What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
England v West Indies
4th ODI
Live from 5:30pm

SONY ESPN
UEFA Champions League
Juventus v Olympiacos
Live from 12:45am (Wednesday)

SONY SIX
UEFA Champions League
Atletico Madrid v Chelsea
Live from 12:45am (Wednesday)

TEN 1
UEFA Champions League
CSKA Moscow v Man United
Live from 12:45am (Wednesday)

TEN 2
UEFA Champions League
PSG v Bayern Munich
Live from 12:45am (Wednesday)

TEN 3
UEFA Champions League
Sporting v Barcelona
Live from 12:45am (Wednesday)

ROONEY THE ANGRY BIRD?

Wayne Rooney could feature in an Everton-themed version of the popular online game Angry Birds as part of the club's new shirt-sleeve sponsorship deal with the game's developers. Premier League clubs are permitted to carry sponsors on the sleeves of their kits for the first time this season, and Everton have teamed up with gaming giant Rovio. "We have a history of doing Angry Bird homages of real-life characters so obviously now we are in collaboration (with Everton) we can work together to bring interesting characters and profiles into the games," said Ville Heijari, Rovio Entertainment's chief marketing officer. "Potentially Wayne Rooney would be involved.

——AGENCIES

Bangladesh players train at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu on Tuesday ahead of today's do-or-die clash of the SAFF U-18 Championship against Bhutan.

PHOTO: BFF

Bhutan hurdle with ifs and buts

Bangladesh take on hosts on decisive final day

SPORTS REPORTER

Terming Monday's defeat to Nepal as a 'bad day', Bangladesh are looking forward to ending the SAFF U-18 Championship on a winning note against hosts Bhutan in their crucial fourth and final match at Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu, Bhutan today.

The final matchday of the five-team championship has turned into a title-deciding one as four teams – Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Bhutan – are all on six points from three outings. All four teams have a chance to lift the title but there are a lot of 'ifs and buts' as their head-to-head record will come first to decide the champions if two or more teams finish on top with equal points.

As far as Bangladesh's title chances are concerned, they will need to beat Bhutan first and then hope that India does not lose against Nepal in the last match. However, if both the matches end in draw, India will lift the title with a superior goal difference.

Whatever the equation ahead of today's matches, the Bangladesh team management does not want to dwell on those probabilities; rather they want to complete the tournament on a winning note by beating Bhutan.

"Every team experiences bad days in tournaments and Monday night was a bad one for us. The boys realised that the damage has already been done and that they missed a good opportunity to go close to the title," coach Mahabub Hossain Roxy said. "Now the boys are determined to end the championship with a win against Bhutan."

Roxy believes that his charges played in a more planned way against Nepal compared to the matches against India and Maldives, but they were punished heavily for two mistakes.

"The boys executed the plan well to put huge pressure on Nepal in a bid to realising the game plan to take the lead within the first 20 minutes. They created four scoring chances but luck was not with us as we were denied by the woodwork while the opposition goalkeeper made some brilliant saves," Roxy explained.

The former national footballer however did not expect defender Bishwanath Ghosh to commit successive offences within four minutes as the right-back had quite a bit of experience in international and domestic matches.

About the decisive strike from 45 yards out by Roman Limbu, Roxy said goalkeeper Mahfuz Hossain Pritom admitted that he could not judge the flight of the ball because the ball took a turn against the wind.

Roxy said that they are planning to adopt a different strategy against Bhutan, who played counter-attacking football to beat Nepal and Maldives before being beaten by India.

Bangla tracking future cricketers

BISHWAJIT ROY

A shy Mohammad Ashraful points to a village surrounded by green trees where his family lives in a mud hut. His father works as a farmer to meet his family's daily demands so it might have been natural for him to bring his son to the fields for assistance. If not that then he could have concentrated on his son's education to change his family's fortunes.

Instead, Ashraful's father sent him to the nearby Bangla Track Cricket Academy (BTCA), situated near the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway in Kapashia of Katakhali Pourashava.

"My father watches cricket on TV and he has the belief that cricket can change our fortunes if I take it seriously," said a smiling Ashraful, who dreams of becoming a batsman.

Ashraful's father did not name him after former Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraful but Naimur Rahman Durjoy's father, an ardent follower of the game, did.

Durjoy, a leg-spinner from Bogra who got the opportunity after being selected in a talent hunt programme, is another student at the academy and, like Ashraful's, his family also believes that cricket can change their fortunes.

Durjoy's father died in road accident but his mother did not let go of her husband's hopes. She dared to sell what little land she had and arranged Tk 10,000 to send him to the BTCA -- which has stood on 11 acres of land since 2008.

Among the 600-plus students at the academy, many have stories similar to Ashraful or Durjoy's. They came from different parts of the country with the dream of freeing their families from the cycle of poverty by making the grade as professional cricketers.

"Yes, some come from well-off families but most come from humble backgrounds. We have a fixed fee of Tk 1,000 per month but don't receive it from students who have come from poor families," informed Abdul Muqtadir, the managing director of the academy.

The names of Taijul Islam, Nayeem Islam Jr and Nihad Uz Zaman are pronounced here proudly along with the names of some who are representing different clubs in Dhaka leagues -- all as products of this academy.

The academy's head coach, Khaled Mahmud, also mentions Towhid Hridoy, currently a batsman in the U-19 team, as the former national skipper harbours high hopes for him, just as he does for a few young leg-spinners at the academy.

However, the reality is that only a few from this very large number of students can find success in the professional circuit. So what will happen to those that fail to get the required education to find a better life if they ultimately fail to make the cut as professionals? The officials, including Mahmud, are also well-versed with the probability of the trap.

"We purely follow cricket training here but we encourage everybody to maintain their academics so that they will not fall into any traps later in life. Most of our students come from nearby localities. But those who come from different districts and are living in rented houses are admitted to the local educational institutions," said the BCB director.

Mahmud gets handsome remuneration for training the boys three days a week, but he said that he has deeper motivations for coming here from Dhaka.

"Look, the entire atmosphere is brilliant for cricket training. I can take a long breath here. If you talk about proper training then no place can be as good as this one. And the boys in this area are altogether different in terms of determination," said Mahmud.

A big field, a beautiful pond, a two-storey office building with modern facilities and a accommodation for about 40 students has given this academy a good shape.

"Please write that there is a gym but without modern equipments and I am pushing for them for a long time," Mahmud quipped.

This academy might not advertise much, but the response that they have received so far is immense. Still Muqtadit did not hesitate to say: "We could only fulfil thirty per cent of the requirements but we have big plans and are advancing accordingly."

Mohammad Aminul Haque, chairman of Bangla Track Limited, took the initiative to establish the academy to provide an opportunity to those who are not from privileged backgrounds and also to keep boys away from drugs after it became a headache in this suburb of Rajshahi.

The authority has proven their willingness beyond any doubt as they have been running this academy with huge subsidies as only forty per cent of the expenditure can be managed through fees.

Muqtadir jokingly said that a true businessman never accepts losses for an unlimited time. And although he said it jokingly, Bangla Track has been searching for ways to ensure that it not only works due to anyone's willingness, but rather that it stands on strong footing.

However they have the faith

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Khaled Mahmud instructs boys at the Bangla Track Cricket Academy, where the former Bangladesh captain is head coach.

বাংলাদেশ ইনস্টিটিউট অব ম্যানেজমেন্ট
৪, সোবহানবাগ মিরপুর রোড, ঢাকা-১২০৭
☎ ৫৮১৫৫০৩৪, ৫৮১৫৫০৭৭, ৫৮১৫৫১১৬, ৯১০৩১৭১-৩ (পিএবিএক্স)
৫৮১৫২৪৭৬ (ফ্যাক্স)

প্রশিক্ষণ কর্মসূচী, অক্টোবর ২০১৭

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Jagonews in quarters

SPORTS REPORTER

Jagonews moved into the quarterfinals of the Kool-BSJA Media Cup football tournament after beating Channel I 4-3 at the astro-turf of the Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday.

In the day's other matches, Jamuna TV and ATN Bangla thrashed BSS and Daily Sangbad respectively by 4-0 margins while GTV defeated Bangladesh Protidin 4-1, Channel 24 beat Kaler Kantha 3-1 and Jugantor beat News 24 1-0. ETV played out a 1-1 draw against Naya Diganta while The Independent drew 1-1 against Amader Somoy.

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:

Money doesn't score goals: Robben

Arjen Robben has poked fun at big-spending Paris Saint-Germain on the eve of Bayern Munich's key Champions League away match in the French capital.

'Everything's going my way,' warns Dybala

Juventus's deadliest weapon Paulo Dybala warned "everything is going my way" as the rising Argentine star turns his focus to Wednesday's Champions League clash with Greek champions Olympiakos.

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Candidates NOT meeting the above mentioned profile are discouraged to apply.