

# What to WATCH

GTV

Pakistan Super League  
Karachi Kings v Quetta Gladiators  
Live from 5:30pm  
Multan Sultans v Lahore Qalandars  
Live from 10:00pm

TEN 2

La Liga  
Deportivo v Espanyol  
Live from 2:00am (Saturday)



Scottish club Queen of the South may be facing a goalkeeping shortage for this weekend's clash with Dunfermline after a spot of bovine bother for reserve goalie Sam Henderson. Already without their first-choice stopper, the Championship side could now be without the 19-year-old stand-in after a runaway cow at the family farm struck him, leaving him nursing a painful shoulder. The Dumfries club's assistant manager Dougie Anderson said Henderson had been unable to train this week. "Sam has missed training this week after being struck," Anderson told local media. "It could have been worse as the cow ran at him for a second time, but he managed to get out of the way." Jack Leighfield played in goal last week, with Henderson promoted from the youth team to sit on the bench. Queen of the South are sixth in the Championship, the division below the Scottish Premier League.

--- REUTERS



# U-15 WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

## Choton full of confidence

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Having established their supremacy in the South Asian region, the Bangladesh Under-15 women's team will face a test against comparatively stronger opposition in an invitational football tournament in Hong Kong next month.

The four-nation U-15 women's football tournament will see Bangladesh open their campaign against Chinese Taipei on March 30 before taking on Iran and Hong Kong. The teams will play each other only once in a round-robin format with the top-finisher emerging as champions.

Golam Rabbani Choton's charges have been training since the completion of the SAFF U-15 Women's Championship in December and the coach is optimistic of producing good results in Hong Kong although he admitted the hosts are a bit of an unknown quantity.

"I believe the girls will play better in the tournament which is expected to be a competitive one. And the girls can also earn valuable experience ahead of the AFC U-16 Championship Qualifiers and U-15 SAFF Championship later this year," said Choton.

"We want to pick up where we left off in the SAFF U-15 Women's Championship. We have beaten Chinese Taipei and Iran previously in the 2016 AFC U-16 Women's Championship Qualifiers but we don't have any idea about Hong Kong. However I think Iran are equal in strength to India while Chinese Taipei are a bit further ahead, but all four teams will be equally strong sides," opined Choton, adding that his charges have been going through intense training akin to the one the U-16 team had ahead of the final round of the AFC U-16 Women's Championship in Thailand last year.

"We will be hoping to display better showings and take the ground with hopes of victory," concluded a confident Choton.

The Under-15 women's team are in high spirits during training at the BFF Astroturf in Motijheel yesterday. The girls are going through intense training before flying to Hong Kong to take part in an invitational four-team tournament next month.

PHOTO: BFF

# Shakhtar's Latin blend stuns Roma

**REUTERS, Kharkiv**

Shakhtar Donetsk's South American blend proved too strong for AS Roma as goals from Facundo Ferreyra and Fred gave them a 2-1 win in a Champions League tie played in freezing conditions on Wednesday.

The Serie A team appeared to be coasting in the round-of-16 first-leg tie when Cengiz Under put them ahead with his fifth goal in four games four minutes before halftime. Yet as the temperature dipped towards minus-nine Celsius, Argentine striker Ferreyra took advantage of poor Roma defending to score with an expertly-taken goal in the 52nd minute.

That turned the game on its head and it was no surprise when Brazilian midfielder Fred curled in a free kick off the underside of the crossbar to stun the visitors in the 71st minute.

"The team performed well in the second half," said Shakhtar's Portuguese coach Paulo Fonseca, whose side reached the knockout stage at the expense of Roma's fellow Italians

Shakhtar Donetsk pulled off an incredible win against AS Roma in their Champions League round of 16 match in Ukraine, coming back from a goal behind to take the advantage to Rome for the second leg.

PHOTO: REUTERS

# De Gea keeps United afloat

**REUTERS, Seville**

Manchester United goalkeeper David de Gea added another heart-stopping save to his collection as his team held a highly-impressive Sevilla side to a 0-0 draw away from home in the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie on Wednesday.

The Spain international foiled Colombian striker Luis Muriel from point-blank range at the end of the first half not long after tipping over an overhead kick from Argentine defender Gabriel Mercado as the Spaniards created far more chances than Jose Mourinho's side.

Sevilla fired 25 shots at De Gea's goal while United only had six attempts, only one of which was on target. United coach Jose Mourinho, however, said he did not feel his side had been fortunate to leave Spain with the tie still wide open.

"No, I'm not relieved. I think we finished the game with more space

Sevilla peppered the Manchester United goal with 25 attempts, but David de Gea denied them each time, the highlight being a heroic save from point-blank range against Luis Muriel.

PHOTO: REUTERS

than we had in the beginning, with more chances of scoring the goal," he told a press conference. "The stats are what they are. Sometimes you have 15 shots, but 13 of them were what I call statistic shots. So I really feel the result reflects what the game was like.

If you ask me is it a good result, I say it is not good, it is not bad."

The second leg takes place at Old Trafford on March 13 with Sevilla hoping finally to get past the last-16 barrier they have failed to overcome in three previous attempts.

Muriel paid tribute to De Gea for denying him and said he was disappointed his side did not take their chances.

"He moved his body well, I could have hit it in the corner but I went for power over placement and he's a great goalkeeper," Muriel said. "When you play matches like this the key is scoring in these little chances like that, but in general the team played very well. We played exactly as you should: we were disciplined in every stage of the game but we leave here feeling a little bitter that we couldn't score."

Mourinho believes his side owe their fans another great Champions League occasion at Old Trafford after a long absence from the knockout stages and the Portuguese pledged to give it to them in the second leg.

"We now have one match to decide everything at Old Trafford. For sure, Old Trafford misses knockout Champions League. So I think Old Trafford needs a big Champions League night, and that's going to happen," Mourinho told reporters.

## 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:

**Rooney chose Everton 'pressure' over China payday**  
Wayne Rooney says he chose the "pressure" of returning to boyhood club Everton over a massive payday in China when he left Manchester United.

**Malaysian goalkeeping legend Chow dies aged 69**  
Malaysian football legend Chow Chee Keong, named as Asia's best goalkeeper from 1966 to 1970, died after a struggle with bladder cancer, reports said Thursday. He was 69. Named the "Asian Steel Gate" for his unwavering goal defence, Chow played for several Hong Kong clubs from 1970 to 1982.

**Real fight back to win without Ronaldo**  
Real Madrid came from behind to win 3-1 at Leganes and move back up to third place in La Liga. Unai Bustanza had put Leganes in front, raising hopes of a famous victory, but goals from Lucas Vasquez, Casemiro and Sergio Ramos put those dreams to bed.

# BFF unlikely to retain Jilani

**SPORTS REPORTER**

2016 SAFF U-16 Championship winning coach Syed Golam Jilani is all but set to part ways with the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) after a 13-year tenure following his punishment after commenting on a fixed match in the Dhaka Metropolis Senior Division Football League last year.

The game's governing body will sit with coaches next week before renewing their contracts, but Jilani's name does not appear in the shortlist.

The AFC-A licensed coach commented that a match between Dhaka United SC and Friends Social Welfare Organisation -- where he was the football secretary -- was not fixed, but after a committee found both teams guilty of playing a fixed match, the clubs were relegated to the Second Division Football League and Jilani was handed a six-month ban that ended last November.

Of the paid coaches, Jilani is believed to be among the more experienced ones and he has produced a number of good footballers from the grassroots level over the past few years. Unfortunately, his contract is perhaps not going to be renewed 'only for his comments on the fixed match, not for any direct involvement'.

"We have yet to take the final decision but the technical department [headed by technical and strategic director Paul Smalley] has decided not to include him following his punishment after making comments on the fixed match," said BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag.

It was also learned that the BFF has not involved Jilani out of fear of possible repercussions from the AFC. When contacted, Jilani refused to make any comments about the renewal of his agreement, which ended in December.

Jilani started his journey with the BFF in 2005 and worked as the assistant coach of the national football team and guided a few age-group teams before getting success in the SAFF U-16 Boy's Championship in Sylhet in 2016.

Meanwhile, the BFF has included three new coaches -- AFC-B licensed coach Rashed Ahmed Pappu, AFC-C licensed coaches Abul Hossain and female coach Suinu Pru Marma -- while retaining 20 coaches in the shortlist.



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