

What to WATCH

GTV & STAR SPORTS SELECT 2

Bangladesh v Zimbabwe
One-off Test, Day 2
Live from 9:30 am
STAR SPORTS 1
New Zealand v India

First Test, Day 3

Live from 4:30 am
SONY SIX
South Africa v Australia
Second T20
Live from 6:30 pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

Premier League
Arsenal v Everton
Live from 10:30 pm
TEN 2
Serie A

AS Roma v Lecce

Live from 11:00 pm
Inter Milan v Sampdoria
Live from 1:45 am

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh v Zimbabwe
One-off Test, Day 2
9:30 am at SBNS, Mirpur

Bangladesh Cricket League
South Zone v East Zone
Five-day Final, Day 2

9:30 am at ZACS, Chattogram
BPL
Saif v Ctg Abahani

3:15 pm, Mymensingh
Arambagh v MuktiJoddha
6:30 pm at BNS, Dhaka

Krishna, Sabina power Kings to 12-goal win

SPORTS REPORTER



Bashundhara Kings cruised to a 12-0 victory over Anwara Begum SC as the Tricortex Women's Football League kicked off at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

The big-spenders, who roped in 19 players from different age level national teams, slammed five goals in the first half before adding seven more against unheralded Anwara Begum SC.

National team striker Krishna Rani Sarkar scored four while Sabina Khatun, the most prolific and experienced female footballer in the country, bagged a hattrick, ensuring the reigning champions of the men's league lived up to the hype as title-favourites for the women's league too.

Mishrat Jahan Mousumi, another national team forward, bagged a brace while Maria Manda, Sheuli Azim and Nargis Khatun -- all national team players -- got on the scoresheet in the one-sided affair.

The result was quite expected as the formation of the seven teams have been too lopsided, with only one team apart from Bashundhara Kings boasting national team players.

Anwara Begum SC were only relying on their locally-groomed players and were far too short of skill and stamina. While the Kings had at least five shots come off the woodwork aside from the 12 goals, Anwara Begum SC failed to get a shot on target in 90 minutes, exposing the massive gulf between the two sides.

Krishna said they wanted to score as many as they could. "Our target was to attack right from the start and we did not ease up once we were getting those goals," said the striker who played a single match in the last edition of the league in 2013.

The third edition, which is featuring neither of the two former champions Abahani and Sheikh Jamal nor some established names in domestic football, might prove to be a cakewalk for the Kings given the performance.

Asha Karmakar, the hapless goalkeeper of Anwara Begum FC who was brought on after first-choice keeper Tahera Khatun had conceded three goals within the first 11 minutes, was unfazed by the outcome.

"I knew we were playing against a team full of national players, so I expected it. I'm not disappointed. I'm excited to have played in such a big match," the 15-year-old from Chapainawabganj said.

To her credit, Asha made a number of excellent saves, or else the margin of defeat might have been far bigger.



Bashundhara Kings striker Krishna Rani Sarkar (2nd from L) celebrates one of her four goals against Anwara Begum SC during their opening match of the Tricortex Women's Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

PHOTO: BFF

Real, Barca make clubs tremble: Pep

AFP, Manchester

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola says clubs "tremble" when Real Madrid or Barcelona come calling after Raheem Sterling expressed his admiration for Real.

The 25-year-old, who is under contract at the Etihad until 2023, described Real as a "fantastic club" in an interview. The forward was photographed with a City shirt on one shoulder and a Madrid shirt on the other.

City and Real meet in the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie at the Bernabeu next week, so the timing has raised eyebrows.

Sterling is one of City's key assets and his future could be up in the air if the club fail in their appeal against a two-year ban from European competitions for breaching UEFA's financial fair play rules.

Guardiola said Real and Barca, the club he used to play for and manage, were true giants of the game.

"All the clubs have to know that when Real Madrid or Barcelona knock on the door the other clubs must tremble," he said on Friday. "They will be in a little bit of trouble."

"Barcelona and Real Madrid are maybe the strongest and most powerful teams in terms of their history and how good they are. That is normal and I understand completely."

Guardiola also said he would talk to the City owner about extending his contract, which runs out after next season.

'Joyous' Neymar reveals he will miss Brazil carnival

Neymar revealed on Friday that he will not be travelling to Brazil for the carnival season after receiving criticism for attending in previous years while injured.

"It is with immense joy that I won't be going to carnival in 2020," the Paris Saint-Germain forward said in a video on Instagram.

"This is good, no controversy this time."

The world's most expensive player returned to his home nation for the world famous carnival festivities in 2018 and 2019 after picking up foot injuries, but was seen partying and dancing on both occasions.

He stays in France this year after being rested for four matches ahead of Tuesday's 2-1 Champions League defeat at Borussia Dortmund, in which the 28-year-old scored the Ligue 1 leaders' only goal.

After the loss Neymar expressed his disappointment at being left out of those matches following a rib injury picked up against Montpellier at the start of the month, with PSG coach Thomas Tuchel later admitting that his star man "lacked rhythm".

--AFP

Wazza marks 500th with cheeky Panenka

Wayne Rooney celebrated his 500th appearance in English league football with a goal before Aleksandar Mitrovic saw second-tier high-flyers Fulham to a 1-1 draw away to Derby on Friday.

Former Manchester United star Rooney, England's all-time leading goalscorer, struck from the penalty spot after Tim Ream handled early in the second half at Pride Park when he cheekily chipped the ball over Fulham goalkeeper Marek Rodak.

-- AFP

I hate tennis, says World No. 55

Kazakh tennis ace Alexander Bublik has made a shocking confession during the Open 13 tournament in France, revealing that he hates the sport he has been practicing since childhood.

Speaking to L'Equipe, the 22-year-old said that he only plays tennis for financial reasons, admitting that he would retire if he earned enough prize money.

"I hate tennis with all my heart," the player, currently number 55 in the world ATP rankings, was quoted as saying by RT. "To be honest, I don't see something positive in being a tennis player. I only play for money. If there was no money, I would stop playing tennis instantly. "I haven't earned enough money, [otherwise] I would have already retired."

-- AGENCIES

U-17 football's final phase from Monday

The final phase of the second edition of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman boys' [U-17] and the first edition of Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib girls' [U-17] National Gold Cup will get underway at the Bangabandhu National Stadium tomorrow.

Eight divisional champions in both boys' and girls' sections will compete in the final phase. The finals of both events will be held at the same venue on February 29.

The champions and runners-up in each section will receive Tk two lakh and Tk one lakh respectively as prize money.

The upazila phase of the tournament started in September, 2019 featuring 98,730 boys from 4,828 teams and 11,826 girls from 581 teams.

-- SPORTS REPORTER



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