

SONY SIX & TEN 3
Sri Lanka v India
1st Test, Day-4
Live from 10:30am

STAR SPORTS SELECT HD1
England v South Africa
3rd Test, Day-3
Live from 4:00pm

Bangladesh Premier League Sheikh Jamal v Mohammadan
Brothers Union v Team BJMC
Time: 5:00pm

Time: 7:15pm
Venue: BNS

'SICK' SANCHEZ SKIPS TRAINING

Alexis Sanchez has taken to social media to claim he is "sick", two days before he is scheduled to return to Arsenal training. The forward is enjoying a break after leading Chile to the Confederations Cup final against Germany on July 2, and is expected to link up with the rest of the squad at London Colney on Sunday. However, that is no longer certain following the player's post on Friday morning. Sanchez, who has been the subject of ongoing transfer speculation this summer, has one year remaining on his Arsenal contract, but manager Arsene Wenger is adamant the club will not sell him. Sky sources understand Paris Saint-Germain are prepared to pay more than £40m for the Chilean international, with wages in excess of £250,000 a week. Wenger denied reports on Monday suggesting the 28-year-old has asked to leave the Emirates, confirming he will be part of the team next season.

—AGENCIES



Chelsea in transfer talks 'every day'

AFP, Singapore

Chelsea coach Antonio Conte said Friday that he holds talks "every day" with club bosses about transfer targets as the Premier League champions race to further bolster their squad.

The Italian is set to give big-money signing Alvaro Morata his first Chelsea start against Inter Milan in a pre-season friendly in Singapore on Saturday and has also splashed out this summer on the defender Antonio Rudiger from Roma and midfielder Tiemoue Bakayoko from Monaco.

But with most of Chelsea's Premier League rivals buying big in the close season, Conte is intent on adding to a squad that this season will also need to cope with Champions League football.

The London side have been linked in British media with England international midfielders Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain of Arsenal and Everton's wantaway Ross Barkley.

"With the club we speak every day about the way to strengthen this team and the squad," said Conte, talking in Singapore.

"The club knows very well which is my idea and where are the positions to strengthen and if this is possible, it is ok. If not, we continue this way."

Conte said he plans to play his best side against Inter, with Morata -- signed last week from Real Madrid in a deal reported to be worth up to 80 million euros (\$92m) -- likely to spearhead the attack from the start.

Morata came on as a second-half substitute against German champions Bayern Munich in a friendly on Tuesday in Singapore and supplied an assist in a 3-2 defeat.



England all-rounder Ben Stokes celebrates his century on the second day of the third Test against South Africa at The Oval in London yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

SA 126/8 after Eng's 353

REUTERS, London



South Africa were 126 for eight in reply to England's first innings 353, a deficit of 227 runs, at stumps on the second day of the third Test at The Oval on Friday.

England debutant seamer Toby Roland-Jones removed all of South Africa's top four on his way to figures of four for 39 in 11 overs at the close.

Tumba Bavuma was 34 not out and Morne Morkel unbeaten on two in what is the 100th Test staged at The Oval.

Earlier, Ben Stokes underlined his prowess as the rarest of all-round talents with his glorious century propelling England to a challenging total of 353.

Not for the first time, Stokes proved the scourge of the Proteas, smashing two consecutive sixes to take him to his fifth Test century. He also struck his next delivery over the ropes before being the last man out for 112 from 153 balls.

Stokes's assault had echoes of his incredible double hundred against the South Africans last year but, going for one blow too many off Morne Morkel, he was caught by Kagiso Rabada.

Earlier, Cook, who had batted throughout the rain-interrupted opening day to anchor his side's struggle to an overnight 171 for four, added six runs before being trapped by Morkel.

Stokes on 91 and down to his last partner James Anderson, it appeared as if he was about to miss out on his richly-deserved ton.

Attempting to smash spinner Keshav Maharaj, he miscued, allowing Faf du Plessis to catch him on the long-on boundary. However, with momentum sending him tumbling backwards, the South African captain fell into the boundary markers and six was awarded much to the delight of a packed crowd.

Stokes celebrated by hoisting the next ball in the same direction, connecting perfectly as the ball sailed into the crowd to take him to three figures off 144 balls.

Stokes made it three sixes in a row over deep mid-wicket the first time an England batsman had achieved the feat in a Test since Wally Hammond against New Zealand 84 years ago.

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Earlier, Cook, who had batted throughout the rain-interrupted opening day to anchor his side's struggle to an overnight 171 for four, added six runs before being trapped by Morkel.

He looked dismayed by the lbw decision and called for a review but it showed the ball would have clipped the bats, thus ending his 200-ball vigil.

The dismissal brought together Stokes and Jonny Bairstow, no strangers to putting the Proteas to the sword after their epic stand of 399 in Cape Town, and the pair again combined sweetly in a partnership of 75.

After South Africa had taken the second new ball, Bairstow was quickly snaffled for 36 but Stokes, who went past 2,000 runs in Tests, found another willing partner in Roland-Jones, who enjoyed his six and four fours hugely.

The touring side were again hampered by the absence of key paceman Vernon Philander, who was taken to hospital for tests because of a stomach bug.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ENGLAND: First innings 353 (Cook 88, Westley 25, Root 29, Stokes 112, Bairstow 36, Roland-Jones 25; Morkel 3-70, Philander 2-32, Rabada 3-85)

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 126 for 8 (Bavuma 34 not out, Rabada 30, de Kock 17; Roland-Jones 4-39, Anderson 2-16, Stokes 1-26)

There was a moment when, with

Rooney basks in emotional homecoming

AFP, Liverpool

Wayne Rooney basked in a successful and emotional homecoming with Everton on Thursday but admitted that he is glad the occasion is now behind him.

The former England and Manchester United captain made his second debut for his boyhood club in their laboured 1-0 Europa League qualifying first leg tie against the Slovakian side MFK Ruzomberok.

It was a frustrating and testing night for an Everton side that has spent a lot of money following the near £90 million sale of Romelu Lukaku to Manchester United and it took a deflected goal from defender Leighton Baines to earn his team a lead ahead of next week's return leg.

And Rooney was pleased that he can now concentrate on football after the hype and pressure of his first game back with Everton in 13 years is behind him.

"I think I've said everything the last few weeks but obviously it was great to be out at Goodison in a blue shirt," said Rooney. "It was a great feeling."

"This was an important game for us and I had to put my emotions to one side and thankfully I've done that again."

"Now I can get down more to focusing on the football over the coming weeks."

"It's still very early in our pre-season, it was a first 90 minutes for a lot of us, but we got the win and the clean sheet."

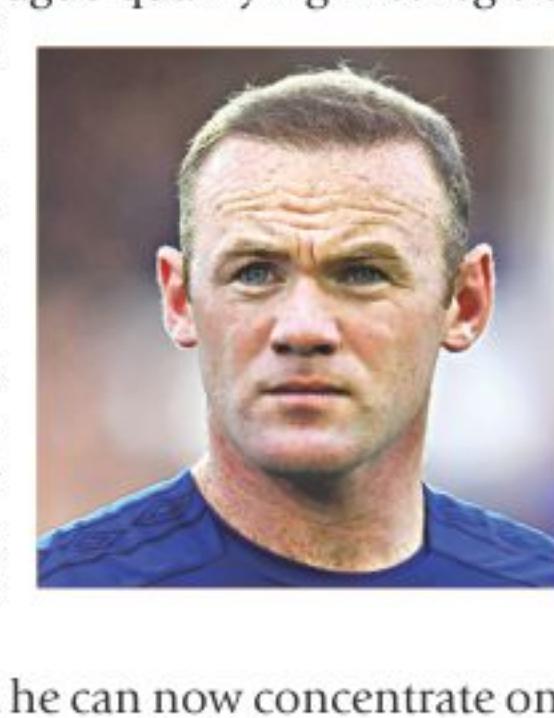
"We know we can play better than we did but we got the goal and the clean sheet."

The tie came after just four weeks of pre-season for the Premier League sides and their goalscorer confessed that, while the rustiness was obvious in the first leg tie, her expects a better performance in the return game.

"We know that will be a tough game. It was a tough game tonight at home," said Baines.

"But we'll go there with a bit more idea of what to expect but we're in front and if we keep another clean sheet, which we're fully capable of doing, we will win the tie."

"We're treating the competition seriously but it's also part of our pre-season as well because of the way it's panned out."



El Clasico sold out in Miami

AFP, Miami

The new La Liga season is still weeks away, but try telling Miami that Saturday night's El Clasico at a sold-out Hard Rock Stadium is meaningless.

For the first time in over 35 years, Barcelona and Real Madrid will meet on foreign soil. It's also the first encounter between the two sides in the United States.

Back in 1982, the match staged post-season in Venezuela, coming just before that year's World Cup, was so nondescript it wasn't even shown on television in Europe.

Fast forward to 2017, however, and this encounter has morphed into a huge global event which has gripped a soccer-mad city and ensured the now annual International Champions Cup exhibition tournament will remain a permanent fixture on the sporting calendar for years to come.

TV network ESPN have transplanted a crew of 25 reporters and presenters to South Florida to help produce wall-to-wall coverage.



Men and women from all over gathered near the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday morning to participate in the Olympic Day Run, a global initiative of the IOC. The BOA also marked the occasion with other events throughout the day.

Galaxy sign Dos Santos

AP, Los Angeles

The Los Angeles Galaxy, mired in a five-game Major League Soccer losing streak, Thursday announced the signing of Mexico international Jonathan Dos Santos.

Dos Santos' move from Spain's Villarreal had been rumoured for several days.

The official announcement came hours after the Galaxy announced they had sacked coach Curt Onalfo and replaced him with former Galaxy coach Sigi Schmid.

Olympic Day Run held

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) yesterday observed the Olympic Day Run, a global programme of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), in the capital, divisional and district headquarters amid a festive mood.

The run began early in the morning from in front of the Ramna National Tennis Complex and concluded at the torch gate of the Bangabandhu National Stadium. The run was participated by organisers, athletes, sponsors, students and journalists. State minister for youth and sports Biren Shikdar was present as chief guest while BOA secretary general Syed Shahid Reza attended the event as a special guest.

The day was also marked with blood donation, two hockey matches among former players and a painting competition among kids.