

NEW FA CHIEF VOWS TO BRING TRANSPARENCY TO ENGLISH GAME

LONDON: The next England soccer manager will have to pass strict behaviour protocol tests and vow 100 percent commitment to the job, FA Chairman Greg Clarke told British MPs yesterday.

He would ideally be English and, if not, should be fully conversant with the game in England and have several years experience of managing at the top level. Clarke, who has been Football Association Chairman since early September, was grilled by the Parliamentary Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee following Sam

Allardyce's ill-fated 67-day reign as England manager.

"Sam was in breach of his duties as an employee ... He let us down badly, because in the end we want an England manager whose sole priority is winning for the team," Clarke said.

Allardyce, given the job in July, left after the Daily Telegraph reported that he had allegedly offered advice on how to get round FA transfer rules. He was in charge for one World Cup qualifier.

The committee, concerned about corruption in English football, ques-

tioned whether the FA had delved deeply enough into Allardyce's past before appointing him, citing a TV investigation in 2006 into his transfer deals as a club manager.

Clarke, who for six years was chairman of the Football League which governs the professional game below the Premier League, said no wrongdoing had been found.

The story by undercover reporters published three weeks ago included allegations that Allardyce, hired for a reported 3 million pounds (\$3.7 million)

a year, was offered 400,000 pounds to represent a Far East firm interested in investing in the English game, if possible by circumventing rules.

The committee focused on Allardyce's perceived greed and said it expected the FA to ensure the next England manager would be solely committed to improving the national team after years of under-achievement.

Gareth Southgate was promoted from coaching the Under-21 side to fill the vacancy as caretaker manager and given four matches to try to earn the

position permanently. The first two games yielded a win and a draw.

Clarke said the ideal candidate would be English but he did not rule out a foreigner provided he was well versed in the English game. The FA has long coveted Arsenal's long-serving French manager Arsene Wenger.

Allardyce, whose has managed clubs including Bolton Wanderers, Newcastle United and Sunderland, was given the England job after the team failed miserably at Euro 2016 under Roy Hodgson. —Reuters

MOTORS IN DRIVING SEAT DESPITE BRIBERY STORM

SEOUL: Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors hope to ride out a bribery storm and reach the AFC Champions League final when they take a 4-1 lead into their semi-final second leg against FC Seoul.

The K-League leaders were slapped with a nine-point deduction and a 100 million won (\$88,000) fine last month after one of their scouts was convicted of bribing referees.

It recalled dark days for Korean football, after a match-fixing scandal in 2011 ended with a series of jail terms, bans and fines, and one player's alleged suicide. But Jeonbuk will be confident of reaching their third Asian final after scorers Leonardo, Ricardo Lopes and Kim Shin-Wook combined to devastating effect in the first leg.

The winners of tomorrow's all-Korean clash will play UAE's Al Ain or Qatari outfit El Jaish, who will try to overturn a 3-1 deficit in their second leg on Tuesday in Doha. "Our players have been impressive all season and I will continue to have faith in them," said Jeonbuk coach Choi Kang-Hee, according to the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) website. "We have confidence for the second leg."

Jeonbuk won the title in 2006 and they have hit form in this year's latter stages, smashing five past Shanghai SIPG to reach the semis before their four-goal

spree against Seoul.

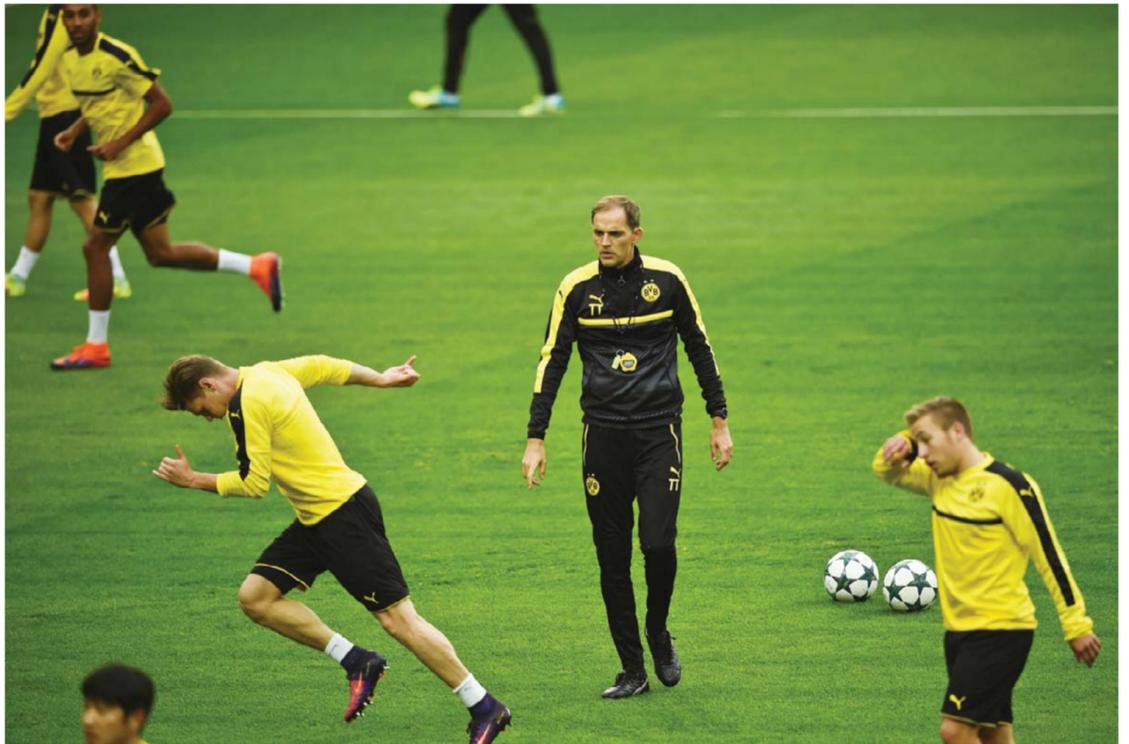
It leaves Seoul dangerman Adriano teetering on 12 goals for the competition, one away from equalling the record set by Guangzhou Evergrande's Muriqi in their 2013 title run.

But the club from the Korean capital aren't giving up hope just yet, and with home advantage they will draw on memories of some heavy wins in the group stage. "We know that we need to score many goals to get the win," said Seoul coach Hwang Sun-Hong. "We will have to be clinical and aggressive going forward... There is still football to be played in this tie." In Doha, mop-haired playmaker Omar Abdulrahman will try to lead Al Ain into the final after he was among the scorers in the UAE side's 3-1 first-leg win.

The top-rated Abdulrahman has previously attracted interest from Manchester City, and El Jaish coach Sabri Lamouchi was in no doubt about the threat he poses to his side.

"Al Ain have, for me, absolutely the best player in Asia," the Frenchman said, according to UAE's The National newspaper. "He is an unbelievable player."

"I love him a lot, but it's not only me. All coaches want a player like him. Because he fights with heart, and he is also a very nice playmaker with an amazing left foot." — AFP



LISBON: Dortmund's head coach Thomas Tuchel attends a training session at Alvalade stadium in Lisbon yesterday, on the eve of the UEFA Champions League group F football match Sporting CP vs Borussia Dortmund. — AFP

REAL MADRID AIM FOR GOAL FEST AS LEICESTER LOOK TO STAY PERFECT

PARIS: AFP Sports looks ahead to today's Champions League action as champions Real Madrid go on the goal trail against minnows Legia Warsaw.

If luck doesn't desert the Gabon striker in Lisbon, it could be a difficult night for Sporting.

Group E
At Leverkusen, Germany
Bayer Leverkusen (GER) v Tottenham (ENG)
Tottenham's surprise home defeat to Monaco on the opening day has put a spanner in the works in this group, putting both the English side and Leverkusen under pressure coming into their home-and-away series. Spurs bounced back with a win in Moscow over CSKA and are the only remaining unbeaten side in the Premier League. Leverkusen, on the other hand, have had a difficult start to the Bundesliga season and sit in the bottom half. They also drew their first two pool matches. Before the season began, these two would have been considered the group favourites but neither can afford to fail to pick up at least a win in these back-to-back encounters or they risk leaving themselves with too much to do in the final two fixtures.

At Moscow
CSKA (RUS) v Monaco (FRA)
Monaco will seek to build on their opening 2-1 victory over Tottenham when they travel to Moscow to tackle CSKA, who sit third in the Russian Premier League after a 1-0 win over Ufa at the weekend. Monaco dropped to third in Ligue 1, falling four points behind Nice after losing 3-1 at Toulouse on Friday night, while the leaders beat Lyon 2-0. CSKA are bottom of the group and need a win, while one suspects pool leaders Monaco would be happy to go home with a point.

Group F
At Madrid
Real Madrid (ESP) v Legia Warsaw (POL)
Given Legia, the first Polish qualifiers to this stage in 20 years, have already conceded eight goals in their first two group games, anything other than a Real avalanche would be a surprise. Madrid warmed up for this match with a 6-1 thumping of Real Betis, who are probably a better side than Warsaw. Real coach Zinedine Zidane praised his side for playing with "intensity" on Saturday and a similar display would likely blow away a Legia side that was thumped 6-0 at home to Dortmund.

At Lisbon
Sporting (POR) v Borussia Dortmund (GER)
In what could likely develop into a battle for second place behind Real, this match takes on crucial importance. Sporting came close to a stunning upset on the opening weekend, leading 1-0 at Real until late. They lost but will have been buoyed by that performance and a win at home to Dortmund would foster the belief that they have the ability to get through this toughest of groups. Borussia, though, have been regular fixtures in the knockout stages in recent years. They've been banging in the goals for fun this season, too, behind only Bayern Munich in the Bundesliga on that count. They were unlucky to only draw at home to Hertha at the weekend, as Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang missed a penalty and hit the bar before notching a late equaliser.

Group G
At Bruges, Belgium
Club Brugge (BEL) v Porto (POR)
Pointless and goalless Brugge host Porto with both sides targeting a first win to keep tabs on Group G's pacesetters. The pair last met in the 1972/73 UEFA Cup, Porto prevailing 5-3 on aggregate. Belgian champions Brugge suffered heavy losses to Leicester and Copenhagen, but have a good home record against Portuguese sides. Brugge coach Michel Preud'homme has valuable insight into the Portuguese football mentality as a former Benfica player. Porto welcome back Jesus Corona, recovered from a thigh problem and among the scorers in their Portuguese Cup win at the weekend. Brugge line up after a league loss to Charleroi last Friday.

At Leicester, England
Leicester (ENG) v Copenhagen (DEN)
Leicester's season is developing a Jekyll and Hyde quality to it-struggling to defend their shock Premier League crown but flying high in Europe. Claudio Ranieri's men host Copenhagen top of the group with a perfect six points, a far cry from their domestic form, their four defeats already one more than they suffered over the whole of last season. Their Danish guests are placed second, two points adrift, so a third straight win for the Foxes would bring a ticket to the knockout stage in their first ever Champions League campaign significantly closer. Leicester will have to bounce back from a 3-0 loss to Chelsea at the weekend. Ranieri rested last season's player of the year Riyad Mahrez, one of three key players, for today.

Group H
At Zagreb
Dinamo Zagreb (CRO) v Sevilla (ESP)
Dinamo took decisive action after 3-0 and 4-0 losses to Lyon and Juventus, with former Bulgaria coach Ivaylo Petev replacing Zlatko Kranjcar as manager. In three-time Europa Cup

Live		Matches on TV
		(Local Timings)
UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE		
CSKA Moskva v AS Monaco	21:45	
beIN SPORTS 6 HD		
Bayer 04 v Tottenham	21:45	
beIN SPORTS 4 HD		
Sporting CP v Dortmund	21:45	
beIN SPORTS 5 HD		
Real Madrid v Warszawa	21:45	
beIN SPORTS 1 HD		
Leicester City v Copenhagen	21:45	
beIN SPORTS 7 HD		
Club Brugge v FC Porto	21:45	
beIN SPORTS 8 HD		
Lyonais v Juventus	21:45	
beIN SPORTS 2 HD		
Dinamo Zagreb v Sevilla	21:45	
beIN SPORTS 9		

winners Sevilla they face no easy task, the Spaniards having drawn 0-0 with Juventus and beaten Lyon 1-0 to sit level on points at the top of the table. Sevilla are also sitting pretty in La Liga, one point off the summit after a win at Leganes on Saturday, their first away league win since the final day of the 2014/15 campaign.

At Lyon, France
Lyon (FRA) v Juventus (ITA)
Juventus are setting the pace in the Serie A title race, their 2-1 win-Paulo Dybala scoring both goals-over Udinese on Saturday placing them five points clear of Roma. Coach Massimiliano Allegri, who guided Juve to the 2015 final, cut a frustrated figure the last time out after a goalless draw with Sevilla as he tries to plot his team's path to a first Champions League crown in 20 years. Juve followed that draw with an emphatic 4-0 win at Dinamo to lead the table. The teams' last encounter came in the 2013/14 Europa League quarter-final, the Italians winning both legs. — AFP



TURIN: Juventus' forward Gonzalo Higuain from Argentina takes part in a training session on the eve of a UEFA Champions League football match against Olympique Lyonnais yesterday at the Juventus Training Center in Vinovo, near Turin. — AFP

MIXED FORTUNES FOR GAMBIANS IN EUROPE

PARIS: Gambian footballers Modou Barrow and Ousman Manneh experienced mixed fortunes in Europe at the weekend.

National team winger Barrow was a constant threat for Swansea in a 3-2 English Premier League loss at Arsenal before a brutal, red-card tackle forced him to limp off in the closing stages.

Teenage striker Manneh scored his first goal for Werder Bremen four weeks after his Bundesliga debut, and it gave his club a 2-1 victory over Bayer Leverkusen.

ENGLAND
VICTOR MOSES (Chelsea)
The Nigeria international set the seal on Chelsea's 3-0 win over champions Leicester when he scored their third goal 10 minutes from time. After exchanging passes with substitute Nathaniel Chalobah, the winger ran clear into the penalty area and planted a low shot past Kasper Schmeichel before celebrating with an extravagant back-flip.

WILFRIED BONY (Stoke)
The Ivory Coast forward was up front as the Potters beat Sunderland 2-0 courtesy of two goals from Joe Allen for their first league win of the season. He went close to scoring himself after holding off Senegalese Papy Djilobodji and firing just wide of Jordan Pickford's left-hand post.

YANNICK BOLASIE (Everton)
A member of the Everton side that pushed leaders Manchester City hard in a 1-1 draw, the Democratic Republic of Congo winger tested the hosts' defence with some surging runs.

MODOU BARROW (Swansea)
The Gambia winger was a constant threat to Arsenal during a 3-2 defeat by the Gunners, but he was unable to see the game out after being on the receiving end of a brutal tackle from Granit Xhaka which saw the Arsenal man sent off with 20 minutes to go at the Emirates Stadium. Barrow limped off with his ankle heavily strapped minutes later.

SPAIN
CEDRIC BAKAMBU (Villarreal)
DR Congo striker Bakambu started for the first time this season and took just over half an hour to slot home his first goal of the campaign as Villarreal's unbeaten start to the season continued with a 5-0 thrashing of Celta Vigo. Bakambu scored 22 goals in his debut season in Spain, but had been limited to just two substitute appearances due to a long-running thigh muscle injury.

CARLOS KAMENI (Malaga)
A simple error from former Cameroon goalkeeper Kameni cost Malaga in a 1-1 draw at Alaves. Kameni flew off his line for a looping ball inside his box, but was beaten to it by Deyverson, who headed into an empty net to give the hosts a ninth-minute lead.

ITALY
MOHAMED SALAH (Roma)
Edin Dzeko hit a brace for Roma in a 3-1 win over Napoli, but Salah was the unsung hero for the Giallorossi as they moved up to

second, five points behind leaders Juventus. The former Chelsea winger's pace, in attack and defence, was a crucial element for Luciano Spalletti's men at the San Paolo. "The lad's pace is incredible," purred Spalletti. Salah was rewarded for a fine day's work with a goal, taking his league tally this season to four.

KALIDOU KOULIBALY (Napoli)
Koulibaly's performances for Napoli have drawn interest from some top clubs in England, but the Senegal defender had a bitersweet performance for Napoli as his title hopes were dented by a 3-1 home defeat to Roma. After thwarting a possible Roma opener on the quarter hour when he slid in to dispossess Dzeko, Koulibaly panicked under pressure from Salah, gave up possession and saw Dzeko sweep the Egyptian's delivery past Pepe Reina for a 43rd-minute opener. Koulibaly made amends shortly after the restart with a towering header from a corner that went in off the far post, but by that time Dzeko had added a second.

FRANCE
CASIMIR NINGA (Montpellier)
Montpellier collected their first win since the opening weekend of the season in large part to Ninga's brace in a 3-2 home victory over Caen. The Chad striker, who netted a hat-trick last time out, opened the scoring in the second minute and lashed home the winner 12 minutes from time.

STEVE MOUNIE (Montpellier)
The Benin international suffered a roller-coaster of emotions as he scored but was later sent off in Montpellier's win over Caen. The 22-year-old headed in Ninga's cross to give Montpellier a 2-1 lead on 65 minutes, but picked up a second yellow card just six minutes later for a foul on Tunisian Alaeeddine Yahia.

YACINE BAMMOU (Nantes)
Moroccan forward Bammou ended an 11-month Ligue 1 goal drought with the opener in Nantes' 2-1 derby victory over Lorient. Only Angel di Maria had attempted more shots without scoring in the French top flight this term.

GERMANY
PIERRE-EMERICK AUBAMEYANG (Borussia Dortmund)
The Gabon striker missed a penalty and hit the bar before scoring Borussia Dortmund's equaliser in their 1-1 home draw against Hertha Berlin in the Bundesliga as both sides ended with 10 men. Aubameyang made up for his saved penalty when he converted at the back post with 10 minutes to go.

NABIL BENTALEB (Schalke 04)
The Algeria defensive midfielder, on loan from Tottenham Hotspur, made club history when his screaming 17-metre shot bounced over the goalline and out again to give Schalke the lead in their 1-1 draw at Augsburg. Hawkeye goal-line technology confirmed the ball had bounced behind the line and it was the first time Schalke have been awarded a goal by Hawkeye in Germany's top flight.—AFP