

CHANNEL 9 & SONY SIX
Bangladesh Premier League T20
 Barisal Bulls v Chittagong Vikings
 Live from 2:00pm
 Comilla Victorians v Dhaka Dynamites
 Live from 7:00pm

BOISHAKHI TV
Bangladesh Premier League
 Arambagh v Uttar Baridhara
 Live from 3:00pm

STAR SPORTS 2
Australia v South Africa
 Second Test, Day 3
 Live from 5:30am

TEN 1 HD
Zimbabwe v Sri Lanka
 Tri-Nation, First ODI
 Live from 1:30pm

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh Premier League T20
 Barisal Bulls v Chittagong Vikings
 Time: 2:00pm

Comilla Victorians v Dhaka Dynamites
 Time: 7:00pm
 Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium

Bangladesh Premier League
 Arambagh v Uttar Baridhara
 Time: 3:00pm

Venue: Rafiq Uddin Bhuiyan Stadium, Mymensingh

Abahani extend lead with hard-fought win

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani have extended their lead at the top of the JB Bangladesh Premier League table to four points after a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Team BJMC in their 14th fixture at the Rafiquddin Bhuiyan Stadium in Mymensingh yesterday. The four-time defending champions saw a second half lead cancelled out within ten minutes of scoring, but thanks to a late strike from substitute Wahed Ahmed the Sky Blues bagged all three points.

With 32 points, the Dhanmondi giants lead second-placed Chittagong Abahani by four points while the defeat left Team BJMC in eighth position with 14 points.

The first half of the third fixture of the second phase at the Mymensingh venue failed to live up to the standard, but the second half saw more scoring intent from both sides. Abahani took the lead 11 minutes after restart when Sunday Chizoba, the

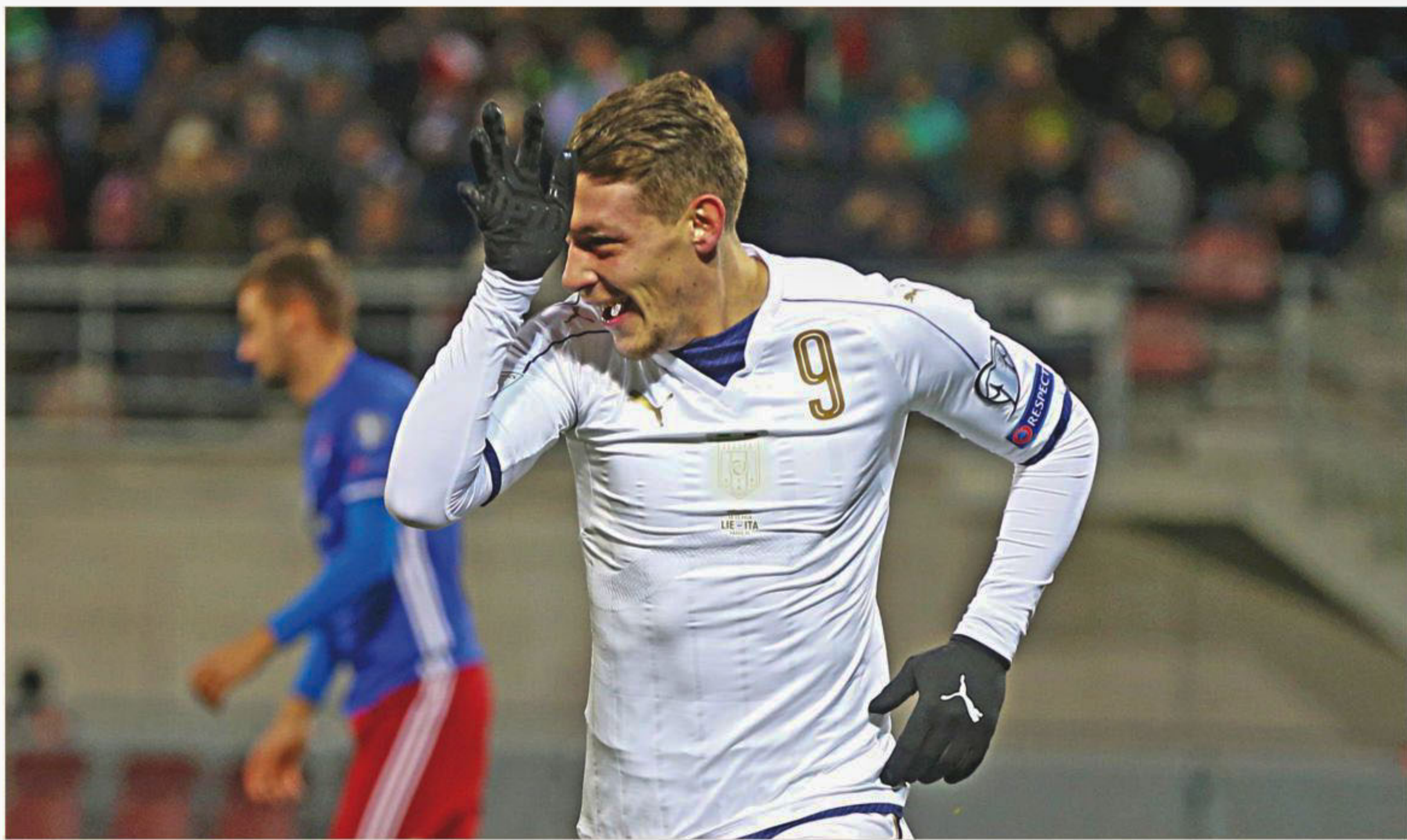
top-scorer of the league, darted into the box from the left side, dodged past a defender and beat BJMC goalkeeper Shohag Hossain with a powerful diagonal shot, scoring his 15th goal of the campaign.

The lead lasted only ten minutes however, as Team BJMC hit back through Samson Ilyasu who earned a penalty when his goalbound shot was handled inside the box by Abahani defender Samad Yousif. Ilyasu stepped up and wrong-footed Abahani goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Sohel from the spot.

It looked as if the third meeting of the season between the two sides would finally earn a point for the mid-table Team BJMC, but substitute forward Wahed's opportunist strike seven minutes from time denied them the point. The former national team striker stood unmarked when Lee tuck's corner was headed in front of goal by Jewel Rana. Topu Barman failed to deposit the ball into the empty net, but Wahed was there to emphatically smash it home as the Sky Blues consolidated their lead.



Abahani forward Sunday Chizoba, the Bangladesh Premier League's top scorer, showed his prowess in front of goal once again as he opened the scoring for the Sky Blues.



Italy forward Andrea Belotti was in fine form Saturday, getting his name on the scoresheet twice as his side routed Liechtenstein at the Rheinpark Stadium in Vaduz.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Italy, Spain cruise to 4-0 wins

Wales denied win by late Mitrovic strike

AFP, Paris



Wales conceded an agonising late equaliser as Serbia battled to a 1-1 draw in a World Cup qualifier on Saturday as former champions Italy and

Spain both won 4-0.

Earlier Saturday, the Republic of Ireland has stunned Austria 1-0 in Vienna and are top of Group D on 10 points, with Serbia second on eight and Wales third on six.

Gareth Bale rocketed Wales into a 30th-minute lead in Cardiff after Hal Robson-Kanu dispossessed Matija Nastasic and fed the ball to the Real Madrid forward, who cracked home a powerful snap shot to make it 1-0.

But Aleksander Mitrovic was fastest to react with four red shirts around him when Antonio Rukavina whipped in an inviting cross to level for the visitors late in the game.

"It was a disappointing result, we feel like we threw away two points. We're at home, 1-0 up after 85 minutes, it's two points lost," Bale admitted after the game.

Just moments before Serbia had levelled, Bale had seen a snapshot come back off the post.

Wales coach Chris Coleman was less disap-

RESULTS

GROUP D		
Wales	1 - 1	Serbia
Bale 30		Mitrovic 86
Austria	0 - 1	Republic of Ireland
		McClellan 48
Georgia	1 - 1	Moldova
Kazaisvili 16		Gatcan 78
GROUP G		
Spain	4 - 0	Macedonia
Velkovski 34-o.g., Vitolo 63, Monreal 84, Aduriz 85		
Liechtenstein	0 - 4	Italy
		Belotti 11, 44, Immobile 12, Candreva 32
Albania	0 - 3	Israel
		Zehavy 18-pen, Einbinder 66, Atar 84
GROUP I		
Croatia	2 - 0	Iceland
Brozovic 15, 90+1		
Turkey	2 - 0	Kosovo
B.Yilmaz 51, Sen 55		
Ukraine	1 - 0	Finland
Kravets 25		

It was the third game in a row the Welsh have gone ahead only to draw.

"We can be proud of ourselves. We are on the right track. Today we can be happy with one point," said Serbia captain Branislav Ivanovic.

The Irish top Group D thanks to a James McClellan strike in Vienna.

Spain and Italy continue to set the pace at the helm in Group G and both have 10 points.

Spain played at Granada where Macedonia's Darko Velkovski scored a 34th minute own goal before Votolo on 63 minutes, Nacho Monreal and veteran striker Aritz Aduriz gave them an easy win.

Taking on minnows Liechtenstein, Italy's Andrea Belotti scored either side of strikes from Ciro Immobile and Antonio Candreva.

Iceland failed to replicate their Euro 2016 heroics in a 2-0 defeat in Croatia in Group I.

Croatia grabbed the lead after 15 minutes through midfielder Marcelo Brozovic, but it was Iceland who took control after that, but failed to make the crucial breakthrough.

And the home side punished them in injury time, Brozovic again doing the damage against the run of play.

Croatia, now top of the group with 10 points from four games, finished the match with 10 men after Ivan Perisic was sent off at the death.

Bolt set to train with Dortmund

AGENCIES, Berlin

Usain Bolt is seriously considering taking up a career as a professional footballer when he bows out of athletics, and is set to spend some time training with German giants Borussia Dortmund.

Nine-time Olympic gold medallist Bolt will bring the curtains down on a phenomenal career in athletics after the 2017 World Athletics Championships in London.

The 30-year-old is a huge Manchester United fan and in the past has claimed to have discussed the idea of a trial with the club with Sir Alex Ferguson, having visited the club's Carrington training ground after his triple success at London 2012.

While he has often flirted with the idea of taking up football, the 30-year-old has now told the Guardian he has "been genuinely talking to people" in the game about making it happen.

In the interview, Bolt also says he has been in touch with Dortmund and has plans in place to travel to Germany and train with Thomas Tuchel's side and "see what happens".

The Jamaican superstar still harbours hope of one day playing for the team he supports, however. He added: "For me, if I could get to play for Manchester United, that would be like a dream come true. Yes, that would be epic."

Southgate not afraid of taking England job

AFP, London



Gareth Southgate has declared he would not be afraid to take on the England manager's job on a permanent basis when his four-game stint as interim head coach ends.

Southgate was installed following Sam Allardyce's abrupt departure in September and Friday's 3-0 win over Scotland in World Cup qualifying left him with two wins and one draw from his first three games.

The England job is one of the most high-profile roles in world football, obliging incumbents to deal with sky-high expectations, a huge degree of personal scrutiny and an impatient press pack.

But when asked if there was any part of him that feared the job, Southgate replied: "No, is the answer."

"I said earlier in the week that it would be easy to look at the negatives, but to work with top players and to work in big matches is what I want to do. From that side, no."

Renowned for his mild-mannered nature, Southgate produced a rare display of emotion after Adam Lallana's second goal against Scotland, dropping to one knee on the touchline and punching the air.

"I enjoy winning," the 46-year-old told reporters after the game at Wembley.

"Obviously the person that I am when I'm in this sort of situation (talking to the media) or outside and meeting people is different to the animal that wants to win football matches."

"I think the players get that now and that's important because I think sometimes there's perhaps a misconception about how much it means for me to win. So it's a special night to be involved in."



out from the back gave their supporters several hair-raising moments, with John Stones guilty of playing his team into trouble on more than one occasion.

But although Southgate emphasised the need for "bravery, but not stupidity", he defended Stones and said the Manchester City centre-back will need patience if he is to fulfil his vast potential.

"For years we've talked about not being able to play out from the back," said Southgate, whose side entertain Spain in a friendly on Tuesday.

"If we're to be different, if we're to progress, then we have to encourage players. But he also knows what I think of some of the things he did! What we've got to remember is he's 22. In central defensive terms, it's nothing. If we want to have a [Mats] Hummels, a [Jerome] Boateng, a [Gerard] Pique..."

"I can remember managing a team against Pique at 22 when he played for Manchester United and he wasn't the all-round real deal."

"I think he's got the perfect manager to work with (Pep Guardiola) and to hone (his game) and for all of our defenders, that's what we want to encourage."

Chawrasia bags Manila title

SPORTS REPORTER

SSP Chawrasia of India won his first Asian Tour title away from home after prevailing at the second play-off hole to win the one-million-dollar Resorts World Manila Masters tournament yesterday.

The 38-year-old Indian, who has three previous Asian Tour titles to his name, came out on top in the play-off after he, along with Nicholas Fung of Malaysia and Sam Chien of USA, tied for 19-under-par (269) by the end of the 18 holes in the fourth round.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh's Siddikur Rahman finished at tied for 29th place after a five-under-par (67) in the final round at the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club for an aggregate of 12-under-par (276). The two-time Asian Tour winner exchanged six birdies for a single bogey on the final day to cap off four days of decent work with scores of 68, 71, 70 and 67.

Di Maria's wife blasts critics

AGENCIES, Madrid

The wife of Argentine Angel Di Maria blasted the her husband's detractors in the wake of their 3-0 loss to Brazil in a World Cup qualifier.

In a post on her Instagram profile, Di Maria's wife, Jorgelina Cardoso, wrote: "If you don't like it, you don't have to follow them [the Argentina national team]," she declared, adding: "If you don't like it go and watch the Discovery Channel!"

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