

What to WATCH

CHANNEL 9 & STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

Indian Premier League
Bangalore v Hyderabad
Live from 8:30pm

DAY'S EVENT
Premier Hockey League
Abahani v Dhaka Wanderers
Time: 2:30pm

Ajax SC v Police Club
Time: 4:30pm
Venue: Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium



A Bengaluru FC forward controls the ball with his chest inside the Abahani box during their AFC Cup fixture at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

FIFA WORLD CUP 2018

ALEXANDER-ARNOLD IN; HART, WILSHERE AXED

Trent Alexander-Arnold has been included in England's squad for the World Cup as Joe Hart and Jack Wilshere were the big-name casualties of Gareth Southgate's youth revolution.

The England manager confirmed on Wednesday that, as widely anticipated, he had omitted both on-loan West Ham goalkeeper Hart and Arsenal midfielder Wilshere were not in his squad for the World Cup in Russia.

But 19-year-old Liverpool right-back Alexander-Arnold will be on the flight to Russia as Southgate has opted for a youthful selection in what he hopes will prove a bold new era for the under-achieving national team.

The 23 players averages just 19 caps, making them England's least experienced World Cup squad since 1962.

Southgate named Burnley's Nick Pope, at 26 the oldest of the three goalkeepers, in place of Hart and called up Manchester City's Fabian Delph, who can play at left-back or in midfield, to take over from Wilshere.

The most capped player, with 52 appearances, is Chelsea defender Gary Cahill, at 32 the second oldest member of the squad, who was included despite missing out in recent friendlies, while there was no place for Liverpool midfielder Adam Lallana, who

abroad."

After Russian hooligans attacked England fans in Marseilles in 2016, they posted photos of dozens of "captured" St George's flags, the report said.

Roberts warned fans to be particularly careful in Volgograd, formerly Stalingrad, which hosts England's opening game against Tunisia on June 18.

GUERRERO HITS OUT AT DOPING BAN 'INJUSTICE'

Peru captain Paolo Guerrero on Tuesday hit out the "injustice" of a 14-month doping ban that has ended his dream of appearing at the World Cup in Russia.

"I'm a victim of injustice," said Guerrero in Lima Tuesday, a day after the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Switzerland increased a six-month ban for testing positive for traces of cocaine to 14 months.

"I didn't expect it, I'm sad I won't be playing. They've taken my dream away from me."

Guerrero, who plays as a striker for Brazilian giants Flamengo, had been included in Peru's preliminary 25-man World Cup squad announced on Sunday.

But less than a week after he attended a CAS hearing in Lausanne hoping to totally annul a six-month suspension, world sport's top arbitration court increased his sentence to 14 months.

Everton sack Allardyce

AFP, London

Sam Allardyce was on Wednesday sacked as manager of Premier League side Everton after just six months and despite guiding them away from trouble to an eighth-placed finish, the club announced.

The 63-year-old had come under fire from fans over the route one style of play and former England and Manchester United star Wayne Rooney was rumoured to want to move if Allardyce stayed.

"We have made the decision that, as part of our longer-term plan, we will be appointing a new manager this summer," said club director Denise Barrett-Baxendale.

The favourite to replace Allardyce, who had a year remaining on his contract, is believed to be former Hull City and Watford boss Marco Silva.

Gang attack shocks Sporting

AFP, Lisbon

A shocked Sporting Lisbon will play in Sunday's Portuguese Cup final despite a horrific ordeal that saw a 50-strong gang of masked and hooded men brutally attack players and officials at training.

Wearing t-shirts bearing the club's emblem the mob invaded Sporting's training ground on Tuesday and went on the rampage, terrorising players and personnel and vandalising dressing rooms.

Dutch international Bas Dost, Sporting's top scorer this season, required stitches to his neck.



As World Cup fever grips the globe, masks of famous players like Neymar, Pele, Messi and Maradona are produced at a factory in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

PHOTO: REUTERS

has recently returned from a long hamstring injury lay-off.

Chelsea's young midfielder Ruben Loftus-Cheek has earned selection after an impressive season on loan at Crystal Palace.

ENGLAND FANS WARNED OVER FLAG-WAVING

Police chiefs have urged England fans attending the World Cup not to display the flag of St George over fears it will be seen as antagonistic to their Russian hosts.

Mark Roberts of the National Police Chiefs' Council is heading to Russia with a team of fellow officers to work with their Russian counterparts to protect up to 10,000 England fans.

"I think people need to be really careful with flags. It can come across as almost imperialistic... and can cause antagonism," Roberts, the national lead for football policing, told Britain's Times newspaper.

"We really urge some caution about people putting flags out and waving them about in public.

"We would not expect people to come across to this country, get drunk and drape flags on the Cenotaph (the memorial to Britain's national war dead) so we need to extend the same courtesy when we go

Not only is Guerrero ruled out of the World Cup, but the emblematic skipper will be sidelined until January 2019.

"I'm sad but I've come here to face things, because there have been a lot of rumours. I'm a victim of injustice," Guerrero said in Lima Tuesday where he was met by hundreds of well-wishers shouting his name and offering messages of support.

"I'm 100 per cent behind the team (Peru). In the good times, and the bad."

NO IBRAHIMOVIC, NO SURPRISE

Sweden coach Janne Andersson named a 23-man World Cup squad on Tuesday that dashed the faint hopes of fans expecting to see Zlatan Ibrahimovic feature at Russia 2018.

Sweden beat Italy in the World Cup play-offs last November, sparking speculation that former Juventus, AC Milan, Barcelona and Manchester United striker Ibrahimovic would come out of international retirement.

Two weeks ago the 6ft 4ins (1.95m) striker, who quit the national squad in 2016 and is now playing for Los Angeles Galaxy in Major Soccer League, said he would not change his mind on the matter.

RAY WILSON, 1966 WORLD CUP WINNER, NO MORE

England's 1966 World Cup winning defender Ray Wilson has died aged 83, his former club Huddersfield Town said on Wednesday. Derbyshire-born Wilson, who made 283 appearances for Huddersfield between 1952 and 1964, was signed by Bill Shankly and went on to establish himself as first-choice left back for both club and country. At 31, he was the oldest player in England manager Alf Ramsey's starting lineup which defeated West Germany 4-2 in the 1966 World Cup final at Wembley Stadium. Wilson, who was capped 63 times by England, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2004. "Huddersfield Town is devastated to learn of the passing of World Cup winner Ramon 'Ray' Wilson MBE at the age of 83," the Terriers said in a statement. "Ray is arguably the most successful and best-known player ever to pull on a Huddersfield Town shirt, having been a key member of England's World Cup-winning team in 1966."

—REUTERS



Chhetri too hot for Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER



AFC CUP

Bangladesh Premier League champions Abahani completed their AFC Cup campaign with a demoralising 0-4 defeat at the hands of Indian outfit Bengaluru FC in their final Group E match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Although it was a nightmare for seven-time professional league champions Abahani, the night was overwhelming for Bengaluru, who not only exacted revenge for a 0-2 defeat in the last edition but also confirmed their second-round berth.

With four defeats from six matches, Abahani finished third in the four-team group by virtue of a better goal difference than Aizawl, who are equal with Abahani on four points. Bengaluru finished top with 15 points followed by New Radiant, who secured 12 points.

It was India captain Sunil Chhetri's night, who showed his class by expos-

ing Abahani's five-man backline time and again. He played in the ball for the first three goals before wrapping up the victory with a strike of his own.

Abahani had started in good spirits despite the suspension of three key players -- striker Sunday Chizoba, defender Alison Udoka and midfielder Atiqur Rahman Fahad. However, Udoka's suspension was a huge blow to Abahani as his replacement Tutul Hossain Badsha was powerless in front of the 34-year-old Chhetri.

Not only Badsha, but all the Abahani players lagged behind the Bengaluru players in terms of fitness and were beaten on the run several times.

Bengaluru broke the deadlock from a counter attack in the 13th minute as Chhetri raced past Badsha down the left wing before whipping in a low cross which was driven past Abahani goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Sohel by Spaniard Daniel Lucas.

Three minutes later Chhetri deceived two defenders on the edge of the box and cut back to Nishu Kumar, who hammered a powerful shot past a

motionless Sohel.

Abahani tried their utmost to hit back and played from the wings, but their crossing game was completely negated by tall defender Juan Antonio.

After resumption Bengaluru appeared to be playing in their half and forced Abahani to press higher up. Making the most of that, Chhetri cleverly chipped a ball in behind the disorganised backline in the 58th minute before Nishu took the ball down with his chest and drove home with no interference to make it 3-0.

Chhetri sealed the win with a well deserved strike from inside the box in the 60th minute after Sohel failed to hold on to a cross from the right flank from defender Harmanjot Singh.

"Age has nothing to do with goals. I love football and work hard. If you want to play at this stage, you have to be fast and I know that well," said Chhetri at the post-match conference. "We knew we had to win and were fully focused on the game. I don't know what may have motivated Abahani because they had nothing to gain from this match."



Belarus club makes MARADONA chairman

AFP, Minsk

Diego Maradona is coming to Belarus as chairman of a small top-flight club with big European ambitions.

The Argentine legend posted a photo on Instagram late Tuesday of what Dinamo Brest said was a three-year contract to serve as chairman of the board.

"Thanks for the trust and for thinking of me," Maradona wrote in his post.

Dinamo Brest also posted pictures of the 1986 World Cup winner holding up a green and red Belarusian flag while wearing a matching black T-shirt and shorts.

Maradona stepped down as coach of United Arab Emirates second division club Al-Fujairah last month after failing to secure their promotion.

Dinamo Brest were acquired by new owners three years ago who are intent on breaking the historic dominance of the country's two big sides: Dinamo Minsk and BATE Borisov.

The 57-year-old will be in charge of the team's transfer policy and strategic development.

"Will Maradona be able to help Belarusian -- particularly Brest -- foot-

ball? I think the answer is obvious," said club spokeswoman Olga Khizhinkova.

She also insisted that the global star intended to spend most of his time in the small city on Belarus's southwest border with Poland.

"We are already looking for a place for him to live," Khizhinkova said.

"We expect that if not the whole time, he is going to spend a substantial portion of his time in Brest."

Dinamo currently sit eight in the 16-team Premier Division.

The club were formed in 1960 and spent their first 32 years in the Soviet Union's second and third divisions.

Dinamo were automatically promoted to top-flight Belarusian football when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991.

They finished third in the inaugural Belarusian season but have never qualified for Europe.

The team's new owners have told Belarusian media that they intended to acquire new talent and invest significant resources in the club this year.

Khizhinkova said Maradona will come to Brest after completing a Russia World Cup assignment for Venezuelan television.

Moyes leaves West Ham

AFP, London

David Moyes has left West Ham following the end of his short-term contract, the Premier League club announced on Wednesday.

The 55-year-old former Everton and Manchester United boss arrived at London Stadium in November, with the sole objective of ensuring the Hammers' top-flight status, which he achieved.

"I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to David Moyes and his staff for achieving the target of keeping West Ham United in the Premier League," said joint chairman David Sullivan.

Hazard warns Chelsea to improve squad

AFP, London

Eden Hazard has warned Chelsea to sign players who will turn them into title contenders if they want him to commit his future to the club.

Hazard has two years left on his present contract and is considering whether to sign a lucrative extension that would keep him at Stamford Bridge for the remaining prime years of his career.

But the Belgium playmaker is frustrated by Chelsea's failure to qualify for next season's Champions League and is reportedly a close-season target for Real Madrid and Paris Saint Germain.

Asked what it would take to stay with Chelsea in the long-term, Hazard said: "I'm waiting for new players next season. We will see."

"I want good players because I want to win next season the Premier League. I want to win a lot of things."

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