

BOISHAKHI TV
Bangladesh Premier League
 Brothers Union v Uttar Baridhara
 Live from 4:30pm
Muktijoddha v Rahmatganj

Live from 7:30pm
CHANNEL 9
Players' Draft for BPL T20
 Live from 6:30pm
STAR SPORTS 1
India v New Zealand

Second Test, Day 1
 Live from 10:00am
TEN 1 HD
 South Africa v Australia
 First ODI
 Live from 5:30pm

TEN 3
 Pakistan v West Indies
 First ODI
 Live from 5:00pm
SONY SIX
Primera Liga

Real Sociedad v Real Betis
 Live from 12:45am (Saturday)
STAR SPORTS 4
English Premiership
 Everton v Crystal Palace
 Live from 1:00am (Saturday)

STAR SPORTS 2
Bundesliga
 Leipzig v Augsburg
 Live from 12:30am (Saturday)

Bangladesh Premier League
 Brothers Union v Uttar Baridhara
 Time: 4:30pm

Muktijoddha v Rahmatganj
 Time: 7:30pm
 Venue: Sylhet District Stadium

U-18 Asia Cup Hockey Tournament
 China v Oman
 Fifth Place Decider

Time: 10:00am
 Pakistan v China Taipei
 Third Place Decider

Time: 12:30pm
 Bangladesh v India
 Final

Time: 3:00pm
 Venue: Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium

Nadal halts match to find lost child

AGENCIES, Mallorca

With his fierce roar and bulging biceps, Rafael Nadal is considered to be one of the more fearsome players in tennis.

But the Spanish ace has shown he's really a softie at heart following a dramatic moment during an exhibition game in Mallorca.

Nadal was playing in a doubles match alongside up-and-coming youngster Simon Solbas when it became clear there was some commotion in the crowd.

The former Wimbledon champ stopped the game against Carlos Moya and John McEnroe to find out more, and it turned out a child had gone missing.

And Nadal — as well as the other players — quickly rushed to look round the arena which was packed out by 7000 spectators.

Thankfully, the woman's daughter was found safe and well in the stands as fans guided them towards each other.

The hugging duo walked away crying, and the tennis game resumed following the happy ending.

It also turned out to be successful for Nadal on the court too, with the 30-year-old eventually winning the exhibition against Moya and McEnroe 3-6, 6-3 and 10-8.

Bangladesh set up final with India

SPORTS REPORTER



As expected, Bangladesh advanced to the final of the Boys' U-18 Asia Cup hockey tournament with an easy 6-1 win over Chinese Taipei to set up a final clash against the mighty India, who outplayed Pakistan 3-1 in the second semifinal at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Today's final will be a rematch between the two neighbours, who had started their campaigns by taking on each other. That match produced a thriller, with the hosts eventually coming out on top in a 5-4 win.

In yesterday's semifinal, penalty-corner specialist Ashraful Islam scored three goals while Raju Ahmed, Sajib Hossain and Fazle Hossain Rabbi netted one goal apiece for the home side. Chin Feng Liu scored the consolation goal for Chinese Taipei.

Bangladesh came into the semifinal on the back of two commanding performances against India and Oman, but the boys in red and green looked out of sorts in a below-par performance against Chinese Taipei, whom they had thrashed 8-1 in a warm-up game before the start of the seven-team tournament.

Despite taking a third minute lead, Bangladesh failed to establish a stranglehold on the match as they misplaced and miscontrolled numerous passes and showed a tendency to perform individually rather than as a team.

Bangladesh were also poor from penalty corners, cashing in on only three out of 10 opportunities.

"It was a bad day for us because we did not perform exactly how we wanted. But I believe you will see a different Bangladesh in tomorrow's [Friday] final," said Bangladesh captain Roman Sarkar, adding that the scorching heat as well as his side's failure to play as a team were the reasons behind the poor performance.



Hattrick scorer Ashraful Islam (C) celebrates one of his goals during Bangladesh's 6-1 win against Chinese Taipei during the semifinal of the Beximco U-18 Asia Cup Hockey Tournament at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

However, Bangladesh bounced back in the latter part of the second half to add four goals but not before surviving a few close calls. Chinese Taipei produced some good chances and made the hosts sweat with strong zonal marking to complement their solid defence.

There was a lot of anticipation about India and Pakistan's mouth-watering semifinal, but the match failed to live up to expectations as India pressed home their dominance by taking a 3-0 lead, before Pakistan scored a consolation goal in the latter part of the match.

Although the backdrop of the prevailing Kashmir issue was expected to create a tense situation between the two sides, there was hardly any impact of those circumstances on the pitch. Both sides started at a fervent pace but India soon established control over the match through a seventh-minute strike from Shivam Anand, whose fierce reverse-hit beat Pakistan goalkeeper Waqar.

Pakistan -- who came into the final after firing 26 goals in three matches -- hardly managed to penetrate the Indian backline, while India concentrated on keeping

possession and converting penalty corners.

Three minutes from the break, Dilpreet Singh made it 2-0 through a penalty corner before captain Nilam Sandeep took the match away from Pakistan by striking a third goal in the 46th minute. Amjad Ali Khan converted a penalty for Pakistan in the 63rd minute, but that was not enough for Pakistan to stage a comeback.

"We are looking forward to tomorrow's [Friday's] final and we will certainly rectify the mistakes we made in the first match and take on Bangladesh positively," said Indian captain Nilam Sandeep.

Vardy reveals pre-match routine

AGENCIES, London

Jamie Vardy has revealed a bizarre pre-match routine that includes drinking porridge out of a Lucozade bottle, which helped him fire Leicester to their unlikely Premier League title success last season.

In addition to drinking porridge on the night before a match, Vardy would also drink three cans of Red Bull and a double espresso before a match, with his only meal a cheese and ham omelette.

"I fill a small plastic water or Lucozade bottle to half-way and just sip the port while watching television," Vardy wrote in his autobiography 'Jamie Vardy: From Nowhere, My Story'.

"I'm not normally superstitious but from the moment I scored against Sunderland, I didn't want to change anything.

During Euro 2016, Vardy admitted that drinking Red Bull was a part of his training regime, as well as avoiding the gym, and his latest revelations have provided another insight into his unique match-day routine.

"While we're waiting and killing a bit of time, I have a double espresso," he said.

"So three Red Bulls, a double espresso and a cheese and ham omelette is what makes me run around like a nutjob on matchday."

10-man Abahani to steal draw

Sheikh Russel see off Mohammedan to record first win

SPORTS REPORTER



Ten-man Abahani came from behind to play out an entertaining 3-3 draw against holders Sheikh Jamal DC in the JB Bangladesh Premier League at the Sylhet District Stadium yesterday.

The tie was equally crucial for both title contenders as Sheikh Jamal looked to consolidate their solo lead at the top and defy Abahani's intention of toppling them, but both teams had to be content with a draw which saw Sheikh Jamal increase their points tally to 19, while Abahani were placed behind with 17 points from nine outings.

Both teams played attacking football from the outset in the fast paced-match and both of them could have taken an early lead within the first five minutes. However, their forwards' failures kept both teams waiting, before Wedson Anselme broke the deadlock in the 42nd minute.

The Haitian hitman made no mistake as he volleyed home after Abahani defender Tapu Barman's clearing header from a Landing

Darboe cross fell straight to Wedson. However, the lead only lasted four minutes as another poor clearance, this time from goalkeeper Maksudur Rahman Mustaq cost Sheikh Jamal.

Mustaq's attempted clearance from Emon Babu's corner fell to Fahad, who easily colley home from inside the box one minute into the six minutes of added time in the first half.

Abahani then took the lead deep into stoppage time as English

SHEIKH JAMAL	3 - 3	ABAHANI
SHEIKH RUSSEL	1 - 0	MOHAMMEDAN

midfielder Lee Tuck scored from a well-placed shot, making amends for squandering his penalty a minute earlier.

After resumption, Abahani seemed like they would move on from their poor performance against Sheikh Russel KC in the previous match, but Fahad put Abahani in a critical situation after he was red-carded with 40 minutes remaining. Referee Azad Rahman did not hesitate in booking Fahad for the second time after the

midfielder became embroiled in an unnecessary argument with Sheikh Jamal midfielder Enamul Haque Sharif and pushed him in an off-the-ball situation.

Despite being reduced to 10 men, Abahani extended their lead to 3-1 as Sunday Chizoba struck his fifth goal in the league. However, the Sky Blues failed to hold onto the lead as a result of sloppy defending.

Availing a header from Emeka Darlington, an unmarked Landing reduced the margin in the 56th minute, before Wedson danced past defender Mamun Mia on the right and equalised by placing a shot from a difficult angle in the 76th minute.

Later in the day, Sheikh Russel KC finally got their win after nine matches with a 1-0 win over Mohammedan SC, thanks to a 51st minute strike from Paul Emile.

Sheikh Russel KC came into the match on the back of a 1-1 against Dhaka Abahani and beat the Black and Whites to leapfrog to 11th position with five points, one point behind Mohammedan, who tasted their third defeat in nine matches.

Godin suffers ankle sprain

AFP, Madrid

Atletico Madrid's Uruguayan international defender Diego Godin has picked up a left ankle sprain during the Spanish club's midweek 1-0 Champions League win over Bayern Munich.

"After a first examination by the club's medical staff, the international (Uruguayan) is suffering from a sprained lateral collateral ligament in his left ankle," the club said in a statement Thursday.

"Additional tests will be conducted in the coming hours," it added without giving details for how long the 30-year-old was expected to be sidelined for.

The Spanish club are already without Uruguayan defender Jose Maria Gimenez, who suffered a thigh injury last weekend, and Godin's absence could prove a defensive headache for coach Diego Simeone.

Atletico halt Bayern's perfect run

REUTERS, Madrid



Bayern Munich's perfect start to the season under coach Carlo Ancelotti came to an end as Jannick Carrasco's first-half goal gave Atletico Madrid a 1-0 home victory in their Champions League Group D game on Wednesday.

Bayern were aiming to make it nine wins in a row in all competitions, but were derailed when Atletico struck in the 35th minute for the only goal of the game.

"Today I liked everything," Atletico coach Diego Simeone told a news conference. "We pressed them well, when we sat back and set up for the counter we did it well. We were intense for the 90 minutes against a very hard side and it is one of the best achievements since I've been here at Atletico."

The result put Atletico top of the group on six points from two games, three clear of Bayern in second. PSV Eindhoven and Rostov, who drew 2-2 in Russia, are level on one point.

Ancelotti was disappointed but remained upbeat.

"Losing is always sad," the Italian said. "You never want to lose. We are at the start of

the season. We still have the chance to top the group and we will need to beat Atletico in the return game to do so."

Atletico, who beat Bayern in the semifinals of last season's competition, seized the initiative when Xabi Alonso gave away the ball in midfield, allowing the Spaniards to counter.

Antoine Griezmann sent Carrasco through on goal and the Belgian winger struck a low, left-footed shot past helpless Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer and in off the post.

RESULTS

- Ludogorets 1 (Natanael 16) **Paris Saint-Germain 3** (Matuidi 41, Cavani 56, 60)
- Arsenal 2 (Walcott 7, 26) Basel 0
- Besiktas 1 (Quaresma 29) Dynamo Kiev 1 (Tsygankov 65)
- Napoli 4** (Hamsik 20, Mertens 51, 58, Milik 54-pen)
- Benfica 2 (Goncalo Guedes 70, Salvia 86)
- Borussia Moenchengladbach 1 (Hazard 34) **Barcelona 2** (Arda Turan 65, Pique 74)
- Celtic 3 (Dembele 3, 47, Sterling 20-og) Manchester City 3 (Fernandinho 12, Sterling 28, Nolito 55)
- Atletico Madrid 1** (Carrasco 35) Bayern Munich 0
- Rostov 2 (Poloz 8, 37) PSV Eindhoven 2 (Propper 14, De Jong 45+2)



Sheikh Jamal striker Wedson Anselme (L) celebrates one of his two goals against Abahani during their JB Bangladesh Premier League fixture at the Sylhet District Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: BFF

'Fewer errors key to success'

AFP, Monchengladbach



Gerard Pique said committing fewer second-half errors was the key to Barcelona's 2-1 come-from-behind victory at Borussia Moenchengladbach on Wednesday as they proved they can win in the Champions League without injured Lionel Messi.

Thorgan Hazard gave Gladbach a shock yet deserved first-half lead at Borussia Park.

But goals in the final 25 minutes, from Arda Turan and Gerard Pique, sealed Barcelona's second Group C win after their 7-0 hammering of Celtic at the Camp Nou a fortnight ago.

"They scored with the only chance they had in the first half, but the game is 90 minutes long and they put in a huge effort," said match-winner Pique.

"They didn't have the same legs in the second half and we made fewer mistakes in midfield.

"By losing possession less and them running less they had fewer counter-attacks and it was more difficult for them."

"Overall, I think we were better and it is a deserved result."

Barca fought back when Neymar shook off his marker to float a pass over the top of the Gladbach defence and Turan won the race to the ball before drilling his shot home on 65 minutes.

The winning goal came just nine minutes later.

Neymar's corner was deflected into the path of Suarez, who was unmarked in the area. He slammed in a powerful shot which was blocked by goalkeeper Yann Sommer, but Pique was

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