

What to WATCH

MAASRANGA TV & STAR SPORTS1

ICC World T20
Oman v Netherlands
Live from 3:30pm
Bangladesh v Ireland
Live from 8:00pm

SONY SIX

Serie A
Juventus v Sassuolo
Live from 1:45am (Saturday)

STAR SPORTS2

Bundesliga
Hertha Berlin v Schalke
Live from 1:30am (Saturday)

CHAIRMAN HECKLES OWN COACH

Former Brøndby coach Thomas Frank has walked away from the Danish top-flight side after his own chairman used a pseudonym to criticise him on an online fan forum. Frank decided to leave after local media confirmed that Brøndby's chairman and major shareholder, Jan Bech Andersen, used his son's account to post negative remarks about the coach on the SydSiden Online website. Andersen has since confessed and apologised, though it didn't stop Frank from announcing his resignation at a press conference on Wednesday.

—AGENCIES



SL ease past Tigresses

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh women's cricket team got their World Twenty20 campaign off to a tainted start as they lost their first warm-up match to the Sri Lankan women by five wickets at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore yesterday.

The Tigresses were sent in to bat after Sri Lanka won the toss and that decision proved to be a shrewd one. Bangladesh lost wickets like ninepins, before a 40-run fifth-wicket stand between Rumana Ahmed and Nigar Sultana gave them some respectability. Rumana hit 20 off 29 balls with three fours while Nigar top-scored with a 39-ball 33 that saw five boundaries.

In reply, Sri Lanka chased down the target with five wickets and eleven balls to spare. The Lankans were in some trouble at 57 for 4, but the game never looked beyond them. Yasoda Mendis top-scored with 20 for the Lankans.

Rumana was the pick of the bowlers, taking three for nine in her four overs.

Bangladesh will now play their last warm-up match against Ireland on March 12 before taking on India in the ICC Women's World T20 on March 15.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH: 95 all out in 19.5 overs (Rumana 20, Nigar 33; Kaushalya 2-17, Ranasinghe 3-14)

SRI LANKA: 97 for 5 in 18.1 overs (Mendis 20, Manodara 17, Siriwardene 19; Rumana 3-9, Salma 1-23)

Result: Sri Lanka won by 5 wickets.

Aguero to leave City in 2019

AGENCIES, Manchester

Manchester City striker Sergio Aguero has announced his intention to leave the Citizens and rejoin boyhood club Independiente after his contract runs out in 2019.

"In the last few months a lot of things have been said about a new contract, but I didn't pay any attention," he told radio station Independent en la Uno.

"It's clear to me that when my contract ends I'm going to Independiente. Here at the club they are great with me, they always told me that they were open if the chance of a transfer arises. But where am I going to go in Europe?"

"No, when I go, when my contract ends, I'm going to Argentina to play for El Rojo. From Manchester, straight to Avellaneda."



STAR ECONOMICAL BOWLER: Zimbabwe all-rounder Tinashe Panyangara gave away just 20 runs in his allotted four overs as his side defeated Scotland by 11 runs in their World Twenty20 first round match in Nagpur yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



Pele auctioning memorabilia

REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro



Triple World Cup winner Pele is putting some 2,000 items up for auction, including his three World Cup medals and a one of a kind Jules Rimet trophy that could fetch up to one million dollars, auctioneers said on Thursday.

The Brazilian regarded by many as the greatest soccer player of all time is also selling off his 1,000th goal ball and crown, and jerseys he wore while playing for Brazilian club Santos FC and the New York Cosmos in what marks his first ever public offering of career memorabilia, Julien's Auctions said.

"Pele is like the Marilyn Monroe of the sports world. He is such an icon and a great ambassador for soccer," Martin Nolan, executive director of Beverly Hills-based Julien's Auctions, told Reuters.

The three-day auction will take place in London from June 7-9 and will be preceded by a public exhibition starting June 1.

Pele, whose given name is Edson Arantes do Nascimento, became in 1958 at age 17 the youngest ever person to play in, and score in a World Cup final. He went on to help Brazil to World Cup victories in 1962 and 1970, and holds the Guinness World Record for most goals in a career with 1,283.

Now 75 years old, and after recent replacement hip and prostate surgery, Pele said that having donated much of his collection to the city of Santos, he had "decided to allow fans and collectors to own a piece of my history as well. I hope they treasure these artifacts and share my story with their children and generations to come."

He said a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Pequeno Principe children's hospital in Curitiba. The top item for auction is a Jules Rimet trophy that was created especially for Pele by world soccer body FIFA and the Mexican government after he led Brazil to the nation's third World Cup victory in Mexico in 1970. It is inscribed with his three wins for Brazil.

Julien's has placed an estimated price of \$400,000 - \$600,000 on the trophy but says it could sell for much more.

"It is such a unique item. We think that is a very conservative estimate. This is possibly something that could sell for up to one million dollars," said Nolan.

Pele's three World Cup medals are expected to fetch up to \$200,000, while the ball with which he scored his 1,000th goal is expected to sell for \$40,000-\$60,000. The player's 1977 New York Cosmos NASL championship ring, 2004 Summer Olympics Torch Relay and L'Equipe Athlete of the Century award are also for sale.

Yet the most humble and precious item of all may be a makeshift soccer ball made of rolled-up socks that the pre-teen Pele kicked around the streets of Bauru.

Zlatan slays Chelsea

Benfica stun Zenit

AFP, London



Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored one and created another as Paris Saint-Germain won 2-1 at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday to eliminate Chelsea from the Champions League for the second season running.

Leading 2-1 from the first leg of the last 16 tie, PSG stretched their lead when Ibrahimovic crossed for Adrien Rabiot to tap in and although Diego Costa's slick finish gave Chelsea hope, Ibrahimovic volleyed home in the 67th minute to complete a 4-2 aggregate success.

Victory took Laurent Blanc's PSG into the quarterfinals for the fourth successive year, while Chelsea were left to contemplate a first season without Champions League football since 2002-03.

"I thought we controlled the game very well from start to finish," Blanc said. "Even when we conceded, we weren't worried. We kept working. That made the evening easier for us."

"Zlatan played a match in keeping with what he's done this season," the former France defender told reporters in his post-match press conference.

"You always have doubts because it's Ligue 1. That's the truth. You ask if he can play like that in Champions League. He gave his response tonight."

"He has important qualities. He moves the two centre-backs around in the opposing team."

"Technically he sees things very quickly. When he drops deep -- which we ask him to do -- he helps put our game in place. He played a great match like lots of PSG players tonight, like pretty much the whole team."

"It won't give him confidence as he already has huge confidence in himself. But a goal and an assist will do him well, and the coach and the club get the benefit."

Chelsea manager Guus Hiddink also heralded Ibrahimovic.

"He's proving for many years what kind of player he is," said the Dutchman. "He's a personality, he's the boss in this team and they use him perfectly. He's not the youngest, but for his age, he's doing very well. He can adapt himself, also through his big personality, in any league."

In the other game yesterday, Nicolas Gaitan and Talisca scored late goals as Benfica came from behind to beat Zenit Saint Petersburg 2-1 in Russia on Wednesday and march on to the Champions League quarter-finals 3-1 on aggregate.

Tough start for Siddikur in Thailand

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman got off to a tumultuous start in the first round of the True Thailand Classic yesterday. Bangladesh's premier golfer had to settle for par, after initially making inroads.

Siddikur made two birdies on the third and fourth holes, before hitting a bogey on the sixth. He would score one more birdie on the final hole, the 18th, but not before carding a double bogey on the 12th at the scenic Black Mountain Golf Club in Hua Hin.

American Peter Uihlein was on top after a brilliant eight-under-par. He raced into the lead in the US 1.75 million dollar event following nine birdies against a single bogey.

Sweden's Pelle Ederberg (-7) was second followed by Scotsman Scott Jamieson and Spaniard Javier Colomo

BJMC get their revenge

Clinch national women's football crown

SPORTS REPORTER



NATIONAL WOMEN'S FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP - 2015

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) were crowned new champions in the KFC National Women's Football Championship after an emphatic 7-1 win over holders Mymensingh at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

National strikers Sabina Khatun and Ishrat Jahanan Swapna made the difference in the final. The pair shared all seven goals -- four from Sabina and three from substitute Swapna -- as BJMC clinched their first ever national trophy.

Unlike domestic men's league matches, there were some 1,000 raucous spectators at the big bowl to support their sides. Both teams, especially the youths of Mymensingh -- who are from Kalsindur High School under Dhobaura Upazila -- put up an entertaining display of football.

Last season, Mymensingh came from

nowhere to win the national women's football title, thanks to the brilliant performance of this group of girls who were products of the Kalsindur Govt. Primary School.

This time they also put up promising performance to reach the final, but were ultimately overwhelmed.

Sabina and Swapna were unstoppable upfront as BJMC added six goals after scoring just once in the first half.

While the joyous BJMC team celebrated their triumph after the final whistle, the girls from Kalsindur broke into tears, with Nazma slipping into unconsciousness. She was immediately sent to hospital and the BJMC women stopped their celebrations to pacify their opponents.

"We are more mature than them [Mymensingh] and had better technique and tactics. Though they played well in the final, our target was to beat Mymensingh and avenge last edition's semifinal defeat," said BJMC striker Sabina, who scored 22 goals in the championship.



Victorious BJMC celebrate after defeating holders Mymensingh in the KFC National Women's Football Championship final in Kamalapur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



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