

What to WATCH

GTV & MAASRANGA
Bangladesh Premier League
 Ctg Vikings v Comilla Victorians
 Live from 2:00pm
 Sylhet Sixers v Rajshahi Kings
 Live from 7:00pm

STAR SPORTS 1
India v New Zealand
 3rd T20I
 Live from 7:30pm

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh Premier League
 Ctg Vikings v Comilla Victorians
 Time: 2:00pm

Sylhet Sixers v Rajshahi Kings
 Time: 7:00pm
 Venue: SICS, Sylhet

Heartbreaking defeat for U-19s

SPORTS REPORTER



A stoppage time own goal condemned Bangladesh to a 1-0 defeat against group favourites Uzbekistan, all but extinguishing their chances of qualifying for the AFC U-19 Championship final round, at the Hisor Central Stadium in Dushanbe, Tajikistan yesterday.

Needing a draw against the top team in Group B, Bangladesh fought a spirited battle in regulation time before Mohammad Atiquzzaman put the ball into his own net while trying to clear a cross with only 30 seconds of the four minutes added time remaining.

The first defeat in three matches left Bangladesh in third position with four points while Uzbekistan were on top with nine points, followed by Tajikistan in second with seven points.

According to head coach Mahbub Hossain Roxy, the Bangladesh players executed his game plan brilliantly until Atiquzzaman, who started the match in place of suspended defender Rafi, scored the own goal after an Uzbekistan winger had snatched the ball away from right-back Bishwanath Ghosh and whipped in a cross,

which Atiquzzaman tried to clear.

"Luck did not favour us," Roxy said while talking to this reporter on phone.

"Uzbekistan won the match like we won against Maldives, but this time we struck our own net," Roxy said. "It was actually not Atiquzzaman's mistake, rather the cross was brilliant which would have been turned in by Uzbekistan's best player Kenjabaev Isom had Atiquzzaman not tried to intercept."

The Central Asian nation had better ball possession throughout the match but they hardly exposed the defence of Bangladesh, who themselves had a chance from a counter attack in the first half. That effort from Mahbubur Rahman Sufil in a one-on-one situation was saved by Uzbekistan goalkeeper Umidjon Ergashev.

"Our players executed the game plan properly and restricted the opposition in midfield. Even the opposition coach [Mochinov Alexander] praised us highly," said Roxy.

Bangladesh will take on Sri Lanka on the final matchday tomorrow while Uzbekistan will play against hosts Tajikistan. Even if Bangladesh beat Sri Lanka and Tajikistan lose against Uzbekistan, Bangladesh are likely to finish third due to Tajikistan's massive goal advantage.



A Bangladesh player tries to head clear an attack from Uzbekistan during their AFC U-19 Championship Qualifiers at the Hisor Central Stadium in Dushanbe, Tajikistan yesterday.



GUARD DIDN'T KNOW NADAL

Rafa Nadal may be one of the most decorated stars in the history of tennis, but some still do not know who the Spaniard is. One of those people happened to be a security guard at the Paris Masters. Before he eventually withdrew from the ATP tournament last Friday, the world No. 1 was heading to the training courts when he was stopped by a security guard who initially refused to allow him to pass, believing he was a fan. The scenes were captured by a Canal+ Sport Reporter as they followed Nadal throughout his day to day life in the tournament. "Hello sir, have you got a map?" asked the security guard. "I don't have it with me," a surprised Nadal responded. "Who are you?" the guard asked. "Rafael Nadal," explained the tennis player, with the guard clearly realising his mistake almost immediately and letting him through to practice.

—AGENCIES

INT'L JUNIOR TENNIS Good start for hosts

SPORTS REPORTER

Four Bangladeshi players moved into the second round of boys' singles in the 31st Bangladesh International Junior Tennis Championship on the opening day of the competition at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

Swadhin Hossain beat Indian counterpart Shreejit Sen 2-6, 7-6, 7-5; Faruk Hossain outplayed Singapore's Timothy Lim 7-6, 6-4; Jewel Rana came from behind to beat Malaysia's Soon Keat Chan in 2-1 sets while Omar Zubin beat Boer Jeroen of Netherlands 2-6, 6-1, 6-3.

However, Saiful Alam, Kawser Ali, Mohammad Emon, Mohammad Istiak, Arnab Saha, Rakib Hossain, Azizul Hakim, Mehedi Hasan, Mohammad Zahid and Faridur Reza suffered defeats in the first round.

In the girls' singles, Fabiha Lamisha, Sraboni Biswas, Raina Lal, Susmita Sen and Sravasti Dev advanced to the second round after getting byes in their respective first round matches.

Shah Shafina Laxmi, the only Bangladeshi girl who played in the first round, lost to India's Rupkotha Mukharjee by 6-2, 6-1.

Andy, Novak fall out of top 10

AFP, Paris

Andy Murray and Novak Djokovic dropped outside the ATP top 10 for the first time in years in the latest rankings released on Monday.

The 30-year-old Murray plummeted from third to 16th after not playing since July with a hip injury.

The Scot's last appearance outside the top 10 was in October 2014.

The three-time Grand Slam winner last appeared on court at Wimbledon, losing in the quarterfinals to American Sam Querrey.

Shortly after that he was nudged off the top of the world rankings by Rafael Nadal, who sealed the end-of-year top spot at the Paris Masters last week.

Murray is due to face world number two Roger Federer in a charity exhibition match in Glasgow on Tuesday.

Djokovic, struggling with an elbow injury, was also last seen in action in the Wimbledon quarterfinals when he retired against Tomas Berdych.

The 12-time Grand Slam winner ends the year in 12th, down five places, for his lowest ranking since March

33RD NATIONAL JUNIOR ATHLETICS Hasan Mia sets new record

SPORTS REPORTER



Hasan Mia set a new record in 100m sprint of tender-aged (U-19) boys' group of the 33rd National Junior Athletics Championships on way to winning a gold medal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Hasan, an eighth grader from BKSP, raced past 200m gold-winner Rakibul Hasan by clocking 10.60 seconds and eclipsing the previous record of 10.70 seconds set by his BKSP teammate Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman in 2015.

Hasan, who had produced a record in 100m event (U-17) in 2016, accelerated over the last 25 meters to beat Rakibul, who had on Sunday declared his intention of beating Bangladesh's fastest man Mezbah Ahmed within the next two years after winning the 200m gold medal. Rakibul's timing, however, was 0.10 seconds faster than Mezbah's timing in the most recent

summer athletics.

"I ran really well today [Monday] compared to the practice sessions and I was confident about winning the gold medal," said an ecstatic Hasan.

"I think I can still improve my timing and I will try to do that in the future," said the youngster, who came into athletics after being inspired by his elder brother Faruqul Islam, who is a relay athlete of Bangladesh Army.

Another BKSP student Disha Sultana completed a double by winning gold in the 100m tender-aged (U-19) girls' event with a timing of 12.80 seconds. However, her timing was far behind Bangladesh's fastest woman Shirin Akter's, who had won the same event in summer athletics with a time of 11.84 seconds. Disha had, on Sunday, won the 200m gold medal.

"I am happy to win two gold medals but I am not happy with my timing. I want to improve my timing to do better in the next national champion-

ships," said Disha.

Disha's junior teammate Rupa Khatun clinched girls' (U-17) 100m event following her triumph in 200m on Sunday. Rupa, a class IX student, took 12.60 seconds to win gold while Sonia Akter of BKSP won silver clocking 12.70 seconds.

Out of the eight events in 100m and 200m of two different groups, BKSP, the country's lone sports education institute, grabbed five gold medals while the remaining three gold medals went to athletes from the districts' who had no facilities like BKSP.

Sultan Ahmed from Natore outshone the BKSP students in both 100m and 200m sprints in boys' U-17 events. After winning 200m gold on Sunday, Sultan clocked 11.40 seconds to win the 100m gold medal.

"I always question myself if a BKSP student can win gold, why not an outsider? I practised round the year to win the gold medal," said Sultan.

BKSP coach Abdullah Al Kafi believes training round the year at BKSP and comparatively weaker athletes from the districts helps BKSP dominate sprint.

"It is true that athletes from districts don't get the facilities that the BSKP students get. Besides, good athletes are not coming through from the districts as the districts are more focused on other sports. We however focus more on short-distance events, so winning gold in sprint is easy for the BKSP students," said Kafi.

BKSP ended the two-day competition on top of the medals table with 17 gold, 10 silver and five bronze medals. Narail were in second position with 13 medals while Kurigram finished third with eight medals.



BKSP's Disha Sultana (L) and Hasan Mia celebrate with their institute's flag after winning their respective 200m dashes in the 33rd National Junior Athletics Championships at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Thakurgaon, Rajshahi in semis

SPORTS REPORTER

Thakurgaon emerged Group A champions to move into the semifinals of the JFA U-14 Women's National Championship after handing an emphatic 3-0 defeat to Rajshahi at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Kalpana struck a brace while Sharmin netted one for Thakurgaon, who secured full nine points to top the group while Rajshahi, despite the defeat, progresses into the last four.

West Ham sack Bilic

AFP, London

West Ham sacked manager Slaven Bilic on Monday after a poor run of results that have left the club languishing in the Premier League's relegation zone.

The club announced the departure of the Croatian, appointed in June 2015, following a chastening 4-1 loss to Liverpool on Saturday that leaves them 18th in the table and facing a fight for survival.

Bilic is the fourth Premier League managerial casualty of the season following the departures of Crystal Palace boss Frank de Boer, Leicester manager Craig Shakespeare and Everton's Ronald Koeman.

Pirlo caps off illustrious career

AFP, Rome



Italy legend Andrea Pirlo yesterday called time on an illustrious career during which he won the 2006 World Cup, two Champions League titles and six Serie A trophies.

The 38-year-old former Juventus, Inter Milan and AC Milan midfielder

made a late appearance for his club New York City against Columbus Crew, the day before announcing the end of his playing career.

"Not only my adventure in NY comes to an end, but my journey as a football player as well," Pirlo wrote on his Twitter account.

"That is why I would like to take the opportunity to thank my family and

my children for the support and love they always give me, every team that I had the honour to play for, every teammate I have been pleased to play alongside, all the people that made my career so incredible, and last but not least, all the fans around the world that always showed me support.

"You will always be on my side and in my heart."

He had already announced that this season would be his last as a player but his team lost his final game, Sunday's Major League Soccer playoff match against Columbus Crew.

Pirlo, who started his career in Brescia, also played at Inter Milan and Reggina before joining AC Milan, where he won two Serie A crowns and two Champions League trophies in 2003 and 2007.

In 2011, while out of contract he joined Juventus, a deal which Italian international goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon dubbed the "the deal of the century".

In Turin, Pirlo continued to impress despite his age winning four titles and an Italian Cup.

Capped 116 times for Italy, scoring 13 goals, during a 13-year career until 2015, Pirlo played his final two years with New York City FC.



Italy and Juventus legend Andrea Pirlo announced on twitter yesterday that his time as a professional football player has come to a close.

PHOTO: INTERNET

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:

Sabbir fined over umpire abuse

Sylhet Sixer's icon player Sabbir Rahman has been fined for abusing an umpire after the game against Comilla Victorians. Sixers won their second game of the tournament after beating Comilla Victorians by four wickets at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium.

Sri Lanka drop Mendis, Silva for India Tests

Sri Lanka on Sunday dropped the out-of-form top order batsmen Kusal Mendis and Kaushal Silva from the squad for a three-match Test series against India starting in Kolkata next week.

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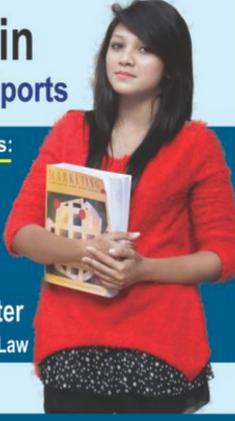
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