

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

CHANNEL 9 & STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

Indian Premier League
Chennai v Kolkata
Live from 8:30pm
SONY SIX & TEN 2
Commonwealth Games

Day Seven
Live from 5:30am
TEN 1
UEFA Champions League
Roma v Barcelona
Live from 12:45am (Wednesday)

TEN 2
UEFA Champions League
Man City v Liverpool
Live from 12:45am (Wednesday)

Bangladesh Cricket League
Four-Day Match, Day-1
Time: 10:00am

BCB North Zone v Walton Central Zone
Venue: SICS, Sylhet
Prime Bank South Zone v Islami Bank East Zone

Venue: SCS, Bogra

SALAH WINS FOURTH PFA AWARD

Liverpool star Mohamed Salah has won the PFA Player of the Month award for the fourth time this season, with a whopping 80 per cent of the votes. Salah has enjoyed a stunning debut campaign at Anfield and is currently top of the scoring charts with 29, and the Liverpool winger is just three away from setting a new record for a 38-game campaign in the Premier League. The 31-goal record is currently shared between Alan Shearer, Luis Suarez and Cristiano Ronaldo, and Salah has five games left to eclipse the trio. And after netting six goals in his four appearances throughout March's Premier League fixtures, there was only ever one winner for the PFA award. Salah fended off competition from Spurs trio Dele Alli, Heung-Min Son and Jan Vertonghen, as well as Manchester City duo Leroy Sane and David Silva.

→AGENCIES





Bangladesh's Ummey Zakia Sultana Tumpa takes aim during the women's 10m air rifle event final in the 2018 Commonwealth Games at the Belmont Shooting Complex in Brisbane yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Tumpa misses narrowly

SPORTS REPORTER



Though there were high expectations on Ummey Zakia Sultana Tumpa to secure a medal at the Belmont Shooting Complex, she had to be content with a fourth place finish after an exciting final to the women's 10m Air Rifle event of the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games yesterday.

Tumpa entered the eight-shooter final as the sixth qualifier with 410.5 points. She then scored 183.7 by the 18th shot, just before Seonaid McIntosh of Scotland was eliminated from the round as the fourth placed shooter. She finished on 202 points after 20 shoots.

The 24-year-old could have won gold though as she was a mere 1.2 points behind the eventual silver medal winner Mehuli Gosh of India at the start of the 19th and 20th shots. The girl from Lalmonirhat needed to put up one of her best performances if she was to make up the deficit and enter medal contention but the national gold medallist fell agonising-

ly short as she hit below ten on both shots and finished on 202, exactly three points less than Gosh. Gosh lost the gold medal to Martina Lindsay Veloso of Singapore in a shoot-off after being tied on 247.2 points at the final round.

Had Tumpa averted elimination, she would have become the first Bangladeshi woman to win a medal at the Commonwealth Games where Bangladesh have won seven medals so far, including two gold's from men's events.

"I was optimistic till the last moment that I could make it [to a medal] but I hit badly in the last shots. But I am happy to come this far in my debut appearance at the Commonwealth Games," Tupma told reporters after the round.

"Entering the eight-shooter final is something more to me because we are not far away from world class shooters. I think we can improve more by practising more and can fight against them equally," said Tumpa, who previously participated in the Delhi World Cup and Asian Air Gun Championship but failed to qualify for the final rounds.

"I have learnt a lot from these Games and am looking forward to producing better results in the future by preparing myself," she continued.

However, Tumpa allegedly did not receive any sort of mental support or encouragement from the coaching staff or officials throughout the competition.

Meanwhile, Syeda Atkia Hasan Disha finished 10th out of 18 shooters in the same event with a score of 407.4 points.

In the 10m air pistol event, SA Games gold medallist Shakil Ahmed finished sixth after qualifying for the eight-shooter final round with a score of 563 points.

Shakil was clearly ahead of two other shooters when Bin Gai of Singapore was eliminated on seventh place but the lad from Khulna hit a poor 6.1 and 9.2 in the 15th and 16th shots respectively and ultimately placed sixth with a score of 150.1, approximately 4.2 points less than the fifth place finisher.

Anwar Hossain placed 13th out of 24 shooters with a score of 555 in the same event.

Roma hoping for miracle 'City need perfect game'

AFP, Rome



Roma coach Eusebio Di Francesco has urged his side to believe in a "miracle" to overturn a 4-1 deficit against Barcelona and advance to the Champions League semifinals on Tuesday.

"We have to believe in something important and go for it with great love and passion. They will play their best to confirm the result but we can also produce a miracle," Di Francesco told a pre-match press conference.

"It's difficult, but we have to believe. We stopped (Lionel) Messi (in the first leg) and we have to try to do it again tomorrow."

Edin Dzeko scored a valuable away goal after own goals from Daniele De Rossi and Kostas Manolas in the Camp Nou, but the Italians need a remarkable comeback at the Stadio Olimpico to advance to final four for the first time since 1984.

Barcelona star Lionel Messi returns to the Stadio Olimpico where his stunning header sealed the Champions League title in 2009 against Manchester United.

The Argentine warmed up with a hat-trick in a 3-1 win over Leganes Saturday as Barcelona equalled the record longest unbeaten run in La Liga history.

"I don't see it as being tied up in any way," said Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde ahead of the return.

Messi and teammate Andres Iniesta are poised for a milestone of 100 Champions League appearances together. Iniesta is a veteran of 129 Champions League games, and Messi, 124.

Roma have slipped to fourth in Serie A after a 2-0 home defeat to Fiorentina, making it three games without a win, and a seventh home defeat. Di Francesco's side will be looking to avoid equalling the club's record of eight home defeats in all competitions going back 70 years.

"Maybe Barcelona away are not the same team as at the Camp Nou, we will try to close down Messi wherever he is on the pitch," said the Roma coach.

Roma have kept a clean sheet in all of their European games at home this season while the Catalan giants have struggled to get goals away in the Champions League.

REUTERS, Manchester



Manchester City must overturn a 3-0 deficit against Liverpool in the second leg of their Champions League quarterfinal tie on Tuesday and manager Pep Guardiola said that will require "the perfect game" from his players.

City go into the match on the back of a 3-2 defeat in the Premier League to rivals Manchester United on Saturday when a win would have secured the title.

Guardiola's side gave up a two goal lead in that game and they know that even a single slip-up against Liverpool will make their task of progressing to the semi-finals almost impossible.

"Of course to go through you have to make the perfect game, create chances, be clinical, concede few chances, all the conditions have to be perfect," said the Spaniard.

"The result is tough but we have 90



PEP GUARDIOLA

minutes and in football anything can happen. What we are going to do is try. We have to score the first one, then make the second one. We'll see the momentum, try to keep it longer and then we'll see," he added.

City conceded their six goals in the past two games during a pair of intense short spells and Guardiola said they have to be ready to deal with adversity.

"If we concede, don't give up - it's more than 90 minutes. We have very often created a lot of chances in short

period of time and we have to be clinical. And if we are not clinical then move on to the next one," he said.

City were eliminated last season in the last 16 by Monaco and it would be a disappointment for them to fail to make the last four after such a dominant season domestically.

But the former Barcelona manager believes that his side is growing and will soon be among the real elite of European football.

"We need titles in Europe - it's complicated but you need nights that make you understand it," he said.

"Beating Barca (last season) was so special because we know they're the best team in the world but it will happen sooner or later.

"With what this club has done in the last 10 years in terms of creating facilities and making it bigger it will happen. (To compete with) the big clubs you need time but hopefully we can do it. Maybe next year but soon it will happen."

Napoli stay in the hunt

AFP, Milan

Last-gasp goals from Arkadiusz Milik and Amadou Diawara kept Napoli's Serie A title ambitions alive as a dramatic 2-1 win over Chievo on Sunday maintained the pressure on reigning champions Juventus.

Maurizio Sarri's title-chasers looked destined to remain seven points behind Juventus as they trailed until the 89th minute at their San Paolo stadium. Polish striker Mariusz Stepinski's goal on 73 minutes had put the relegation battlers from Verona ahead.

But Milik headed in the equaliser with one minute of normal time to go with Guinean midfielder Diawara grabbing the winner deep into injury time.

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:

Shakib delighted to meet Muralitharan

Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan had dominated cricket with his impeccable genius for over a decade. His exploits have garnered world-wide recognition and Bangladesh's ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan posted a photo with the Lankan legend as a mark of respect.



Neymar posts cryptic Messi message

PSG's Neymar posts cryptic message on twitter about former Barca teammate Lionel Messi. Is Lionel Messi moving to Paris Saint-Germain? Well we cannot be sure yet but according to PSG star Neymar, something big is about to happen.



Ibra's late spark not enough to power Galaxy

Johnny Russell and Daniel Salloi scored second half goals as Sporting Kansas City grinded out a well-deserved 2-0 victory over Los Angeles Galaxy.



FIFA corruption concerns prompt Oceania probe

The Oceania Football Confederation (OFC) said it will investigate "potential wrongdoings" after a FIFA audit into construction of its lavish new Auckland headquarters raised corruption concerns.



Simbine, Ahye win 100m gold

AFP, Gold Coast



Akani Simbine grabbed the spotlight and stunned Jamaica's Yohan Blake in the men's 100 metres final at the Commonwealth Games on Monday as athletics began a new era without Usain Bolt.

In cool conditions in Australia's Gold Coast, South Africa's Simbine stormed up lane seven to win his first major title in 10.03sec, the second fastest time this year.

Blake, the fastest man into the final in 10.06, stumbled out of the blocks and dipped for bronze in a disappointing 10.19, behind South African silver-medallist Henricho Bruinjtjes' 10.17.

It was a chastening outing for Blake, 28, the 2011 world champion who holds the joint second fastest time in history, but whose career has long been overshadowed by the now retired Bolt.

"I was stumbling all the way and I didn't recover from it," said Blake.

"I'm disappointed because I've been feeling good. I didn't get the start and I was all over the place. I couldn't recover from it."

Trinidad and Tobago's Michelle-Lee Ahye won the women's 100m in 11.14, ahead of Jamaicans Christiana Williams in 11.21 and Gayon Evans with 11.22.

Uganda's Stella Chessang won a closely contested women's 10,000m in 31:45.30, and world champion Tomas Walsh heaved 21.41m to win the men's shot put for New Zealand.

In swimming, Cameron van der Burgh of South Africa stunned England's Adam Peaty, the world record-holder, to defend his 50 metres breaststroke title.

South Africa's Chad le Clos completed a hat-trick of butterfly golds when he won the 100m race, and Bronte Campbell earned a rare victory over her sister Cate in the 100m freestyle.

The results came on a day when New Zealand weightlifter Laurel Hubbard became the Games' first transgender athlete -- although her appearance was cut short by a painful injury.

The 40-year-old was leading the women's +90kg category when she attempted Games-record snatch of 132kg, only for her left elbow to give way under the weight.

But Hubbard, who was born Gavin Hubbard and previously represented New Zealand as a man, was delighted with her warm reception by the crowd, which came despite criticism of her



South Africa's Akani Simbine (L) and Trinidad and Tobago's Michelle-Lee Ahye celebrate after finishing ahead of the pack in the men's and women's 100m final respectively during the 2018 Commonwealth Games at the Carrara Stadium yesterday.

PHOTOS: REUTERS

participation by rival team officials.

"The crowd was absolutely magnificent. I felt (it was) just like a big embrace and I wanted to give them something that reflected the best I could do, and my only real regret today was that I was unable to show them," she said.

Hubbard added: "I think you have to be true to yourself and I hope in this case that's what I've done."

Feagaiga Stowers, second behind Hubbard before her injury, took gold in one of two weightlifting titles for Samoa, who also won the men's 105kg through Sanele Mao.



'This time our team is better'

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh national volleyball team returned home on Sunday from a fruitful 21-day training camp in Iran, the eighth ranked country in world volleyball, which was a part of their preparations for this month's Bangabandhu Asian Senior Men's Central Zone Volleyball Championship.

The 18-member squad selected by the Bangladesh Volleyball federation played six practice matches in Tehran against different Iranian clubs, including an Iran Super League side, and won four games against two defeats.

"The tour will help us display better shows in the championship because we applied new techniques, which are now followed by the world's top nations like Brazil, United States of America, Russia, Japan and South Korea, in training and successfully executed those techniques in the practice matches," said captain Horosit Biswas yesterday.

"The Iranian coach [Alipour Aroji] is also happy to see our development and believed the improvement we had during 21 days was not possible even in two-months of training in Bangladesh because we have not only improved technically but also physically," Horosit added.

Horosit also believes that the clubs they played against in the practice matches are stronger than certain South Asian national teams like Nepal, Maldives and Afghanistan.

"The Iranian clubs are stronger compared to Maldives, Nepal and Afghanistan because those clubs have professional players, who play volleyball regularly. So, this tour will undoubtedly help us display some good performances in the upcoming championship," Horosit said. "This time our team is better than the one which clinched the title of Asian Senior Men's Central Zone Volleyball Championship in 2016 because three new players have been included."

Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Maldives, Neal and Afghanistan are supposed to take part in the championship, which gets underway from April 21 at the Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Gymnasium in Mirpur.

AB Bank Bangladesh Open 2018 (4th Asian Tour Golf Tournament in Bangladesh)

For the 4th time under the overall supervision of Bangladesh Golf Federation, sponsored by AB Bank Ltd, Asian Tour Golf (AB Bank Bangladesh Open 2018) is going to be held from 09-12 May 2018 at Kurmitola Golf Club, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka.