

What to WATCH

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

Third Test, Day-2
 Live from 8:00pm
TEN 1
 UEFA Europa League
 SEMIFINAL, 2ND LEG
 Man United v Celta Vigo

Live from 12:00am (Friday)
FRIDAY
MAASRANGA, GTV
 Tri-Nation Series
 Bangladesh v Ireland
 Live from 3:40pm

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

Third Test, Day-3
 Live from 8:00pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT HD1
 English Premiership
 West Brom v Chelsea
 Live from 1:00am (Saturday)

STAR SPORTS SELECT HD2
 English Premiership
 Everton v Watford
 Live from 12:45am (Saturday)

DAY'S EVENT

DHAKA PREMIER LEAGUE
 Time: 9:00am

Abahani v Victoria
 Venue: KSOAS

Mohammedan v Partex
 Venue: BKSP-3

Prime Doleshwar v Legends of Rugganj
 Venue: BKSP-4

Juve stroll into final

AFP, Turin



A stunning Dani Alves volley helped Juventus stroll into their second Champions League final in three years on Tuesday, a 2-1 win on the night completing a 4-1 aggregate victory over out-

classed Monaco.

Brazilian wing-back Alves's 25-yard strike followed Mario Mandzukic's opener for the treble-chasing Italian champions as any semblance of a contest was snuffed out by half-time.

Teenage star Kylian Mbappe pulled a goal back for the principality club after the break, his sixth of the competition.

But there was never any realistic prospect of them threatening to overturn a 2-0 deficit from last week's first leg.

It will be the ninth time Juventus, runners-up to Barcelona in 2015, have contested the final of Europe's elite club competition.

And on this evidence, Massimiliano Allegri's sinewy, battle-hardened squad stand a good chance of adding to the club's meagre return of two triumphs when they meet either Atletico Madrid or Real Madrid in Cardiff on June 3.

"I think we have a good chance of winning the trophy," Allegri said. "We have all grown since 2015, including myself, and getting to the final is no easy thing. The Champions is a serious competition."

"Now we are in the crucial phase of the season because we have not won anything yet. In order we have the championship, the Italian Cup and

the Champions: there is no time for slacking, we have to take care of the details and we have a month to get ready for Cardiff."

Monaco coach Leonardo Jardim batted off suggestions that Tuesday might have been the last big night for his talented young squad before its brightest stars are lured away.

"I am going to stay and I think all the players are going to stay. In three years time this squad will be 25, 30 percent better."

Jardim said he expected Juve to be facing Real in Cardiff and said the Italians would be anything but underdogs.

"This Juve is stronger than it was in 2015. There are many of the same players but with more experience of this level."

"The final is two teams with many quality players and experience of matches like that - it could go either way. I don't think there are any favourites."

Allegri made only one change from last week's first leg line-up but was soon forced to restore it as Germany midfielder Sami Khedira, returning from suspension, lasted only 10 minutes before limping off to make way for Claudio Marchisio.

For Monaco, the loss of Nabil Dirar to injury in the warm-up meant a hasty return for Benjamin Mendy as coach Leonardo Jardim opted to match Juve's 3-5-2 set-up.

The results were initially encouraging and Mbappe squeezed a fifth-minute shot past Gianluigi Buffon from a tight angle and held his head in his hands as it came back off the inside of the post, although the offside flag had come up.



Juventus players celebrate their victory against Monaco at the end of the Champions League semifinal second leg match in Turin on Tuesday.

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:

Inter Milan sack Pioli

Inter Milan have sacked manager Stefano Pioli after a run of seven league games without a win, the club said in a statement on Tuesday. It was Inter's second managerial change of another disappointing season, with the club seventh in Serie A.

Javi Martinez out with broken collarbone

Bayern Munich central defender Javi Martinez will miss the last two matches of the season after breaking his left collarbone during a mountain hiking trip in Spain, the German champions said on Wednesday.

Sharapova's wildcards driven by media coverage: Murray

The level of media coverage surrounding Maria Sharapova's return to tennis from a doping suspension has been a key factor in the five-time grand slam winner being offered wildcards to events, men's world number one Andy Murray has said.

FIFA Ethics Committee were investigating hundreds of cases

Ousted FIFA Ethics investigator Cornel Borbely said on Wednesday his committee were looking into "several hundred" cases of possible wrongdoing, some involving senior officials. **Versatile Mandzukic becomes Juve's secret weapon** Mario Mandzukic looks like an old-fashioned centre forward, plays on the left wing and often transforms himself into one of Juventus' key defenders.

Brothers rope in Subrata

Indian coach targets top-three finish in league

SPORTS REPORTER



Brothers Union have roped in Indian coach Subrata Bhattacharya Jr with the aim of improving on last year's performance. The Gopibagh-based outfit had failed in their bid to retain veteran coach Syed Nayeemuddin, who was poached by Mohammedan Sporting Club, so they contacted Subrata, who has a vast managerial experience in Indian domestic football, including a stint at Kolkata Mohammedan where he had coached in the last season.

The AFC A-licensed coach, who arrived in Dhaka yesterday, said that even though he does not have much idea about the Brothers Union squad, he would want to see his new side finish at least third in the twelve-team table of the Bangladesh Premier League.

"I haven't seen the players yet, but I know about Bangladesh football from my experience as Kolkata Mohammedan coach during the

Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup in 2015," Subrata said while talking to reporters at the club tent. "As you know, the Federation Cup is only a couple of days away. My target will be to see the side finish at least one place higher than last year [when brothers had finished fourth]."

While Brothers Union have a relatively young squad with hardly any high-profile domestic players to speak of, it is their foreign trio -- Augustine Walson, Siyo Zinapiyo and Twum Frank -- who could be pivotal in their bid to finish inside the top three. The club has not spent a great deal on poaching star players the club's long-serving president Nazrul Islam conceded, adding that their aim is to produce quality domestic players and groom them even further.

With the season's curtain-raiser scheduled to start on Saturday, Subrata conceded that he did not have enough time to prepare the side for that challenge and hence his target would be to do well in the league.

"While the time I have at hand isn't ideal, the reality is that in South Asian countries, coaches don't get enough time to prepare their sides. So our target will be to do well in the Premier League. I will be focusing on strategies and fitness of the players in that regard," Subrata added.

As there was a kind of a tug of war between Brothers and Mohammedan over Nayeemuddin, with the latter eventually winning that war, the newly-appointed Brothers coach said that it would not have any impact on either the respect between the two coaches or their approach to the matches.

"[Syed] Nayeemuddin is a respected coach in India and I even played for the junior national team under him," Subrata said. "But that doesn't mean we will give an inch to each other on the pitch or that we will be extra motivated. In fact I am happy to follow the footsteps of Nayeemuddin to become probably the second coach from India to guide clubs outside the country."



Brothers Union's new coach Subrata Bhattacharya Jr (2nd from R) gets introduced to his charges at the club premises in Gopibagh yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Clubs demand dues from BFF

SPORTS REPORTER



The Professional Football League Committee (PFLC) of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) called for an emergency meeting today after seven participating clubs of the Bangladesh Premier League submitted a letter demanding due payments of the last season.

The seven clubs -- Mohammedan Sporting Club, Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club, Sheikh Russell Krira Chakra, Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra, Brothers Union, Arambagh Krira Sangha and newly promoted Saif Sporting Club -- signed the letter, which relayed four demands to the game's local governing body.

According to clubs officials, BFF owes around Tk 2.5 crore as participation money and prize money of the previous seasons to the clubs.

The federation had promised to provide Tk 40 lakh to each participating team before the start of the last season, but failed to disburse the full amount.

The clubs also claimed additional grants from the BFF for events outside Dhaka and also urged for more discussions before finalising venues outside the capital.

However, out of the seven clubs, Sheikh

Jamal are the only one that threatened to boycott the Federation Cup, scheduled to get underway on Saturday, if the BFF fails to fulfil their demands.

"BFF is yet to provide us unpaid money of around one crore taka," Sheikh Jamal governing body chairman Manzur Kader said. "We spend millions of taka to form a football team but we are surprised to see the BFF sanctioning a little amount as participation money and prize money. They [BFF] never thought about facilities of the clubs before finalising a venue outside Dhaka."

Mohammedan officials claimed BFF still owes them Tk 70 to 80 lakh.

"BFF failed to clear our dues," Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan, director in-charge of Mohammedan, said. "Moreover they [BFF] are yet to inform us about the upcoming season's participation money which forced us to issue such a letter."

Officials of Sheikh Russell and Brothers claimed that BFF owes them Tk 17 lakh each while Muktiyoddha and Arambagh said their dues are Tk 13 lakh each.

Meanwhile, BFF officials said they called for the emergency meeting to discuss the demands of the clubs.

"We are going to sit for an emergency meeting tomorrow [Thursday] to discuss the matter," BFF member and PFLC deputy chairman Abdur Rahim informed.

Fahad retains junior title

SPORTS REPORTER

After having successfully retained the title of sub-junior chess last week, FIDE Master Fahad Rahman yesterday retained the title of the National Junior (Under-20) Chess Championships with one round still remaining.

The prodigy earned maximum seven points from seven games to confirm his second consecutive title in the junior section at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room yesterday. Subrata Biswas and Md. Nayem Haque were in joint second position with six points each and CM Ikramul Haq Siam was in third position with 5.5 points.

In the seventh round games yesterday, Subrata beat Anata Choudhury, Nayem beat Akib Jawad, Siam beat Musfiq Islam Jahan.

Meanwhile, in the girls' section, Noshin Anjum was in sole lead with six points. Tanzina Akter Tani was in second position with 5.5 points while Protiva Talukder, Jannatul Ferdous, Kazi Zerine Tasnim and Israt Jahan Diba shared the third position with five points each. In yesterday's matches, Noshin beat Protiva, Jannat beat Tani, and Diba beat Walijah.

Hulk cleared of wrongdoing

AFP, Shanghai



A Chinese football official has said there is no evidence that Shanghai SIPG striker Hulk broke any rules after the Brazilian was accused of punching a rival team's coach.

Guizhou Zhicheng's then head coach Li Bing had accused the muscular Brazilian of punching his assistant Yu Ming in a racially-motivated attack at half-time during SIPG's 3-0 victory on Saturday, allegations that the Shanghai club and Hulk both flatly denied.

"At half-time there indeed was a dispute between the two sides. But according to our understanding of the situation so far, there is no evidence that Hulk violated any regulations," Li Lipeng, a Chinese Football Association (CFA) official involved in overseeing the professional leagues, said in Beijing on Tuesday.

Speaking to Chinese media, Li added that the run-in "was not as serious as some imagined."

ISLAMIC SOLIDARITY GAMES

Bangladesh eye shooting medals

SPORTS REPORTER



The 4th Islamic Solidarity Games get underway tomorrow in the Azerbaijan capital of Baku with 56 nations from around the world participating in the 11-day-long meet.

A 33-member Bangladesh contingent will take part in eight out of 24 disciplines, where 2016 South Asian Games' double gold medallist swimmer Mahfuza Khatun Shila will carry the national flag in the opening ceremony march-past.

Even though the games start on Friday, Bangladesh's participation begins a day after, with 10 athletes making their bow in five different

disciplines.

Bangladesh are hoping to secure at least a medal in shooting. Abdullah Hel Baki, the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games silver medallist, is the biggest hope for that medal in the 10m air rifle event, while Bangladesh will also be represented in the same event by young Rabbi Hasan Munna.

In the women's 10m air rifle event, Syeda Atkia Hassan and Mahfuja Jannat Jui will represent the country.

Swimmer Shila will begin her campaign with the women's 50m breaststroke while Ariful Islam will take part in the men's 50m breaststroke event.

Naima Akter and Nazma Khatun will be taking part in women's 100m backstroke and 800m freestyle events

respectively on the same day.

Weightlifter Phulpati Chakma will take part in women's 53kg weight category while Mounjeta Borna and Al Amin Islam will take part in the women's kumite under-50kg category and men's kumite under-60kg weight category respectively.

Bangladesh gymnast Saddam Hossain will take part in the men's floor exercise, parallel bars and rings event.

Apart from these events, Bangladesh will also take part in athletics, wrestling and zirkhaneh.

Bangladesh had won a silver in taekwondo and a bronze in archery in the previous meet in Indonesia in 2013.

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