

SONY ESPN
Indian Premier League
Punjab v Kolkata
Live from 8:30pm

TEN 1HD
UEFA Champions League
SEMIFINAL, 2ND LEG
Juventus v Monaco
Live from 12:45am (Wednesday)

DAY'S EVENT

DHAKA PREMIER LEAGUE
 Time: 9:00am
 Prime Bank v Partex SC

Venue: KSOAS
 Kalabagan KC v Brothers Union
 Venue: BKSP-3

Gazi Group v Sheikh Jamal
 Venue: BKSP-4

MARADONA APPOINTED COACH OF AL-FUJAIRAH

Former Argentina captain Diego Maradona has ended a five-year absence from football to return as coach of Al-Fujairah FC, the United Arab Emirates club announced on Sunday. "I want to tell you that I am the new coach of Al-Fujairah FC, in the second division of the United Arab Emirates," Maradona added on his Facebook page. The club posted a picture of the former Boca Juniors, Napoli and Barcelona striker holding their red and white shirt with his name and No. 10 on the back. It marks a return to management after a five-year gap for the 56-year-old Argentina great, who as a player led his country to a 1986 World Cup title and runners-up spot four years later. Maradona, who took charge of Argentina in 2008 and led them to the World Cup two years later, last managed at another UAE club, Al Wasl in May 2011 but was sacked just over a year later.

—REUTERS



Nayeemuddin wants to revive MSC

SPORTS REPORTER

Indian coach Syed Nayeemuddin wants to go step by step in the upcoming season while giving priority to this month's Federation Cup after the veteran coach arrived in the capital on Sunday night to take charge of Mohammedan SC.

The fallen giants of Dhaka football appointed the legendary Indian footballer turned coach in a bid to bring cohesion among senior footballers, who were signed up in the recent players' transfer window. The club is also keeping faith on the Indian to produce good results after a disastrous 10th-place finish in the Bangladesh Premier League last season.

"I don't have any idea about the current Mohammedan squad, but I'm sure those who are going to play have the talent to represent Mohammedan. I believe in hard work. I just need one percent of talent and 99 percent of hard work to get success. I will build players through hard work," said Nayeemuddin while talking to reporters at the club premises yesterday.

"I have to do something as I have taken the responsibility. My first target is the Federation Cup and then I want to go step by step," said the veteran coach who previ-

ously had a few spells with Brothers Union apart from the national team.

Last season Nayeemuddin lifted Brothers to fourth position in the 12-team professional football league table after the Gopibagh-based outfit had been languishing at the bottom of the table with a single point at one stage.

"I guided Brothers Union to the title in the [now defunct] Premier Division League in my debut season in 2004 and since then whenever I came to Bangladesh, I coached Brothers. Apart from that I was appointed coach of Bangladesh national team in 2006. From my long association with Bangladesh football, I can say that the competitiveness of football here has increased but popularity has declined," said the former Indian national team coach.

Even though the appointment of Nayeemuddin was confirmed last month, there were concerns whether the 73-year-old coach would join the Black and Whites as Brothers Union were also claiming that he would stand at their dugout

"I got the first offer from Mohammedan, so I accepted the offer and I am really grateful to Mohammedan," said Nayeemuddin.

The season will get underway through the Federation Cup from May 13, with all the matches scheduled to take place at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka.



Hulk denies punch

AFP, Shanghai

Shanghai SIPG's Brazilian striker Hulk insisted he likes and respects "all of the Chinese people" as he rejected claims of a racially motivated assault on an assistant coach in the Chinese Super League.

Guizhou Zhicheng's head coach Li Bing has accused the muscular Brazilian of punching his assistant coach Yu Ming at half-time during SIPG's 3-0 victory on Saturday.

But Hulk, one of a number of highly paid foreign stars in the cash-rich Super League, denied any violent behaviour. SIPG has also said the incident "did not occur".

"Unfortunately they are trying to abuse my image," Hulk wrote in English on the Chinese microblogging website, Weibo, late Sunday.

"The coach of the adversary team is accusing me of aggression. Where did he see it? I didn't behave violently in any way!"

Volleyball picks 25 for women's team

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Volleyball Federation (BVF) yesterday picked 25 players in a bid to form the women's national team as well as provide long-term training for international competitions.

Some 85 players from different districts, services teams, schools, colleges and universities took part in the open trial, which was sponsored by IFAD Group. The selection committee trimmed the number to 30 on the opening day, Sunday, before picking the final 25 players yesterday at the National Volleyball Stadium.



Monaco star Radamel Falcao arrives for a training session in La Turbie yesterday, on the eve of their Champions League semifinal against Juventus.

PHOTO: AFP

Monaco up against history

REUTERS, Milan



AS Monaco, beaten 2-0 at home in the first leg of their Champions League semi-final against Juventus, will have to make history in today's return if they are to end Ligue 1's long absence from the final.

Only two teams have ever won a knockout tie in the competition after losing at home in the first leg and in both cases -- Ajax Amsterdam against Panathinaikos in 1996 and Inter Milan against Bayern Munich in 2011 -- they had only one goal to make up.

Monaco, who themselves were the last French side to reach the final when they lost to Jose Mourinho's Porto in 2004, would also have to end Juve's four-year unbeaten home record in Europe and a run of six successive clean sheets in the competition.

Monaco have never won a game in Italy in seven attempts while Juve's record against French teams will not give them much encouragement either - the Italians have won all previous 11 knockout ties against Ligue 1 opponents including Monaco themselves on two occasions.

Both teams lead their own leagues and are on the brink of winning their respective titles while Juventus have also reached the Italian Cup final, putting them on course for a treble.

Monaco coach Leonardo Jardim, whose side won 3-0 at Nancy on Saturday to close in on the Ligue 1 title, said that an early goal could change the complexion of the tie.

"We have to stay confident, try to play our game and put on a good performance and if we score at the start of the game, maybe that could change things," said Jardim.

If there is one thing which gives Jardim hope, it is Monaco's prolific scoring record this season. They have blasted 139 goals in 55

matches in all competitions, not including the French League Cup, and have managed three or more goals in a match on 25 occasions.

Kylian Mbappe, 18 and one of the hottest properties in European football, has scored 18 goals in his last 20 competitive games, while the team features other dangerous players including resurgent Colombian forward Radamel Falcao.

Juventus forward Paulo Dybala limped off during Saturday's 1-1 draw at home to Torino, which ended his side's run of 33 consecutive home league wins, but coach Massimiliano Allegri said it was just a case of cramp.

"It was normal in the circumstances and towards the end of the season," said Allegri, who warned his team not to think about any another result than a win.

"Monaco are a side with great talent and we have absolutely not yet sealed our qualification. We need to win the second leg."

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:

The Shukla solution

IPL chairman Rajeev Shukla has suggested that there is an easier way for BCCI to increase their revenue share, one that might lead to better conflict resolution with the ICC.



Dale asks, Fizz answers

South Africa pace maestro Dale Steyn wonders what has happened to Mustafizur Rahman, and the Bangladesh pacer comes up with a prompt reply.



Anti-doping authority drops appeal on length of Russell ban

Jamaica's anti-doping authority has withdrawn its appeal over the one-year ban received by West Indies all-rounder Andre Russell for breaches of the whereabouts rule.



Chapecoense win state title six months after tragedy

Chapecoense won the Santa Catarina state championship to lift their first title since most of their team died in a plane crash last November.



Cilic downs Raonic to win Istanbul title

Marin Cilic warmed up for this month's French Open with a 7-6(3) 6-3 win over Canadian top seed Milos Raonic in the Istanbul Open final.



Kante named Football Writers' Player of the Year

Chelsea midfielder N'Golo Kante has been named Player of the Year by the Football Writers Association (FWA).



Advocaat set for third Dutch stint

AFP, The Hague



Veteran coach Dick Advocaat looks set for a third stint in charge of the floundering Dutch national side after reaching an agreement with the football federation, local media reported Monday.

The paperwork for the return of the 69-year-old, currently at Turkish club Fenerbahce, "most likely will be completed this week", his business manager Rob Jansen told the ANP national news agency.

Advocaat has "a verbal agreement" with the Royal Dutch Football Federation (KNVB), Jansen said. Dutch tabloid Algemeen Dagblad reported Advocaat and the KNVB had "definitively reached an agreement as national coach until November".



"The new national coach and the federation however still have to ink the agreement," it added.

There was no immediate confirmation from the KNVB. Advocaat -- who previously managed the national side from 1992 to 1994 and 2002 to 2004 -- would take over from Danny Blind, who was sacked in March after a 2-0 defeat to Bulgaria that left the team's chances of reaching the World Cup finals hanging by the slenderest of threads.

Advocaat is under contract at Fenerbahce until June 1 but should be released in time for a friendly against Morocco on May 31, daily tabloid De Telegraaf reported late last month. The Netherlands, three-time World Cup runners-up, have endured a torrid time in recent years, failing to qualify for Euro 2016 in France and now facing the prospect of missing next year's World Cup in Russia.

The defeat in Sofia left the side fourth in qualifying group A, trailing six points behind leaders France, to the horror of millions of fans of the vaunted "Oranje", once known for their "total football" that saw them reach the World Cup finals in 1974, as well as in 1978 and 2010.

FIFA finances 'extremely solid'

AFP, Manama



FIFA president Gianni Infantino claimed on Monday that the finances of football's governing body were "extremely solid", despite it posting a \$369 million loss earlier this year.

Speaking at the Asian Football Confederation's congress in Bahrain, Infantino said the losses were in line with FIFA's "business model" and there was no need for it give "artificial" figures.

"In spite of what some have been trying to write or to say, FIFA's finances are extremely solid," Infantino told delegates in a short address.

He added that it was normal for FIFA to make losses for three years and then "make revenue" during the fourth financial year, when a World Cup takes place.

"That's how the business model is conducted," he continued. "We don't need to tell you other stories, we don't need to make our figures artificial (or) look better by some accounting measures."

"The situation is that the finances of FIFA are extremely solid."

FIFA has said previously that its losses could increase throughout this year, but rebound in 2018 to a profit of \$1 billion, largely due to TV deals from the Russian World Cup.

Infantino was speaking a day after FIFA formally announced a partnership deal with Qatar Airways for the Gulf carrier to be its "official airline" for a host of major tournaments, including the 2018 and 2022 World Cups.

Klopp blames pitch

AFP, Liverpool



A disappointed Jurgen Klopp said the "really dry" Anfield pitch was partially to blame for Liverpool's drab 0-0 home draw with Southampton that damaged their Champions League ambitions.

James Milner's second-half missed penalty summed up an afternoon of frustration for Liverpool on Sunday as they failed to score against Southampton for the fourth time this season.

Liverpool knew that three wins from their remaining three matches would secure a top-four spot and Champions League football next season.

But Klopp's side never got started against a Southampton team who had Fraser Forster to thank for a string of outstanding saves.

Third-placed Liverpool have now made qualifying for the Champions League more difficult than they would have wished and Klopp, who spent most of the second half ranting on the sidelines, struggled to hide his disappointment.

The Reds boss curiously insisted the poor quality of the Anfield surface had negatively affected his team's performance.

"Nobody wants to hear it but the pitch

was really dry today," Klopp said.

"We gave all the water we had and after 15 minutes it was really dry, a lot of passes you could say, 'Why are they playing this?'"

"In a home game you have to have the best circumstances but we couldn't have this.

"It is not nice to drop points at home but now we play away and then we have another home game."

Liverpool's top-four future is no longer entirely in their hands and Klopp accepted he was upset with how the match unfolded.

"It was a difficult game. Southampton played in a specific way," he said.

"Some people will say everyone will play like this but they will not. We needed to score. They were very disciplined, very deep.

"It is all about scoring one and we couldn't do this. It made life not easy. We tried until the end but today was one of these days.

"We have only one point more, we wanted to have three points more. It is not the end of the world but we are really disappointed."

Liverpool needed to be firing on all cylinders against a Southampton side that were fixated on picking up a point and nothing else and it was to the credit of Claude Puel's side that they held on.



Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp applauds at the end of their Premier League encounter against Southampton at Anfield on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

Jose goads Arsene

AFP, London



Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho stoked the embers of his rivalry with Arsenal counterpart Arsene Wenger after his side's damaging 2-0 defeat at the Emirates Stadium.

Second-half goals by Granit Xhaka and United alum Danny Welbeck earned Arsenal victory on Sunday as Wenger overcame Mourinho in a Premier League game for the first time in 13 attempts.

Mourinho had claimed that "peace" reigned between himself and Wenger prior to the game, but he questioned the Frenchman's poor record against him afterwards and accused him of putting unfair pressure on the fourth official.

"Arsenal fans are happy and I'm happy for them," said Mourinho, whose side had been unbeaten in 25 league games.

"It's the first time I leave Highbury or Emirates and they're happy. I left Highbury, they were crying. I left the Emirates, they were crying. They were walking the streets with heads low.

"Finally today they sing, they (wave) their scarves. It's nice for them.

"It's a big club. You think I enjoy a big club like Arsenal not winning big trophies? I'm not enjoying that. But today I tried to win.

"Arsene Wenger is not a small manager. He's a big manager. To have that record of winning so many matches (against him) and not losing is something that is not normal. Normal is win, lose, draw. It's not normal.

"I really don't care about it. And today, no problems. We shook hands before the game, we shook hands after the game.

"And during the game I didn't like what I never like: he puts too much pressure on the fourth official all the time."

In further digs, Mourinho accused Wenger -- misleadingly -- of playing with a "defensive block" and "a line of five defenders".

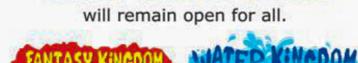
CORPORATE BOOKING

FANTASY KINGDOM COMPLEX will be reserved on 9th May, 2017 (Tuesday) for HOP LVN's Corporate Booking.

From 10th May, 2017 (Wednesday)

FANTASY KINGDOM COMPLEX

will remain open for all.



Contact: 01914602965, 01913531381