

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

Wimbledon  
Women's Singles Semifinals  
Live from 6:00pm

BAF files GD against Chengis

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Athletic Federation (BAF) on Tuesday filed a general diary with the Palton Police Station on security grounds after failing to take valuable equipment, including four starter guns, and documents from former general secretary Ibrahim Chengis. "After taking charge of the federation on March 15 as a general secretary, we repeatedly [thrice] requested Chengis in black and white through the National Sports Council to handover the equipments, unused chequebook and other valuables, but he has yet to hand it over till today [Wednesday]," said adhoc committee general secretary Advocate Abdur Rokib Monu yesterday. "As there are some sensitive things such as guns and a chequebook, we informed the NSC and the sports ministry and filed a general diary with the Palton Police Station on Tuesday for security reasons."

Benzema wins court battle

AFP, Paris

France's highest court on Tuesday struck down a ruling putting Real Madrid star Karim Benzema on trial over the sex-tape blackmail of fellow former international Mathieu Valbuena. The Court of Cassation annulled a Versailles Court of Appeal ruling in December to send Benzema to trial for allegedly attempting to blackmail Valbuena over the sex tape. The case now goes before the Paris Court of Appeal which will weigh the latest ruling. "If the chamber of instruction (of the Paris court) follows the decision of the Court of Cassation, it will have no other choice than to pronounce the entire proceedings void," Benzema's lawyer Patrice Spinosi said.

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:

Business and sport fuels Champions Cup

The cream of European football will be on display in the United States this month as the International Champions Cup aims to cash in on the growing popularity of the world's most popular sport among American fans.

Gayle joins Rangpur Riders

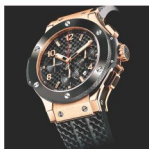
Chris Gayle, who has been part of all four occasions of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), joins Rangpur Riders.

Atletico secure Vitolo deal despite FIFA ban

Atletico Madrid said Wednesday they had signed Spanish international Victor Machin Perez, known as 'Vitolo', from Sevilla, but immediately loaned him to Las Palmas to comply with a FIFA recruitment ban.

CHELSEA PLAYERS GET HUBLOTS

Chelsea players won't be able to blame the lack of a watch if they arrive late for training in future after club owner Roman Abramovich gave each of them one as a gift for winning the Premier League. The Hublot watches – which cost £9,000 (\$11,570, 10,000euros) each and are a unique design with a Chelsea lion on the face – were displayed on Instagram by Brazilian winger Willian and England Under-21 midfielder Nathaniel Chalobah. "On behalf of Mr Abramovich and also on behalf of the board of directors of the club, congratulations on creating history during the 2016/17 season," read the message from chairman Bruce Buck published in Wednesday's Daily Mail. "It's been a campaign to remember. Keep the blue flag flying."



Switzerland's Roger Federer moved into the Wimbledon semifinals after defeating Milos Raonic 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 in the quarterfinals at the All England Club yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Federer's path to 8th crown clear  
Swiss breezes through; Murray ousted, Djokovic withdraws

AFP, London

Roger Federer moved into a 12th Wimbledon semifinal and within touching distance of a record eighth title Wednesday as Andy Murray and Novak Djokovic crashed out on a dramatic day at the All England Club.

Swiss maestro Federer eased to a 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 (7/4) win over Milos Raonic to become the second oldest Wimbledon semifinalist of the Open era.

However, defending champion Murray, severely restricted by a right hip injury, was dethroned by Sam Querrey 3-6, 6-4, 6-7 (4/7), 6-1, 6-1. Three-time winner Djokovic was also heading for the exit after the second seed quit his quarter-final against Tomas Berdych with a right elbow injury while trailing

7-6 (7/2), 2-0.

It means that Federer will face Berdych in Friday's semifinals before Querrey will tackle Marin Cilic after the former US Open champion put out Gilles Muller, 3-6, 7-6 (8/6), 7-5, 5-7, 6-1.

Federer, 35, and playing in his 100th match at the All England Club on Wednesday, is the second oldest man to reach the semi-finals after Ken Rosewall, who finished runner-up in 1974 at the age of 39.

"100 matches. I can't believe it, that's a lot," said Federer. "I'm very happy my body kept me going over all these years. I'm very pleased with how I'm playing."

Canadian sixth seed Raonic had knocked out Federer in the semifinals in 2016.

On Wednesday, Federer matched the big-serving Canadian with 11 aces while crunching a

spectacular 46 winners. He also saved all five break points he faced and has reached the semifinals without dropping a set.

On Friday, he will take an 18-6 career record over Berdych into their semifinal.

One year after knocking out 2015 champion Djokovic in the third round, 29-year-old Querrey, the world number 28, accounted for Murray. The Big American will be playing in his first semifinal at the majors at the 42nd time of asking.

Murray's challenge pestered out when he began limping off his right leg, his movement severely compromised by a recent hip problem.

"I knew I wasn't going to do any major damage by playing so I wanted to try and see if it was possible to find a way at the end," said two-time champion Murray.

"I have had a problem with the

hip for a long time. It's sore. But I tried my best. I gave everything I had and I am proud of that."

"It's disappointing to lose. It was an opportunity and I'm sad it's over."

The only consolation for Murray was that Djokovic's defeat means he will remain as world number one.

Djokovic said a right elbow injury was to blame for his retirement against 2010 Wimbledon runner-up Berdych, a player he had defeated 25 times in 27 previous meetings.

"It's my elbow. It's been bothering me for a year and a half. It's unfortunate I have to finish Wimbledon like this," said Djokovic after his first Grand Slam retirement since the 2009 Australian Open quarter-finals.

"I started feeling it at the beginning of the tournament. The level of pain was always increasing and today was the worst day."

James to rekindle career

AFP, Berlin

After a frustrating spell at Real Madrid, James Rodriguez will attempt to kick-start his career at Bayern Munich next season, back under the stewardship of Carlo Ancelotti.

Colombian hot-shot James on Tuesday joined his former Real boss at the German champions on a two-year loan.

Bayern have the option to buy the 2014 World Cup top-scorer at the end of the deal. "Signing James Rodriguez was our coach Carlo Ancelotti's biggest wish, following their successful spell working together in Madrid," said Bayern's chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge.

"There's no question that this transfer further increases the quality in our team."

Instead of flying west to Los Angeles for Real's tour of the USA, James, 25, will be jetting east with Bayern on Sunday when the German visit China and Singapore.

Bayern's Germany defender Mats Hummels wasted no time in welcoming the Colombian, who scored six goals at the World Cup, by writing "Bienvenido @jamesrodriguez" on Twitter.

James will boost Bayern's star-studded attack along with fellow new signing Corentin Tolisso, 22, who has joined from French side Lyon for 41.5 million euros (\$47.3m).

Ancelotti has persuaded Bayern of the player's undeniable talent with the German club having the chance to try before they buy while Real have found a way to off-load the talent they signed for 75 million euros from Monaco in July 2014.

According to German daily Bild, Bayern will pay 10 million euros per year for James and will have the option to buy him for 35 million.

James has the chance to again prosper under Ancelotti.

He is a big-name summer signing which Bayern need with Brazil's Douglas Costa negotiating a transfer with Juventus.

It's unfair to assume James was a failure at Real as the attacking midfielder scored 36 goals with 38 assists in 110 games for the Spanish giants.

The Colombian, who has a contract at Real until 2020, arrived at the Bernabeu



JAMES RODRIGUEZ

three years ago to much pomp and fanfare. His best season at Real was in 2014/15, when he scored 17 goals, with 18 assists, in 46 matches under Ancelotti, who played him in his favourite position of attacking midfielder.

He was deployed on the right side of the attacking midfield, just behind Karim Benzema and winger Gareth Bale.

But Rodriguez struggled for a place in Real's star-studded first team under Ancelotti's successor Rafael Benitez, then Zinedine Zidane, who had no room for him behind the three-man attack of Bale, Benzema and Cristiano Ronaldo.

James made just 13 starting appearances last season under Zidane in the Spanish league with a further nine off the bench.

It is not obvious where he will play as Thiago Alcantara and Thomas Muller both want to play James' preferred number ten role.

Likewise both Arjen Robben and Kingsley Coman like to come in off the right wing onto their left foot, like to Rodriguez. Ancelotti could well use James alongside Thiago in the attacking midfield behind striker Robert Lewandowski.

Both Real and Bayern will hope Ancelotti can bring James back to his very best so that he heads off to next year's World Cup somewhere near his dazzling 2014 form.

Mendes in Portuguese tax probe

AFP, Lisbon

Portuguese tax inspectors were examining the accounts of football super-agent Jorge Mendes on Wednesday, his company said, two weeks after he was charged in Spain with tax fraud.

The 51-year-old Mendes represents Cristiano Ronaldo, Jose Mourinho, Radamel Falcao and a host of other top earning stars, many of whom are being investigated in Spain over allegations they had earnings from image rights in off-shore accounts.

"An inspection procedure is currently underway and it is being carried out in normal conditions," a spokesman for Mendes' firm Gestifute told AFP on Wednesday, adding the company had already been subject to a series of similar inspections that had passed off without incident.

The investigation in Portugal concerns the past three years and is focusing on whether Mendes had created shell companies for his clients, a charge which he recently denied in a Spanish court investigating alleged tax evasion by Monaco striker Radamel Falcao.

Spanish prosecutors have accused Mendes's most celebrated client Ronaldo of \$16.76 million (14.6 million euros) tax fraud and he had to testify in court on July 31.

Portuguese defender Fabio Coentrao, accused of evading nearly 1.3 million euros, made a settlement with the Spanish taxman last week.

Donnarumma never intended to leave

REUTERS, Milan



AC Milan's 18-year-old goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma never intended to leave the club or betray the fans, he said on Wednesday after agreeing to sign a new four-year contract.

Donnarumma, who made his debut for Milan as a 16-year-old and is already regarded as one of Italy's top goalkeepers, stunned the supporters in June when his agent Mino Raiola told the club he did not want a new deal.

But, after a month of negotiations, Milan said on Tuesday that Donnarumma would stay at the club until 2021.

"I was raised at this club and I never had any doubts in my head about staying," Donnarumma told reporters. "I'm very happy and proud to be with Milan."

"I say sorry to the fans. I repeat that I have never had the intention of betraying them and I thank them for all the support they have given me in these two seasons."

Donnarumma made his senior debut in 2015 under coach Sinisa Mihajlovic and quickly established himself as the first-choice goalkeeper.

He has already made 68 Serie A appearances and became the youngest goalkeeper to play for Italy when he made his debut as a 17-year-old against France last year.

He was pelted with fake cash by supporters during a match for Italy against Denmark at the European under-21 championship in Poland last month.

On Wednesday, Milan announced the signing of Donnarumma's older brother Antonio, also a goalkeeper.

The 27-year-old has not enjoyed the same success as his brother, however.

He was wanted at Milan but never appeared for the first team. Instead, he went on to play for Piacenza, Gubbio and Bari in Serie B.

He also made one Serie A appearance for Genoa - his only game in Italy's top flight to date - and spent last season at Greek club Asteras Tripoli.



IAAF WORLD U-18 C'SHIP  
Jahir advances to 400m semifinals

SPORTS REPORTER



Mohammad Jahir Rayhan produced his personal best to qualify for the 400m semifinals in the IAAF World U-18 Championships in Nairobi yesterday.

The promising athlete, who earned the right to run in the World U-18 Championships after a formidable display in the Asian Youth Championships last May with his previous-best of 49.12 seconds, finished behind Jamaican Anthony Cox (46.53 seconds) and Slovenian Jernej Grabovac (47.74 seconds) to finish third in Heat-1 with a time of 48.00 seconds.

He finished 14th overall among 33 participants and is scheduled to participate in the semifinals today where he faces an uphill task to reach the eight-man final.

The boy from Sherpur not only broke his previous best, but also became the second Bangladeshi athlete after sprinter Abdullah Hel Kafi to advance to the semifinals of a global event organised by the IAAF. Kafi, who now coaches Jahir, had qualified for the 100m semifinals in the World Youth Games in Moscow in 1998.

"I am really happy to have qualified for the semifinals and writing my name in the final," said the 11th-grade student of Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Pratishthan (BKSP).

"I didn't expect that I would be able to surpass my previous best but today [Wednesday] I bettered my time and that has made me confident to give more effort in the semifinals. I am now dreaming of further improving my time in the semifinals and writing my name in the final," said the 11th-grade student of Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Pratishthan (BKSP).

The gold-winner in 200m and 400m sprint in last edition's Junior Athletics Championships, could also have participated in the 200m sprint in the ongoing event in Nairobi but he clocked 22.05 seconds in the Asian Youth Championships in Thailand. However, he clocked 22.09 seconds which meant he missed the opportunity to qualify for 200m in IAAF World U-18 Championship.



Mohammad Jahir Rayhan became the second Bangladeshi to qualify for the semifinals of a global IAAF event after reaching the semis of the 400m event of the IAAF World U-18 Championships in Nairobi yesterday. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Alves joins PSG

AFP, Paris

Brazilian right-back Dani Alves has signed a two-year deal with Paris Saint-Germain, the French club confirmed on Wednesday.

The 34-year-old who made his name at Barcelona was a free agent having recently left Spanish champions Juventus, the club he helped get to last season's Champions League final.

Inter-university football from tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

The Walton First Inter-University Football Tournament will get underway from Friday at the Bangladesh National Stadium with 20 governments and private universities taking part in the meet, jointly organised by Green University and Sonali Oil Club.

The tournament has been arranged in a bid to keep the youth away from drugs as well as militant activities, speakers said at a press conference at the NSC conference room yesterday.

Awami League's sports and youth secretary Hanunur Rashid, Green University vice-chancellor Dr. Mohammad Golam Samdani Fakir, Sonali Oil Club president and former footballer Khurshid Alam, Walton deputy director (sports) FM Iqbal Bin Anwar, Sheikh Jamal DC president Mamun Kader and tournament secretary Sheikh Mohammad Aslam were among those present at the occasion.