



What to WATCH

TEN 2
La Liga
Espanyol v Celta Vigo
Live from 1:00am (Tuesday)

DAY'S EVENT

National Cricket League
Four-Day Match, Day-4
Time: 9:30am
Khulna v Rangpur

Venue: SANS, Khulna
Dhaka v Barisal
Venue: SKICS Academy, Cox's Bazar
Dhaka Metro v Chittagong

Venue: ZACS, Chittagong
Rajshahi v Sylhet
Venue: SKS, Rajshahi

Arsenal midfielder Aaron Ramsey jumps over Chelsea goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois during their high-voltage London Derby at Stamford Bridge on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

Resolute Arsenal deny Chelsea

REUTERS, London

Arsenal produced a vastly-improved away performance to have the better of a 0-0 draw with Premier League champions Chelsea at Stamford Bridge on Sunday.

After defeat at Stoke City and a thrashing at Liverpool, Arsene Wenger's side showed far more steel and hit the post through Aaron Ramsey as well as having Shkodran Mustafi's headed goal disallowed as they had the better of the chances.

Tempers frayed near the end with Chelsea's David Luiz shown a red card for a wild tackle on Sead Kolasinac -- their third red card of the season from only five league games.

Arsenal's draw snapped a five-match losing streak away to Chelsea in the league and left them in 12th place with seven points. Chelsea are third with 10 points.

"It was about mentality and a response from our last away game. We could have won it. It was

an intense game," Wenger said. "The battle was total.

"We were focused and determined. We tried to play when we had the ball and we were close to winning the game. With a bit more freedom we would have won the game."

Wenger's side were savaged by former players and pundits after the 4-0 loss at Liverpool last month but showed far greater steel on Sunday and a point was the least they deserved.

They have still not scored away in the league this season but came close on several occasions against Antonio Conte's side who, after a lively start, were second best.

Danny Welbeck headed one good chance over and Alexandre Lacazette shot too close to keeper Thibaut Courtois after Hector Bellerin had raced to the byline and cut back an inviting pass.

Pedro wasted Chelsea's best chance in the first half when he was sent clear by Cesc Fabregas but finished tamely.

Ramsey went closest for Arsenal when he

wriggled through into Chelsea's area and prodded a shot against the post with Lacazette unable to convert the rebound.

The chances dried up after the break prompting Arsenal to introduce Alexis Sanchez after he was left on the bench while Chelsea threw on Eden Hazard for Willian.

Mustafi thought he had won it for Arsenal when he met a free kick with a downward header but he was adjudged offside.

Arsenal's hearts were in their mouths when Hazard slalomed through and pulled the trigger but his fierce rising drive was well held by the perfectly-positioned Petr Cech.

A disappointing Chelsea display ended on a sour note when Luiz followed through recklessly on Kolasinac and referee Michael Oliver reached for his red card.

"We have great respect for officials, but it is strange to finish a third game in a row against Arsenal with 10 men," Conte said. "You need to see what happened before the tackle."

An official-heavy tour

Under-16 boys' team leave for Qatar

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh U-16 football team left for Qatar last night, with a mega contingent of 31 members including 23 players and the rest being team officials and coaching staff, to participate in the AFC U-16 Championship Qualifiers.

The Bangladesh team, which recently played in the SAFF U-15 Championship where they were eliminated from the semi-finals, will play three individual matches against Group E opponents United Arab Emirates, Yemen and Qatar from September 20 to 24.

While in recent times Bangladesh's participation in AFC and SAFF organised age-group tournaments has increased in frequency, pointing towards more engagement and progress of the game at those levels, it has also brought with it a rather unwanted side -- the large number of officials, and more worryingly, in some cases not the most appropriate ones -- making trips.

The team that is travelling to Qatar includes a head of delegation, a team leader, a team manager, a team official, one head coach, two assistant coaches and a physio-therapist. While the presence of the coaches, manager and physio is understandable, the wisdom of including a team leader and a head of delegation and yet another team official for an age-group qualifying tournament is quite bewildering.

During the pre-departure press conference at the Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday, head of delegation Fazlur Rahman Babul, who is also the chairman of grounds committee, explained his inclusion by saying: "I had a long desire of going to Qatar. I had a chance to go there in 1984 but it didn't eventually happen. Qatar has great football infrastructure and there are Bangladeshis working in that sector. So I felt

it would be good for our football to be there."

BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag said that the decision to include the officials was taken by the development committee long ago, adding that Fazlur Rahman's interest for going to Qatar was taken into consideration while Iliyas Hossain was made team leader as he was involved with selection of the team from a very initial stage. However, the BFF spokesman could not come up with a satisfactory answer when asked about the role of the other team official.

As there is a limit to team contingency in such tournaments organized by the AFC, the inclusion of extra officials has seemingly also made it difficult for the more technical people to be included. The team is going without a goalkeeping coach. Jaan-e-Alam Nuri Rahel, who was with this team in last month's SAFF Championship, is not going with the side. The BFF officials claimed that the goalkeeping coach could not be part of the contingent due to visa complications.

The team will also be without any designated media officer. "We have contacted the Qatar FA and they will provide us with pictures while our officials will provide us with news over phone," the BFF spokesman explained in this regard.

It has been learnt that the football federation had acquired a government order (GO) for 47 people for this tour. While the official list says 31 members are going to Qatar, it has been learnt that four others, who are not in the list, will accompany them.

It may be mentioned here that the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) bears the expenses of accommodation, food and others for the designated period of the tournament while respective federations bear the air ticket expenses.

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:

Brathwaite's trip pays off as Windies beat England

West Indies captain Carlos Brathwaite was rewarded for making an 8,000-mile round trip to Chester-le-Street as the tourists beat England by 21 runs in a lone Twenty20 international.

Guardiola calls on City to celebrate 'legend' Aguero

Pep Guardiola wants Manchester City to pay tribute to Sergio Aguero when the Argentine "legend" becomes their record goalscorer.

Coutinho breaks silence on failed Barca move

Liverpool's Philippe Coutinho reveals that he was interested in joining Catalan giants FC Barcelona. While speaking to ESPN Brazil, the midfielder spoke for the first time about his failed move.

United pummel Everton 4-0

AFP, Manchester



Romelu Lukaku showed little room for sentiment yesterday, scoring one and creating another as Manchester United ran out ultimately comfortable 4-0 winners over his former club Everton to ruin Wayne Rooney's Old Trafford return.

Right-back Antonio Valencia gave United an early lead with a spectacular half-volley before late goals from midfielder Henrikh Mkhitaryan -- set up by Lukaku -- and an Anthony Martial penalty sealed the win.

They are now only behind Manchester City in the table by virtue of C coming before U in the alphabet as they have identical records.

The Red Devils, scoring three goals in the final seven minutes, must have flattered themselves a little.

Rooney, United's all-time leading goalscorer, was afforded a generous reception by the United fans and carried Everton's main goal threat before he left to a standing ovation from home supporters.

United asserted their authority in the fourth minute as Valencia showed superb technique to score a magnificent opening goal. Nemanja Matic swept a cross field pass to Valencia on the corner of the penalty area who struck a sweet half-volley which arched high into the net.

Rooney flickered into life midway through the first half when he sent Cuco Martina scampering down the right flank and then burst forward in search of the return ball. Martina's low cross picked out Rooney on the edge of the penalty area but the former England captain could only strike a low effort wide of the post.

Rooney's tenacity moments after half-time saw him skip into the penalty area at the Stretford End and on to a pass from Tom Davies but David De Gea kept out the striker's low effort with his legs.

United finished the contest strongly and clinically, though, as three goals after Rooney's 82nd minute substitution saw Everton capitulate and conceded three goals.

Bangladesh take on India

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh will take on regional powerhouse India in the opening match of the SAFF U-18 Championship at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu today. The match will kick off at 4:00pm Bangladesh time.

Bangladesh coach Mahbub Hossain Roxy picked India as the strongest side in the tournament but nevertheless, vowed to give a good challenge in the opening game.

Bangladesh were beaten on penalties by India in the semifinals of the last edition which was held as the SAFF U-19 Championship two years ago. The team this time around though, unlike on the previous occasion, boasts players who ply their trade in the top two tiers of the professional league. However, they have not had the best of preparations as the whole squad was available to the coach for just three days, and only a total of 17 days of sporadic training could take place.

"I think India are the strongest side of the tournament. Nevertheless we hope to play a good game," Roxy said during the pre-match press conference yesterday. "The good thing is this tournament will be held in league format, so we will get to play all the other teams and there will be opportunities to recover if we do badly in one

match."

India coach Floyd Pinto also showed respect to his opening-game opposition. "India, Nepal or Bangladesh should win the title," Pinto said. "We treat every match as a final. So we will be playing our first final tomorrow."

The Indian team played a number of practice matches as part of their preparations for this tournament, the Indian coach said. Bangladesh, however, go

into the tournament without playing any such practice matches. They reached Thimphu on Saturday morning and had their official practice session on the match venue yesterday.

The second match of the day will be between Nepal and hosts Bhutan. Maldives are the other team in the tournament. Each team will play against the others and the team with most number of points will emerge champions.



Bangladesh captain Tutul Hossain Badshah (2nd from R), along with his counterparts, poses with the trophy in Thimphu yesterday.

PHOTO: BFF

Dembele out for up to four months

AFP, Barcelona

Barcelona's record 105 million-euro (\$125 million) signing Ousmane Dembele is set to be sidelined for up to four months as the club confirmed the extent of the hamstring injury he suffered at Getafe on Saturday.

"The tests performed on first team player Ousmane Dembele have determined he has ruptured the tendon of the hamstring in his left leg," Barcelona said in a statement on Sunday.

"The player will undergo surgical treatment by Dr. Sakari Orava this coming week in Finland. The expected time out will be between three-and-a-half and four months."

Pogba faces lengthy layoff

AFP, London

French international Paul Pogba could be out of action for three months, the Sunday Times reported on Sunday, dealing a huge blow to Manchester United.

The hamstring injury suffered by the 24-year-old -- an £89.3 million (\$121 million, 105 million euros) signing from Juventus last year -- after just 18 minutes in Tuesday's Champions League match with Basel is worse than was thought originally according to a club source.

The source said he faced sitting on the sidelines of anything from six to 12 weeks.

"The injury is really bad," a United source was quoted as saying by the newspaper.

However, the club believe Pogba's injury was a result of the player overdoing his personal training outside of the club's supervision.

"It's not normal for a player respecting our training programme," the source said.

Pogba is keen to go to the United States to undergo treatment and rehabilitation with a group of personal trainers he used while on holiday there in the close season.



Juventus forward Paulo Dybala celebrates one of his three goals against Sassuolo on Sunday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Dybala hattrick powers perfect Juventus

AGENCIES



A Paulo Dybala hattrick lifted Juventus back to the summit of Serie A alongside Inter Milan with a 3-1 victory at Sassuolo on Sunday making it four wins out of four for the champions.

The Argentina forward left the pitch ten minutes from the end to a standing ovation from the crowd at the Mapei Stadium following a masterclass performance by the 23-year-old who has now scored eight goals in four games.

His first was a left-footed volley from the edge of the box to beat Andrea Consigli on 16 minutes, the second a close-range effort again surprising the Sassuolo goalkeeper just after the break and the third a sublime free-kick on 63 minutes.

Sassuolo managed to get a consolation goal through Matteo Politano after a Stephan Lichtsteiner error on 51 minutes.

"I wanted to score one and three came along," said Dybala after his second hat-

trick of the season and his 52nd goal in his 100th match for Juventus.

The victory also helped Massimiliano Allegri's team bounce back from the disappointment of their midweek Champions League defeat to Barcelona.

"The team continues to win and reach high levels," continued Dybala.

"I hope to continue like that with the number 10 shirt. The team gives me confidence and I also compliment the coach, who gives me the freedom to play where I want."

Juventus leapfrog Inter, also on the maximum 12 points but behind on goal difference. They won 2-0 at Crotona on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Dries Mertens of Belgium also grabbed a hattrick, including two penalties, as Napoli thrashed hapless Benevento 6-0, scoring four times in the first 32 minutes.

Croatia's Nikola Kalinic scored his first two goals for AC Milan in a 2-1 win over Udinese, as both sides had a goal chalked off after consultations with the video assistant referee.