



Bangladesh v Ireland A Fourth One-Dayer Time: 9:00am Venue: SKICS, Cox's Bazar



Inter Milan captain Mauro Icardi scored a brace in a 3-2 win over Sampdoria, taking his tally for the season to 11 goals from 10 games and powering his side to the top of the Serie A table.

# Icardi brace fires Inter to top

AFP, Milan

Mauro Icardi scored a double as Inter Milan went top of Serie A on Tuesday with a 3-2 win over Sampdoria as victims of the Holocaust were remembered following anti-semitic acts by Lazio fans. Inter captain Icardi and Sampdoria counterpart Fabio Quagliarella handed out copies of "The Diary of Anne Frank" and Italian Jewish writer Primo Levi's memoir "If This is A Man" to child mascots accompanying players onto the pitch at the San Siro.

The initiative followed the controversy ignited after Lazio fans defaced the Stadio Olimpico, which they share with rivals Roma, during Sunday's league game against Cagliari with anti-semitic slogans and stickers showing images of Frank.

On the pitch the hosts led 3-0 after 54 minutes with Slovak Milan Skriniar opening after 18 minutes against his former club

with another ex-Sampdoria man Icardi adding to his tally on 32 and 54 minutes for 11 league goals this season.

Inter go provisionally top after their eighth win in 10 games gave them 26 points - one more than Napoli who can reclaim top spot when they travel to Genoa on Wednesday.

Despite his double Icardi was angered by his side slacking off late in the second half.

"We have to deal better with these situations and not concede two goals like that," said the Argentine striker.

"It makes us proud of what we're doing, but it's a long road ahead and we must continue on it."

"We have to improve many things, a game like today can not be risked because we had dominated."

David Kownacki got one back for Sampdoria after 64 minutes with Fabio Quagliarella adding a second five minutes from time as the Genoese side stayed sixth.

# Rahmatullah laid to rest

SPORTS REPORTER

Khoza Rahmatullah was laid to eternal rest at the Paikpara graveyard in Narayanganj yesterday after the former national hockey player was paid final homage at the Abahani club premises in Dhammundi.

Rahmatullah, who died of cardiac arrest on Tuesday evening, was brought to his beloved club where he spent most of his time as a player as well as organiser.

His coffin was covered with the Sky Blue flag of Abahani where former and current players, organisers, fans, politicians and BHF officials paid their last respects with floral wreaths.

BHF president and Air Chief Marshal Abul Ebar, state minister for foreign affairs Shahar Alam, state minister for power, energy and mineral resources Nasrul Hamid, deputy sports minister Arif Khan Joy, BFP president Nazmul Hossain Papon, BHF general secretary Abdus Sadeque, Bangladesh Olympic Association secretary general Syed Shalheh Reza, Abahani directors Harun-ur-Rashid, Afzalul Rahman Sinha, Kazi Nabil Ahmed and many others attended his namaz-e-janaza at the club premises.

Later, his body was taken to the DIT mosque in Narayanganj for a second namaz-e-janaza before burial.

# Brewster takes England into U-17 WC final

AFP, Kolkata

Liverpool player Rhian Brewster scored a second hat-trick in two games Wednesday to send favourites Brazil crashing out of the Under-17 World Cup and England into their final.

The striker, who scored three goals in the 4-1 quarterfinal win over the United States, floored the South American giants in the determined 3-1 win in Kolkata.

England will play the winners of the second semifinal between Spain and Mali in Saturday's final.

Brewster linked up brilliantly with Manchester City midfielder Phil Foden who provided the crosses for the match winner.

Brewster put England ahead in the 10th minute despite an attacking start by the Brazilians. Brazil forward Wesley snatched an equaliser in the 21st minute to set up a thrilling match.

But Brewster made all the running and put England ahead in the 39th minute, becoming the top goalscorer of the tournament with his sixth strike.

# England's 'Big Six' thwarted

AFP, London

The Premier League's 'Big Six' clubs have been stopped in their bid to gain a greater share of the English top flight's lucrative overseas television deals, it was announced Tuesday.

Currently, the money from the globally popular Premier League makes from foreign broadcasting deals is shared evenly between the 20 clubs in the division.

But the likes of Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, Manchester United, Manchester City and Tottenham Hotspur - the so-called 'Big Six' - argued their greater worldwide popularity entitled them to a bigger cut.

Earlier this month it was decided further talks were needed on amending the league's rules, but a statement issued by the Premier League on Tuesday said a planned meeting had been cancelled after it had "become clear that there is currently no consensus for change".

A two-thirds majority would be needed to change the current set-up, meaning 14 clubs would have to be in favour, and Premier League chairman Richard Scudamore had come up with a compromise plan which would see 35 percent of the overseas rights shared out according to final league position - a similar scheme is used to allocate domestic broadcast revenues.

But with overseas income growing at a faster rate than that being generated domestically, many clubs were concerned about the possible impact of any change.

"Clubs have been discussing the distribution formula for their international broadcasting revenues," the statement added.

"The Premier League has facilitated these discussions, to bring together the wide range of views which exist.

"It has become clear that there is currently no consensus for change, meaning (Wednesday's) club meeting is not necessary.

"The way the Premier League operates, clubs can bring forward a proposal at any time. In the absence of a significant majority in favour of doing things differently, the current rules will apply."

Swansea City chairman Huw Jenkins highlighted the need to maintain competitiveness between the bigger and smaller clubs in his programme notes for the home match against Huddersfield Town earlier this month.

"In my opinion, competitiveness is the most important single factor that makes the Premier League so appealing across the world - and this must be protected at all costs," he wrote.

# Biman returns to table tennis

SPORTS REPORTER



After a five-year gap, Biman Bangladesh has returned to table tennis through participation in the 37th National Senior Table Tennis Championships, which got underway today at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Gymnasium.

Biman had not only refrained from forming teams in table tennis but also stopped participating in cricket, chess and badminton in 2011. However, the company has decided to return to country's sports arena to regain its image within the next two years.

Biman has formed good teams in both men's and women's sections, and the women's team comprising five-time champion Saleha Parvin has already qualified for the semifinals while the men's team comprising former national juniors and runners-up is also performing well.

Biman last became champions in national table tennis championship in 2007 while winning the Premier Division Table Tennis League a several times.

"Biman officially dissociated itself from sports in 2011, but I continued to patronise the table tennis team personally in the last five years. This time Biman has officially decided to associate itself with sports and we have formed good teams in both men's and women's group," said coach-coordinator captain Maqsood Ahmed yesterday.

"The chairman of Biman Board and its managing director are interested in sports. So Biman has returned to table tennis and will form teams in chess and badminton even though it may not be able to form a cricket team because of huge expense," Maqsood

said, adding that they are planning to provide jobs to players in line with their educational qualification.

Maqsood informed that they will pay monthly salary to the players apart from providing them sports kits and other facilities for training.

National player Mahbub Billah, who once played for Biman Bangladesh, welcomed the return of Biman.

"Biman's return to table tennis is a really positive sign for the game and it will not only increase competitions among the players but also encourage junior players to play for Biman," said current national champion Mahbub, who is now playing for Bangladesh Army.

Some 240 players including 60 women from 45 teams are competing in seven separate events.



Saleha Parvin of Biman Bangladesh celebrates her victory against Mou of Bangladesh Ansar during their match of the 37th National Senior Table Tennis Championships at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Gymnasium yesterday.

# 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.

Barca cruise towards Cup last 16

A much-changed Barcelona made light work of third-tier Real Murcia to take a commanding 3-0 lead into the second leg of their Copa del Rey 32 tie on Tuesday.

Smith, Warner say no to four-day Tests

Australia captain Steve Smith and star opener David Warner say they have no desire to play four-day Tests in a setback to international cricket which have floated the idea.

# Prosecutors grill Khelaifi

AFP, Berlin

Swiss prosecutors on Wednesday began grilling Paris Saint-Germain president and beIN Media chief Nasser al-Khelaifi over allegations that he obtained World Cup media rights by bribing a top FIFA executive.

Khelaifi, a Qatari with close ties to the Gulf state's royal family, is under investigation for allegedly striking illegal deals with former FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke, who had been Sep Blatter's right-hand man.

Khelaifi, 43, and his legal team avoided the main entrance when entering the OAG headquarters in the Swiss capital and were not seen by the two dozen reporters outside.

Khelaifi and Valcke have been under investigation since March in connection with media rights for the 2026 and 2030 World Cups on allegations including corruption, bribery, criminal mismanagement and forgery.

The beIN Media group, which is headquartered in Doha, has insisted that its World Cup rights deals were "advantageous for FIFA", rejecting any suggestion that it got favourable treatment.

The contract covers broadcasting rights for the MENA (Middle East, North Africa) region for the tournaments.

Advertisement for SHARP and GENERAL electronics. Features a 'DOUBLE BONUS Offer' with a 0% EMI rate. Lists various products like monitors, printers, and scanners. Includes contact information for Esquire Electronics Ltd. and a list of showrooms across Bangladesh.