

**DAY'S EVENT**

**NATIONAL CRICKET LEAGUE**  
Day 3 (Four-day Match)  
All Matches Start at 9:30am

Venue: Bogra Rajshahi v Sylhet  
Venue: Fatullah Dhaka v Dhaka Metro

Venue: Chittagong Chittagong v Barisal  
Venue: Khulna Khulna v Rangpur

If you thought Gareth Bale was celebrating a winning goal, you couldn't have been further from the truth. The Wales forward was celebrating alright, and so were his teammates and coaches, but they were celebrating their qualification for Euro 2016 -- Wales' first major tournament berth since the 1958 World Cup -- despite suffering a 2-0 defeat against Bosnia & Herzegovina on Saturday night.

PHOTO: AFP



# Wales end 57-year wait

## Belgium through; Turkey push the Dutch to the edge

AFP, Paris



Wales reached the finals of an international tournament for the first time since the 1958 World Cup Saturday when they qualified for Euro 2016 despite a 2-0 loss to Bosnia.

Wales secured their place when Israel lost 2-1 at home to Cyprus. Belgium also went through from the same Group B thanks to a 4-1 victory over Andorra.

Earlier on Saturday, Italy also made sure of their place in the finals in France next summer with a 3-1 win in Azerbaijan.

The Welsh, Belgium and Italy join already qualified Austria, the Czech Republic, England, France, Iceland, Northern Ireland, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland in the 24-team finals.

Bosnia went in front after 71 minutes in Zenica when Miralem Pjanic delivered a long free-kick into the area and substitute Milan Djuric sent a looping header over goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey.

Vedad Ibisevic added a second in the dying moments as Bosnia kept their play-off hopes alive.

But it didn't matter for a buoyant Wales as Cyprus stunned Israel 2-1 in Jerusalem thanks to an 80th-minute drive from Jason Demetriou.

"It's the best loss of my life," said Wales' Real Madrid star Gareth Bale.

"To achieve it is a dream come true and now we want to go out and get ready for France. It shows exactly what we're about. We're like brothers on the pitch."

Belgium inflicted Andorra's 49th defeat in Euro qualifying, making light of a rain-soaked, plastic pitch to record a 4-1 victory and a fifth European qualification.

Marc Wilmots's side were a goal to the good after 19 minutes when Roma's Radja Nainggolan scored with a long-range effort which took a slight deflection off Andorra defender Marc

Rebes. Three minutes before the break, Manchester City's Kevin De Bruyne unleashed a 25-yard free-kick which soared into the top corner of the goal.

Ildefonso Lima pulled a goal back for Andorra from the penalty spot in the 51st minute before Eden Hazard restored Belgium's two-goal advantage, also from the spot, five minutes later.

Laurent Depoitre added a fourth for Belgium while Hazard missed a late penalty.

In Group A, 2014 World Cup semi-finalists the Netherlands remain on a

| RESULTS                                     |   |
|---|---|
| Iceland (Sighthorsson 5, Sigurdsson 27)     | 2 - 2 Latvia (Cauna 49, Sabala 68)                                      |
| Kazakhstan (Kuat 90+6)                      | 1 - 2 Netherlands (Wijnaldum 33, Sneijder 50)                           |
| Czech Republic                              | 0 - 2 Turkey (Inan 62-pen, Calhanoglu 80)                               |
| Andorra (Lima 51-pen)                       | 1 - 4 Belgium (Nainggolan 19, De Bruyne 42, Hazard 56-pen, Depoitre 64) |
| Bosnia (Djuric 71, Ibisevic 90)             | 2 - 0 Wales   |
| Israel (Bitton 76)                          | 1 - 2 Cyprus (Dossa Junior 58, Demetriou 80)                            |
| Norway (Tettey 19, Soderlund 52)            | 2 - 0 Malta   |
| Croatia (Perisic 2, Rakitic 42, Kalinic 81) | 3 - 0 Bulgaria  |

knife-edge as far as their hopes are concerned. They enjoyed a 2-1 win in Kazakhstan but Turkey, their rivals for a play-off spot, then stunned the Czech Republic 2-0 to preserve their two-point lead.

Iceland and the Czechs had already secured Group A qualification.

Georginio Wijnaldum put the Dutch ahead in the 33rd minute in Baku, while Wesley Sneijder added a second on 50 minutes to keep them on track despite Islambek Kuat grabbing a consolation goal deep into

It is a dream come true. All the players from my generation, and generations before, nearly got there and it was really tough. But this group have gone that extra yard. They deserve everything they have got. From the first game to tonight they have given me their all.

Chris Coleman,

added time. Former Arsenal and Manchester United striker Robin Van Persie came on as a late substitute to earn his 100th cap for the Netherlands, who were European champions in 1988.

In Prague, Selcuk Inan gave Turkey the lead with a 62nd-minute penalty with Hakan Calhanoglu adding a second with 10 minutes left.

In the last qualifiers on October 13, the Dutch host the Czechs and Turkey welcome Iceland.

A point will be enough for Turkey following a draw and their home win in head-to-head encounters with the Netherlands.

Iceland, already qualified for their first ever major finals, drew 2-2 with Latvia.

Italy qualified with a 3-1 win over Azerbaijan, while in the same group Norway's 2-0 win over Malta left them on the brink of also making the finals.

Norway are second in the group but Croatia kept up the pressure for an automatic qualifying spot with a 2-0 win over Bulgaria in Zagreb.

Croatia were quickly in charge when Ivan Perisic netted his fifth goal in eight outings after just two minutes, beating Bozhidar Mitrev from close range after a fine through ball by Luka Modric.

Just before the break, Barcelona midfielder Ivan Rakitic added the second. Croatia conclude their campaign in Malta on Tuesday on the same night that Norway go to Italy.

## PELE RETURNS TO KOLKATA

Pele arrived in Kolkata on Sunday morning 38 years after his first visit when Cosmos locked horns with Mohun Bagan in a memorable encounter. The three-time World Cup winner will start with addressing a press conference on behalf of Atletico de Kolkata before meeting the players of the Mohun Bagan side that had played against Cosmos in 1977 at the Eden Gardens. The likes of Sourav Ganguly and A R Rahman are also expected to be present at the event with Rafael Nadal likely to join on video conference. --GOAL.COM



## Hamilton wins in Sochi

AFP, Sochi

Lewis Hamilton won Sunday's Russian Grand Prix to take a massive lead in the world championship after arch rival and Mercedes teammate Nico Rosberg retired.

Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel finished second with Sergio Perez in a Force India completing the podium in Sochi.

This ninth win of 2015 moved Hamilton up to 302 points in the drivers standings with Vettel overtaking Rosberg, the former four-time champion now placed second on 236 points, with Rosberg on 229.

Hamilton can clinch the title in the United States Grand Prix on October 25 if the cards fall in his favour in Texas.

# Conte's 4-2-4 wins hearts

AFP, Milan



Italy coach Antonio Conte applauded his deployment of a rarely-used tactical system that could provide the basis for his "little war machine" when the Azzurri head to Euro 2016 next summer.

Italy qualified for next summer's showpiece in France thanks to a 3-1 win over Azerbaijan in Baku complete with goals from Eder, Stephan El Shaarawy and Matteo Darmian. The win left Italy top of Group H with a two-point cushion on Norway ahead of the sides' final qualifier in Rome.

Conte pledged his side would "honour" their final group fixture on Tuesday, which could give him another opportunity to test the 4-2-4 system deployed to such devastating effect against Robert Prosinecki's men on Saturday.

It was previously used by Conte when he steered Bari then Siena to the league title in Serie B, and Sampdoria striker Eder is among the fans.

"It's a system that is designed to get the ball forward to the front men," said the Brazil-born forward, who gave Italy an 11th minute lead after running on to Marco Verratti's superbly-timed long ball from midfield.

In 2009 Conte steered Bari into Serie A after winning Serie



PHOTO: AFP

A happy fan takes a selfie with Italy coach Antonio Conte

B and, two years later, repeated the feat with Siena, paving the way for him to join his former club, Juventus, as coach in 2011.

Although Conte went on to favour a 3-5-2 during three, scudetto-winning seasons at the Turin giants, his current position is offering more flexibility.

"In Baku, it wasn't just the early goal I liked. We gradually began using a 4-2-4, a system that I used to win the league (Serie B) with Bari and Siena," said the 46-year-old.

"I wanted to use it at Juventus, but we didn't have the right kind of players for it, and here I've found them."

Conte's tactical system found another advocate in El Shaarawy, who said: "Eder, (Graziano) Pelle and myself linked up really well. I think that was obvious to see."

"It's great to score my first Italy goal," said Darmian, who scored the third goal for the side and his first international goal. "You could see by the way I hugged my teammates how emotional it was."

## Mexico book Confed Cup berth

AFP, Pasadena

Mexico stunned the United States 3-2 to qualify for the 2017 Confederations Cup here on Saturday as a spectacular extra-time winner from Paul Aguilar settled a five-goal thriller at the Pasadena Rose Bowl.

Mexico defender Aguilar lashed in a superb volley in the 118th minute to spark euphoric scenes at the iconic venue in front of 93,723 fans.

## Ervine ton seals Zim series

AFP, Harare

Craig Ervine hit an undefeated century to lead Zimbabwe to a five-wicket win over Ireland and their first series triumph in more than two years on Sunday.

Ervine had hit 60 in his team's opening two-wicket win on Friday and he maintained his blistering form with his second ODI century.

Earlier, Ireland made 268-7 in their 50 overs with opener Paul Stirling hitting a brisk 72 off 77 balls while Gary Wilson and Niall O'Brien both also made half-centuries.

SCORES IN BRIEF IRELAND: 268 for 7 in 50 overs (Stirling 72, Wilson 65, N O'Brien 50; Raza 3-49)

ZIMBABWE: 270 for 5 in 48.3 overs (Chibhabha 30, Ervine 101 not out, Williams 43, Raza 33; K O'Brien 2-46)

Result: Zimbabwe won by five wickets and lead 3-match series 2-0.

Player-of-the-match: Craig Ervine.

## Novak crushes Rafa to win China Open

AFP, Beijing

Novak Djokovic crushed his age-old rival Rafael Nadal 6-2, 6-2 on Sunday to seal his sixth China Open title and extend his amazing unbeaten run at the Beijing tournament.

The world number one underlined his superiority in men's tennis as he thrashed a fading Nadal for his 29th win at an event he also won in 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013 and 2014.

Djokovic won three of the four Grand Slam finals this year and shows no signs of slowing down at the end of the season after losing only 18 games in his romp to the Chinese title.

Djokovic put Nadal under pressure from the start with a thunderous opening rally, which the Spaniard lost, and the world number eight then shanked a forehand high into the air to give up the first break point.

Nadal had break points in the sixth game but Djokovic held firm, and the Serb gained his second break in the seventh game when his Spanish opponent volleyed into the net with the court at his mercy.

Nadal called the trainer early in the second set for treatment to his right foot, and when Djokovic broke to go 2-1 ahead the 14-time Grand Slam winner's challenge looked shot.

An instinctive lob over the stranded Nadal put Djokovic on his way to a second break and 4-1 lead, and after passing up two match points at 5-2, he finally sealed it with an ace for his rapturous Chinese fans.

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