

What to WATCH

SONY ESPN
Madrid Open
 Live from 4:00pm
Indian Premier League
 Gujarat v Delhi
 Live from 8:30pm

TEN 1 HD
UEFA Champions League
 Bayern Munich v Atletico Madrid
 Semifinal, 2nd Leg
 Live from 12:45am (Wednesday)


KFC Independence Cup
 Venue: BNS
 Sk Jamal v Abahani
 First Semifinal, Time: 5:30pm

Dhaka Premier Cricket League
 Venue: Fatullah
 Mohammedan v Legends of Rugganj
 Time: 9:00am

DAY'S EVENT

VAN GAAL BLASTS HUTH

Manchester United manager Louis van Gaal bizarrely compared Leicester defender Robert Huth's hair-pull on Marouane Fellaini with "sex masochism" and also tugged a television reporter by the hair in an eccentric attempt to defend his player. Claiming Fellaini's hair had been grabbed by Huth in a deliberate piece of provocation, van Gaal reached out to do the same to his Sky Sports interviewer. "It was a very difficult match for the referee -- when you see what Huth is doing with Fellaini, is that not a penalty?," van Gaal said. "When I grab your hair...Your hair is much shorter. "Every human being who is grabbed with their hair would react." "It is not in the books that somebody has to grab with the hair and pull from behind. Only in sex masochism, then it is allowed," he said.



-AFP

Foreigners rule the roost

SPORTS REPORTER

Independence KFC Cup 2016

With Sheikh Jamal Dhanomdi Club taking on Abahani in the first semifinal of KFC Independence Cup today, and the second semifinal between Sheikh Russel KC and Chittagong Abahani scheduled for tomorrow, the management of the four teams will certainly bank on their foreign strikers to shine through once more.

Like the previous seasons, the foreign strikers have been the dominant force in determining the fates of the games in the group stages, striking at least one goal each in 23 out of the 30 group-stage matches, four of which ended in goalless draws.

While the local players have struggled to find the back of the net regularly, striking only 22 goals (0.73 goals per match on average) out of a total of 81, the foreign recruits have struck 59 goals (1.96 goals per match on average). Hence the top five goalscorers' positions were unsurprisingly occupied by the foreigners.

Out of those 81 goals, the four semifinalist teams have scored 38



Eleta Kingsley (6) **Wedson Anselme (5)**



Fikru Teferra (5) **Kolo Musa (5)**

goals, with their foreign strikers scoring 32 goals while the eight other participating clubs have scored 43 goals, out of which 27 came from foreign recruits. Furthermore the four hattricks

of Team BJMC. The goalscoring chart is still being led by Eleta with six goals, followed by Wedson, Fikru and Musa on five goals each.

Among the locals, national striking pair of Nabib Newsa Jibon of Abahani and Shakhawat Hossain Rony of Sheikh Russel have hardly got any opportunities to start due to preference of foreign strikers. However, both of them got a few chances as substitutes, but failed to score.

National discards Zahid Hasan Emily and Mithun Chowdhury have got regular game-time, but they have been far from their prime time while only winger Zahid Hossain, who is spending a year-long ban from the national team, has been in good form as he scored three goals in four matches and assisted a number of goals scored by Fikru.

Among the current national squad players, only midfielder Mashuk Mia Johnny scored twice and winger Jewel Rana struck one while players like Sohel Rana, Mamunul Islam, Hemanta Vincent Biswas, Atiqur Rahman Fahad, Jamal bhuiyan are out of action either due to either injury or owing to a court verdict.

Vardy gets top award

AFP, London

Leicester City forward Jamie Vardy has been voted the 2016 Footballer of the Year by the Football Writers' Association (FWA), it was announced Monday.

The 29-year-old striker took the award as a clear winner ahead of team-mates Riyad Mahrez, who had already taken the Player of the Year award voted on by his fellow professionals, and N'Golo Kante.

Vardy has scored 24 goals for club and country so far this season as the Foxes close in on what would be a remarkable Premier League title triumph.

They will be crowned champions should closest rivals Tottenham Hotspur fail to beat Chelsea on Monday.

In total seven Leicester players received votes in the FWA poll, with Danny Drinkwater, goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel, captain Wes Morgan and Danny Simpson also receiving votes.

Vardy will be honoured with the prestigious FWA accolade, which has been running since 1948, at a gala dinner in London on May 12.

FWA chairman Andy Dunn, of the Sunday Mirror, said: "It is testament to their

all-round excellence that so many Leicester players polled votes from our members. The Jamie Vardy story, though, clearly captured the imagination of so many writers.

"His record-breaking feat of scoring in 11 consecutive matches is the jewel in what will surely be Leicester's Premier League crown.

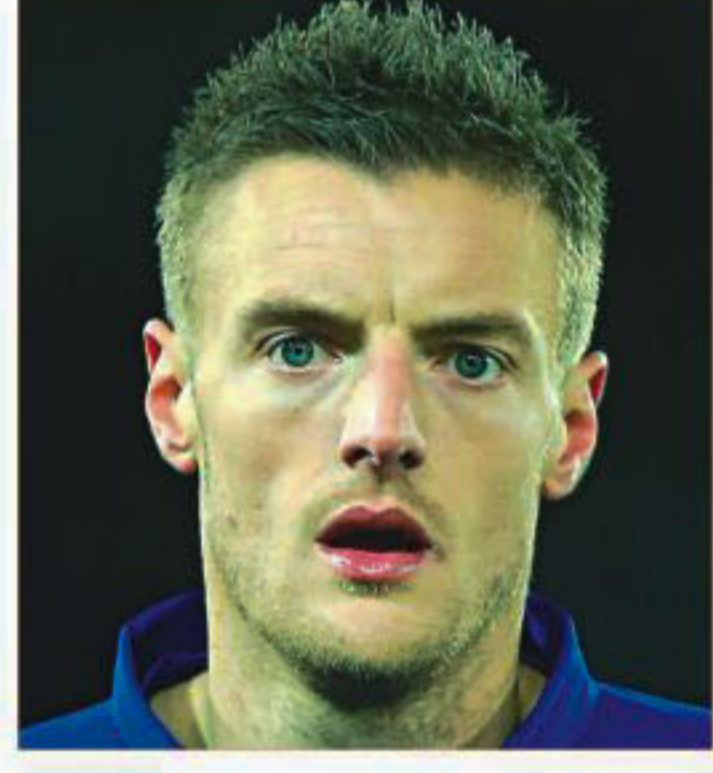
"And the Footballer of the Year award is not just a reflection of his fantastic season, but recognition of a remarkable journey from non-league to the international stage."

Other players to receive votes from FWA members were Tottenham striker Harry Kane, West Ham playmaker Dimitri Payet, Manchester City duo Sergio Aguiero and Kevin de Bruyne as well as Spurs midfielder Dele Alli.

Vardy said: "It's a great honour to win such a prestigious award and to have my name added to a list of previous winners that includes some unbelievable players."

The England striker added: "We're all totally focused on getting over the line in the final two weeks of the season and turning a great season into one we'll never forget.

"Hopefully I can contribute to that and, if selected, carry some good form into the Euros (European Championships) this summer."



Federer out of Madrid open

AFP, Madrid

Seventeen-time Grand Slam champion Roger Federer withdrew from the Madrid Masters on Monday citing a back injury.

However, the world number three remains hopeful that he will be fit to play in the Rome Masters next week as part of his preparation for the French Open later this month.

"There's no feeling that I can practise so at this point I don't want to take more chances, as I know I won't be fully ready for Wednesday," said Federer.

"I want to play it safe, rest up and get ready for Rome, that's the schedule now."

Federer had taken a late decision to play in Madrid after missing nearly three months of the season due to knee surgery.



Bayern Munich defender Rafinha (L) shares a joke with teammate Franck Ribery during a training session in Munich yesterday on the eve of their Champions League semifinal second-leg against Atletico Madrid. PHOTO: AFP

'I want Zidane to stay'

OMNISPORT

Cristiano Ronaldo has backed Zinedine Zidane to continue as head coach at Real Madrid beyond this season.

The former France international replaced Rafael Benitez in January and has helped to sustain their push for a Liga and Champions League double heading into the final month of the campaign.

Speculation persists that Zidane could depart the club in June, however, with the 43-year-old unable to give any guarantees over his future when questioned on rumours in March.

Ronaldo has spoken in the past of how the Madrid squad have felt more at ease under Zidane than Benitez and he has called for the coach to be given more time at the Santiago Bernabeu.

"I think we feel more valued with Zidane," he told Madrid's official website. "We feel his affection, we know it's a process of adapting but things have flowed very quickly and I'm very happy for him.

"I already admired him as a player and now as a coach for his manner and his way of selecting the players. He's a coach who I

would like to continue at Real Madrid."

Ronaldo returned to training on Sunday after missing Madrid's Champions League semifinal first-leg draw with Manchester City, and the 1-0 victory over Real Sociedad.

The Portugal star is vying to be fit for City's visit to the capital on Wednesday but has warned that they must not underestimate Manuel Pellegrini's side.

"If Manchester City are in the semifinals it's because they're an excellent team," he said. "Knocking out Paris Saint-Germain is no easy task, but they managed it. They are a team who have very few defects."

Ronaldo hit a hat-trick to secure Madrid's quarterfinal win over Wolfsburg, despite them having been beaten 2-0 in the first leg in Germany.

The ex-Manchester United forward has described that victory as "a magical moment" and hopes Madrid will be inspired to go all the way and win the trophy they last lifted two years ago.

"To win it with Real Madrid was a beautiful, spectacular feeling, because the Champions League is always a special competition and to win it in Lisbon, in front of the Portuguese, was also special," he added.

No Afridi, Shehzad for Eng tour

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan's new selectors Monday dropped star players Shahid Afridi, Ahmed Shehzad and Umar Akmal from next month's tour of England, stressing there would be no compromises after the country's disastrous exit from the World Twenty20 in India.

Former Afghanistan coach Inzamam-ul-Haq, who is heading up the newly formed selection committee as part of wholesale changes following last month's tournament humiliation, announced 35 players would attend boot camp starting in Kakul from May 14 to June 4.

He said Afridi -- who announced he would continue playing the Twenty20 format after resigning as captain in the wake of the event -- needed to perform in domestic matches.

"Since we are playing only four Twenty20 matches this year we want to give new players a chance, and that will also allow Afridi to rest and perform in domestic matches," Inzamam said at a news conference in Lahore.

As for Shehzad and Umar, he said, "the selection committee will not compromise on discipline."

Pep's moment of truth

AFP, Berlin

Bayern Munich's coach Pep Guardiola knows he needs to prove his critics wrong by overturning a 1-0 first-leg deficit against Atletico Madrid in Tuesday's crunch home Champions League semifinal.

Guardiola and Bayern are bidding to avoid losing a semifinal to a Spanish side for the third year running having lost the first-leg last Wednesday at Atletico after Saul Niguez's early solo strike.

Having won 14 titles in four years at Barcelona and six titles so far in three years with Bayern, Guardiola hopes to sign off in charge of Munich by lifting the Champions League trophy at the final on May 28 in Milan.

Bayern have exited the Champions League semifinals for the last two years running with defeats to Real Madrid in 2014, then to Barcelona last year.

Another exit at the hands of Spanish opposition will not go down well in Bavaria, especially in the wake of Guardiola's decision to start the first leg in Madrid with Germany star Thomas Mueller, Bayern's top scorer in Europe this season, on the bench.

The decision drew plenty of criticism from the German media and, by his own admission, the Munich leg is Guardiola's "final bullet" in the battle to prove any critics wrong before he leaves to coach Manchester City next season.

"I have read in a

German newspaper that my work in Munich will only be valued, and the job considered done, if I win the Champions League. That's how it'll be seen," Guardiola told reporters after Bayern saw off Benfica in the quarterfinals.

Bayern have been unstoppable at home in Europe this season, winning all five games at the Allianz Arena, but needed extra time to come back from 2-0 down to beat Juventus 4-2 at home in the second leg of the last 16.

They have won all 11 home games in Europe since being hammered 4-0 in the Munich leg by Real Madrid in the 2014 semifinals, having lost 1-0 in Spain.

In turn, Diego Simeone's Atletico were boosted by the news Uruguay defender Diego Godin and Belgium winger Yannick Carrasco took part in training on Sunday after injury.

Godin has missed the last two weeks with a hamstring injury and is set to return as the cornerstone of Atletico's defence in their bid to repeat their run to the 2014 final, there they lost 4-1 to Real Madrid after extra-time.

"It is the best thing to have great games and the tiredness matters little," said Atletico's Antoine Griezmann, the goalscorer in their 1-0 Spanish league win over Rayo Vallecano on Saturday, when Simeone made seven changes.

"We are very enthusiastic. Every player dreams of playing in a Champions League semifinal and we will give everything."

Brought to you by



Call 10678

FACTFILE

LEAGUE FORM

BAYERN MUNICH: Pep Guardiola's Bayern Munich had to wait to have their historic fourth consecutive Bundesliga title confirmed after being held to a 1-1 draw at home to Borussia Moenchengladbach on Saturday. There was some good news for Bayern as Jerome Boateng started his first game since January.

ATLETICO: Antoine Griezmann came off the bench to score the winner as Atletico maintained their La Liga title hopes with a 1-0 win over Rayo Vallecano as coach Diego Simeone made seven changes from the side that started the first leg against Bayern. Atletico remain level on points with Barcelona at the top of La Liga with just two games remaining.

LEADING SCORERS IN ALL COMPETITIONS

Bayern Munich - Robert Lewandowski - 38 goals
 Atletico Madrid - Antoine Griezmann -- 30 goals

EUROPEAN CUP/CHAMPIONS LEAGUE BEST PERFORMANCES

Bayern Munich - Winners 1974, 1975, 1976, 2001, 2013
 Atletico Madrid - runners-up 1974, 2014

Smith out of IPL with wrist injury

AFP, Sydney

Australian captain Steve Smith on Monday pulled out of the Indian Premier League with a wrist injury and will return home for treatment ahead of the tour to the West Indies.

Cricket Australia medical official Alex Kountouris said Smith had been struggling with pain in his right wrist for the last week.

"We have been working with his IPL franchise Pune to monitor this and unfortunately it has not resolved," Kountouris said in a statement.

"As such, he will return home from India for further assessment and treatment ahead of the tour of the West Indies."

He stressed the injury did not appear to be serious, "but we are keen to give him the time to recover and rehabilitate before heading to the West Indies at the end of May".

Australia begin the tri-series in Guyana on June 6 against South Africa before facing the hosts four days later at the same venue.

The round-robin tournament sees teams play three matches against each opponent, with the top two advancing to the final on June 26 in Barbados.

Smith's decision comes a day after Australian all-rounder Mitchell Marsh pulled out of the rest of the IPL with a side strain.

Pathan, Russel bury Bangalore

STAR SPORTS DESK

VIVO IPL

A fabulous partnership between Andre Russel and Yousuf Pathan, which saw them smack 96 runs in just 7.2 overs led the Kolkata Knight Riders to an unlikely win over the Royal Challengers Bangalore at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium yesterday.

By the time Manish Pandey departed, Kolkata were struggling at 69 for 4 in ten overs during their chase of 185. However, Russel and Pathan shocked Bangalore's bowlers. Russel smacked 39 off 24 balls with one four and four sixes. By the time he got out, Kolkata were cruising at 164 for 5 in 17.3 overs and all they needed was for Pathan to finish the chase.

And that's exactly what he did, as he smacked a 29-ball 60 with three sixes and six fours to take KKR home with five balls and five wickets remaining.

Earlier, half centuries from Virat Kohli and KL Rahul led Bangalore to 185 for 7.

Kolkata, who played without Shakib Al Hasan, depended on spinners Sunil Narine and Piyush Chawla. Chawla finished on 2 for 32 and was well supported by Morne Morkel's 2 for 28.

Determined to study in Australia / NZ?



- Do you have good academic results?
- Financially Solvent?
- Take help only from the Industry Leader

- ✓ Proudly representing ALL Uni from Australia/ NZ
- ✓ Highest VISA success in Bangladesh
- ✓ 25 years of experience
- ✓ 30 offices in 6 countries
- ✓ No charges before/after visa

CALL TODAY AT 01711037811, 01962547066

54 Kemal Attaturk Ave, Banani
 E: dhaka@globalreachonline.com
 W: www.globalreachonline.com

GLOBAL REACH
 education matters
 www.globalreach.in