



What to WATCH

BTV WORLD & BOISHAKHI TV Bangladesh Premier League Abahani v Brothers Union Live from 4:00pm

TEN 1 HD Sri Lanka v Australia Third Test, Day 5 Live from 10:30am

STAR SPORTS 2 Rio Olympic Games 2016 Live from 5:30pm & 12:30am (Thursday)

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh Premier League

Abahani v Brothers Union Time: 4:00pm

Venue: Rafiq Uddin Bhuiyan Stadium, Mymensingh

Brazil going after gold

Coach says ahead of Honduras semifinal

ATIQUA ANAM from Rio de Janeiro

The only major silverware missing from Brazil's glittering cabinet is an Olympic gold. The five-time world champions came close to winning it last time around, but in the end they had to be satisfied with a silver medal after losing to Mexico in the final.

This time around, following the senior team's humiliating World Cup elimination and failure in back-to-back Copa Americas, there were those who doubted the team's prospects in these games, even with Neymar as team captain and rising stars like Gabriel Jesus, Gabriel Barbosa, Marquinhos, Rafinha and Felipe Anderson in the side.

Those doubts only became stronger after the hosts' goalless draws in their first two games against South Africa and Iraq. The team was jeered off the pitch and Neymar was subject to heavy criticism, as crowds taunted him with the chant: "Ole, Ole. Marta, Marta."

However the Selecao have turned things around since then, putting four past Denmark in their last group match before getting the better of Colombia with a 2-0 victory in the quarterfinal.

The team's coach, Rogerio Micalle, believes his team has proven the doubters wrong.

"Unfortunately football is about immediate results. Since those criticisms, we have had two good results and now we are in the semis. I think most of the criticism was ridiculous," Micalle said at a press conference on Monday.

Now with Honduras to face in the semifinal, which will take place at the Maracana

today at 10:00pm (Bangladesh time) before the second semifinal between Germany and Nigeria, the bets will surely be on Brazil to make it to the final, if not win the title.

"We are going after gold. We have been building the strength that we have and we are arriving at our goal," the 47-year-old coach, who has a vast experience of working with youth teams across Brazil, said ahead of the semifinal.

After some lackluster performances in the first few matches, Neymar came into his own, scoring against Colombia in the quarterfinal. The coach believes Neymar has come of age off the pitch too.

"Neymar a very young athlete and he has a big responsibility because of his quality. He has shown a lot of maturity, and he is learning from his mistakes. He is doing things the right way," said the coach, who also reserved high praise for young Palmeiras forward Gabriel Jesus, earmarking him as one for the future.

The Brazil under-23 coach, who is open to working with senior team coach Tite, feels that no matter what they achieve in these Olympics, the team needs to be given time to rebuild.

"Brazil football is going through a rebuilding process. If we win, everything is fine but if we lose, people will start building everything from the scratch again. It's like you're building a house and in the middle of the process, you destroy it and start rebuilding again. Germany spent 12 years building it and they are reaping the benefits. That's how to do it," the coach opined.



Brazil's Thiago Braz Da Silva pole vaults to glory during the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Olympic Stadium on Monday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Trott takes command

REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

Defending champion Laura Trott took command of the women's track cycling omnium event at the Rio Games on Monday to close in on the fourth Olympic gold medal of her career.

The 24-year-old finished second in the scratch race before winning the individual pursuit and elimination events.

With three more disciplines scheduled for Tuesday, the British rider is eight points ahead of Belgium's Jolien D'Hoore and 10 ahead of American Sarah Hammer.

Gold medals for Verniaiev & Taylor

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Ukrainian gymnast Oleg Verniaiev won Olympic gold on the parallel bars on Tuesday.

He took gold with 16.041. American Danell Leyva took silver (15.900) with Russia's David Belyavskiy taking bronze (15.783).

Reigning champion Christian Taylor retained his Olympic triple jump title on Tuesday, the American comfortably seeing off his rivals in the Rio sunshine.

The 26-year-old world champion recorded a season's best 17.86 metres on his first leap, good enough for gold as compatriot Will Claye took silver in a repeat of their positions in London four years ago.

World indoor champion Dong Bin took bronze, China's first Olympic triple jump medal.

Braz steals the show

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

David Rudisha sealed a historic Olympic 800m double as Shauna Miller's audacious dive and Thiago Braz's pole vault gold for Brazil lit up a wet Monday night in Rio.

Kenya's Rudisha was all class in a smooth 800m victory which made him the first man since New Zealand's Peter Snell in 1964 to win the event at consecutive Olympics.

But Rudisha was soon upstaged by the Bahamas' Miller, who threw herself head-first across the line to snatch victory from flummoxed American favourite Allyson Felix.

More was to come when Braz stunned French defending champion and world record-holder Renaud Lavillenie to win the pole vault, grabbing Brazil's second gold of the Games and bringing the sparse crowd to its feet.

Earlier, a wobble on the balance beam ended Simone Biles' bid for a record five gymnastics gold medals, and Rio had its latest safety scare when a giant suspended TV camera plunged to the ground, slightly injuring seven.

Miller remained lying on the track for some time after her unconventional dive, which followed a similar lunge across the line by Brazil's Joao Vitor de Oliveira to qualify from his 110m hurdles heats.

Her last-ditch plunge meant disappoint-

ment for America's Felix, who has Olympic gold medals over 200m, 4x100m and 4x400m but who switched to focus on the longer distance.

The desperate dives came on a treacherously wet night when runners clattered into hurdles and the discus slipped from hands before officials called a 20-minute suspension.

Conditions were so bad that an extra 110m hurdles heat was arranged for competitors who didn't qualify for the first two races, when the rain was torrential.

As the rain eased, Kenyan middle-distance star Rudisha emerged to stamp his class on the 800m.

The world champion and world record-holder hit the front in the final 300m and had one more gear than his rivals as he swept to the line in 1min 42.15sec.

In the pole vault, Lavillenie was the hot favourite but he was undone by Brazil's Olympic record of 6.03m and had to settle for silver in front of the partisan crowd.

Gymnast Biles was confident of claiming her fourth Rio win and move into position for an unprecedented fifth on the last day of the competition on Tuesday.

But the tiny Texan wobbled badly on the balance beam when landing a forward somersault and had to put both hands down for support.

Former FIFA president no more

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Joao Havelange, Brazil's corruption-tainted former FIFA president who helped bring the Olympic Games to Rio, has died at the age of 100, a hospital spokeswoman told AFP Tuesday.

The news, first given by Brazilian media, was confirmed by Andresa Feijo, spokeswoman for the Samaritano Hospital in Rio de Janeiro.

Havelange is credited with helping transform football into a global success story, but his legacy has been tarnished by serious corruption allegations. He resigned as honorary president of FIFA in 2013.

Silva puts SL in charge

AFP, Colombo

A gritty century from Kaushal Silva gave Sri Lanka a commanding 288-run second innings lead Tuesday, dimming Australia's hopes of a consolation win in the third and final Test in Colombo.

Sri Lanka, who are pushing for a rare series white-wash after winning the first two Tests, were 312 for eight at stumps on the fourth day at the Sinhalese Sports Club.

SCORES IN BRIEF
SL: First innings 355
AUSTRALIA: First innings 379
SRI LANKA: Second innings 312 for 8 (K Silva 115, Chandimal 43, de Silva 44 not out; Starc 2-58, Lyon 4-123, Holland 2-72)



Britain's Laura Trott (L) competes in the women's omnium individual pursuit track cycling event at the Velodrome in Rio de Janeiro on Monday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Saintfiet to arrive today

SPORTS REPORTER



Belgian coach Tom Saintfiet is scheduled to arrive here this morning to take charge of the national football team ahead of the Asian Cup Qualifying play-offs against Bhutan in September and October.

Saintfiet, who is yet to sign the short-term deal on offer with the Bangladesh Football Federation, is expected to conduct the second-phase of the national football team's training from August 21.

Bangladesh will take on Bhutan on

September 6 in Dhaka before travelling to Thimpu to play the away leg on October 9.

Saintfiet left Dhaka for Belgium for two weeks on July 31 to attend to his pregnant wife after watching the first 18 matches of the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League and he is expected to declare his preliminary squad for the September 6 match after watching six matches of the sixth round of the ongoing professional football league.

The game's governing body is expected to strike deals with both Saintfiet and technical and strategic director Paul Smalley a few days after the arrival of Saintfiet.

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