

TEN CRICKET

Second ODI  
Zimbabwe v Pakistan  
Live from 1:30pm

STAR SPORTS 1

Indian Super League  
Chennai v Kolkata  
Live from 7:30pm

STAR SPORTS 4

Premier League  
Palace v West Brom  
Live from 5:45pm

Man City v Newcastle  
Live from 8:00pm  
Chelsea v Southampton  
Live from 10:30pm

SONY KIX

La Liga  
Seville v Barcelona  
Live from 8:00pm  
Granada v Deportivo

Live from 10:30pm  
Espanyol v Gijon  
Live from 12:30am  
(Sunday)  
Mlaga v Sociedad

DAY'S EVENT

NATIONAL CRICKET LEAGUE  
Day 1 (Four-day Match)

Venue: Bogra

Venue: Dhaka

Venue: Rajshahi

Venue: Khulna  
Sylhet v Barisal



Superstar Cristiano Ronaldo (R) receives a trophy from club president Florentino Perez for becoming Real Madrid's all-time leading scorer during a ceremony at the Bernabeu yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Keane blasts 'soft' Arsenal

AFP, London

Former Manchester United captain Roy Keane has accused Arsenal of being "weak" and "soft" ahead of his old club's visit to the Emirates Stadium on Sunday.

Keane was distinctly unimpressed with Arsenal's lacklustre performance in their 3-2 defeat against Greek side Olympiakos in the Champions League on Tuesday.

The result leaves the Gunners, who host Premier League United this weekend, in danger of elimination from the Champions League after losing their opening two group matches.

And Keane, who had many battles with ferociously competitive Arsenal stars like Patrick Vieira and Martin Keown during his United playing days, believes Arsene Wenger's side are lacking the right kind of gritty characters these days.

"Listen, they're soft - Arsenal are soft," Keane said in his role as an ITV pundit.

"They're weak. The goals they give away, you've got no chance of winning any big game if you defend like that."

"I enjoy watching Arsenal, I think they're great to watch, particularly going forward. But part of football is, unfortunately, is defending. And mentally, they're weak."

Carroll poised for comeback

AFP, London

West Ham striker Andy Carroll could make his first Premier League start in more than eight months in Saturday's match at Sunderland.

The England international tore knee ligaments in February but made an appearance off the bench in a 2-2 draw against Norwich City last weekend and is expected to recover from a sore ankle to feature at the Stadium of Light.

Carroll, 26, has been ravaged by fitness problems since joining the Hammers in a club record £15million (\$22.7million) move in June 2013.

He missed five months of the 2013/14 season with a heel injury and made just 16 appearances last term after suffering both ankle and knee ligament damage.

Jose aims to revive Chelsea

AFP, London



As Chelsea's problems deepen, Jose Mourinho will attempt to revive his side's disastrous campaign by masterminding a victory against Southampton at Stamford Bridge on Saturday.

Another testing week has only added to the growing sense of unease around the club, with Mourinho forced to defend his relationship with his players after making unexpected changes for the Champions League trip to Porto.

The Blues boss reacted to last weekend's Premier League draw at Newcastle - Chelsea recovered after falling two goals down to Steve McClaren's struggling team - by leaving Oscar, Loic Remy and Radamel Falcao at home in midweek and starting Eden Hazard, John Terry and Nemanja Matic on the bench.

The overhaul did not have the desired effect, with Chelsea slumping to a 2-1 defeat that reinforced the view that Mourinho's side this season are a shadow of the team that eased their way to the Premier League title in May.

The visit of Southampton will provide another stern test, with Saints manager Ronald Koeman voicing his confidence this week that his side can get something from the game after twice holding Chelsea last season.

Mourinho's men need a lift and injured keeper Thibaut Courtois expressed the frustration currently

gripping the club.

The Belgium goalkeeper, currently sidelined with a knee problem, said: "It is not easy, no, to see all that, and not be part of the team at the moment, and being unable to help."

"Tuesday, in the Champions League, they lost, playing a good game. But we will progress. And Saturday, we have to win at home."

"There is pressure, and I hope we will win. After that, there is the international break, and then I hope Chelsea win a series of matches."

"We have tough matches, but we must do better than now."

Chelsea's success last season was built on their defensive strength but Courtois' absence, together with Branislav Ivanovic's dramatic loss of form and John Terry's frequent demotion to the bench, means the back-four is not what it was.

And the keeper does not expect to be fit enough to challenge his deputy for a starting spot for at least another two months.

FIXTURES

(1400 GMT unless stated)

**Saturday**  
Aston Villa v Stoke, Bournemouth v Watford, Chelsea v Southampton (1630 GMT), Crystal Palace v West Brom (1145 GMT), Manchester City v Newcastle, Norwich v Leicester, Sunderland v West Ham

**Sunday**  
Arsenal v Manchester United (1500 GMT), Everton v Liverpool (1230 GMT), Swansea v Tottenham

"Hopefully early December. If there are complications, I will work quietly to return. For now, I cannot give a date," Courtois said.

Koeman, meanwhile, is in no doubt about where Chelsea's weakness lies.

"Maybe they have some defensive problems. I think if you look back to last season they were the team with our defenders who had the best defensive record," he said.

"They didn't concede a lot of goals but this season it's different. Maybe for that the confidence is not the same. They showed their character last year."

"If you were looking to the Chelsea team you feeling were that it was a winning team. Maybe they are struggling a little bit more this season."

Koeman, though, does not expect Mourinho's side to remain in the bottom half of the table for long and admits his side will have to perform even better than they did in beating Swansea 3-1 last weekend.

"For sure we know it's a difficult opponent. They will look to react after the loss against Porto in the Champions League," he said.

"They will go up in the table because they don't stay that low for so long. We know what they can bring. We know the qualities of them."

"We have to be good and on a very high level to get a good result."

"We know what we can expect this Saturday. We had two good results last year against them, but we have to play on a higher level than we did against Swansea last week."

Hemanta allowed to join camp

SPORTS REPORTER

Midfielder Hemanta Vincent Biswas joined the national team's camp in BKSP yesterday after getting away with only a suspended sentence for breaching the team's disciplinary code recently.

The 20-year-old midfielder, who took part in an exhibition match in his hometown of Dinajpur on September 18 without permission from the game's governing body while on leave due to injury, was handed a one-year suspended sentence by BFF's disciplinary committee.

The suspended sentence means Hemanta will be eligible for Bangladesh's World Cup qualifier against Kyrgyzstan on October 13, but a similar offence within the next six months would lead to his suspension from local and international matches for one year.

CAS rejects Neymar appeal

AFP, Lausanne

Brazil will be without star striker Neymar for upcoming 2018 World Cup qualifiers against Chile and Venezuela after the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) rejected an appeal from the Brazilian FA on Friday.

In a statement, the Swiss-based court confirmed it had "dismissed the urgent appeal filed by the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) against FIFA and the South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL)".

CAS added that "the two remaining match bans will have to be served during the next qualifying matches for the 2018 FIFA World Cup to be held on 8 and 13 October 2015".

Brazil captain Neymar was given a four-match ban after he was sent off against Colombia during a first-round match at this year's Copa America tournament.

The CBF had appealed that the Barcelona forward should serve his remaining two-match suspension in games which count towards the Copa America.

The CAS ruling, in favour of FIFA, means that Neymar will miss Brazil's opening qualifier against continental champions Chile on October 8 as well as the visit of Venezuela five days later.

New coach for youths

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday decided to appoint former Barcelona youth team player Gonzalo Sanchez Moreno as a development coach for six months.

The 43-year-old Spanish coach will work with the players from the national Under-16 and Under-19 teams from October 15, as well as scout players across the country before working intensively with final 21 players.

"He had been in Barcelona Academy at age eight and his knowledge of youth academies is very strong," said BFF president Kazi Salahuddin after having a meeting with Moreno at the BFF House yesterday.

"I am not impressed with his coaching career. What interested me about him was what he had seen and done at the academy. It is a different experience, unlike a conventional coach. He had also been with some big names in the youth team and knows the procedure of youth development," Salahuddin explained as the reason behind Moreno's appointment.

Moreno, who has a UEFA A license, has little coaching experience as he only worked with the Madagascar U-17 team and some club teams in Madagascar, but he played for Barcelona's academy team and Barcelona B. He started there when he was eight and he played until he was 20.

"Moreno will have 70 training sessions with the players of U-16 and U-19 and after those sessions, we can understand his calibre and our benefit, then we will decide which steps will be taken," said the BFF boss, adding that the BFF is also working to appoint a coach for the Sylhet academy.



GONZALO SANCHEZ MORENO

RESULTS

Celtic (SCO) 2 (Griffiths 28, Commons 32) Fenerbahce (TUR) 2 (Fernandao 43, 48)	Molde (NOR) 1 (E. Hestad 8) Ajax (NED) 1 (Fischer 19)	Liverpool (ENG) 1 (Lallana 4) FC Sion (SUI) 1 (Assifuah 18)	Rubin Kazan (RUS) 0 Bordeaux (FRA) 0	FK Krasnodar (RUS) 2 (Wanderson 8, Smolov 84) FK Qabala (AZE) 1 (Dodo 51)	PAOK (GRE) 1 (Mak 34) Borussia Dortmund (GER) 1 (Castro 72)	Club Brugge (BEL) 1 (Meunier 79) FC Midtjylland (DEN) 3 (Sisto 51, Onuachu 67, Novak 74)	Legia Warsaw (POL) 0 Napoli (ITA) 2 (Mertens 53, Higuain 84)	Dinamo Minsk (BLR) 0 Rapid Vienna (AUT) 1 (S. Hofmann 54)	Villarreal (ESP) 1 (Baptistao 54)	Viktoria Plzen (CZE) 0 Slovan Liberec (CZE) 1 (Coufal 84)	Sporting Braga (POR) 1 (Ahmed Hassan 5) FC Groningen (NED) 0	Lazio (ITA) 3 (Onazi 22, Hoedt 48,	Biglia 80) Saint-Etienne (FRA) 2 (Sall 6, Monnet-Paquet 84)	Rosenborg (NOR) 0 Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk (UKR) 1 (Seleznov 80)	Besiktas (TUR) 1 (Gokhan Tore 61)	Sporting Lisbon (POR) 1 (Ruiz 16)	Lokomotiv Moscow (RUS) 2 (Niasse 35, Samedov 73) KF Skenderbeu (ALB) 0	Belenenses (POR) 0 Fiorentina (ITA) 4 (Bernardeschi 18, Babacar 45+1, Tonel 83-og, Rossi 90)	FC Basel (SUI) 2 (B. Bjarnason 55, Embolo 90) Lech Poznan (POL) 0	FK Qarabag (AZE) 1 (Richard Almeida 36) Anderlecht (BEL) 0	Monaco (FRA) 1 (El Shaaraway 81)	Tottenham Hotspur (ENG) 1 (Lamela 35)	Schalke 04 (GER) 4 (Di Santo 28, 37, 44-pen, Huntelaar 84) Asteras Tripolis (GRE) 0	Sparta Prague (CZE) 2 (Fatai 24, Brabec 60) APOEL (CYP) 0	AZ Alkmaar (NED) 2 (Henriksen 55, Eneko Boveda 65-og) Athletic Bilbao
---	---	---	--------------------------------------	---	---	--	--	---	-----------------------------------	---	--	------------------------------------	---	---	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	--	--	---	--	----------------------------------	---------------------------------------	---	---	---

Rodgers not panicking

AFP, London



Brendan Rodgers insisted he won't press the panic button after Liverpool's spluttering campaign suffered another blow with a lacklustre 1-1 draw against FC Sion in the Europa League on Thursday.

Rodgers' side took an early lead through Adam Lallana, but they were pegged back by Ebenezer Assifuah's first-half equaliser.

The Reds wasted a host of opportunities to regain the advantage and under-fire boss Rodgers was forced to endure boos from the Kop at the final whistle.

With a Merseyside derby at Everton looming on Sunday, Rodgers knows the scrutiny will only grow in the coming days, but he maintains he is still relishing the task of getting Liverpool back on track.

"We are one point behind Everton. I know the media and written press will build the game up but we will stay calm," Rodgers said.

"I am immensely enjoying the job, it is a great challenge and it is a rebuilding job again."

Liverpool have won only one of their last eight matches in all competitions, increasing the pressure on Rodgers. But he still made seven changes as he rested key players ahead of the Merseyside derby.



Liverpool midfielder Philippe Coutinho (R) tries to outwit Sion defender Elsard Zverotic during their Europa League encounter at Anfield on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP