



Katie Ledecky of USA celebrates after winning the women's 1500m freestyle final, becoming the first woman to win 12 gold medals, at the 2017 FINA World Championships in Budapest yesterday.

FARAAZ CHALLENGE CUP FINAL TODAY Teams look to spread friendship

SPORTS REPORTER



The curtain on the Walton Inter-University Football Tournament is set to fall today through the final between Green University and Farea University at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Having played six matches each over the last 14 days, the two best sides of the 20-university tournament qualified for the final and the one to be crowned champions will receive the Faraaz Challenge Cup trophy.

However, the pre-final press conference at the Bangladesh Olympic Association auditorium yesterday was less about the competition and more about brotherhood and friendship among university students as well as restoring sports culture at university level.

"Winning the final is less important to us, rather we want to spread the motto of the tournament to keep the young generation away from drugs and radicalism," said Green University coach Rashedul Islam.

"From the beginning, I tried to spread the spirit of Faraaz [Ayaaz Hossain] among the

students. What Faraaz did is a rare incident in our society and I tried to make my players understand and appreciate teammates instead of criticising when mistakes are made on the pitch," Islam said. "I know no one will be a big footballer through this tournament but I will be happy if football culture is built up at universities through this tournament."

Farea University coach Shafiqul Islam also felt that sports culture will return to universities through this tournament, which will help the youth get involved with sports rather than being derailed.

"Universities are gradually losing the sporting culture but I have seen huge enthusiasm among the students in this tournament and I think this trend will stay if this tournament is held every year," said Shafiqul Islam.

The two team's captains, former national footballers Golam Sarwar Tipu, Ashraf Uddin Ahmed Chunnu, Sheikh Mohammad Aslam, Hasanuzzaman Khan Bablu, Faraaz's elder brother Zaraif Ayaaz Hossain, organiser Fazlur Rahman Babul and Ha-Meem Group representative Sadiur Rahman also spoke on the occasion.

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:

Shrubsole lives out Lord's dream
Anya Shrubsole said her match-winning display in England's Women's World Cup final win over India at Lord's was proof that dreams can come true.

Ashwin hails India's rise to top
Ravichandran Ashwin, who will play his 50th Test against Sri Lanka this week, hailed India's rebuilding effort to become the number one Test side.

History beckons Herath

Rangana Herath has been so good that Sri Lanka have barely felt the vacuum that was created after legendary spinner Muttiah Muralitharan's departure.

'Neymar welcome at Madrid'
Neymar's transfer saga keeps rolling and now Real Madrid's Brazilian defensive midfielder Casemiro has added to the spice by cheekily stating that Neymar would be welcome at Real Madrid.

I'm staying at Real: Ronaldo
Ending weeks of speculation about his future, Cristiano Ronaldo has told a Spanish newspaper he is staying put at Real Madrid to plunder more silverware.

Ledecky wins historic 12th gold Peaty breaks own 50m breaststroke world record

AFP, Budapest

Katie Ledecky of the United States made history on Tuesday by becoming the first woman to win 12 world swimming championship gold medals with victory in the 1500m freestyle at the FINA World Championships on Tuesday.

Ledecky clocked 15 minutes, 31.82 seconds with Spain's Mireia Belmonte taking silver at a huge 19.07secs back, while Italy's Simona Quadarella earned bronze at 22.04.

The 20-year-old is now the most decorated woman in world swimming championships history as she passed compatriot Missy Franklin, who has 11 world titles.

But despite her achievement, Ledecky said winning is not as easy as she makes it look.

"It's hard the other 364 days of the year, it's about putting the work in during practice, so that then I can step up," she said.

"I then know that I have the work in the bank and can post those good times."

This was Ledecky's third gold of these championships -- from a possible six she could finish with -- and she led from the start.

"I was a good position, holding a good pace and held steady there, I probably could have raced

a bit harder in the last 50 metres, but I'm still happy with the swim and the time," she said.

The freestyle expert then showed her versatility by being the fastest qualifier from the women's 200m freestyle semifinals.

She will target her fourth gold of these championships in Wednesday's final as her rivals are left in awe.

Lilly King of the United States broke the world record for the women's 100m breaststroke in winning the gold.

King clocked one minute 04.13 seconds in the final, beating Ruta Meilutyte's 2013 record, with compatriot Katie Meili taking silver, 0.90sec back, and Russia's Yuliya Efimova earning bronze at 0.92.

Kylie Masse of Canada stormed to women's 100m backstroke gold in a new world-record time.

The 21-year-old clocked 58.10 seconds, breaking Gemma Spofforth's previous mark of 58.12sec from the 2009 championships in the era of the now-banned neoprene suits.

Kathleen Baker of the United States took silver, at 0.48sec back, while Emily Seebohm of Australia brushed off a cold to claim bronze, 0.49 behind.

China's Xu Jiayu won men's 100m backstroke gold.

The 21-year-old Olympic silver medallist

clocked 52.44 seconds with American duo Matt Grevers earning silver, at 0.04sec back, and Olympic champion Ryan Murphy taking bronze at 0.15.

Chinese superstar Sun Yang won the men's 200m freestyle gold to add to his Olympic title in the same event.

Sun touched the wall first in one minute 44.39 seconds with Townley Haas of the United States taking silver, at 0.65sec back, while Russia's Aleksandr Krasnykh earned bronze at 0.84.

"I paid attention to detail and followed the instructions of my coach," said Sun, who punched the water in triumph after his victory.

This was Sun's second gold of these championships after his victory in the 400m freestyle final on Sunday.

He will bid for the treble in Wednesday's 800m freestyle final -- the event he has dominated for the last three world championships since 2011 in Shanghai.

Britain's Adam Peaty broke the men's 50m breaststroke world record for the second time in just a few hours on Tuesday by clocking 25.95 seconds in the semifinals.

The 22-year-old had broken his own record, set at the 2015 world championships in Kazan, when he swam 26.10secs in the morning's heats, with the final to come on Wednesday.

Saif Power Battery to sponsor BPL

SPORTS REPORTER



Saif Power Battery earned the sponsorship rights for the upcoming Bangladesh Premier League after Saif Global Sports (SGS), the marketing rights holders of the league, sold the rights to its sister concern after apparently failing to sell the rights owing to deferment of the league and reduction of venues.

The league is scheduled to begin on Friday at the Bangabandhu National Stadium with the participation of 12 clubs.

Though SGS provided Tk4 crore for the last edition of the Bangladesh Premier League, this time they will provide only Tk1.5 crore and handed a cheque worth Tk60 lakh to the game's governing body at the official declaration of the title sponsors yesterday.

Newly launched private satellite channel - Bangla TV - will telecast the first of the two matches each day live.

Despite persistent rain, the Professional Football League Committee chairman Abdus Salam Mursedy vowed to start the league as scheduled.

"The league will start from July 28 and if the ground turns unplayable, we will think about it later," Mursedy said, adding that they are thinking of revising the schedule of Chittagong Abahani's home matches due to the unplayable condition of the pitch at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong.

Maradona backs use of VAR

REUTERS, London

Diego Maradona has backed the use of video assistant referees (VARs) in soccer even though he is aware that his infamous 'Hand of God' goal would not have stood if the technology had existed during his heyday.

The goal during the 1986 World Cup quarter-final between Argentina and England is one of the most talked about in the history of football, alongside his brilliant solo run past five defenders in the same game that gave his side a 2-1 victory.

The diminutive Argentine, who tapped the ball over the head of onrushing goalkeeper Peter Shilton with his fist to score his country's first goal, gained even more notoriety when he claimed afterwards it had been scored by the 'Hand of God'.

"Obviously I think about it whenever I show my support for the use of technology," Maradona said in an interview posted on global soccer's governing body FIFA's website on Tuesday.

"I thought about it and, sure, that goal wouldn't have stood if technology had been around. And I'll tell you something else: at the 1990 World Cup I used my hand to clear the ball off the line against the Soviet Union."

NATIONAL VOLLEYBALL PDB, Titas Gas notch victories

SPORTS REPORTER

Power Development Board (PDB) and Titas Gas recorded wins in the men's section of the Shahjalal Islami Bank National Volleyball Championship at the Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium yesterday.

Power Development Board defeated Bholia 25-16, 25-17, 25-11 while Titas Gas beat Pabna 25-14, 25-11, 25-12.

In the women's section, Bangladesh Ansar thrashed Khulna 25-2, 25-2, 25-12 while Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation handed a 25-15, 25-5, 25-5 defeat to Chittagong.

Mueller upstages Morata

AFP, Singapore

Big-money signing Alvaro Morata made his debut for Premier League champions Chelsea on Tuesday but was upstaged by two-goal Thomas Mueller as Bayern Munich won 3-2 in Singapore.

The Spanish international striker signed for Chelsea from Real Madrid in a deal reported to be worth up to 80 million euros (\$92m) last week, and climbed off the bench with about 30 minutes remaining of the match.

But German international Mueller, whose future has been rumoured to be in doubt after Bayern's loan signing of James Rodriguez, was the outstanding player in a competitive pre-season friendly.

Playing in front of a crowd of over 48,000, it took Bundesliga champions Bayern just six minutes to score with Brazilian defender Rafinha rattling a 25-yard drive past Chelsea goalkeeper



Thomas Mueller scored two goals to power Bayern Munich in their friendly against Chelsea in Singapore yesterday.

Thibaut Courtois, who should have done better.

Both sides were close to full strength and Bayern struck again six minutes later.

This time the on-form winger Franck Ribery picked out the unmarked Mueller with a deft chipped cross, and the forward volleyed home in acrobatic fashion.

Oladipo given six match suspension

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) Disciplinary Committee on Monday suspended Chittagong Abahani forward Afeez Olawale Oladipo for six matches after it was found that the Nigerian striker obtained Bangladesh visa illegally.

The suspension will come into effect from Chittagong's Abahani first match of the Bangladesh Premier League, which is scheduled to start on Friday.

"He submitted false documents, which the BFF did not issue to him, to the embassy to get the Bangladesh visa. It came to our notice when the embassy enquired about it," BFF general secretary Abu Nayem Shohag said.

Chittagong Abahani, which fielded Afeez during the Federation Cup in May, appealed against the suspension yesterday.



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