

Real held in 6-goal thriller

AFP, Warsaw

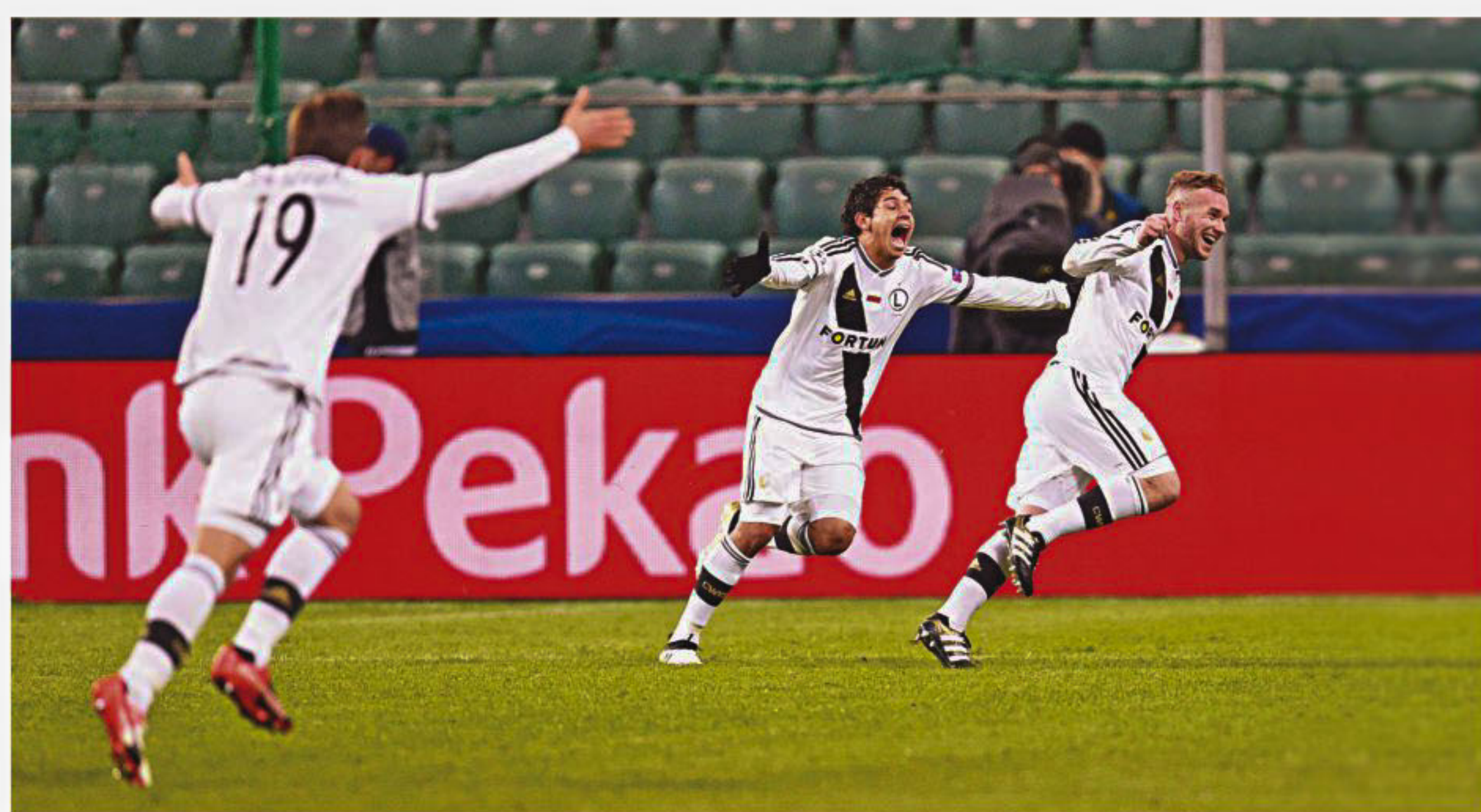


Real Madrid blew a two-goal lead and the chance to qualify for the knockout stages of the Champions League in a thrilling 3-3 draw with Legia Warsaw behind closed doors in the Polish capital. Gareth Bale fired home Madrid's fastest ever Champions League goal after just 55 seconds before teeing up Karim Benzema for Real's second. However, Legia launched a stunning fightback as goals from Vadis Odjidja-Ofoe, Miroslav Radovic and Thibault Moulin put the Polish champions on the verge of a famous victory. Mateo Kovacic salvaged some pride and a now 27-game unbeaten run for the European champions when he slotted home five minutes from time.

RESULTS

Monaco 3 (Germain 12, Falcao 29, 41) CSKA Moscow 0
Tottenham Hotspur 0 **Bayer Leverkusen 1** (Kampl 65)
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Ramos 12) Sporting Lisbon 0
Legia Warsaw 3 (Odjidja-Ofoe 40, Radovic 58, Moulin 83) **Real Madrid 3** (Bale 1, Benzema 35, Kovacic 85)
FC Copenhagen 0 Leicester City 0
Porto 1 (Silva 37) Club Brugge 0
Sevilla 4 (Vietto 31, Escudero 66, Nzonzi 80, Ben Yedder 87) Dinamo Zagreb 0
Juventus 1 (Higuain 14-pen) Lyon 1 (Tolisso 85)

Borussia Dortmund by two points at the top of Group F with two games to play. Dortmund qualified for the last 16 with a 1-0 win over Sporting Lisbon in the other game in the group. "I am the one responsible for all this," said Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane. "In the end we didn't lose and that is the good thing for us, but it is a strange sensation." In front of an empty stadium due to Legia's sanction for violence and racist chanting in their 6-0 thrashing by Dortmund in September, Bale celebrated his new bumper six-year Madrid deal in style by rifling a volley into the top corner. A comfortable night looked in store for the visitors when a brilliant team move saw Kovacic feed Bale on the right side of the area and his cut-back was deposited into the bottom corner by Benzema.



Legia Warsaw midfielder Thibault Moulin (R) embarks on a celebratory run after scoring the third goal against Real Madrid during their Champions League encounter in Warsaw on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP

Holder eyes return to top

AFP, Sharjah



Skipper Jason Holder believes West Indies cricket could be set for a return to the glory days after upsetting Pakistan by five wickets in the third and final Test in Sharjah on Thursday. West Indies achieved a 153-run target on the fifth and final morning to clinch their first win in 14 Tests, a remarkable comeback after Pakistan won the first two Tests. Opener Kraigg Brathwaite, who carried his bat in the first innings with 142 not out, was again unbeaten on 60 while Shane Dowrich, who also finished with 60 not out, hit the winning boundary. The victory is also the first for Holder -- whose 5-30 on Wednesday set up the win -- in 12 Tests as captain. The West Indies' last win came against England at Barbados in May last year. Holder is confident that the struggling West Indies can return to the top. "I have no doubt we will get back on the track to take West Indies cricket back to the top," said Holder, appointed captain in October last year.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: First innings 281
WEST INDIES: First innings 337
PAKISTAN: Second innings 208
WEST INDIES: Second innings 154 for 5 (Brathwaite 60 not out, Dowrich 60 not out; Riaz 2-46, Shah 3-40)
Result: West Indies won by five wickets.
Player-of-the-match: Kraigg Brathwaite.
Player-of-the-series: Yasir Shah.

Monirul Islam passes away

SPORTS REPORTER

FIFA and AFC match commissioner Monirul Islam died of brain hemorrhage at a city hospital yesterday aged 58. Monir, who had been suffering from diabetes and hypertension for a long period, was rushed to BIRDEM hospital in the morning after he slipped in the bathroom of his Badda resident.

Monir, who left behind only a daughter and a host of well-wishers, was laid to rest in Tejgaon after his Namaz-e-Janaza was held at the Shimultola Mosque in Badda.

Monir started his refereeing career in early 80s before calling his time in 1998. He was also appointed FIFA referee for one year. After retiring from the referee, he worked as the match commissioner at domestic and international level. He conducted 147 international matches under FIFA and AFC since 2004 to 2015. He was also supposed to conduct an AFC Match Commissioners' Refresher course in Malaysia December next.

Messi's dressing room row 'nothing serious'

AGENCIES, London



According to Manchester City stars Sergio Agüero and Fernando Torres, the "altercation" between Lionel Messi and an unnamed City player after Barcelona's 3-1 defeat at the Etihad Stadium on Tuesday was "nothing serious".

Seemingly confirming that it did indeed happen, the City pair came out with some pretty bizarre quotes to explain the whole furore, with Agüero in particular sounding like a sheepish schoolboy after being called in to see the headmaster.

"[It was] nothing serious," Agüero said. "I heard something but I don't know what happened. I thought Messi said something to me but he didn't, and then we talked about other stuff." "We haven't talked. Whenever you lose you're not very happy. I know him well enough to know when he's bad, when he's good. Leo wasn't in the mood to talk and I respect that." Fernandinho then chimes in his thoughts on the matter. "I am totally unaware where from rumours could have emerged related to an alleged argument and provocation on my behalf towards Messi," the Brazil international said. "I can only reiterate that news spread by the media are not only false/untrue but absurd, as I did not have contact with any of the players or Barcelona's technical team after the match."

DRU MEDIA CUP CRICKET TDS win a thriller

SPORTS REPORTER

The Daily Star snatched a thrilling victory from the jaws of defeat against NTV in a thrilling DRU Media Cup Cricket Tournament match which was decided by Pankaj Karmakar's last-over brilliance. Chasing a target of 80, a score well below-par, NTV suffered a slight hiccup, losing a wicket off the first ball of their innings. The Daily Star's Fazlur Rahman, who usually only manages to parry the ball away, stunned everyone as he took a diving catch behind the stumps. However, the runs came in thick and fast and in three overs they had made 52. Eventual man of the match, Pankaj, then came in and broke the partnership while giving away just six runs to put NTV on the back foot, but it seemed they would still claim a win as they piled up the runs in the fifth over and required just nine runs off the last six balls with three wickets in hand. However, that was when Pankaj came back into the attack and ran through their batsmen, having two of them clean bowled and one caught behind as The Daily Star moved into the quarterfinals where they will face Channel24 today. Earlier, Fazlu signalled his return to form with a fluent 42, while Tuhin Subhra Adhikary made an unbeaten 26.

Chinese group eyeing Southampton

AFP, Beijing

A Chinese conglomerate is in talks to take over English Premier League football club Southampton, Bloomberg News reported, after a string of European teams were bought by Chinese investors. Lander Sports Development Co is in talks over a deal which could be worth 200 million pounds, Bloomberg said, citing people familiar with the matter. Southampton finished sixth in the Premier League last season and had a profit of 12 million pounds on sales of 113.7 million pounds for the year ended June 30, 2015.

Brothers, BJMC win

SPORTS REPORTER



Brothers Union and Team BJMC notched up their third win in the JB Bangladesh Premier League yesterday. Brothers handed a 3-1 defeat to Feni Soccer Club before BJMC denied MuktiJoddha Sangsad 3-2 under floodlights at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. With a third win from 12 matches, both Brothers and BJMC raised their points tally to 14. However, the Brothers are ahead at seventh position due to goal difference. In the day's first match, Nigerian Nkwocha Kingsley and Haitian Augustin Walson's took Brothers home as Kingsley struck a goal either side of Walson's strike, while Feni's Chowmmin Rakhain scored a consolation seven minutes from time. The boys in orange came into the match on the back consecutive defeats to Rahmatganj MFS and Chittagong Abahani and were understandably determined to turn the tide from the onset. Initially, Kingsley was the one who put Syed Naemuddin charges under pressure as he shot powerfully into the back of the net during the 34th minute, before Walson doubled the margin with a header five minutes into the second half. Kingsley then sealed the deal when he converted a penalty in the 70th minute after Walson was brought down by Feni defenders Shushanta Tripura and Camara Mahmud. With the brace, Kingsley joined top-scorer Sunday Chizoba of Abahani on 11 goals. The day's second match was an important one for MuktiJoddha Sangsad as they looked to close the gap with the leaders.

FENI SOCCER 1 - 3 BROTHERS
TEAM BJMC 3 - 2 MUKTIJODDHA

Surprisingly however, they collapsed against a side they drew with 1-1 with in the first leg. With star striker Towhidul Alam ruled out for the rest of the season due to a knee injury, MuktiJoddha Sangsad's forward line-up looked toothless throughout the match but managed to pull two goals back during stoppage time of the second half thanks to a poor performance from BJMC goalkeeper Sabuj Das Raghu. After a barren first half, BJMC broke the deadlock in the 54th minute as Nigerian Eleta Kingsley beautifully tapped in a diagonal pass from Zakir Hossain Ziku while Samson Iliasu doubled the lead with an effortless header during the 68th minute. Three minutes later, Ziko made it 3-0 with a fine solo effort as he found the near post with a harmless drive inside the box to ensure their win. However, MuktiJoddha Sangsad proved to have some fight in them as they hit back in the four-minutes of added time, scoring two goals after availing a poor clearance from goalkeeper Raghu who failed to grip two drives from Nigerian Mufta Lwal. The first fell right in front of Javed Khan while the second was delivered to Ahmed Kolo Musa, both of whom made no mistakes as they scored.

4TH SAFF WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP Shiliguri to stage event

SPORTS REPORTER

Hosts India confirmed to the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) that the 4th SAFF Women's Championships would be held in Shiliguri, West Bengal on Tuesday, said SAFF general secretary Anwarul Helal yesterday. The championship will be held from December 26 to January 4. Of the eight participating nations, four nations -- India, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka -- confirmed their participation while Pakistan refused to take part although they hosted the previous edition in 2014. The SAFF secretary now awaits confirmation from last edition's runners-up Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives as the deadline for sending entries has been fixed on November 10. "After getting the confirmation of the participating teams, we may hold the draw of the championship either in India or Bangladesh," said Helal. Hosts India will be given one lakh US dollars for hosting the championship while participating teams will receive US 10,000 dollars as participation money, informed Helal. The Bangladesh women's team will have high hopes after having reached the semifinal twice in 2010 and 2014.