

Dhaka Premier Cricket League
Time: 9:00am
Venue: SBNS
Victoria SC v Kalabagan KC
Venue: BKSP-3

Brothers Union v Sk Jamal
Venue: Fatullah
Legends of Rugganj v Cricket Coaching School
Green Delta Premier Div Hockey
Azad SC v Wari Club

Time: 2:00pm
S Bima v Mohammedan
Time: 4:00pm
Venue: Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium

Wawrinka, Murray thru'

AFP, Paris



Defending French Open champion Stan Wawrinka reached the third round on Wednesday after labouring to a 7-6 (9/7), 6-3, 6-4 win over Japan's Taro Daniel.

The third-seeded Swiss fended off two set points against world number 93 Daniel in an opening tie-break, and Wawrinka was also forced to rally from a break down in the third set before wrapping up a straight-sets victory.

Having narrowly avoiding becoming the first reigning Roland Garros champion to lose in the first round when he was taken to five sets by Lukas Rosol, Wawrinka was relieved to eventually come through unscathed against a player with just one Grand Slam win to his name.

"I'm happy to get through in three sets. For sure it was some up and down, could have been better, but winning three sets, it's always good, and in general I think it's been a good day," said Wawrinka.

Wawrinka will face 32nd-ranked Frenchman Jeremy Chardy, an opponent the Swiss has beaten in all four previous meetings, for a place in the last 16.

Britain's Andy Murray survived a monumental second-round upset as he battled back to beat 164th-ranked local wildcard Mathias Bourgue 6-2, 2-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Second seed Murray looked poised for a routine victory after sweeping to the opening set against Bourgue, but the Frenchman stunned the world number two by claiming the next two sets to leave Murray facing his earliest Grand Slam exit since 2008.

However, the two-time major champion responded in the fourth to force a decider, and Murray completed a second straight nervy five-set win having been taken the distance by Radek Stepánek in the opening round.

Murray, a three-time Roland Garros semi-finalist, will play veteran big-serving Croat Ivo Karlovic for a place in the last 16.

Croatian 37-year-old Ivo Karlovic became the oldest man since Jimmy Connors in 1991 to reach the French Open third round.

Karlovic, the 27th seed, defeated Australian wildcard Jordan Thompson 6-7 (2/7), 6-3, 7-6 (7/3), 6-7 (4/7), 12-10 in a four and a half hour marathon. Connors was 38 years and 280 days old when he fell in the French Open third round in 1991.



Stanislas Wawrinka celebrates winning his men's singles second round match against Taro Daniel at the Roland Garros in Paris yesterday.

Ronaldo back in training

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo alleviated concerns over his fitness ahead of Saturday's Champions League final against Atletico Madrid as the three-time World Player of the Year returned to training on Wednesday.

Ronaldo limped off towards the end of training on Tuesday after suffering a knock on a persistent left thigh problem.

Real's all-time record scorer missed three games last month due to injury and was also left out a practice match on Saturday by coach Zinedine Zidane as a precaution.

Ronaldo is aiming to break his own record of 17 Champions League goals in a season in Milan having already netted 16 in the competition so far this campaign.

Jose, MU hammer out details

AFP, London



Manchester United were locked in a second day of talks with Jose Mourinho's agents on Wednesday, hammering out a deal to sweep the controversial Portuguese boss into Old Trafford.

The former Chelsea and Real Madrid manager has agreed personal terms on a three-year deal with a likely annual salary of at least £10 million (\$15 million, 13 million euros) but issues remain over image rights, Sky News television reported.

The 53-year-old is mulling a bid for Zlatan Ibrahimovic as one of his first moves in the job, according to media reports, after the star Sweden striker played his final game for French champions Paris Saint-Germain last week.

United finally sacked Louis van Gaal on Monday, two days after the club won the FA Cup with a 2-1 win over Crystal Palace.

Despite the victory, the Old Trafford club's failure to qualify for the lucrative Champions League proved fatal to the Dutchman's hopes of staying on as

manager.

After a first day of talks between Mourinho's agent Jorge Mendes and the club's executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward, United goalkeeping great Peter Schmeichel said they likely involved both sides setting out the direction they want the club to go in.

"I always expected Jose Mourinho to have Manchester United at the very top of his list -- his dream job. I think he can be an absolute success but has a lot to prove," the Dane told Sky Sports television.

"I'm looking forward to this next period and hopefully he will give all fans belief that all is well and they are going in the right direction."

Meanwhile former United midfielder Paul Scholes said a lack of improvement from the previous season eventually cost Van Gaal his job, as he backed Mourinho to bring a brighter style of football to Old Trafford.

"You always feel sorry for someone who loses his job but it didn't quite work. He got them back into the Champions League in his first year but I don't think there was any improvement

from that," he said.

"United fans expect a certain style of play, attacking. It didn't come, which hopefully the new manager will bring them."

Meanwhile uncertainty lingered about the future of Van Gaal's deputy Ryan Giggs, who has been seen as a potential successor to the Dutchman but has been passed over.

Giggs, 42, knows the club inside out, has spent nearly three decades at the club as a player and then on the coaching staff.

Mourinho is expected to bring long-time assistant Rui Faria and goalkeeping coach Silvino Louro with him, meaning Van Gaal's assistant coaches Albert Stuivenberg and Frans Hoek are likely to be dismissed.

Scholes said it would be a loss to the Red Devils if Giggs was edged out or felt he had to go.

"If Ryan wants to go away and manage I'm sure he'd be very good at it but I'd be sad if he left the club after more than 20 years. He knows how the club works," he said.

Schweinsteiger expects to be fit

AFP, Ascona



Bastian Schweinsteiger said on Wednesday he would recover from a knee injury in time to captain Germany at the European Championship, even though it remained unclear when he would return to the pitch.

"I'm doing well, I am very confident," he told journalists at a press conference in the Swiss town of Ascona, where the German national squad has set up its training camp ahead of the tournament in France.

"I am trying to do a bit more day by day," said Schweinsteiger, who has 114 caps, adding that his recovery was well within schedule.

The World Cup winning midfielder has not played since tearing his knee ligament while training with Germany in March.

But coach Joachim Loew has named him in a preliminary Euro 2016 squad of 27, which has to be trimmed to 23 by next Tuesday.

Loew said he was giving Schweinsteiger until Friday or Saturday before deciding.

Die Mannschaft is plagued with injury worries, with defender Mats Hummels also sitting out training after he picked up a hamstring tear at the end of the league season.

But Loew voiced confidence that Hummels, also a member of Germany's World Cup winning squad, will recover in time.

218 extra flights for Madrid fans

AFP, Madrid

More than 200 charter flights to and from the Spanish capital and Milan have been put in place for fans flocking to the all-Madrid final of the Champions League, airport operator AENA said Wednesday.

A total of 218 flights -- or more than 46,300 seats -- have been added to the regular 105 routes between Madrid and the two airports serving Milan from Thursday until Monday, it said in a statement.

"The predicted increase in activity will see a special plan of action put in place in the airport to reinforce the usual assistance given to airlines and passengers, which involves close to 150 people," it added.

The final on Saturday pits Real Madrid against Atletico Madrid.



The winners of the Intra-IUB table tennis tournament pose with chief guest Rashed Chowdhury, chairman of IUB board of trustees, at the university campus in Bashundhara on Tuesday.

Arsenal agree Xhaka deal

REUTERS, London



Arsenal have reached an agreement to sign combative Switzerland midfielder Granit Xhaka from Borussia Moenchengladbach on a long-term contract for an undisclosed fee, the Premier League club said on Wednesday.

British media reported Xhaka's transfer fee at about 30 million pounds (\$43.95 million), which would make the midfielder enforcer Arsenal's third most expensive signing behind Mesut Ozil and Alexis Sanchez.

The 23-year-old Xhaka, who has 41 caps, played 36 times for the Bundesliga club, scoring three goals, and captained them to fourth place last season.

"I'm very proud to be joining Arsenal. I cannot wait to move to London, represent this special club and play in the Premier

League. I will give everything to help Arsenal win trophies and make the fans happy," he told the club website.

Xhaka is known for an aggressive style of play which has landed him in trouble, with three red cards last season, but Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger felt his experience was vital.

"Granit Xhaka is an exciting young player, already with good Champions League and Bundesliga experience," Wenger said.

"We have been watching him for a long time now and he is a player who will add quality to our squad."

Xhaka bolsters Wenger's options in defensive midfield alongside Francis Coquelin and Mohamed Elneny.

The Swiss international is preparing for Euro 2016 in France next month, having been named in a provisional 28-man squad.

Varane out of Euros

AFP, Paris

France's Euro 2016 preparations took a knock on Tuesday with key defender Raphael Varane ruled out injured of next month's tournament on home soil with his place taken by Adil Rami.

Coach Didier Deschamps had feared the worst after Real Madrid announced Sunday that the 23-year-old Varane, capped 29 times for France, had suffered a serious left thigh injury.

And scans confirmed his fears and the diagnosis of Real Madrid team doctors that the player would be out of action for up to three weeks.

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