

SONY ESPN
Serie A
Crotone v Juventus
Live from 11:00pm
Bologna v AC Milan
Live from 1:45am (Thursday)

SONY SIX
FA Cup
Leicester v Derby
Live from 1:45am (Thursday)

Mamic focusing on AFC Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

Even though Abahani have established their dominance in domestic football by winning the professional football league five times, the Sky Blues are yet to transform their success to the international arena. They failed to qualify for the final round of the now-defunct AFC President's Cup in five attempts and their last participation in an AFC-sanctioned tournament was four years ago.

However, after having clinched the titles of the Bangladesh Premier League and the Federation Cup earlier this season, the Dhanmondi-based outfit are looking forward to proving their mettle in Asian football, and they have already roped in on Croatian coach Drago Mamic with that aim.

The Croat, who arrived yesterday to take charge ahead of two international commitments, is seemingly more focused on producing good results in the AFC Cup rather than this month's

Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup in Chittagong.

"After a long time, this year they [Abahani] will be playing in the AFC Cup which is very good for the reputation of the club as well as the country. That's why it is very important for me to produce good results," said Mamic before being introduced with the players at the club tent yesterday afternoon.

"The club, with such a reputation, must be going to make best possible results there, but before that making for best possible results (in Sheikh Kamal Club Cup and AFC Cup)," opined the 62-year-old coach.

Mamic is well aware of Abahani's success last season under Austrian coach George Kottan and he thinks the challenge ahead of his is pretty big.

"It is very easy when you take the trophy but it's an obligation for the club of such tradition to continue conquering trophies. The target must be the biggest one, to try to win all the trophies possible. That [league title] was big. I cannot say we will repeat for

sure but we will be trying to repeat that and may be do better, specifically in the AFC Cup," said Mamic, who has experience of working with Indian clubs as well as the Maldives national team. Interestingly, Abahani's opponents in the AFC Cup are also from India and Maldives.

"I know the Maldives club because they have almost all the national players. They are a really strong side. They have some quality players in positions they need," Mamic explained about Abahani's first match opponents Maziya S&RC.

Mamic had previously worked with Abahani for nearly two weeks last season but had to leave for family reasons. The Croat is somewhat familiar with the players who are going to play for the club next season.

"There is not too much change in the squad. I can see lots of players here whom I saw before. I know these boys. May be I don't remember one or two of them. I'm enquiring about the foreign players," Mamic said evaluating the current squad of Abahani.

'I LOOKED LIKE ROCKY BALBOA'

Umpire Arnaud Gabas feels fortunate to have escaped a more serious injury after being hit in the eye by a tennis ball struck by Denis Shapovalov. Teenager Shapovalov was fined \$7,000 on Monday for inadvertently hitting Gabas when he smashed a ball in frustration during Sunday's match against Kyle Edmund, in the deciding rubber of Canada's Davis Cup tie with Great Britain. Gabas, whose eye immediately started to swell up, was taken to a hospital for precautionary checks but no damage was found - something the Frenchman admits was a stroke of luck. He was quoted as saying in several national newspapers: "I came off the court looking like Rocky Balboa. We have to avoid some balls during the season but this one I had no chance. I feel quite lucky it wasn't worse. Players can be a bit crazy these days. I could see he was angry and that something was coming but I never thought he would hit me."

—AGENCIES



Abahani's new coach Drago Mamic is presented with a bouquet of flowers by the club's manager Satyajit Das Rupu in presence of the players at the club premises in Dhanmondi yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

HHC wants BCCI observer for BD-Ind Test

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA from New Delhi

The Hyderabad High Court on Monday asked the Committee of Administrators to immediately appoint an observer from the BCCI to monitor the India-Bangladesh Test match to be held at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium from February 9.

The High Court also directed the appointment of a financial adviser to ensure proper maintenance of the records of the controversy-ridden Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA). The existing executive body of the HCA, which was elected on September 14, 2014 for a two-year period can conduct the current match.

IAAF stops changes of allegiance

REUTERS, Monaco

The governing body of world athletics (IAAF) has put an immediate stop to changes of nationality by athletes, saying the system has become open to abuse and rules are being manipulated.

IAAF President Sebastian Coe said a working group would be set up to agree new rules by the end of the year.

"It has become abundantly clear that with regular multiple transfers of allegiance, especially from Africa, the present rules are no longer fit for purpose," Coe told reporters on Monday.

Bouchard has a date after losing bet

AFP, Washington



Canada's Eugenie Bouchard, ranked 45th in the WTA rankings after a third-round run at the Australian Open, has a date with a stranger after losing a Super Bowl bet.

The 22-year-old Montreal-born blonde learned the hard way Sunday never to bet against Tom Brady and the New England Patriots, who rallied from a 25-point deficit to defeat Atlanta 34-28 in overtime to claim the NFL crown.

With the Falcons comfortably ahead 21-0 after running back an intercepted Brady pass for a touchdown, Bouchard was confident enough in Atlanta to start sending Twitter messages predicting victory.

"I knew Atlanta would win btw," she tweeted, later adding, "Just predicted the future."

So that prompted TW1, a Twitter identity sporting a photo of a man in a Cleveland Cavaliers NBA jersey, to tweet



Bouchard with a longshot bid of his own.

"If patriots win we go on a date?" came the pitch. "Sure," Bouchard replied, although she shot down a second such suitor with merely "C'mon..."

As the Patriots made their successful second-half comeback, Bouchard was asked by another tweeter: "are you getting nervous?!? Lol."

"Umm...kinda...," she replied, adding later, "So...where do you live?"

When the Patriots won the game, and their fifth title with Brady as quarterback, Bouchard could only manage letters: "Omfg."

"Lesson learned," Bouchard followed with later. "Never bet against Tom Brady." Realizing she had become a big deal in the Twitter-verse, Bouchard made it clear she would pay off and reward a date dreamer with an unlikely dream date.

Faf makes it 4-0 for SA

AFP, Cape Town

A career-best innings by Faf du Plessis trumped a thrilling century by Upul Tharanga as South Africa beat Sri Lanka by 40 runs in the fourth one-day international against South Africa at Newlands on Tuesday.

Du Plessis hit 185, only three short of the South African ODI record, as South Africa piled up 367 for five.

It seemed as though Sri Lanka, who had been outplayed in the first three matches, would be on the end of another crushing defeat.

But Sri Lankan captain Tharanga hit a magnificent 119 off 90 balls and led his team's most spirited showing of the series. They were in with a chance of winning until a late slide in which they lost their last six wickets for 20 runs in 4.3 overs to be bowled out for 327.

Tharanga and fellow left-hander Niroshan Dickwella thrashed 100 runs in the first 10 overs on the way to a first-wicket partnership of 139 off 98 balls before Dickwella was caught on the midwicket boundary off Dwaine Pretorius for 58 off 47 deliveries.

SCORES IN BRIEF
SOUTH AFRICA: 367 for 5 in 50 overs (Du Plessis 185, de Villiers 64, de Kock 55; Pathirana 2-55)

SRI LANKA: 327 all out in 48.1 overs (Dickwella 58, Tharanga 119, Weerakkody 58, Gunaratne 38; Parnell 4-58, Pretorius 2-55, Rabada 2-50, Tahir 2-76)

Result: South Africa won by 40 runs and lead the five-match series 4-0.

Player-of-the-match: Faf du Plessis.

Russia banned from World C'ships

AFP, Cap-D'Ail



Russia will miss August's World Athletics Championships in London after their doping ban was extended on Monday, world governing body president Sebastian Coe said.

Coe said Russia, whose 15-month ban from athletics was prolonged at the IAAF's Council meeting in Cap d'Ail near Monaco, could not be reintegrated into the sport before November.

Double Olympic 1500-metre champion Coe was speaking after the IAAF Council approved the Taskforce's recommendation that Russia was "not ready for reinstatement".

Russia has been barred from international

competition since November 2015 following a damaging report alleging that state-sponsored doping was rife in the country.

The ban had already been extended in March and then June 2016, preventing Russia's athletes from competing at the Rio Olympics.

The Taskforce, which was set up to oversee Russia's reintegration into international athletics, produced recommendations detailing a roadmap to reinstatement.

But while "acknowledging several positive developments" at recent meetings in Moscow with RusAF, the Russian Athletics Federation, and new Russian Sports Minister Pavel Kolobkov, the Taskforce also "pointed to some negative developments" including "unhelpful public comments recently made by some Russian sporting officials".

BFF's OmniSpace experiment

SPORTS REPORTER

After having struck a deal with America-based electrical and electronic manufacturing company OmniSpace three months ago, the finance committee of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has issued a note to scratch off the deal worth Tk 27 lakh per year.

No members of the committee were ready to speak about the issue as BFF president Kazi Salahuddin himself, of his own accord, appointed the firm in November.

It has been learnt that the BFF finance committee discovered on Monday during its first meeting that a deal with the company had been struck. The meeting approved bills for the first three months of the contract but issued a note to stop the deal which did not have the executive committee's approval.

"Last November, the BFF president struck a deal with OmniSpace without taking any approval from the executive committee. The finance committee thinks there is no need for such a deal at the moment and issued a note to cut off the agreement after January," said a source inside the BFF on condition of anonymity.

However, the source added that the finance committee had to approve the bills for the first three months in line with instructions from the BFF president.

Inter duo banned

AFP, Milan

Inter Milan pair Mauro Icardi and Ivan Perisic were handed two-match bans for offences against the referee during their 1-0 defeat to Juventus, Serie A officials announced on Monday.

As Juventus secured an 18th win of the season on Sunday that pushed them six points clear of second-placed Napoli, Inter endured a frustrating end to what had been one of the best league games of the season, with their Champions League qualifying hopes taking a hit.

Croatia midfielder Perisic was shown a straight red card for comments he made to the referee in the fourth and last minute of added-on time.

BLIND WORLD T20 Exit looms for Bangladesh

STAR SPORT DESK

The Bangladesh blind cricket team's hopes of reaching the semifinal of the 2nd T20 World Cup Cricket Tournament for the Blind took another blow as they suffered a massive 151-run defeat to Pakistan in New Delhi yesterday.

Pakistan won the toss and elected to bat, piling on 295 runs for the loss of two wickets as openers Badar Munir (93) and Riasat Khan (104 not out) plundered 147 from nine overs before the former fell. Muhammed Jamil (72) joined Riasat and the pair took Pakistan to the commanding total.

In reply, only opener Abdul Malek (61 not out) and lower-order batsman Nazrul Islam (18) reached double figures as Bangladesh scored 144 for seven at the end of their allotted overs.

Bangladesh, who had been riding high after five unbeaten games, suffered their second defeat to England in their previous match on Sunday after losing the opener against India.

The third loss leaves them precariously positioned at fourth with only one game left to play, against Sri Lanka today, before the semifinal lineup is confirmed.

Bangladesh have 15 points, the same as Sri Lanka who are third with a game in hand. Australia and England are in fifth and sixth respectively with 12 points, each with a game in hand, and could possibly overtake Bangladesh if they win both their remaining matches.

WALTON

It's our product

Buy the Best One, being confirmed the product quality & ability of after sales service

Spend Less... Get More

Aristocratic stylish design with fabulous colors

1 YEAR REPLACEMENT GUARANTEE

for the confidence of excellent quality

WINTER Special DISCOUNT

Dhaka International Trade Fair 2017

Walton achieved the Best Award in Premier Pavilion Category for the most beautiful infrastructure

Walton won the Highest VAT Payer Award for paying maximum VAT to the Government Treasury

Walton is awarded with Crest & Certificate by NBR for paying the maximum VAT

eCozen

Non-Frost Refrigerator Technology

Buy Refrigerator with Intelligent Inverter Save Electricity, Be Intelligent

- More than 100 models & designs
- 100% Copper Condenser

9 Layer VCM Door

High Glossy, Scratch & Corrosion Resistant

- Protective Film
- PET Layer
- Print Layer
- VCM Film
- Adhesive Material
- Pre-treatment Upper Surface
- Electro Galvanized Steel
- Pre-treatment Lower Surface
- Service Coating

NANO HEALTHCARE

NANO Healthcare Technology is used in Walton Refrigerator

- Nano Silver keeps interior of fridge fresh & healthy
- Prevents bad odor & keeps taste of food intact
- Keeps food fresh for longer
- Averts harmful bacteria

INVERTER Technology

Intelligent Inverter Compressor

- Save huge electricity
- Increase compressor lifetime
- Reduce noise

10 Years Guarantee

Intelligent Inverter Compressor

It's time for Bangladesh

SPACE!! No Matter

High quality Stainless Steel/Multi-layer VCM & PCM sheets are used in Walton fridge, so it remains rust-free, erosion-free, scratch protective and keeps brightness year to year.

All models are tested by: **NUSDAT-UTS** ISO/IEC 17025 (BAB Accredited) Capable to test as per Bangladesh, India, Saudi Arabia & UAE Standard Accepted in IAC & APAC Member Countries

Helpline: **16267** 09612316267

waltonbd.com