

What to WATCH	STAR SPORTS 2 Bundesliga Augsburg v Koln Live from 12:30am	(Saturday) SONY ESPN Indian Premier League Pune v Gujarat	Live from 8:30pm <i>La Liga</i> Sporting Gijon v Elbar
	DAY'S EVENT	Marcel Club Cup Hockey Venue: Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium	MSC v Sonali Bank Time: 2:30pm

YELLOW SUBMARINE EXPLAINED

Villarreal have launched a short video to explain why they are known as 'The Yellow Submarine' ahead of their Europa League clash with Liverpool yesterday. The Spanish outfit's nickname comes from the legendary Liverpool band The Beatles' song, meaning they have a connection to the city of their next opponents. Released via Twitter, Villarreal explain how a town priest, a die-hard Yellows and Beatles fan, played the track on a jukebox and it was from then on that they chose



Bd girls trounce Nepal 9-0

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Bangladesh continued to impress in the AFC Girls (U-14) Regional Championship when they crushed their Nepalese counterparts 9-0 in the final match of Group B at the Aviator Stadium in Dushanbe, Tajikistan yesterday.

Bangladesh just needed a draw to emerge Group B champions after a historic 3-1 win over India in the group opener on Tuesday but the defending champions were ruthless against last edition's runners-up Nepal, who conceded six goals in the first half as the striking duo of captain Marzia and Anuching Mogini tore apart the Himalayan backline to strike a hattrick apiece.

Tahura repeated her feat to score a brace while Sajeda also wrote her name in the scoresheet.

Bangladesh took only three minutes to open the floodgates as Marzia, who scored the winning goal against Nepal in the final of the last edition in Kathmandu, put Bangladesh ahead before doubling the margin in the 15th minute. After the brace from Marzia, new striker Anuching took over, scoring in the 18th, 29th and 39th minutes to complete the treble. Sajeda meanwhile scored the team's fifth goal in the 34th minute.

After resumption, Tahura scored twice in the 63rd and 66th minutes to repeat the feat she performed against India while Marzia completed her treble to seal a memorable victory in the 68th minute.

Bangladesh, who emerged Group B champions, will take on Tajikistan in the second semifinal tomorrow at the Aviator Stadium while Group A champions Iran will face India in the first semifinal at the Almosy Academy Stadium in Dushanbe on the same day.



Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski reacts at the end of their Champions League semifinal first-leg tie against Atletico Madrid at the Vicente Calderon Stadium on Wednesday.

Messi, Alves at odds with each other

AGENCIES

Having performed in unison down Barcelona's right flank for many years, Lionel Messi and Dani Alves will now find themselves at odds with each other. This is because Alves has opened a Brazilian restaurant in the Eixample region of Barcelona called Boteco Fogo but may face competition for customers from Messi's venture, opening in July, which will be located almost a stone's throw away.

Alves' restaurant is situated at Calle Corsage, 231, although it's reported they will be looking to expand. Calle Enric Granados, 86, is where Messi's will open.

"The two businesses will be trying to seduce clients in the same neighbourhood of the city, a neighbourhood which is heavily populated with restaurants," it's noted in the report.

The Eixample region of the city centre is home to iconic attractions such as Gaudi's stunning La Sagrada Familia and as such, is heavily populated. It means that while Alves and Messi may have to share some clientele, there's unlikely to be a shortage of diners provided the food is up to scratch.

UEFA suspends Sakho for 30 days

AFP, Paris

Liverpool defender Mamadou Sakho was on Thursday provisionally suspended for 30 days after failing a drugs test, European football's governing body UEFA announced.

The France international reportedly tested positive for a fat burner after Liverpool's 1-1 draw against Manchester United in the Europa League on March 17.

"Disciplinary proceedings have been instigated against Liverpool FC player Mamadou Sakho, following the UEFA Europa League round of 16 second-leg match between Manchester United FC and Liverpool FC (1-1), played on 17 March," UEFA confirmed in a statement.

It added: "The proceedings relate to a violation of the UEFA Anti-Doping Regulations, after the player failed a doping test at the above-mentioned match."

"The player did not request the analysis of the B sample. UEFA has now suspended the player provisionally for 30 days."

Usha thrash Bima

SPORTS REPORTER

Holders Usha KC and rejuvenated Mariner Youngs Club brightened their semifinal hopes of the Marcel Club Cup Hockey tournament after each posted their second successive win at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Usha KC overwhelmed Shadharan Bima 8-0, thanks to the tournament's first hattrick by Hasan Jubair Niloy. The trio of national strikers -- Niloy, Krishna Kumar and Pushkor Khisha Mimo -- shared all eight goals for the Old Dhaka outfit who raced to a 5-0 lead in the first half.

In the day's other match, Mariner Youngs Club handed an easy 4-1 defeat to Ajax SC to keep their winning run intact. Mariner Youngs, who inflicted a massive 9-0 defeat to Shadharan Bima on Tuesday, had to wait for 21 minutes to break the deadlock when national defender Ashraf Islam converted a penalty corner.

After taking the lead, Mariner did not look back as Rimon Kumar struck twice in the 48th and 52nd minutes respectively while Fazle Hossain scored the team's fourth goal in the

Pep slated over Mueller omission

AFP, Berlin

Pep Guardiola's decision to leave Germany striker Thomas Mueller on the bench for Wednesday's 1-0 defeat at Atletico Madrid in the first leg of their Champions League semi-final was roundly criticised by German media on Thursday.

"Super solo from Atletico! Poor selection from Pep", read the headline on Bild's front page, questioning why the Bayern coach began the game without Mueller, "his best scorer away from home in the Champions League", or French winger Franck Ribery.

Kicker magazine said it was Mueller, "not only his second leading scorer but also a leader" on the pitch, with the German having scored 31 goals this season including eight in the Champions League.

It also lamented Ribery's omission from the starting lineup, because the Frenchman "is shining again after a long absence" and could have been "the man for the occasion" in the "supercharged atmosphere of the Vicente Calderon".

"Pep Guardiola's risky plan didn't work," was the headline on the online edition of daily Die Welt, for whom the exclusion of Mueller and Ribery was like "an own goal" for Bayern in Madrid.

Asked after the game, Guardiola justified his team selection, saying: "I wanted a left-footed player on the left and a right-footed player on the right and to have an extra midfielder."

Ribery and Mueller were introduced as second-half substitutes, replacing Kingsley Coman and Thiago Alcantara, but they were unable to alter the outcome of the match.

"There may be another choice in the next match," said Guardiola, with Bayern set to host Atletico at the Allianz

Benzema may miss City encounter

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid striker Karim Benzema is a major doubt for the Spanish giants Champions League semi-final, second leg against Manchester City on Wednesday after Madrid confirmed he is suffering from a hamstring strain.

"Following tests carried out today on Karim Benzema in the Sanitas La Moraleja University Hospital, he has been diagnosed with a strained right hamstring," the club said in a statement on Thursday.

"His recovery will continue to be assessed." Benzema came off at half-time of Tuesday's 0-0 draw in the first leg against City.

Real refused to confirm how long the Frenchman will be sidelined, but he looks certain to miss Saturday's trip to Real Sociedad in La Liga in the hope that he can be fit for City's visit to the Santiago Bernabeu.

Madrid's attack could be thoroughly depleted as they aim to make a 14th European Cup final should three-time World Player of the Year Cristiano Ronaldo also not recover from a thigh

'Bayern punished for slow start'

AFP, Madrid

Bayern Munich boss Pep Guardiola conceded his side had paid a heavy price for a slow start as Saul Niguez's sensational 11th minute solo effort handed

Atletico Madrid a slender 1-0 from their Champions League semi-final, first leg on Wednesday.

The German champions dominated possession, but struggled to create chances as Atletico held out for their 33rd clean sheet of the season to take a huge step towards their second final in three years.

"We had talked before the game about how Atletico tend to start well," said Guardiola, who will leave Bayern to join Manchester City at the start of next season.

"It is not a great result for us. It is always unpleasant to have not scored an away goal, but we still have 90 minutes."

Bayern also lost the first leg of their semifinal in Spain to Real Madrid and Barcelona in the previous two years of Guardiola's tenure.

And despite being on the verge of a third German title in as many years in Munich, Guardiola's men must turn the tide if he is to avoid the embarrassment of leaving for Manchester without having conquered Europe.

"In the Champions League you need to use the full 90 minutes, which we didn't manage here and didn't play well for the first 15 minutes."

"We have to play more intelligently in the return match, we need patience and we only need a goal to take the game to extra time." Bayern captain Philipp Lahm also

lamented Bayern's inability to score an away goal and was far from happy with the state of Atletico's stodgy pitch.

"We didn't think we'd have so many chances to score in the second half as we did, but we didn't use them."

"You have to use them in games like this, but we still have 90 minutes to come with the fans behind us to try and turn the game around."

"At home, the pitch will be watered, the ball will roll better and we'll get our passing game going."

By contrast, Atletico were jubilant after 21-year-old Niguez announced his arrival on the European stage with what he described as the "most beautiful and most important goal" of his career.

Niguez eased past four Bayern challenges before curling left-footed in off the far post.

"I was dribbling with the ball, I saw that I'd got by two opponents so when I got into the area I thought about getting it onto my stronger foot, and because it was on my left, I placed it," he said.

"It's the most beautiful and most important goal I've scored."

Despite being under the cosh for almost the entire second half, Atletico were inches away from doubling their advantage when Fernando Torres struck the post 15 minutes from time.

"It was a fantastic night and I'm happy for all Atletico fans," said Torres.

"We've got what we wanted which was to get the scoreline in our favour and we have the second leg to come."

"We suffered and kept suffering, kept fighting, that's what we do."

"Bayern have a level few teams but we kept on doing our thing."



Women's tennis legend Martina Navratilova (R) plays a match with local athletes after a promotional event for this year's WTA Finals in Singapore yesterday.

Drunk L'pool fans force flight landing

AFP, Limoges

A flight from Liverpool to Alicante was forced to land in France on Thursday after two drunken British nationals began fighting on board.

The incident took place onboard a Ryanair flight between two men believed to be Liverpool supporters on their way to their team's Europa League semi-final first leg against Villarreal.

The captain said he decided to divert to the central French city of Limoges as he felt the incident was endangering the other passengers.

Both men were taken to a local police station.

"They are being held while they sober up, and between them being drunk and the language barrier, it is difficult to be certain about their reasons for the fight and going to Spain," said a police spokesman.

AFC delegate urges for clean BFF polls

SPORTS REPORTER

The election commission for the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) polls has apparently been advised by the Asian Football Council (AFC) delegate to keep the environment of football healthy in a bid to maintain the good image of Bangladesh football intact.

The recommendations came yesterday after AFC delegate Mun Si Song, manager of members association and international affairs of the regional governing body who will also report to FIFA, met chief election commissioner Mezbah Uddin after arriving here yesterday to observe the BFF polls to be held tomorrow.

"We have briefed everything regarding the polls to him and he [Song] hoped that the environment of football will not be ruined, football won't be discredited and the image of Bangladesh football is not damaged [centring the polls]. We have assured him that we will be trying our best to hold a free and fair election in line with rules and regulations," said Mezbah Uddin after the meeting with Song at the BFF House yesterday.

There had been whispers in the football arena that a certain group were pressuring the Kazi Salahuddin-led combined panel to withdraw from the polls from the beginning of the process, and it came under the spotlight on

Tuesday when incumbent president Salahuddin alleged that they were forced to cancel their scheduled introductory programme for security reasons following pressure from a certain group and claimed that he was also threatened by an unknown individual some 15 to 20 days earlier. In this regard, Salahuddin on Tuesday night met with the chief election commissioner but the BFF boss did not file any complaint with the commission.

"As no one has filed any complaints in black and white, the election is on course and we hope to complete it successfully," said Mezbah, adding that they would only take security measures if any delegates lodge a complaint with the commission.

It has however been learnt that the FIFA delegate, having learnt the updates of the BFF polls, asked the election commission whether they want to stop the election procedure but the election has expressed its desire to continue the procedure. Song will again sit with the election commission today.

In another move, Kamrul Ashraf Khan, the presidential candidate of the Save Football panel, said at a view exchange programme that if elected, he would tag each district football association with sponsors and would ensure a fixed deposit to run the district football and reiterated that not a single penny would be spent