

Real defender Theo Hernandez, who has been tipped to sign for Real Madrid, has been questioned in relation to an alleged sexual assault during a holiday in southern Spain, police sources said yesterday. "There was a complaint of a sexual assault which is being investigated," the source said, adding that nobody had been arrested. Online newspaper El Espanol earlier reported that the alleged incident involving the 19-year-old full-back, who currently belongs to Atletico Madrid, occurred in the car park outside a nightclub in the popular holiday resort of Marbella. The report claimed that the couple had sexual relations in a car and that Hernandez refused to stop when asked by the woman, leading to an altercation between the two. El Espanol said that police noticed "contradictions" in the woman's complaint, but Spanish press reported that Hernandez had been questioned at a police station in Marbella before being let go. "He is free, there is nothing for the moment. They are investigating, nothing more," the player's agent Manuel Garcia Quilon told AFP.



Abahanis face off in final today

SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong Abahani are looking forward to winning their maiden title of the Federation Cup when they square off against holders and nine-time champions Dhaka Abahani in today's final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. The match will start at 7:30pm.

The port city side burst into the limelight last season by spending a lot to poach national players and success was instant as they won the Independence Cup and finished second behind champions Dhaka Abahani in the Bangladesh Premier League. However, they failed to get past the group stages in the Federation Cup. And now, they are just one step away from winning their second domestic title but to do that they need a repeat of last year's Independence Cup final where they beat the same opposition.

The charges of Saiful Bari Titu are also taking inspiration from that final even though they struggled a lot in beating Rahmatganj MFS 1-0 in the semifinal a few days ago. "It is the first time that



The two captains pose with the trophy on the eve of the final.

Chittagong Abahani are going to play in the Federation Cup final but they had already tasted a title victory in the Independence Cup last season," recalled Titu even though he did not mention the fact that they beat Dhaka Abahani 2-0 in that final.

In fact the two sides met three times last season, and won one apiece while the other encounter ended in a draw. This season they are squaring off for the first time as both sides come into the final unbeaten.

"It is a big thing to reach the final of Federation Cup and it is a matter

of pride as well. We will not only play in the final just because we have qualified, we will play to win. From that perspective, the boys will try to give their maximum effort with a winning approach," said Titu, who is keeping his faith on the youngsters alongside experienced players like Mamunul Islam and Zahid Hossain.

It is not going to be easy for Chittagong Abahani though as their Dhaka namesake are in fine form after starting the season through the AFC Cup in which they played six matches against the top clubs of South Asia. They

have transformed that experience to the Federation Cup and reached the final to retain the title and get level with Mohammedan SC's highest 10 Federation Cup hauls.

The club's coach, Drago Mamic, is pretty unimpressed with the busy schedule that he has had to cope with, playing three matches in five days. The Croat coach was sarcastic when asked about his side's chances in the final.

"We are preparing in bed because the schedule made us play three games in five days," Mamic said. "We are just fighting to recover. I hope that the team will recover in time for tomorrow's [Tuesday] game. The condition now is not good."

Captain Mamun Mia, however, put on a brave face as he vowed to retain the title.

"We still have 14-15 hours to recover fully. We actually do not feel the fatigue. We have to win it by displaying better performance and that is our target. We don't have time to see who is tired and who is injured. The opponents have many national team players but we are no less than them. We will try our best to win the match and become champions," said the centre-back.

Murray in last eight

AFP, Paris



Andy Murray racked up his 650th career win to reach the French Open quarterfinals Monday before paying an unscripted, emotional tribute to the victims of the London and Manchester terror attacks.

World number one Murray, the runner-up in Paris to Novak Djokovic in 2016, brushed aside Karen Khachanov of Russia 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

In his seventh Paris quarterfinal, Murray will face either Japanese eighth seed Kei Nishikori or Spain's Fernando Verdasco.

However, instead of discussing the match in the traditional on-court TV interview, Murray took the microphone to remember the 29 people who died in the recent outrages in London and Manchester.

"Obviously there was terrible tragedy in London and Manchester. Paris has had its problems too in recent years," said Murray.

"I am sure everyone will join me... we share our thoughts and prayers with everyone who has been affected.

"I appreciate everyone still coming out to support the tennis. I am grateful that I can still perform in front of everyone."

Women's title favourite and 2014 runner-up Simona Halep trounced Spain's Carla Suarez-Navarro 6-1, 6-1 to make the last eight without dropping a set or breaking sweat.

Third seed Halep, who can become the new world number one if she wins the title, claimed her first win on clay in six attempts against the Spaniard.

"I played my best match of the tournament. I served well and opened up the court," said Halep.

The 25-year-old Halep

will tackle Ukraine's fifth seed Elina Svitolina for a semifinal place.

The two met in the Rome final on the eve of Roland Garros when Halep was beaten and suffered an ankle injury which threatened her appearance in Paris.

"I still feel the ankle some times but I am able to run. I don't think about it during the points," added Halep.

Svitolina reached the quarterfinals for the second time, ending the dream run of world number 290 Petra Martic with a 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 win.

However, Martic, bidding to become only the 10th qualifier to make the last eight in Paris threw away a golden chance for victory.

The 26-year-old led 5-2 in the final set before Svitolina rallied to race away with the last five games.

Later Monday, Czech world number two Karolina Pliskova, also in the running to become both a first time major winner and the new world number one, faces Veronica Cepede Royg in her last-16 tie.

Cepede Royg, ranked 97 in the world, is only the second Paraguayan to make the fourth round of a major.

The only other was Rossana de los Rios in Paris 17 years ago.

Argentina's Paola Suarez was the last South American woman to reach a quarterfinal at a Slam at Wimbledon in 2004.

Before this year, Pliskova had never made it beyond the second round in Paris.



Britain's Andy Murray gives the thumbs up after his victory against Russia's Karen Khachanov in the French Open fourth round match at the Roland Garros in Paris yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



Check Tiote dies during training

AFP, London

Ivory Coast international midfielder Check Tiote has died aged 30 while training with his Chinese club Beijing Enterprises.

Tiote, who was part of the Ivory Coast squad that delivered the 2015 Africa Cup of Nations after a 23-year drought although he was injured for the final, had only moved to China in February after ending a seven-year stay with English outfit Newcastle United.

"It is with deep sadness that I confirm that my client Check Tiote sadly passed away earlier today after collapsing in training with his club Beijing Enterprises," Tiote's spokesman Emanuele Palladino said.

Newcastle manager Rafael Benitez paid tribute to the talented Tiote, one of 10 children who like many of his international teammates grew up in abject poverty and didn't possess a pair of boots until he was 15.

"It is with great sadness that I have this afternoon learned of Check's death," Benitez told the Newcastle website.

"In all the time that I have known him, he was a true professional, dedicated and above all, a great man. Our hearts go out to his family and friends at such a sad time."

Tiote moved to Newcastle from Dutch side FC Twente in 2010 and made 161 appearances for the Magpies, scoring once - the equaliser when Newcastle recovered from 4-0 down to draw 4-4 with Arsenal in 2011.

The 52-times capped Tiote, who was in both the 2010 and 2014 World Cup squads, began his European club career with Belgian outfit Anderlecht but only played four times in three years with them -- being loaned out to Dutch side Roda JC Kerkrade -- before moving to Twente in 2008.

Ord to sign contract tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER



British-born-Australian Andrew Ord is expected to put pen on paper tomorrow for the Bangladesh national football team's head coach's position for a one-year term.

The 37-year-old UEFA A licensed coach, who arrived here on Sunday night, will also begin the process of building the national U-23 squad for the upcoming AFC U-23 Championship with a three-day trial starting on Wednesday morning.

"Ord had a meeting with the National Teams Committee today [Monday]. The meeting discussed terms and conditions of the contract. We explained what his responsibilities are and which teams he will work with and what will be his upcoming assignments in the one year," said BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag.

Even though Ord was not presented before the media, the former assistant coach of Perth Glory did have interview with the official website of the local game's governing body.

"My first assignment will be the U23 AFC

championship qualifiers which double as Olympic qualifiers too. It is important we find several players from this group who can be the future of football in Bangladesh and fast track them into the senior national team by the end of 2017," Ord was quoted as saying.

"Players only get better with opportunities but they also have to be ready to take their chance. The BPL and BCL also start soon, so I can see the level of the players and start to get an idea of who will be crucial for the two big tournaments we will be a part of over the next 12 months," Ord added in the interview.

Bangladesh are currently ranked 193rd in FIFA rankings which is the lowest in its football history. Ord said he would seek help from local coaches to learn the country's football culture.

"We need to instil some belief back into everybody who is part of football in Bangladesh. It is not just the players. I will need the help of local coaches who understand the culture of football and players in this part of the world. Fans need to see we are building towards an improved future so they can get excited about following the national teams again."

Hazard suffers ankle fracture

AFP, Brussels

Chelsea's Belgium international star Eden Hazard has fractured his ankle, the Belgian football federation confirmed late Sunday.

The 26-year-old playmaker sustained the injury training with the national side and will miss Monday's friendly against the Czech Republic and a 2018 World Cup qualifier in Estonia on Friday.

A tweet from his national team read: "Medical imaging showed that @hazardeden10 has a fracture in his right ankle #belcze #estbel #roadtorussia."

Hazard -- who helped lift Chelsea to the Premier League title last season -- will undergo surgery Monday and could be out for four months, according to press reports.

Fans want Ballon d'Or for Ronaldo

AFP, Madrid



Thousands of delirious Real Madrid fans called for Cristiano Ronaldo to win a fifth Ballon d'Or on Sunday as the Spanish giants paraded the Champions League trophy for a record 12th time.

Ronaldo scored twice in Real's 4-1 thrashing of Juventus in Cardiff on Saturday as Madrid became the first side to retain the Champions League.

Sporting a newly cropped haircut, Ronaldo was the star of a spectacular lights and firework show as 81,000 fans crammed into Real's Santiago Bernabeu stadium.

"Cristiano Ballon d'Or," the Portuguese sang along with the fans as he was lifted into the air by his teammates.

Ronaldo is the hot favourite to win the annual award for the best player in the world for a fifth time that would see him equal Barcelona rival Lionel Messi's record as Real also beat out Barca to win La Liga.

"The truth is it has been a spectacular season," added Ronaldo. It is the first time Madrid have won both La Liga and the Champions League in the same season for 59 years.

"Thanks for the love you have shown since the first match," said Madrid captain Sergio Ramos.

"We knew this season was going to be different. The team has worked hard from the first minute...we have done a marvellous double."

Earlier, overseen by strict security measures, the Madrid squad greeted local government dignitaries before



Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo (2nd from L) and teammates celebrate with the Champions League trophy on top of a bus on Plaza Cibeles in Madrid on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

parading the famous trophy in an open top bus around the Cibeles fountain in the city centre where thousands of fans had gathered.

"The players have entered into the legend of Real Madrid and of football, as has our coach," said club president Florentino Perez, as he reserved special praise for Zinedine Zidane.

"He is the only one to win two consecutive Champions Leagues," added Perez. "That is why he is already the best coach in the world."

The Frenchman, who won the Champions League as a legendary player for Real between 2001 and 2006, has enjoyed spectacular success since taking his first role in senior management just 18 months ago.

"I want to thank all of you," Zidane told fans as chants of his name rang

around the Bernabeu. "This is what we are here for. It has been a spectacular year thanks to you and in the end we won the double."

A third Champions League win in four years has drawn comparisons to the great Real side that won the first five editions of the European Cup between 1955 and 1960.

"I feel like this is the best team in history," Alvaro Mora, a fan who had travelled over 500 kilometres from the southern city of Almeria to take in the celebrations, told AFP.

And like Real's performance on the pitch at the Principality Stadium as they tore the Italian champions apart with goals from Casemiro and Marco Asensio adding to Ronaldo's double, there was no sign of the Madrid fans' tiring of success.

Credit Rating AA

Year	Long Term Rating	Short Term Rating	Date of Rating
2016	AA	ST-2	May 22, 2017
2015	AA-	ST-2	May 22, 2016

Long Term : AA (Pronounced as double A)
 ► High Quality of Credit ensures higher-end safety.
 ► Sound Credit Profile embraces Modest Risks.

Short Term : ST-2
 ► High Certainty of Timely Payment.
 ► Risk Factors are of lower magnitude
 ► Liquidity Factors are strong and supported by good fundamentals.

Outlook : Stable
Rated by : Emerging Credit Rating Limited (ECRL)

MBL thanks its all valued stakeholders for making it happen. We are upbeat of further upswing of our rating in future.