

FACEBOOK

La Liga
Barcelona v Real Madrid
Live from 8:00pm
Osasuna v Athletic Club
Live from 10:30pm
Sevilla v Eibar
Live from 10:30pm
Atletico Madrid v Real Betis

Live from 1:00am (Sunday)

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
Indian Premier League
Kolkata v Delhi
Live from 4:00pm
Punjab v Hyderabad
Live from 8:00pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
English Premier League

West Ham v Man City

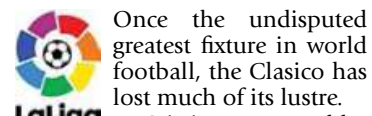
Live from 5:30pm
Fulham v Crystal Palace
Live from 8:00pm
Man United v Chelsea
Live from 10:30pm
Liverpool v Sheffield Utd
Live from 1:00am (Sunday)
TEN 2

Serie A

Atalanta v Sampdoria
Live from 7:00pm
Genoa v Inter Milan
Live from 10:00pm
SONY SIX
Serie A
Lazio v Bologna
Live from 12:45am (Sunday)

Empty Camp Nou awaits under-fire Zidane

AGENCIES



Once the undisputed greatest fixture in world football, the Clásico has lost much of its lustre. Cristiano Ronaldo, Neymar and Andres Iniesta were among the superstars to move on from Real Madrid and Barcelona in recent years, and this year Gareth Bale and Luis Suarez departed too. Lionel Messi would have left as well, had Barcelona let him.

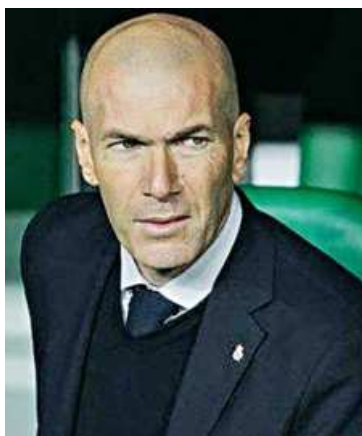
Usually there would be 99,000 fans packed into the Camp Nou. This time, because of the coronavirus pandemic, there will be none. The huge global audience will remain, but it's a long time since these teams have been at such a collective low ebb.

Barca are struggling to get back on their feet under new coach Ronald Koeman and lost 1-0 at Getafe last weekend.

Real won La Liga last season but the last week gives a more accurate picture of where they stand: Zinedine Zidane's team lost 1-0 at home to Cadiz and then went down 3-2 to Shakhtar Donetsk in the Champions League.

Madrid have lost just once in their last seven visits to the Camp Nou though.

There is good news though for



the defending champions, with Zidane confirming that captain Sergio Ramos is set to return from injury for this game.

Ramos went off at halftime in Madrid's 1-0 La Liga defeat by minnows Cadiz last weekend and was also absent as they crumbled to a depleted Shakhtar Donetsk side on Wednesday in the Champions League. However, he took a full part in training on Friday.

"He's our captain, our leader. He's over his injury, but obviously we won't take any risks. He'll be with us, you need players who are 100% fit and Sergio is," Zidane told a news conference.

Despite welcoming back Ramos, Real will be without a number of

first team regulars for the trip to the Nou Camp, including Eden Hazard, Dani Carvajal, Alvaro Odriozola and Martin Odegaard.

Zidane has come under intense scrutiny over the last week, with some reports suggesting his job might be at risk should they taste defeat in Catalonia, however the Frenchman insisted he has the full backing of his players and the club's board.

"I've won a lot with these players, they've won a lot for me and I'll always be with them until the end, it's they who battle, run and fight and I can feel their support," he said.

"But right now the most important thing is changing the

dynamic, and we've got good games coming up to be able to do that in, and that's what makes football so great. When things go wrong, you need to show your character and quality.

"... I can't deny people are saying my future is at stake, but it was the same last year and it was like that in my first spell here, too. I just need to do my job and forget about everything else."

Barcelona, meanwhile, have the returning Jordi Alba available for the game, but will be without long-term absentees Marc-Andre ter Stegen and Samuel Umtiti.

EL CLASICO

Total matches (competitive):	244
Wins: Real Madrid (96), Barcelona (96)	
First meeting: May 13, 1902 (Copa de la Coronacion)	Barcelona 3 -- 1 Real Madrid
Latest meeting: Mar 1, 2020 (La Liga)	Real Madrid 2 -- 0 Barcelona
Largest victory: June 19, 1943 (Copa del Rey)	Real Madrid 11 -- 1 Barcelona
Most appearances: Sergio Ramos (44)	
Top scorer: Lionel Messi (26)	

Problem not in rust, but failure to learn

NABID YEASIN



"Maybe give the guys a bit of breathing space," said Bangladesh head coach Russell Domingo in a virtual conference on Thursday, urging the media not to

"harshly judge" players over a few days of cricket in the ongoing intra-squad BCB President's Cup.

According to Domingo, it was 'unfair' to ask players or management reasons behind the batsmen's failure -- especially the top-order failures which have been a common feature of the 50-over tournament so far -- as they took the field after a long seven-month halt due to the coronavirus pandemic.

It is true that coming off such a long break, players would have to contend with some amount of rust and it would take time to regain their old form. But contrary to Domingo's characterisation of the coverage as "unfair" in its criticism, the media had mostly anticipated the rust during the lead-up to the tournament.

What was perhaps not anticipated is the manner in which mistakes have been repeated time and again. Are professional players not expected to make the utmost use of practice sessions to rectify mistakes, both technical and mental, and apply the corrected approach out in the middle?

And in that regard, the three-team BCB President's Cup is the best practice platform for players to help them realise

their mistakes before they go and repeat those mistakes in international series or tournaments where the stakes will be much higher.

But it seemed as if the players were adamant on repeating the same mistakes. Mushfiqur Rahim twice, consecutively, made the mistake of throwing his wicket away while trying to scoop a pacer after being well set -- once when he was on 103 and then while on 52. Both times there were no questions about how he played -- as it was excellent -- but rather questions were raised regarding his choice of shots, having gotten out to the same shot in the previous game as he seemingly repeated the same mistake twice.

Soumya was another batsman whose batting approach raised questions -- something the selectors said they would be focusing on more than performances in order to select players for the next national assignment -- and his wayward dismissals.

And those were a few of the mistakes that were pointed out and not just the lack of runs or consistency, as those remain somewhat justifiable considering the fact that players returned after a long halt.

While Domingo jumping in to defend his charges would surely give the players a sense of comfort, the South African must consider whether he is sending a wrong message to players by doing so as he may be disappointed and may also be punitive if the likes of Soumya and Mushfiqur keep on repeating mistakes in an international series or tournament.



Players check in at the FARS Hotel in Dhaka yesterday as the national football team gathered after a long time for training for the upcoming FIFA friendlies against Nepal.

PHOTO : BFF

Kings to release all but two

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Premier League champions Bashundhara Kings have retreated from their decision of not releasing their players early for the camp ahead of two FIFA international friendlies against Nepal on November 13 and 17 in Dhaka.

Though the Kings management had, in line with FIFA regulations, decided to release their players just four days before the first friendly, they changed their mind to allow 12 players to join the camp Tuesday after BFF national teams committee chairman Kazi Nabil Ahmed talked to Kings president Imrul Hasan, according to BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag. However, Kings will not allow Matin Mia and Masuk Mia Jonny -- two players who have just recovered from long-term injuries.

The national team's head coach Jamie Day, assistant coach Stuart Watkiss, newly-appointed fitness and goalkeeping coaches Ivan Razlog and Les Cleveley

are scheduled to arrive here on October 29. Australian Sports scientist Dr. Craig Duncan is also expected to work with the team.

Out of the 36 players, 16 players yesterday reported to assistant coach Masud Parvez Kaiser while four others -- Mamunul Islam, Nabib Newaj Jibon, Tutul Hossain Badsha and Ariful Islam -- did not turn up as they could not obtain Covid-19 test results yet.

BFF executive Hasan Mahmud informed that Mamun and Jibon are supposed to test today while Badsha, who is accompanying his sick wife, will undergo the test two to three days later. He also added that Ariful could not join the camp as there was no opportunity for him to have the test done in his native district of Cumilla.

BFF general secretary Shohag informed that Nepal team will arrive here on November 5 but everything regarding their arrival and provision of covid-19 test in Bangladesh will be finalised after a meeting with the health ministry next week.

Kapil Dev recovering

AFP, NEW DELHI

Indian cricket legend Kapil Dev was in a "stable" condition after undergoing emergency cardiac surgery Friday after complaining of chest pain, hospital authorities said.

The 61-year-old, who led India to their first World Cup title in 1983, was rushed to a Delhi hospital where surgeons conducted an emergency coronary angioplasty.

Neither the hospital nor Dev's family commented on media reports that he had suffered a heart attack.

A hospital statement said only that Dev was in "stable" condition.

The news triggered a flurry of comments on social media from cricketers and fans, with Virat Kohli wishing the once-feared all-rounder a speedy recovery.

"Please join me in sending prayers, strength and good wishes," said Madan Lal, a bowler in the 1983 "Kapil's Devils" side that stunned the West Indies at the World Cup final at Lord's. Dev took 687 Test and one-day wickets and scored nearly 9,000 runs during a 16-year long international career.

After retiring in 1994, he became a national team coach and selector. In 2002, Dev was named "Indian Cricketer of the Century" by Wisden.

Sentu's rise from despair to IPL job

MAZHAR UDDIN



Robiul Karim, also known as Sentu, began as a wicket-keeper batsman at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishthan (BKSP) and, with his talent he was able to make a mark. His prospects looked promising as he then played for the Bangladesh under-17 side but a dramatic downfall saw the promising cricketer lose his way as he had to quit the game to help his struggling family.

Sentu worked as a marketing agent in a private company after quitting cricket but he was always looking for an opportunity to get involved with the game again.

It was then Khaled Mahmud, former captain of the national team and currently a director of the Bangladesh Cricket Board, who came to Sentu's rescue -- much like he did with many other cricketers in the country. Mahmud gave Sentu a job as a trainer at the Bangla Trac cricket academy in Rajshahi, with a salary which was beyond his expectations.

Things started to change for Sentu as he gradually made his name as a throw-down specialist to the batters at the nets and his mentor Mahmud then picked him for the Bangladesh Premier League side Dhaka Dynamites.

Sentu also toured with the Bangladesh team as a thrower and his hard work and skills had made him a handy member of the national team's support staff. Mahmud then asked the Bangladesh team's analyst Shrinivas Chandrashekhkar, who also works for Sunrisers Hyderabad, if he could create an opportunity for Sentu in the IPL.

Things worked out well and Sentu went from a struggling abandoned cricketer to having a career in the most glamorous cricket league in the world. He is working as the only Bangladeshi in the IPL as a throwdown specialist for Sunrisers Hyderabad in the UAE this season.

"I know Sentu for a long time and he was actually looking for a job at one point. I tried to help him and gave him a job and he was very happy. It's his hard work, though,

I am learning everyday here and having the time of my life in the IPL," an emotional Sentu said from Dubai yesterday.

Much like Sentu, Mahmud has been a father figure for many cricketers in the country but there was a sense of disappointment in Mahmud's voice when this reporter gave him the credit behind Sentu's rise.

"I always try to help cricketers. At times I had to hear a lot of negative things for this. Whenever I



which paid off and everyone appreciated his throwdown skills.

"I have said many times that we can include Sentu in the national team and give him a decent salary and use his talent. We spent a lot on many others, why not create our own resources?" said Mahmud.

Sentu, on the other hand, gave all the credit to Mahmud and expressed his gratitude towards his mentor.

"Whatever I am today is because of Sujon sir [Khaled Mahmud].



AZ Alkmaar caused a major upset on Thursday night. The Dutch side depleted by the coronavirus beat Napoli 1-0 in Naples, thanks to Dani de Wit's 57th-minute strike, as Europa League group stages began. Meanwhile, Rangers forward Kemar Roofe scored an outrageous goal during their 2-0 win against Standard Liege, wriggling past two opposition players before picking the net from the half-way line. Rangers boss Steven Gerard termed it as 'the best goal I have ever seen live.'

PHOTO: AGENCIES

QUIZ CONTEST

The Daily Star | STAR CINEPLEX

10 WINNERS EVERYDAY! 2 PREMIUM TICKETS FOR EACH WINNER

Email your answer to starquiz@outlook.com by 4.00 pm today with your name, DOB, mobile number and address. The winners of the quiz will be announced tomorrow in this newspaper and through email.

Winners are requested to follow the instructions given in email

QUIZ - 02
When is the re-opening date of STAR Cineplex?

WINNERS LIST OF QUIZ - 01

1. Rabiul Islam, Menul Badda
2. Abir Sutradhar, Shantibagh
3. Fairuz Tasnim Nofe, North Shahjahanpur
4. Md Hamid Hasan Noman, University of Chittagong
5. Shajid Hasan Nabil, Mirpur-1
6. Mohammad Shobujur Rahman, Dhaka Cantonment
7. Siyam Mahboob Dhrubo, IBA DU
8. Ahnaf Atif, Gazipur
9. Shoaeb Hasan Sajib, Gazipur
10. Jahanara Begum, Narayanganj