

TEN 1
UEFA Champions League
Benfica v Dortmund
Live from 1:45am (Wednesday)

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UEFA Champions League
PSG v Barcelona
Live from 1:45am (Wednesday)

DRY'S EVENT

BANGLADESH CRICKET LEAGUE
(Four-Day Match, Day-4)
Time: 9:30am

Walton Central Zone v Prime Bank South Zone
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium

Islami Bank East Zone v BCB North Zone
Venue: Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, Chittagong

DEFENDER DEFENDS FOUL PLAY

Ajax defender Joel Veltman feels he did nothing wrong after he was accused of unsportsmanlike behaviour in his side's 2-0 Eredivisie win over Sparta Rotterdam on Sunday. Veltman made headlines when he took advantage of opponent Ivan Calero's goodwill by signalling to his opponent that he would stop play in order to allow the injured Bertrand Traore to undergo treatment. Calero then turned to Traore, no longer paying attention to Veltman, who then opted to charge past his opponent rather than kick the ball out of play. "I was just being clever," Veltman told Metro. "I thought 'I am going to use this to my advantage'. I pretended to kick the ball out of play, but when my opponent looked behind him, I just went past him. I know that it was not the most beautiful thing to do, but it was just something clever. I can have a good laugh about it. What if my cross resulted in a goal? A goal is a goal!"



-AGENCIES

SHEIKH KAMAL INTERNATIONAL CLUB CUP

Ctg Abahani face MSC

SPORTS REPORTER



Defending champions Chittagong Abahani and Dhaka Mohammedan SC have been drawn in a comparatively easy group of Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup tournament, the draw and trophy unveiling for which was held through a colourful ceremony at a hotel in the capital yesterday.

Nepal's seven-time national league champions Manang Marshyangdi Club and three-time Afghan Premier League champions Shaheen Asmayee FC are the other opponents of the two Bangladeshi outfits in Group B.

Bangladesh Premier League champions Abahani have however been pitted in tough Group A, which also features Kyrgyzstan's three-time champions FC Alga, South Korea's fourth-tier league champions Pocheon Citizens FC and Maldives Premier League runners-up Trust and Care Sports Club.

"On paper, we are in a comparatively easy group, but it is tough to say about the other teams until each of the teams play their first match which is equally important for us," Chittagong Abahani coach Saiful Bari Titu said. "To be honest everything depends on the preparation. Our preparation has been interrupted, but we nevertheless want to make sure of a semifinal berth playing match by

match."

Mohammedan coach Abdul Kaiyum Sentu did not want to think too much ahead either. "We have been placed in a comparatively good group but the other opponents including defending champions Chittagong Abahani are strong. At the moment I can't say anything about our target because I have yet to get the full squad but I am optimistic seeing the draw," Sentu said.

GROUPINGS

Group A: Dhaka Abahani, FC Alga, Pocheon Citizens, TC Sports Club.
Group B: Chittagong Abahani, Manang Marshyangdi, Dhaka Mohammedan, Shaheen Asmayee FC.

"Considering the names of countries, we are in a strong group and we will definitely be playing considering those facts. Abahani always play to become champions and that will be the same here, even though our initial target is to confirm a semifinal berth," opined Abahani manager Satyajit Das Rupu.

On February 18, the opening day, Dhaka Abahani will play against Trust & Care Sports Club while FC Alga will take on Pocheon Citizens FC.

The final will be held on March 2, All the matches will be held at the MA Aziz Stadium in the port city.

Tarafder Ruhul Amin, director of Chittagong Abahani and chief coordinator of the tournament committee, said that by hosting the tournament they are trying to promote Bangladesh's football brand in Asia as well as trying to take football forward.

Mentioning the glorious past of football, chief guest of the occasion, Planning minister and former ICC and BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal urged the Bangladesh Football Federation president Kazi Salahuddin to take proper steps like cricket to make football more popular.

"When I had asked South Africa's cricket administrator Ali Bacher how to develop cricket in Bangladesh, he recommended me to try to make the game popular among youth generation as well elder generation parents instead of going for the concept of development. I followed his advice. I would request the BFF president to try to make football popular again and ensure a healthy supply of footballers," said Kamal.

State minister for youth and sports Biren Shikdar, deputy sports minister Arif Khan Joy, chairman of parliamentary standing committee of sports ministry Zahid Ahsan Russel, Chittagong Abahani president MA Latif MP, secretary general Shamsul Alam Chowdhury MP, BFF president Kazi Salahuddin, BFF senior vice president Abdus Salam Mursheedy were also present in the programme.



Dignitaries stand on the background as the trophy for the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup is unveiled amid confetti showers at a hotel in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Goetze left out for Benfica clash

AFP, Berlin

Germany's World Cup winner Mario Goetze has been left out of Borussia Dortmund's squad for Tuesday's Champions League last 16, first-leg, clash against Benfica.

The 24-year-old has fallen out of favour with coach Thomas Tuchel after a string of below-par performances and is struggling with a leg injury, which kept him out of Saturday's shock 2-1 defeat at Bundesliga bottom side Darmstadt.

"For him, the game in Lisbon came a bit too soon," Dortmund's director of sport Michael Zorc told BVB.de. Injury and loss of form mean Goetze, who scored the winning goal in the 2014 World Cup final, has played just 24 minutes of football so far in 2017.

Dortmund have been boosted with the return of both captain Marcel Schmelzer and Lukasz Piszczek.

Razzak blitz sets up last-day battle

SPORTS REPORTER



LONGER VERSION

Prime Bank South Zone captain **Abdur Razzak** fired with the bat to challenge Walton Central Zone and set up an exciting final day at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium. On the third day of the Bangladesh Cricket League match yesterday, South Zone were reduced to 195 for seven in their second innings with a 39-run first innings deficit but the left-handed Razzak took charge to make 76 off 61 balls to set a 279-run winning target for their opponents.

Razzak smashed six fours and five sixes while Rubel Hossain contributed with a 31-ball 20.

South Zone ended the day on a happy note as Mustafizur Rahman trapped Shadman Islam in front for six runs. Central Zone reached 7 for one at stumps with 272 more runs to score on the final day.

Earlier Shuvagata Hom, who made a hundred in Central's first innings, captured four wickets to finish the match with a 10-

Prime Bank South Zone captain **Abdur Razzak** fired



ABDUR RAZZAK...76

wicket haul while Taibur Rahman also claimed four wickets.

At the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong, Naeem Islam came put up great resistance to create a chance for BCB North Zone to enforce a draw against Islami Bank East Zone. Chasing a mammoth 490-run first innings total, North Zone finished the day on 276 for six thanks to

Naeem Islam's patience as the right-hander remained not out on 85 off 226 balls.

Suhrawardi Shuvo kept Naeem company on 35.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ISLAMI BANK EAST ZONE VS BCB NORTH ZONE
ISLAMI BANK EAST ZONE: 490.
BCB NORTH ZONE: 276-6 in 98 overs (Nazmul 35, Junaed 28, Naeem 85 not out, Dhiman 40, Shuvo 35 not out)
PRIME BANK SOUTH ZONE VS WALTON CENTRAL ZONE
PRIME BANK SOUTH ZONE: 260 and 317 all out in 78 overs (Anamul 30, Nafees 72, Tushar 44, Zia 34, Razzak 76; Hom 4-77, Hider 2-61, Taibur 4-52).
WALTON CENTRAL ZONE: 299 and 7-1 in 4 overs (Mazid 0 not out, Saif 0 not out; Mustafizur 1-1).

Ranieri can't believe it

AFP, Swansea

Claudio Ranieri acknowledged Leicester City cannot continue haemorrhaging defeats after Sunday's 2-0 loss at Swansea City left the Premier League champions one point above the relegation zone.

Swansea defenders Alfie Mawson and Martin Olsson struck in the first half at the Liberty Stadium to condemn Leicester to a fifth successive defeat and 14th of the campaign in total.

Leicester manager Ranieri has seen his side go six league games without scoring and he knows something must change if their historic title success is not to be succeeded by a historic demotion.

"I wanted the start of a 'new season' today, but it is the same. It is unbelievable," said the Italian.

"We started well, but their first two shots on goal are goals. It is very difficult to come back from that. It is unbelievable, this season."

Root named Eng Test captain

AFP, London



AFP, London

Joe Root has been named as new Test captain of England, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced Monday.

Yorkshire batsman Root, previously England's vice-captain, had been the overwhelming favourite to replace Alastair Cook ever since the Essex opener resigned as Test skipper after a national record 59 matches in charge last week.

Root, who made his England debut under Cook, is now widely regarded as England's leading batsman.

"It is a huge honour to be given the England Test captaincy," the 26-year-old Root said in an ECB statement. "I feel privileged, humbled and very excited."

The ECB added all-rounder Ben Stokes would succeed Root as vice-captain of the Test side.

Cook, England's all-time leading Test run-scorer, is set to continue his career in the five-day game, with Root also able to call upon the experience of senior fast bowlers James Anderson and Stuart Broad, as well as coach Trevor Bayliss and assistant Paul Farbrace.

"We have a very good group of players, and I'm looking forward to leading them out in the summer -- building on Alastair's achievements and making the most of our talents in the years ahead," said Root.

"The senior guys in the changing room play a very influential role - and while there's a natural progression for me, it's a huge support to know that they are there to help and advise."

Wins for Agrani Bank, Shinepukur

SPORTS REPORTER

Two Premier League promotees, Agrani Bank Cricket Club and Shinepukur Cricket Club won their respective matches of the First Division Cricket Super League yesterday.

Agrani Bank Cricket Club (253-5) defeated Surjo Torun Club (198-10) by 55 runs at the Jahangirnagar University ground while Shinepukur Cricket Club (190-3) beat Kalindi Krira Chakra (184-10) by seven wickets at BKSP-4.

At BKSP-3, Jawad Royen hit 118 and Towfiq Khan Tushar scored 105 as Kakrail Boys Club posted 378 for nine. In reply, Imranuzzaman hit 100 but Udayachal Club could manage only 250 for seven in 50 overs to suffer a 128-run defeat.

Rupganj Tigers Cricket Club (149-7) beat Orient Sporting Club (148-10) by three wickets at the Fatullah Outer Stadium.

Higuain on the double

AFP, Milan

Gonzalo Higuain struck his 21st Serie A brace to go joint-top in the scoring charts as Juventus opened up a seven-point lead with a comfortable 2-0 win at 10-man Cagliari on Sunday.

Higuain's 17th and 18th goals of the league season means the Argentina striker is tied with Roma front man Edin Dzeko, who missed a penalty then made amends with Roma's second in a 2-0 win at Crotone.

Juventus, claiming their 20th win in 24 games, remain top of Serie A with a seven-point lead on Roma.

Third-placed Napoli are nine points behind the Turin giants, days ahead of a crucial Champions League trip to Real Madrid.

Juventus are not in action in Europe until they visit Porto on February 22 and Massimiliano Allegri's men have capitalised to further underline their bid for a record sixth consecutive title.

Despite Juve's numerical advantage after Nicolò Barella saw red for a second caution on 67 minutes, Higuain says it wasn't as easy as it looked.

"We did well, but it was a difficult match because we just couldn't get into our stride at the start," Higuain told Premium Sport.

"Once we broke the deadlock, it started going a lot better, and even more so after their expulsion."

Griezmann seals fightback

AFP, Madrid



LFP

Antoine Griezmann sealed a thrilling Atletico Madrid comeback from 2-1 down with four minutes remaining to beat Celta Vigo 3-2 and move into fourth in La Liga.

Sevilla remain four points ahead of Atletico in third as they moved within three points of leaders Real Madrid thanks to substitute Joaquin Correa's winner 10 minutes from time in a 1-0 win at Las Palmas.

Real lead Barcelona by a point at the top, but also have two games in hand over their title rivals.

"It was a thrilling and emotional game with a lot of errors, but with two teams looking to win," said Atletico boss Diego Simeone.

"The team was calm and understood there was the chance to equalise and, after the equaliser, the crowd pushed us on for the winner."

Atletico's top four hopes look set to take a huge blow as they once again nearly paid for their profligacy from the penalty spot.

An error from Atletico 'keeper Miguel Angel Moya handed Gustavo Cabral an early opener for Celta.

torrential Madrid rain.

However, John Guidetti looked to have delivered the telling blow when he slotted home Daniel Wass's cut-back 12 minutes from time.

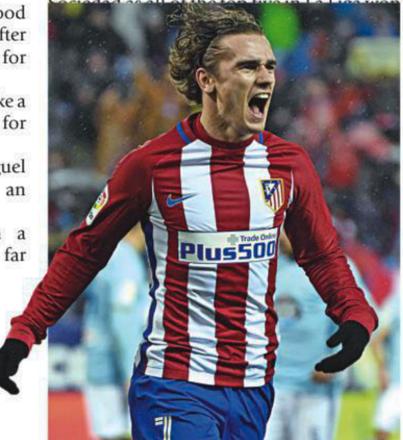
Yet, Atletico responded in style as Yannick Carrasco's crashed home a volley from 25 yards to give the hosts hope.

And just two minutes later Kevin Gameiro's cushioned header was swept home by Griezmann for his 16th goal of the season.

"We turned it round because we are a team that gives our all in every moment and you saw that today," Griezmann told BeIN Sports Spain.

Gameiro should even have added a fourth when he hit the underside of the bar from Carrasco's cross in stoppage time.

Victory takes Atletico a point clear of Real Sociedad and Valencia from in La Liga.



HK marathon runner dies after collapse

AFP, Hong Kong

A 52-year-old woman runner who took part in the Hong Kong marathon died Monday, a day after collapsing on the finish line of the 10-kilometre race.

The amateur athlete had been in a critical condition after the event Sunday, which saw 74,000 competitors pound the streets.

Hospital authorities said Monday the woman had died after she became unconscious and was taken into intensive care, but gave no further details.

She had participated in the race with her husband, who accompanied her to hospital, local television reported.

Sunday's marathon took place under blue skies but pollution levels were deemed "unhealthy for sensitive groups" with the Air Quality Index at 126.

Of the runners who took part, 11 were taken to hospital on Sunday, including the woman who died.

Authorities Monday said six people were still in hospital and all were stable.

Ethiopia's Bizuneh Melaku Belachew smashed his personal best to win the main 42km race in a new course record of two hours, 10 minutes and 31 seconds.

PSG plot Barca upset

AFP, Paris



UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Paris Saint-Germain host Barcelona in the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie on Tuesday with their Spanish coach Unai Emery desperate to improve his awful personal record against the Catalans.

Emery was brought to the French capital last year as the successor to Laurent Blanc in order to help take PSG to the next level in Europe after four consecutive quarter-final exits in the Champions League.

But finishing second in their group behind Arsenal exposed PSG to a tougher draw in the first knockout round and now they must beat the Spanish champions -- the second leg will be at the Camp Nou next month -- just to make it to the last eight again.

Emery, the former Sevilla boss, has come up against Barcelona 23 times in his coaching career and won just once, in La Liga last season.

Paris, meanwhile, have been knocked out of the Champions League by Barcelona twice in recent campaigns, losing in the quarter-finals in 2013 and again in 2015 to Lionel Messi, Neymar and co.

But there is a new-found confidence at the Parc des Princes after a fine start to 2017 which has seen them win 10 and draw one of their last 11 games in all competitions.

"We believe in ourselves and this game comes at a good time for us. If it had come at the start of the season I would have been more worried, but everything has changed," PSG's Italian midfielder Marco Verratti said after Friday's 3-0 win at Bordeaux in Ligue 1, in which Edinson Cavani scored twice.

win in the group stage in September 2014.

They are also a formidable proposition at the Parc des Princes, having lost just once there in Europe in the last decade.

"It's a huge challenge. Simply put, we will have to play two huge matches," Brazilian left-back Maxwell, a former Barcelona player, told PSG's website.

"No-one enters this competition hoping to cross paths with them. Still, it's up to us to make the difference."

Emery will be unable to utilise veteran midfielder Thiago Motta, another ex-Barcelona player, due to suspension. Meanwhile, one winger from Angel Di Maria, Lucas Moura and January signing Julian Draxler will have to settle for a place on the bench.

Barcelona travel to France buoyed by a crushing 6-0 win at Alaves in La Liga at the weekend in which Luis Suarez scored twice.

That result means Luis Enrique's side have now lost just once in 22 games although it was overshadowed by an awful ankle injury suffered by right-back Alex Vidal which rules him out for the rest of the season.

Javier Mascherano and Arda Turan are sidelined too, although one man who could feature is Rafinha, who was named in the squad but will need a mask to protect a broken nose.

Barcelona are still fighting on three fronts, keeping alive the prospect of another La Liga, Copa del Rey and Champions League trophy to match those achieved in 2009 and 2015.

"It's not really something we talk about amongst ourselves but all the players have it in mind," the club's former PSG defender Lucas Digne told AFP.

"As long as we are still in every competition, it is very important. This club is born to win trophies."