

STAR SPORTS 1

India v Bangladesh
First Test, Day 2
Live from 10:00am
TEN 1 HD
South Africa v Sri Lanka
5th ODI
Live from 5:30pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT HD2

Bundesliga
Mainz v Augsburg
Live from 1:30am (Saturday)
SONY ESPN
Serie A
Napoli v Genoa
Live from 2:00am (Saturday)

SONY SIX

La Liga
Espanyol v Real Sociedad
Live from 1:30am (Saturday)

LYON ENSHRINE DEPAY SHIRT

Lyon seem overjoyed to have Memphis Depay on the squad, so much so that they have even put his shirt up on display after the forward scored his first goal for the French side since leaving Manchester United when he came off the bench in a 4-0 win over Nancy on Wednesday. Lyon, who most likely hope his strike will be the first of many after a January transfer that could rise to £21.7 million, tweeted 'The jersey with which @Memphis scored his first goal for @OL will be kept at the club's museum!' shortly after the game. The goal came five minutes after Memphis had won a penalty which Alexandre Lacazette converted for Lyon's third of the evening. The Holland international, who had replaced the injured Mathieu Valbuena before half-time, was then set up by Maxime Gonalons to open his account.



—AGENCIES



Juventus striker Gonzalo Higuain blows kisses towards the fans after scoring the second goal against Crotona during their Serie A encounter at the Ezio Scida Stadium on Wednesday.

Juve extend lead

AFP, Rome



Champions Juventus extended their lead at the top of Serie A to seven points with a 2-0 win at Crotona as nine-man AC Milan stunned Bologna 1-0 on Wednesday.

Having seen their lead cut by Roma's 4-0 success over Fiorentina on Tuesday, second-half goals from Mario Mandzukic and Gonzalo Higuain kept Massimiliano Allegri's team on course for a sixth straight scudetto.

"We could have done better in the first half, especially in the speed of our passing, but overall we were organised, giving away little or nothing and approaching the game with lucidity and organisation," said Allegri. "Roma and Napoli (third at nine points) are playing well, but we're thinking about keeping our concentration on what we have to do."

"Also tonight, for example, we didn't concede a goal and that's something positive." The defeat leaves Crotona languishing in 19th place and nine points from safety.

The Calabrians did not disgrace themselves and proved stubborn opposition for an hour.

But they ran out of steam as Croatian Mandzukic converted a rebound following a header from Kwadwo Asamoah on 60 minutes.

With 16 minutes left, Higuain calmly slotted home when faced with only goalkeeper Alex Cordaz to beat.

PHOTO: AFP

Mishap leaves Bolt fuming

RUETERS, Melbourne



The second installment of the Nitro Athletics Series ended in farce in Melbourne on Thursday with a referee error that initially awarded the Australia team top ranking for the night by mistake, leaving headline athlete Usain Bolt fuming.

In the final 4x100 metres relay event at Lakeside Stadium, Australia were disqualified for a botched baton change and Bolt's 'All-Stars' won the race comfortably. But the hosts were erroneously awarded points that left them at the top of the table at the expense of the Jamaican's team.

The mishap was eventually corrected, awarding the night to the 'All-Stars', but not before the live broadcast of the event had finished and most of the crowd of 6,500 spectators, including IAAF President Sebastian Coe, had filed out of the stadium.



Jamaica's Olympic champion Usain Bolt runs in the 4x100 metres relay final during the second night of the Nitro Athletics series in Melbourne yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

BFF revives U-18 Championship after 10 years

SPORTS REPORTER

After a 10-year hiatus, the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has finally decided to revive U-18 National Football Championship. The tournament will begin from March 9 with the participation of district teams as well as teams from different universities and education boards.

After the last edition of the championship was held in 2007 there were no further initiatives to hold the once-popular tournament. However, the game's governing body has inserted the championship into the calendar this time following the national football team's disastrous results at an international level.

"It is a long-awaited tournament which once produced many star players. If we want to revive our country's football, there is no alternative but to go to the district level. We really want a competitive tournament this time. That's why we have taken some initiatives in accordance with the recommendations of the Development Committee," said BFF Competition Committee chairman and BFF vice president Mohiuddin Ahmed Mohi at a press conference at the BFF House yesterday.

76 teams have been invited to the championship and till yesterday, around 60 teams confirmed their participation in the championship, which will initially be held in eight zones from March 9 before the eight-team final round takes place from March 23.

"As there has not been football at district level for a while, we have decided to train the district teams with our BFF coaching staff, who will determine the age of the players and select a 30-member squad. Later the local coaches will guide their respective teams in the championship," said Development Committee chairman and BFF vice president Badal Roy, adding that their appointed coaches would conduct five-day training sessions in each district from Sunday.

"There is another significant aspect this time as each of participating teams in the zonal stage will get three matches to play, whereas previously they got only one match in a knockout format," said Badal.

The BFF will allocate Tk 45,000 to each of the participating teams as part of their preparation and participation fees. The BFF will also pick around 30 players from the championship to form an under-19 squad for next year's AFC U-19 Championship Qualifiers as well as for the SAFF U-19 Championship.

BFF senior vice president Abdus Salam Murshedy, executive members Satyajit Das Rupu and Ilias Hossain, BFF district monitoring committee chairman Shamsul Alam Chowdhury and Brothers Union manager Amer Khan were among others present on the occasion.



Sarfraz replaces Azhar as new ODI captain

DAWN.COM



Wicketkeeper Sarfraz Ahmed on Thursday was appointed captain of the one day international (ODI) cricket team, replacing senior batsman Azhar Ali.

Azhar Ali, in a meeting with Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Shaharyar Khan in Dubai, informed the PCB head that he is ready to step down as captain. PCB sources said, after which the PCB appointed Sarfraz captain.

Separately, Test captain Misbahul Haq told the PCB chairman that he needs some time to decide whether he will remain captain or not and will reach a decision after the Pakistan Super League, the sources said.

Talking to DawnNews on the phone from Dubai Shehryar Khan said Azhar Ali told him that he was ready to step down as the ODI captain.

"After Azhar's offer I discuss the matter with head coach Mickey Arthur, Inzamamul Haq and other senior officials and we mutually decided to appoint Sarfraz as the new captain."

Shehryar Khan also said, "Misbah has informed him that he is yet to decide about retaining the position as the Test captain and will inform us about his decision after PSL."

The PCB chairman gave Misbah time to make the decision, but made it clear that the board will also have a say in the matter of Test captaincy.

Shuttle Time's 1st phase done

SPORTS REPORTER



With an aim to train some 12,000 school students in badminton this year, Shuttle Time Bangladesh had begun its journey with the training of 18 tutors, which concluded yesterday at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium.

The 18 tutors completed their four-day training programme, conducted by the Bangladesh Badminton Federation (BBF), under the guidance of a Malaysian coach.

These 18 tutors will now train 300 teachers from 150 schools across the country and the teachers will pass on the knowledge and provide basic training to school students between the ages of 6-12.

Shuttle Time, a scheme of the World Badminton Federation, is a school badminton programme supporting the principle that children should lead a healthy and active life both inside and outside of school and it aims to

make badminton one of the world's most popular and accessible school sports.

Shuttle Time offers school teachers access to free resources, training and equipment which support the teaching of enjoyable, safe and inclusive badminton activities to children.

"Shuttle Time Bangladesh brings a message of social inclusion and health to Bangladesh. It is being implemented together by the government of Australia, government of Bangladesh, World Badminton Federation, Australia Badminton Federation and Bangladesh Badminton Federation," said Jackie Lauff, chief executive officer of Sport Matters, which is working here on behalf of the Australia Badminton Federation.

"We are very fortunate to bring an international school badminton programme funded by the World Badminton Federation which is being run in 107 countries. Our target is to reach students across the country," she said. "I am confident that we will be

able to reach the target. We don't only want to reach primary schools but also the English version schools and there is enough support to make the programme continue round the year."

"We have learnt something new from this four-day training which included basic grip and footwork alongside smashing, throwing, swinging and netting," said Debasish Chakravorti, a tutor from Gaibandha who once played the national badminton championship as champion of Gaibandha.

"We learned how to teach the kids the proper way to grip a racket using a balloon [holding the racket with two fingers like they would a fully-blown balloon]. Badminton seemed to be tough at first, but now it seems very easy," said Chakravorti, who is a lecturer at Asaduzzaman School and College in Gaibandha.

"Providing proper basic training at the grassroots level will help to build these players up for the future," concluded Chakravorti.



Tutors trained by Shuttle Time Bangladesh pose with Bangladesh Badminton Federation officials at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



Members of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) cricket team celebrate after clinching the 10th ULAB Fair Play Cup by defeating Independent University Bangladesh by 30 runs in the final at the ULAB Play Cricket Ground in Mohammedpur on Wednesday.

PHOTO: ULAB

BANGABANDHU CUP MSC in final

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan moved into the final of the Bangabandhu Cup football tournament after defeating Sheikh Russel 7-6 on penalties at the Muktiyoddha Asaduzzaman Stadium in Magura yesterday.

The first semifinal rolled into penalties directly after regulation time ended in a 2-2 draw as Mohammedan staged a strong comeback after falling two goals behind. After a barren first half, Sheikh Russel took a two-goal lead courtesy of strikes from Gambian Dawda Sisse and Nasiruddin within the first 18 minutes.

Mohammedan pulled one goal back through Aminur Rahman Sajib before Towhidul Alam equalised five minutes from time.

Alaves to face Barca in final

AFP, Madrid



Edgar Mendez's solo effort nine minutes from time sent Alaves into their first ever Copa del Rey final with a 1-0 semifinal, second leg win over Celta Vigo enough to progress by the same score on aggregate.

The visitors were left to rue a string of missed chances in the first leg as Mendez burst through the Celta defence before firing high past Sergio Alvarez to wild scenes of celebration at Mendizorrotza.

Alaves will have to beat Barcelona to lift the Cup for the first time, though, in May's final after the holders reached their fourth straight final with a 3-2 aggregate win over Atletico Madrid on Tuesday.

However, Alaves can take inspiration from a shock 2-1 win at the Camp Nou back in September in La Liga.

It is the first time Alaves, newly promoted to the top flight of Spanish football this season, have reached any final since losing out on the 2001 UEFA Cup 5-4 to Liverpool.

And it was a former Liverpool striker who threatened to thwart them once more as Fernando Pachecho made a fine early save to turn Iago Aspas's effort behind.

Term limits on new UEFA presidents

REUTERS, Berlin

Future UEFA presidents will be limited to a maximum of three terms and a total of 12 years in the job, European soccer's governing body said on Thursday, after its executive committee approved a set of governance reforms.

Current president Aleksander Ceferin, who replaced disgraced Frenchman Michel Platini in September, has pledged to reform the organisation.

Other changes include granting two member positions on its Executive Committee to representatives of the European Club Association (ECA).