

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

SONY SIX

Bangladesh Premier League T20 Final

Dynamites v Kings

Live from 5:45pm

La Liga

Malaga v Granada

Live from 1:30am (Saturday)

STAR SPORTS 1

England v India

4th Test, Day 2

Live from 10:00am

STAR SPORTS 2

New Zealand v Australia

3rd ODI

Live from 9:30am

STAR SPORTS SELECT HD 2

Bundesliga

Frankfurt v Hoffenheim

Live from 1:30am (Saturday)

Bangladesh Premier League T20 Final

Dhaka Dynamites v Rajshahi Kings

Time: 5:45pm

Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium

RONALDO'S STICKY BUSINESS

As well as all the potentially very serious things Football Leaks has reported, Cristiano Ronaldo has been said to have raked in an astonishing £139,000 from Panini stickers last year. But rather than make the money from trading in classic 'Got! Got! Need!' fashion, Ronaldo reportedly did so by signing a thousand stickers. According to Football Leaks, Barcelona's Neymar was also at the sticker game. However, the Barcelona forward's Panini rate was reportedly comfortably cheaper: the Brazilian apparently received around £40,000 for signing 600 stickers in 2013. As reported by Marca, Panini America apparently promised Neymar the money for signing cards at £66 per sticker, while Ronaldo was snapped up on a deal of signing a thousand stickers and four editions for collectors. El Confidencial added in their report that others stars including Xavi and Michael Laudrup also received money from the company in similar deals.

—AGENCIES



CRISTIANO RONALDO

IN BRIEF

MARCEL C'SHIP LEAGUE

Ctg Mohammedan get first win

Chittagong Mohammedan tasted their first victory in the Marcel Bangladesh Championship League with a 2-0 win over Agrani Bank at Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

After a barren first half, Farhad broke the deadlock in the 70th minute by converting from the spot before Sujan wrapped up the victory five minutes later. The win helped Ctg Mohammedan climb to seventh position with seven points from eight matches, while Agrani Bank remained third with 11 points from eight matches.

JFA U-14 WOMEN'S N'ATL C'SHIP

M'singh, Rangpur in semifinals

Mymensingh and Rangpur moved into the semifinals of the JFA U-14 Women's National Championship after notching up their second successive win in the final round at Birshrestha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Mymensingh thrashed Narail 7-0 as Sajeda slotted four goals, while Sabina and Rozina scored two and one goal respectively.

In the day's other match, Rangpur blanked Narayanganj 3-0. Rekha Akter struck a brace while Hima netted other.

Police shooting

The annual Bangladesh Police shooting competition ended yesterday at the Army Shooting Range in Gulshan with a total of nine events take placing in the three-day meet.

Additional inspector general (Special Branch) Dr Mohammad Javed Patuary distributed the prizes. Sarwar Hossain and ASI Sumi Akter were adjudged the shooters of the tournament in the men's and women's categories respectively, said a press release.

- SPORTS REPORTER



Borussia Dortmund players celebrate their second goal against Real Madrid during their Champions League encounter at the Bernabeu on Wednesday.

Dortmund deny Real top spot

Porto, Sevilla make last 16

AFP, Paris



Borussia Dortmund set a new Champions League scoring record in a 2-2 draw against Real Madrid on Wednesday while FC Porto and Sevilla claimed the two remaining last-16 spots.

Dortmund made sure of top spot in Group F after fighting back from 2-0 down against defending champions Madrid, leaving the Spanish giants with theoretically a tougher draw to make the quarterfinals.

Marco Reus was the star of the late show at the Santiago Bernabeu, hitting the equaliser two minutes from time.

A double from Karim Benzema looked to have Real well set to leapfrog the Germans and secure a home game in the second leg of their last-16 tie.

However, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang reduced the arrears before substitute Reus slid in to turn Aubameyang's dangerous low cross high into the net.

Dortmund scored 21 goals in their group campaign, the most for any team in a group stage in the history of the tournament.

Sevilla made the last 16 for the first time in seven years after soaking up the pressure to draw 0-0 away to Lyon.

Lyon -- who lost 1-0 in Seville in September and trailed the Spaniards by three points -- needed to win by two clear goals to go through.

But they could not find a way through, with Corentin Tolisso and Mathieu Valbuena both hitting the woodwork.

"I am satisfied because we have put in enormous efforts to qualify against very important opponents," said Sevilla coach Jorge Sampaoli.

RESULTS

Bayer Leverkusen (Yurchenko 30, Brandt 48, De Sanctis 82-og)	3 - 0 Monaco
Tottenham Hotspur (Alli 38, Kane 45+1, Akinfeev 79-og)	3 - 1 CSKA Moscow (Dzagoev 33)
Legia Warsaw (Guilherme 30)	1 - 0 Sporting Lisbon
Real Madrid (Benzema 28, 53)	2 - 2 Borussia Dortmund (Aubameyang 61, Reus 88)
Club Brugge	0 - 2 FC Copenhagen (Mechele 8-og, M. Jorgensen 15)
FC Porto (Andre Silva 6, 62-pen, Corona 26, Brahimi 44, Diogo 77)	5 - 0 Leicester City
Juventus (Higuain 52, Rugani 73)	2 - 0 Dinamo Zagreb
Lyon	0 - 0 Sevilla

Table-topping Juventus defeated Dinamo Zagreb 2-0 with Gonzalo Higuain and Daniele Rugani on target. The Croatians finished their campaign having failed to score a single goal.

Leicester City, who had already made sure of top spot in Group G in their debut season in the competition, suffered their first loss of the campaign, 5-0 at Porto who went through as runners-up.

Porto, the 1987 and 2004 European champions, opened the scoring after just six minutes when Andre Silva headed in a corner from Jesus Corona.

Corona hit a spectacular second goal with a left-footed volley from a cross by Yacine Brahimi after being left unmarked in the area. Brahimi made it 3-0 with a cheeky backheel before the interval.

Silva added a fourth from the penalty spot on 64 minutes after Danny Drinkwater had hauled

down the striker in the penalty area with Diogo Jota making it 5-0, the biggest Champions League defeat for an English club.

"We can lose, but I want us to show our character and our strength. We didn't do that well enough tonight," said Leicester coach Claudio Ranieri.

FC Copenhagen had harboured hopes of pipping Porto for second place but despite a 2-0 win at pointless Club Brugge, they had to settle for a Europa League place.

In Group E, Bayer Leverkusen, already assured of second spot, downed Monaco 3-0 but the win wasn't enough to overhaul the table-topping French side.

Tottenham Hotspur, meanwhile, came back from a goal down to defeat CSKA Moscow 3-1 and claim a Europa League place.

Alan Dzagoev put the Russians ahead after 33 minutes, but the lead lasted just five minutes until Dele Alli levelled from a Christian Eriksen cross to ensure that CSKA goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev's miserable Champions League record of failing to keep a clean sheet stretched to 39 games.

Harry Kane and an Akinfeev own-goal gave Spurs the three points.

QUALIFIED TEAMS

Group winners:
Arsenal, Napoli, Barcelona, Atletico Madrid, Monaco, Borussia Dortmund, Leicester City, Juventus

Runners-up:
Paris Saint-Germain, Benfica, Manchester City, Bayern Munich, Bayer Leverkusen, Real Madrid, FC Porto, Sevilla

Round of 16 draw will take place on December 12.

Boys to leave with big dreams

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Under-14 football team will leave for Malaysia on Saturday to take part in the Super Mokh Cup with the hopes of qualifying for the Cup stage after finishing as champions and runners-up in the Plate stage for the past two years.

After completing the round robin fixtures, the top two teams from each of the five groups will advance to the Cup stage, while the bottom two will play the Plate stage of the tournament which features 20 clubs and national teams from 13 countries including Portugal, Japan, Brazil, France and South Korea.

Bangladesh begin their campaign on December 12 against hosts Malaysia Cougars. The other teams in their group, Group C, are Myanmar and Japan's Kawasaki Frontale.

The boys in red and green have practised for nearly two weeks now after being picked through trials in which players from Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishthan and a few private football academies took part.

"Though we have been participating in the Super Mokh Cup for the past two years, we failed to take proper preparation this time as well. But we want to put emphasis on youth development and this is the first step of the initiative," said BFF development committee chairman Badal Roy. "Though it is a football festival, there is huge competition among the participating teams and we hope the team will do better this time around."

Echoing his previous pledge, BFF president Kazi Salahuddin once again promised to arrange year-round training for the boys.

"It is a trial for you boys [who were present at the press conference]. We will run a residential training camp in the future and we will pick the players who will impress in the tournament," stated Salahuddin.

Nurunnabi passes away

SPORTS REPORTER

Major General (Rtd) Khandakar Nurunnabi, a member of the Swadin Bangla Football Team, national sports awardee and organiser, died of cardiac arrest at the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka yesterday at the age of 71.

He is survived by his wife, son, daughter and a host of well-wishers. The date for his Namaz-e-Janaza is set to be announced after his daughter returns from Canada.

Nurunnabi participated in one match out of the sixteen that Swadhin Bangla Football team played during the Liberation War. He played the first match against Nadia District Eleven in Krishna Nagar, West Bengal on July 24, 1971. After the match, Nurunnabi joined the war.

Nurunnabi was the only Bangladeshi goalkeeper to represent the all Pakistan national team since 1970. He also took part in the RCD Tournament in Iran and played against teams like Iran and Turkey.

He also played for local giants Mohammedan and Azad SC. After representing Azad SC for two years, from 1963 to 1964, the goalkeeper joined Mohammedan with a group of prominent footballers like Zakaria Pintoo, Protap Sanker Hazra, Kaykobad and Golam Sarwar Tipu.

He played for Mohammedan for six years during which time he won three titles of the then Premier Football League, while also winning the Aga Khan Gold Cup once.



Asia backs 48-team WC

AFP, Singapore



FIFA chief Gianni Infantino on Thursday said Asian countries backed his plan to expand the World Cup to 48 teams -- and added that up to three countries should be allowed to co-host the tournament.

Infantino, speaking after a three-day FIFA summit in Singapore, said Asian football associations "unanimously" supported a larger World Cup, with a "big majority" favouring 48 teams.

Infantino's proposal for a 48-team World Cup in 2026, featuring 16 groups of three, will be submitted to the FIFA Council next month. A 40-team World Cup is also on the table.

"They are very supportive on expanding it. Everyone, unanimously," Infantino told reporters.

"All of them were in favour of an increase and a big, big, big majority were in favour of the 48 teams with the 16 groups of three," he added.

The FIFA Council will vote in Zurich on January 9-10 whether to maintain the current World Cup format of 32 teams, or extend it to 40 or 48.

Under the 16-group format, every qualified team would play at least two games and the top two in each group would then go through to the last 32.

"I like 40 (and) I like 48 with the play-offs because it brings excitement before the group stage," Infantino said.

"But the 16 groups of three means that every game is important. There is no dead rubber. Every game is meaningful, is important."

Asia currently has four designated World

Cup berths, with a fifth available via a play-off. The Asian confederation is the world's second biggest with 46 full members.

Infantino also said he supported allowing up to three countries to co-host the World Cup, instead of expecting one bidder to provide a dozen stadiums.

Japan and South Korea co-hosted the tournament in 2002 but a World Cup spread across three countries would be unprecedented.

"If a country does need to have 12 stadiums of more than 50,000 spectators but only (has) four, then why shouldn't we allow three countries to join forces, each country four stadiums and have 12 stadiums?" Infantino said.

"That would then fit more in football development strategy... and more countries could participate in the dream of hosting at least one part of the World Cup, so I'm very open to it."

He added that club football would not be affected by an expanded World Cup, and stressed that countries around the globe would reap the benefits of being able to participate.

"There's no downside for the clubs because the calendar is not impacted," he said.

"But there's an upside for football because it allows eight or 16 more teams and more countries and more regions in the world to participate in the competition, which is the World Cup."

Infantino also described his trip to Chapeco in Brazil as "very, very emotional" after he attended a massive funeral for the city's football team, which was all but wiped out in a plane crash.

Shuttlers shut down

SPORTS REPORTER

All Bangladeshi shuttlers were eliminated from the quarterfinals of men's, women's and mixed doubles events on the third day of the Yonex-Sunrise Bangladesh International Challenge at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium in Paltan yesterday.

Poor preparation on the host's behalf is to blame for their elimination from the men's and women's singles categories and so there was hardly any hope of the shuttlers reaching the semifinals of the men's, women's and mixed doubles events, thereby ending the campaign on a frustrating note with all eight pairs being eliminated.

Only the pair of Shapla Akter and Elina Sultana pair provided some challenge to their Indian counterparts in women's doubles before going down 19-21 and 14-21 while the others suffered miserably to their respective rivals.

Jennings scores ton as England make 288-5

AFP, Mumbai



South African-born batsman Keaton Jennings scored a stunning century on his debut as England made a solid start to their must-win fourth Test against India in Mumbai

on Thursday.

The left-hander -- who switched allegiance to England to boost his international career prospects -- made 112 as the visitors ended the day on 288-5 at the Wankhede Stadium.

Jennings, 24, was almost caught on zero runs and took until the 12th ball to get off the mark, but when he did there was no stopping the tall opener.

He grew increasingly confident in the middle as the day progressed with an array of exemplary shot-making, including a trio of audacious reverse sweeps that went for fours.

It was one of those sweeps that brought up his ton mid-way through the afternoon session, with Jennings punching the air in delight as he celebrated a debut to remember.

Jennings, who was only called up to the squad after Haseeb Hameed was injured in the third Test, put on a partnership of 99 with fellow opener and captain Alastair Cook.

Cook was stumped on 46 by wicketkeeper Parthiv Patel after swinging at a Ravindra Jadeja delivery but Jennings held his nerve and plotted his way to 65 by lunch.

He outlasted Joe Root who could only

make 21 before he was caught at slip by Indian captain Virat Kohli off a spinning Ravichandran Ashwin delivery.

Moeen Ali steadied the ship, helping guide Jennings to his ton and scoring a half century of his own before foolishly getting caught out.

He hopelessly scooped up an Ashwin delivery that landed comfortably in the hands of Karun Nair to put England at 230-3.

Jennings, who hit 13 fours during his 219-ball knock, walked soon afterwards when Cheteshwar Pujara caught a little flick off the bat for Ashwin's third wicket of the day.

SCORES IN BRIEF:

ENGLAND: First innings 288 for 5 (Cook 46, Jennings 112, Ali 50; Ashwin 4-75)

INDIA: Kohli (capt), Vijay, Nair, Pujara, Rahul, Patel, Ashwin, Yadav, Jadeja, Kumar, Yadav.



KEATON JENNINGS...112

UEFA mulls action after incidents

AFP, Paris

UEFA said Thursday it will censure Dynamo Kiev and Besiktas for incidents which marred the final round of Champions League group action Wednesday.

European football's governing body said it had opened disciplinary proceedings after the match in the Ukrainian capital which the already eliminated hosts won 6-0 to send the Turks crashing out.

Dynamo face charges relating to crowd disturbances including the setting off of fireworks - and further censure for blocked stairways and insufficient segregation while Besiktas also face censure regarding fan behaviour and use of firecrackers.

UEFA's Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body will deal with the case on February 2 after the incidents at the Olympic Stadium where the visitors had two men sent off.

Besiktas move across to the Europa League after placing third in Group B.