

BOISHAKHI TV
Bangladesh Premier League
 Muktijoddha v Mohammedan
 Live from 3:30pm
 Uttar Baridhara v Ctg Abahani
 Live from 6:15pm

TEN 1
UEFA Champions League
 Celtic v Barcelona
 Live from 1:45am (Thursday)
TEN 1 HD
 West Indies v Sri Lanka

Tri-Nation, Fifth ODI
 Live from 1:30pm
UEFA Champions League
 M'gladbach v Man City
 Live from 1:45am (Thursday)

TEN 2
UEFA Champions League
 Rostov v Bayern Munich
 Live from 11:00pm
 Arsenal v PSG
 Live from 1:45am (Thursday)

TEN 3
UEFA Champions League
 Atletico Madrid v PSV Eindhoven
 Live from 1:45am (Thursday)

DRY'S EVENT
Bangladesh Premier League
 Muktijoddha v Mohammedan
 Time: 3:30pm

Uttar Baridhara v Ctg Abahani
 Time: 6:15pm
 Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chittagong

Bayern lose Neuer, Robben

REUTERS, Berlin

Goalkeeper Manuel Neuer and winger Arjen Robben were ruled out of Bayern Munich's midweek trip to face Russian side Rostov in the Champions League, the German champions said on Tuesday.

The 30-year-old Neuer had a tight calf and would stay in Munich for treatment, with Sven Ulreich taking his place, CEO Karl-Heinz Rummenigge said.

Robben has yet to recover from a muscle injury picked up while on international duty with Netherlands last week.

Bayern coach Carlo Ancelotti will also be without injured Javi Martinez, Arturo Vidal and Kingsley Coman for Wednesday's Group D encounter.

Bayern, who were beaten 1-0 by domestic rivals Borussia Dortmund in the Bundesliga on Saturday, have already qualified for the knockout stages of the Champions League.



Arsenal players Shkodran Mustafi (L) and Mesut Ozil do warm up exercises during a training session at London Colney yesterday ahead of their Champions League match against Paris Saint Germain.

PHOTO: AFP

NATIONAL CHESS C'SHIP Razib after 10 yrs

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Enamul Hossain Razib reclaimed the National Chess Championship title after 10 years when the country's fifth Grand Master defeated the sub-continent's first GM, Niaz Mursheed, in the 13th and final round at the NSCTower auditorium yesterday.

Razib finished on top with 11 points after claiming nine wins and four draws from 13 matches to ensure his third national championship title after previously being crowned in 2006 and 1997.

GM Abdullah Al Rakib and Razib began the 13th and final round with 10 points each but Rakib's shocking defeat to FM Rezaul Karim in the final round left Razib with a clear path. However, the youngest Grand Master still had to tackle the experienced Niaz to leave Rakib behind and he did so, leaving Rakib to be content with 10.5 points and the runners-up trophy.

"I started the game with a mindset of winning and never thought about Rakib's game. It was tough for me to win with black pieces. However, I was in a better position throughout the game and a wrong move from Niaz Bhai helped me win the board," Razib said soon after winning.

"It is always pleasing to win the national championship. Before the start of the championship, I wanted to improve my game further after good performances in the Chess Olympiad and I think I carried that momentum into the national championship," Rakib concluded.



Sk Jamal seven points off top

SPORTS REPORTER

jb BPL

Holders Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club closed in on leaders Abahani in the JB Bangladesh Premier League with a come-from-behind 1-2 win over Feni Soccer Club at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

The ninth win from 16 games saw Sheikh Jamal rise to second in the 12-team table with 28 points, equal with Chittagong Abahani. However, the three-time champions still trail Abahani by seven points while Feni are languishing at the bottom with nine points from 16 outings.

Although Sheikh Jamal had the lion's share of possession from the start, the Dhanmondi-based outfit conceded in the 25th minute when Mahbubul Islam Himu, after being set up by Saddam Hossain, found the back of the net with a strike that deflected off Sheikh Jamal defender Yeasin Khan.

Sheikh Jamal had to wait twenty minutes for the equaliser, as Emeka Darlington slotted a Landing Darboe cutback home in the dying minutes of the first half.

After resumption, Sheikh Jamal pressed for the lead and were close to taking it but Landing squandered a nice opportunity in the 68th minute. However, the Gambian attacking midfielder did not disappoint again, darting into the box after receiving a throw-in and driving a shot past Feni keeper Osman Gani in the 76th minute.

There may yet have been a twist in the tail as Feni came close to snatching a point from the giants in stoppage time as Helal whipped a nice cross into the box from the right. However, no one was present to nod the substitute's cross home as Feni were condemned to their tenth defeat.

In the day's second match, Team BJMC came from behind to play out a 1-1 draw against Sheikh Russel KC as Samson Iliasu cancelled out a 72nd-minute strike from Sheikh Russel's Jean Jules Ikanga three minutes from time.

The stalemate between the two mid-table sides meant their positions remain unchanged with equal 16 points from as many matches. However, BJMC are ahead of ninth-placed Sheikh Russel KC by virtue of a better goal difference.

FENI SC	1 - 2	SHEIKH JAMAL
TEAM BJMC	1 - 1	SHEIKH RUSSEL

Police up to third

SPORTS REPORTER

Police FC climbed up to third place in the Marcel Bangladesh Championship League (MCL) table with a 2-0 win over T&T Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

After a barren first half, Kabirul put Police FC ahead in the 59th minute before Komol wrapped up their third victory in the 67th minute.

Police FC now have 11 points from seven matches, one point less than joint league leaders Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club and Saif SC Ltd, who have played a game less than Police. T&T are seventh with five points from seven matches.

Bellerin signs new deal

AFP, London

Flying full-back Hector Bellerin, who had been linked with big-money moves to Manchester City and Barcelona, has signed a new long-term contract with Arsenal, the Londoners said on Monday.

Arsenal did not disclose the precise length of the Spain international's new deal but British media reported that the 21-year-old right-back had extended his stay with the Gunners by a further six years.

Arsenal gunning for top spot

REUTERS, London

Arsenal have a gilt-edged opportunity to kick a self-destructive Champions League habit when they host Paris St Germain on Wednesday knowing victory will seal top spot in Group A.

The north Londoners have fallen in the last-16 in each of the past six seasons and during that period only once did they finish first in their initial group.

Their punishment for finishing runners-up on the other five occasions was harsh, twice being drawn against Bayern Munich and twice against Barcelona, losing all four ties, while even when fortune did favour them they succumbed to Monaco.

Even if they do beat PSG, who are level on 10 points with the Gunners, on Wednesday the spectre of a horror draw against Bayern or Barcelona would still exist.

Neither of those two clubs are guaranteed top spot in their respective sections and could lurk as runners-up but unless Arsene Wenger owns a crystal ball he can only assume that finishing top will be rewarded.

Ultimately, luck of the draw will play its part but an Arsenal victory would maintain the positive vibe of their campaign to date and fire out a message to their rivals.

Olivier Giroud's late equaliser against Manchester United on Saturday means Arsenal are unbeaten in 17 matches in all competition since losing to Liverpool on the opening day of the season while PSG are on a nine-game undefeated run.

Arsenal have drawn three of their last four Premier League games and should Wednesday's match end all square, the battle for top spot will go down to the final round of games when Arsenal travel to Basel and PSG host Ludogorets.

While Arsenal's level has dipped in recent weeks, Wenger believes his side's resilience will be key against PSG.

"Hopefully we can move on with some wins, we have a big game on Wednesday against Paris Saint-Germain and that will be the same intensity," he said after the United draw.

FIXTURES
Arsenal v PSG, Ludogorets v Basel, Napoli v Dynamo Kiev, Besiktas v Benfica, Celtic v Barcelona, Borussia Moenchengladbach v Manchester City, Rostov v Bayern Munich, Atletico Madrid v PSV Eindhoven

Klinsmann sacked

AFP, Chicago

Former Germany player and coach Jurgen Klinsmann was fired Monday as coach of the United States after losing two 2018 World Cup qualifying matches.

The 52-year-old, who won the World Cup as a player with Germany in 1990, had been in charge of the US since 2011.

US Soccer Federation president Sunil Gulati announced the "difficult decision" without naming a replacement. The United States does not face another World Cup qualifier until March.

"While we remain confident that we have quality players to help us advance to Russia 2018, the form and growth of the team up to this point left us convinced that we need to go in a different direction," Gulati said.

"With the next qualifying match in late March, we have several months to refocus the group and determine the best way forward to ensure a successful journey to qualify for our eighth consecutive World Cup."

Klinsmann went 55-27 with 16 drawn in a coaching tenure that began on July 29, 2011, when Gulati named him to replace sacked Bob Bradley on a team where Bradley's son Michael was a star midfielder.

"We want to thank Jurgen for his hard work and commitment during these last five years," Gulati said. "He took pride in having the responsibility of steering the program and there were considerable achievements along the way."

Klinsmann guided the Americans on a team record 12-match win streak in 2013 and his 16 triumphs and .761 win percentage that year set US calendar-year records.

But the Americans were a disappointing fourth in the 2015 Gold Cup and also lost a playoff to Mexico for a berth in the 2017 Confederations Cup.

Earlier this month, the US stumbled

badly in opening the final round of North American (CONCACAF) qualifying for the 2018 World Cup in Russia, falling 2-1 at home to arch-rival Mexico and 4-0 at Costa Rica.

In a New York Times story published Monday, Klinsmann dismissed much of the criticism as "a lot of talk from people who don't understand soccer or the team" while saying critics were "ignoring the facts" and "being disrespectful."

Klinsmann has tinkered with lineups and formations but dismissed calls his moves hurt the squad, saying "we are coaching a team through a transitional phase."

Gulati addressed the future of US Soccer, which many fans saw as bleak under



Klinsmann's guidance, saying "we look forward to continued progress."

Bruce Arena, a five-time Major League Soccer champion coach now with the Los Angeles Galaxy, is thought to be a prime candidate to replace Klinsmann. The 65-year-old American coached the US team to the 2002 World Cup quarter-finals and guided a 2006 US lineup that exited in the group stages.

Sports Illustrated reported that Arena was set to take over and an announcement could come as early as Tuesday, when Gulati plans to speak with reporters.

Under Klinsmann in 2014, the Americans matched their 2010 World Cup showing by reaching the last 16 at Brazil after Klinsmann left long-time US striker

C'Ron eyeing Ballon d'Or

AFP, Paris

Cristiano Ronaldo says he feels confident of winning a fourth Ballon d'Or title after a stellar year in which Portugal wiped the smiles off French faces at Euro 2016.

The 31-year-old Real Madrid striker said in an interview published in Tuesday's edition of France Football that 'Les Bleus' "thought they were going to easily win" and "smiled a lot" before the final in Stade de France last July.

But the ultimate prize went to Portugal who won their first international trophy following a game which was also the scene of "the greatest sadness" of three-time world player of the year Ronaldo's career.

Ronaldo left the pitch in tears, forced off with a knee injury in the first half.

"I couldn't bend my leg... It wasn't going to be the final that I dreamed of, I could no longer play," he recalled with sadness.

The Portuguese football federation on Friday published a video in which the international captain, bareheaded in the changing room, thanked coach Fernando Santos, his teammates and staff, for "the happiest moment of (his) life."

The France Football interview is headlined "Griezmann told me: 'I hate you'"



without the weekly magazine revealing further details before it hits the news stands.

Concerning his bid for a fourth world footballer of the year title, Ronaldo said he felt "rather confident and relaxed" after what he called the best season of his career, in which he also won the Champions League with Real Madrid.

Ronaldo -- Ballon d'Or winner in 2008, 2013 and 2014 -- is overwhelming favourite to reclaim the award in January after finishing top scorer in the Champions League with 16 goals, as well as his Euro 2016 title.

Fans hide in toilet

REUTERS, London

Two Manchester United fans hid inside an Old Trafford toilet and spent Friday night inside the stadium in the hope of watching their team play Arsenal in the Premier League on Saturday.

The duo, who did not have tickets for the match, were found during a security sweep before the match, which ended in a 1-1 draw, and handed over to the police who chose not to arrest them, British media reported.

The fans took a stadium tour a day before the game but slipped away before it ended.

A Manchester United spokesman said all members of the tour group had been searched before entering the stadium and there had been no risk to public safety.

FIFA PUSKAS AWARD Scandinavian scorpion kick goal shortlisted

REUTERS, Zurich

A goal scored with a scorpion kick in the Swedish league was included on the shortlist for FIFA's goal of the year award on Monday along with efforts from Lionel Messi and Neymar.

Mario Gaspar's scissor kick in last year's Spain against England friendly was also among the 10 candidates along with a winding solo effort from the women's Under-17 South American championship, scored by Venezuela's Daniuska Rodriguez.

Real Madrid and Portugal forward Cristiano Ronaldo was missing, however, as none of the 49 goals he has scored in 2016 were considered worthy of inclusion.

The winner of the award, named after the late Hungary captain Ferenc Puskas, will be decided by the public and announced at FIFA's annual player of the year ceremony on Jan. 9.

Simon Skrabb of Swedish side Atvidaberg scored one of the most unorthodox goals of the goals.

Kristian Bergstrom hit a hard, low cross into the area and, although the ball went behind Skrabb, the Finnish player threw himself forward and manage to turn it into the net with his raised heel.

It was reminiscent of the so-called scorpion save performed by Colombia goalkeeper Rene Higuita in a friendly against England in 1992.

Messi's entry was a sublime free kick he scored in Argentina's Copa Centenario match against the United States goal in which the Brazilian flicked the ball over an opponent's head and volleyed home.

FIFA has always preferred acrobatic volleys when choosing candidates but did include Hal Robson-Kanu's goal for Wales against Belgium at Euro 2016 which was as much about the flowing build up from the back as the forward's superb turn and finish.

Mohd Faiz Subri, of Malaysian Super League side Penang, was nominated for a 35-metre free kick in which the ball dipped and swung in a bewildering fashion to leave the goalkeeper stranded.

Ibrahimovic honoured with statue

AGENCIES, London

Manchester United's Zlatan Ibrahimovic will have a statue erected in his honour after being named Sweden's top player for a 10th successive year.

The 36-year-old striker received his 'Guldbollen' - Golden Ball - award on Monday at a ceremony in Stockholm.

The statue will go outside Stockholm's Friends Arena, where Ibrahimovic scored four goals against England in 2012.

Ibrahimovic said: "It's huge for me. Most people do not get a statue until they have passed away."

The Swede has won the award every year since 2007 - and also came top in 2005 before losing out to Arsenal midfielder Freddie Ljungberg a year later.