

**BOISHAKHI TV**  
Bangladesh Premier League  
Feni v Chittagong Abahani  
Live from 3:30pm  
Team BJMC v Rahamatgong  
Live from 6:15pm

Bangladesh Premier League  
Feni v Chittagong Abahani  
Time: 3:30pm

**STAR SPORTS 1**  
Indian Premier League  
Semifinal  
Mumbai v Kolkata, Leg 2  
Live from 7:30pm

Team BJMC v Rahamatgong  
Time: 6:15pm  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

**STAR SPORTS 2**  
Indian Premier League  
Semifinal  
Kerala v Delhi, Leg 1  
Live from 7:30pm

**STAR SPORTS SELECT HD 1**  
English Premiership  
Everton v Arsenal  
Live from 2:00am (Wednesday)

**STAR SPORTS SELECT HD 2**  
English Premiership  
Bournemouth v Leicester  
Live from 1:30am (Wednesday)

# Arsenal, Bayern meet again

## Real face Napoli test; Barca take on PSG

AFP, Nyon



Arsenal were once again drawn against Bayern Munich in the last 16 of the UEFA Champions League on Monday, while Barcelona will also come up against familiar foes in the shape of Paris Saint-Germain.

Arsene Wenger's side had hoped winning their group for the first time in five years would spare them a tie against one of the continent's giants in the first knockout round, but instead they must face Carlo Ancelotti's German champions, who came second in their section, with the first leg in Bavaria.

Bayern eliminated Arsenal en route to winning the trophy in 2012/13 and repeated the feat a year later, while the teams also met in the group stage last season -- the Gunners won 2-0 in London but then lost 5-1 at the Allianz Arena.

"It's an interesting and difficult draw. We know Arsenal from the last few years when we often played against them, twice already in the last 16, when we had a good experience and got through," said Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer.

"Arsenal are a strong team and I rate them as stronger at the moment than in the last few years."

PSG came second to Arsenal in Group A, leaving them more vulnerable to a tough draw and five-time winners Barcelona have eliminated the French club in the quarter-finals in two of the past four seasons, while the teams also met in the group stage in 2014/15.

Recent history favours the Catalans, and so does current form, with Unai Emery's side having squandered the chance to top their group by drawing at home to Ludogorets of Bulgaria last week.

"If I could have chosen another team, I would have done," admitted Paris director of football Patrick Kluitver, a former Barcelona striker.

Barcelona vice president Jordi Mestre told

RESULTS OF THE DRAW	
MANCHESTER CITY FC (ENG)	vs AS MONACO FC (FRA)
REAL MADRID CF (ESP)	vs SSC NAPOLI (ITA)
SL BENFICA (POR)	vs BORUSSIA DORTMUND (GER)
FC BAYERN MÜNCHEN (GER)	vs ARSENAL FC (ENG)
FC PORTO (POR)	vs JUVENTUS FOOTBALL CLUB (ITA)
BAYER 04 LEVERKUSEN (GER)	vs CLUB ATLÉTICO DE MADRID (ESP)
PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN (FRA)	vs FC BARCELONA (ESP)
SEVILLA FC (ESP)	vs LEICESTER CITY FC (ENG)

beIN Sports Spain: "It is true that of the (possible) options Bayern Munich was possibly the strongest, with respect to the rest, but PSG are also a great team."

"There is no guarantee but it does give you a certain confidence to have beaten them before. Every game is different and we will see what happens."

Reigning European champions Real Madrid will face Napoli as they look to win the trophy for a record 12th time, while Pep Guardiola's Manchester City face a testing two-legged encounter against Monaco.

City, currently struggling for form, cannot afford to take the principality side lightly -- they are the most prolific side in Europe's leading leagues this season and have beaten Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur in the Champions League in the past two years.

"We are happy to be here, and then we have avoided Real Madrid and Barcelona," City's director of football Txiki Begiristain told BT Sport.

Monaco are playing probably the best football in France now. In a group with Tottenham and Bayer Leverkusen they were top and they have young players and a lot of talent."

Premier League champions Leicester City will take on last season's Europa League winners Sevilla as a reward for topping their group in their debut appearance in the competition, with a visit to the Sanchez Pizjuan in the first leg.

Atletico Madrid, runners up to city rivals Real in two of the last three seasons, were drawn against Bayer Leverkusen in a repeat of their clash at the same stage in 2014/15. On that occasion, Atletico emerged victorious after a tense penalty shoot-out.

Two-time winners Juventus were drawn against FC Porto, while Borussia Dortmund also face Portuguese opposition in the shape of Benfica.

The first legs will be played on February 14, 15, 21 and 22 with the second legs on March 7, 8, 14 and 15.

## Kabaddi meet postponed

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation (BKF) yesterday postponed the National Kabaddi Championship, which was scheduled to take off today, due to security reasons, said a press release from the federation.

It has been learnt that the federation's general secretary Nazrul Islam was planning to hold the championship without the consent of the federation president, who had instructed concerned authorities not to hold any tournaments until the completion of the next election following the expiration of the existing committee on October 20.

The National Sports Council was supposed to hold an election but it failed to do so in time, allowing the expired committee led by Nazrul to keep running the federation. Nazrul was not available for comments on this issue as he is currently in Australia.

"As we tried to enter the venue in the morning, police restricted us and instructed not to hold the championship as they claimed they have information regarding a security threat. So we have postponed the championship," tournament committee's member secretary and BKF's joint secretary Amjad Hossain Mojnu told reporters.

# Kurtz starts camp for HWL

SPORTS REPORTER



With two-and-a-half months left to the start of the Hockey World League (HWL) Round-2 in Dhaka, Bangladesh head coach Oliver Kurtz has started his selection process by taking a look at players from the under-21 and under-18 teams in an effort to pick up the best squad for the tournament.

Kurtz has called up 15 new players from the under-21 team, players who have started training with 18 senior players. These players will play a few matches in a four-day training camp. Later, the German coach will conduct training with U-18 players of BKSP in Savar on December 14-15 and will select some 30 to 40 players for the final phase of training.

"The players did a good job in the last tournament (AHF Cup) but they will start from zero in the next tournament (Hockey World League). I want to build a new team by selecting best 18 players and that's why I want to check out players from the under-21 and under-18 sides. It is not that there is a lack of senior players, it is just part of my selection process. I am responsible for bringing the best players in the squad," Kurtz said before the start of the training camp at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

"It is always good for senior players to face challenge from the juniors and this training camp will help both groups of players. The seniors will be trying to keep their places while the juniors will be hoping to get into the national team. There will be a good competition among the players which was not there before," said veteran forward Rasel Mahmud Jimmy.

Bangladesh have been pitted alongside Canada, Oman and Fiji in their pool while the other pool features Egypt, China, Ghana and Sri Lanka. The league is scheduled to get underway from March 4 in Dhaka.

"Our first target is to qualify for the semifinals, and then we will certainly think of a win in the semifinals to go to the (Hockey World League) third round. Even though two-and-a-half months' preparation is not good enough but we want to qualify for Round 3," said Kurtz, who is supposed to sign a deal with Bangladesh Hockey Federation within a few days before leaving for Germany for Christmas vacation.

# Pog-bros set to face off

AFP, Nyon

Manchester United will take on Saint-Etienne in the last 32 of the Europa League, with Jose Mourinho's side hosting the French club in the first leg, after Monday's draw.

The tie will see United and France midfielder Paul Pogba, the world's most expensive player, come up against his elder brother Florentin, the Guinean international defender.

"That's a nice thing," said Mourinho at a press conference on Monday. "Paul was already laughing about it and for sure his brother is also laughing."

"It has happened a few times in the history football and it's a nice thing."

The teams met in the now defunct Cup Winners' Cup first round in 1977, with United winning 3-1 on aggregate.

On that occasion, United were forced to host the second leg in the southern English city of Plymouth, 450 kilometres away, following crowd trouble in the first leg in France.

Mourinho's men finished second in Group A behind Fenerbahce of Turkey while Saint-Etienne topped Group C. After also having to go to Ukraine to face Zorya Luhansk in the group stage, United's Portuguese manager is pleased that there will be no long away trip this time.

"The good thing is the travel distance. We were very unlucky in the group phase, we had to go very far, it was very difficult to go to Turkey, Ukraine," he said.

"Now we go to France because the flight is easy and it's not an easy period, there are lots of games, so that is good."

Saint-Etienne, 10-time French champions and European Cup runners-up in 1976, are currently eighth in Ligue 1.

"Saint-Etienne is an historic old club with lots of tradition. People of my generation will never forget that (Michel) Platini team and it will be difficult because every team now is a good team in the competition."

"For sure, Manchester United is one of the big names in the competition but we have two months without the Europa League, two months to forget it, then we will see."

The other Premier League representative, Tottenham Hotspur, will face Gent of Belgium after being eliminated from the Champions League at the group stage.

Villarreal of Spain will face Italian giants Roma in one of the standout ties, while Bundesliga club Borussia Moenchengladbach were drawn against Fiorentina of Italy.

The first legs will be played on Thursday, February 16, with the return matches a week later.

JFA U-14 WOMEN'S C'SHIP

## Satkhira abort semifinal

SPORTS REPORTER

Rangpur and Mymensingh moved into the final of JFA U-14 Women's National Championship beating their respective semifinal opponents at the Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Rangpur defeated Thakurgaon 3-1 in a tie-breaker after regulation time ended in a 1-1 draw. Baby put Thakurgaon ahead in the 11th minute before Rabeya levelled the margin in the 35th minute.

In the day's other match, Mymensingh were declared winners after Satkhira failed to turn up.

It has been learnt that the coach of Satkhira took the players back home over a payment row with the district football association. The Satkhira DFA president Sirajul Islam Khan, however, denied the accusation.

"Due to pressure from the families of the players, we were forced to bring them back home," said Khan.

## Cavani brace rescues PSG

AFP, Paris

A second-half brace from Edinson Cavani saw champions Paris Saint Germain come from two down to earn a 2-2 draw with Ligue 1 leaders Nice at the Parc des Princes on Sunday.

The visitors withstood an early onslaught to go into the break 2-0 up after a sumptuous free-kick from Wylan Cyprien on 32 minutes and a slick left-foot shot from Alassane Plea right on the break.

The result puts Nice on 40 points from 17 games, one clear of second placed Monaco and four clear of under-pressure Unai Emery's champions.

Nice coach Lucien Favre looked relieved with the point after Cavani had finished from close range on 46 minutes and then on the hour mark before the champions ripped into the Ligue 1 leaders all the way to the final whistle.

# Gunners in 'title fight'

AFP, London



Arsene Wenger believes Arsenal are in the 'fight' for their first

Premier League title since 2004 and insists the Gunners will maintain the pressure on leaders Chelsea in Tuesday's trip to out of sorts Everton.

Arsenal have not lost in the Premier League since the opening day of the season, and had a short stay at the top at the weekend before Chelsea eked out a 1-0 win over West Brom to maintain their three point lead.

With a visit to bottom side Sunderland on Wednesday they should retain top spot ahead of next weekend's games.

Wenger, though, is pleased with the way his side have progressed from last season when they finished a distant second to Leicester having never posed a significant challenge.

"At the minute there is no difference anyway with the other teams," said Wenger.

"But we are in there. So that's good -- we are in the fight."

"We were not too bad last year but I believe we have improved. I believe that we have created confidence."

Wenger will be without the impressive German international Khodr Mustafi, who went off in the 3-1 win over Stoke with a hamstring injury, which will be music to the ears of Belgian international Romelu Lukaku.

He returned to form with a brace in the 3-2 defeat to Watford but Ronald Koeman's honeymoon with the Everton fans is well and truly over after a run of just one win in 10 games.

Chelsea's trip to Sunderland shouldn't pose too many problems -- even with rumours swirling they may be punished with a points deduction over the players role in the angry climax to the Manchester City match earlier this month -- despite the Black Cats having won three of their previous

## FIXTURES

(2000GMT unless stated):

**Tuesday**  
Everton v Arsenal (1945), Bournemouth v Leicester (1945)

## Wednesday

Crystal Palace v Manchester United, Manchester City v Watford, Middlesbrough v Liverpool (1945), Sunderland v Chelsea (1945), Tottenham Hotspur v Hull, Stoke v Southampton, West Bromwich Albion v Swansea, West Ham v Burnley (1945)

ous five matches.

Chelsea manager Antonio Conte has proved the doubters wrong in sending out a far more fluent and happier side than the one that led to Jose Mourinho being sacked last season.

Diego Costa, who scored his 12th goal of the season on Sunday, is one of those who have been transformed and Conte is expecting the 28-year-old to get even better.

"I'm happy for him because he is

showing great passion. In every game he is showing great commitment and work rate to help the team," said Conte.

The two London clubs gained some breathing space at the weekend as the chasing pack all dropped points -- Manchester City and Spurs both losing and Liverpool held 2-2 at home by struggling West Ham.

Spurs -- who host struggling Hull on Wednesday -- could at least point to a narrow 1-0 defeat by Manchester United whereas Pep Guardiola's problems appear to be mounting with City's 4-2 humbling by Leicester.

Guardiola, whose side have won just four times in 15 matches, didn't offer much in the way of a solution to his players inability to tackle.

They failed to win one in the opening 35 minutes against Leicester something which the Watford forwards will be licking their lips at ahead of Wednesday's clash.

"I am not a coach for the tackles. I don't train for tackles. What I want is to try to play well and score goals. What are tackles?" said Guardiola.

"I have to improve, but I want to play the football I feel because of course it is simple to say 'concede fewer goals and score more'."

Jose Mourinho will be hoping United's win over Spurs will spark a sequence of wins especially as three of their next four are against teams in trouble starting away at Crystal Palace on Wednesday.

# Sevilla cement third place

AFP, Madrid