

What to WATCH	GAZI TV & STAR SPORTS 1 Bangladesh v Pakistan Second Test, Day 4 Live from 10:00am	CHANNEL 9 & SET MAX Indian Premier League Kolkata v Punjab Live from 4:30pm Delhi v Hyderabad Live from 8:30pm	STAR SPORTS 1 English Premiership Stoke City v Tottenham Live from 8:00pm	Serie A Cagliari v Juventus Live from 10:00pm AC Milan v Roma Live from 12:45am (Monday)	STAR SPORTS 2 English Premiership Everton v Sunderland Live from 5:45pm	Hull City v Burnley Live from 8:00pm Crystal Palace v Man United Live from 10:30pm	STAR SPORTS 4 Primera Liga Barcelona v Real Sociedad Live from 10:00pm	Real Madrid v Valencia Live from 12:00am (Sunday) Bilbao v Deportivo Live from 2:00am (Sunday)
	DAY'S EVENT Bangladesh v Pakistan Venue: SBNCs, Mirpur Second Test, Day 4	Time: 10:00am Bangladesh Cricket League Venue: Fatullah	Central Zone v South Zone Longer Version, Day 3 Time: 9:30am					

De Kruif concerned about fitness, form

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national team's head coach Lodewijk de Kruif is seemingly unimpressed with the performance and fitness of some of the national team players in the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League.

The Dutchman, who has kept a close eye on the proceedings of the league ahead of selection for the Joint Qualifiers for World Cup and Asian Cup, has warned that players will have to perform for their respective clubs in order to be considered for the national team.

The 45-year-old coach had earlier stated that some 14 to 15 players have always been in his mind when picking up the national squad. At least 20 national team players belong to Sheikh Jamal and Sheikh Russel.

"I had expected the level of Sheikh Jamal and Sheikh Russel players better than what I saw. I don't know if it is physical or mental fatigue. If you notice, captain Mamunul (Islam) is in problem; (Atiqur Rahman) Meshu is in problem. All kind of small things are coming up. There is something I don't know because I can't look inside the clubs. That is what we are analysing," said de Kruif on Thursday.

"At the moment I hope everybody stays fit and without any problem so that we can start the camp from May 22 or 23," analysed de Kruif.

De Kruif and his coaching staff were trying to keep the national players fit mentally through communicating with them individually. The coach is apparently worried about injuries of the national players and is searching for alternates for the injured players as well as those who are performing poorly.

Mamunul, Meshu, centre-back Yeasin Khan and goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Sohel have been nursing injuries while right-back Tapu Barman, left-back Yeamin Munna and goalkeeper Rasel Mahmud Liton have put on unconvincing performances during the league matches.

De Kruif informed that Abahani midfielders Shahedul Alam and Emon Babu, right-back Nasirul Islam, left-back Shakil Ahmed; Muktijoddha Sangsad striker Enamul Haque and goalkeeper Titumir Chowdhury; Mohammedan striker Towhidul Alam and goalkeeper Ashraf Haque Rana; and Sheikh Russel centre-back Rezaul Karim impressed him. The coach is more or less satisfied with the performance of defender Nasiruddin Chowdhury, winger Zahid Hossain and midfielder Hemanta Vincent Biswas.

The national team is supposed to play two warm-up matches against Singapore and Afghanistan on May 30 and June 2 respectively, but the coach has asked the football's governing body to keep at least 72 hours of gap between the two matches.



Sevilla midfielder Aleix Vidal (R) celebrates one of his two goals against Fiorentina during their Europa League semifinal at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan Stadium on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP

Siddikur misses cut

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's ace golfer Siddikur Rahman missed the cut for the fourth time in five Asian Tour events this season as he bowed out of the AfrAsia Bank Mauritius Open yesterday. The 30-year-old golfer, who started the day at par (71), returned a card of two-over (73) for the second round for an aggregate of three-over (144).

Siddikur's game fluctuated throughout the day as he traded three bogeys for two birdies in the front nine before managing two more birdies against one bogey and a double bogey in the back nine. Had he managed to stay one-over for the day, Siddikur would have been able to make the cut.

His failure to make another is bad news for the two-time Asian Tour winner as a good show in this event would have held him in good stead ahead of the Bashundhara Bangladesh Open, the first ever Asian Tour event to be held in Bangladesh, from May 27 to 30.

DD survive scare at airport

AGENCIES, Chhattisgarh

Indian Premier League (IPL) side Delhi Daredevils survived an air crash scare at the Swami Vivekananda Airport in Raipur on Friday.

After their loss to the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata the previous night, the Daredevils were travelling to Raipur to play the Sunrisers Hyderabad today at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium.

The Indigo flight from Mumbai with the Delhi team on board was set for a collision with another aircraft that was already standing on the runway of the airport, but thankfully, the disaster was averted.

The Daredevils have played their six home matches so far at the Feroz Shah Kotla in Delhi but will be playing their remaining two allotted matches, the other being against Chennai Super Kings on May 12, at home in the capital city of Chhattisgarh.

2nd double for Kapali

SPORTS REPORTER



Alok Kapali scored his second double-century of the year to catapult Islami Bank East Zone to 473 before his side got bowled out in Chittagong on the second day of the ongoing Bangladesh Cricket League match. He was well supported by Asif Ahmed's 103.

Kapali, who was on 86 overnight, scored 228. He hit 17 fours and seven sixes. Asif's knock was as compelling as he stroked nine fours and two sixes. The pair put up a total of 191 runs for the fourth wicket.

Naeem Islam, Sanjamul Islam and Mahmudul Hasan picked up two wickets each for the BCBL North Zone.

After the exchange, North Zone lost Forhad Reza for a duck. But former national opener Junaid Siddique and Mahmudul ensured that no further wickets were lost.

In the day's other game at Fatullah, Walton Central Zone rode on a 137-run stand between Mosharraf Hossain and Elias Sunny for the ninth wicket to post 413 against Prime



Bank South Zone.

Resuming on 248 for 7, Mosharraf and Sunny took the side past the 400-run mark. While Mosharraf stroked 14 fours and a six in his 135-ball 89, Sunny added 58 runs.

Veteran spinner Abdur Razzak and young pacer Mustafizur Rahman picked up three wickets apiece for South.

After the exchange, South Zone made a good start riding on half-centuries from openers Shahriar Nafees and Anamul Haque and will resume on the third day trailing by 288 runs. Anamul scored 66 off 118 balls with seven fours and a six while Nafees was not out on 59 smashing seven

boundaries.

SCORES IN BRIEF

EAST ZONE: 473 all out in 149 overs (Kapali 228, Asif 103; Junaid 39 not out; Abu 1-28)

NORTH ZONE: 63 for 1 (Naeem 2-5, Mahmudul 2-76)

CENTRAL ZONE: 413 all out in 138.2 overs (Rony 106, Mosharraf 89; Mustafizur 3-40, Razzak 3-113)

SOUTH ZONE: 125 for no loss (Anamul 66 not out, Shahriar 59)

No let-up for Barca, Real

AFP, Madrid



Real Madrid and Barcelona can't afford a Champions League hangover as their La Liga title hopes will again be on the line on Saturday as they host Valencia and Real Sociedad respectively.

However, the title race has been overshadowed by the threat of possible shutdown of the league season next weekend due to an ongoing row between the Spanish Football Federation, the players' union and the league over the distribution of funds from a new law passed allowing the centralised selling of television rights.

Senior players from both Real and Barca, including club captains Iker Casillas and Xavi Hernandez, were present at a press conference on Thursday that backed the players' union's stance unless a solution is found before next weekend.

Madrid trail Barca by two points at the top of the table with three games to play and face the significantly tougher task this weekend against a Valencia side looking to seal their place in next season's Champions League with a fourth-place finish.

Valencia ended the European champions' 22-game winning streak when the sides met back in January and Madrid could also pay for their efforts in losing 2-1 to Juventus in the first-leg of their Champions League semifinal on Tuesday.

FIXTURES

(all times GMT)

Saturday
Granada v Cordoba (1400), Barcelona v Real Sociedad (1600), Real Madrid v Valencia (1800), Athletic Bilbao v Deportivo la Coruna (2000)

Sunday
Levante v Atletico Madrid (1000), Villarreal v Elche (1500), Almeria v Malaga (1700), Celta Vigo v Sevilla (1900)

Monday
Rayo Vallecano v Getafe (1845)

Carrick out for season

AFP, Manchester

Manchester United's hopes of securing a top-four finish and Champions League football have been dealt a blow with the news that influential midfielder Michael Carrick will not play again this season.

As recently as last week, United manager Louis van Gaal was claiming he fully expected the England international to play a part in the closing stages of a campaign which could yet result in frustration were his team to lose out to bitter rivals Liverpool in the chase for a top-four place.

But van Gaal revealed Friday that Carrick's calf injury, sustained in the derby victory over Manchester City last month, was worse than first thought.

"Carrick is not available, it was more serious than we thought," van Gaal told a news conference.

"We tried everything but now we have to think about next season. He shall not play anymore this season, it's better now to focus for him on next season and being fit to start."

The Dutch boss, whose side are away to Crystal Palace on Saturday, said Carrick's absence would hurt his side.

Sevilla in command

AFP, Paris



A brace of stunning goals from Aleix Vidal helped defending champions Sevilla to a commanding 3-0 victory over Fiorentina in the first leg of the Europa League semifinals on Thursday.

In Italy, Napoli dominated large parts of their first leg match against Dnipro, but the Ukrainian underdogs scrapped it out for an unlikely 1-1 draw -- and a vital away goal for the second leg.

Sevilla stretched their unbeaten run in European games to nine in handing Fiorentina a first away defeat in 13 games.

The La Liga side, bidding for a fourth Europa League title after winning in 2006, 2007 and 2014, took the lead in the 17th minute through the outstanding Vidal.

After a strong Machin Perez run, Carlos Bacca pirouetted in from the left of the penalty box to send the ball out to fast-advancing Vidal whose perfectly-executed, first-time shot

RESULTS

Sevilla (ESP) 3 (Vidal 17, 52, Gameiro 75) Fiorentina (ITA) 0
Napoli (ITA) 1 (David Lopez 50) Dnipro (UKR) 1 (Seleznyov 81)

from the right edge of the area hit the net after sending Murara Neto the wrong way.

Jose Antonio Reyes saw his effort then go just wide as the Spanish side pushed for the double.

Fiorentina squandered a great chance to respond when Egyptian midfielder Mohamed Salah, on loan from Chelsea, was just beaten to a dangerous Nenad Tomovic cross-goal pass by Sevilla keeper Rico Gonzalez.

Vidal bagged his second in the 52nd minute, another fine shot from the right of the penalty box beating a wrong-footed Neto for the second time in the evening.

To make matters worse for Fiorentina, ex-PSG striker Kevin Gameiro added a third with 15 minutes to play, steering in Vidal's strike after a Benoit Tremoulinas break down the left flank.

In Naples, Dnipro managed to take

the sting out of the home side in the first half, all the while conceding possession and territory.

But Spaniard David Lopez corrected that for Napoli just four minutes into the second period, rising high to head home an inswinging Lorenzo Insigne corner for his maiden goal for the Italian club.

The Ukrainians kept a sting in the tail themselves, however, substitute Yevhen Seleznyov tapping in from close range after a scything Artem Fedetskiy cross in the 81st minute that Roman Bezus first missed.

Fourth in Serie A and fresh from a 3-0 win over AC Milan, Napoli pushed for the winner, but the Ukrainian side -- a former rocket factory side that twice won the old Soviet League and have been a top four side for much of the past 20 seasons in Ukraine -- held on with their crucial away goal.

The result will have Napoli coach Rafael Benitez concerned about the trip to Ukraine as he targets his third title in Europe -- the Spaniard having won the Champions League with Liverpool in 2005, the then-UEFA Cup with Valencia in 2004 and the Europa League for Chelsea in 2013.

Pele in stable state

AFP, Sao Paulo



Pele was in stable condition in a hospital Thursday after undergoing surgery for an enlarged prostate, doctors said, just the latest health scare for the Brazilian football legend.

The 74 year old had the surgery Tuesday and is to have tests to see when he can be released from the Albert Einstein Hospital in Sao Paulo, the same facility that treated him for two weeks last year for a urinary infection.

"It said he was resting in his room after a "transurethral resection of the prostate," or TURP.

The Urology Care Foundation says the surgery "has excellent outcomes and is the gold standard" in caring for benign prostatic hyperplasia, or non-cancerous enlargement of the prostate, a common condition in aging men.

Brazilian media reports said the surgery was aimed at preventing a repeat of the urinary infection that put him in hospital last year.

That health scare, which included five days in intensive care, came after he underwent surgery for kidney stones on November 13.

After developing an infection, he was readmitted to hospital.

His only kidney -- the other was removed following a rib injury during his playing days -- had stopped working and he had to be treated with haemodialysis, a procedure that involves filtering a patient's blood through an artificial kidney.

After a hospital stay that worried fans worldwide, he was released on December 9, walking gingerly but joking with reporters: "I am preparing for the Olympics!"

Pele, whose real name is Edson Arantes do Nascimento, is widely regarded as the

greatest player of all time.

The only player to win three World Cup titles, he was named the athlete of the century by the International Olympic Committee in 1999.

Nicknamed O Rei (The King), Pele was born in a humble home in the city of Tres Coracoes and exploded into Brazilian football as a young phenom.

He made his professional debut for the Brazilian side Santos at 15 and won his first World Cup aged just 17, scoring twice in the 1958 final win over hosts Sweden.



He would go on to score a total of 77 goals in 91 games for his football-mad country across a remarkable career that included two more World Cup titles, in 1962 and 1970.

In 1977, he inspired the New York Cosmos to the US national title in his final season with the club, which also featured fellow greats Franz Beckenbauer, Italian striker Giorgio Chinaglia and former Brazil captain Carlos Alberto.

He scored a total 1,281 goals in his sparkling career.

MADRID OPEN Kvitova faces Kuznetsova in final

AFP, Madrid

Serena Williams's stunning 27-match winning streak stretching back to last year's WTA finals was snapped in resounding fashion by Petra Kvitova on Friday as the Czech progressed to the Madrid Open final 6-2, 6-3.

Kvitova will face Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova in Saturday's final after she also pulled off a big upset in beating defending champion Maria Sharapova 6-2, 6-4.

Tevez caught speeding

AFP, Rome

Juventus and Argentina striker Carlos Tevez has had his driving licence suspended after being caught speeding through the Mont Blanc Tunnel, Italian media reported Thursday.

Tevez was clocked exceeding the 70km/h limit in the tunnel, which separates Italy from France, although his actual speed was not revealed.

The incident took place Wednesday, the day after Tevez had scored in the 2-1 Champions League semifinal win over Real Madrid in Turin.