

STAR SPORTS 2

Australia v Pakistan

Third Test, Day-5

Live from 5:30am

SONY SIX

Primera Liga

Real Madrid v Granada

Live from 6:00pm

Celta Vigo v Malaga

Live from 11:30pm

Real Sociedad v Sevilla

Live from 1:45am (Sunday)

SONY ESPN

Serie A

Napoli v Sampdoria

Live from 1:45am (Sunday)

AUBAMEYANG FORCED TO DRESS DOWN

Lost luggage left Borussia Dortmund striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang under-dressed at African football's glitzy annual award ceremony, organisers said on Friday. Aubameyang jetted in to the Nigerian capital, Abuja, as the reigning Confederation of African Football (CAF) footballer of the year. But while his peers and dignitaries were dressed formally, the 27-year-old Gabon forward was forced to attend the ceremony in casual clothing, including a T-shirt and baseball cap. "Aubameyang only arrived at the Hilton Hotel in Abuja an hour before the event without his bags, as they were missing in transit. That was why he dressed that way," said CAF spokesman Junior Biyam. The Gabon skipper just took to social media to explain why he did not dress up for the occasion. "That moment when you yourself arrive for the ceremony of African player of the year and they lost our baggage!! so that's how we dress tonight. Thanks Lufthansa," he wrote on Instagram.



Choton wants more international matches

SPORTS REPORTER

National women's team coach Golam Rabbani Choton believes his charges have overcome the fear of playing against mighty opponents after a first-time runners-up finish in the SAFF Women's Championship recently.

Bangladesh played bravely throughout the tournament and held eventual champions India to a goalless draw in the group stages before finally losing against them in the final. They outplayed foreign-player studded Afghanistan 6-0 in the group stages and outclassed Maldives by identical margin in the semifinal.

"We have been getting success more or less at junior level, but we still can't do it at the senior level. However, becoming runners-up in the SAFF Women's Championship is one kind of success as our squad had 15 players from the under-16 squad," Choton said yesterday after returning home late on Thursday night.

"Having watched the matches of India and Afghanistan, we switched our playing style from the one we adopted during the AFC U-16 Championship Qualifiers. The girls carried out my game plan in the new style properly," Choton evaluated. "I think the girls have got rid of the fear of playing against mighty opponents."

Choton believes that his charges have improved tactically, physically and technically. He felt the relative inexperience,

pressure of playing the final and in front of a partisan crowd were the factors behind the final collapse. Throughout the tournament, Choton's playing eleven featured three senior players alongside eight players from the under-16 players, who were the key pillars of his side.

"Players like Krishna Rani, Sirat Jahan Swapna, Misrat Jahan Mousumi, Maria Manda, Masura Parvin, Sheuli Azim, Shamsunnhar and Nargis Akter -- who are from the under-16 team, played tremendously well throughout the tournament," the successful women's coach said. "They delivered what I had asked from them."

Choton however feels the team can improve further. "Except for Bhutan, the other teams came to the tournament with good preparation and having played practice matches while we went without having played any practice match. We did pretty well despite that, however, if we want to see further improvement, we must play a lot of international matches," opined Choton.

The coach informed that the under-16 team's training camp will resume within a few days as the players have been given rest till Sunday.

"Teams like Japan, Australia and Korea cannot be compared with teams like India, Maldives and Afghanistan, but I can assure you that our girls will not play bad football in the AFC U-16 Championship in Thailand as they have been improving gradually and we still have eight months in hand," said Choton.



Mahrez voted Africa's best

AFP, Abuja



Algeria forward Riyad Mahrez was Thursday voted African Footballer of the Year after he inspired Leicester City to the English Premier League title last season.

Mahrez, 25, beat Gabon skipper Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, who scooped the prestigious accolade last year, into second place, with Senegal star Sadio Mane, who features for Liverpool, taking third place.

The France-born forward said it was an honour to be named the best African player for the past year.

"It's a huge honour, I am happy and pleased. I thank all my teammates at Leicester and Algeria," Mahrez said as he received the award.

Leicester caused a major shock when as 5,000-1 outsiders they went on to win the Premier League last season.

Mahrez, a slightly-built, right-sided forward who started out with hometown club AAS Sarcelles in 2004, played a key role in the Foxes' stunning run with 17 goals, 10 assists in 37 appearances.

Kohli made ODI, T20I captain

AFP, New Delhi



Virat Kohli was appointed India's limited overs skipper on Friday after the resignation of Mahendra Singh Dhoni, as selectors announced the squads for their upcoming series against England.

The swashbuckling batsman, who has presided over an 18-match unbeaten run as Test captain, will lead India in three one-day internationals starting from January 15 before the sides play three Twenty20 matches.

Dhoni, who led India to victory in the 2011 World Cup as well as the 2007 World Twenty20, kept his place in both 15-men squads, the Indian board's chief selector MSK Prasad announced in a televised press conference.

With India missing several key players, including middle-order batsman Rohit Sharma, the selectors also announced the surprise recall of the big-hitting veteran Yuvraj Singh. "Virat was with us on Skype" for the selection meeting in Mumbai, Prasad told reporters.

"After discussing with him, this is the best possible team we have. It's a fantastic team."

The new 28-year-old skipper, whose nickname is 'King Kohli', is the world's number one-ranked batsman in T20 cricket and is also second in the rankings for the 50

over and five-day formats.

Since taking over from Dhoni as Test skipper in early 2015, Kohli has been in scintillating form, leading India to five successive series victories and scoring three double centuries in the last six months.

He was also the outstanding player in both last year's World T20 tournament and the Indian Premier League (IPL) when he smashed the previous record for run-scoring.

His appointment means that Kohli is likely to captain India in the next 50 over World Cup finals which are due to be hosted by England in 2019.

Since making his debut in 2008, Kohli has scored 7,570 runs in 176 ODIs, including 26 hundreds and 38 half-centuries, at an average of 52.94. He also averages over 57 in T20 internationals.

Kohli has made clear his high regard for Dhoni who was his captain when he was part of the Indian team which won the 2011 World Cup on home soil.

Writing on Twitter shortly before Friday's announcement, Kohli said: "Thanks for always being the leader a youngster wants to have around him. You'll always be my captain @msdhoni Bhai."

Kohli's first major assignment will be to lead India's defence of the Champions Trophy which begin in England in June.

Bilbao stun Barca

AFP, Madrid

Athletic Bilbao held out with nine men to secure a first win over Barcelona in four years and carry a 2-1 lead into the second leg of their Copa del Rey last 16 tie on January 11.

Two goals in three first-half minutes from Aritz Aduriz and Inaki Williams put the hosts in command.

Lionel Messi's fine free-kick halved Barca's arrears after the break.

And the five-time World Player of the Year was inches away from a precious second away goal when he hit the post with the final kick of the game after Raul Garcia and Ander Iturraspe had been sent-off.

"We struggled at the start," admitted Barca boss Luis Enrique.

"They used two counter-attacks to put together two good moves and get ahead.

"In the second-half we concentrated more on what we could control, our play, and I think we did enough to deserve more, even taking into account Athletic's numerical disadvantage."

Enrique started all three of his star strike force of Messi, Luis Suarez and Neymar despite handing them an extended winter break which meant they only returned to training on Monday after two weeks off.

This is the sixth time Barca and Athletic have been paired together in the Cup in nine seasons, including three finals.



Students of Autism Welfare Foundation participate in their annual sports event held at the Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex in Dhanmondi yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Mikel heads to China

AFP, London

Nigeria captain John Obi Mikel announced on Friday he is leaving English Premier League leaders Chelsea to join Chinese side Tianjin TEDA.

He is the latest star to head to the Chinese Super League, after the high-profile signings of Chelsea team-mate Oscar by Shanghai SIPG and Carlos Tevez by Shanghai Shenhua in recent weeks.

Midfielder Mikel has not featured at all for Chelsea under manager Antonio Conte, who took over in July.

"After 10 years, 374 appearances and 11 trophies, it is time for me to say goodbye," Mikel said in a letter posted on his Twitter account.

"I haven't featured as much this season as I would have liked, and at 29 I still have many years in the game ahead of me."

"With this in mind, I feel now is the time to seek a new challenge."

"I'm delighted to be joining Tianjin TEDA FC in China, at a time that the Chinese Super League is really taking off."

"I look forward to helping Tianjin TEDA FC continue to grow both on and off the pitch in the next few years."

Murray to take on Djokovic

AFP, Doha

World number one Andy Murray and world number two Novak Djokovic on Friday won through to the Qatar Open final, setting up a hugely anticipated early season clash between the two best players in the world.

Djokovic only got through after saving five match points against world number 42 Fernando Verdasco, to win a thrilling match 4-6, 7-6 (9/7), 6-3.

But through a combination of typical Djokovic grit and Verdasco errors he saved four match points at 6-2 down in the tiebreak and another when 7-6 behind.

Murray swept aside Tomas Berdych in far more straightforward fashion 6-3, 6-3 to secure a 28th consecutive victory, a record which stretches back to September last year.

Australia need 9 wkts

AFP, Sydney



Australia were nine wickets away from a series clean sweep and Pakistan an improbable 410 runs from victory with one day left in the third Test in Sydney on Friday.

Spinner Nathan Lyon grabbed the wicket of debutant opener Sharjeel Khan for 40, caught at mid-wicket, nearing stumps to have Pakistan at 55 for one.

At the close, Pakistan's leading series scorer Azhar Ali was not out 11 with night-watchman Yasir Shah on three.

Skipper Steve Smith called a halt to Australia's second innings at 241 for two with 16 overs left on the fourth day and the tourists facing the herculean task of scoring 465 for victory.

Usman Khawaja was left unbeaten on 79 off 98 balls and Peter Handscomb was on 40 off 25 balls. Handscomb finished with a series average of 114.66.

David Warner smashed the second fastest

50 in Test history to give Australia a flying start in their chase for runs and a declaration.

The explosive Warner smashed leg-spinner Yasir for six, six, four, four in the fourth over of the innings, and then clouted Imran Khan for four consecutive boundaries in the seventh over.

His breathless half-century came off 23 balls with seven fours and three sixes and was the second fastest in Test history after Pakistan skipper Misbah-ul-Haq's 21 balls against Australia in Abu Dhabi in 2014.

But Warner perished when he missed in a lusty swing and was bowled by Wahab Riaz for 55 off 27 balls.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: First innings 538 for 8 decl.

PAKISTAN: First innings 315 (Azhar 71, Younis 175 not out, Misbah 18, Sarfraz 18; Hazlewood 4-55, Lyon 3-115)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings 241 for 2 decl (Warner 55, Khawaja 79 not out, Smith 59, Handscomb 40 not out)

PAKISTAN: Second innings 55 for 1 (Sarfraz 40)

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Bangladesh is seeking applications from Bangladeshi Nationals to fill the following positions:

Vacancy No.	Post Title	Category	Duty Station	No of Positions
Job ID 17-01	Advocacy Officer-Parliament	Service Contract (SB4 Level)	Parliament	1 (One)

How to Apply: For Details of the Job Description and instructions to apply, Please visit our website: <http://www.unfpabgd.org>. Only short-listed candidates will be called for written test/interview. **Any attempt to unduly influence UNFPA's selection process will lead to automatic disqualification of the applicant.** Application should be received no later than **17:00, Saturday, 14 January, 2017.**

Only Applications Submitted Through UNFPA Bangladesh Job Portal Will Be Considered For Further Evaluation

"There is no application, processing or other fee at any stage of the application process"
"UNFPA does not solicit or screen for information in respect of HIV or AIDS and does not discriminate on the basis of HIV/AIDS status"

Fakirerpool back in top-flight football

SPORTS REPORTER

Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club returned to top-flight football after ensuring their top-two finish in the Bangladesh Championship League yesterday.

The former premier league outfit, who never participated in the top-tier football since the introduction of professional football league nine years ago, returned to the top of the table of the championship league after a 2-1 victory over Kawran Bazar Progoti Sangha at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Mohiuddin gave Kawran Bazar the lead in the 23rd minute, but Mahbubur Titu's 40th minute strike restored parity while Jewel's 89th

minute goal ensured Fakirerpool all three points.

The win took Fakirerpool's tally to 24 points from 13 matches, one ahead of newcomers Saif Sporting Club and three clear of third-placed Agrani Bank SC. With one match left to play, Fakirerpool are certain to finish in top two regardless of the result in their final fixture.

Meanwhile, Chittagong Mohammedan were facing relegation after they lost their penultimate fixture against fellow-strugglers Victoria Sporting Club 4-0. Mohammedan are at the bottom with 10 points while Victoria moved up to 13 points, both from 13 matches each.

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SPFTL is an IT Joint Venture between Sonali Bank, the largest Bank of Bangladesh and Intellect Design Arena Ltd, a Banking Technology company with its Global Headquarters in Chennai, India. Intellect is the majority shareholder of SPFTL with 51% equity. SPFTL has established its office and Development Center in Banani, Dhaka and has been operational since over 5 years.

SPFTL is currently engaged in rolling out Core Banking Solution for Sonali Bank and Rupali Bank in Bangladesh. SPFTL is a full fledged Software Company with developmental, product engineering and support resources largely.

Currently we are looking for the position of CEO who will be responsible to grow SPFTL further. Apart from the growth agenda, the CEO is also expected to lead Complexity Reduction in Banks and Financial Institutions in Bangladesh via SPFTL technology, leadership, delivery excellence and process innovations.

Also the CEO is required to motivate the JV in Bangladesh towards Financial Technology Leadership and must demonstrate an intimate understanding of Business and industry practices and Business acumen.

An Engineer/MBA with good English Communication skills over 20 years of experience with either previous experience as the CEO of an enterprise or senior leadership experience in a Bank or Financial Services or Information Technology company, involving the P&L responsibility, will be just right for the role. The experience of setting-up of new business/ division / implementing large mission critical solutions would be an added advantage.

This position reports to the Board and to the designated leadership at Intellect.

The compensation package would be at par with best in the industry and would comprise of Base Compensation, Variable Pay linked to Company Performance and Company Car.

Applications are to be made in strict confidence to tarique.afzal@spftl.com within 15 days from the advertisement. Those who have applied before, do not need to apply again.