

CARROLL IN RESTAURANT ROW

West Ham striker Andy Carroll was involved in a restaurant row with a 'hammered Chelsea fan' 24 hours after scoring the winner against them. Eyewitnesses said red wine was thrown during the 'skirmish' at the Roka Japanese restaurant in Canary Wharf, east London, which started when the Chelsea fan tried to kiss him. Carroll's security staff had to step in to break up the fight, which happened while the forward was dining with friends on Sunday night. The striker's agent said she was unaware of the incident, adding she was present at the meal but may have popped out



Weakened MSC face East Bengal

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

The main challenge for Mohammedan SC coach Josimuddin Ahmed Joshi will be to field a fit enough side as they take on Kolkata giants East Bengal in the second semifinal of the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup at the MA Aziz Stadium today.

Joshi was forced to field fever-hit Nabib Newaz Jibon, Mohammad Ibrahim and Mashuk Mia Johnny while he had to leave Mobarak Hossain, Jewel Rana and Sohel Rana out of the starting eleven in the group's last match against Kolkata Mohammedan due to illness and injuries.

Now Joshi's challenge is to get all players fit in time as Jibon, Ibrahim alongside reserve-bench players Biplu Ahmed and Mansur Amin are still suffering from fever.

"A player who is recovering from illness can't deliver a good performance compared to one who is recovering from an injury. I was forced to field fever-hit players against Kolkata Mohammedan. Six to seven players are still sick and I don't have proper replacements for them."

"However, I'm hopeful I will get them fit before the match and I can promise Mohammedan will go there for victory and

fight till the last minute," said Joshi.

The last time these two teams met in Bangladesh ended in a 3-1 victory for Mohammedan. That was 19 years ago, during the group stages of the inaugural Bangabandhu Gold Cup. But in the last decade Mohammedan have faded as a powerhouse while East Bengal retained their prowess in Indian football.

However, Mohammedan skipper Arup Baidya thinks the home crowd will be an advantage for them in this crucial fixture.

"We are mentally prepared to produce a good result in front of the home crowd. I think the performance of Abahani against East Bengal will inspire us in tomorrow's (Wednesday) match," said Arup.

While Mohammedan will be sweating out to get their players fit, East Bengal have been boosted by the return of their Korean attacking midfielder, Do-Dong, who had left Chittagong after sustaining an injury during their first match against Chittagong Abahani. Coach Biswajit Bhattacharya said that they are close to their objective of reaching the final.

"We always respect the opponents and Mohammedan is a traditional outfit in Bangladesh. But we are thinking only about ourselves and we will be trying to play our best in the semifinal," said Biswajit.

The match will kick off at 7:40 pm and will be telecast live on Channel 9.



Mohammedan Sporting Club players spent a day away from football on Monday ahead of the second semifinal of the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup against East Bengal today.

PHOTO: STAR

PEPSI-DRU CRICKET

Perfect start for The Daily Star

SPORTS REPORTER

Former champions The Daily Star launched their Pepsi-DRU Cricket

Tournament campaign in the best possible way, hammering a ten-wicket defeat on Radio Today at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

After Radio Today had scored what appeared to be a challenging 92-2 in their share of six overs in the six-a-side tournament, The Daily Star's opening pair of Abul Kalam Azad and Fazlur Rahman merrily chased down that target with three balls to spare.

While Azad muscled his way to an unbeaten 40, a sublime Fazlur meant business, hitting the winning runs with a mighty sixer for an unbeaten 44. Fazlur was adjudged player of the match.

The win served as a perfect boost for the leading English daily ahead of today's game against BanglaVision TV.

In the day's other matches, Banglamail clinched a seven-run win over Independent TV while The Manobkantha beat UNB by 34 runs and The Daily Observer beat BDNEWS24 by four wickets.

The Dhaka Reporters Unity is hosting the annual event with forty media outlets taking part.

Speculation irks Pep

AFP, Berlin

Bayern Munich coach Pep Guardiola admits he "can't be bothered" answering constant questions concerning speculation about English clubs with his current contract due to expire in June.

Chelsea, whose manager Jose Mourinho is under severe pressure, are the latest in a string of Premier League clubs who have been linked to Guardiola recently by the UK media.

In past months, the Spaniard has been heavily linked to Manchester City and even the Brazil and England national team coaching jobs, but now he has had enough.

"The subject is always the same. I am not going to answer them. I can't be bothered with it anymore," said Guardiola when asked by reporters about the Chelsea rumours.

Mourinho hit with fresh FA charge

AFP, London



Beleaguered Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho has hit with a misconduct charge from the Football Association on Monday following his half-time rant in the Premier League champions' shock 2-1 defeat against West Ham.

Mourinho is already appealing against a £50,000 (\$76,000, 69,000 euros) fine and suspended one-match stadium ban for comments made about officials following Chelsea's home loss against Southampton earlier this month.

And he faces further charges after being sent to the stands by Jonathan Moss for letting rip at the referee when he went to see him in the officials' changing room during the interval at Upton Park on Saturday.

"Jose Mourinho has been charged with misconduct in relation to his language and/or behaviour towards the match officials in or around the dressing room area at half-time," an FA statement confirmed.

Silvino Louro, one of Mourinho's assistants, had already been sent off earlier in the



London derby following his protests after Nemanja Matic was sent off for two bookable offences and he has also been charged with misconduct.

Mourinho was infuriated both by the Matic dismissal and the decision ruling Cesc Fabregas offside when the Chelsea midfielder finished off a Willian pass for what would have been the equaliser.

After suffering the indignity of having to sit among celebrating West Ham fans as Andy Carroll headed the late winner, he then ignored Premier League regulations by refusing to speak to the media after the match and is likely to face a another fine as a result.

Mourinho's suspended stadium ban relates to any future critical comments he makes to the media however, so his latest antics won't trigger that punishment.

Both Chelsea and West Ham have also been charged for failing to control their players in the aftermath of the challenge which led to Matic's dismissal.

"Chelsea coach Silvino Louro has also been charged with misconduct in relation to his behaviour which led to his 45th minute dismissal from the technical area," the FA statement added.

Neymar's mother facing fraud charge

AFP, Madrid



The latest person caught up in Neymar's poisonous 2013 transfer from Santos to Barcelona is the Brazilian star's mother, who is to face fraud charges, judicial sources revealed on Tuesday.

In June, Spain's National Court revealed a lawsuit alleging "corruption and swindling" by Neymar, his father and the player's former club Santos.

Now the same Madrid court has revealed it will also investigate Nadine Gonçalves da Silva Santos, the player's mother, who holds a 50 percent stake in the company that runs her son's affairs.

The case has been brought by a Brazilian investment fund, DIS, which owned part of the transfer rights for the player when he was at Santos.

They claim they were cheated in a murky transfer deal that Barcelona and Santos originally said had cost 57 million euros but that Spanish authorities say cost Barca at least 83.3 million euros.

DIS believe an agreement between Neymar and Barcelona saw 40 million euros paid to the player's management company to stop other clubs bidding for him and that they were deprived of a cut.

The Spanish court asserts several top European clubs including Manchester City and Real Madrid had indeed been interested in signing the player.

France open to taking Barca

AGENCIES, Paris

It appears that the Catalan nationalist cause has found an overseas ally. French Prime Minister Manuel Valls has opened the doors to the French League to the Catalan giants.

An article in the magazine 'Challenges' said that the politician, who is a massive Barça fan, is willing to offer the Catalan club a place in France's top flight. "All things considered, Monaco play in the French League, so..." said Manuel Valls in France.

In an interview in 'el Journal du Dimanche', the French Prime Minister spoke of his love for FC Barcelona. "When I was a teenager, back in August 1975, a few weeks before Franco died, I remember the amazing atmosphere there was inside the stadium. Barça's history is not only linked to football. I'm a huge football fan, a Barça fan. They're in my blood. France knows it and they ask me about it on the streets".

Roma aim to take charge

AFP, Milan



Roma will seek to succeed where both Fiorentina and Inter Milan have failed by entrenching themselves at the top of Serie A when they go in search of a fifth consecutive win at home to Udinese on Wednesday.

Goals from Mohamed Salah and Gervinho in a 2-1 win over Fiorentina at the weekend fired Rudi Garcia's men to the top of Serie A for the first time this season to underline their title credentials.

After a middling start, Roma have hit their stride but Frenchman Garcia played down any premature talk of the Giallorossi landing their first scudetto since 2001 when Fabio Capello was in charge.

"We can't be favourites now just because we're in first place. Not so long ago we were all rubbish, from the players to the coach and even the sporting director," Garcia told media after his side's victory saw them replace Fiorentina at the summit.

"We just keep doing our job and right now we're first after a quarter of the season. I don't need to tell my

players they need to keep their feet on the ground.

"We believe in ourselves if we stick together and show humility, but there's a long way to go," he added.

However, Garcia will be without suspended midfield general Daniele de Rossi as well as leading scorer Salah, who was sent off towards the end of Sunday's victory in Florence.

FIXTURES	
(all times 1945 GMT)	
Wednesday	Atalanta v Lazio, Frosinone v Carpi, Verona v Fiorentina, AC Milan v Chievo, Napoli v Palermo, Roma v Udinese, Sassuolo v Juventus, Torino v Genoa
Thursday	

Napoli are up to second having also reeled off four straight wins, the latest a Gonzalo Higuain-inspired 1-0 victory at Chievo, but the Argentine said he and his team-mates weren't looking too far ahead.

"We are sending a message to ourselves. We're focusing only on what we do and not looking at what the other teams are doing," Higuain told Sky Sport Italia.

"It's a very balanced league and there are several teams bunched together with a very long way to go," added the Argentina striker, the league's joint-top scorer this term with seven goals.

Back-to-back defeats have dropped Fiorentina from first to third but a trip to winless Verona will give La Viola a chance to rediscover the form that enabled Paulo Sousa's men to begin the season with six wins in seven matches.

Inter Milan's title challenge has also lost steam with Roberto Mancini's men winless in their last four outings, but the Nerazzurri will strive to get back on track Tuesday when they travel to 18th-placed Bologna.

Fifth-placed Lazio, one of four teams just two points behind leaders Roma, head to Atalanta vying for a fifth win in six, while AC Milan, who recorded a first win in four after beating Sassuolo 2-1 on Sunday, are at home to Chievo.

Struggling champions Juventus appear to be finally finding some form with seven points from their last three matches. Massimiliano Allegri's 12th-placed side will aim to continue their resurgence when they travel to Sassuolo.

Rooney testimonial next season

AFP, London



Manchester United captain Wayne Rooney will have a testimonial next season after a campaign by supporters to honour the England striker's long service to the club.

Rooney will play in a testimonial match for a Manchester United XI against a yet-to-be-named opponent at Old Trafford on August 3, 2016.

Details of the players and managers who will be involved on the day are expected to be revealed over the next few weeks.

The 30-year-old has vowed to donate all the profits from the match to the NSPCC, Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Claire House Hospice, and the Manchester United Foundation through the newly-formed Wayne Rooney foundation.

Rooney's representatives said United awarded the England captain a testimonial following a meeting between "like-minded individuals and Manchester United fans" who wrote to executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward asking that a testimonial be awarded following the player's 11-year spell at the club.

"I would like to thank everyone involved in making this testimonial become a reality," Rooney said.

that we can also deliver one or two surprises.

"Most of all I hope the fans will come out in force and help raise as much money as possible for these amazing charities, all of which are very close to my heart for different reasons."

Since joining United from Everton in 2004, Rooney has won the Premier League five times, the Champions League once and the League Cup twice.

Rooney has also gained a host of individual accolades and is now just 13 goals short of Bobby Charlton's all-time United scoring record, having already broken his record England goal tally this season.

"I am delighted that United fans will be able to celebrate Wayne's amazing years at the club in this way," Woodward said.

"From his sensational debut hat-trick to the latest of his 236 goals, he has been a central figure in what has been one of the most successful periods in the club's history."

Wayne Rooney certainly raised a few eyebrows this week when he described his Manchester United team-mate Chris Smalling as one of the 'top three centre-halves in the world.'

The United captain told United Review: "He has been incredible and for me his is right up there in world football in terms of centre-halves."

"He is in the top three centre-halves in the world - I think he is that good!"

While it is true that Smalling's game for both club and country has come on leaps and bounds over the past year, Rooney might just be jumping the gun a little bit.

Mishra gets bail

AFP, Bangalore

India leg-spinner Amit Mishra was arrested on Tuesday and later released on bail for allegedly assaulting a woman filmmaker in his hotel room, police said.

The woman, reportedly a friend of the 32-year-old cricketer, lodged a complaint with police over the alleged incident last month in the southern city of Bangalore.

Mishra, who could be jailed if convicted of assault, played in the recent one-day series against South Africa and is part of the squad for the Test series starting on November 5.

"Mishra was formally arrested after a three-hour interrogation in the assault case by the investigation officer and released on bail as the offence is bailable," Bangalore deputy commissioner of police Sandeep Patil told reporters.

"We have collected details from Mishra, including his version of the incident," Patil said.

"We will complete the investigation and submit the case report to a local court soon, where he will have to face trial on summons by the court."