

BOISHAKHI TV
Bangladesh Premier League
Sk Jamal v Abahani
Live from 4:30pm

Sk Russel v Mohammedan
Live from 7:30pm
TEN 1
UEFA Europa League

Schalke v Salzburg
Live from 11:00pm
Roma v Astra
Live from 1:00am (Friday)

TEN 1 HD
UEFA Europa League
Ajax v Standard Liege
Live from 11:00pm

Man United v Zorya
Live from 1:00am (Friday)
TEN 3
UEFA Europa League

Shakhtar Donetsk v Braga
Live from 11:00pm
Olympiacos v Apoel
Live from 1:00am (Friday)

Bangladesh Premier League
Sk Jamal v Abahani
Time: 4:30pm

Sk Russel v Mohammedan
Time: 7:30pm
Venue: Sylhet District Stadium

U-18 Asia Cup Hockey Tournament
Oman v Hong Kong
Time: 10:00am

Bangladesh v Chinese Taipei
Time: 12:30pm
Pakistan v India

Time: 3:00pm
Venue: Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium

Rooney might not start again

AFP, Manchester

Jose Mourinho may leave Wayne Rooney out of Manchester United's starting side for the second match in a row when they face Ukrainian side Zorya Luhansk in the Europa League on Thursday. Rooney was on the bench for United's week-end game with Premier League champions Leicester City and didn't get on until very late in the game as Mourinho's side showed their best form of the season in a superb 4-1 win. That led to huge speculation over whether Rooney has a future under Mourinho at United, where he made his club debut, scoring a hat-trick in a 6-2 Champions League win over Fenerbahce, exactly 12 years ago on Wednesday. "Wayne Rooney is selected (in the squad). I did not decide yet if I start with him," Mourinho said on Wednesday ahead of Thursday's match at Old Trafford.

'Will celebrate after series'

NAIMUL KARIM



Afghanistan's cricket fans were not too happy after the visitors gave away the first ODI, despite having dominated the game for long periods. According to Afghanistan all-rounder Mohammad Nabi, the fans were 'talking too much' after the first ODI and they needed a result to be relieved. Yesterday, the Afghans were in a similar position. They dominated the second ODI at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium for almost 80 overs and yet, they somehow found themselves in a hole towards the end. Luckily for them, and the thousands of fans in Kabul who have been watching the games on screens in public areas setup just for this series, the visitors did not commit the same mistake twice. "The first game... we lost and the people talked too much. They were saying: why did you lose? You were supposed to win that game!", a smiling Nabi told reporters after the match at Mirpur yesterday. "The win against a full member has a big meaning for associate teams, especially in Afghanistan where cricket is improving day by day. The win will make

the people more energetic," he added. The highlight of yesterday's performance was the century stand between skipper Asghar Stanikzai and Nabi for the fifth wicket. After the Afghans were reduced to 63 for 4, many thought that the visitors had lost the game right there. However, the two most experienced men in the side decided to drop a gear



MOHAMMAD NABI

and calmly build a partnership. In between over number 16 and 26 they scored 39 cautious runs. They only went for boundaries when Rubel Hossain went offline. Mashrafe Bin Mortaza tried everything. He used almost all the spinners available to him, but the duo stood rock solid. In between overs number

26 and 36, the duo put on just 41 more runs. They were slow, but the required run-rate was well within their reach. The plan was to stay on till the end. "The pitch conditions were not suitable for batting because the ball was turning and skidding. The plan was to play till over number 40 or 45. We just concentrated on the singles and doubles. "We know that for a few overs in the middle we didn't hit any boundary, but that's how you built a partnership," said Nabi. While Nabi admitted that the immense experience which the duo share -- they have played 128 ODIs between them -- helped them in their task, he was still disappointed not to have finished the game. "We didn't end it well. We threw away wickets under pressure towards the end," he said. Afghanistan have become only the third team to beat Bangladesh in an ODI at home since 2015, after India and South Africa. On October 1, they have an opportunity to become the first to beat the hosts in a series since 2015. And that was the reason why the visitors barely celebrated after winning yesterday. "We are trying our best to win the series. Then we will celebrate," smirked Nabi.

First round ends with stalemates

SPORTS REPORTER



The first round of the National Cricket League ended on a dull note due to rain having played foul over the four days, with all the four matches ending in draws. On another note, Mohammad Ashraful, the formerly suspended national cricketer who returned to domestic cricket by playing in this round, couldn't get on the field since rain washed out the last three days of the game between Dhaka and Dhaka Metro, the team which he represented. The only match that provided glimpses of a possible result was the one between Chittagong and Rangpur that took place at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium. With around 45 to 50 overs left, Rangpur were set a target of 265 by Chittagong after the port city side were bundled out for 251 in 66.5 overs. Sohrawadi Shuvo was the wrecker-in-chief with a five-wicket haul. Rangpur pursued the target with full intent with Mahmudul Hasan and Ariful Haque scoring quick half-centuries. While Mahmudul scored an 89-ball 85 including two sixes and four fours, Ariful hit 63 off 50 balls, with his innings featuring two sixes

and nine fours. However, bad light stopped play at 5:30 pm and Rangpur had to settle for a draw, 41 runs adrift with five wickets in hand. The game between Khulna and Barisal at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna was also affected by rain. The final day started at 1:30 pm. For a win, Khulna needed to bundle Barisal out as soon as possible and minimise the lead. However, Barisal held on and reached stumps at 248 for eight. They finished the day nine runs ahead. **SCORES IN BRIEF**
BARISAL: 261 and 248 for 8 (Nafees 72; Miraz 2-52) v
KHULNA: 424
Result: Match drawn
RAJSHAHI: 199 and 120 for 4 (Myshukur 42, Hamidul 32 not out; Ebadat 2-12) v
SYLHET: 175 all out in 56 overs (Ruman 44; Forhad 3-46, Muktar 3-52)
Result: Match drawn
CHITTAGONG: 368 and 251 all out in 66.5 overs (Mominul 62, Mahbulul 56; Sohrawadi 5-50) v
RANGPUR: 355 and 224 for 5 (Mahmudul 85, Ariful 63; Yasir 2-48, Tasamul 2-58)
Result: Match drawn
DHAKA METRO: 47 for 2 v Dhaka
Result: Match drawn

Allardyce resigns

Admits to an 'error of judgment'

AFP, Bolton

Sam Allardyce admitted an "error of judgment" on Wednesday after his career as England manager came to a humiliating end following controversial comments made to undercover reporters. "Entrapment has won on this occasion did I have to accept that," Allardyce told reporters outside his home in Bolton, northwest England. Allardyce added he had simply been helping out a longstanding associate. "I think that on reflection it was a silly thing to do," he said. "But just to let everybody know, I sort of helped out what was somebody I'd known for 30 years (football agent Scott McGarvey). "Unfortunately it was an error of judgment on my behalf and I've paid the consequences," he added the morning after he was forced out of the England job following a mere 67 days in charge of the national side. Meanwhile, amid reports he had received a £1 million (\$1.3 million, 1.1 million euros) pay-off, Allardyce apologised to England's governing Football Association, his former employers, as he refused to rule out a future role in football. "The agreement was done very amicably with the FA and I apologise to those and all concerned in the unfortunate position I've put myself in," he added. "I have a confidentiality agreement and I can't answer any more questions. I am going to go and reflect on it." Allardyce also wished England Under-21 manager Gareth Southgate, who has been put in charge of the senior team's next four matches, well for the future. "I would like to wish Gareth and all of the England lads the best."



Jose 'feels sorry' for Sam

AFP, Manchester

Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho said Wednesday he "feels sorry" for Sam Allardyce and still respects him, a day after his reign as England boss came to a sudden and premature end. After a mere 67 days in charge of the national side, Allardyce paid the price on Tuesday for indiscreetly talking with undercover Daily Telegraph reporters posing as Far East businessmen. The 61-year-old was secretly filmed giving advice on how to get around transfer rules as he also criticised the Football Association's decision to rebuild Wembley and mocked his England predecessor Roy Hodgson. United manager Mourinho, who once accused Allardyce of playing "19th century football" when the latter was in charge of West Ham, said Wednesday: "The only thing I can say is that I like Sam. "I feel sorry for that because I know that was a dream job and I feel sorry for him." "The second thing I can say is that what happened obviously is not going to interfere with my own relations with him. I like him and respected him before and that is not going to change. "The third thing is it is between him and the FA. I have nothing to say with it."

Granada fire Jemez

AFP, Madrid

Colourful Granada coach Paco Jemez became the third La Liga boss to lose his job already this season after failing to win any of his six games in charge. Jemez's constant outbursts, penchant for substituting players in the first half and kamikaze approach to defending have made him one of Spanish football's more controversial coaches. "Granada CF have decided to bring to an end Paco Jemez's time in charge of the team," the club said in a statement on Wednesday. "After studying in detail the current situation and results, the decision was taken unanimously." A 3-1 defeat at Alaves sealed Jemez's fate at Granada.



Juventus striker Gonzalo Higuain pumps his fist after scoring against Dinamo Zagreb during their Champions League clash in Zagreb on Tuesday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Real held, Juve romp

AFP, Paris



Andre Schuerrle smashed in a late equaliser as Borussia Dortmund held Real Madrid in the Champions League on Tuesday, while Leicester City claimed another famous European victory. Premier League champions Leicester made it two wins from two in their debut Champions League campaign as Islam Slimani's first-half goal secured a 1-0 win against FC Porto, and it was a good night all round for English clubs as Tottenham Hotspur beat CSKA Moscow in Russia. Reigning champions Real twice surrendered the lead as they settled for a 2-2 draw against Dortmund to extend their poor record on German soil. In a tremendous Group F game played at breathless pace, Zinedine Zidane's side went in front in the 17th minute when Gareth Bale's back-heel came off Matthias Ginter and fell for Cristiano Ronaldo to fire home. It was the Portuguese superstar's 98th European goal but Dortmund had been in fearsome form ahead of this showdown and they drew level just before the interval. Making his first appearance of the season after injury, Real goalkeeper Keylor Navas opted to punch a Raphael Guerreiro free-kick and the ball struck the face of his team-mate Raphael Varane before rebounding into the net. Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang was standing in close quarters, and he was officially credited with the goal by UEFA. However, French centre-back Varane made up for that by restoring Real's advantage midway through the

second half, following in to score after Karim Benzema's attempt had hit both the post and bar. But there was to be no first win in Dortmund for Real as substitute Schuerrle rifled a shot into the roof of the net after a Christian Pulisic cross fell to him on the edge of the box. Madrid have won just four times in 30 away games against German clubs but this result still leaves them in control of Group F. In the other game in the section, first-half goals by Bryan Ruiz and Bas Dost gave Sporting a 2-0 victory against Legia Warsaw in Portugal.

penalty over, although Nabil Fekir and Corentin Tolisso both hit the bar for the visitors. Leicester have maximum points after two matches in Group G after edging out two-time European champions Porto at the King Power Stadium. Algerian striker Slimani, a club record £28 million (\$36.3 million, 32.3 million euros) summer signing from Sporting, struck on 25 minutes, heading past Iker Casillas from a Riyad Mahrez cross. Next up for Leicester will be FC Copenhagen, who were impressive 4-0 winners at home to Club Brugge in the Danish capital. All the goals came in the second half, with a Stefano Denswil own-goal setting the home side on their way before Ludwig Augustinsson had a penalty saved, but further counters came from captain Thomas Delaney, Federico Santander and Mathias Jørgensen. Tottenham bounced back from a 2-1 defeat to Monaco in their Group E opener by beating CSKA 1-0 in Moscow to claim three points from an awkward trip to the Russian capital. Mauricio Pochettino's side were without Harry Kane, Mousa Dembele, Eric Dier, Danny Rose and Moussa Sissoko against the Russian champions but the in-form Son Heung-min was there and he made the difference. The South Korean winger, scorer of a brace in a 2-1 Premier League win at Middlebrough at the weekend, netted the only goal of the game on 71 minutes at the Arena CSKA, his shot squirming under 'keeper Igor Akinfeev and in. It is Monaco who top the section, though, after Kamil Glik volleyed home in injury time to cancel out Javier Hernandez's opener and secure a 1-1 home draw with Bayer Leverkusen.

RESULTS	
Monaco 1 (Glik 90+4)	Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Hernandez 73)
CSKA Moscow 0	Tottenham Hotspur 1 (Son 71)
Borussia Dortmund 2 (Aubameyang 43, Schuerrle 87)	Real Madrid 2 (Ronaldo 17, Varane 68)
Sporting 2 (Ruiz 28, Dost 37)	Legia Warsaw 0
FC Copenhagen 4 (Denswil 54-og, Delaney 64, Santander 69, Jørgensen 90+2)	Club Brugge 0
Leicester City 1 (Slimani 25)	FC Porto 0
Sevilla 1 (Ben Yedder 52)	Lyon 0
Dinamo Zagreb 0	Juventus 4 (Pjanic 24, Higuain 31, Dybala 57, Sempere 85-og)

Martino going to MLS

AFP, Miami

Former Argentina coach Gerardo Martino is heading to Major League Soccer after agreeing a deal with new expansion side Atlanta United FC, the club said Tuesday. Martino, who stepped down as Argentina coach this year after his team was beaten in the final of the Copa America Centenario in June, will oversee Atlanta's first season in the MLS in 2017. "This is an incredibly exciting and historic day for our club," Atlanta United owner Arthur Blank said. "Gerardo brings an unprecedented level of international experience to our head coaching position that will be a valuable asset to our players and demonstrates the continuing growth of Major League Soccer."

China wants to host 2030 WC

AFP, Panaji



A top Chinese football official has urged FIFA to realise the "dream" of China's fans by bringing the World Cup to the giant Asian nation in 2030 -- or even sooner. Chinese Football Association vice-president Zhang Jian said FIFA's rotation policy probably ruled out a return to Asia in 2026, after Qatar hosts the World Cup in 2022. Zhang told AFP that "it's not very easy" for China to hold the World Cup in 2026. But he said the final decision was up to world body FIFA. "Every Chinese football fan has a dream -- to host a World Cup in China," Zhang said in an interview in Goa. "According to their charter it's not very easy for us to get 2026... I of course hope it can be here sooner, but FIFA has their charter and we follow their decisions," added Zhang. Russia will host the next World Cup in 2018, before Qatar in 2022, with China, the world's most populous nation and second biggest economy, keen to follow soon after. With President Xi Jinping eager to host and even win football's biggest tournament, conjecture is centring on when rather than if the World Cup will go to China. Hosting the World Cup looks far more realistic than winning the competition, as China's sole appearance in 2002 ended without a single point or even a goal.