

What to WATCH DAY'S EVENT Bangladesh Premier League Venue: BNS Rahamatganj v Feni Soccer Club Time: 4:15pm MSC v Farashganj Time: 6:30pm	STAR SPORTS 1 Serie A Inter v Roma Live from 12:45am (Sunday)	STAR SPORTS 2 La Liga Espanyol v Barcelona Live from 8:00pm Atletico Madrid v Elche Live from 10:00pm	Getafe v Levante Live from 12:00am (Sunday) Sociedad v Villarreal Live from 2:00am (Sunday)	STAR SPORTS 4 Premier League Southampton v Tottenham Live from 5:45pm	West Brom v Liverpool Live from 8:00pm Man City v Aston Villa Live from 10:30pm	TEN CRICKET West Indies v England Second Test, Day 5 Live from 7:45pm
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Knit Concern keep winning

SPORTS REPORTER

Knit Concern kept their winning run intact in the Helvetia First Division Badminton League when they recorded a 5-0 win over Surjo Tarun at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Gymnasium yesterday.

In the day's other matches, Kawasaki blanked Rockland 5-0, Maha SC thrashed Ahaban Badminton Club 5-0 while Dhaka Gladiators defeated Dewan Textile 4-1. Knit Concern beat Kawasaki 3-0 in women's event.

Arsenal, Real face C. League seeding drop

DAILY MAIL

UEFA has published Champions League regulations for next season confirming a seeding change to reward national league winners.

Top-seeded teams in eight groups will be the defending Champions League winner plus title holders in the seven highest-ranked countries.

On current standings, Arsenal, Atletico Madrid and Porto will drop in status in the August 27 draw.

Real Madrid would also drop down if Barcelona wins the Champions League and Spanish league.

If the Champions League winner also wins its national title, then the eighth top-seeded team is the Dutch champions.

That is PSV Eindhoven, which is only 30th in UEFA's club standings.

Currently, top-seeded teams are the eight highest-ranked in a five-year results cycle in UEFA competitions.

Pep faces former club Juventus's Real test

AFP, Paris

Pep Guardiola will return to face his former club Barcelona after the draw for the Champions League semifinals on Friday paired the Catalans with Bayern Munich while holders Real Madrid were drawn against Juventus.

Barcelona, who are in the last four for the seventh time in eight seasons, will be at home to the Bundesliga side in the first leg on May 5 or 6 with the return at the Allianz Arena the following week.

Guardiola won the European Cup as a player with Barcelona in 1992 and then won 14 trophies in four seasons as coach, including the Champions League in 2009 and 2011.

He had made way for Tito Vilanova by the time Barca were destroyed 7-0 on aggregate by Bayern in the semifinals in 2013, when the German giants went on to win the trophy.

Meanwhile, Madrid must go to Italy for the first leg of their tie against Serie A leaders Juventus as they look to become the first club to retain the trophy in the Champions League era.

The tie is a repeat of the 1998 final, which Madrid won 1-0 in Amsterdam, and the Spanish side will be widely fancied to come out on top on this occasion too.

Pareja out for season

AFP, Madrid

Sevilla defender Nico Pareja is set to be out of action for up to seven months after suffering cruciate ligament damage in the Andalusians' Europa League tie away to Zenit St Petersburg on Thursday.

"After carrying out the tests required, it has been confirmed that Nico Pareja suffered an anterior cruciate ligament tear and a second grade sprain of the external lateral ligament in his right knee," the club said in a statement on Friday.

"The injury will require surgery at a date yet to be confirmed, and he will be out for an estimated time of between six and seven months."

The Europa League holders progressed to the semifinals of the tournament once more after securing a 2-2 draw in Russia to progress 4-3 on aggregate.

Chelsea set Sydney date

AFP, Sydney

English Premier League giants Chelsea are set to play a friendly against Sydney FC in June on their first visit to Australia in 50 years, a report said Friday.

The match is expected to take place at Sydney's 83,000-capacity Olympic Stadium on June 2, the Sydney Morning Herald reported, with key stakeholders in advanced negotiations for the tour.

Chelsea hold a commanding lead in the EPL and are favourites to win a fifth title while Sydney remain in the hunt for a third A-League crown, sitting in second place on the standings and already assured of a home final in next month's playoffs.

Shahid & Litton in for first Test

SPORTS REPORTER

Three uncapped players -- Soumya Sarker, Litton Das and Mohammad Shahid -- were named as the Bangladesh selectors announced a 14-member squad for the first Test against Pakistan which will start from April 28 at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna.

Litton was in the squad for the lone Twenty20 International after the bulk of runs he scored in domestic competitions while Soumya has already debuted in T20s yesterday after his impressive run in ODIs. However, 26-year-old right-arm pacer Mohammad Shahid, who took a wicket for 34 runs for BCB XI against Pakistan in the practice one-dayer, is a fresh addition to the national fold.

Chief selector Faruque Ahmed said that they had considered the performance of the players in the last Test series at home against Zimbabwe in October-November last year apart from the performance in the domestic circuit.

"The newcomers are deserving of their spots through performances in domestic and international cricket. Shahid is a strong lad capable of bowling long spells and he has been a consistent performer in first class games. Litton has scored heavily in the last couple of seasons while Soumya has started



MOHAMMAD SHAHID **LITTON DAS**

strongly in ODIs. He (Soumya) may not bat in the same position if he gets picked but he can give us a lot of depth in the batting order," said Faruque.

"We prefer to give the players a reasonable run of games and Imrul Kayes keeps his place by virtue of his performance in the last Test series. Shahadat Hossain has bowled very well in the National Cricket League (NCL) and he has the experience. We consider Taijul as one of the best left-arm spin options for us in Tests and Jubaer Hossain's leg-spin is a valuable addition to our attack," added Faruque.

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SQUAD

Tamim Iqbal (vice-captain), Imrul Kayes, Litton Kumar Das, Mominul Haque, Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim (captain), Mahmudullah Riyad, Shuvagato Horn, Soumya Sarker, Taijul Islam, Jubaer Hossain, Rubel Hossain, Shahadat Hossain and

RCB amble past Royals

PTI, Ahmedabad

Virat Kohli blasted his second successive fifty and pacer Mitchell Starc snapped three wickets as Royal Challengers Bangalore notched up a comprehensive nine-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals in their IPL encounter at the Sardar Patel Stadium yesterday.

Bangalore didn't put a foot wrong as they first dished out a disciplined bowling performance to restrict Rajasthan to 130 for nine and then returned to overhaul the target with 23 balls to spare.

Chasing 130, Bangalore rode on the unbeaten 98-run partnership between Kohli and AB de Villiers (47) for the second wicket to snap their three-match losing streak and hand over Rajasthan their second successive loss.

SCORES IN BRIEF

RAJASTHAN: 130 for 9 (Smith 31, Watson 26; Starc 3-22).

BANGALORE: 134 for 1 in 16.1 overs (Kohli 62 not out; De Villiers 47 not out).

Result: Bangalore won by nine wickets

Five-star Brothers

SPORTS REPORTER

Haitian hitman Augustine Walson slotted four goals as a spirited Brothers Union brought down high-flying Muktiyoddha Sangsad in the Bangladesh Premier League encounter after inflicting a thrilling 5-2 defeat on them at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

With three straight win in five matches, Brothers raised their point tally to 10 and notched up overall 50 wins in 154 matches of the professional football league they played since the introduction of it in 2007.

The Gopibagh-based outfit, Brothers, became the sixth team in the professional football league to touch landmark of 50-win record after Abahani (103), Mohammedan SC (81), Sheikh Russel KC (80) Muktiyoddha Sangsad (71) and Sheikh Jamal DC (55) till yesterday.

On the back of a moral boosting 1-0 win over Mohammedan in the previous match, Brothers put up scintillating show from the outset against Muktiyoddha Sangsad, thanks to a dazzling performance from Walson.

The 27-year-old striker not only struck the league's first hattrick and took him on the top of the scoresheet with six goals but also put an end to Muktiyoddha Sangsad's four-match unbeaten run.

Though Muktiyoddha Sangsad took the

lead in the very fourth minute with a placing shot from Senegalese Camara Sarba but the lead lasted only 15 minutes as Walson opened his account from a spot kick in the 19th minute.

In the other match of the day under the floodlights, two late strikes from Zahid Hossain and Zahid Hasan Emily brought Sheikh Russel back to winning ways with a 2-0 win over four-time champions Abahani.

The Sky Blues continued to display their nice ball-possession game but the charges of Austrian George Kottan still lacked scoring prowess and paid a heavy toll to taste their first defeat in five matches.

Abdul Baten Komol and Hungarian Szabolcs Csobra wasted three easy chances

BROTHERS 5 - 2 MUKTIJODDHA
ABAHANI 0 - 2 SHEIKH RUSSEL

in the first half before defender Nasirul Islam rescued Abahani from a goalline save in the second half.

Abahani finally could not avert the defeat, thanks to a disorganised backline which allowed Sheikh Russel Paul Emile and Mithun Chowdhury exchanged crisp pass on the edge of the box before Zahid Hossain drove a low shot into the far post to bamboozle goalkeeper Ziatul Rahman in the 88th minute.

While Abahani keeping on pressing for the equalizer, Sheikh Russel ensured their victory through a counter attack in which Paul raced into the right-hand box to square it to unmarked Emily, who just side-volleyed home three minutes into the stoppage time.

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AFP, Paris

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"We will face a legendary club, I think it is good news for football and the Champions League that Juventus have returned to this level and obviously it will be a very even tie," said former Real player Emilio Butragueno, now the club's Director of Institutional

SEMIFINAL DRAW

Barcelona v Bayern Munich
First leg May 6, second leg May 12

Juventus v Real Madrid
First leg May 5, second leg May 13

Relations.

"We faced them last year, they are a very competitive team and hopefully we can recover the injured players to be able to face this tie at our maximum level."

The 10-time European champions beat city rivals Atletico Madrid in a tense quarter-final despite being with-

South start with emphatic win

SPORTS REPORTER

Prime Bank South Zone cruised to a 216-run win in the Bangladesh Cricket League's first four-day encounter against BCB North Zone on the fourth and final day at Fatullah yesterday.

Led by Anamul Haque's unbeaten 96, North Zone had an overnight score of 213 for 2. Unlike the first innings, Anamul did not lose his wicket in the 90s and was dismissed only after reaching the three-figure mark.

South Zone declared before lunch at 266 for 3. After the exchange, South Zone's spinners, Abdur Razzak and Shohag Gazi ran through North Zone's batting order. While the veteran slow left-armed scalped a six-wicket haul, Shohag finished with figures of 3 for 37.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SOUTH ZONE: 352 and 266-3 declared in 56 overs (Anamul 111, Tushar 53 not out; Delwar 1-35, Taijul 2-97)

NORTH ZONE: 235 and 167 all out in 64.3 overs (Naeem 65; Razzak 6-69, Shohag 3-37)

Result: South Zone won by 216 runs.

Player of the match: Anamul Haque.

After Robiul Islam got Myshukur out in the first over of the fourth innings, it was a spin-fest which saw five North Zone batsmen get trapped in front of the wicket.

Naeem Islam battled for a brief period with a hard-fought 65, but after his wicket fell, it was a one-way traffic and North Zone got bundled out for 167 in 64.3 overs.

Hazard going nowhere

AFP, London

Jose Mourinho insists top midfielder Eden Hazard will not be leaving Chelsea for Real Madrid.

The Belgium playmaker was the target of praise from Bernabeu insider Zinedine Zidane, prompting speculation Hazard could be a summer target for the Spanish club.

But Chelsea manager Mourinho is adamant there is no risk of Hazard wanting to leave Stamford Bridge after signing a five-and-a-half year contract to remain at the club earlier this year.

He said: "He has just signed a new contract. We didn't put a gun against his head. He had lots of time to think about it."

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Italian clubs kept apart

AFP, Paris

The draw for the semifinals of the Europa League on Friday kept alive the possibility of an all-Italian final as Serie A sides Napoli and Fiorentina avoided each other.

Rafa Benitez's Napoli will take on Dnipro of Ukraine while Fiorentina will face holders Sevilla in the semi-finals, with the first legs to be played on Thursday, May 7 and the second legs on Thursday, May 14.

Napoli, who are through to their first European semi-final since the side captained by Diego Maradona won the UEFA Cup in 1989, will be favourites to beat a Dnipro outfit appearing in their first ever continental semi-final.

Coach Rafa Benitez is looking to win yet another European trophy having led Valencia to the UEFA Cup in 2004 before winning the Champions League with Liverpool a year later and then the Europa League with Chelsea in 2013.

Meanwhile, Fiorentina's reward for beating Dynamo Kiev and reaching their first semi-final since the 2008 UEFA Cup is a clash with the holders, with the first leg to come in Spain.

SEMIFINAL DRAW

Napoli (ITA) v Dnipro (UKR)
Sevilla (ESP) v Fiorentina (ITA)
First leg on May 7, second leg on May 14

Having beaten Benfica on penalties in last year's final in Turin, Sevilla remain on course to repeat their achievement of 2006 and 2007, when they won the UEFA Cup in consecutive years.

The final will be played in the Polish capital Warsaw on May 27. For the first time, the winners of the Europa League will qualify for next season's Champions League.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Fiorentina (ITA) 2 (Gomez 43, Vargas 90+4) **Dynamo Kiev (UKR) 0**

Fiorentina win 3-1 on aggregate
Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk (UKR) 1 (Shakhov 82) **Club Brugge (BEL) 0**

Dnipro win 1-0 on aggregate
Napoli (ITA) 2 (Callejon 50, Mertens 65) **Wolfsburg (GER) 2** (Klose 71, Perisic 73)

Napoli win 6-3 on aggregate
Zenit St Petersburg (RUS) 2 (Rondon 48, Hulk 72) **Sevilla (ESP) 2** (Bacca 6-pen, Gameiro 85)

Sevilla win 4-3 on aggregate

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