

DAY'S EVENT

BANGLADESH CRICKET LEAGUE
(Four-Day Match, Day-3)
Time: 9:30am

Walton Central Zone v BCB North Zone
Venue: Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury
Stadium, Chittagong

Islami Bank East Zone v Prime Bank
South Zone
Venue: Sylhet Int'l Cricket Stadium



Manchester City forward Gabriel Jesus produced the goods once again, scoring just 10 minutes into their Premier League match against Swansea City before adding the winner at the end of regulation time at the Etihad Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Jesus double lifts City

AFP, Manchester



Gabriel Jesus scored two goals including an injury-time winner as Pep Guardiola's Manchester City recorded a dramatic 2-1 victory over struggling Swansea City at the Etihad Stadium on Sunday.

The home side looked in complete control during a dominant first-half showing only to surrender an 81st-minute equaliser to Gylfi Sigurdsson.

The Iceland international capitalised on some poor defending, collecting Luciano Narsingh's pass, switching the ball to his left foot and scoring with a brilliant low drive from just outside the area.

But deep in injury time David Silva's right-wing cross found Jesus and after his initial header had been saved by Lukasz Fabianski, the 19-year-old Brazilian tapped the rebound into an open goal.

Jesus, a January arrival from Palmeiras, had required just 11 minutes of his full home debut to score the first of what City supporters hope will be many goals for them.

The goal was created by the excellence of Silva, who beat defender Federico Fernandez along the byline before pulling the ball back towards Raheem Sterling.

Martin Olsson managed to block the

England forward on the six-yard line, but Jesus reacted like lightning, pouncing on the loose ball and making no mistake with a close-range volley.

City's first-half dominance was complete and Willy Caballero, continuing to deputise for the dropped Claudio Bravo in the home goal, had not one moment of concern.

Shortly after the goal, Yaya Toure almost doubled the lead from a 25-yard free-kick that was heading into the top left-hand corner until Fabianski made a superb diving save.

A long Silva pass played Sterling in on goal just before the interval, although the City forward fell while rounding Fabianski and was harshly booked for simulation for his trouble.

However, City's supporters would have been forgiven for wondering if their failure to score more than one goal would come back to haunt them as Swansea made an improved start to the second half.

Sigurdsson threatened to equalise in the 49th minute with a magnificently struck free-kick that was kept out by a combination of the leaping Caballero's right glove and his right-hand post.

Leroy Sane sped down in response and delivered a low cross which Fabianski's post.

But the longer City went without adding a second goal, the more the anxiety grew at the Etihad, especially when Mawson headed just wide from Sigurdsson's corner.

Sevilla stumble

AFP, Madrid

Samir Nasri missed a second-half penalty as Sevilla squandered the chance to close to within a point of La Liga leaders Real Madrid with a 0-0 draw home to Villarreal on Sunday.

The Frenchman's low spot-kick was well saved by Sergio Asenjo, who then made a spectacular stop from Vicente Iborra's late header as La Liga's best defence held out for a point at the Sanchez Pizjuan stadium.

Sevilla trail Madrid by three points, but the European champions have two games in hand.

Real were due to be in action later on Sunday, but their clash at Celta Vigo was postponed after bad weather damaged Celta's stadium.

A point moves Villarreal above Real Sociedad on goal difference into fifth, four points off Atletico Madrid in the final Champions League spot.

Sevilla remain third, four points ahead of Atletico, but trail second-placed Barcelona by two points.

Mamic coming for Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER



Croatian coach Drago Mamic is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka tomorrow to take charge of Bangladesh Premier League champions Abahani ahead of two international engagements -- Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup and AFC Cup.

The 62-year-old coach had earlier come here last season to train the Sky Blues for 10 days before leaving for family reasons. The veteran coach has experience of coaching in subcontinent as he had been the head coach of the Maldives national team apart from coaching Churchill Brothers club of India.

The UEFA pro license coach is all but set to guide Abahani not only in their international engagements but also in the upcoming domestic season where the Sky Blues want to maintain their dominance.

"We are thinking whether we will sign him for six months with a clause of extension or rope in for the whole season. We will take the final decision after discussing the matter with him soon," said Abahani manager Satyajit Das Rupu yesterday.

"We are bringing him back because the players were impressed with his training during his 10-day stay last season. Besides, Mamic is also interest to come," said Rupu.



Meanwhile, the five-time professional league champions have almost retained the services of their old guard including three foreigners while they are trying to replace last season's English midfielder Lee Tuck, who left at the end of last season, with a new recruit.

Ghanaian Samad Yussif, Nigerian Sunday Chizoba and Englishman David Jonathon have so far been confirmed while Sheikh Jamal DC's Nigerian striker Emeka Darlington is likely to play for the Sky Blues in both international tournaments as well as domestic events.

Ronaldo tops Forbes rich-list

AGENCIES, New York

Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo, who celebrated his 32nd birthday yesterday, has become the first football player to top Forbes' list of the richest athletes.

He reportedly earned nearly 88 million dollars in 2016, a year which was marked by the Portugal captain winning the Champions League, Club World Cup and Euro 2016 in addition to winning a fourth Ballon d'Or.

Following close behind in second place with earnings of 81.4 million dollars is Barcelona ace Lionel Messi. The pair are the only footballers in the top 20 of the list, with Neymar (\$37.5M) in 21, Zlatan Ibrahimovic (\$37.4M) in 23 and Gareth Bale (\$35.9M) in 25.

TOP 10 EARNERS:
Cristiano Ronaldo - \$88M, Lionel Messi - \$81.4M, LeBron James - \$77.2M, Roger Federer - \$67.8M, Kevin Durant - \$56.2M, Novak Djokovic - \$55.8M, Cam Newton - \$53.1M, Phil Mickelson - \$52.9M, Jordan Spieth - \$52.8M, Kobe Bryant - \$50M.



If you are a cricket follower and want to know about the glorious game's glorious past, want to know a few individuals whose monumental contributions to the game can still be an eye-opener for someone who has not delved into the history of the game, Prothom Alo Sports Editor Utpal Shuvro's book 'Kolpoloke Cricketer Golpo', which was launched yesterday, can quench your thirst to a great extent. The book is now available at the Ekushey Book Fair.

PHOTO: PROTHOM ALO

We went easy on Arsenal: Hazard

AFP, London



Eden Hazard said runaway Premier League leaders Chelsea could easily have won by double the 3-1 scoreline that extinguished Arsenal's title hopes for another season.

The Belgian tore through the Arsenal defence at Stamford Bridge on Saturday for a stunning Chelsea second goal but suggested the champions-elect held back from inflicting further damage on Arsene Wenger's demoralised men.

"We could score two or three more goals. We didn't, we keep it for the next game, I think," Hazard told Chelsea TV, after Antonio Conte's side blew Arsenal away. They now have a nine-point lead over Tottenham Hotspur at the Premier League summit.

Reflecting on his solo goal, after he powered his way from the halfway line, he added: "I score a few goals, a few beautiful goals. But this one is special. It's against Arsenal and we won the game."

"This one is one of the best." Conte's side are now training their sights on next Sunday's trip to Burnley.

"The gap is more big now. We want to stay there, top of the league forever," Hazard said.

Marcos Alonso scored the opener for Chelsea and Cesc Fabregas lobbed in a third, before Olivier Giroud nodded in a late consolation as Wenger watched grimly from the Stamford Bridge stands as he serves a touchline ban.

Chelsea might hold a handsome lead and have all the impetus, but Conte -- who dived into the home fans to celebrate -- was in more cautious mood afterwards and said he wanted even more from Hazard.

The Italian said: "He played very well. I hope to play always in this way."

"He has great talent and we need this talent."

Hernanes mulls offer from China

IANS, Rio de Janeiro

Brazilian midfielder Hernanes could be the latest South American footballer to join the Chinese Super League, according to media reports.

The 31-year-old is in advanced talks with Hebei China Fortune after falling out of favour at Italian Serie A champions Juventus, according to widespread media reports in Brazil on Saturday, reports Xinhua.

The Chinese club has reportedly offered Juventus around 12 million dollars to secure Hernandes on a two-year deal.

His move would follow the recent signings by Chinese clubs of fellow South Americans Carlos Tevez (Shanghai Shenhua) and Oscar (Shanghai SIPG).

Hebei China Fortune's squad includes Argentina forward Ezequiel Lavezzi and striker Gervinho of Cote d'Ivoire.

Hernanes may be tempted not only for the amount of money but also because he needs more playing time.

Stegen breaks Rafinha's nose

AFP, Barcelona

Barcelona midfielder Rafinha faces a spell on the sidelines after suffering a broken nose in a clash with his own goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen in Saturday's 3-0 win over Athletic Bilbao.

Barca refused to confirm on Sunday how long the Brazilian would be out for but he seems certain to miss Tuesday's Copa del Rey semi-final second leg at home to Atletico Madrid, with Barcelona holding a 2-1 lead.

Toprek joining Dortmund

AGENCIES, Munich

Borussia Dortmund on Sunday announced that central defender Omer Toprak will join the eight-time German football champions in the summer from Bundesliga rivals Bayer 04 Leverkusen.

"Dortmund are prepared to meet the release clause in the player's contract and he will join the squad for the 2017/18 season," the 1997 Champions League winners said in a statement.

In his career to date, the 27-year-old has made 181 Bundesliga appearances for SC Freiburg and Bayer Leverkusen. He also 25 international caps for Turkey.

Boult delivers Kiwis' revenge

AFP, Hamilton



A six-wicket haul for Trent Boult and a Ross Taylor century brought New Zealand a 24-run victory over Australia in the third one-day international Sunday to win the series 2-0.

Their masterclass saw New Zealand reclaim the Chappell-Hadlee Trophy while Australia lost their outright hold on the world number one ODI ranking.

They slipped to 118 points, equal with South Africa, who beat Sri Lanka in Johannesburg on Saturday to go 3-0 up. South Africa will overtake Australia if they win the remaining two matches in that series.

New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson said the series victory was the right response to the "tough times" when the Black Caps were beaten 3-0 in Australia two months ago, and Taylor paved the way.

"The way he rotated the strike was superb," he said. "He faced hardly any dot balls, was able to build partnerships with the top order and the lower order."

New Zealand made 281 for nine, and although Australian captain Aaron Finch felt the target was gettable, they were bundled out for 257 with three overs remaining.

"New Zealand bowled fantastically well and when you see Ross Taylor get a hundred, we had a couple of guys get fifties and they don't win games at this level," Finch said. "The top order are there to make runs but it wasn't to be."

Williamson won the toss and had no hesitation in batting first on the Hamilton wicket, correctly forecasting it would slow up as the day wore on and Boult would come into his own. But given the prime early batting



New Zealand pacer Trent Boult ripped through the Australian batting lineup, taking six wickets for just 33 runs as the hosts won the second ODI and clinched the Chappell-Hadlee series.

PHOTO: AFP

conditions, New Zealand appeared to have under-performed despite Taylor's 107 off 101 balls and his century partnership with Dean Brownlie, who made 63.

With rankings and the series at stake after New Zealand won the first ODI by six wickets and the second was washed out, Finch and Shaun Marsh made a flying start to Australia's reply, averaging more than six an over.

They were particularly harsh on Tim Southee, whose opening four-over spell cost 30 runs, while new ball partner and man-of-the-match Boult had one for 10 at the time.

Marsh was first to fall, run out for 22, and Peter Handscomb was bowled first ball by Boult.

Finch and Travis Head continued the charge with a 75-run stand for the third wicket before New Zealand broke

through with a second two-wicket burst. Williamson had Finch caught by Boult at for 56 and Glenn Maxwell was caught behind off Mitchell Santner, leaving Australia 120 for four.

Head and Marcus Stoinis looked to have the run chase under control in a 53-run partnership, until Boult came back for his second spell and claimed Head for 53 and James Faulkner for nought in the space of four balls.

SCORES IN BRIEF
NEW ZEALAND: 281 for 9 in 50 overs (Brownlie 63, Taylor 107; Starc 3-63, Faulkner 3-59)
AUSTRALIA: 257 all out in 47 overs (Finch 56, Head 53; Boult 6-33)
Result: New Zealand won by 24 runs and clinched 3-match series 2-0.
Player-of-the-match: Trent Boult.

Milan lose third on the trot

AFP, Rome



Luis Muriel's penalty gave Sampdoria a shock 1-0 win over AC Milan 1-0 on Sunday to compound the Rossoneri's hopes of a return to European football.

Milan, slipping to their third consecutive league defeat, remain in eighth place but are now 14 points behind leaders Juventus, who have two games in hand.

More importantly, Milan sit 10 points behind Roma in the third and last Champions League qualifying spot. The capital side can stretch their lead with a win over Fiorentina on Tuesday.

Milan last graced the competition in 2014 when they lost 5-1 on aggregate to Atletico Madrid in the last 16.

Former Everton striker Gerard Deulofeu spurned a great chance to break the deadlock after the restart when he fired on to the far post from seven yards out.

Milan striker Carlos Bacca had desperate penalty appeals waved away when he tumbled after a nudge by Matias Silvestre in the area.

But when Gabriel Paletta hauled dwn Fabio Quagliarella on the counter, the referee pointed immediately to the spot. Muriel sent goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma the wrong way to give Samp a 70th minute lead.

Samp moved up two places to 10th at 21 points off the pace. Juventus saw their lead cut to three points when Napoli routed Bologna 7-1. But the Turin giants can pull six points clear with a win against Inter later Sunday.