Bangladesh Cricket League Four-Day Match, Day 4 Prime Bank South Zone v Walton Central Zone DAY'S EVENT

# Leganes v Deportivo Live from 1:00am (Saturday)

Chelsea manager Antonio Conte hasn't had too much to smile about at Stamford Bridge in recent weeks Chelses manager Antonic Conte hasn't had too much to smile about at Stamford Bridge in recent weeks with the club fighting to baid a Champions request parts the season. The engoing speculation over his future in west London and talk of who is likely to succeed thin is unlikely to have helped his mode either future in west London and talk of who is likely to succeed thin is unlikely to have helped his mode either for a being former during his press conference this afternoon, the hallan could the legher barille of this face. Conter was speaking to reporters ahead of tomorrow night's Premier League clash with Burnley when his phone began to ring in his pocket. Looking at the screen, he admitted the caller was his wife and apploiged for the interruption. "It was my where Always in the worst moment." In sorry," he said. "You can give me a fine! I'm sorry because I would be annoyed if it happened to one of you." — AGENCIS

CONTE'S WIFE INTERRUPTS PRESSER





Napoli players celebrate with their fans after a hard-fought 4-2 win over Udinese in Naples on Wednesday night. The win cut the gap over league leaders Juventus to just four points ahead of a top-of-the-table clash between the sides on Monday. PHOTO: AFP

## Napoli cut gap to four



Napoli kept their title hopes

Napoli kept their title hopes alive with a 4-2 win over Udinese on Wednesday as champions luventus Path to a seventh consecutive Serie Attimus Nigerian forward Simy grabbed the equaliser for Crotone after 65 minutes with a spectacular overhead bicycle kick with shades of that scored by Cristiano Ronaldo in Turin last month.

"We didn't do so well tonight, even though the gusy did everything possible," said Iuventus coach Massimiliano Allegi. "Wewere a plus six pionis and tonight was decisive for the Saudetto. The thing to do is stay calm, and play this championship until the end."

Napoli came from behind twice to cut the gap on Iuventus to four points with five games remaining including next Sunday's top of the table clash between the two teams in Turin.

Application of the control of the stay of the table clash between the two teams in Turin.

Very control of the control of the stay of the table clash between the two teams in Turin.

But Lorenzo Insigne pulled Napoli back just before the break only for Swedish midfielder Svante Ingelsson to put Udinese in front again ten minutes into the second half.

But Raul Albiol, Arkadiusz Milik and Lorenzo Tonelli all scored in a ten-minute spree in the second half to condemn Udinese to their 20th defeat of the season. Napoli had fallen six points adrift of leaders Iuventus after last weekend's goalless draw at AC Milan with the champi-predesing nor the title.

goalless draw at AC Milan with the champions closing in on the title.

Gianluigi Buffon was rested ahead of Sunday's game with Wojciech Szczesny in goal and Juventus looked to be on track after Alex Sandro headed in a Douglas Costa cross after 16 minutes in Calabria, before Simy struck on 65 minutes for the relegation threatened southerners.

Behind the leading duo the race for Champions League football next season continues with AS Roma – already through to the semifinals of this year's competition—remaining third after a 2-1 win in Genoa. Lazio are fourth with the same number of

remaining third after a 2-1 win in Genoa. Lazio are fourth with the same number of points as city rivals Roma, coming from two goals down to beat Fiorentina 4-3, ending the Tuscan side's eight-match unbeaten run. Inter Milan remain fifth one-point out-side the Champions League places after easily seeing off Cagliari 4-0 on Tuesday. In the fight for Europa League spots AC Milan are sixth after a 1-1 draw against Torino.

#### Kamal pays dues to BHF SPORTS REPORTER

Former national hockey player Rafigul Islam Kamal paid his dues to the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) yesterday, exactly a day after he was suspended from all hockey-related activities owing to his failure to clear the dues. The former nations striker deposited Tk 74,400 to the BHF account yesterday moming. The federation had earlier asked him to return the money left over after expenditure for the school hockey tournament, but Kamal was apparently refuctant to reimburse them. "His suspension has been withdrawn automatically after he sent back the money," said BHF general word, and the sent back the money." Said BHF general view of the sent back the money. "Said BHF general through the sent back the money." Said BHF general through the sent back the money." Said BHF general through the sent back the money." Said BHF general through the sent back the money. "Said BHF general through the sent back the money." Said BHF general through the sent back the money is said backed to the sent back the sent back the money is said backed to the sent backed through the sent backed the sent backed the sent backed through the sent backed the sent backed through through through through the sent backed through the sent backe

never denied owing the federation any money.

# Hosts aim to regain title

The Bangabandhu Asian Senior Men's Central Cone International Volleyball Championship begins tomorrow at the Shabeds Wisherward Indoor Stadium with hosts Bangladesh aiming to regain the title, Which they had dichned backin 2016. Bangladesh did not participate in the edition following their win, held in Maldives in March 2017. This time, six nations, split into two

Maldives in March 2017.

This time, six nations, split into two groups, will play in round-robin league matches and the top two teams

from each group will advance to the semifinals on Wednesday while the final is set for Friday.

The hosts, who are in Group A along-side Nepal and the Maldives, will start their

side Nepal and the Maldives, will start their campaign against Nepal on the opening day. Group B consists of Kyngzestan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. To prepare for this championship, the national team underwent a three-week training session in Iran where they played six practice matches against different Iranian clubs, including an Iran Super League side, and won four. The team also serent nearly town more weeks preparine spent nearly two more weeks preparing after their return on April 7. And although Bangladesh's Iranian

coach Alipour Aroji believes that the competition will be tough since all the

participating teams have also prepared well, he remained optimistic about his

side maintaining their current form.
"There are some strong teams like
Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and menistan, who are from the region of the former Soviet Union, so they are much more powerful participants. We



Bangladesh volleyball team captain Horosit Biswas adresses reporters PHOTO: STAR

had a very good and fantastic preparation in Iran as we played some good practice matches there. We are working very hard and waiting for the start of the tourna-ment," said Aroji at an official press

nce at a city hotel vesterday Volleyball was once a popular sport in rural areas across the country but Bangladesh got its first international title only in 2016, beating Maldives in the Bangabadhu Asian Senior Men's Central Zone International Volleyball

Championship final.

"Last time around, we also worked hard because becoming champions is not an easy thing. This time we are also working hard and are looking forward to maintaining our performance and thus winning the title, though it will be tough for us because Maldives and Nepal also prepared in Thailand and Denmark respectively," said the Iranian.
Echoing his coach's sentiments, the

Echoing his coach's sentiments, the national team's new captain Horosit Biswas said that clinching the title was going to be tough but they were ready to defend it on homes soil.

'After being appointed captain, my approach has changed and I am hopeful of winning the title after what achieved in the 2016 edition,' said Horosit. 'We had good preparation,' said Horosit. 'We had good preparation this time around compared to the one we had last time. We also have a good squad this time. Our target is to win the Championship and we will try our best to get the expected outcome.'

Horosit added that they adopted some new techniques from their tour

some new techniques from their tour of Iran and would try to implement those in the Championship.



backheel from a Luka Modric shot as the match ended 1-1. The Portuguese has matched his best scoring run for Los Blancos, having found the back of the net for PHOTO: COLLECTED

### Ronaldo rides to Conflict looms Real's rescue



Real Madrid may the favourites for the Champions League but a 1-1 draw against Athletic Bilbao on Wednesday will hardly Linden Strategies and Champions League but a 1-1 draw against Athletic Bilbao on Wednesday will hardly Linden Strategies and Champions League Bornabea and ended frantically, with Cristiano Ronaldo's 87th-minute equaliser cancelling out a delightful early chip from Athletic's Inaki Williams in between.

Barcelona's commanding lead at the top of La Liga, which now stands at 12 points over Atletico Madrid and 15 on Real, means these matches carry reduced significance and inevitably lack a certain edge.

But Zidane may at least be concerned by a loss of momentum, particularly given this side is likely to be vious to the one that starts the semifinal first leg at the Allianz-Arena in a week time.

Real have managed to hit different gear in the Champions League knock-out stages but this draw matches, having tower we wo only once in their last four matches, having together 11 victories from their previous 12.

"The result wasn't what we water draway and mentally."

previous 12.
"The result wasn't what we wanted today and mentally also, we were a little off," Zidane said. "What we have to do is rest, we have five days before the game on Wednesday, we will prepare well and then we will give everything. We have a semifinal and we will fight to the death to defend our title."

### in SA cricket AFP, Cape Town

Cricket South Africa (CSA)

Cricket South Africa (CSA) and the country's cricketers appeared to be headed for conflict on Thursday, just 11 days before the expiry of a four-year agreement between officials and players.

The South African Cricketers' Association (SACA) issued a statement on Thursday which contradicted one put out by CSA on Wednesday. The official body claimed that it was seeking as a matter of urgency to conclude a new five-year memorandum of agreement (MOU) with the players.

the players.

the players.

CSA stated that it was willing to extend existing contracts if an agreement was not finalised by April 30, the expiry date of the current deal.

But SACA chief greenting

But SACA chief executive Tony Irish responded by saying that CSA's plans had caused consternation

## Abahani, Mariners reach semis



hockey tournament after beating their respective rivals in the final group stage matches at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday. Abahani notched an emphatic 7-1 win over Sonali Bank to set their semifinal clash against Group B runners-up Victoria SC while Mariner Youngs became Group B champions by handing a 4-0 defeat to Ajax SC. They will play their

up Sonali Bank.

Both semifinals will be held tom

tomorrow.

The day's second match between
Abahani and Sonali Bank was
expected to be a mouth-watering
clash under floodlights but the Sky
Blues dominated the Bankers from the start. Sonali Bank, who had created a

Sonali Bank, who had created a buzz by beating Bangladesh Police 10-0, were surprisingly on the back foot against the Sky Blues, who went two ahead through strikes from Ruman Sarker and Mohammad Mohsin within the first 18 minutes.

Sonali Bank showed some signs of a comeback after pulling back one

semifinal against Group A runnersup Sonali Bank.
Both semifinals will be held
tomorrow.
The day's second match between
Abahani and Sonali Bank weight hearing
tash under floodlights but the Sub Blues dominated the Bankers from
Mariner Youngs came into the day's
flest match on the back of a massive
the start.

8-0 win over Vicroina Sc. but they

8-0 win over Victoria SC, but they found the going tough against Ajax despite taking a third-minute lead through defender Farahad Ahmed

through delender Farahad Ahmed Shitul's penalty stroke. Mariner Youngs, comprising of nine national players, launched attacks one after another but failed to penetrate Ajax's solid backline, which finally conceded a second

goal one minute into the second half as Hasan Jubair Niloy launched a fierce hit from a Koushik pass. Hasin Arman Rup made it 3-0 in the 56th minute before shitul ensured the victory by converting a second penalty stroke in the 61st minute. "Today Thussday lew sere a bit tired and the boys couldn't give one hundred per cent mentally. The boys played the first match accordingly but they did not play well against Ajax," said Mariner Youngs German Ajax, said Mariner Youngs German Coach Oliver Kuttz. "Tam not happy with their performance. The boys could not avail the penalty corners and we have to work on it. However, we want to play the final after beating whitchever rival comes in front of tus."







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SEU Scholarships

HSC Result (20%-50%)
Semester Result (20%-50%)
Semester Result (20%-50%)
Semester Result (20%-50%)
Sepouse & Sibling (25%)
Corporate Group (15%)
FemalyTribas/Etnic (15%)

\*\*Well-known Players/Arists/Debaters (up to 100%)

organised by Bangladesh Professional Golfers Association, pose for photos during the prize distribution ceremony at the Kurmitola Golf Club recently.

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