

What to WATCH

SONY SIX

South Africa v Australia
Fourth Test, Day Two
Live from 2:00pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
New Zealand v England
Second Test, Day Two
Live from 4:00am

English Premier League

Crystal Palace v Liverpool
Live from 5:30pm
Man United v Swansea
Live from 8:00pm
Everton v Man City
Live from 10:30pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2

Bundesliga
Hannover v Leipzig
Live from 7:30pm
Bayern Munich v Dortmund
Live from 10:30pm
Hertha Berlin v Wolfsburg
Live from 12:30am (Sunday)

TEN 1

Serie A
Bologna v Roma
Live from 4:30pm
Inter Milan v Verona
Live from 7:00pm
Cheivo v Sampdoria
Live from 10:00pm

Juventus v AC Milan
Live from 12:45am (Sunday)
TEN 2
La Liga
Girona v Levante
Live from 5:00pm
Athletic Bilbao v Celta Vigo
Live from 8:15pm

Las Palmas v Real Madrid
Live from 10:30pm
Sevilla v Barcelona
Live from 12:45am (Sunday)

Bangladesh U-15s decimate Malaysia

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Under-15 women's football team made a flying start to their Jockey Club Girls' International Youth Invitational Football Tournament campaign by handing a massive 10-1 defeat to Malaysia at the Siu Sai Wan Sports ground in Hong Kong yesterday. Though this was the first international match for the girls in red and green since their SAFF U-15 Women's Championship triumph last December, they seemed to be toying with their Malaysian counterparts while teaching them a thing or two about football. Bangladesh went into the half six goals to the good and added four more in the second half.

Eight players got their names on the scoresheet. Sara Ban Tahura, Shamsunnahar Sr and Anai Mogoni got two goals apiece while Sajeda Khatun, Shamsunnahar Jr, Anuching Mogini and Nilufa Yesmin scored one each in the one-sided affair.

Some of the Bangladesh girls had previously played against the Malaysia senior team in 2017 when the Bangladesh national team, comprised mostly of players from the U-16 women's team, faced the nation in Singapore

as a part of their preparations for the AFC U-16 Women's Championship last year.

In that fixture, the girls in red and green gave Malaysia a run for their money but ultimately went down 2-1.

In yesterday's encounter, Bangladesh opened the floodgates early through Sajeda, who put them ahead in the 13th minute before Tahura struck twice in the 18th and 20th minutes respectively. One minute later, defender-turned-striker Shamsunnahar Sr made it 4-0 and right-back Anai widened the margin to 5-0 in the 24th minute before Shamsunnahar Jr converted the sixth goal in the 37th minute.

After resumption, Malaysia pulled one back through Jemin Iv Alleysheila in the 53rd minute but Bangladesh once again resumed their goal-fest with Anuching, Shamsunnahar Sr, Anai and Nila scoring one goal each in the 46th, 55th, 68th and 70th minutes respectively.

In the opening day's other fixture, hosts Hong Kong beat Iran 1-0 with Chan Chung Man Karri scoring the all-important goal in the third minute.

Bangladesh will face Iran today, a team they beat 3-0 in an AFC U-16 Championship Qualifiers in Dhaka.



Tottenham Hotspur manager Mauricio Pochettino (C) took part in a training match to perhaps blow off some steam before a daunting visit to Chelsea's Stamford Bridge on Sunday, where Spurs have not won a league match since 1990.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



Hundreds of LA Galaxy supporters mob Zlatan Ibrahimovic upon his arrival at Los Angeles International Airport on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP

My wish is to stay: Zizou

AFP, Madrid

Zinedine Zidane indicated on Friday that he wants to stay at Real Madrid next season. But Real's coach admitted his future will depend on results, with his team sitting third in La Liga, 15 points adrift of Barcelona, and relying on the Champions League for a major trophy this term. Zidane had previously stayed guarded over his desire to remain at the club but appears now to have declared his hand. Real travel to Las Palmas in the league on Saturday.

"Yes, I would still like to stay as coach of Real Madrid," Zidane said. "Here we depend on the results, it has not changed, it will not change, it is the requirement of this club and I accept it."

"I've been here 18 years, I know how Real Madrid functions," said Zidane, who arrived at the club in the summer of 2001. "I do what I like doing, I do it thoroughly and if the question is, do you want to continue? Then yes I will continue. I do not feel tired, not at all."

Zidane also insisted he has no issue with Isco, who said he does not feel the same confidence playing for Real as for Spain.

Athletes aim to improve

SPORTS REPORTER



Athletes from four disciplines -- swimming, weightlifting, athletics and boxing -- will leave for Australia tonight to take part in the XXI Commonwealth Games with their sights set on individual improvement.

Bangladesh have so far won six medals, two golds and a silver and bronze each, from shooting events but have never won a single medal from any other discipline. And again, the medal hopes lie with the shooters, who left for the Gold Coast on March 24 ahead of the start of the Games from April 4 in Queensland.

Bangladesh Olympic Association secretary general Syed Shahed Reza had earlier said that the participation of all athletes, barring shooters, would be a token one and that they were expecting improvements from those athletes as the best were selected from each discipline.

"If I remain fit and well before the competition, I will be trying to improve my individual performance," said SA Games gold medalist weightlifter Mabiya Akter Simata, who produced a national record in the last National Weightlifting Championships by lifting 101kg in clean and jerk in the 63kg weight category. She cleared 77kg in snatch.

"I have already surpassed my individual performance in training and am now waiting to repeat it at the competition. Please pray for me," said Simanta over the phone.

Coach Biddut Kumar Roy also has hopes

from three more weightlifters -- Shimul Kanti Singha, Johura Khatun, Fullpati Chakma and Fayema Akter.

"We are not thinking of winning a medal because the standard of the Commonwealth Games is almost equal to Asian Games. We are instead preparing for the next South Asian Games and I am hopeful that everyone will give their best to better their personal performances," said Biddut.

"The preparation is more or less good and my personal target is to improve my timing. If I can do this, then I will be happy," said the country's fastest woman, Shirin Akter. The fastest man, Mesbah Ahmed, will also be taking part in the event.

Though three swimmers -- Ariful Islam, Mahmudun Nabi Nahid and Najma Akter -- will be participating in swimming events, the Bangladesh Swimming Federation (BSF) is optimistic only with Ariful, who will compete in 50m and 100m breaststroke.

"Due to the absence of Korean coach Park Tae Gun over the past month, the preparations have been disrupted. We are hopeful that Ariful can improve his timing because he produced a good timing in a trial 10 days ago. We can't hope for anything from Nahid or Najma, who is ill," said BSF general secretary BM Saif yesterday.

Bangladesh Boxing Federation general secretary MA Kuddus Khan was confident that boxers Mohammad Al Amin and Robin Mia would fight through the three rounds after they impressed in a boxing tournament in India recently.

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:

'Ronaldo would have played through pain'

Argentina legend Hugo Gatti criticised Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi for sitting out the game against Spain with a slight injury and not playing through the pain, as he believed Cristiano Ronaldo would have done. Messi was left frustrated on the stands as Spain hammered six past Argentina without their talisman on the pitch.



Dortmund out to delay Bayern's title party in Munich

Borussia Dortmund coach Peter Stoeger hopes his side can delay old rivals Bayern Munich's Bundesliga title celebrations when the German giants go head-to-head at the Allianz Arena on Saturday.



Jose laments Ibra's 'sad' European exit

Jose Mourinho has paid tribute to Zlatan Ibrahimovic by declaring his departure from Manchester United a "sad" moment for European football.



Spurs looking to end Stamford Bridge jinx

Chelsea know they must beat London rivals Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday to keep alive realistic hopes of qualifying for next season's Champions League and recent history offers them encouragement. Fourth-placed Spurs are five points clear of Chelsea and with seven games to play following the London derby, an eight-point lead would require an unlikely series of results to stop Mauricio Pochettino's side from taking the final qualifying spot for Europe's premier club competition.



Zico to Neymar: The Lasmar's legacy

AFP, Sao Paulo



Following in his father's footsteps, orthopaedic surgeon Rodrigo Lasmar's operation on superstar Neymar has proved crucial in preparing Brazil's billion-dollar team for their tilt at World Cup glory.

Back in 1986, Neylor Lasmar was called upon to fix the knee of the star of the Brazilian team heading to Mexico and aiming to win a first World Cup since 1970, Zico. Although just a teenager, young Rodrigo was afforded the privilege of accompanying his father throughout that tournament.

"He met all the players, he was very involved," Neylor Lasmar recently told Brazilian daily O Estado de Minas.

Now 46, Rodrigo Lasmar is carrying on the family tradition and his role in mending Neymar's broken foot is every bit as crucial to the Selecao's World Cup hopes in Russia as his father's skills had been 32 years ago.

Like his father, Lasmar's reputation preceded him and his selection by Neymar for the crucial task briefly made him the most important man in his homeland.

A measure of Lasmar's importance in a football-mad nation that treats its star players almost as demi-gods was evident in the soap opera that led up to Neymar's operation.

It was a classic tug-of-war between club and country -- and there was no doubt who came out on top. When he suffered the injury on February 25, speculation was rife over what to do, where to do it and who would be given the responsibility.

Uncertainty reigned until Lasmar returned from a conference in Russia to meet with Neymar's representatives and PSG management. When the verdict was announced, Brazilians breathed a sigh of relief while Parisians were left deflated -- and more so a few days later when Real Madrid dumped their Neymar-less side out of the Champions League.

Neymar was going under the knife immediately, but not in Paris and one of its reputed clinics; in Lasmar's home town of Belo Horizonte. PSG were reduced to sending their preferred surgeon Gerard Saillant -- renowned for having operated on the Brazilian great Ronaldo's knee in late 2000 -- as Lasmar spent an hour and a quarter on Neymar on March 3.

"He faced up to all the pressure very well, he's a very focussed person," said Runco, who passed the Brazil baton to Lasmar in 2014. Lasmar had joined Runco's backroom staff in 2001 and went to the World Cup a year later.

Ironically, that was where Ronaldo, freshly patched up by Saillant, fired Brazil to their last World Cup success with a brace



PHOTOS: COLLECTED

(TOP) Neymar sits alongside Brazil doctor Rodrigo Lasmar as he accompanies him to hospital for surgery earlier this year. 32 years ago, Lasmar's father, Neylor, poses after performing surgery on another Brazilian superstar, Zico.

in the 2-0 final victory over Germany. Saillant's handiwork had left its mark on Lasmar. "What impressed me most was the recovery of Rivaldo and Ronaldo," Lasmar said.

Neymar's injury is not as serious as Ronaldo's was, but Lasmar will hope his surgical skills stand the test of time in the way Saillant's did, and that Neymar emulates his predecessor.

Whatever happens, one person is particularly proud of Lasmar: his father Neylor. "For us, it's highly gratifying that he was called upon to operate on Neymar, as I was with Zico before," he said. "It's an honour to operate on a star footballer."

If Neymar succeeds where Zico failed, Lasmar's fame in Brazil will only grow.

Hafizur, Afsana become carrom champions

SPORTS REPORTER

Hafizur Rahman of Khulna became champion of the Independence Day Carrom Tournament with a 2-0 win over Hemayet Mollah of Chittagong in the singles final at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

In women's singles, Afsana Nasrin of Eden College beat Sabina Akter to clinch the title.

Carlos to sit out Pak T20s

AFP, Karachi

West Indies captain Carlos Brathwaite will miss the upcoming T20I series in Pakistan over security concerns, while wicketkeeper Denesh Ramdin was given a recall on Thursday.

The 29-year-old Brathwaite, who famously hit four consecutive sixes off England's Ben Stokes to seal the 2016 World Twenty20 title, is among the Windies players to decide that the trip to Karachi is too dangerous.

The series starts on Sunday. "We had a few players that opted not to tour Pakistan, due to their or their families' security concerns and Cricket West Indies have fully accepted their position," said West Indies selector Courtney Browne.

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