

SPORTS SPORTS
Hero Asia Cup Hockey
 7th/8th Place-Deciding
 Oman v China
 Live from 3:00pm
 5th/6th Place-Deciding

Japan v Bangladesh
 Live from 5:30pm
SONY SIX
 Pakistan v Sri Lanka
 4th ODI
 Live from 5:00pm

SPORTS SPORTS
English Premier League
 West Ham v Brighton
 Live from 10:00am (Saturday)

DAY'S EVENT

Hero Asia Cup Hockey
 7th/8th Place-Deciding
 Oman v China
 Time: 3:00pm

5th/6th Place-Deciding
 Japan v Bangladesh
 Time: 5:30pm
 Venue: Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium

Hosts clinch thriller

SPORTS REPORTER

Two brilliant saves from substitute goalkeeper Abu Nippon powered Bangladesh to a thrilling 4-3 shootout win over China in the Hero Asia Cup at Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium last night.

The position-deciding match rolled into shootouts after Bangladesh came from behind to enforce a 3-3 draw in regulation time and it was Nippon, who brilliantly stopped Chinese players An Suozhuo and Guo Zhaoping to ensure Bangladesh finished at least fifth in the eight-team tournament and guarantee an automatic qualification for the next Asia Cup.

By a nail-biting shootout, after Nippon had thwarted Zhaoping's fifth and final shot, it was up to captain Rasel Mahmud Jimmy, arguably the best player for the hosts last night, to send the home crowd into a frenzy and Jimmy did not disappoint. He coolly converted, took off his jersey and rushed towards the gallery.

It was the second meeting between the two sides since Bangladesh beat

China 3-2 in the inaugural Hockey World League Round-2 in Delhi in 2013. The victory capped off a remarkable turnaround for Bangladesh after disappointing performances versus Pakistan, India and Japan, against whom they conceded a combined 17 goals and scored just one.

"It was a going for survival and despite getting two goals down we never gave up and tried till the last minute. We believed that we can win the match. The whole team was determined to give their best and they did it," said an elated Jimmy after the match.

"We have fulfilled our target to finish at least sixth by beating China. We said before that our main target was to perform better in the place-deciding matches rather than the group-stage matches and the boys really showed their mental toughness to beat China," observed coach Mahbub Harun, adding that they would fight against Japan to grab the fifth place.

On Wednesday night, Bangladesh looked better in midfield compared to their previous matches and exchanged the ball nicely to create a few scoring chances but only to be denied by

Chinese goalkeeper AO Zhiewel.

In the first five minutes Pushkor Khisa Mimo was denied by the woodwork before a fierce Jimmy shot was parried off by the Chinese goalkeeper AO Zhiewel.

China pressed ahead after surviving the scare and Du Talake gave his team a 2-0 lead, converting penalty corners in the 16th and 17th minutes respectively.

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After the break, Bangladesh came out strongly with Jimmy playing the key role but Milon Hossain wasted two chances. However, he made up for those missed opportunities before converting from a penalty corner to make it 3-2 in the 53rd minute and Khorasadur Rahman converted another to level the margin in the 54th minute, sending the match to shootouts.



Teammates converge to congratulate captain Rasel Mahmud Jimmy (grounded), who has just scored the winning penalty against China at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Hazard rescues Chelsea

AFP, Paris

Chelsea were grateful to Eden Hazard for grabbing a 3-3 draw in a Champions League thriller against Roma on Wednesday, Manchester United, Barcelona, Bayern Munich and Juventus all won.

Hazard headed in his second goal of the night from a Pedro Rodriguez cross with quarter of an hour left at Stamford Bridge to rescue Chelsea after they had earlier blown a two-goal lead against the Italians.

With Carlo Ancelotti, watching from the stands, David Luiz curled the English champions into an early lead and Hazard increased their advantage. But Aleksandar Kolarov pulled one back for Roma before the interval and Edin Dzeko equalised with a stunning volley on 64 minutes before his header put the visitors ahead to the disbelief of the home fans in west London.

Hazard's leveller allowed Chelsea to hold onto top spot in Group C with seven points, two points clear of Roma and five better off than Atletico Madrid.

Beaten finalists in 2014 and 2016, Atletico could only draw 0-0 away in Azerbaijan against Qarabag, who claimed their first ever Champions League point. Chelsea's draw also ensured that the five English clubs in the competition all picked up points this midweek, with United grinding out a 1-0 victory at Benfica to maintain

their perfect record in Group A.

UNITED TARGET GREEN KEEPER
 Jose Mourinho was returning to Lisbon to face the club where he had a brief spell as coach in 2000 but it was Benfica's teenage goalkeeper Mile Svilar who stole the headlines.

The 18-year-old Belgian was handed a

start to become the youngest ever goalkeeper in the Champions League and was at fault for the only goal of the game.

Svilar was caught out when Marcus Rashford delivered a free-kick from out wide on 64 minutes and he could only carry the ball over the line.



AS Roma striker Eden Dzeko scored from an incredible volley, the first of his two goals, as his side held Chelsea to a 3-3 draw at Stamford Bridge in their Champions League encounter yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Benfica's misery was completed when captain Luisao was sent off in stoppage time.

Barcelona still have a perfect record in Group D as they beat Olympiakos 3-1.

Rain meant the Camp Nou was largely empty as it opened to fans for the first time since a crackdown of an independence referendum on October 1.

Those who did turn out saw Pique collect a second yellow for handling the ball into the net late in the first half. Barca were already ahead at that point from a Dimitrios Nikolaou own goal and they added further goals in the second half.

RESULTS	
Benfica	0 - 1 Man United (Barford 65)
CSKA Moscow	0 - 2 Basel (Waha 25, Bertin 90)
Bayern Munich (Muller 17, Keremch 29, Haris 51)	3 - 0 Celtic
Anderlecht	0 - 4 PSG (Mbappe 3, Cavani 44, Neymar 66, Di Maria 88)
Qarabag	0 - 0 Atletico Madrid
Chelsea	3 - 3 AS Roma (Kolarov 40, Dzeko 64, 70)
Barcelona	3 - 1 Olympiakos (Wahlstrom 18, g, Messi 61, Digne 64)
Juventus	2 - 1 Sporting Lisbon (Pjanic 23, Mandzukic 84) (Alva Santos 12-g)



18-year-old goalkeeper Mile Svilar, who was making just his second appearance for Benfica's first team, made a terrible mistake to give Manchester United the winning goal and he was consoling even by his opponents after the match. PHOTO: REUTERS

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:

- McCullum joins Rangpur Riders**
Former New Zealand star batsman Brendon McCullum has joined Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) outfit Rangpur Riders for the upcoming edition of the tournament. Bangladesh trials a good test for hot Ashes: Handscomb
Australia middle order batsman Peter Handscomb says his fighting instincts in the nauseating humidity of Bangladesh last month should put him in good stead for the blazing heat of an Ashes summer.
- Barca stroll as Messi joins Europe's 100-goal club**
Lionel Messi scored his 100th goal in European competition as Barcelona moved close to qualifying for the Champions League knockout stages by outclassing Olympiakos 3-1 despite playing the second half with 10 men.

India sail, Pakistan held

SPORTS REPORTER

FAVOURITES INDIA PUT UP A strong performance against Malaysia in the Super 4s encounter of the Hero Asia Cup at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium to notch an emphatic 6-2 win while Pakistan once again surrendered the lead to play out a 1-1 draw against holders South Korea yesterday.

The win means that India has not only brought down high-flying Malaysia, who were unbeaten in the competition, but also that they sit on top of the table with four points. On Saturday, South Korea (2nd GD) will take on Malaysia (-3 GD) before India (-3 GD) face Pakistan (-1 GD) in the final round of matches of the Super 4s.

India entered the match on the back of a 1-1 draw against South Korea, but completely outclassed Malaysia, who had beaten India 3-2 in the Hockey World League semifinal round in England last June. The two-time champions played their best match of the tournament so far to make it a one-sided affair where they led 5-0 at one point.

Although Malaysia did stage a comeback in the final quarter to pull two goals back, it was not enough to repeat what they accomplished in England. Akashdeep Singh, Harmansh Singh, Uthappa Sanuvandana, Gurjant Singh, Sunil Somwarpur and Sardar

Singh struck one goal apiece for India while Malaysia's Rizie Rahim and Rosli Ramadan reduced the margin.

In the day's first match, Pakistan wasted another opportunity to register a second win in their series victory so far over Bangladesh in their campaign opener despite playing comparatively better hockey than before against holders South Korea.

Similar to their Super 4s match against Malaysia, Pakistan surrendered the lead again to play out a stalemate against South Korea and continue their four match losing streak. This makes the task to confirm a place in the final difficult as they need a massive win over India, who just need a draw against Pakistan to advance.

Four-time champions South Korea came into the fixture less than 24 hours after a 1-1 draw against India

and were not as impressive as they were the day before, conceding in the last minute of the first quarter with Ajaz Ahmed finding the board with a reverse hit.

Despite taking the lead, the Pakistani forwards squandered a few scoring chances to widen the margin despite getting Korean goalkeeper Hong Doopyo in all sorts of trouble while Korea could not beat Pakistan's goalkeeper Amjad Ali in their sporadic attacks of the first and second quarters before Lee Namyoung finally levelled the score just in time through a fierce hit from Jing Jonghyun in the 48th minute.

Afterwards, both Pakistan and Korea found one opportunity each but neither Kim Seongyuk nor Shan Ali cashed in on their respective chances as the match ended in a 1-1 draw.



After a draw in their previous match, India got back to winning ways with a dominant showing yesterday, defeating Malaysia 6-2 in their Super 4s match at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium. PHOTO: STAR

Senegal select injured Mane

AFP, Johannesburg

Senegal chose Liverpool star Sadio Mane Wednesday for World Cup qualifiers against South Africa next month just eight days after his club said he could be sidelined for six weeks.

The striker was among 25 players named by coach Aliou Cisse for crucial back-to-back fixtures with South Africa.

"Sadio Mane has resumed individual training and will probably resume full training next week," Cisse told reporters.

A Liverpool statement last Tuesday said Mane "picked up an injury that could keep him out of action for up to six weeks".

Mane had to be substituted after suffering a hamstring injury during a 2-0 World Cup victory in Cape Verde this month.

Senegal need two points from matches in Polokwane on November 10 and Dakar on November 14 to qualify for the 2018 World Cup in Russia. South Africa will qualify if they win both games.

The Senegalese are seeking a second World Cup appearance after losing to Turkey in the 2002 quarterfinals.

South Africa qualified for the 1998 and 2002 tournaments and were automatic participants in 2010 as the first African nation to host the World Cup.



After both Edinson Cavani and Kylian Mbappe had netted, Neymar (L) got his name on the scoresheet in extraordinary fashion, drilling a low free-kick under the jumping Anderlecht wall. PHOTO: REUTERS

PSG stay perfect

AFP, Brussels

Paris Saint-Germain's front three of Neymar, Kylian Mbappe and Edinson Cavani all scored as the French side romped to a third straight Champions League win by thrashing Anderlecht 4-0 in Brussels on Wednesday.

Mbappe put PSG ahead inside three minutes and Cavani grabbed his fourth goal in three Champions League outings before half-time. Neymar scored a free-kick midway through the second period with his ninth goal for the club since his record-breaking move from Barcelona, before Angel Di Maria came off the bench to complete the rout.

The French Ligue 1 leaders are now three points clear of Bayern Munich at the top of Group B ahead of the home match against bottom side Anderlecht on October 31.

"In the first period it wasn't perfect with the level of control of the match," said PSG coach Unai Emery. "We were sometimes surprised on the counter-attack, but in the second half we found a better balance." "The match started very well with that goal in the third minute. But then, for a moment, we lost track. We know there will be no easy games this season."