

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS2

Indian Super League

Chennai v Mumbai

Live from 7:20pm

Series A

Sassuolo v Empoli

Live from 1:45am (Tuesday)

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Emily again, but this time hosts win

ATIQUE ANAM from Rajshahi

 Zahid Hassan Emily's 18th international goal gave Bangladesh a 1-0 win against Sri Lanka at the Liberation War Memorial Stadium in Rajshahi yesterday as the hosts clinched the two-match SS Steel FIFA International Friendly Series 1-0. The 28-year-old striker, who had scored the only goal in the 1-1 draw against the same opposition in Jessore on Friday, scored the decisive goal from the spot in the 4th minute.

Interim head coach Saiful Bari Titu made two changes to the starting eleven from the side that played in Jessore. Defender Ariful Islam and forward Mithun Chowdhury made way for regular starters Jamal Bhuiyan and Sohel Rana in the midfield. Centre-back Nasiruddin Chowdhury, who was used as a holding midfielder in the first match, went back to his usual position.

The changed line-up made a brisk start and earned two corners within the first three minutes. The first corner, curled in by skipper Mamunul Islam, was powerfully headed by Emily, but was cleared off the line by defender S Kumara. A minute later, yet another corner paved the way for the penalty. Mamunul's darting run from a few yards outside box was cut short just inside by a lunging tackle from Sri Lanka midfielder N Roshan.

Emily stepped up and calmly slotted the ball at the left corner of the net as 'keeper Sujun Perera dived the other way, sending some 25,000 spectators into wild celebration.

Bangladesh continued to invade the Sri Lankan half, but the intensity waned after the first twenty minutes, just like the previous game. The Lankans, unable to match the hosts' high-pressing football, resorted to counter-attacking tactics, with long and diagonal balls to feed their three forwards. One such counter-attack caught the Bangladesh defence napping and almost brought a disaster in the 28th minute.

Sri Lanka skipper Chaturanga Sanjeeva raced on to the ball, with Bangladesh defenders nowhere in sight. Goalkeeper Rasel Mahmud Liton stepped forward and made a dreadful challenge on Sanjeeva just outside the danger zone. The goalkeeper's action might have earned him a red card another day, but referee Mizanur Rahman thought it only deserved a yellow and awarded a free-kick to Sri Lanka.

Bangladesh have been poor in defending set-pieces in recent times and if it was not for the crossbar, Roshan's curling effort would have earned his side the equaliser and two free-kick goals in two matches for the midfielder.

Despite the fright, the hosts continued to dominate the game, but were dealt a blow right before the end of the first half as Mamunul pulled a thigh muscle and had to be replaced by Mithun.

The hosts started the second half as briskly as the first and crosses from both flanks, inside the first 10 minutes, opened up two scoring opportunities for Emily, who was awful with his headers on both occasions. Chances kept coming for the other forwards too.

Mithun failed to connect a Tapu Barman cross from inside the six-yard box before Zahid Hossain tried his luck to beat the out-of-position Lankan goalie from a distance. The nippy winger, who was a constant threat to the Lankan defence, was taken off in the 82nd minute to a standing ovation from the Rajshahi crowd. A few more hopeful efforts from the Bangladesh players failed to find the target, but they seemed happy to take the series 1-0, which broke their five-match winless streak.




Bangladesh striker Zahid Hassan Emily (L) is ecstatic after scoring the all-important goal from a penalty during their international friendly against Sri Lanka in Rajshahi yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

'No comments' on refereeing

SPORTS REPORTER from Rajshahi

 Sri Lanka coach Nikola Kavazovic likes to be at the centre of attention. The Serbian maintains a quiet demeanour at the dug-out but speaks his mind when attending press conferences.

So when he arrived at the post-match press conference after his side's 0-1 defeat to Bangladesh here yesterday, he was expected to be in for a lot of questioning. Instead, Kavazovic made a brief speech and left the conference abruptly, leaving the team manager and captain in a spot of bother.

The Serbian, who had said after the first match that he never comments on refereeing, stayed true to his words, yet implied he was least pleased with the match officials.

"It's my message to all boys and girls in the world that they should stop playing football because in football there are many

corrupted evil, bad people and if they continue to play football, they will suffer in prime, like my kids," said Kavazovic with an air of disgust, after congratulating Bangladesh for their 'deserved victory'.

Kavazovic's opposite number, Saiful Bari Titu, took the safer and more pleasant route.

"No coach is ever satisfied with refereeing, especially when he is on the losing side. It is part of football and we have to accept it," said the Bangladesh coach.

"I won't comment on what the Lankan coach said but I'm happy to be on the winning side. One of our main objectives, apart from the sport's promotion, was to play entertaining football and I'm happy that both the matches were very entertaining," he said.

Titu also gave credit to both sides for playing 'excellent' football in a space of three days, while hoping that playing these matches will keep Bangladesh on an upward move.

Sevilla move to joint top

AFP, Madrid



Sevilla moved joint top of La Liga alongside Barcelona as two late goals from Denis Suarez and Carlos Bacca gave them a 2-1 win over Villarreal on Sunday.

The visitors seemed set to take all three points when substitute Luciano Vietto clipped home Cani's pass to open the scoring 11 minutes from time.

However, Suarez slotted home a loose ball inside the area two minutes from time and Bacca converted from the penalty spot deep into stoppage time after Giovanni Dos Santos had upended Benoit Tremoulinas.

Victory for Sevilla moves them back above Real Madrid and Valencia with the top four separated by just two points.

Villarreal enjoyed the better of the play in the first period at the Sanchez Pizjuan, but it was Sevilla who came closest to breaking the deadlock when Gerard Deulofeu's corner came back off the post.

Vietto gave Villarreal the lead as he raced onto Cani's through ball to lift the ball over the advancing Beto.

However, Villarreal couldn't withstand the late waves of Sevilla pressure as Suarez pounced to hook the ball into the far corner following a scramble inside the area.

SA captain shot dead Stupid van Persie: van Gaal

AFP, Johannesburg



South Africa's President Jacob Zuma on Monday led a shocked nation in voicing outrage at the killing of national football captain Senzo Meyiwa after the talismanic goalkeeper was shot dead outside Johannesburg.

The 27-year-old was killed late Sunday at the home of his pop-star girlfriend Kelly Khumalo after an altercation, in a slaying that stunned the crime-weary nation.

"Words cannot express the nation's shock at this loss," said Zuma, amid a national outpouring of grief.

Zuma said police must "leave no stone unturned in finding his killers" and bringing them to justice.

Fighting back a flood of tears, national football coach Shakes Mashaba described Meyiwa as a "very kind person" who was the first name on his team sheet.

Police have offered a reward of 150,000 rand (\$14,000) for any information leading to his killer's arrest.

This is just the latest tragedy to befall the country's sporting fraternity.

South Africa is still reeling from the death of former world 800-metre champion Mbulaeni Mulaudzi who died in a car crash on Friday and the jailing of fallen Paralympic hero Oscar Pistorius, who killed his girlfriend.

Pirates management on Monday said news of Meyiwa's death had hit the club hard, with a players' meeting on Monday seeing "uncontrollable" sobbing and crying.

Meyiwa's South African team-mate Dean Furman was among the first to react to the tragedy.

"Beyond devastated at the loss of our captain and friend Senzo Meyiwa. Thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends at this terrible time," tweeted England-based Furman, who plays for Doncaster

Rovers in the third-tier of the English league.

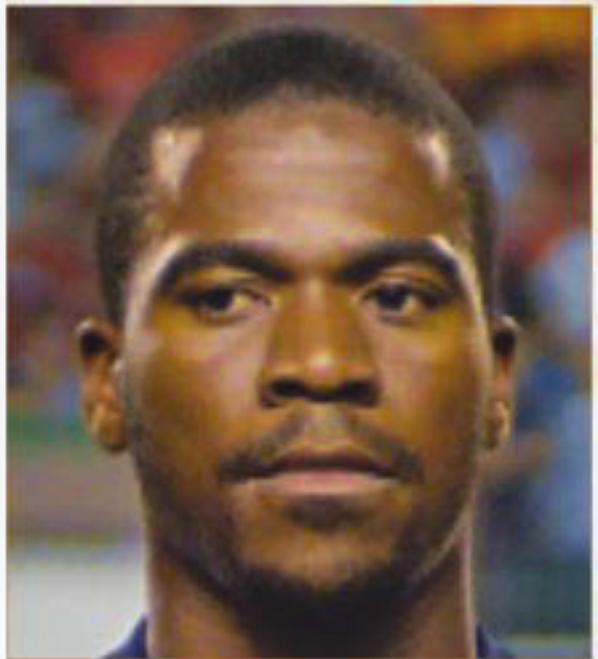
Dennis Mumble, the Chief Executive Officer of the South African Football Association, said "The country is crying."

Police Lieutenant-General Solomon Makgale said Meyiwa was gunned down at a house in Vosloorus, a township about 30 kilometres south of the Johannesburg at around 2000 (1800 GMT).

Makgale said that the motive behind the attack remained unclear.

"There was an altercation and Senzo Meyiwa was shot. The three suspects fled on foot after the shooting."

"We can assure South Africans that we will do all we can to bring Meyiwa's killers to book."



SENZO MEYIWA

Police later said there were seven people inside the house, including Meyiwa, when two suspects entered and another remained outside.

After many years in the South African football shadows, Meyiwa had a meteoric climb to fame with his club the Orlando Pirates.

Meyiwa played for his club in Soweto Saturday and has been in outstanding form for the national team during recent 2015 Africa Cup qualifiers.

He displaced national squad goalkeeper Moeneeb Josephs as first-choice at Pirates, the only South African side to be crowned African champions.

And a recent injury to South Africa captain and goalkeeper Itumeleng Khune gave Meyiwa a chance in the national team, popularly known as Bafana Bafana (The Boys).

New national coach Mashaba not only promoted Durban-born Meyiwa to replace Khune but also made him captain of a team that has been in the doldrums for some years.

Meyiwa responded to his promotion by leading the team to victories over Sudan and Congo Brazzaville and draws with Congo and Nigeria, a country South Africa traditionally struggle against.

AFP, Manchester



Louis van Gaal labelled compatriot Robin van Persie "stupid" after his celebrations in scoring a dramatic late equaliser for Manchester United in their 1-1 draw at home to Premier League leaders Chelsea saw the experienced Dutch striker booked.

Van Gaal looked on course to fall to a defeat against Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho, who worked under him for three years at Barcelona, until van Persie struck in the 94th minute at Old Trafford on Sunday.

But while van Gaal was obviously relieved to have secured what he felt was a deserved point, he was not so impressed

with his star forward's response in celebrating the dramatic goal.

"You have seen a stupid reaction after the goal," said van Gaal. "You can be excited but you don't have to pull your shirt off. Then you have a yellow card, that is not so smart."

"But yes, we deserved a point. You know that, Jose Mourinho knows that also."

"I said to the boys, it wasn't our best performance and that's a pity because in these moments you have to show yourself against the better teams," the veteran Dutch manager added of a result that left his side 10 points behind Chelsea.

Van Persie was one of nine players booked during the match, a surprisingly high figure given the non-violent

INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE

Anelka set for comeback

AFP, New Delhi

Disgraced French striker Nicolas Anelka is set to return to action on Tuesday after serving a five-match ban for a gesture deemed to be anti-semitic and known as a "quenelle".

The 35-year-old former Arsenal, Chelsea, Juventus and Real Madrid star is expected to turn out for his Indian Super League team Mumbai FC against Chennaiyin FC in the southern city of Chennai.

Anelka missed the Peter Reid-coached team's first three matches, in which they beat FC Pune City 5-0 but lost 2-0 to Northeast United and 3-0 to Atletico de Kolkata.

Bayern drop points

AFP, Berlin



Leaders Bayern Munich dropped their first Bundesliga points for over a month after being held to a goalless draw at second-placed Borussia Moenchengladbach in Sunday's high-tempo clash.

Gladbach threatened to inflict a first defeat of the season on Pep Guardiola's Bavarians despite less than 30 percent possession, counter-attacking relentlessly.

The hosts' tactics were to soak up Bayern's pressure and hit the league leaders on the counter in an intense game and it nearly paid off.

Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer had a busy night to deny Gladbach forwards Raffael, Max Kruse and Patrick Herrmann, while at the other end Munich's David Alaba hit the post in the first-half.

Poland striker Robert Lewandowski also fired wide for Bayern while replacement Claudio Pizarro squandered a chance in the dying stages.

nature of the contest, to go with Branislav Ivanovic's red card, for a second yellow, after his foul on Angel di Maria led to the free-kick that presented van Persie with his chance to equalise.

And the performance of referee Phil Dowd certainly irritated Mourinho, although the Chelsea manager was careful not to make direct criticism for fear of falling foul of Football Association disciplinary procedures.

"I did five interviews and in all five, the first question was my comments on the referee," he explained. "I told them, my comment is that when five ask me the same thing, I don't need to answer."

"I prefer not to speak about the (Ivanovic) second yellow card," the Portuguese manager added.

Bayern drew for only the third time this season after six consecutive wins -- including Tuesday's stunning 7-1 thrashing of Roma in the Champions League -- but stay four points clear of second-placed Gladbach.

Earlier, VfL Wolfsburg moved up to third after inflicting Mainz's first defeat of the season on their guests with a 3-0 win.

Goals by Naldo, Ivan Perisic and Daniel Caligiuri gave the hosts the three points.

Wolfsburg -- for whom Belgian playmaker Kevin de Bruyne was outstanding -- took the lead when Brazilian defender Naldo headed home from a corner after only 15 minutes.

Mainz's goalkeeper Loris Karius denied De Bruyne when he pushed the former Chelsea midfielder's fierce strike over the bar on 58 minutes, but Wolves' second goal came from the resulting corner.

Naldo was again left unmarked in the area and he headed on for Croatian international Perisic to guide his header past Karius from close range.

BHF lifts Rana ban

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) lifted the ban on midfielder Kamruzzaman Rana, one of four suspended players who were handed punishment for different terms last year citing their deliberate poor performance and on disciplinary ground during the 2013 Asia Cup.

The decision was taken yesterday at the BHF executive committee meeting, which also decided to appoint Indian coach Ajoy Kumar Bansal as the head coach of the national team for three months ahead of the World Hockey League, subject to the availability of the Indian coach.

Rana was handed a one-year domestic and a two-year international ban on Nov 4, 2013 while his fellow teammates -- Rasel Mahmud Jimmy, Imran Hasan Pintoo and Zahid Hossain - were also punished with two and three-year bans from domestic and international circuit respectively. All four players appealed to lift their bans.

During the announcement of the suspension in 2013, the high-ups of the BHF showed their determination not to lift the ban on the players like what they did previously but they had finally decided to compromise with their stance following the poor performance of the national hockey team in recent past.

Channel 24 clinch Pepsi Media Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

Channel 24 clinched the title of Pepsi-DRU Media Cup cricket with a massive 48-run win over Jamuna TV in the six-a-side final at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Channel 24 restricted Jamuna TV to 46 for four in the stipulated six overs after putting on a challenging score of 94 for three in six overs.

Azizur Rahman Kiron and Rashed Nizam, both from Channel 24 were named the man of the match and the man of tournament respectively.

International Cricket Council (ICC) president and Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal distributed the prizes among the winners as chief guest.

BCB Eleven beaten by Mumbai

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board XI crashed to an eight-wicket defeat against Mumbai in the first match of the Acharya Memorial Trophy at the Jadavpur University ground in Kolkata yesterday.

Battling first, the visitors were bundled out for a below-par 138. In reply, Mumbai raced to their revised target of 130 in 32.1 overs. The match was interrupted briefly by rain.

The BCB XI will play their next game against Bengal on October 30.

It was Aditya Tare's 55 that guided the hosts to victory. Pacer Abul Hasan and slow left-arm Arafat Sunny were the wicket takers. Abul finished with figures of 1 for 28 in 7.1 overs while Arafat took 1 for 15 in six overs.

Bangladesh's batting disappointed as none of their top-order batsmen managed to click. Their highest run-getter was Elias Sunny, who scored an unbeaten 40 after coming in at number eight. Nasir Hossain, who was excluded from the national team, scored 10.