



Manchester United striker Marcus Rashford scored twice during their 2-0 win against Chelsea in the Premier League at Old Trafford on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

SHEIKH KAMAL INT'L CLUB CUP

TC Sports on board, MSC in consideration

SPORTS REPORTER

TC Sports Club of Maldives, the defending champions of the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup, have officially given their consent to participate in the third edition of the tournament, claimed host club Chittagong Abahani's and tournament's chief coordinator Tarafder Ruhul Amin. The Maldivian outfit beat Pocheon FC of South Korea on penalties in the final of the second edition in 2017, and will be one of the eight teams to take part in the third edition, which is likely to be held in Chattogram between October 19 and November 2.

Mohun Bagan and Kolkata Mohammedan Sporting Club have already signed a written agreement with the organisers regarding their participation while another Kolkata giants -- East Bengal -- have only given verbal assurance over the issue.

"TC Sports Club have confirmed us, filling up form, for their participation. East Bengal management have given verbal assurance, but they need to get approval from their sponsor company. If all the three Kolkata giants take part, we have seven teams now including the three Bangladesh teams -- hosts Chittagong Abahani, Federation Cup winners Abahani and Bangladesh Premier League champions Bashundhara Kings," Ruhul Amin told The Daily Star over phone yesterday.

Although some media reports suggested Bangkok United could be the eighth team, Ruhul Amin said they have spoken to the Thai club, but their participation is not confirmed.

"We are also thinking whether Mohammedan Sporting Club of Dhaka could be included as they are a popular side in the country and played in the tournament earlier. We will decide whether they would be included later," he added.

The football organiser also informed that they are already taking steps to make the tournament a colourful one, starting with a promotional video featuring the past two editions and publicity campaigns on mainstream media and social media.



Argentina WC winner Jose Luis Brown dies at 62

World Cup winner Jose Luis Brown, who scored Argentina's opening goal in the 1986 World Cup final against West Germany, has died at the age of 62, local media reported on Monday.



Perisic joins Bayern on one-year loan

Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich have signed Inter Milan and Croatia winger Ivan Perisic on a one-year loan deal, the club confirmed Tuesday.

Ronaldo link-up motivated Danilo

AFP, Milan



Brazilian full-back Danilo said Tuesday the chance to play again alongside former Real Madrid teammate Cristiano Ronaldo had been a motivating factor in his move to Juventus.

The 28-year-old has been signed by the Italian champions from Manchester City with Portuguese international right-back Joao Cancelo heading in the opposition direction.

"I spoke to Ronaldo before coming here," Danilo told a press conference in Turin.

"He spoke very highly of Juventus and to play with him will be an extra motivation."

The Brazilian won two Champions League

titles alongside the five-time Ballon d'Or winner at Real Madrid before moving to England.

"I jokingly said to him that I wanted to take the number seven jersey, but it was already taken," added the Brazilian, who will wear the number 13.

Danilo was part of the City squad that has won five domestic trophies in the past two seasons, but has played second fiddle to Kyle Walker at right-back.

And he believes the move to Italy to play under former Napoli and Chelsea manager Maurizio Sarri has come at the right time.

"Sarri has a very particular style, he likes to command play. We saw him in England with Chelsea and also Napoli."

"It is always difficult to play against his teams but it has a style of play that I like."

"Sarri and (Pep) Guardiola are similar in style and for what they ask during the game, they both love to control the game and for me it is a very positive thing."

"There were already discussions with Juventus in the past, but I believe that this is the right moment to be here."

Meanwhile the Brazilian warned that the Champions League must not become an obsession as Juventus chase a first European trophy since 1996.

"I know what the Champions League means for the players, it's a competition that gives you a special thrill."



Paris Saint-Germain star Kylian Mbappe celebrates after scoring the second goal against Nimes in the Ligue 1 3-0 win at the Parc des Princes Stadium on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

Federer, Djokovic advance in Cincinnati Masters

AFP, Cincinnati



Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic overwhelmed opponents at the WTA-ATP Cincinnati Masters on Tuesday, where Serena Williams withdrew because of back trouble.

Williams had hoped to rebound from the back spasms that forced her out of the WTA final in Toronto on Sunday, where she lasted only four games before retiring.

But the 23-time Grand Slam champion said her back was "still not right" casting a further shadow on her chances at the US Open starting in Flushing Meadows on August 26.

For Djokovic and Federer, back in action for the first time since the Serb's victory over the Swiss in the Wimbledon final, it was a smooth start to their US Open build-up.

Federer, seeded third, remained unruffled by a one-hour rain interruption at 2-2 in the second set, eventually defeating Argentina's Juan Ignacio Londero 6-3, 6-4 to reach the third round at the event he has won seven times.

"I'm very happy, even if it was a bit tricky with the rain delay," Federer said. "I'm happy to be back on court."

"This is the start of a long, long hardcourt swing. It's good to begin with a win."

"I didn't know that much about my opponent -- he's new to the tour -- but at the end you have to concentrate on your own game."

Defending champion Djokovic double faulted three times as he dropped serve in the opening game against Sam Querrey but quickly put things right and pulled away for a 7-5, 6-1 victory over the American.

"I ended the match well even if the start was nervy," said Djokovic, who would break

Querrey twice to take the first set then roll to victory.

"Sam was feeling comfortable on the court at the start and dictating. It was tough facing his big serve," Djokovic said.

He added that he was "hoping for a better performance in the next round," when he'll take on Spanish qualifier Pablo Carreno Busta -- who withstood 32 aces from John Isner and a match point before beating the American 6-4, 6-7 (1/7), 7-6 (8/6).

Williams, meanwhile, was left just trying to get healthy after pulling out of her scheduled first-round match against qualifier Zarina Diyas.

"I came to Mason (Ohio) on Sunday and have tried everything to be ready to play tonight, and was still hopeful after my practice this morning," Williams said in a statement released by tournament officials.

"But unfortunately my back is still not right."

It's another injury blow for the 37-year-old American, who was hampered by knee trouble earlier this season and remains in search of her first title since the 2017 Australian Open.

In early action, Stan Wawrinka won a first-round battle as he eliminated 2017 Cincinnati champion Grigor Dimitrov 5-7, 6-4, 7-6 (7/4).

Under leaden skies after an overnight thunderstorm, Dimitrov broke in the 12th game of the first set to take the lead. The 33-year-old Swiss fought back with the only break in the second set.

Wawrinka then raced into a 5-1 lead in the final set but wasted two match points in the eighth game and was broken twice while serving for victory.

Wawrinka had to hold off his Bulgarian opponent in the final-set tiebreaker before squeezing through in more than two and a half hours with his 10th ace.

Ajax see off PAOK

AFP, Amsterdam

Ajax reached the Champions League playoffs on Tuesday after seeing off PAOK Thessaloniki 3-2 in a tense encounter in Amsterdam that saw last year's semifinalists through 5-3 on aggregate.

A Dusan Tadic penalty in each half and Nicolas Tagliafico's late header were enough to give Erik ten Hag's side a chance to make the group stage and relive the dream of last season.

Serb Tadic, who had already missed once from the spot for Ajax, slotting home the equaliser two minutes before the break after Diego Biseswar had silenced the Johan Cruyff Arena with a fine strike for PAOK midway through the half. Tagliafico left the Greeks needing to score twice to go through with 11 minutes to go when he met Ziyech's corner with a powerful header.

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