

LIFE A 'BIT OF A DISASTER'

Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho has said he has struggled to adapt to life in Manchester, labelling his living arrangement in the city as "bit of a disaster". The Portuguese has endured a mixed start to his stint as United boss, having lost three of his nine league games, including a 4-0 hammering at the hands of Chelsea on Sunday. Away from the pitch, the 53-year-old said he was far from settled in England's north west city, staying without his family for the first time. "For me it's a bit of a disaster because I want sometimes to walk a little bit and I can't. I just want to cross the bridge and go for a restaurant. I can't, so it is really bad," the former Chelsea boss told Sky Sports.

— REUTERS



Sturridge fires L'pool

AFP, London



Daniel Sturridge served a reminder of his worth to Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp with both goals in a 2-1 victory over Tottenham Hotspur in England's League Cup on Tuesday.

Sturridge has started three of Liverpool's last four Premier League games on the bench, but he seized his chance at Anfield to send last season's beaten finalists into the quarter-finals.

Arsenal also progressed, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain scoring twice in a 2-0 win over Reading, while Hull City won 2-1 at second-tier Bristol City.

"Overall summary, it was a deserved win," Liverpool manager Klopp told Sky Sports.

"Big number of chances and a wonderful goalkeeper from Tottenham (Michal Vorm). All good. I think it was entertaining.

"He (Sturridge) did what he has to do and it was brilliant. He could have scored three or maybe four, but it was really good. That's his big strength and he showed it again."

Klopp and Spurs counterpart Mauricio Pochettino between them made 21 changes to their starting line-ups, with visiting midfielder Eric Dier the only player to keep his place from the weekend fixtures.

Klopp gave a debut to 18-year-old right-back Trent Alexander-Arnold and a full debut to midfielder Ovie Ejaria, 19, while 18-year-old Cameron Carter-Vickers started

at centre-back for Tottenham.

Liverpool, who lost on penalties to Manchester City in last season's final, took a ninth-minute lead when Marko Grujic's deflected cross from the right was stabbed in by Sturridge.

Spurs stand-in goalkeeper Vorm repelled long-range efforts from Sturridge and Divock Origi before Georinio Wijnaldum freed the England striker to score his second goal in the 64th minute.

Dutch striker Vincent Janssen reduced the arrears with a 76th-minute penalty after Lucas Leiva took an unnecessary nibble at Tottenham substitute Erik Lamela.

But it was the home side who came closest to scoring again, with Vorm saving spectacularly from Sturridge and substitute Danny Ings.

"I'm pleased with the performance, but not the result. We fought until the end and created chances," said Spurs manager Pochettino.

"It was a great experience and we can take a lot of positives."

Arsenal joined Klopp's men in the last eight after seeing off second-tier Reading, who are managed by former Manchester United defender Jaap Stam.

Oxlade-Chamberlain struck twice for Arsene Wenger's much-changed team, drilling home in the 33rd minute and netting again with the aid of a deflection with 12 minutes to play.

Headers from centre-backs Harry Maguire and Michael Dawson took Hull through at the expense of Bristol City.



Liverpool striker Daniel Sturridge (R) celebrates his second goal in trademark style during their EFL Cup fourth round match against Tottenham Hotspur at Anfield on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

Hockey team wrap up Poland tour

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh national hockey team completed their AHF Cup preparation in Poland with a draw as they surrendered a lead to be held 1-1 by the Poland under-21 team yesterday.

Striker Rasel Mahmud Jimmy put Bangladesh ahead in the second quarter of the match but the home team bounced back to level the margin in latter part of the game.

Bangladesh were also held to a 1-1 draw against the same opponents on the previous day after having played a three-match series against Poland senior team, losing twice and drawing once.

Nice raise 120K euros for victims

AFP, Nice

Ligue 1 leaders Nice have raised more than 120,000 euros at auction for the victims of July's Bastille Day truck massacre in the city.

Star Nice forward Mario Balotelli's jersey fetched 11,100 euros on Tuesday.

Shapla, Erina, Bristy in last 8

SPORTS REPORTER

Shapla Akter, Erina and Bristy moved into the quarterfinals of women's singles in the Rockland Summer Open (Ranking) Badminton Tournament at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium yesterday.

National champion Shapla of Kawasaki Badminton Club beat Nabila of Army 21-15, 21-16; Erina of Army beat her teammate Rehana 21-16, 21-14 while Bristy of Army defeated Urmia of BDC 21-17, 21-06 to move into the last eight.

In the men's singles, Razib, Akram, Almas, Sumit, Munna, Morsalin, Arafat, Faisal, Imran and Rubel won their respective matches to advance to the next round, said a press release from the Bangladesh Badminton Federation.

Tributes pour in for Alberto

AFP, Rio de Janeiro



Carlos Alberto, the revered captain of Brazil's 1970 World Cup-winning side, considered one of the greatest of all time, died on Tuesday aged 72.

The right-back starred alongside Pele, Tostao, Jairzinho and Rivelino in the legendary Brazil team that beat Italy 4-1 in the 1970 final.

He scored one of the best World Cup goals in the Mexico City final, running onto a Pele pass and smashing in a thunderous right-footed shot.

"I am deeply saddened by the death of my friend and brother @capita70. Dear God, please take care of our 'Capitao' (captain). Rest In Peace," said Pele in an emotionally-charged Twitter post alongside a black and white picture of Carlos Alberto comforting him as he cries.

Carlos Alberto died of a heart attack in Rio de Janeiro, according to Sportv, for whom he worked as a pundit. Tributes immediately poured in from around the world.

"An example of leadership both on and off the field, a great friend who always treated me with great affection,"

said former Barcelona, AC Milan and Paris Saint-Germain star Ronaldinho, a World Cup winner in 2002.

"Rest in peace eternal captain."

Stars from the time such as Germany's World Cup-winning captain and coach Franz Beckenbauer and clubs around the world from Manchester City and Arsenal in the Premier League to Brazil's top sides all expressed sadness.

Beckenbauer said he was "profoundly shocked" by the news of the death of someone he described as "like a brother for me, one of my best friends".

Born in Rio in 1944 "Capitao", as he was known in Brazil, played alongside Pele at Santos from 1966 to 1974 and at the New York Cosmos from 1977 to 1980 after beginning his career with Fluminense.

"Santos mourns the death of idol Carlos Alberto Torres," the Brazilian club said in a statement that decreed three days of mourning.

The Cosmos tweeted: "We're deeply saddened by the loss of Carlos Alberto, a legendary player and wonderful person."

"Goodbye, eternal captain," said the Brazilian Football Federation (CBF) in a statement, which announced the

death with "great sadness".

The CBF also joined the mourning and lowered flags at its headquarters in the Barra da Tijuca neighbourhood of Rio.

Carlos Alberto won more than 50 caps for his country -- missing the ill-fated 1974 World Cup trophy defence due to injury -- and was later named by FIFA in a list of the 100 greatest living players in 2004.

"He was my brother. More than a friend," said Clodoaldo, a midfielder in the Brazil 1970 side who also starred for Santos.

"We spoke to each other all the time. When I heard the news, I was paralysed."

Another teammate from that 1970 side, Gerson, said it was the players who had chosen Carlos Alberto as their captain.

"He was hugely important for us, both on and off the pitch," he said. "There will never be another leader like him."

Carlos Alberto hung up his boots in 1982 and started his coaching career with Rio giants Flamengo, winning a Brazilian title before working in the United States, Colombia, Mexico, Oman and Azerbaijan.

After giving up coaching, Carlos

FA against foreign coach

AFP, London



The Football Association may be reluctant to hire a foreigner as Sam Allardyce's replacement as full-time England manager based on previous painful experiences, FA chief executive Martin Glenn told the BBC on Wednesday.

Glenn, who admitted he had been personally disappointed by Allardyce's behaviour in which he advised journalists posing as Far Eastern businessmen about circumventing the ban on third-party ownership of players, added the national set-up had not been left in a great state when the foreign managers left.

Swede Sven-Goran Eriksson and Italy's Fabio Capello are the two foreigners the FA have turned to with varying degrees of success this century.

Eriksson -- along with Roy Hodgson the only manager to have gone to three major finals with England in the past 20 years -- guided England to three successive quarter-finals, losing to Portugal on penalties in two of them.

Capello's reign was far less harmonious and included a woeful 2010 World Cup finals campaign culminating in a 4-1 thrashing by Germany.

"In the past we've gone for foreign managers who'd be attracted as they might help us win a tournament," said Glenn, who was head-hunted last year to take up the role after a successful career in the food industry. "They haven't maybe left the international set up in a better place."

"We want somebody there for the long

term."

Glenn said one of the biggest conundrums the next manager faced and one that his predecessors had singularly failed to resolve is ridding the players of their demons with regard to donning the England shirt.

"We have been very successful at winning tournaments in the development teams," said Glenn.

"The under-21s, the under-19s, when we put our boys up against the best in the world we are winning."

"We're not translating that enough when it comes to the senior team."

"We think the difference is psychological preparation, this fear factor when you put on the England shirt."

"The manager we hire will really understand that and will have detailed plans to address it."

Glenn said he expected interim manager Gareth Southgate, who impressed in his stewardship of the England Under-21 side but ruled himself out when Hodgson stepped down after losing to Iceland at Euro 2016, to be a candidate.

Southgate has thus far been in charge for two 2018 World Cup qualifiers, England's 2-0 win over Malta and a drab 0-0 draw against Slovenia.

The former England and Aston Villa centre-back will remain in charge for the qualifier against Scotland at Wembley on November 11 and the home friendly with Spain four days later.

"He will almost certainly be a candidate. It's up to him to decide whether he wants to do it," said Glenn.



People carry the coffin of the late former Brazilian soccer captain Carlos Alberto Torres to its burial site at the Irajá cemetery in Rio de Janeiro yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Giggs, Neville to open cafes, hotels in Asia

AFP, Singapore



Manchester United greats Ryan Giggs and Gary Neville have teamed up with a Singaporean billionaire to open football-themed cafes and hotels in Asia, a spokesperson for the tycoon said Wednesday.

The two sportsmen and Peter Lim, owner of Spain's Valencia football club and Singapore-based property developer Rowsley Ltd, are looking at opening the first Cafe Football outlet in Asia in 2017, the spokesperson said.

Neville told Bloomberg News the outlet will be in Singapore.

"We've had fantastic reviews in Manchester, and we are looking for a UK,

Europe and Asian expansion over the next 12 to 18 months to add multiple properties," he said.

Neville told Singapore's Straits Times that the trio would also look at expanding Hotel Football across Asia.

"We have an aggressive roll-out plan for Hotel Football, looking to open 5,000 new rooms over the next five to 10 years. We already have discussions in India, China, Thailand, and Malaysia, as well as other parts of the UK," he said.

The first Cafe Football opened in London in 2013, followed by a second near Manchester United's home ground Old Trafford in 2015.

In July, Neville and Giggs unveiled plans for a multimillion-pound development in Manchester city centre, including a 200-bed hotel, two skyscrapers and a synagogue.

Long layoff for Bailly

AFP, London

Manchester United centre-back Eric Bailly expects to return within two months after injuring his knee during his side's 4-0 Premier League defeat at Chelsea, he said on Tuesday.

"I wanted to thank you for all the messages of support that I received since the injury!" the Ivory Coast defender wrote on his official Facebook page.

"I hope to be able to play again for United and The Elephants before 2 months, God willing. Thanks for always being there!"

Genoa wreck AC Milan's chances

AFP, Milan



Nikola Ninkovic, Leonardo Pavoletti and a Juraj Kucka own goal ended 10-man AC Milan's chances of going top of Serie A after crashing 3-0 to Genoa on Tuesday.

Milan travelled to the Luigi Ferraris buoyed by a weekend victory over Juventus that closed the gap on the Italian champions and Serie A leaders to just two points.

But Genoa had won the last two editions of this fixture 1-0 and by the end fully deserved what was just their fourth win of the season.

It moved them up to seventh, six points off the lead, while Milan remain third, ahead of the remaining midweek fixtures on Wednesday and Thursday.

Injuries in defence forced Milan coach Vincenzo Montella to turn midfielder Andrea Poli into a makeshift right-back, while Keisuke Honda was given his first start of the season in midfield.

It took Genoa just 11 minutes to find a way past Gianluigi Donnarumma. Ninkovic, on his first start for the club, rushed in to meet Tomas Rincon's chip with a diving header that beat Milan's teenage goalkeeper.

Milan defender Alessio Romagnoli produced the visitors' best chance of the half when he unleashed a drive that flashed just wide of the near post, while M'Baye Niang's volley from Carlos Bacca's knock-down flew over.

Milan's chances of launching an unlikely fightback collapsed 10 minutes after the restart when Gabriel Paletta lunged with both feet at Luca Rigoni.

The veteran defender made little contact with the Genoa forward, but the referee immediately produced a red card.

When Rigoni fired low into the area 10 minutes from the end, Kucka stuck his leg out to deflect the ball past Donnarumma as Pavoletti lingered.

Mathieu adds to Barcelona injury woes

AFP, Barcelona

Barcelona centre-back Jeremy Mathieu joined the club's mounting injury list and faces three weeks out after hurting his right calf, the Spanish champions said on Wednesday.

The Frenchman limped out of Tuesday's 1-0 defeat to city rivals Espanyol in the Catalan Super Cup with tests subsequently revealing a muscular injury.

Mathieu's absence further depletes a backline already without first-choice defenders Gerard Pique and Jordi Alba, both of whom were recently ruled out for at least a fortnight.

Captain Andres Iniesta suffered knee ligament damage in Saturday's 3-2 win at Valencia and is expected to be sidelined for between six and eight weeks.

Mathieu will miss this weekend's league game against Granada as well as next Sunday's trip to second-place Sevilla. The 32-year-old is also suspended for Barca's return fixture against Manchester City in the Champions League on November 1.