

DAY'S EVENT	Bangladesh Premier League Ctg Abahani v Arambagh KS Live from 4:30pm	Sheikh Russel v Brothers Union Live from 7:30pm Venue: BNS
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Sk Jamal grab solo lead

SPORTS REPORTER

ib BPL Sheikh Jamal DC took the lead in the JB Bangladesh Premier League with a nerve-racking 3-2 win over Muktiyoddha Sangsad in a crucial encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

TEAM BJMC	2 - 1	UTTAR BARIDHARA
SK JAMAL	3 - 2	MUKTIJODDHA

Emeka Darlington struck an early brace before Wedson Anselme netted one as the three-time professional league champions took a 3-0 advantage within the first 35 minutes. Muktiyoddha pulled one back before the break and added another in the second half, but the Dhanmondi giants held on to the lead and so they now have 15 points from seven matches while Muktiyoddha slipped to second position with 12 points.

yards out on the 34th minute making the game seemingly out of reach for Muktiyoddha.

However, the All Reds staged a fightback, with Towhidul Alam converting a spot-kick penalty in stoppage time after Ahmed Kolo Musa had squandered one in the 13th minute.

After resumption, a reorganised Muktiyoddha put up a spirited effort to create a lot of scoring opportunities, but only one of those chances were converted by Simon Ezeodika in the 75th minute. Sheik Jamal were reduced to 10 men a minute later but held the slender lead nonetheless.

Meanwhile, Team BJMC tasted their first victory in seven matches with a come-from-behind 2-1 win over Uttar Baridhara Club in the day's first match. The win took Team BJMC to the seventh position on the table with seven points while a sixth straight defeat left Uttar Baridhara second from bottom with only three points to their name.

With the league resuming after a

one-month break, both the relegation battlers failed to carry the spirit from the first six rounds, yet fought equally till the last minute. However, Team BJMC, who survived two scares either side of the break, came out with all three points.

Mazharul Islam Sourav had put Uttar Baridhara ahead in the 10th minute with a header from a perfect free-kick courtesy of Khalekuzzaman but the lead lasted only for two minutes as Nigerian Samson Iliaus levelled the margin with a header.

Samson then gave BJMC the lead in the 40th minute after availing a square-pass from Abdullah Al Mamun.

The goal took the Nigerian to the top of goalscorers' chart with five goals alongside Ahmed Kolo Musa of Muktiyoddha Sangsad.

BJMC soon survived two close calls. Khalekuzzaman rattled the crossbar with a powerful drive from 35 yards three minute before the break while Kenyan hitman Collins Tiego failed to equalise the margin two minutes into the second half despite finding the opposition goalkeeper alone inside the box.



Sheikh Jamal striker Emeka Darlington salutes the dugout after scoring one of his two goals against Muktiyoddha Sangsad during their Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. [INSET] The club's new coach Stefan Hansson looks impressed with what he saw from the team on his first day in charge.



PHOTOS: FIROZ AHMED

Gascoigne pleads guilty

AFP, Dudley

Former England footballer Paul Gascoigne pleaded guilty to a racially aggravated public order offence on Monday following a 'joke' he made during his one-man show.

The 49-year-old admitted using "threatening or abusive words or behaviour" during his 'An Evening With Gazza' show in the English Midlands town of Wolverhampton on November 30 last year.

He had appeared at Gascoigne, who made his name at northeast club Newcastle United before enjoying spells at Tottenham Hotspur, Rome club Lazio and Glasgow Rangers, would contest the charge.

But Gascoigne changed his plea before the first witness was called to give evidence on Monday.

Following Gascoigne's guilty plea, District Judge Graham Wilkinson said the former midfielder, a member of the England side that reached the semi-finals of the 1990 World Cup in Italy, had admitted to "the sort of insidious racism" that needed to be challenged.

The judge added Gascoigne would face a financial penalty for the offence, details of which had yet to be announced in court.

Paralympics end with music

AFP, Rio de Janeiro



Rio said farewell to the 2016 Paralympics Sunday in a closing ceremony showcasing Brazil's passion for music and celebrating what many consider to have been a surprisingly successful Games.

The famous Maracana football stadium was packed, with the Paralympians themselves seated across the field, as proceedings kicked off with fireworks.

Among the first performers was Jonathan Bastos, a Brazilian who was born without arms but has become an accomplished musician, playing the guitar with his feet. Then it was Ricardinho, star of Brazil's gold medal winning five-a-side Paralympic football team, who brought out the national flag.

But the glittering celebration -- at one point featuring an unscripted conga line of dancing athletes -- paused for a minute's silence to remember the fatal crash of an Iranian cyclist on Saturday.

Bahman Golbarnezhad's death during the road race left the Paralympic movement "united in grief," Philip Craven, the International Paralympic Committee president, said in a speech.

Overall, organizers are breathing a sigh of relief that predictions of failure for South America's first Olympics and Paralympics were proved wrong.

"Mission accomplished," said Carlos Nuzman, president of the Rio organizing committee. Referring to the political instability

and deep recession plaguing Brazil, he conceded that it had been "a mission of many doubts."

As Craven declared the Games over -- with Tokyo now taking up the baton for 2020 -- he said Brazil had passed a difficult test.

"These Games importantly signal a very bright future for this youthful and wonderful nation," Craven said.

Eleven days of competition where China dominated the medals table, followed by Britain, ended earlier with the last few events, including marathons and wheelchair rugby.

Watching the marathon along the seafont in Copacabana earlier, spectator Marcelo Augusto Miranda Costa said the Games had been "a moment of magic for the city."

"We're going to miss them, yes," he said.

The generally positive ending was quite the turnaround from a few weeks ago when the Rio organizers' woeful finances in the wake of the August Olympics and a stunning lack of interest in tickets raised fears of failure.

By the end, officials said, they had sold 2.1 million tickets -- fewer than London in 2012 but more than Beijing four years earlier. Part of that success, however, was due to many tickets being sold for as little as \$3 -- or given away to school children in an international fill-the-seats campaign.

Also haunting these Paralympics was Brazil's political crisis. President Michel Temer, who had just taken power after his rival Dilma Rousseff was thrown out of office in an impeachment vote, was loudly booed by the crowd at both at the Olympic and Paralympic opening ceremonies.

Although Temer did not attend the closing ceremony, one of the performers, Lucio Maia from the band Nacao Zumbi, took the opportunity to flash a "Get out Temer" sign to the television cameras.

And tensions over a ban imposed by the International Paralympic Committee on the entire Russian team because of alleged state doping remain strong.

Craven warned earlier Sunday that "major change" will be needed from Russia to be allowed back into Paralympic competition.

The gap between the Olympic and Paralympic performances is gradually blurring with disabled athletes breaking records after records in Rio.

Among the stars were Brazil's swimmer Daniel Dias who added four golds, three silvers and two bronzes to his existing medal haul from Beijing and London -- which has won him descriptions as the Michael Phelps of the Paralympics.

There was amazement in the 1,500m track race when Algeria's Abdellatif Baka set a new record that was actually faster than the winning time by Olympic gold medalist Matthew Centrowitz in the same stadium a month earlier. However, Centrowitz won in what was by Olympic standards a near-record slow race, meaning Baka's outstanding time was of mostly symbolic significance.

Once more, it was China that dominated overall, with 239 medals, including 107 golds -- far ahead of nearest rival Britain with 147 total and 64 golds. Ukraine with 117 medals and the United States with 115 followed.

Alli extends with Spurs

AFP, London

Tottenham Hotspur midfielder Dele Alli has signed a new six-year contract that is set to see him stay with the north London side until 2022, the English Premiership club announced Monday.

England international Alli joined Spurs from lower league side MK Dons in February 2015 and the 20-year-old has since scored 11 goals and managed nine assists in his 38 Premier League appearances for the White Hart Lane team.

Alli has followed in the footsteps of Spurs teammates Christian Eriksen, Eric Dier, Tom Carroll and Harry Winks, who have all extended their contracts in recent weeks.

"I'm happy to be here and playing at Tottenham," Alli told the club's official Twitter account.

"Personally I can't think of anywhere better, with the fans, the manager we've got here and the young team. It's a great place to be."

Alli had a dramatic breakthrough campaign last season after making his Tottenham debut against Manchester United in August. He went on to score 10 goals in 46 appearances, playing a key role as Spurs finished third in the Premier League.

Zidane hails duo

GOAL.COM



Zinedine Zidane praised goalscorers James Rodriguez and Karim Benzema after a 2-0 triumph at Espanyol extended Real Madrid's phenomenal winning run in LaLiga.

Madrid made it four wins from four in the current campaign to lead Barcelona by three points with victory at the Estadi Cornella-El Prat and 16 consecutive LaLiga wins in total -- matching the mark established by their bitter rivals in 2010-11.

Zidane was unable to call on Cristiano Ronaldo and Gareth Bale, who sat out the match through illness and a hip injury respectively, but James stepped up on his first start of the season with a superb solo effort in first-half stoppage time.

Benzema led the line tirelessly and had just rewards for his efforts when Lucas Vazquez's cross allowed him to open his account for the season 19 minutes from time.

"They are talented players and can make a difference," Zidane told reporters after the match.

"They did, James and Karim, but the important thing is what they did for the group."

"I'm especially happy for [James]. The first goal was his, so I'm very happy with his performance - not only for the goal but also for the work he has done playing behind Karim as a number 10. I saw him play well."

Zidane wished to play down equalling a record set by Barcelona during their trophy laden years under Pep Guardiola and challenged his players to retain the winning habit.

"Yes, I like it, even if [the record] is an anecdote because in the end it is the work all the guys are doing."

"They are doing phenomenally but it is important to keep adding. LaLiga is very long."

Holding midfielder Casemiro departed during the first half with an apparent calf problem and Zidane is unsure whether the Brazilian will be available for the midweek clash with Villarreal.



Dancers perform during the closing ceremony of the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, showcasing Brazil's passion for music, at the Maracana Stadium on Sunday.

Rio's faux pas sparks cross-border food fight

AFP, Jakarta



Former England footballer Rio Ferdinand has unwittingly sparked a cross-border food fight after suggesting that a rice dish was Singaporean, to the horror of Indonesians who claim it as their own.

Ferdinand made the food faux pas during a weekend trip to watch the Singapore Grand Prix, when he tweeted a picture of himself holding a plate of the dish next to the comment: "Nasi goreng lunch.. Keeping it local in #Singapore".

"Nasi goreng", which literally translates as "fried rice" in Indonesian, generally consists of rice mixed with a sweet sauce and other ingredients such as chilli, vegetables and chicken, and often topped with a fried egg.

But the suggestion that the dish was not Indonesian caused horror in the archipelago, which is one of Singapore's neighbours, and sparked a flood of angry tweets.

"M8, its Indonesian food, actually. There's no 'nasi' and 'goreng' in Singapore," Agung Prasetyo tweeted at Ferdinand, while others invited the former Manchester United player to their homes to try a dish of real, Indonesian nasi goreng.

This angry reaction was met with irritation in neighbouring Singapore and Malaysia, which have a historically prickly relationship with Jakarta, with netizens claiming that fried rice is found in many countries in the region, not solely Indonesia.

There was particular annoyance in Singapore, with some suggesting that Indonesians' defiant defence of a rice dish was a stark contrast to its refusal to accept the blame for forest fires on its territory that blanket the city-state with haze every year.

"Ohhhh nasi goreng can claim but haze cannot," said Twitter user @HarisBRosli.

On Monday Ferdinand attempted to calm the bickering unleashed by his remark, commenting on Twitter: "Was there really uproar with my Nasi goreng tweet?!! Relax guys...local in SE Asia".

It was just the latest battle over culinary and cultural heritage between the neighbours, whose long shared history does not stop the regular flare-up of petty rows.

In 2009 protests erupted outside the Malaysian embassy in Jakarta after Kuala Lumpur was accused of plundering the archipelago's culture when a traditional dance from the Indonesian island of Bali allegedly appeared in adverts promoting tourism in Malaysia.

PHOTO: AFP