

DAY'S
EVENT

BCB XI v England
Warm-up Match
Time: 10:30am
Venue: Fatullah Stadium
Nat'l Cricket League
(Four-Day Match, Day 3)
Time: 9:00am
Dhaka Metro v Barisal

Venue: Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium, Khulna
Khulna v Dhaka
Venue: Shaheed Chandu Stadium, Bogra
Rangpur v Sylhet
Venue: Sylhet Int'l Cricket Stadium
Rajshahi v Chittagong
Venue: Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium,
Rajshahi

SONG IN COMA AFTER STROKE

Former Liverpool defender Rigobert Song, 40, the ex-captain of Cameroon's national side, was in a coma Monday after suffering a stroke. Cameroon's state radio reported that Song, who also played for West Ham United, Metz and Lens in France and Galatasaray in Turkey, was rushed to a nearby hospital from his Yaounde home on Sunday after suffering a cerebral aneurysm. Song was in a coma, the radio reported. "I wish you lots of courage and a speedy recovery," former Cameroon team-mate Samuel Eto'o said in a Facebook post. Song, capped 137 times, played in four World Cup finals and a record eight African Nations Cups as well as winning Olympic gold in 2000. —AFP



AFC SOLIDARITY CUP

Salahuddin against sending team

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president Kazi Salahuddin is apparently not interested to send the national team to the inaugural AFC Solidarity Cup, which is scheduled to be held from November 2 to 15 in Malaysia.

Bangladesh will only be eligible to play in this lowest-tier tournament of Asia if they fail to beat Bhutan in the Asian Cup Play-Off Qualifiers, the second leg of which is scheduled for October 10 in Thimphu. This tournament is expected to feature teams which will fail to progress to the final round of the 24-team Asian Cup Qualifiers, with six teams already decided and the remaining three teams to be decided next week after the play-offs.

"The National Teams' Committee [NTC] will decide whether the national team will take part in the Solidarity Cup, but if you want my opinion, I will request the NTC not

to send the team, rather rebuild the team for next year's SAFF Championship," Salahuddin said after having an unofficial meeting with his colleagues at the BFF House yesterday.

Explaining the reasons behind his unwillingness to send the team, Salahuddin said: "The national players will join their respective clubs for the ongoing professional league [after the Bhutan tie] and we won't have time to prepare them by halting the league. So I will expect the team to be rebuilt for the SAFF Championship in Bangladesh [December, 2017]."

Kazi Nabil Ahmed, chairman of NTC, is however optimistic about the team's chances of progressing to the final qualifying round of the Asian Cup, which will automatically rule Bangladesh out of the Solidarity Cup.

"We will think about the Solidarity Cup after the match against Bhutan, but at the moment we are optimistic about progressing to the final round of Asian Cup Qualifiers," Nabil told reporters.



Valencia's new Italian coach Cesare Prandelli (R) poses with the club's Singaporean president Lay Hoon Chan during his official presentation at the Mestalla yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Jose hails United

AFP, Manchester

Jose Mourinho insisted Manchester United had played their best football of the season and could have put seven goals past lowly Stoke City after their 1-1 draw on Sunday.

Substitute Anthony Martial's first goal of the season was cancelled out eight minutes from time by Joe Allen following a rare error by David de Gea.

But Mourinho refused to be critical either of the goalkeeper or his forwards, who missed a host of chances.

"It's simple -- that was the best performance of the season" said Mourinho, whose side beat reigning champions Leicester 4-1 the previous weekend.

"Three or four-nil at half-time, six or seven-nil at the end of the game... but the result was 1-1.

"That's football. That's very undeserved but, I repeat, that was a much better performance than against Leicester.

"Against Leicester, the result made more than the performance," the Portuguese manager added. "Today, it was the exact opposite.

"That was our best performance by far. We had six, seven, eight great chances to win the game."

'It is a mistake that I cannot make'

AFP, Barcelona



Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen insisted he won't change his flamboyant style despite a huge error costing the Spanish champions a 4-3 defeat to Celta Vigo on Sunday.

Three Celta goals in 11 first-half minutes from Pione Sisto, Iago Aspas and a Jeremy Mathieu own goal had Barca on the ropes before a second-half revival saw Gerard Pique and a Neymar penalty haul the visitors back into the game.

However, the German goalie then chipped the ball onto the head of Pablo Hernandez for Celta's fourth to end hopes of a heroic comeback before Pique headed home Barca's third late on.

"If I don't make that mistake we had a good chance to win the game," said Ter Stegen.

"It is a mistake that I cannot make. It's my fault, but, although it's happened, I won't entirely change the way I play."

Ter Stegen set a La Liga record for passes completed by a goalkeeper earlier this season at Athletic Bilbao and Pique defended the 24-year-old's ability to set up Barca's attack from the back.

"We know Marc is very good with his feet. He gives us a lot and many good moves begin thanks to him," said Pique, who nearly

capped a sensational hat-trick when he headed wide in stoppage time.

"We all make mistakes and knowing him it won't affect him."

Defeat means Barca missed out on the chance to move top on a wild day of La Liga action as Real Madrid drew for the fourth consecutive game as they were held 1-1 at home by Eibar.

Atletico Madrid and Real lead Barca by two points after Atletico shrugged off seeing two penalties saved to beat Valencia 2-0.

"We were much better in the second half. We had nothing to lose and it nearly worked out for us," added Pique.

"The positive thing to take from the game is the reaction of the team in the second-half.

"There is a long way to go. Everyone is very tightly bunched and dropping points. That is the level of our league."

Barca improved markedly with the introduction of Andres Iniesta after the break on his 600th appearance for the club.

However, the Spanish international admitted defeat took the shine off that landmark.

"It is a bittersweet feeling evidently with the defeat," said Iniesta.

"More than just numbers it signifies many years competing at a high level and I have the motivation to continue for many more."



MARC-ANDRE TER STEGEN

Prandelli aims to find a balance

REUTERS, Valencia

New Valencia coach Cesare Prandelli wants to take the "glorious club" back to enjoying a starring role in La Liga and Europe, he said on Monday.

The 59-year-old Italian has signed a contract until June 2018 with the Spanish club, becoming their ninth coach since 2012.

"My aim is to find a balance which is currently lacking," Prandelli told a news conference on Monday at the Mestalla stadium.

"I want to transmit to the players the values of this club.

"For me it's an honour to be in such a glorious club and we want to take it back there."

Valencia are 18th in the La Liga standings with six points from seven games.

They fired Pako Ayestaran two weeks ago after he had the worst record of any coach in the club's 98-year history, taking 10 points from 12 games after taking over from Gary Neville in March.

Neither Ayestaran nor Neville had any coaching experience, which is in stark contrast to Prandelli, a former Fiorentina and Italy coach.

During his five-year spell at Fiorentina, Prandelli guided the team to fourth place in Serie A and to the round of 16 in the 2009-10 Champions League.

He led Italy to a runners-up finish at Euro 2012 before resigning after the team's first-round exit at the 2014 World Cup.

Swansea appoint Bradley

REUTERS, London

Struggling Swansea City sacked Italian Francesco Guidolin on Monday and appointed Bob Bradley as the first American to manage a Premier League club.

Former Udinese coach Guidolin took over in January following the dismissal of Garry Monk and kept the Welsh club clear of relegation, but they have slumped to fourth from bottom after seven games of the new campaign.

Speculation had been growing about Guidolin's future and Saturday's 2-1 home defeat by Liverpool was their third in a row and fifth league loss of the season.

"We can confirm the club has parted company with Francesco Guidolin, who will be replaced by Bob Bradley," the club said on Twitter.

Bradley, 58, was the United States national team coach from 2006-11.

He also had a spell as Egypt's national coach and joins Swansea from French club Le Havre.

MU duo recalled

AFP, London



England interim manager Gareth Southgate recalled Manchester United duo Marcus Rashford and Jesse Lingard when he named his first squad in charge of the senior national side on Sunday.

The Old Trafford pair were both included for the upcoming World Cup qualifiers against Malta and Slovenia.

This was the first England squad since former manager Sam Allardyce dramatically lost his post after just one game in charge following a newspaper sting operation where he made a series of unguarded remarks.

Rashford and Lingard have become first-choice players during Jose Mourinho's first season as United manager.

Rashford was left out when Allardyce named his one and only England squad, but a return looked likely when he was omitted from the Under-21 party announced earlier this week.

Former England defender Southgate also recalled Stoke's Glen Johnson, Southampton's Ryan Bertrand and Arsenal's Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain for the matches at home to Malta and away to Slovenia.

Adam Lallana scored the late winner in a 1-0 win against Slovakia, the only goal England managed under Allardyce, but was ruled out of the forthcoming double header after injuring his groin against Swansea on Saturday.

His absence created room for Oxlade-Chamberlain, while Bertrand and Johnson cover the full-back positions vacated by Luke Shaw (groin tear and throat infection)

and Nathaniel Clyne (knee injury).

Southgate, previously the England Under-21 manager, explained his selection by telling FATV: "We've tried to keep some continuity from last month because my view would be a lot of things have been going right.

"We had a few people unavailable through injury, obviously Harry Kane, Jack Butland and we lost a couple over the weekend... Danny Drinkwater, Adam Lallana, Nathaniel Clyne and Luke Shaw's not quite back fully fit yet.

"That's had a bearing on the squad and a couple of players I've worked with, with Marcus Rashford and Jesse Lingard, in the Under-21s who we think are exciting players and we wanted to put in this squad."

SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

Fraser Forster (Southampton), Joe Hart (Torino/ITA on loan from Manchester City), Tom Heaton (Burnley)

DEFENDERS

Ryan Bertrand (Southampton), Gary Cahill (Chelsea), Phil Jagielka (Everton), Glen Johnson (Stoke City), Danny Rose (Tottenham Hotspur), Chris Smalling (Manchester United), John Stones (Manchester City), Kyle Walker (Tottenham Hotspur)

MIDFIELDERS

Eric Dier (Tottenham Hotspur), Jordan Henderson (Liverpool), Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (Arsenal), Michael Antonio (West Ham United), Jesse Lingard (Manchester United), Raheem Sterling (Manchester City), Theo Walcott (Arsenal), Dele Alli (Tottenham Hotspur)

FORWARDS

Wayne Rooney (Manchester United), Marcus Rashford (Manchester United), Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool), Jamie Vardy (Leicester City)