

<div> <div>What to WATCH</div> <div>DAY'S EVENT</div> </div>	<div> <div>STAR SPORTS SELECT 1</div> <div>English Premier League</div> <div>Newcastle v Man United</div> <div>Live from 8:15pm</div> <div>Southampton v Liverpool</div> <div>Live from 10:30pm</div> </div>	<div> <div>STAR SPORTS SELECT 2</div> <div>Bundesliga</div> <div>Stuttgart v Monchengladbach</div> <div>Live from 8:30pm</div> <div>Werder Bremen v Wolfsburg</div> <div>Live from 11:00pm</div> </div>	<div> <div>TEN 1</div> <div>Serie A</div> <div>Sassuolo v Cagliari</div> <div>Live from 5:30pm</div> <div>Inter Milan v Bologna</div> <div>Live from 8:00pm</div> </div>	<div> <div>Roma v Benevento</div> <div>Live from 1:45am (Monday)</div> <div>TEN 2</div> <div>La Liga</div> <div>Sevilla v Girona</div> <div>Live from 5:00pm</div> </div>	<div> <div>Barcelona v Getafe</div> <div>Live from 9:15pm</div> <div>Celta Vigo v Espanyol</div> <div>Live from 11:30pm</div> <div>Valencia v Levante</div> <div>Live from 1:45am (Monday)</div> </div>
	<div> <div>Dhaka Premier League</div> <div>Time: 9:00am</div> <div>Prime Bank v Brothers Union</div> <div>Venue: BKSP-3</div> </div>	<div> <div>Mohammedan v Legends of Rugpanj</div> <div>Venue: KSOAS</div> <div>Sheikh Jamal v Agrani Bank</div> <div>Venue: BKSP-4</div> </div>			



After four failed attempts, Arambagh players and officials celebrate their first domestic title following a 2-0 win over Chittagong Abahani in the Independence Cup final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Arambagh break final jinx

Beat Chittagong Abahani to clinch maiden silverware

SPORTS REPORTER



Arambagh ended their long-standing final jinx by upstaging defending champions Chittagong Abahani 2-0 in the final of the

Walton Independence Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

First-half goals from Mohammad Arif and Mohammad Rocky gave the youthful side from central Dhaka a richly-deserved victory over the big-spenders from Chittagong and ended a losing streak which had stretched to four finals.

It was a vindicating experience for Maruful Haque's charges, who had finished eighth in the Bangladesh Premier League but put up some strong performances throughout this season-ending tournament.

The youngsters from Arambagh were clearly the more spirited and enterprising side throughout the game and delighted the few thousand supporters, most of whom had gathered from the neighbouring Arambagh area to watch history being made.

Both sides had similar passage to the final, scraping through the same group with two draws before big wins in quarterfinals followed by single-goal wins in semifinals. However, that road to the final was perhaps the only similarity between the two sides.

The big-spenders from Chittagong Abahani boasted seven players in the starting eleven who had been part of the national team at some point or the other. Their opponents, unknown quantities before this tournament, had only one player

ARAMBAGH 2 - 0 CTG ABAHANI
(ARIF 20, ROCKY 45)

MAN-OF-THE-FINAL: Mohammad Arif (Arambagh)
MAN-OF-THE-TOURNAMENT: Mohammad Arif
TOP SCORER: Mohammad Jewel (Arambagh)



Arambagh's Mohammad Arif poses with his two individual awards.

PHOTO: STAR

in their entire squad that had prior experience of being in the national team.

The other big difference was the fact that while Chittagong Abahani were losing momentum towards the end of the season, it was just about the time that their lightweight opponents were gaining it. And that confidence seemed to play a big part in the outcome of the final as Arambagh looked sharp and focused, both in their attack

and defence, against a lethargic display from Chittagong Abahani.

After the initial exchange of play saw neither side take control, Arambagh burst into the lead through Arif's glancing header on a cross from Shahriar Bappi from the right in the 20th minute. Arif, adjudged the player of the final as well as the player of the tournament, lost his marker inside the box and headed in at the far post as opposition goalkeeper Ashraful Islam Rana could barely watch.

The nippy forward then burst into the box seven minutes later, only to see his attempt drift narrowly wide of the far post.

Chittagong Abahani's veteran midfielder Mamunul Islam's curling corner kick forced Arambagh keeper Azam Khan into making a last-ditch goalline save before Rocky struck the second goal on the stroke of half time. The Arambagh right-back stabbed home a Mohammad Jewel cross from the top of the six-yard box as the Chittagong Abahani defence was caught napping.

Chittagong Abahani upped their game after the hour-mark, with Mohammad Abdullah and substitute Mannaf Rabbi providing some dangerous crosses from the flanks, but there was hardly any penetration from their vaunted strike force featuring Shakhawat Hossain Rony and Tawhidul Alam Sabuj. Rabbi saw his cross headed straight at the goalie by Sabuj on 64 minutes before another one of his crosses was struck against the crossbar by Abdullah.

The port city side launched a few more attacks towards the end, but hardly tested Azam Khan as Arambagh ran home with their maiden title.

'Fitness, confidence made the difference'

SPORTS REPORTER



Arambagh's veteran coach Maruful Haque felt that confidence and energy were the deciding factors behind the stunning triumph in the Independence Cup as his youthful side upstaged defending champions Chittagong Abahani 2-0 in the final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The former national coach had guided star-studded sides like Sheikh Jamal and Sheikh Russel to league and cup triumphs many a times previously. However, he had a barren couple of years as success eluded him at the club level while he also failed to deliver the goods with the national team.

But that barren run has now come to an end, surprisingly with a side which only finished eighth in the league and were hardly considered to make it to the final. Maruful believes the fitness of his youngsters and his tactics played a key role in the victory.

"Each time I guided my teams to trophies previously, I had star players and rich squads at my disposal. This time it was different. We have won this title due to our tactics and also the superior energy of the players," the UEFA A licensed coach said after the match.

"I believe our players had more energy than the opposition. They [Chittagong Abahani] had looked fatigued and lacked confidence ahead of the final. I am happy that my players have delivered on the gameplan and I would consider this victory as perhaps the best of my career," added Maruful.

Chittagong Abahani coach Zulfiker Mahmud Mintu, who once played under the guidance of Maruful and also worked as his deputy for different clubs, felt the same even though he blamed his players' approach in the final as well.

"It is true that our players played too many matches recently [some of the players were loaned to Saif SC for their AFC Cup campaign recently]. There was definitely a shortage of fitness among the players. However, they also could not apply my instructions on the pitch," Mintu said.

"I had instructed them that the opposition would play quick counter-attacks and they did, but we failed to apply the quick transition from going forward to retrieving to defend. There was hardly any marking on both goal-scorers during those goals" Mintu said.

While the title capped off a lackluster start to Arambagh's campaign with a massive triumph, it ended a frustrating season for the port city outfit, who had promised much yet failed to win any silverware.

Neymar sinks Toulouse

AFP, Paris



Neymar scored the only goal as Paris Saint-Germain ground out a 1-0 victory at Toulouse on Saturday in their final tune-up for next week's Champions League showdown against holders Real Madrid.

The runaway French league leaders stretched their advantage over Marseille to 13 points courtesy of Neymar's 19th Ligue 1 goal of the season midway through the second half in Toulouse.

Unai Emery's team will now turn their focus to Wednesday's first leg of their heavyweight last-16 tie against Cristiano Ronaldo's faltering Real in the Spanish capital.

Neymar returned to the PSG line-up after sitting out Tuesday's French Cup win over Sochaux, but Edinson Cavani, the league's leading scorer with 21 goals this term, missed the trip south with a hip complaint.

Lassana Diarra came in for his first start in the league as Unai Emery elected to rest both Marco Verratti and captain Thiago Silva ahead of the visit to the Bernabeu.

Presnel Kimpembe, filling in for Silva in central defence, forced 19-year-old Toulouse goalkeeper Alban Lafont into a terrific early save from point-blank range after latching onto a low cross from Neymar.

Former Arsenal striker Yaya Sanogo also threatened for Toulouse as Alphonse Areola parried his diving header following a left-wing cross by Max Gradel.

But the first half was largely played in the Toulouse half, with Lafont producing an excellent fingertip save to deny Kylian Mbappe and then sticking out his right boot to keep out Neymar. But Neymar delivered the breakthrough on 68 minutes when he gathered Di Maria's crossfield ball, twisted his way past Steeve Yago, and fired in a shot that took a wicked deflection off Issa Diop to beat Lafont.

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:

Reus returns after 259 days

Injury-prone Germany winger Marco Reus returned for Borussia Dortmund on Saturday against Bundesliga strugglers Hamburg having been sidelined for the last 259 days by a torn cruciate knee ligament.



Australia hammer England

Australia cruised to a seven-wicket victory over England with more than five overs to spare to remain unbeaten after three games in the triangular Twenty20 series in Melbourne on Saturday.



Dembele set for comeback

Ousmane Dembele is in line to make his latest comeback for Barcelona when the leaders of La Liga take on Getafe at the Camp Nou on Sunday.



SA clinch a thriller

CRICINFO



It was thrill-a-minute at the Bull Ring, testing the mettle of both teams mettle and the nerves of packed crowd. For the longest time, India were dominant, Shikhar Dhawan's 109 leading the way. Led by a miserly Kagiso Rabada, they conceded only 92 runs in the last 16 overs and earned themselves a target of 290.

Rain reduced the game to 28 overs and South Africa were told they needed 202 to keep the series alive. It was under this pressure - with their two best batsmen already dismissed - that they played shots that were absolutely jaw dropping and won moments that were nothing short of match-changing.

At the centre of it all was a newbie.

Heinrich Klaasen, the stand-in wicketkeeper, took a ball of wristspin from outside the cut strip and pulled it for a one-bounce four to square leg. He then launched a free hit delivery so far into the night sky that it came down with a bit of star dust. An unbeaten 43 off 27 in a highest of pressure scenarios to seal victory is a grand return.

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: 289 for 7 in 50 overs (Dhawan 109, Kohli 75, Dhoni 42 not out; Rabada 2-58, Ngidi 2-52)

SOUTH AFRICA: 202 for 5 in 25 overs (Amla 33, Miller 39, Klaasen 43 not out Phehlukwayo 23 not out; Yadav 2-51) Result: South Africa won by 5 wickets D/L method.



Shikhar Dhawan became the first Indian to get a hundred in his 100th ODI as he scored 109 in the fourth one-dayer against South Africa in Johannesburg yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Aguero hits Leicester for four

AFP, Manchester

Sergio Aguero scored four second-half goals as Manchester City continued their emphatic march towards the Premier League title with a 5-1 win thrashing of Leicester to move 16 points clear at the top of the table.

Raheem Sterling had given City an early lead but Leicester went into the break on level terms thanks to Jamie Vardy's equaliser. However, Aguero took centre stage with a finishing masterclass after the break to take his tally in City's last seven home games to 14 goals.

Leicester named City target Riyad Mahrez among the substitutes after he ended a self-imposed exile which saw him miss their last two matches.

The Algeria international had seen a proposed deadline day transfer to the Etihad Stadium collapse after the Foxes rejected City's offer.

Kevin De Bruyne curled a cross into the penalty area and Sterling nipped in front of Marc Albrighton at the back post to guide the ball home for his 20th goal of the season.

Kane again the tormentor

AFP, London



Harry Kane tormented Arsenal again as the Tottenham striker's clinical finish sealed a 1-0 win in the north London derby at Wembley on Saturday.

Kane's header early in the second half gave Tottenham the victory their enterprising display deserved as Mauricio Pochettino's side climbed to third in the Premier League.

It was the Tottenham striker's seventh goal in seven league games against the club who rejected him as a youngster.

Kane's latest heroics also made it sweet revenge for Tottenham after they were beaten at Arsenal earlier this season.

In the first north London derby at Wembley for 25 years, Tottenham extended their recent mastery over Arsenal, who have won only once in the last eight league meetings with their hated neighbours.

Tottenham are unbeaten in their last nine league matches and remain in a good position to qualify for the Champions League via a top four finish.

Arsenal's first defeat in 10 visits to Wembley is a huge blow to their hopes of returning to the Champions League.

The Gunners, winless in 16 Premier away league games against the top five, fell seven points behind Tottenham and are six adrift of the top four.

From the start, it was clear Tottenham would be the aggressors in the latest meeting between these eternal rivals in front of a Premier League



Tottenham striker Harry Kane heads home his seventh goal in seven North London Derbies, once again condemning Arsenal to a defeat against their most fierce rivals at Wembley yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

record crowd of 83,222.

Kane's clever flick sent Dele Alli racing clear and when he whipped over a low cross, Shkodran Mustafi poked an attempted clearance towards his own goal, forcing Petr Cech to plunge to his right to spare his team-mate's blushes.

That incisive raid was part of a sustained spell of early pressure from Tottenham.

Adopting an unusually cautious approach, Arsenal were rendered impotent for long periods, leaving club record signing Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang chasing lost causes.

Kane wasted a golden opportunity

to open the scoring midway through the first half when he headed over from Christian Eriksen's pin-point cross.

Hector Bellerin made a well-timed burst onto Mesut Ozil's pass, but despite being in acres of spaces, the Arsenal defender couldn't keep his long-range effort on target.

Pochettino's team were doing all the pressing and were finally rewarded in the 49th minute.

When Ben Davies swung over a dangerous cross, Kane who reacted quickest, showing more desire than Laurent Koscielny as he towered above the Arsenal defender to guide a fine header past Cech.