

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS 1 & SELECT 1

Indian Premier League

Punjab v Delhi

Live from 4:30pm

Kolkata v Bangalore

Live from 8:30pm

STAR SPORTS 2

English Premier League

Arsenal v Southampton

Live from 7:15pm

Chelsea v West Ham

Live from 9:30pm

SONY SIX & TEN 2

Commonwealth Games

Day Five

Live from 5:30am

TEN 1

Serie A

Torino v Inter Milan

Live from 4:30pm

Napoli v Chievo

Live from 7:00pm

Udinese v Lazio

Live from 10:00pm

AC Milan v Sassuolo

Live from 12:45am (Monday)

TEN 2

La Liga

Real Madrid v Atletico Madrid

Live from 8:15pm

Valencia v Real Sociedad

Live from 12:45am (Monday)

Bayern Munich lifted the third quickest title in Bundesliga history, securing a sixth on the trot with a 4-1 win away to Augsburg in their 29th match yesterday. The quickest also came from Bayern when they won it after 27 games under Pep Guardiola in 2013/14.

PHOTO: REUTERS

# Bayern win sixth title in a row

AFP, Berlin

Bayern Munich were crowned Bundesliga champions for the sixth consecutive season on Saturday as James Rodriguez helped turn the game in their 4-1 comeback victory at Augsburg.

The result mean Bayern are German league champions for the 28th time in their history, and it was the sixth year in a row they have won the Bundesliga since their treble-winning season in 2013.

Augsburg took a shock lead through an own goal by Niklas Suele, but the Bavarians roared back as Corentin Tolisso, James -- who then assisted Arjen Robben -- and Sandro Wagner all scored.

The result leaves Bayern 20 points clear with five league games left and underlined their absolute dominance of the Bundesliga.

With one eye on Wednesday's Champions League quarter-final second leg against Sevilla, in which

Munich hold a slender 2-1 lead, coach Jupp Heynckes gambled by resting his stars.

Top scorer Robert Lewandowski, plus Thomas Mueller, Thiago Alcantara, Mats Hummels and Javi Martinez all started on the bench.

Sevilla would have encouraged by the comedy of errors in Bayern's defence that led to Augsburg's goal.

Jerome Boateng lingered over a back pass and Colombian forward Sergio Cordova robbed him of possession, sending Boateng tumbling to the turf, clutching his hamstring.

Cordova's shot was blocked by Bayern goalkeeper Sven Ulreich, but the ball ricocheted into Suele's face and into Bayern's goal to stun the visitors on 18 minutes.

However, Munich were 2-1 up by the time half-time came when Joshua Kimmich's cross picked out Tolisso unmarked in the area to header Bayern level on 32 minutes.

Bayern then laid on a top-class goal to take the lead at Augsburg's WWK Arena.

Kimmich was again involved, firing a pass across goal after combining with Robben for Juan Bernat, who backheeled the ball which James fired home seven minutes before the break.

The Colombian then ensured the title was heading to Munich for their third.

He hooked the ball back into play at the far post for Robben to drill his shot inside the near post on 62 minutes.

Ribery celebrated his 35th birthday with a cameo appearance for the final eight minutes before Wagner headed home Bayern's late fourth.

The Bavarian giants will formally lift the Bundesliga shield after the final day on May 12.

Elsewhere, second-from-bottom Cologne suffered a blow to their survival hopes as they were held to a 1-1 draw by Mainz.

An early goal by Cologne's Germany defender Jonas Hector was cancelled out as Pablo De Blasis headed an equaliser for

Mainz five minutes into the second half.

With five games left, Cologne are six points behind Mainz, who are 16th, which carries a relegation play-off berth against the third-best team in the second tier at the end of the season.

Wolfsburg, who are just above the bottom three, won 2-0 at Freiburg in a match featuring two sides just above the bottom three and fighting to stay up.

With just two minutes gone at the Schwarzwald Stadion, Wolves striker Daniel Didavi held off his marker and fired past despairing Freiburg goalkeeper Alexander Schwolow. He added a second with seven minutes remaining.

Thorgan Hazard came off the bench to score twice as Borussia Moenchengladbach climbed to eighth with a 2-1 win at home to Hertha Berlin.

Salomon Kalou gave Hertha an early lead, but Hazard came off the bench to score on 75 minutes, then net a late penalty.

# First instalment handed to DFAs

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president Kazi Salahuddin yesterday handed over the first instalment to run district football leagues to District Football Association (DFA) representatives at the BFF House.

He also promised to aid the associations with technical support, which includes providing coaches, during his discussion with the DFA representatives.

This is the first time that the government has sanctioned a budget to run the district leagues, to the tune of Tk 1.47 crore. The first of the three instalments is worth TK one lakh each, distributed to 62 DFAs, with two DFAs ineligible for the grant.

"I thank the government, the finance ministry and the sports ministry for allowing a budget to run the district football league. The amount does not matter because some countries may have a million-dollar league while other countries may have 10-million-dollar leagues. The respective league organisers need to make sure they involve sponsors," Salahuddin said after the meeting.

"The DFAs will present their programmes to us within the next two to three weeks, Salahuddin said, adding that the federation

will get a regular budget allocation for this purpose from the government.

While there has been so far no clear word from either party as to when the leagues will start and what is the deadline for finishing the leagues, it has been learnt that a number of DFAs have already held or are holding their respective leagues of their own accord.

Mymensingh DFA president AKM Delwar Hossain Mukul informed that they have already completed the first division league with 13 teams in January-February this year. "We have held 66 matches in a single-leg system of the first division league with our own money. The three-lakh-taka is very little compared to what is required to complete a league. You at least need seven to eight lakhs of taka for such a league," Mukul said.

Sylhet DFA president Mahi Uddin Ahmed Selim said while they held different divisions last year, they are yet to start the leagues this year due to the unavailability of grounds. "We have only one ground there which is currently being used for cricket. We hope to start the league after Ramadan."

Representatives from 47 DFAs out of the 62 eligible ones were present at the meeting with the BFF high-ups. The BFF is expected to release the remaining amount of Tk 2 lakh in two further instalments, depending on the progress of the leagues.

# CANADA IN MOURNING

## 14 killed in hockey bus crash

AFP, Nipawin

Hockey-mad Canada was in mourning on Saturday after a bus carrying a junior ice hockey team collided with a semi-trailer truck in Saskatchewan province, killing 14 people.

In a country where love of the sport is almost a religion, the crash sparked an outpouring of grief among players and fans, while national political leaders and the head of the NHL expressed their sympathies.

"We can now confirm 14 people have died as a result of this collision," the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said in a statement, which did not say how many of the victims were players or coaches of the Humboldt Broncos team, which hails from a town of 6,000 people.

Of 29 people on the team bus, including the driver, 15 were taken to hospital with injuries.

Tom Straschnitzki told CBC News that his son, Ryan, is one of them.

"He remembers he was in the middle of the bus and then he remembers waking up when the paramedics took him off the bus," said Straschnitzki, whose son suffered a severe back injury.

# Won't give Barca guard of honour: Zidane

REUTERS, Madrid

Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said on Saturday his side will not offer runaway La Liga leaders Barcelona a guard of honour before the 'Clasico' next month if the Catalans are crowned champions before then.

Barcelona formed a guard of honour in May 2008 for newly confirmed champions Real at the Santiago Bernabeu but they refused to repeat the gesture before their last Liga meeting on Dec. 23, days after Madrid had lifted the FIFA Club World Cup.

"Soon I'm going to be asked about this and my answer is very clear. It's my decision and it's final. I don't understand the concept of the guard of honour and so we aren't going to do it. Barca broke with the tradition," Zidane told a news conference ahead of the Madrid derby

against Atletico Madrid on Sunday.

Barca's head of institutional relations Guillermo Amor said in December that his club had declined to repeat the guard of honour for Real as they had not participated in the Club World Cup.

Barca lead the Liga standings by nine points over nearest challengers Atletico Madrid and are 13 ahead of third-placed Real with seven games remaining.

If Real beat Atletico in Sunday's Madrid derby and Barca win their next four fixtures, Ernesto Valverde's side will have clinched a 25th title by the time of the Clasico on May 6 at the Nou Camp.

Zidane, however, said his side were not worried about the fact that a victory over their city rivals would bring historical rivals Barca closer to winning the league, and were instead focusing on unseating Atletico in second.

# Clos, Peaty light up games

AFP, Gold Coast

Chad le Clos made history and Adam Peaty completed a four-year unbeaten cycle as two of the Commonwealth Games' top swimmers lit up the Gold Coast on Saturday.

Le Clos's 200 metres butterfly victory made him the first man to win the same event three times at the Games, while Peaty extended his remarkable 100m breast-stroke winning streak.

It came on a day when Australia won two more swimming golds and another two in track cycling to reach 20 at the top of the medals table, ahead of England on 14.

Le Clos grabbed his second gold of these Games and sixth overall with victory in the 200m fly, his pet event, in which he famously stunned Michael Phelps at the 2012 Olympics.

Although two women, Australia's Leisel Jones and Petria Thomas, have won the three golds in the same event, le Clos becomes the first male swimmer to complete a hat-trick.

"I wanted to get the three -- 2014, 2016, 2018. No one has done the triple before so I feel like the Michael Phelps of the Commonwealth (Games) -- I'm happy."

Australia's Cate Campbell won the women's 50m freestyle for her second gold of the Games.

Manchester United defender Chris Smalling (L) is ecstatic after scoring the winning goal alongside teammate Paul Pogba who scored two goals to equalise the match at 2-2 after being 2-0 down during their Premier League encounter against Manchester City at the Etihad Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

# United keep City waiting

AFP, Manchester

Paul Pogba spoiled Manchester City's anticipated Premier League title party by scoring twice in two minutes as Manchester United came from 2-0 down to win a thrilling derby 3-2 on Saturday.

Chris Smalling completed the comeback that looked so improbable when City were well on course to round off a resounding march towards the title by racing into a 2-0 first-half lead.

Goals from captain Vincent Kompany and Ilkay Gundogan put the hosts in a commanding position, who

were left to rue huge missed chances from Raheem Sterling to extend their lead.

City manager Pep Guardiola added more spice to an already hotly-anticipated clash when he claimed on Friday he had been offered the chance to buy Pogba two months ago by the player's agent Mino Raiola.

Pogba has endured a desperately disappointing season having often been dropped by Jose Mourinho for United's biggest games.

But after so much criticism, Pogba showed why he was the world's most expensive player when United splashed out £89 million to bring him

back to the club from Juventus in 2016 by hauling United back into a game that looked lost at half-time.

Guardiola kept his pre-match promise to prioritise Tuesday's Champions League quarterfinal second leg against Liverpool with City needing to overturn a 3-0 first leg deficit.

Kevin de Bruyne, a leading candidate for player of the year awards, was left on the bench alongside Gabriel Jesus and City's all-time top goalscorer Sergio Aguero.

Guardiola and Mourinho have a long-running rivalry dating back to their time in charge of Barcelona and Real Madrid respectively.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Participants of the Max Group Cup Golf Tournament, a four-day event that features hundreds of players from local and foreign clubs, pose for a photo at the opening ceremony at the Army Golf Club on Friday. The quartermaster general of the Bangladesh Army, lieutenant general Aziz Ahmed was the chief guest at the event.