

<h1>What to WATCH</h1>	STAR SPORTS1 India v South Africa First Test, Day 2 Live from 10:00am	STAR SPORTS2 Australia v New Zealand First Test, Day 2 Live from 6:00am Bundesliga Hannover v Hertha Berlin	TEN ACTION Asian Tour Day 2 Live from 3:30pm	SONY KIX Primera Liga Las Palmas v Real Sociedad Live from 1:30am (Saturday)
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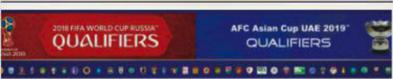
SERENA CATCHES PHONE THIEF

Serena Williams chased down a man, who stole her phone while dining at a restaurant, and even shared the empowering story. The 34-year-old tennis star described her adventure on Facebook and even posted a picture of her wearing a 'Supergirl' outfit. In her post, Williams said that she was dining at a Chinese restaurant, when "something (I have now dubbed it my Superhero sense) told me to watch the guy standing next to me." Serena's phone was beside her, when suddenly the man grabbed it and left. Serena jumped out of the restaurant and chased down the man. After catching him, Williams asked him if he 'accidentally' took the wrong phone, to which, the man said "Gosh you know what I did! It



'We're not going on holiday'

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh football team leave Dhaka for Dushanbe today to play their Group B World Cup and Asian Cup qualifying away match against Tajikistan.

The game of the two lightweights will take place in the Tajik capital on November 12. And prior to the departure, Bangladesh's Italian coach Fabio Lopez warned that his boys are not going there for holidays, rather they will be seeking their first win in the qualifying campaign.

"I expect a win because we are not going to Tajikistan for holiday. The question is that any away match is always a hard one because it is not your home match but sometime it can be positive because the players feel no pressure like they do in a home match. The physiological action can also be different from the home match.

"We know Tajikistan will try everything to win but we are not scared at all," said Lopez during a press conference at the BFF House yesterday.

Bangladesh, who have so far won their only point from five outings and that too following a 1-1 home draw against Tajikistan in June, will look to improve on that after an inspiring performance under Lopez in Kyrgyzstan last month, where they played well before going down 2-0.

Although a victory in Dushanbe, a tough proposition for Bangladesh against a team who drew 2-2 at home against Kyrgyzstan, will mean little as far as the battle for the qualification in the next round for a dream 2018 Russia World Cup



Bangladesh's Italian coach Fabio Lopez (L) and captain Mamunul Islam speak during a press conference at the BFF House yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

ticket, those three points or even a point from a drawn result will brighten Bangladesh's chances of a direct entry into the 2016 Asian Cup Qualifiers.

The early departure of Bangladesh for Dushanbe also indicates that they are desperate to acclimatise with the chilly weather in the central Asian nation. The match will also serve as a perfect build-up for Bangladesh's dream home match against the Soccerroos on November 17.

Bangladesh has so far played their best game in terms of result against Tajikistan at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, where they had

to surrender Zahid Hasan Emily's 50-minute lead to a 10-man Tajikistan three minutes from time.

But the introduction of Lopez after the BFF had part ways with Lodewijk de Kruif three months ago, Bangladesh football has seen an improvement in defence and it was evident in the match against Kyrgyzstan.

The 42-year-old Italian, who has shown the guts of overlooking Emily and winger Zahid Hossain, once again stressed that he would not compromise fitness for 'so-called' quality players.

"I think our team has earned some self-confidence in the last few months. We will go there and play our own match," said Lopez adding that

Strong start for Siddikur

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman marked his return to his favourite Delhi track with a four-under-par 68 on the opening day of the US 400,000 dollars Panasonic Open India yesterday.

The premier Bangladesh golfer, who won his second Asian Tour title at the Delhi Golf Club course two years ago in a nail-biting Hero Indian Open finale, started the day unimpressively. He hit a bogey in the third hole but grew in confidence as the day progressed, hitting five birdies including in the last two holes.

Siddikur finished the day two shots behind Mithun Perera, who hit seven birdies against a bogey for a six-under 66.

The bubbly Sri Lankan, who is searching for a first Asian Tour title, holds a one-shot advantage over an in-form Chiragh Kumar of India and Sattaya Supupramai of Thailand, who missed a five-foot birdie on the last hole.

However, Siddikur was even par at the turn but four birdies on his homeward nine including a curling birdie on 18 kept him within striking distance of his close friend Perera.

"It wasn't a bad start! I enjoyed my day. The fairways are soft so it is playing slightly longer but I made some good putts and that helped. It is nice to see Mithun leading. I think all the accurate players will do well here," said Siddikur, who is desperately looking to end an otherwise forgettable year on a high.

The 30-year-old golfer has won once at the venerable Delhi course and finished runner-up on three occasions in the last five years.

Meanwhile, another Bangladeshi Zamal Mollah,

France exclude scandal hit duo

AFP, Paris

French stars Karim Benzema, who is at the centre of a sex tape blackmail scandal, and Mathieu Valbuena, the victim of the extortion attempt, were excluded from the France squad named on Thursday for two international matches this month.

They were left out hours after a French judge formally charged Real Madrid striker Benzema with complicity to blackmail Valbuena.

France play Germany on November 13 in Paris and England on November 17 at Wembley in friendlies as they prepare to host the European Championships next year.

French coach Didier Deschamps refused to comment on the legal case but said Benzema was injured and not available to play for Real Madrid or France anyway.

He added that Lyon playmaker Valbuena "isn't in the best psychological condition because of this affair so I decided to let him rest during these games."

"The best is to let justice do its work and take the decisions it has to," Deschamps said.

The coach refused to answer other questions on the case.

KFC WOMEN'S FOOTBALL C'SHIPS Kushtia get huge win

SPORTS REPORTER

Khulna, Jamalpur, Khagrachari, Dinajpur, Kushtia and Faridpur won their respective matches of the KFC national women's football championship played across different venues of the country yesterday.

Khulna beat hosts Jessore 2-0 while Jamalpur beat Joypurhat 1-0 in Rajshahi. Khagrachari beat Sylhet 3-2 in tiebreakers after the match ended 1-1 in Laxmipur. Dinajpur romped to a 4-0 victory of Gaibandha in Rangpur while Kushtia did one better and put five without reply past hosts Meherpur. Hosts Faridpur

WALTON 29TH JR TENNIS Dutch duo in semis

SPORTS REPORTER

Lian and Tran Demi from the Netherlands moved into the girl's singles final in the Walton 29th Bangladesh International Junior Tennis Tournament after defeating their respective rivals at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

Lian beat Mays Lisa of Australia 6-4, 7-5 while Tran beat Karunaratne of Sri Lanka 6-7, 6-3, 6-0 in the semifinals.

India's Sunish, Jagtiani and Sonami and Syria's Naw Hazem moved into the semifinals of the boy's singles after defeating their respective rivals in the quarterfinals.

Benzema charged in extortion case

AFP, Versailles



Real Madrid striker Karim Benzema was charged Thursday in an extortion case involving a sex tape featuring fellow French international Mathieu Valbuena, prosecutors said Thursday.

Benzema, 27, has been charged with "complicity in an attempt to blackmail" and conspiring to commit a criminal act, the prosecutor's office in Versailles, outside Paris, said. The charges carry a prison sentence of at least five years.

Benzema was also banned from meeting Lyon midfielder Valbuena, a legal constraint that puts in question the two players' future involvement in the French national team.

Benzema's lawyer said the player, a key part of the national team and an important source of goals for Real Madrid, insisted he was innocent.

The player has told investigators he approached Valbuena about the tape on behalf of "a childhood friend".

Benzema spent the night in custody in Versailles after being arrested on Wednesday.

"Karim Benzema has admitted speaking to Valbuena at the request of a childhood friend, who was approached by three blackmailers who were in possession of the sex tape," a source close to the investigation said.

"Benzema said he had agreed with his childhood friend on what he should say so that his teammate (Valbuena) would negotiate exclusively with him."

Benzema is said to have had a conversation with Valbuena about the sex tape when the French squad met for training on October 5 ahead of friendly internationals.

The three alleged blackmailers, who are all in custody, had first contacted a friend of Benzema's brother seeking to involve the player in their extortion attempt, a source said.

The centre-forward has scored 27 goals in 81 appearances for France and has already notched six league goals this season for Real.

The blackmail case began in June, when Valbuena lodged a complaint with police after being telephoned by an unknown person who said he had the sex tape.

The caller did not specify a sum of money but said they should come to an arrangement.

Police then took over, posing as Valbuena's business associate in later calls with the blackmailers, who threatened to release the video ahead of the Euro 2016 championships, which France is hosting.

The investigation led them to three men, including one who was a close member of Valbuena's entourage and who had direct access to the footballer's phone containing the sex tape.

Bayern rout Arsenal

AFP, Paris



Arsenal's hopes of reaching the Champions League knockout phase were left hanging by a thrash on Wednesday after they were thrashed 5-1 by Bayern Munich, while Chelsea revived their faltering campaign with a nervy 2-1 victory over Dynamo Kiev.

Zenit St Petersburg became the third team to reach the last 16 of the competition as the Russian champions maintained their 100 per cent record with a 2-0 win at Lyon, while Barcelona edged closer towards qualification after strolling past BATE Borisov 3-0.

Robert Lewandowski headed Bayern into a 10th-minute lead as Arsenal's attempt to catch the Poland striker offside backfired.

Thomas Mueller added a second just before the half hour as his shot

RESULTS	
Barcelona (Neymar 30-pen, 83, Suarez 60)	3 - 0 BATE Borisov
Roma (Salah 2, Dzeko 29, Pjanic 81-pen)	3 - 2 Leverkusen (Mehmedi 46, Hernandez 51)
Bayern Munich (Lewandowski 10, Mueller 29, 89, Alaba 44, Robben 55)	5 - 1 Arsenal (Giroud 69)
Olympiakos (Pardo 65, 90)	2 - 1 Dinamo Zagreb (Hodzic 21)
Maccabi Tel Aviv (Zehavy 75-pen)	1 - 3 Porto (Tello 19, Andre 49, Layun 72)
Chelsea (Dragovic 34-og, Willian 83)	2 - 1 Dynamo Kiev (Dragovic 78)
Lyon	0 - 2 Zenit (Dzyuba 25, 57)
Gent	1 - 0 Valencia

deflected off Per Mertesacker and crept in at Petr Cech's near post.

David Alaba effectively put the game beyond reach just before the

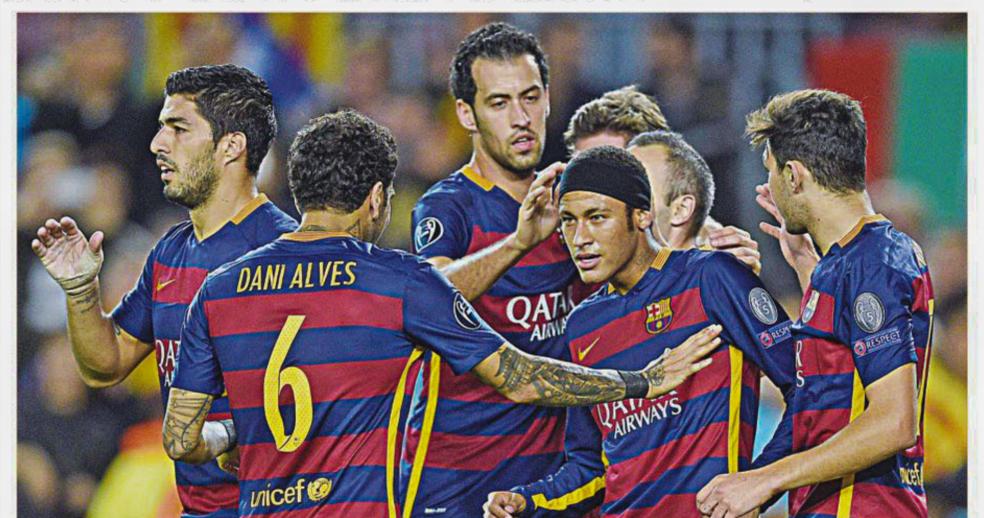
break as the Austrian curled home a third after stealing the ball from Santi Cazorla on the edge of the area.

Substitute Arjen Robben then smashed home an Alaba cutback early in the second half while Olivier Giroud's acrobatic effort pulled one back for the Gunners.

But Mueller compounded Arsenal's misery a minute from time to condemn the Gunners to their joint-heaviest European defeat, equalling the 4-0 drubbing at AC Milan in the last 16 of the 2011/12 edition.

A chastening evening for the Londoners was made all the more damaging as Olympiakos recovered from a goal down to beat Dinamo Zagreb 2-1, leaving Arsenal six points behind the Greeks, and Bayern, with two games to play.

Meanwhile, beleaguered Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho was a much-relieved man after Willian helped steer the Blues past their Ukrainian



Barcelona star Neymar (C) celebrates one of his two goals with teammates during their Champions League match at the Nou Camp on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP

Neymar in best form of his life

AFP, Barcelona

Brazilian striker Neymar said he is in the form of his life after netting twice as Barcelona eased past BATE Borisov 3-0 in the Champions League on Wednesday.

Neymar also set up Barca's other goal on the night for Luis Suarez as the defending champions moved to within a point of sealing their place in the last 16.

Suarez and Neymar have now combined for 18 of Barca's last 21 goals since four-time World Player of the Year Lionel Messi suffered knee ligament damage nearly six weeks ago.

Barca remain hopeful Messi could be fit to face Real Madrid in just over two weeks' time.

But Neymar admitted he is enjoying sharing the responsibility of leading the Catalans along with Suarez in Messi's absence.

"It is clear we miss Messi, but I am in the form of my life and I hope to continue like this," he told beIN Sports.

Neymar opened the scoring from the penalty spot before teeing up Suarez to double the advantage on the hour mark.

The Uruguayan then returned the favour as his unselfish pass presented Neymar with an open goal for his second of the night and 11th of the season seven minutes from time.

Warner walks the talk

AFP, Brisbane



David Warner backed up his feisty words with runs as he hit his 13th Test century and Usman Khawaja claimed his maiden ton as Australia took an iron grip on day one of the first Test against New Zealand on Thursday.

The outspoken Warner, who had derided the Kiwis as "Mr. Nice Guys" and vowed an aggressive approach, lived up to his promise with his second-highest Test score against an overwhelming New Zealand attack at the Gabba.

With Warner plundering 163 runs off 224 balls, the Australians pounded the ragged Black Caps to go to stumps at 389 for two -- their highest first-day score at the Brisbane ground.

Khawaja also cashed in, reaching his first Test century just before the close and finishing the day unbeaten on 102 with skipper Steve Smith not out on 41.

Along the way Smith raised 1,000 Test runs in the calendar year as Australia eased doubts about their new-look side after a host of retirements at the start of the three-match series.

Warner was finally out to one of his few false strokes of the day, but it took Ross Taylor's marvellous one-handed catch above his head at slip to snare the prized wicket off James Neesham.

The irrepressible left-hander smashed 22 fours and one six for his second-highest Test score, after his 180 against India in Perth almost three years ago.

Only four Australian openers -- Matt Hayden (30), Mark Taylor (19), Justin Langer (16) and Michael Slater (14) -- have amassed more Test centuries than Warner's 13.

Warner shared in two mammoth stands with Joe Burns (161) and Khawaja (150) to have the Australians in full flow at a ground where they have not lost a Test match since 1988.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: First innings 389 for 2 (Burns 71, Warner 163, Khawaja 102 not out, Smith

edumaker Laptop Fair

2015

Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC)

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