

TUFAN HELD IN LUXURY CAR PROBE

Istanbul police detained Turkish football international and Fenerbahce midfielder Ozan Tufan and several other suspects yesterday in a probe into the illegal import of luxury cars, state media said. Prosecutors in the Istanbul district of Bakirkoy issued 46 arrest warrants for suspects including Tufan, the state-run Anadolu news agency said. Tufan, 22, was then among an unspecified number of suspects detained at their home addresses. Anadolu said that the investigation concerned the illegal smuggling of luxury vehicles from abroad, without giving further details. Tufan has since 2014 made over 30 senior appearances for his country after coming up through the juniors. Until 2015 he played in the top-flight side of his home city of Bursa, south of Istanbul, but since has been a regular for Istanbul giants Fenerbahce. — AFP



Nine foreign coaches in nine years

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday approved the appointment of a ninth foreign coach within nine years with English-born Australian Andrew Ord all set to take charge of the national team in June.

Ord last worked as the assistant coach for Australian Premier League side Perth Glory FC after having worked with youth academies and club sides in Thailand and Myanmar. He is also said to have been involved with the Australian national team as a scout. Those experiences were considered before the BFF offered him the position of head coach of the Bangladesh team, who are placed 193rd according to the latest FIFA rankings.

The approval of Ord means that the Bangladesh team will get a head coach after a six-month gap since Belgian coach Tom Saintfiet's reign ended with a 3-1 defeat against Bhutan in an Asian Cup qualifier in October last year.

Even though the appointment of the 37-year-old coach with no prior experience as a head coach raised eyebrows, the local game's governing body believes the right man has been chosen for the job.

"He (Ord) has experience of working in Asian countries as a scout, assistant coach and coach of a few under-age groups.

Considering such experience, we are going to bring him under a one-year contract," BFF vice president and National Teams' Committee member Tabith Awal told reporters after an emergency meeting of BFF Executive Committee yesterday.

"We took our time on deciding about him [Ord] and considering our resources and our next opponents, he is the best coach for us. Everyone has to start as the assistant coach. But we have yet to come to the point to pre-judge him until our national team plays under him. We did not get success with experienced coaches; then again we got success with unknown coaches at national and club levels. Let him work and we will get an idea after seeing his training and matches," Tabith said about Ord, who is expected to arrive in the first week of June to put pen on paper for the one-year contract.

Ord's first assignment will be to guide the national U-23 team in the AFC Championship in Palestine in July before working as the advisor of the U-19 national team in the AFC Championship Qualifiers. Then he will take charge of the senior team to guide them in the Bangabandhu Gold Cup in December before next year's SAFF Championship in Dhaka.

Ord's appointment brings the number of foreign staff at BFF to five including technical and strategic director Paul Smalley. The total salary of those five foreigners is thought to be nearly US\$35,000 monthly.



Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney (4th from R) stands with his teammates as they observe a minute's silence for the victims of Monday's terror attack during the Ariana Grande concert at Manchester Arena, prior to a training session in Carrington yesterday ahead of their Europa League final against Ajax.

PHOTO: AFP

QUICK SINGLES

The following are a few samples of stories that did not make the print edition. However, if they pique your interest, you can always read them online on The Daily Star website by simply scanning the QR codes listed below:

Conte named Manager of the Year

Chelsea's Antonio Conte is named Manager of the Year at a League Managers Association awards ceremony after leading his side to the Premier League title and FA Cup final.



FA wants betting information on Terry withdrawal

The English Football Association (FA) ask betting companies to provide information on wagers placed on John Terry's stage-managed substitution during Chelsea's 5-1 win over Sunderland last weekend.



Manchester attack prompts security rethinks

Countries from the United States to Japan and Singapore are considering tightening security ahead of major theatre and sports events following a suicide bomb attack in Britain that killed at least 22 people.



India says no C'wealth shambles at U17 football WC

India promise that this year's U17 football World Cup will avoid the errors of New Delhi's 2010 Commonwealth Games, which were notorious for shoddy facilities and corruption.



Porto coach Nuno leaves after one season

Porto coach Nuno Espirito Santo leaves the club by mutual consent after one season in charge in which they finished runners-up.



Becks heartbroken

AFP, Manchester



Football star David Beckham spoke of his "heartbreak" as former club Manchester United and local rivals Manchester City came together Tuesday to pay tribute after 22 people including children were killed in a suspected suicide bombing in the northern English city.

Britain's deadliest terror attack in 12 years took place when a bomb went off shortly after the end of a concert by US pop star Ariana Grande at the Manchester Arena on Monday.

Former England captain Beckham, who made his name as a global superstar at United after coming through the club's youth system, expressed his condolences via an Instagram message, saying: "Heartbreaking news from Manchester. As a father & a human what has happened truly saddens me. My thoughts are with all of those that have been affected by this tragedy."



Gary Lineker, another former England international and now a television presenter, summed up a mood of widespread revulsion when he tweeted: "To target children at a concert is beyond comprehension. Beyond lunacy. Beyond evil. Heart goes out to all those who've lost loved ones."

A help centre was opened at City's Etihad Stadium for those affected by the blast, while the United club flag at their Old Trafford ground was flown at half mast.

Both Premier League clubs posted short statements Tuesday on their Twitter accounts, with United saying: "We are deeply shocked by last night's terrible events at the Manchester Arena. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those affected."

Meanwhile, City said: "It's with great sadness we hear of the terrible events at the Arena. Our hearts go out to all affected and to our city's emergency services."

Current players from both clubs also sent Twitter messages of support, with City captain Vincent Kompany saying: "I would like to express my deepest condolences to the families of the victims. It's a sad day for the great city of Manchester. #Unity."

MANCHESTER ATTACK United in mourning

AFP, Manchester



Manchester United's preparations for Wednesday's Europa League final were plunged into sadness on Tuesday after a bomb attack at a Manchester pop concert killed 22 people and injured dozens more.

United manager Jose Mourinho led his players in a solemn minute's silence on the club's Carrington training pitches to the west of Manchester city centre.

United were due to fly to Stockholm, scene of the final, later on Tuesday, but the club cancelled their pre-match press conference scheduled to take place at the city's Friends Arena.

"Due to the tragic events in Manchester last night and the effect that this has had on everyone here at our club and within our city, we have decided to cancel this evening's pre-match press conference in Stockholm," United said in a statement.

"We are sure that, in the circumstances, you will all understand our position on this matter."

"Our thoughts are with the victims at this terribly difficult time."

United's opponents in the final, Dutch club Ajax, tweeted: "From Amsterdam with love to Manchester. Our thoughts are with the victims and the loved ones of those affected."

Ajax head coach Peter Bosz was scheduled to hold a pre-match conference at the Friends Arena later on Tuesday.

The suicide bomb attack in Manchester, which claimed the lives of children and also injured 59 people, struck after a concert by American pop star Ariana Grande at the Manchester Arena.

It was the deadliest attack to hit Britain since the July 2005 attack on the London transport network, which left 52 people dead.

European governing body UEFA said it had "no specific intelligence" suggesting the Europa League final would be targeted by attacks.

It said security arrangements had already been beefed up following last month's truck attack in the Swedish capital, which claimed five lives and injured around 15 people.

UEFA urged fans to arrive at the stadium "as early as possible" on Wednesday as "detailed (security) checks will be made at the entrances".

UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin said: "I am deeply saddened by the horrible terrorist attack in Manchester last night."

"It shocks me that so many innocent people lost their lives and I would like to send my condolences to the families of those affected."

England's Football Association said "robust security measures" would be in place for Saturday's FA Cup final between Arsenal and Premier League champions Chelsea at London's Wembley Stadium.

It comes just over a month after the team bus of German side Borussia Dortmund was targeted by three roadside bomb blasts prior to a Champions League home game with Monaco.

That attack, which left defender Marc Bartra with a fractured wrist, is believed to have been carried out by a man who hoped to profit from a fall in Dortmund's share price.

United club captain Wayne Rooney expressed his shock on Twitter, writing: "Devastating news this morning. Thoughts and prayers are with all those affected."

Former United player Cristiano Ronaldo published a picture of a British Union Jack flag bearing the word "MANCHESTER" on his social media accounts.

"So sad to hear the news from Manchester," the Real Madrid superstar wrote on Instagram. "My thoughts are with the families and friends of the victims."

A help centre was opened at Manchester City's Etihad Stadium for those affected by the blast.

"The thoughts and prayers of our ownership, board and everyone at Manchester City are with the people of Manchester and all those affected following the horrifying events of last night's Manchester Arena attack," City wrote in a statement.

United are targeting victory in the Europa League final in order to complete their trophy collection and secure a place in next season's Champions League, having failed to qualify via the Premier League.

Ajax will be appearing in their first European final since losing on penalties to Juventus in the 1996 Champions League final.

Ex-Barca president arrested

AFP, Barcelona

Former Barcelona president Sandro Rosell was arrested on Tuesday in a money laundering operation related to image rights in the Brazilian national football team, a police spokesman told AFP.

The operation was mainly carried out in the north-eastern region of Catalonia and for the moment "there are four or five detainees, including the former president of Barça, Sandro Rosell, and his wife," the police spokesman said.

The investigation focuses on "money laundering in companies linked to the image rights of the Brazilian football team," police added.

Businessman Rosell, 53, was manager of sporting goods giants Nike in Brazil and oversaw the contract for the national team to wear the US brand, before taking over as president of Barcelona in 2010.

Rosell resigned as Barcelona president in 2014 after being charged over alleged tax fraud relating to the club's signing of Brazilian striker Neymar from Santos. He was later cleared of all charges.

Di Maria, Pastore's homes raided

AFP, Paris

Investigators raided the headquarters of Paris Saint-Germain and the homes of the club's Argentinian stars Angel Di Maria and Javier Pastore on Tuesday in a tax fraud probe, legal sources said.

French prosecutors launched the investigation in December following revelations by the "Football Leaks" website concerning financial transactions and other details involving top football players.

Di Maria and Pastore are being investigated in connection with the probe into the use of tax havens to hide earnings from the marketing of image rights, the sources said.

Police also searched the home of Argentinian striker Emiliano Sala, who plays for Ligue 1 side Nantes.

The Paris head office of PSG as well as its administrative offices were raided, the sources told AFP, confirming a report by French investigative news website Mediapart.

MATCH FIXING IN SENIOR DIVISION BFF wants DMFLC to look into the matter

SPORTS REPORTER



While the country's football rocks under allegations of match fixing in the just-concluded Senior Division League, the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is seemingly less concerned about looking into the matter.

When asked whether the BFF executive committee meeting discussed the issue, its senior vice-president Abdus Salam Murshedy said, "It was actually an emergency meeting with one agenda (of the foreign coach) but we discussed the issue. Dhaka Metropolitan Football League Committee (DMFLC) is concerned about the matter and it will take a decision according to the bylaws."

Murshedy later claimed that they have sent newspaper clippings and video footage to the DMFLC asking the committee to look into the matter.

On Sunday, Dhaka United Club lost against Friends Social Welfare Organisation, allegedly by design, to help the latter team avoid relegation with 10 points from 11 matches.

There have also been allegations that Bangladesh Boys gave up their match against Shadharan Bima Krira Chakra on Monday to help the latter avoid relegation as well as Shadharan Bima moved up to 10th position with 11 points from 11 matches. Those two results forced Badda Jagorani Sangsad to be relegated with nine points from 11 matches.

Following these allegations, sponsors Saif Power Tec threatened to withdraw all types of sponsorship deals made with the game's governing body.

"Everyone knows what happened in that match [Dhaka United v Friends Social Welfare]. There is clear evidence that the match was fixed. You will get a clear idea by watching how Dhaka United conceded both goals," said Badda Jagorani's head coach and football secretary Sayeed Hasan Kanon, who also lodged a complaint with the DMFLC.

"We have received a written complaint from Badda Jagorani. We also gathered video footage and news clippings," DMFLC deputy chairman Saleh Jaman Selim told this reporter adding that they would sit for an emergency meeting on Thursday to discuss the matter.

CONFEDERATIONS CUP Nose surgery rules out Sane

REUTERS, Berlin

Germany winger Leroy Sane will miss the Confederations Cup in Russia next month to undergo a nasal operation, the country's football federation (DFB) said yesterday.

The 21-year-old Manchester City player will also be sidelined for the friendly away to Denmark on June 6 and the World Cup qualifier at home to San Marino four days later.

"I would really like to have been in Russia," he told the DFB's website. "I have decided, after a conversation with my doctor, to use the summer break for this operation, so I can start the new season without any discomfort."

Sane has won six caps for Germany, although he has made only one six-minute appearance as a substitute in the current World Cup qualifying campaign.

MSC up against Sk Jamal today

SPORTS REPORTER



Mohammedan SC are looking forward to put last year's dismal performance behind them by reaching the semifinals of the Walton Federation Cup when they take on three-time champions Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club in the first quarterfinal today.

The match will get underway at the Bangabandhu National Stadium at 6:00pm.

10-time Federation Cup champions Mohammedan, who failed to reach the final of the Federation Cup since their last triumph in 2009, were eliminated from the group stages in the last edition, but this time they have already proved their worth with a revamped squad featuring players like Nasirul Islam, Faisal Mahmud, Abdul Baten Komol, Toklish Ahmed along with Nigerian duo Samson Iliasu and Kingsley Chigozie.

Though Mohammedan were defeated by Chittagong Abahani in the group stage's first match, they beat last edition's runners-up Arambagh to reach the knockout stage. "We are definitely ahead of Sheikh Jamal in terms of strength because we are going through rigorous discipline and practice sessions. We are expecting to deliver something to our supporters this season," said Mohammedan manager Amirul Islam Babu yesterday.

Though Sheikh Jamal have no recognizable stars like Mohammedan, they are in high spirits with a youthful squad that emerged group champions with wins over Sheikh Russel KC and Farashganj SC.

"I am happy with the way they played in group stage matches. I hope the boys will give their best in tomorrow's match," hoped Sheikh Jamal coach Joseph Afusi.