

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS 2
ICC Women's T20 World Cup
England v Thailand
Live from 10:00am
Pakistan v West Indies
Live from 2:00pm
SONY ESPN
Sri Lanka v West Indies

Second ODI (D/N)
Live from 3:00pm
SONY SIX
South Africa v Australia
Third T20I
Live from 10:00pm

TEN 1 & TEN 2
UEFA Champions League
Lyon v Juventus
Live from 2:00am (Thursday)
Real Madrid v Man City
Live from 2:00am (Thursday)

BEACALI KNOWS WHAT'S ROT IN BUCHAREST

Gigi Becali, the flamboyant owner of Bucharest football club FCSB, formerly known as Steaua Bucharest, thinks he knows what to blame for his team's recent poor run in the Romanian league: too much of the wrong kind of exercise. The 1986 European Cup winners, Romania's most successful club with 26 league titles, have failed to win their last three games, and Becali said the players were having too much sex. "My players are making love with their girlfriends too often, that's why they aren't playing football so well lately," he told local media after FCSB's 1-1 home draw against lowly Chindia Targoviste. "Look at Dan Petrescu," said Becali. "CFR players have sex only once a week. They meet with women only once a week."

--REUTERS



Day irked with players on the bench

SPORTS REPORTER



Jamie Day is planning to start the preparation camp of the national football team for the World Cup and Asian Cup qualifying match against Afghanistan on either March 15 or 16. Bangladesh will host Afghanistan

for their fifth match of the campaign at the Sylhet District Stadium on March 26.

The ongoing Bangladesh Premier League will be suspended for nearly three weeks following the sixth round on March 15, with Chattogram Abahani playing against Bashundhara Kings and Abahani taking on Muktijoddha Sangsod on that day.

"We will have 10 days' camp before the game [against Afghanistan]. The camp will probably begin on 15th or 16th March, so we want to have four to five days in Dhaka before four to five days in Sylhet," Day told reporters yesterday.

"Afghanistan are not only ranked higher than us but are also technically better. We played well against them but we were unlucky. We have home advantage now. We know we need to do very well to get a result. We have three home games and we will try to get points from there," said Day.

The British coach was, however, disappointed to see some of the national team players sitting idle or coming off the bench for their respective clubs in the league.

"I watched the games. I was a little bit disappointed that six or seven players were substitutes or not involved but it gave other players an opportunity. If they don't reach the level to cover for the national team level, I wouldn't make any changes. It's down to players to get a place in the team," said Day, who returned to Dhaka on February 19 and is supposed to leave for England on February 28 to attend the third part of his UEFA Pro-License course before coming back on March 4.

Bangladesh are at the bottom of Group E with one point from four matches while Afghanistan are third with four points from five matches.



Bashundhara Kings winger Mohammad Ibrahim scored two goals as the defending champions edged past Brothers Union 3-2 in their Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Ibrahim double drives Kings

SPORTS REPORTER



Holders Bashundhara Kings survived a second-half scare to return to winning way in the Bangladesh Premier League following a 3-2 win over Brothers Union at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

With the second win in three outings, Kings joined Saif SC on top of the table with seven points while Brothers Union tasted their first defeat in third match to slip to 10th position with two points.

The battle between giants Kings and minnows Brothers was anticipated to be a mouth-watering affair, especially after Brothers' successive draws against heavyweights Abahani and Sheikh

Russel and Kings' tame draw against Bangladesh Police. However, the defending champions made the match their own by taking a 3-0 lead before Brothers showed character in the last 25 minutes to score two goals.

Oscar Bruzon brought three changes in the playing eleven and the inclusion of fit-again Biplu Ahmed and experienced Alamgir Kabir Rana worked well in the midfield. The early pressure almost paid off, but Brothers goalkeeper Jafar Sardar brilliantly denied Towhidul Alam Sabuz in the 14th minute. However, The Oranges conceded the lead three minutes later when Mohammad Ibrahim ran down the left and drove home a low shot past the opposition keeper.

Ibrahim doubled the lead a

minute before the break with another darting run down the left and a drive home following a nutmeg before Daniel Colindres made it 3-0 with a curling effort from the top of the box two minutes into the second half.

Bashundhara kept creating chances but frustratingly failed to take those home and Brothers pulled one goal back in the 64th minute when Nkowcha Kingsley chested down a cross from Mobarak Hossain inside the box before volleying home.

Brothers further reduced the margin in the 76th minute through a header from Arup Kumar Baidya, giving some anxious moments to the Kings, who wasted a couple of chances in the latter stages of the match.

Man City target role reversal

AFP, Undated



Manchester City will be up against both Real Madrid and their reputation on Wednesday as the Champions League's biggest winners play one of its biggest underachievers at the Santiago Bernabeu.

After City's win over Leicester on Saturday, Pep Guardiola said: "We will try to be ourselves. We can win and we can lose but we must try to be ourselves."

Yet in some ways, City will seek a role reversal too. Madrid's record is the envy of Europe but in particular by teams like City, whose financial might and technical talent has translated only into disappointment outside domestic competition.

In the time City have won three Premier League titles and five domestic cups, they have gone past the Champions League's quarter-finals only once, reaching the last four in 2016, only to be beaten by Madrid.

Zinedine Zidane's side, meanwhile, have surrendered dominance in La Liga to Barcelona but made amends for one Spanish league title in seven years by winning an four Champions Leagues out of the last six.

Madrid believe this tournament is their tournament, a conviction based on historic success that makes them assured under pressure and ruthless in the decisive moments.

"When you have a history of the (Alfredo) Di Stefano period, winning five or six European Cups at that time, it means a new player that comes to Real Madrid and puts on that shirt knows 'we have to defend our history'," said Guardiola. "That gives them a boost because they live that history."

Lyon face up to Ronaldo

Anthony Lopes describes Cristiano Ronaldo as "extraordinary", and the Lyon goalkeeper knows how big a job he faces keeping his Portuguese international colleague quiet when the French side face Juventus in the Champions League this week.

"I have been lucky enough to play alongside him. He is the captain and an extraordinary personality, a great man," Lopes told AFP when asked about playing with Ronaldo.

On Wednesday, OL host Ronaldo and the Italian giants in the first leg of their last-16 tie.

Lyon are massive underdogs against a Juve side in a hurry for Champions League success given the massive investment they made in Ronaldo, who recently turned 35.

Last year it was Lionel Messi who put Lyon to the sword at this stage, scoring twice as Barcelona won 5-1 in the second leg after a goalless draw in France.

"When you play Barca or Juve, the danger comes from everywhere," Lopes said, adding: "All eyes will be on Ronaldo, especially in the stands."

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