want to get back into the Champions League. "Those are the goals we have set and nothing has changed." Sunday's mouth-watering match is billed here as Germany's "Klassiker", but Watzke insists Dortmund can not match Bayern's bumper, star-studded squad over the 34 matches of a Bundesliga season. "Of course, we have a chance to beat Bayern in selective matches, there's no question about that, but over the course of 34 games currently no one in Germany -- and probably no one in Europe -- could deny this unbelievable quality," said Watzke.

PHOTO: AFP