

TEN 1
UEFA Champions League
 Bayern Munich v Benfica
 Live from 12:45am (Wednesday)

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 Barcelona v Atletico Madrid
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DAY'S EVENT

KFC Independence Cup Venue: BNS	Sk Russel v Arambagh Time: 4:00pm	Muktijoddha v Ctg Abahani Time: 6:30pm
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WILSHERE REPORTEDLY ROWDY

Arsenal midfielder Jack Wilshere was allegedly involved in an incident with police outside a London nightclub, according to a video released on Sunday. The footage, released by The Daily Mirror, purports to show the player, who has not played for almost a year through injury, remonstrating with officers in the early hours of Sunday morning. Reports suggest that Wilshere had been involved in an argument inside the Cafe de Paris club, which later spilled out into the street, although there has been no official confirmation of events. Neither Arsenal nor Wilshere have commented on the alleged video or incident. --AGENCIES



Fate of eight still undecided SC upholds HC ruling

SPORTS REPORTER

The Supreme Court (SC) upheld a High Court (HC) order that asks the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) not to allow eight players to play in any team other than Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club.

Following a writ petition filed by Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club, the HC on March 28 ordered the president and general secretary of BFF not to allow those eight footballers to play any clubs except Sheikh Jamal DC.

A three-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC headed by Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain heard an appeal filed by BFF against the HC order yesterday but ultimately passed the motion with the option to re-appeal. Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh was among others present on behalf of BFF.

"The full bench upheld the high court order and asked to solve the writ petition at the high court. Upholding the order by the Supreme Court means those eight players will not be able to play for any clubs except Sheikh Jamal," said Sheikh Jamal's lawyer

barrister Ruhul Kuddus Kazal.

The HC also issued a rule asking the BFF authorities to explain in four weeks as to why the BFF's failure to return the eight footballers to the club [Sheikh Jamal] on January 19 should not be declared illegal.

Fate of those eight - players Mamunul Islam, Nasiruddin Chowdhury, Sohel Rana, Raihan Hasan, Yeamin Ahmed Munna, Shahidul Alam, Alamgir Kabir and Jamal Bhuiyan who signed for different clubs this season, still hang in balance and they are likely to stay away from playing in any clubs in the ongoing Independence Cup.

"Before the start of the Independence Cup, the participating clubs have agreed to take part in the tournament without those eight players, so all clubs and players have to wait until the writ is solved," said BFF professional football league committee chairman Abdus Salam Murshedy.

However, Sheikh Jamal DC president Manzur Kader asked the game's governing body to send back their eight players in line with the Supreme Court order and urged those eight players to come back to their home and play for Sheikh Jamal.



Sheikh Jamal striker Enamul Haque celebrates his opening goal against Mohammedan during their KFC Independence Cup match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh lose to India

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh chess team suffered a 1.5-2.5 defeat to leaders India in the seventh round of Asian Nations Cup Chess in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates on Sunday.

IM Minhaz Uddin beat Indian GM Sethuraman and GM Abdullah Al Rakib drew with GM Vidit Santosh Gujrathi, but GM Niaz Murshed and GM Abdullah Al Rakib lost to GM Adhiban and GM Krishnan Saikiran respectively to concede the third defeat in seven matches.

Bangladesh, who have secured eight points from seven matches, were playing against Jordan in the eighth round when this report was filed.

Youth Kabaddi from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The IGP Cup Youth Kabaddi championship gets underway today at the Kabaddi Stadium with the participation of seven divisional champions and holders Dhaka.

The eight participating teams, split into two groups, will play the round-robin matches and then top two teams from each group will advance to the semifinals. Sylhet will take on Comilla in the opening match.

The Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation (BKF) had last year held the preliminary round of the youth championship with the participation of all 64 district and some 6240 players took part in the preliminary round.

The champions and runners-up of the championship, which started in 1982, will be awarded Tk 1 lakh and Tk 50,000 respectively. The best player of the championship will also be awarded Tk 10,000.

BKF president and Inspector general of police AKM Shahidul Haque disclosed these details at a press conference at the Police Headquarters yesterday. He also informed that they will provide higher training to 35 selected players to build up a national B team in the future.

Novak equals Agassi record

REUTERS, Miami

Top seed Novak Djokovic continued his domination of men's tennis with a 6-3 6-3 win over Japan's Kei Nishikori in the Miami Open final in Florida on Sunday, before quickly turning his thoughts to the upcoming clay court season.

The French Open is the only grand slam missing from Djokovic's otherwise glittering resume, but he has already been installed by the bookmakers as odds-on favourite for Roland Garros after a magnificent start to 2016.

Djokovic dropped serve in the first game against Nishikori but it was pretty much one-way traffic after that as he outclassed the sixth seed in all facets of the game on the hardcourt at Key Biscayne.

The 28-year-old Serb took 85 minutes to join American Andre Agassi as a six-time Miami Open winner.

Djokovic said his first Miami win in 2007 paved the way for a career that now includes 63 ATP titles.

"It gave me a lot of confidence, a lot of self belief that I can finally win these big tournaments, finally beat the top players," he said in a post-match interview.

He collected \$1,028,300 on Sunday, becoming the sport's all-time leading money-winner with career earnings approaching \$100 million.

Barca aim to rebound

AFP, Paris



Holders Barcelona will seek to overcome their defeat in El Clasico when they host Atletico Madrid on Tuesday in an all-Spanish Champions League quarterfinal, first leg at the Camp Nou.

On a night when Barca paid tribute to the late Dutch great Johan Cruyff, the Catalan giants' 39-game unbeaten run came to a halt after goals from Karim Benzema and Cristiano Ronaldo erased Gerard Pique's opener.

"For me this game is history," said Barca coach Luis Enrique, electing to turn the page rather than reflect on Saturday's loss.

"There is no pain. We came into the game on the back of many games without losing, but defeats can teach you things and the players know that."

Barcelona have won the last six meetings with Atletico, but it was Los Rojiblancos who advanced when the two sides clashed at this stage of the 2013-14 competition -- the only time Barca have failed to reach the semis in the past eight seasons.

Bayern Munich host Portuguese league leaders Benfica in the first leg with Pep Guardiola's side bidding to reach the last four for the fifth year running.

Bayern laboured to a 1-0 win at home to Eintracht Frankfurt as they remained five points clear of Borussia Dortmund in the Bundesliga, but skipper Philipp Lahm warned they would need to up their level against Benfica.

"After an international break it's often difficult. That's perfectly normal," said Lahm.

"I think it's going to be a completely different match (on Tuesday). We'll be perfectly prepared. We need a better performance, but I'm not worrying about that."

Bayern will be without Arjen Robben at the Allianz Arena, but the hosts should have France winger Kingsley Coman available after sitting out Saturday's victory with a leg injury.

Chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge has warned Bayern need to produce more than Ribery's stunning bicycle kick against Benfica: "That won't be enough on Tuesday."

The Bavarians know they can ill afford a repeat offkey display as they hunt a fifth straight appearance in the Champions League semi-finals.

History is on the Bavarians' side.

Bayern have won all three previous meetings with Benfica in European competition on their way to winning the 1975/76 European Cup, reaching the 1981/82 European Cup final and lifting the UEFA Cup in 1995/96.



Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi (R) controls the ball during a training session at the Joan Gamper Sports Center in Sant Joan Despi yesterday on the eve of their Champions League quarterfinal against Atletico Madrid. PHOTO: AFP

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FACTFILE

COACHES
 Barcelona - Luis Enrique (ESP) -- 45 yrs
 Atletico Madrid - Diego Simeone (ARG) - 45 yrs

LEADING SCORERS IN ALL COMPETITIONS
 Barcelona - Luis Suarez (43 goals)
 Atletico Madrid - Antoine Griezmann (26 goals)

ROAD TO THE QUARTERFINALS
 Barcelona - Winners of Group E ahead of Roma, beat Arsenal 5-1 on aggregate in last 16
 Atletico Madrid - Winners of Group C ahead of Benfica, beat PSV Eindhoven on penalties after 0-0 aggregate draw in last 16

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE BEST PERFORMANCES
 Barcelona - Winners in 1992, 2006, 2009, 2011 and 2015
 Atletico Madrid - runners-up 1974, 2014

PREVIOUS MEETINGS
 Barcelona 3 Atletico Madrid 1 - 2014-15 La Liga
 Barcelona 1 Atletico Madrid 0 - 2014-15 Spanish Cup quarterfinals
 Atletico Madrid 2 Barcelona 3 - 2014-15 Spanish Cup quarterfinals
 Atletico Madrid 0 Barcelona 1 - 2014-15 La Liga
 Atletico Madrid 1 Barcelona 2 - 2015-16 La Liga
 Barcelona 2 Atletico Madrid 1 - 2015-16 La Liga

Nevertheless Rui Vitoria will bring his Benfica side to the Allianz Arena knowing it will be "very difficult, but we are up for a challenge".

"Sometimes the only way to neutralise tougher opponents is to recognise their strengths, be aware that it will be a hard match, and understand that to achieve anything you have to go through difficulties," Vitoria told UEFA.com.

Sk Jamal too strong for Mohammedan

SPORTS REPORTER



with the Bangladesh Football Federation, Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club began their KFC Independence Cup campaign with a 2-0 win over defending champions Mohammedan SC at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

National discard Enamul Haque and Haitian hitman Wedson Anselme struck one goal apiece in the first half to give three-time professional football league champions a winning start in season's first domestic match after their three successive international defeats in the ongoing AFC Cup.

The match between failing giants Mohammedan and country's new powerhouse Sheikh Jamal was entertaining as both teams played attacking football where Sheikh Jamal dominated the first half before Mohammedan took control of the game in the second half.

Sheikh Jamal, who have reduced their strength due to the departure of some top players relied on the pace of three proven foreign campaigners - Wedson, Emeka Darlington and Landing Darboe, who were the main architects in Sheikh Jamal's successes in past.

Despite little help from colleagues, the trio proved themselves again as Landing fed

Enamul for the opener while Wedson doubled the margin with his brilliant skill.

However, it was Mohammedan, who launched the first attack in the very second minute with a 35-yard shot from striker Aminur Rahman Sajib going inches over the crosspiece after beating goalkeeper Mazharul Islam Himel.

After surviving the initial scare, Sheikh Jamal took the lead in the ninth minute when Landing ran down from the right to enter the danger zone and fed an unmarked Enamul, who just drove home inside the six-yard box and then Wedson availing a through-pass raced into the box to place the ball to the left-hand side of goalkeeper Nehal to double the margin in the 16th minute.

Going down by two goals, Mohammedan looked determined to pull back the goals and produced a couple of good attacks that saw Masuk Mia Jonny missed the target narrowly while a header from Cameroonian defender Pouemi Landry Jamal was brilliantly saved from the goalline by defender Anisur Alam Sweet in the 20th minute.

After resumption, Mohammedan gained the upperhand in terms of creating chances but defender Landry, midfielder Masuk and Guinean striker Ismael Bangoura could not cash in on those opportunities that resulted in defending champions Mohammedan's first defeat of the season.

Chelsea seal Conte deal

AFP, London

Italy coach Antonio Conte was named as Chelsea's new manager on Monday after the reigning Premier League champions announced he had signed a three-year deal that will start following Euro 2016.

The 46-year-old former Juventus boss took over the Italian national team in August 2014 and secured their qualification for the European Championship.

"I am happy we have made the announcement now so everything is clear and we can end the speculation," said Conte in a statement on Chelsea's website.

"I will continue to focus on my job with the Italian national team and will reserve speaking about Chelsea again until after the Euros."

Chelsea have been without a permanent manager since the London club sacked former boss Jose Mourinho in December after they lost nine out of the first 16 games of their Premier League title defence.

Under Dutch coach Hiddink, they have mounted something of a recovery and last weekend's 4-0 win away to bottom of the table Aston Villa left Chelsea tenth in the 20-team Premier League.

PANAMA PAPERS Messi may sue media

GOAL.COM

Lionel Messi's family have dismissed accusations made following the release of the 'Panama Papers' as "false and libellous".

The so-called 'Panama Papers' leak comprised of around 11 million confidential documents from Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca anonymously passed to German newspaper Suddeutsche Zeitung, which then shared them with the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists.

The documents alleged widespread tax evasion networks throughout the world - with some of the allegations linked to football and Messi.

But in a statement released yesterday, the Messi family suggested that they are considering legal action against "media outlets that have published this news".

"In response to the news released by various media outlets in which Lionel Messi is held responsible for the forming of a company with the aim of 'putting in place a new web of tax fraud', the Messi family wishes to make it clear that Lionel Messi has not carried out any of the actions he is accused of, the accusations of having created a new web of tax fraud and, even, money laundering, are false and libellous," the statement read.

"The Panamanian company referred to in the reports is a completely inactive company, which never held open accounts nor funds and which comes from the former company structure put in place by Messi's previous financial advisers, the fiscal consequences of which have already been normalised, with all the income that comes from exploitation of his image rights, prior to and after the procedure carried out in the courts, having been declared before the Spanish Treasury.

Apart from Messi suspended UEFA chief Michel Platini's name was also found in the papers.

The Panama Papers' also claim the law firm of a FIFA ethics watchdog had business relationships with three men recently indicted in football's global corruption scandal.

Documents also bring to light how some players use offshore companies to bank money from image rights deals.