

SONY ESPN
Indian Premier League
 Kolkata v Pune
 Live from 8:30pm
TEN 1HD
 West Indies v Pakistan

Second Test, Day-4
 Live from 8:00pm
TEN 2
UEFA Champions League
 SEMIFINAL
 Monaco v Juventus

Live from 12:45am (Thursday)
TEN 1
UEFA Europa League
 Ajax v Lyon
 Live from 10:45pm

DAY'S EVENT

DHAKA PREMIER LEAGUE
 Time: 9:00am

Sheikh Jamal v Brothers Union
 Venue: KSOAS

Victoria SC v Khelaghar SKS
 Venue: BKSP-3

Gazi Group v Partex SC
 Venue: BKSP-4

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:

Euro 2024 bidders told human rights of 'utmost importance'

Euro 2024 hosting candidates Germany and Turkey have been told that they must meet specific criteria for human and labour rights and anti-corruption measures for their bids to be considered.

Ibrahimovic undergoes knee surgery

Manchester United striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic has undergone surgery on his damaged right knee and will make a full recovery.

Stokes 'earns his cash' with explosive ton

England all-rounder Ben Stokes proved the \$2.17 million that Rising Pune Supergiants splashed to secure his service in the IPL was a smart investment as he blasted a match-winning century against Gujarat Lions.

'MU willing to play juniors in last league game'

Manchester United will field a weakened team for their last Premier League game of the season against Crystal Palace if they qualify for the Europa League final, manager Jose Mourinho has said. Selby joins elite in retaining snooker world title England's Mark Selby successfully defended his world snooker championship by beating four-time champion John Higgins 18 frames to 15 in a thrilling contest.



Juventus starlet Paulo Dybala runs with the ball during a training session at the Juventus Training Center in Vinovo yesterday, on the eve of their Champions League semifinal against Monaco.

PHOTO: AFP

Monaco face Juve wall

REUTERS, Paris



Monaco have scored plenty of goals this season and boast one of European soccer's most exciting newcomers in striker Kylian Mbappe but that might not be enough to break down the defensive wall of Juventus in the Champions League semi-finals.

Mbappe, 18, has scored 18 goals in his last 18 competitive games, including three in the 6-3 aggregate win over Borussia Dortmund in the last eight.

The pacy forward provides a symbol for the rise of a fine counter-attacking team featuring other dangerous players such as Colombian marksman Radamel Falcao.

It takes more than that, however, to impress Juventus, the tightest defence in Europe's top club competition with just two goals conceded in this campaign.

"Even Barcelona could not score in two games against them so it will be complicated for us", Monaco's Poland defender Kamil Glik said ahead of Wednesday first leg in the principality.

The Italian champions, who advanced to the last four with an aggregate 3-0 win over Barca, were held to a 2-2 draw at Atalanta in a rare defensive mix-up in Serie A on Friday.

Their pedigree and record for being impregnable when it matters, however, suggest Juventus should be regarded as the favourites.

Falcao savours career revival

AFP, Monaco



Dismissed as a crooked has-been after a disastrous spell in England, Radamel Falcao will savour the Champions League anthem more than most before Monaco and Juventus face off in Wednesday's semi-final first leg.

The Colombian striker will captain the principality club against the Italians -- whose own star striker Gonzalo Higuain was once his colleague at River Plate -- at the Stade Louis II as they attempt to take another step towards a possible Ligue 1 and Champions League double.

Monaco have won admirers everywhere this season thanks to the exciting brand of football played by their young team, and the likes of Kylian Mbappe, Bernardo Silva and Thomas Lemar will be targets for the continent's giants in the summer.

But all of them will admit the role played by the 31-year-old Falcao has been vital.

He scored in a 2-1 defeat to Fenerbahce in Istanbul as their campaign began in the third qualifying round first leg on July 27 last year.

More than nine months on he has 28 goals in all competitions and has now scored 45 in 50 European appearances, putting him ahead of German great Gerd Mueller as the most prolific player ever in continental competition.

"I have always believed in Radamel and right from the start of the season I was already saying that he would get back to his best form. Nobody believed it but now we have the proof," Monaco's vice president Vadim Vasilyev told French television station TF1.

This time a year ago Falcao was considered a busted flush after two seasons on loan in the Premier League, with Manchester United and then Chelsea, yielded just five goals.

The Daily Mail labelled him "a rich man with a broken reputation", while The Daily Telegraph highlighted how he had been paid the equivalent of £800,000 (\$1 million) per shot by Chelsea.

He was left out of the Colombia squad for last year's Copa America too, but that reputation has been restored this year in stunning style.

Abahani look to fight against Bengaluru FC

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Premier League champions Abahani will look to put their best performance yet when they face JSW Bengaluru FC today in a bid to earn their first points from four matches in Asia's second-tier club tournament, the AFC Cup, at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Having played three matches against South Asian rivals, Abahani have yet to open their account. However, the five-time professional football league champions are confident that they will pull off a shocker when they encounter visiting Bengaluru. With three straight wins, Bengaluru currently occupy the top spot in the four-team table and a win over Abahani could push them closer to a place in the final round.

Even though the Sky Blues suffered a 2-0 defeat to the last edition's runners-up in Bangalore last month, Abahani are confident about doing better this time as Ghanaian defender Samad Yussif and midfielder Emon Babu have returned in addition to the players being in better physical condition.

"This is our second match at home, so it is our obligation to give it our best and try with all our might to push for the win," said Abahani's Croatian coach Drago Mamic at an official press conference at the BFF House yesterday.

However Mamic believes that to compete in the AFC Cup a team needs

plenty of preparation before hand and so Abahani cannot be expected to move through the rounds with ease. Rather he wants to prove that the Sky Blues are improving match by match.

The 63-year-old coach has also urged his charges to be more competitive and to not repeat the mistakes in order to be more clinical and provide a positive result.

Despite expectations of a good result on home ground, it will definitely come as a challenge to topple Bengaluru, who came here with a full-strength squad in pursuit of a final round berth.

Bengaluru had rested four key players against Churchill Brothers during their last encounter of the I-League on

Saturday, yet came out with a 3-0 win in that fixture.

"Bengaluru have come here to compete and will try their best to win the game. It will be tough here because Abahani is a good team and they will try to put us in trouble. My players know about it and their ability. We are fully convinced if we do things well we can have a good result even here," said Bengaluru's Spanish coach Alberto Roca, whose side finished fourth in the I-League recently.

"Our expectation in this tournament is very high because we reached the final last year. Tomorrow is an important game. If we win tomorrow we have possibility to move to the next stage," hoped Roca.



Ahead of their AFC Cup encounter today, coaches and players of Abahani and Bengaluru FC attended a pre-match press conference at the Bangladesh Football Federation house yesterday.

PHOTO: BFF

Fahad retains sub-jr title

SPORTS REPORTER

FIDE Master Fahad Rahman became unbeaten champion in the boys' section of the 36th National Sub-Junior (U16) Chess Championship after beating Tahsin in the seventh and final round held at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall-room on Monday.

Fahad, who has won the sub-junior title four times in a row and five times in total, secured maximum seven points, one more than runner-up Subrato Biswas, who finished with six points. Nayeem Haque became third with 5.5 points.

In the girls' section, Noshin Anjum emerged unbeaten champions with 6.5 points while Jannatul Ferdous became runner-up with six points.

Massive win for Army

SPORTS REPORTER

Goal fest in ATN Bangla National Hockey Championship continued as Bangladesh Army notched up a massive 28-0 win over Jhenaidah at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

National strikers Milton Hossain slotted a dozen goals including a hat-trick followed by three strikes each from Manoz Babu and Hasan Jubair. Naeem Uddin, Pushkor Khisha Mimo, Rokonzaman and Abdul Malek struck a brace each while Shafiqul Islam and Ahsan Habib netted one goal each for Army in this one-sided affair.

In the day's other matches, Dinajpur inflicted a 14-1 defeat on Barisal, Dhaka defeated Rajshahi 3-1 while Sylhet and Rangpur played out a 2-2 draw.

'Best I have ever scored'

AFP, Watford

Emre Can admitted his sensational bicycle kick that secured Liverpool a crucial 1-0 win over Watford in their Premier League clash on Monday was his best ever goal.

The 23-year-old German international -- who took his tally to five for the season -- produced his moment of magic in time added on in the first-half.

"I have never scored a goal like that -- maybe when I was younger. That is the best goal I've ever scored," Can told Sky Sports.

DD snap 5-match losing streak

PTI, New Delhi

Delhi Daredevils snapped their five-match losing streak as they beat defending champions Sunrisers Hyderabad by six wickets to stay afloat in the IPL on Tuesday.

Daredevils batsmen fired in unison as they chased down the target of 186 with five balls to spare at the Feroze Shah Kotla.

Corey Anderson top-scored with an unbeaten 41 from 24 balls with the help of two fours and three sixes as Daredevils reached 189 for 4 in 19.1 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD: 185 for 3 in 20 overs (Warner 30, Dhawan 28, Williamson 24, Yuvraj 70 not out, Henriques 25 not out; Shami 2-36)

DELHI DAREDEVILS: 189 for 4 in 19.1 overs (Samson 24, Nair 39, Pant 34, Iyer 33, Anderson 41 not out; Siraj 2-41)

Result: Delhi Daredevils won by 6 wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Mohammed Shami.

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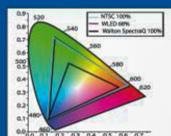


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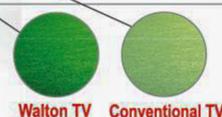


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