

Bangladesh to host North Korea

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh national football team are likely to play a friendly match against the national team of North Korea in Dhaka in the middle of this month, as part of preparation for the Joint Qualifiers of the World Cup and the Asian Cup.

With the June 4 friendly against Afghanistan already confirmed, the game's governing body replied positively to North Korea's proposal of hosting them for the friendly, which could be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on May 14.

"We are planning to host Afghanistan and North Korea ahead of the qualifiers. We want to play against them on home soil because we will play our first two matches of the Joint Qualifiers against Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan at home," said BFF president Kazi Salahuddin after a meeting with the National Teams Committee and coaching staff including head coach Lodewijk de

Kruif yesterday.

"We got the offer from North Korea on April 28 and we replied today (Sunday) that we are ready to host them on May 14. Now we are waiting for their final reply," said BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag.

According to the football statistic website 11vs11.com, Bangladesh have previously played against the North Korea, at senior and under-23 level, four times during the 1980s, losing three times while drawing once.

If the friendly against North Korea does take place on the proposed day, then the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League will remain suspended for at least five days, pushing the end of the first leg to the last week of May which will in turn defer the start of the preparation camp for the qualifiers.

Shohag informed according to de Kruif's wish, the BFF are working on the feasibility of moving the training camp to outside of Dhaka, preferably at either the BFF Academy in Sylhet or Dinaipur BKSP or Khulna BKSP.



Chelsea striker Didier Drogba (L) and captain John Terry, two players who were vital in their league win in 2005, celebrate their fifth Premier League title ten years on, after defeating Crystal Palace at Stamford Bridge yesterday.

Neuer denied history

AFP, Berlin

Bayer Leverkusen fired two goals past Germany's World Cup hero Manuel Neuer on Saturday to stop the goalkeeper claiming a slice of Bayern Munich history and boost their Champions League hopes.

Neuer went into the game seeking one more clean sheet to beat Oliver Kahn's record of 19 Bayern games in a season without conceding a goal. But Bayern soon regretted fielding a weakened side as they prepare for a Champions League semi-final on Wednesday against Barcelona.

Hakan Calhanoglu fired a direct free kick from 25 metres through the Bayern wall and past Neuer.

In the second half, Karim Bellarabi tore through the Bayern defence before passing to Julian Brandt who claimed an easy goal.

England set WI 192-run target

AFP, Bridgetown

Wickets continued to tumble at Kensington Oval as England were dismissed for 123 in their second innings just before lunch on the third day of the third and final Test in Barbados on Sunday.

Needing 192 for victory to square the series, the home side go into the afternoon session at four without loss after one over bowled by James Anderson.

As in the first innings, it was Anderson's dismissal that brought an end to the tourists' second turn at the crease as they collapsed following a bright start to the day when 51 runs were added for the loss of just one wicket.

Permaul picked up three wickets, as did Taylor, who was summoned by his captain, Denesh Ramdin, to finish off the innings and did so with his first delivery, trapping Anderson in front to end a last-wicket partnership that had added 25 invaluable runs to the England lead.

England lead the three-match series 1-0 after winning the second Test in Grenada by nine wickets while the opening game in Antigua was drawn.

Chelsea's 5-yr wait over

AFP, London

Eden Hazard scored the only goal as Chelsea beat Crystal Palace 1-0 at a festive, sun-soaked Stamford Bridge on Sunday to claim their first Premier League title since 2010.

The Belgian headed in after Julian Speroni had parried his self-won penalty late in the first half to register his 19th goal of the season and carry Jose Mourinho's side over the line with three games to spare.

Chelsea moved 16 points clear of Arsenal, meaning they can no longer be caught.

"It's been five years since we've won it. The first one (in 2005) was special and when you go four or five years without it, it hurts. So I'll really enjoy it today," Chelsea captain John Terry said during a post-match interview.

The title success, the club's fifth in total, follows Chelsea's triumph over Tottenham Hotspur in the League Cup final and sets the

seal on a campaign they have dominated.

Jose Mourinho sent his side out with a succinct message in the match-day programme -- "Three more points to be champions. Let's do it together."

It required a trademark, full-bodied block from Terry to prevent Jason Puncheon giving Palace the lead.

But on the cusp of half-time, Hazard, as he has done so often this season, supplied the breakthrough.

Despite minimal contact, James McArthur was adjudged to have impeded the Belgium forward in the penalty area.

Hazard took the penalty himself and although Speroni blocked his initial shot -- the first time he has failed to score from the spot in 10 attempts in the Premier League -- he followed in to head home.

Chelsea's fans spent part of the second half addressing odes to their club's former stars, but Thibaut Courtois had to save decisively from Zaha before the champagne could be uncorked.

Sheikh Russel bounce back

SPORTS REPORTER

Title contenders Sheikh Russel KC returned to winning ways in the Manyavar Bangladesh Premier League with a 2-1 win over Team BJMC at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

A first-half strike from Cameroonian Paul Emile and a penalty conversion from Zahid Hasan Emily in the second half ensured Sheikh Russel's victory, which would surely reduce some pain of suffering a 0-1 defeat at the hands of Sheikh Jamal in their previous game.

Sheikh Russel dominated for most part of the match and took a deserved lead in the 20th minute through Emile, who shrugged off his marker Shahnur Rahman Rony and unleashed a powerful right-footed shot to beat goalkeeper Arifuzzaman Himel.

The lead was doubled by Emily,

from the spot after Hemanta Vincent Biswas was brought down by Olabanji Oyeyemi inside the danger zone in the 53rd minute.

BJMC availed one of three scoring chances to reduce the margin in the second half. Nabib Newaj Jibon's strike from the spot in the 79th minute proved to be only a consolation as Team BJMC suffered their fifth consecutive defeat in six matches.

MSC HELD BY FENI SOCCER

Meanwhile, Mohammedan's two-match winning streak was ended when they were held to a 1-1 draw by Feni Soccer Club in the day's first match.

The Black and Whites showed their character in the beginning of the match and took a fifth-minute lead through winger Mohammad Ibrahim, who drove a powerful shot from inside

the box after receiving a through-pass from Isamel Bangoura.

But since taking the lead, Mohammedan were on the receiving end and conceded an equaliser in the 22nd minute. Gambian forward Jatta Mustapha converted from the spot while his compatriot Dawda Ceasay was brilliantly denied by Mohammedan goalkeeper Nehal, who also made a single-handed save in stoppage time of the first half.

After resumption, both sides yielded few good chances, but none bore fruition.

With four wins in six matches, Sheikh Russel climbed up to fifth with 12 points while Mohammedan moved to second with 13 points.

MOHAMMEDAN	1 - 1	FENI SOCCER
TEAM BJMC	1 - 2	SHEIKH RUSSEL

Juventus secure 31st Scudetto

AFP, Milan

Juventus won the Italian title for the 31st time -- although fans of the Old Lady will claim it is their 33rd -- on Saturday after Arturo Vidal's first half strike saw Massimiliano Allegri's side defeat Sampdoria 1-0. It was Juventus' fourth league title in a row.

Chilean midfielder Vidal met Stephan Lichtsteiner's deep floated cross with a perfectly placed header in the 32nd minute to put Juventus 17 points ahead of second-placed Lazio.

Vidal's first league goal since January was enough for them to win the league, despite resting key players ahead of their Champions League semi-final clash with Real Madrid on Tuesday.

Beating Madrid would set this season out from the previous three title-winning campaigns and would be further vindication for Allegri, who was panned by Juve fans when he was announced as the replacement for the Antonio Conte.

The final whistle sparked somewhat muted celebrations among the players and staff, who already have one eye on Tuesday night's date with destiny.

Mumbai, Rajasthan win easy

STAR SPORT DESK

Mumbai Indians kept their hopes of qualifying for the play-off alive as they convincingly beat Kings XI Punjab by 23 runs in an IPL encounter on Sunday. After scoring a healthy 172 for three, Mumbai Indians restricted an out-of-sorts KXIP for 149 for seven.

Meanwhile, Rajasthan Royals topped the table after a 14-run victory over Delhi Daredevils in the second match of the day.

SCORES IN BRIEF

MUMBAI: 172 for 3 (Simmons 71, Patel 59; Anureet 1-30)

PUNJAB: 149 for 7 (Miller 43, Vijay 39; Malinga 2-31)

Result: Mumbai Indians won by 23 runs.

RAJASTHAN: 189 for 2 (Rahane 91 not out, Nair 61; Mathews 1-27)

DELHI: 175 for 7 (Duminy 56; Binny 2-27)

Result: Rajasthan Royals won by 14 runs.

Ronaldo hattrick ends Sevilla streak

AFP, Madrid

A Cristiano Ronaldo hat-trick maintained Real Madrid's La Liga title aspirations as they ended Sevilla's 34-game unbeaten run at home with a 3-2 win on Saturday.

Victory kept the European champions just two points behind Barcelona with three games to play after Luis Suarez scored his first hat-trick for the Catalans in a 8-0 humiliation of relegated Cordoba.

"It was not easy to win here and we managed it. We are very happy and we keep fighting," said Real Madrid boss Carlo Ancelotti.

"It is not by coincidence that they haven't lost for 34 games at this stadium."

The game swung massively in Madrid's favour in the space of two first-half minutes whilst Sevilla were down to 10 men as Grzegorz Krychowiak was off the field receiving treatment for a facial injury.

Ronaldo headed home expertly from Isco's cross and then prodded in from Javier Hernandez's flick-on moments later.

Sevilla were handed a route back into the game when Sergio Ramos upended Vidal inside the area in first-half stoppage time and Carlos Bacca converted from the penalty spot.

Ronaldo looked to have sealed the three points with a stunning header from Gareth Bale's cross midway through the second-half.

However, Vicente Iborra reduced the deficit once more from as he swept home Vidal's cross to set up a grandstand finish.

Ronaldo's 29th Madrid hat-trick took him onto 42 La Liga goals for the campaign, two ahead of Lionel Messi who netted twice as Barca condemned Cordoba to relegation in embarrassing fashion.

Elsewhere, Atletico Madrid failed to nail down third place and an automatic return to the Champions League next season as they were held 0-0 at home by Athletic Bilbao.

RESULTS

Atletico Madrid 0 Athletic Bilbao 0	Sevilla 2 (Bacca 45+2-pen, Iborra 79) Real Madrid 3 (Ronaldo 36, 37, 69)	Deportivo la Coruna 1 (Borges 50) Villarreal 1 (Costa 49)
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Bolt not enough

REUTERS, Bahamas

Not even Usain Bolt could overcome a big American lead as the US men sprinted to a convincing victory over Jamaica in the 4x100 metres relay at the IAAF World Relays in Nassau on Saturday.

Mike Rodgers, Justin Gatlin and Tyson Gay powered the Americans to a five-meter advantage through three legs of the highly anticipated race and Ryan Bailey brought the team home in 37.38 seconds.

Jamaica, who were running their 2013 world championship team, finished second in 37.68.

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		ETA	ETD	ETA	ETD	ETA	ETD	ETA
Irrawaddy Star	SAB001W	11-May	12-May	14-May	15-May	17-May	17-May	18-May
Taung Gyi Star	SAB002W	18-May	19-May	21-May	22-May	24-May	24-May	25-May
Dawei Star	SAB003W	25-May	26-May	28-May	29-May	31-May	31-May	1-Jun
TBN	SAB004W	1-Jun	2-Jun	4-Jun	5-Jun	7-Jun	7-Jun	8-Jun

Sailing Schedule - Eastbound

VESSELS	VOY	Yangon	Haldia/Kolkata	Chittagong	Port Klang	Singapore	Laem Cabang	Ho Chi Minh
		ETA	ETD	ETA	ETD	ETA	ETD	ETA
Irrawaddy Star	SAB001E	21-May	23-May	27-May	29-May	30-May	1-Jun	5-Jun
Taung Gyi Star	SAB002E	28-May	30-May	3-Jun	3-Jun	5-Jun	6-Jun	8-Jun
Dawei Star	SAB003E	4-Jun	6-Jun	10-Jun	12-Jun	13-Jun	15-Jun	19-Jun
TBN	SAB004E	11-Jun	13-Jun	17-Jun	19-Jun	20-Jun	22-Jun	26-Jun

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