

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

English Premier League

Man United v Tottenham

Live from 5:30pm

Liverpool v Huddersfield

Live from 8:00pm

Bournemouth v Chelsea

Live from 10:30pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2

English Premier League

Arsenal v Swansea

Live from 8:00pm

Bundesliga

Bayern Munich v Leipzig

Live from 10:30pm

TEN 1

Serie A

Roma v Juventus

Live from 10:00pm

Roma v Bologna

Live from 12:45am (Sunday)

TEN 2

La Liga

Athletic Bilbao v Barcelona

Live from 12:45am (Sunday)

NATIONAL TT

Rahima, Saima in final

SPORTS REPORTER

Rahima and Saima moved into the final of women's singles in the 37th National Senior Table Tennis Championship at the Syed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Gymnasium yesterday.

Rahima of Bangladesh Army beat Anika Basu of Madhya Pradesh 3-0 in 3-0 sets to set up her final clash against Saima of Patna. Rahima handed a 3-0 defeat to Parul of Patna.

In men's quarterfinals, Shahid of Narail and Nasir of Panchagarh beat Sabir of Rangpur and Badol of Narail respectively to book their semifinal berths.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Army & VDP were crowned champions in women's team event after beating Bangladesh Army in 3-0 sets.



Mou of Bangladesh Army & VDP makes a return against Rahima of Bangladesh Army during their team event's final round of the 37th National Senior Table Tennis Championship at the Syed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Gymnasium yesterday.

Shooters deprived of Brisbane stint

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Shooting Sport Federation (BSSF) has been forced to cancel its team's scheduled participation in the Commonwealth and Oceania Shooting Championships in Brisbane after failing to get required permission for carrying arms and ammunition.

Four rifle and one pistol shooter from Bangladesh were supposed to fly out for Australia on Thursday to compete in the championships starting from today, but they had to stay back despite having taken a good amount of preparation.

"We have cancelled the trip to Australia because we did not get permission to carry arms from the Queensland Police Department," BSSF chief executive officer Musfique Weir told the Daily Star yesterday.

"We applied for permission for carrying arms two months ago, but the decision is still pending. Hence we did not take the risk because carrying arms in Australia is a bit complicated compared to Europe where shooters can carry air guns to take part in competitions."

The Commonwealth and Oceania Shooting Championships are considered to be a test event for next year's Commonwealth Games to be held in Gold Coast, Australia.

The five shooters - Abdullah Hel Baki, Rishatul Islam, Rabbi Hasan Munna, Amab Sarar and Shakil Ahmed - were supposed to be accompanied by coach Klavs Christensen. The Danish coach is a bit disappointed at missing out on the opportunity to see the progress of his charges.

"It's really sad for us not to be able to take part in the competition which would have been a good preparation stage for the shooters," Christensen told reporters.

The shooters have been training under Christensen since last December with the aim of claiming medals in the 2018 Youth Olympics as well as the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The Bangladesh team will now prepare for the forthcoming 10th Asian Championship and Asia Youth Olympic Games Qualification, both of which will be held in Wako City, Japan from December 6 to 12.

We can thrive sans Kane: Pochettino

AFP, London

Tottenham boss Mauricio Pochettino said on Friday his high-flying side do not need to prove they can win without Harry Kane as they head to Manchester United without the injured forward.

Kane has already hit 13 goals for Spurs this season but was forced off late on in last weekend's 4-1 win over Liverpool with a hamstring injury.

The 24-year-old will not feature against United as Tottenham look to achieve a recent poor record at Old Trafford and leapfrog Jose Mourinho's side in the Premier League table.

Pochettino saving Kane was not willing to take a risk by involving Kane with other big games on the horizon.

Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola recently labelled Tottenham as "the Harry Kane team" but Pochettino pointed to last season when Spurs coped without Kane as he nursed an ankle injury, as proof they can be successful without their talisman.

"We don't need to prove ourselves, that we're Tottenham," said Pochettino, whose side lie third in the Premier League table with 20 points, trailing United only on goal difference.

"Maybe people expect that but for us, no, it's just last season, in the period he was injured, you can see the stats and the games we played - win and lose with Harry, win and lose without Harry."

"I'm disappointed because he is our main striker and I think he is one of the best strikers in Europe, in the world, and always you are going to miss your best striker. I am

not silly or stupid to talk in a different way.

"You always want all the players available... We always believe in collective, the squad. During the season, problems happen and you must trust all the players, all the squad."

The club described Kane's injury as a "minor strain to the left hamstring", which has already been assessed.

Pochettino said it was only a "small issue" but he did not want to exacerbate the problem by playing him against United.

"We can't take the risk," the Argentine said. "The doctor and medical staff made the decision to not take the risk. There is no sense in taking that risk and making the problem bigger."

"The players are not machines and it is so difficult to cope with international duty and playing every three days."

"It is not a big problem, only a small issue, but he is not going to play [on Saturday]."

Pochettino could hand summer signing Fernando Llorente his full Premier League debut in place of Kane, while using Son Heung-Min as a striker is also a possibility.

FIXTURES

Saturday (14:00GMT kick-offs unless stated)

Arsenal v Swansea, Bournemouth v Chelsea (16:30), Liverpool v Huddersfield, Manchester United v Tottenham Hotspur (17:30), West Brom v Manchester City, Crystal Palace v West Ham, Watford v Stoke.

Sunday

Brighton v Southampton (13:30), Leicester v Everton (16:00)

Monday

Burnley v Newcastle United (20:00)

Halep sent packing

AFP, Singapore

Elina Svitolina beat world number one Simona Halep in straight sets to send her crashing out of the WTA Finals and hand breakout French star Caroline Garcia a place in the semis on Friday.

Svitolina, the world number four, was already eliminated after losing her first two matches but she took Halep down with her as she won 6-3, 6-4 in 71 minutes.

Halep needed victory to keep her campaign alive but struggled to click into gear against a relaxed Svitolina.

It means Garcia, the lowest-ranked player in the draw, hopes Red Group and will play Venus Williams on Saturday, while Caroline Wozniacki will face Karolina Pliskova in the other semifinal.

Svitolina went for her shots and dictated from the back of the court, rattling a shaly Halep, who had suffered a big loss to Wozniacki in her previous match.

"I played free it was a good match for me and I am very happy to finish in Singapore with the win," the Ukrainian said.

Earlier Garcia, the world number eight, admitted it felt surreal even to be in the tournament after her thrilling 0-6, 6-3, 7-5 victory over Denmark's Wozniacki.

Juve's €400,000 mistake

AGENCIES, Milan

Mauro Icardi's former agent has revealed that both Juventus and Napoli turned down the chance to sign the talented forward for just 400,000 euros during his time in Barcelona's youth academy.

The Argentine international is now a Serie A superstar and has been leading Inter Milan as their captain and highest goalscorer for the past few seasons.

In an interview with Il Secolo XIX, Icardi's former agent Nunzio Marchionne revealed that the two Serie A giants turned up their noses at the opportunity to bag Icardi during his days as a bright prospect at Barcelona.

"Riccardo Pecini [Sampdoria's youth academy chief] was very clever in getting him after both Juventus and Napoli, who had moved on him before, had rejected him," Marchionne said.

Icardi eventually left Catalonia for Sampdoria for just 400,000 euros, before switching to Inter after his first season in Italy.

"What struck me about Icardi? The fact that, at age 15, he was already mature and ready to live away from home," Marchionne added. "And he had that innate ability to move half a second before the defender to place himself where he was needed. You could see he was phenomenal."

Marchionne also revealed that the then Barcelona starlet has always been an Nerazzuri at heart and actually cheered Inter's famous victory over his employers on the way to a famous treble in 2010.

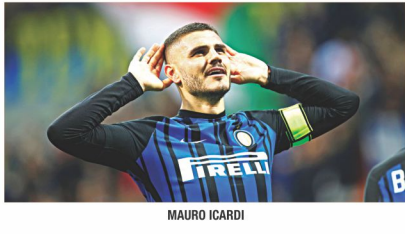
"He dreamt of playing for Inter because he had grown up with a Zanetti poster, and I remember how happy we were when we defeated the semifinal win at the away Nou," Marchionne added. "[Gerard] Dele Alli was next to us, and he couldn't understand why we were celebrating."

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MAURO ICARDI

QUICK SINGLES

The following are a few samples of the most notable print edition. However, if they pique your interest, you can always read the full story on the Daily Star website by simply scanning the QR codes listed below.

Lyth joins Rangpur Riders

When left was Yorkshire's leading run-scorer in this summer's NatWest T20 Blast with 535 runs, including his record-breaking 161 against Northamptonshire at Emerald Headingley, joins SPL outfit Rangpur Riders.

Real travel to Gronin in eye of political storm

After watching Barcelona cope ably with the distraction of political tension sweeping across Spain in recent weeks, it is Real Madrid's trip to the eye of the storm when they travel to Gronin.

Ibra is back with the Premier League

Manchester United's Zlatan Ibrahimovic says he is happy to be back in the Premier League as his target.

Bewitched Benevento haunted by debut

AFP, Rome

The dream has rapidly turned into a nightmare for Benevento, the Italian top-flight newcomers, seemingly trapped under the influence of a rotten spell cast by the witch on their club crest.

A dreadful start to their maiden Serie A campaign has resulted in 10 defeats in as many matches, with just three goals scored and 24 conceded, one coach sacked and a failed drugs test for the club captain.

Some 60 kilometres to the east of Naples, Benevento is known as the city of witches.

According to legend, magicians from all over the world gathered there to perform frightful rituals.

A hat on her head and straddling a broom, the "Strega" - Italian for witch - is the symbol of the club and players prominently on the players' shirts. But she has brought them wretched luck.

No team has ever struggled as mightily at the beginning of a Serie A season and the arrival of an in-form Lazio on Sunday doesn't augur well for the league's basement side.

Only French outfit Grenoble have dug themselves a deeper hole so early on - a run of 11 successive defeats to open the 2009-10 campaign ultimately condemned them to relegation from Ligue 1.

But this unwanted record is not a huge surprise, no more so than the small club

from the Campania region's promotion to Serie A, as they reached the top tier after their very first season in Serie B.

Benevento president Oneste Vigorito is a man who made his fortune through wind energy, but his club is far from it and quickly realised their passage from Serie C to Serie A in just two years was going to be challenging.

Yet all started well. On the opening weekend away to Sampdoria, Benevento went ahead on 15 minutes through Amato Ciceretti, the former Roma youth product undoubtedly the most talented player in the squad. But the hosts equalised 20 minutes later in Genoa becoming laughing stock and the dream was already over.

Between narrow defeats - such as losing 1-0 to Bologna and 2-1 to Inter Milan - and heavy thrashings at the hands of Roma (4-0) and Napoli (6-0), it has proved a painful apprenticeship bereft of miracles or magic tricks.

As if things couldn't get worse, Benevento skipper Fabio Luciani tested positive for the banned anabolic steroid Clobolabol following a September 10 defeat by Torino.

"The team doctor insisted he was to blame, claiming he used a spray that was meant to help a cut heal more quickly, but Luciani remains provisionally suspended."

Coach Marco Baroni, the man who masterminded promotion to the top division, was reluctant to withstand his side's catastrophic run and was axed by Benevento at the start of the week.



Chelsea angry over rumours

REUTERS, London

Chelsea reacted angrily on Friday to newspaper reports that Carlo Ancelotti was set to replace manager Antonio Conte and that former coach Steve Holland has received texts from unhappy players who say they are missing him.

A club spokesman described the reports as "absolute nonsense" and denied that any player had contacted Holland, who left in the close-season to become full-time assistant to England manager Gareth Southgate.

Conte, who played for Juventus under Ancelotti, a Chelsea League and FA Cup winner in 2010, used an explosive in relation to the same reports.

"This is a lack of respect," he told a news conference. "They try to create problems between me, the club and the players."

"It's no good that this person has to send me a message to say this is not true. I hate this type of situation."

The champions, fourth in the table, will face Borussia Dortmund on Saturday looking to repeat a two-goal win there in April.

Real reserves ease to win

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid needed two second-half penalties converted by Marco Asensio and Lucas Vazquez to open their Copa del Rey campaign with a 2-0 last 32, first leg win at third-tier Fuenlabrada on Thursday.

Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane gave most of his star names the night off with Cristiano Ronaldo, Luka Modric, Toni Kroos, Isco and Sergio Ramos among those not even included in the squad.

However, Real's reserves failed to take their chance to impress in a sluggish first 45 minutes in which only Marcos Llorente's thunderous volley from outside the box tested Jordi Godia.

"I'm happy, we scored two goals and kept a clean sheet," insisted Zidane. "We had patience. We knew we could find the gap in the second-half and we did."

Shorn of inspiration from open play, the visitors opened the scoring from the penalty spot when Fran Garcia pulled down Achraf Hakimi just after the hour mark and Asensio slotted home.

Codina temporarily kept Fuenlabrada in the tie with two stunning saves to deny Borja Mayoral. But Real's second arrived 22 minutes from time when another pull from Paco Candela on Theo Hernandez saw him sent-off for a second yellow card.

This time Vazquez took responsibility to leave the return leg in a month's time at the Santiago Bernabeu little more than a memory.

However, it wasn't a trouble free evening for Real as debutant Jesus Vallejo was shown a straight red card two minutes from time for a wild late challenge.

Elsewhere, Cristobal Parra got off to a terrible start in his first match as Deportivo's Gorostiza coach as the 10-man Galicians slumped to a 4-1 defeat at home to Las Palmas and Real Sociedad edged towards the last 16 thanks to Sergio Canales's brilliant free-kick to win 1-0 at Leida.

FIFA boosts WC prize pool

AFP, Kolkata

The 32 national teams competing in the 2018 World Cup will share \$400 million in prize money, a 12 per cent increase from the 2014 tournament, FIFA said Friday.

The purse at the previous edition in Brazil was \$358 million - \$35 million of which was awarded to champions Germany, with runners-up Argentina pocketing \$25 million.

At a meeting of the council in Kolkata, FIFA also approved a decision to enhance the bidding regulations for the 2026 World Cup and appointed members of the bid evaluation task force.

Dates for several upcoming FIFA tournaments, including next year's Club World Cup in the United Arab Emirates and the 2019 Women's World Cup in France, were also confirmed.