

Bangladesh Premier League
Vince van der Venne
Sat Sporting v Muktiyoddha
Time: 5:00pm

Arambagh Brothers Union
Time: 7:15pm

Amzad, Rashedul keen to go far

Both strikers are still far from establishing themselves in the top tier of the country's football, but they are definitely making their presence felt in each match of the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League by either scoring goals or putting up spirited performances.
Muktiyoddha Sangad's Amzad Ali Shamim and Rahmatganj MFS's Rashedul Islam Shuvo have already drawn attention because of their height, which is an advantage over some of the more established strikers such as Tokish Ahmed, Towhidul Alam Sabuj, Zahid Hasan Family and Midhan Chowdhury.
Amzad Ali, originally from Brahmanbaria, is 5 feet 11 inches tall while Rashedul stands just an inch shorter. Not only are they tall, but they also have the ability to score. They have scored two goals each so far in the league.

Kaiser, adding that Amzad is keen to learn and possesses a fighting attitude. Amzad first played in Dhaka in 2010 for third division side Nawabpur Club before appearing for Fakirepool Young Men's Club in the first division the following year. He also played for Agrani Bank in the second-tier professional league for two seasons up to 2014 before finally getting his chance in top-flight football this season.
"I am trying to improve myself in line with the instructions of my coach. I am learning everything because I have to



improve a lot to stay at the top flight," said the 24-year-old striker, who scored in two successive matches after failing to get a place in the starting line-up in the league opener against Sheikh Russel KC.
Like Amzad, Rashedul has also come a long way as the 23-year-old striker from Chittagong had to spend six years in the lower leagues of Dhaka before finally being hired by a club in the Bangladesh Premier League.
"I scored nine goals in 14 matches for Victory SC in the championship league

and signed for Mohammedan SC last season, but I was only used as a substitute so I could not prove myself," Rashedul said. "This time, Rahmatganj coach Kamal Babu sir asked me to play for his side and I am trying to repay his faith."

"I can play either as a No. 9 or a No. 10. I am working hard to achieve my target of scoring the highest number of goals among the local players while my ultimate goal is to play for the national team," said Rashedul.

Coach Kamal Babu is also pleased with Rashedul's overall performance even though the forward failed to score a single goal in three matches since netting a brace in the opening match.
"There is no doubt that he is a good player because he has the scoring ability and can turn into a provider as well," Babu said, adding that Rashedul has a big advantage as he can hold the ball in the attacking third.

Both Amzad and Rashedul can thank the decision to reduce the foreigners quota because otherwise they might have had to warm the benches like many promising local forwards did in previous seasons. However, these strikers are vindicating the decision as the locals have scored 23 goals against foreigners' 24 in the league this season. Local forward Touhidul Alam Sabuj of Chittagong Abahani is on top of the scorers' chart with four goals followed by Sheikh Jamal's Gambian striker Mousouf Bah and Rahmatganj's Guinean striker Ismail Bangoura on three goals each.

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:

Mushfir urges people to help out flood victims
Test captain Mushfir Rahman urges people to help out flood victims in a Facebook live event.

Zidane angered by five-game Ronaldo ban
Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane expressed his anger at a five-game ban handed to Cristiano Ronaldo for pushing a referee after being sent-off against Barcelona.

Sharapova gets US Open wildcard
Five-time major champion Maria Sharapova will play her first Grand Slam since serving a 15-month doping suspension after receiving a wildcard into the US Open.

Siddiqui hopes for a good debut in Fiji

Siddikur Rahman is planning to go easy at the Fiji International, which sees off at the Natadola Bay Championship Golf Course tomorrow.

The two-time Asian Tour winner, who finished 29th in Bangalore earlier this month following a third-place finish in the Porsche European Open at the end of last month, has the momentum with him as he makes his maiden appearance at the US\$1.14 million event in Fiji, which is sanctioned by the Asian Tour, the European Tour and the IPSA HANDBA PGA Tour of Australasia.
"I had a superb week in Germany last month, claiming a tied-third finish on the European Tour. Things have been coming along really nicely so I am hoping for the best this week," Siddikur told Asiantour.com on Monday.

Siddikur has enjoyed a relatively easy season so far, claiming two top-10 finishes and missing only three cuts in nine starts on the Asian Tour. However, he isn't setting any specific targets for this event, rather wants to enjoy the game.

"I take pride in my results so far this season. I am really happy with the way I have been playing. I practise a lot and I work a lot on my fitness. I am glad the efforts are paying off. I don't set targets for myself

anyone. I don't want to myself any expectations. I just want to enjoy my game," Siddikur said.

With conditions likely to be windy in the Pacific island, the 32-year-old golfer expects to make an impact. "I think I am lucky because I tend to play better under windy conditions. I heard it can really windy here on this course but I am prepared for it."

Like Siddikur, Indian stalwart Rahul Gangjee, Poom Sakansin of Thailand and Liu Yan Wei of China will all be making their debuts in this event, which was inaugurated in 2014.



BOLT TO PLAY FOR MANCHESTER UNITED

Usain Bolt has signed for Manchester United to play a charity football match against Barcelona. The lifelong Red Devil is set to make his first appearance since retiring from athletics to line up alongside legends Ryan Giggs and Paul Scholes at Old Trafford on September 24. He has always stated his wishes to play football 'at any level' and his dream will be coming true as he takes the field alongside Champions League winners Andy Cole, Edwin van der Sar, Jesper Blomqvist, Denis Irwin, Rommy Johnson, Dwight Yorke, We Brown and Phil Neville. The Manchester United team will be managed by former captain Bryan Robson while the Barcelona side will be managed by Jose Mari Bakero and the agents to feature in the game in aid of the Manchester United Foundation include Gazi Mendetta, Eric Abidal, Miguel Angel Nadal and George Popescu. However, after pulling his hamstring in his final race at the World Championships in London on Saturday, the 30-year-old athlete might not be fit in time to realise his dream. —AGENCIES



Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi shared this picture of himself on Facebook ahead of the second leg of the Super Cup against Real Madrid, which Barca trail 2-1, with the caption: "We have to pick ourselves up & keep going, this has only just started."

PLAYER OF THE YEAR Ronaldo, Messi & Buffon in top three

AGENCIES, Nyon
Cristiano Ronaldo, Gianluigi Buffon, Lionel Messi have been selected as the finalists for the 2016/17 UEFA Men's Player of the Year Award.

The three players were shortlisted by a jury comprising of 80 coaches from the clubs which participated in the group stage of last year's Champions League and Europa League, along with 55 journalists.
Messi and Ronaldo have both won the award twice previously — Messi in 2010/11 and 2014/15, and Ronaldo in 2013/14 and last season.

A list of ten footballers from the clubs which participated in the group stage of last year's Champions League and Europa League, along with 55 journalists.
Messi and Ronaldo have both won the award twice previously — Messi in 2010/11 and 2014/15, and Ronaldo in 2013/14 and last season.

The initial list also included Luka Modric, Toni Kroos, Paulo Dybala, Sergio Ramos, Kylian Mbappe, Robert Lewandowski and Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

The award will be presented at the 2017/18 UEFA Champions League group stage draw in Monaco on Thursday 24 August.

Real's chance to assert dominance

Second leg against Barca tonight

Following Real Madrid's explosive 3-1 victory over Barcelona in the Spanish Super Cup first leg on Sunday night, the two giants of Spain will meet for round two at the Santiago Bernabeu tonight.

The first leg burst into the El Clasico that is expected after the first 45 minutes yielded next to nothing in terms of entertainment. What followed in the second half was what every spectator yearns for when watching football's greatest rivals battle it out. There were four goals and a red card in that span, but what the Nou Camp witnessed was Real Madrid laying down a marker for the upcoming season.

Fantastic strikes from Cristiano Ronaldo and Marco Asensio have been overshadowed by talks of the former's dismissal — he accumulated two yellow cards, one for taking off his shirt in celebration after carving up Barcelona's Gerard Pique before unleashing a dipping strike from the edge of the box and the other for a supposed foul — but Los Blancos performance showed that they had enough depth to not miss even a superstar like Ronaldo.

On the other hand, Barcelona hedged all their bets on their Argentine genius Lionel Messi, but he failed to evade the constant attention put on him by Zinedine Zidane's tactics. The ace will have to be in top gear today if Barcelona are to have a chance

against their arch-rivals, but the gaping hole left by Neymar will also need to be filled by a reliable deputy.

Messi produced one of his most memorable performances in recent times in last season's final Clasico as he scored the winner in his side's 3-2 La Liga win. However, that result did not affect Real, who went on to clinch La Liga before lifting the Champions League for the second time in as many years.

Zidane has already led Real Madrid to six trophies so far and if all goes well for his side, he will be lifting the seventh at home come tonight.

Although Real will be missing their key man, they will have an even better midfield — unbelievable as it is — than they did in the first leg. Luka Modric will return to their line-up, possibly displacing Matteo Kovacic in the process, after the Croatia seceder was out one match ban.

Barcelona, with little depth in their ageing line-up, may be tempted to throw Paulinho into the mix, but it is likely that they will field the same team.

They will also need to attack from the get-go if they are to have a chance, and despite Messi and striker Luis Suarez's assertions that the tie is far from over, it is more than likely that Real will set up a counterattacking tactic, expose Barcelona's toothless midfield and perhaps lift their seventh trophy under Zidane at the Bernabeu tonight.

Rafa set for return to top

AGENCIES, London
Three long years since his last time at the summit of world tennis, Rafael Nadal will become the world No. 1 again on Monday after Roger Federer pulled out of the Cincinnati Open.

The 31-year-old first took top spot in August 2002 when he was just 22 and spent an incredible 141 weeks at the top during his career. However, he had not held the position since July 6, 2014 and said that it would be 'something special' to reclaim that spot after a remarkable run in 2017. Federer's withdrawal prevented his arch-rival from usurping Andy Murray — who missed out on the Montreal Masters and will also sit out the Cincinnati Open owing to injury — at the top of the table.

including historic 10th titles at Roland Garros, Monte-Carlo and Barcelona. He has also reached three other finals.

"For me personally obviously to be back to that position is something special. A lot of things have happened since the last time I was in this position," Nadal said.

The Spaniard admitted doubting he could ever regain the top spot after so many years.

"If you don't have doubts, it's because you are very arrogant and I'm not very arrogant. I am really happy with the way I have been playing. I practise a lot and I work a lot on my fitness. I am glad the efforts are paying off. I don't set targets for myself

"Injuries and tough moments, but I have held the passion for the game, and that's why I have the chance to be back in that position again. So I'm just trying to enjoy the moment and just trying to be ready to compete well here."

Nadal added that he was sorry to see Federer join the list of players absent this week, which includes Murray, Serbia's Novak Djokovic, Japan's Kei Nishikori and Swiss Stan Wawrinka.

"It's bad news for Roger he's not playing," Nadal said. "I'm sorry for all of them. I hope they have good recovery. Roger and I are both having great seasons. I think both of us are going to have the chance to be in that position until the end of the season."



SHARP advertisement for Equire Electronics Ltd. featuring a list of products and contact information for various branches in Bangladesh.