

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

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

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 at 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 hatrick, 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 Sarker (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

Chelsea striker Olivier Giroud celebrates scoring his side's opening goal in a win against Tottenham Hotspur in a Premier League encounter at Stamford Bridge yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Giroud, Alonso down Spurs

AFP, London

Olivier Giroud and Marcos Alonso came in from the cold to inspire Chelsea's 2-1 win against Tottenham as the Blues cemented their grip on fourth place in the Premier League on Saturday.

Giroud and Alonso had been reduced to fringe figures in Frank Lampard's first season as Chelsea manager. But Lampard restored both veterans to the team at Stamford Bridge in a gamble that paid rich dividends.

With Tammy Abraham only fit enough to make the bench, Giroud started for the first time since November and the France striker's fine finish opened the scoring in the first half.

The 33-year-old could have joined Tottenham had Chelsea signed a forward in January, but instead netted his first club goal since August and his first in the Premier League since April.

Alonso, 29, maintained the theme of exiles getting back in favour as the left-back struck in the second half of his first league start since Chelsea's win at Tottenham in December.

Antonio Rudiger's own goal came too late to ruin Chelsea's first win in five league games, moving them four points clear of fifth placed Tottenham. Ending Tottenham's three-game winning streak in the league was the perfect response to Monday's home defeat against Manchester United.

Tottenham have now won just once in their last 34 visits to Stamford Bridge, making it a

painful return for their former Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho, who was beaten by Lampard for the second time this term.

Mourinho had ramped up the mind games on Friday when he claimed to know Lampard was planning to use the same five-man defence that helped the Blues win at Tottenham earlier this season. Mourinho was spot on, with Lampard making four changes in a return to the

Frank Lampard completed a historic double over his former manager as Chelsea became the first team to defeat a side managed by Jose Mourinho both home and away in a single league season.

system he predicted, but he could not come up with an effective solution.

Lucas Moura and Steven Bergwijn, more often used as wingers, led a makeshift Tottenham attack in the absence of Harry Kane, Son Heung-min and Dele Alli, who was dropped after reacting angrily to his substitution in the midweek defeat against Leipzig.

Chelsea were always on top and when Alonso's superb pass picked out Mason Mount, the young midfielder's shot was pushed away

by Hugo Lloris. It was a warning Tottenham failed to heed and Giroud put Chelsea in front in the 15th minute.

Giroud had looked impressive in his substitute appearance against United. And his physical style and clever movement were crucial as he held off Toby Alderweireld to reach Jorginho's pass for a shot that Lloris saved with his foot. The rebound fell to Ross Barkley but his scuffed effort in the post and cannoned back to Giroud, who lashed a blistering strike past Lloris at his near post.

Willy Caballero almost gifted Tottenham a goal out of nothing before the break.

Needlessly rushing off his line, Caballero completely missed the ball and Tottenham defender Japhet Tanganga prodded just wide.

Mourinho had been scribbling away in his notebook before the interval, but there was no change in Tottenham's display as Alonso increased Chelsea's lead in the 48th minute.

Giroud guided the ball into Moun's path and he worked it to Barkley on the edge of the Tottenham area. With the visitors backing off, Barkley picked out Alonso, who blasted into the far corner from 20 yards.

It could have been worse for Tottenham as Giovanni Lo Celso was fortunate to escape a red card when he stamped on Cesar Azpilicueta.

Chelsea should have won by more and Alonso's free-kick hit the bar before Rudiger deflected Erik Lamela's shot into his own net in the 89th minute.

Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski was hounded by Paderborn players in a Bundesliga game on Friday, but that did not stop the Pole from netting twice in a 3-2 win.

PHOTO: TWITTER

Abahani held by Brothers

SPORTS REPORTER

Six-time champions Abahani were held to a 1-1 draw by Brothers Union in their Bangladesh Premier League fixture at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The Sky Blues took a deserved lead through Kervens Belfort in the 36th minute, but Brothers mounted late challenge to eke out a point, thanks to Vali Jonov Otabek's 76th-minute equaliser.

The draw denied Abahani the chance to join leaders Saif SC at the top of the table as the Sky Blues, who had beaten Bangladesh Police 2-0, moved to four points from two matches. Brothers, meanwhile, moved to two points after holding Sheikh Russel to a 1-1 draw in their opening match.

Abahani had the lion's share of possession in the first half, with Belfort, Sunday Chizoba and Nabib Newaz Jibon threatening the opposition. Sunday and Belfort though failed to connect to Saad Uddin's inviting cross on 28 minutes.

Jibon had a shot cleared off the goalline by Brothers defender Lancine Toure on the

half-hour mark, but he set up Belfort for the opening goal six minutes later.

The local marksman dribbled past a defender and delivered a superb cross for Belfort, which the Haitian smashed home from inside the box.

Abahani took the slender lead into the break but failed to keep the momentum after the restart as a couple of substitutions, including the withdrawal of midfielder Edgar Bernhardt, handed a spirited Brothers side the initiative.

Brothers 1-1 Abahani
Otabek 76' Belfort 36'

Belfort had a chance to extend the lead when he rose high to meet substitute Mamunul Islam's cross, but the header went straight at the opposition goalie.

Brothers were threatening to equalise all the while and it came in the 76th minute when Otabek raced onto a header from Kingsley Chigozie before finding the back of the net with a diagonal shot.