

STAR SPORTS 1

England v Pakistan
Second Test, Day 2
Live from 4:00pm

TEN 1 HD

West Indies v India
First Test, Day 3
Live from 8:00pm

TEN 1

Tour de France
Day 20
Live from 7:35pm

SACHIN TO STAR IN VIDEO GAME

Former Indian great Sachin Tendulkar is set to star in a mobile game called Sachin Saga. The game, being developed by PlayzzOn Technologies, will see players take on the role of Sachin from the very beginnings of his career before slowly progressing through pivotal moments in his 24-year-long career. Tendulkar released a statement saying that he would be passing his feedback onto the developers to make the experience as real as possible. The game will be coming to iOS and Android phones, with releases for Windows, Xbox One and Playstation 4 also planned.

—AGENCIES



(From L) Miami Rahaman, Meleni Apurba Rahaman, striker Melenia Apurba Rahaman and defender Meleniam Apurba Rahaman pose for photographs after training at BFF House.

PHOTO: STAR

England appoint Allardyce

AFP, London



Sam Allardyce is the new England manager after the Football Association officially appointed him on Friday, 10 years after he failed to convince them he was the right man for the job.

The 61-year-old Englishman -- who lost out to Steve McClaren 10 years ago after Sven-Goran Eriksson left -- signed a two-year contract with his task to guide England to the 2018 World Cup finals in Russia.

Allardyce -- who gained credit for keeping Sunderland in the Premier League last season -- replaces Roy Hodgson, who stepped down after England lost to minnows Iceland in the last 16 of Euro 2016 last month.

Allardyce, whose only piece of silverware came at the beginning of his managerial career with an Irish League title at Limerick City, couldn't hide his joy after last getting the job he had coveted all his long managerial career.

"I am extremely honoured to be

appointed England manager especially as it is no secret that this is the role I have always wanted," said Allardyce in a statement issued by the FA.

"For me, it is absolutely the best job in English football.

"I will do everything I can to help England do well and give our nation the success our fans deserve. Above all, we have to make the people and the whole country proud.

"While my main focus will be on the senior team and getting positive results, I want to add my influence to the great work being done across the development teams at St. George's Park - a facility I have used with my previous clubs.

"I know we have talented, committed players and it is time for us to deliver."

The FA said Allardyce, who became favourite once Under-21 coach Gareth Southgate said he wasn't interested in the job and Arsene Wenger said he wanted to see out his contract at Arsenal, had been the unanimous choice of the three-man panel deployed to select the manager.

Triple threat doing tryouts

ANISUR RAHAMAN



USA-born Bangladeshi female triplets have come to the country for a trial with the Bangladesh U-16 girls' team ahead of the AFC U-16 Championship Qualifiers, which is scheduled to take place in Dhaka next month.

The sisters are: midfielder Melani Apurba Rahaman, striker Melenia Apurba Rahaman and defender Meleniam Apurba Rahaman, all of whom are students of 11th grade.

The trio are the younger sisters of 20-year-old Miami Rahaman who came here for a trial with the women's national team ahead of the Indo-Bangla Games last year but ultimately left the country after the Games were postponed.

"All four of our sisters have been involved with football from our childhood. Our chemistry is good when we play together. That's why my father, Mizanur Rahaman, wants us to represent Bangladesh on an international level. To fulfill my father's dream, we came here to check out whether we can be part of the national team," said Miami Rahaman, who is accompanying her younger sisters.

They currently play for New York Rush Patriots -- a club of division A, informed Miami who is still interested to represent

Bangladesh at the senior level if called up again.

"They had a trial today after a long journey from the United States and it is too early to make any comments about them," said coach Golam Rabbani Choton, the man in charge of the under-16 team.

The triplets looked well-skilled, as they showcased their running and shooting abilities during a practice match at the BFF astro-turf yesterday, where striker Melenia scored a goal.

"I think all of them are capable of getting into the national U-16 team as they have good skill and they are playing football in the USA year round," opined Miami.

BFF women's wing chairman Mahfuza Akter Kiron informed that these girls will be training with the U-16 team for five days before a final decision is reached on whether or not to include them in the squad.

"If any one of them is selected for the final squad, then we will communicate with their father so that she can stay here until the AFC U-16 Championship Qualifiers are completed," said Kiron.

Bangladesh have been drawn in Group C along with Iran, Chinese Taipei, United Arab Emirates, Kyrgyzstan and Singapore. The qualifiers will get underway from August 27 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Russia expects to avoid full ban

AFP, Moscow



Russia insisted Friday it expects to avoid a blanket ban from the IOC on its competitors at the Rio

Olympics despite its track and field squad losing an appeal over a suspension for state-sponsored doping.

"All sportsmen who have not been convicted or are not under suspicion of doping should have the right to compete," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

"That is the decision we are counting on."

The International Olympic Committee's executive board are to hold a conference call on Sunday to discuss banning Russia from the Rio Games starting on August 5.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on Thursday ruled against Russia's athletes in a decision seen as a key indicator as the IOC debates whether to kick out the whole Russian team.

The IOC is facing international pressure to act tough on Russia and ban the entire team over bombshell revelations of a state-run doping system that has seen

the country cheat its way to victory.

Fourteen national anti-doping agencies including the United States, Canada and Germany sent a joint letter to IOC President Thomas Bach on Thursday urging him to ban Russia from Rio.

Officials in Moscow have slammed the decision by CAS to reject its appeal against a ban from the world athletics body IAAF, calling it part of a broader political campaign by the West against Russia.

The suspension of the track and field team already means that star athletes like pole vaulter Yelena Isinbayeva and hurdler Sergey Shubenkov will not be in Rio.

Isinbayeva -- who has threatened to call time on her career over the ban -- slammed the CAS ruling as a "funeral for athletics."

Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko -- who has clung on despite the scandal -- said Moscow now hopes the IOC will defer to individual international sporting federations to decide whether other Russian squads can compete.

The CAS ruling has been the focus of Olympic attention since an independent WADA report this week

said Russia ran a "state-dictated failsafe system" of drug cheating in 30 sports at the 2014 Sochi Games and other major events.

But Russia has found support from some international sports bodies, with the International Judo Federation (IJF) insisting all clean athletes should be allowed to take part in Rio.

"We hope that by allowing participation of Russian athletes in Rio 2016, we will send out a positive message to all the young people who deserve to be given examples of friendship instead of examples of Cold War," said IJF president Marius Vizer.

Individual Russian federations said they were now looking nervously ahead for the IOC to make its next move.

"We're all in suspense waiting for the IOC decision," wrestling federation president Mikhail Mamiashvili told AFP.

"I hope that the common sense and personal responsibility of those who will take the decision will prevail."

The IAAF banned all of the Russian track and field team over allegations of state-sponsored doping but said athletes who prove they were not tainted by their coun-

try's corrupt system could be cleared.

In the IAAF has only gave permission for one Russian team member to compete as a neutral -- US-based long jumper Darya Klshina to compete in Rio.

The IOC has appeared to back the principle that international sporting federations could clear individual athletes in case of a blanket ban but with just two weeks to go until Rio time is slipping away.

The Russian press had widely predicted that CAS would decide against Moscow and reaction was a mixture of soul-searching and criticism over systemic failings.

"They accused us of setting up a system in the country based on doping and we didn't react at all to these accusations," wrote daily Sovetskiy Sport. "That's why they're banning us."

"Alas, everything that is happening with our sports is the fruit of our own errors," a column in usually pro-Kremlin tabloid Komsomolskaya Pravda said, citing years of mismanagement.

"It is far from certain that even the current apocalyptic storm will force us to change our sport. Maybe only if the IOC buries our team on Sunday."

He will play again: Ba's surgeon

AFP, Shanghai

Demba Ba's surgeon arrived in Shanghai and declared he was confident the former Chelsea striker would return to competitive football.

French orthopaedic surgeon Olivier Bringer touched down in the Chinese megacity late Thursday and immediately went to Putuo District People's Hospital where the Senegalese striker has been treated since suffering a horror left leg fracture playing for Shenhua in the Shanghai derby against SIPG last Sunday.

"I'm sure he will be able to recover and play football again," Bringer was quoted Friday as saying by the Shanghai Daily newspaper. "In a few months, he will have the possibility of making a comeback. He is a tough guy and I'm sure he will be able to get over this."

Ba is due to go under the scalpel on Saturday morning when Bringer's team of French doctors will be bolstered by medical staff from Shanghai's Huashan Hospital.

"We are used to such surgeries," Bringer said. "My team's done it many times in France."

Without Ba, Shenhua lost 2-1 at Shijiazhuang Ever Bright in the Chinese Super League on Thursday night.

Argentina to talk with duo

REUTERS, Buenos Aires



Mauricio Pochettino and Diego Simeone are among men Argentina want to talk to about the national team coach vacancy following last month's shock resignation of Gerardo Martino.

Armando Perez, head of an Argentine FA (AFA) Regularisation Committee, also plans to talk to Lionel Messi with a view to asking the team's former captain to reverse his decision to quit international soccer.

The four-person committee, put in place by world body FIFA to get the AFA's house in order, was due to begin work on Friday after being sworn in on Thursday.

"It will take charge of administrating (the AFA) which includes choosing a national team coach," FIFA representative Primo Corvaro, who picked the committee members, told reporters.

Naming a new coach is a matter of urgency with 2018 World Cup qualifiers against Uruguay and Venezuela scheduled in early September.

The cash-strapped AFA has been in crisis since the death of former strongman Julio Grondona in July 2014 and reached a nadir last year when an election for a new president ended in farce with 76 votes cast by 75 delegates and a 38-38 result.

Corvaro said the committee would call an AFA presidential election by July 30, 2017 at the latest.

The committee was set to begin interviewing candidates for the head coach's position on Friday.

Perez plans to fly to Europe next month because he wants to hear personally from Atletico Madrid's Simeone and former Chile boss Jorge Sampaoli, now at Sevilla, their views on the national team. Both have said their ambition is to coach Argentina and would be popular choices.

Perez, president of first division club Belgrano, will not be visiting Tottenham Hotspur manager Pochettino, another former Argentina player widely regarded as a future national coach, in London but plans to talk to him from Spain about his availability, AFA sources daily told La Nacion.

His last stop will be Barcelona for talks with Messi and Argentina vice-captain Javier Mascherano.

'No smoke without fire'

AFP, London

French midfielder Paul Pogba is a target for Manchester United their manager Jose Mourinho all but confirmed to the BBC in an interview given in China.

The Portuguese handler told the BBC it would be pointless to pull the wool over their eyes and say he and United weren't courting Italian champions Juventus's 23-year-old playmaker -- who could cost the English club a world record £100million (\$131m, 119m euros) just four years after he left them for £800,000.

"You have smoke, you have fire," said Mourinho, who is in China with the squad for a friendly tournament involving Manchester City -- managed by his bitter rival Pep Guardiola -- and Borussia Dortmund. "I am not going to try to make you naive and believe that we are not trying for one player."

However, Mourinho, who replaced the sacked Louis van Gaal shortly after the Dutchman had overseen United win the FA Cup last season, said if the Pogba deal fell through there was a fallback option.

Pogba's French international team-mate the tireless Paris Saint Germain midfielder Blaise Matuidi has been mentioned as an alternative.



Borussia Dortmund midfielder Gonzalo Castro (R) celebrates his opening goal with teammate Ousmane Dembele during their International Champions Cup match against Manchester United in Shanghai yesterday. Dortmund won the match 4-1.

PHOTO: REUTERS