

SONY ESPN

Indian Premier League

Pune v Hyderabad

Live from 4:30pm

Mumbai v Delhi

Live from 8:30pm

TEN 1HD & TEN 3

West Indies v Pakistan

First Test, Day-2

Live from 9:00pm

TEN 1

FA Cup Semifinal

Chelsea v Tottenham

Live from 10:15pm

TEN 3

La Liga

Malaga v Valencia

Live from 5:00pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT HD1

English Premiership

West Ham v Everton

Live from 8:00pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT HD2

English Premiership

Swansea v Stoke City

Live from 8:00pm

Bundesliga

M'gladbach v Dortmund

Live from 10:30pm

SONY SIX

La Liga

Espanyol v Atletico Madrid

Live from 12:45am (Sunday)

Abahani to lose five booters?

SPORTS REPORTER

Five alleged footballers are likely to get off the hook as Bangladesh Premier League champions Abahani failed to provide enough documents to be incriminate those five national booters.

The Dhanmondi-based outfit suspended defenders Ariful Islam, Tapu Barman and Shakil Ahmed, midfielder Hemanta Vincent Biswas and winger Sohel Rana for one year in March on disciplinary grounds after those players did not turn up for the club's AFC Cup training camp following February's Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup.

Abahani management then requested the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) to uphold their decision to ban those players from all competitions organised by the game's governing body for one year.

The BFF Players' Status Committee sat twice and summoned the club officials and the alleged players to learn of their versions of the events. The three-member committee is likely to deliver its verdict tomorrow at its last meeting regarding the issue.

"We haven't reached a conclusion yet and we need to sit again," Players' Status Committee member Abdur Rahim told The Daily Star a few days back. "We are following the procedure to reach a

conclusion after reviewing international and domestic laws. We also considered the fact that those five players are part of the national football team, so we cannot take any decision hurriedly."

A source within the BFF informed that Abahani could not provide proper documents to suspend those players as they only provided last season's incomplete agreement papers where the time-frame of the contracts was not mentioned. The papers only said 'at the end of the season' as per the validity of the contracts.

No mention of a specific time-frame on contract papers is a big loophole for Abahani and hence those five players are not taking part for the Sky Blues in the ongoing AFC Cup, a tournament where Abahani suffered three straight defeats.

It has been learnt that the Players' Status Committee took help of FIFA laws to determine the timeline of the season, which starts with the first official match of the league and closes with the last official match of the league.

This means those five players became free agents at the completion of the Bangladesh Premier League on January 7 and they were not bound to join Abahani for the AFC Cup training camp.

Though a final decision is yet to be made, the players will face no problems to join their desired destination -- Saif Sporting Club -- in the players' transfer window which is currently open and will close on April 30.



Manchester United star Zlatan Ibrahimovic is in agony after falling awkwardly during their Europa League quarterfinal against Anderlecht at Old Trafford on Thursday. Ibrahimovic suffered a serious knee injury during his team's 2-1 victory.

PHOTO: AFP

QUICK SINGLES

The following are a few samples of stories that did not make the print edition. However, if they pique your interest, you can always read them online on The Daily Star website by simply scanning the QR codes listed below:

Messi eyeing 500 as Barca bid to reignite season

Lionel Messi requires two more goals to reach 500 for Barcelona and will have his sights set on achieving the milestone against great rivals Real Madrid in Sunday's Clasico.

Ronaldo poised to make decisive Clasico impact

Cristiano Ronaldo has made a habit of defying his critics and will try to do so again by leading Real Madrid one step closer to the Spanish title against bitter rivals Barcelona.

Ajax hit back with 10 men to stun Schalke

Ajax Amsterdam, trailing 3-0 and down to 10 men, scored two late goals to overcome Schalke 04 in the Europa League quarter-finals while Olympique Lyonnais won a 16-kick penalty shootout against Besiktas.

'Big sister' Hingis looks to end 20-year Fed Cup wait

Martina Hingis looks to reach a first Fed Cup final in almost two decades when Switzerland face Belarus with the former world number one revelling in her role as the team's "big sister".

Dale Steyn to face England Lions

England Lions are set for a clash with Dale Steyn later this summer after his surprise inclusion in one of the South Africa A squads due to arrive in the coming weeks. The 33-year-old, who has 417 Test wickets and had a long reign at the top of the ICC's world bowling rankings, is ready to launch his comeback from the shoulder injury he suffered in Australia last winter.

Real, Atletico renew hostilities

AFP, Nyon



Holders Real Madrid face Atletico Madrid in the Champions League semifinals as the rivals do battle once more and French surprise-package Monaco take on Juventus, following the draw on Friday.

The all-Madrid showdown is a rerun of the 2014 and 2016 finals in Europe's top club competition, with a Cristiano Ronaldo-inspired Real victorious on both occasions in cagey affairs that they failed to settle after 90 minutes each time.

Real -- aiming to become the first team to retain the Champions League -- will host Atletico at the Santiago Bernabeu on May 2 and a free-scoring Monaco side brimming with some of Europe's hottest talent are home to Juventus on May 3, with the second legs the following week.

Real Madrid director and former striker Emilio Butragueno said: "We know each other very well, this is the fourth time we meet Atletico in the Champions League but it will not be a final this time."

"Every detail will count and we will have to be very careful, they defend very well and have high-quality players who know how to take advantage of mistakes," he told BeINSports.

Atletico, who boast one of football's most deadly strikers in Antoine Griezmann, will move next season from the Vicente Calderon, their home for 50 years, to a new stadium.

Clemente Villaverde, a former Atletico

player and now a director, said the Real clash would be a fitting farewell.

"Our fans and players have experienced two final defeats and know what it means and takes to get there -- a lot of work," he told UEFA.com.

"Hopefully we can give the Vicente Calderon the goodbye it deserves."

Going into the draw at UEFA headquar-



ters in Nyon, Switzerland all four teams were making the usual noises: there is nothing to choose between any of them, they said publicly.

But the 39-year-old Juventus goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon broke ranks, saying that he would prefer to avoid a wily Atletico side because they are out of the La Liga title race

so can rest players for Europe.

Buffon, one of the best goalkeepers of all time but who has never won the Champions League, got his wish in missing out on Diego Simeone's side, who would dearly love to get one over Real and Ronaldo this time on Europe's biggest stage.

But instead he must face teenage striking sensation Kylian Mbappe, 18, and a rejuve-

this season.

Pavel Nedved, the former midfielder who is now an ambassador for Juventus, told BeINSports of the Monaco match-up: "It's 50-50. They have very young players who are under no pressure, who can play without fear."

"That is their strength, their asset."

Vadim Vasilev, the French side's vice-president, said they would be motivated by the memories of being turfed out of the competition by the Italians in 2015 in the quarterfinals.

"It will be a matter of revenge, clearly," he said. "We're better than two years ago, no doubt about it."

Real Madrid, for whom Ronaldo hit a hat-trick as they saw off Bayern Munich in the quarters, are favourites with British bookmakers.

But Juventus were hugely impressive in beating Barcelona 3-0 in the first leg and then holding the Spanish champions to a 0-0 draw at the Camp Nou on Wednesday in a defensive masterclass.

Beaten Barcelona defender Gerard Pique has tipped Italian champions Juventus to lift the trophy they last won in 1996 and they will be favourites against Monaco, especially because the second leg will be in Turin.

"Over the two legs they were better than us so they deserve to go through to the semifinals. I think they can win the Champions League this season," the Spanish international said after Buffon shut out Lionel Messi and Barcelona over 180 minutes of football.

The final is in Cardiff on June 3.

EUROPA LEAGUE

MU face Celta Vigo in semis

AFP, Nyon

Manchester United will face the Spanish side Celta Vigo in the semifinals of the Europa League over two legs and Ajax take on Lyon, after the draw on Friday.

Jose Mourinho's United will be strong favourites and have the advantage of playing the second leg at Old Trafford as they attempt to lift the Europa League, knowing victory in the final would give them a place in next season's Champions League.

United will travel to Spain for the first leg on May 4 before Celta visit Manchester for the return on May 11.

AFC C'SHIPS QUALIFIERS

BD teams learn their opponents

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh were placed in a comparatively easy group in the AFC U-19 Championship Qualifiers but they were pitted against tough opponents in AFC U-16 Championship Qualifiers, with the draw for both the qualifiers taking place at the AFC headquarters in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Bangladesh under-19 team were drawn in Group B along with Uzbekistan, hosts Tajikistan, Sri Lanka and Maldives. Ten group champions and five best runners-up teams will advance to the 16-team final round. The qualifiers will take place from October 31 to November 8.

In the AFC U-16 Championship Qualifiers, Bangladesh were placed in Group E along with the United Arab Emirates, Yemen and hosts Qatar. Ten group winners and five best runners-up teams will qualify for the 16-team finals for this championship too. The qualifiers will take place from September 16 to 24.

The Bangladesh Football Federation, meanwhile, picked a preliminary squad of the under-15 team through a talent hunt programme across the country conducted by the National Sports Council. However, the game's governing body is yet to start a long-term training camp for that team, which is supposed to represent Bangladesh in the AFC U-16 Championship Qualifiers. The squad for the AFC U-19 Championship Qualifiers, however, is supposed to be picked through the final round of U-18 National Football Championship which is scheduled to get underway tomorrow in Dhaka.

Pak pacers reduce WI to 71 for 4

AFP, Kingston



Mohammad Abbas had a dream debut as Pakistan reduced the West Indies to 71 for four at lunch on the opening day of the first Test of the three-match series at Sabina Park in Jamaica on Friday.

Sharing the new ball with Mohammad Amir after their captain, Misbah-ul-Haq, chose to bat first on winning the toss, Abbas struck with his second delivery in Test cricket, having Kraigg Brathwaite caught at second slip by Younis Khan without scoring.

The opener had made history in their last Test match meeting with unbeaten scores of 142 and 60 that earned the Caribbean side a five-wicket win in Sharjah last November at the end of an otherwise miserable tour of the United Arab Emirates.

With the West Indies fielding two debutants in the middle-order in the pair of Guyanese left-handers Shimron Hetmyer and Vishaul Singh, Pakistan pressed the advantage even further with Amir claiming his first wickets for three Test matches.

Maintaining a nagging accuracy, the left-arm fast bowler breached the defences of both Hetmyer and Shai Hope, scattering the stumps with deliveries that jagged in sharply off a pitch offering early assistance to the pacers in heavily overcast conditions after Misbahul Haq chose to field first.

Pakistan's third seamer in their bowling armoury, Wahab Riaz, then removed Singh via a good diving catch by Azhar Ali at backward square-leg to have the home side tottering at 53 for four.

Brathwaite's opening partner Kieran Powell, playing his first Test match for almost three years, survived a probing examination from the bowlers and resumes in the afternoon session on 33 in partnership with Roston Chase.

West Indies opted to omit Jermaine Blackwood from their final eleven to accommodate the debutants in the batting line-up, meaning there was no Jamaican in the home side for a Test match at Sabina Park for the first time since 1997 when, incidentally, the opponents were also Pakistan.

Football fans electrocuted in Nigeria

AFP, Lagos

At least seven football fans were killed and 11 injured when an electric cable fell on a building where they were watching a Europa League match, Nigerian police said Friday.

The incident happened in the southern port city of Calabar on Thursday during a quarter-final between Manchester United and Anderlecht being shown on satellite television, the police said.

"We received a report of the incident around 10:00 pm and on getting there were able to recover the bodies of seven people who had been electrocuted when a high tension cable fell on them," Cross River state police spokeswoman Irene Ugbo told AFP.

"Eleven other fans who were injured were rushed to the hospital, with one in a critical condition," she said.

Local media said up to 30 fans were feared dead in the incident.

Ugbo ruled out any foul play in the tragedy.

Ehiogu passes away

AFP, London

Tottenham's under-23 coach Ugo Ehiogu has died at the age of 44, the Premier League club announced on Friday.

Tottenham announced in a statement: "It is with immense sadness that we announce the passing of Ugo Ehiogu."

The former defender, capped four times by England, was being treated in hospital after collapsing at the club's training headquarters in north London on Thursday.

Ehiogu, who starred for Aston Villa and Middlesbrough during his playing career, has been on Tottenham's coaching staff since 2014.

Tottenham's head of coaching and player development John McDermott said: "Words cannot express the shock and sadness that we all feel at the Club."

"Ugo's immense presence will be irreplaceable. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to his wife Gemma and his family."

The club's statement added: "Ugo received immediate treatment after suffering a cardiac arrest at the Training Centre yesterday (Thursday) before being transferred to hospital, where he passed away in the early hours of this morning."

Ehiogu made over 300 appearances in a nine-year stay with Villa, helping them win the League Cup in 1994 and 1996.

He joined Middlesbrough in 2000, spending seven years there and winning the League Cup again in 2004.

Ehiogu also played for West Bromwich Albion, Leeds, Glasgow Rangers and Sheffield United before retiring in 2009.

Villa reacted to the news on Twitter. "We are deeply saddened to hear of the death of our former defender Ugo Ehiogu.

Our thoughts are with his family at this terribly sad time."

The Championship club says it will hold a minute's applause at their derby match against Birmingham on Monday, with both sets of players wearing black armbands as a mark of respect to their former star.

Tributes to Ehiogu poured in from across the football world.

Australia's Mark Schwarzer, who played with the centre-back at Middlesbrough, said: "He was the ultimate professional and



UGO EHIUGU (1972-2017)

someone I really enjoyed playing with."

Former Manchester United star Rio Ferdinand tweeted: "Can't believe the news that Ugo Ehiogu has passed away. Calm and warming vibe when in his company. My heart goes out to his family."

Alan Shearer, the former England striker, wrote on Twitter: "Lost for words. A true gentleman. RIP Ugo."

Former Republic of Ireland midfielder Andy Townsend, a Villa team-mate of Ehiogu's, added: "I'm absolutely shocked. I didn't expect to wake up to this news."

"He was a player that every team would like to have at the back."