



Maria Manda (jersey number 8) of Bangladesh celebrates with teammates after scoring the second goal against Nepal during their SAFF U-15 Women's Championship match at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu yesterday.

Bangladesh emerge group winners

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh emerged as Group B champions in the SAFF U-15 Women's Championship with a 3-0 win over Nepal in their final group stage match at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu, Bhutan yesterday.

The defending champions went ahead in the first half as Tahura Khatun headed one in before captain Maria Manda and winger Sajeda Khatun struck one goal apiece in the second half to send Bangladesh into the semifinal. The girls in red and green will play their last-four battle against hosts Bhutan on Thursday after Group A champions India take on Nepal earlier on the same day.

The girls did face some hurdles from their Nepalese counterparts though. Nepal did not give any room to their mighty opponents but Bangladesh ultimately took the lead in the stoppage time of the first half.

After the massive 14-0 win over Pakistan, the win over Nepal was expected. However the stiff competition Nepal put up was not expected as the Himalayan girls seem to have improved greatly, trapping the Bangladeshi forwards offside many a time with a solid backline.

Bangladesh got off to a fine start nevertheless and took control of the midfield from the onset with the help of their two

brilliant midfielders Maria and Monica Chakma while Shamsunnahar Sr and Sajeda Khatun kept penetrating their opponents from both flanks.

There was a lack of composure in the attacking third though as striking duo Tahura Khatun and Anuching Mogini failed to cash in on a few through passes. Both the forwards even appeared to be too slow to chase the ball, leaving the opposing goalkeeper untested.

Akhi Khatun tried one from a distance but her dipping shot went over the cross-piece in the fourth minute while Sajeda drove an angular pass from Maria wide from the edge of the box in the 18th minute.

Tahura finally found the back of net in the 36th minute but her header was ruled offside. She made amends though by heading in a lob from Maria home in stoppage time to give the holders the lead.

Six minutes into the second half, Maria struck the second goal when a poor clearance came her way inside the box.

Nepal in return did muster a few shots on target but they could not beat goalkeeper Mahmuda Akhter.

In the 67th minute, Sajeda capitalized on the miscommunication between a Nepalese defender and their goalkeeper to tap one in and ensure the 3-0 win.

Messi most decorated player in Barca history

AGENCIES, Barcelona



Lionel Messi became the most honoured player in Barcelona history on Sunday, winning his 33rd trophy for the club as the La Liga champions beat Sevilla 2-1 to win the Spanish Super Cup.

Marc-Andre ter Stegen saved a penalty in the 90th minute after goals from Gerard Pique and Ousmane Dembele overcame Pablo Sarabia's ninth-minute strike to hand Barca their first trophy of the season.

Messi, who was appointed Barca's new captain earlier this week, moved clear of Andres Iniesta as the club's most decorated player; Iniesta won 32 before moving to Japanese side Vissel Kobe this summer.

"I don't know what Messi must be feeling right now," Barcelona coach Ernesto

Valverde said after the match. "If someone's going to reach that sort of milestone, that many trophies with one club, it's him.

"It's incredible. It's fitting that he has the [club] record. We hope it doesn't end here and he keeps on winning more."

The Argentina international's first trophy was the 2004-05 La Liga title, won while Messi was still a teenager.

He has since won the Spanish title another eight times, while he has also helped the Catalans to Champions League success on four occasions: in 2006, 2009, 2011 and 2015.

There have also been six Spanish Cups, seven Spanish Super Cups, three European Super Cups and three Club World Cups.

Messi's most successful year with Barca came in 2009, when the club won all six of the trophies available to them, something never done before or since by any other side.



Barcelona captain Lionel Messi lifts the Spanish Super Cup trophy after winning the final 2-1 against Sevilla at the Ibn Batouta Stadium in Tangiers on Sunday.

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:

Kohli hopeful of playing 3rd Test

India captain Virat Kohli was seen clearly struggling with a stiff back during the fourth day of the second Test against England which they lost by an innings and 159 runs, the injury seeing him bat at number five rather than his usual number four position.

Silva retires from Spain

Spanish midfielder David Silva has joined compatriots Andres Iniesta and Gerard Pique in retiring from international football.

Ronaldo sprinkles star dust on Juventus

Cristiano Ronaldo on Sunday gave a display of pure star power in his debut for Italian champions Juventus, showing his class on and off the pitch at the club's traditional alpine curtain raiser.

Nadal takes Toronto

Withdraws from Cincinnati Masters

AFP, Toronto

Rafael Nadal held off a late surge from birthday boy Stefanos Tsitsipas to earn a 6-2, 7-6 (7/4) victory in the final of the Toronto Masters on Sunday.

Success in just under one and three-quarter hours handed the 32-year-old Spaniard a record extending 33rd trophy at the elite Masters level as he won his 80th career title and claimed his 40th match victory of the season.

During the trophy ceremony, the many local flag-waving Greeks in the crowd sang Happy Birthday to their new tennis hero.

"Happy Birthday to Stefanos," Nadal added. "Well done, you have a great future.

"It's been almost 10 years (2010) since I last played in Toronto," Nadal said of the event which comes to the city in even-number years as it trades with Montreal.

"I've missed you, I want to try and come more often. This trophy means a lot.

"I try to play every match with the highest possible passion, it's a special feeling that I have on court."

Meanwhile, Rafael Nadal withdrew from next week's ATP Cincinnati Masters event as he prepares for this month's US Open.

The Spaniard said in a statement

Rafael Nadal celebrates with the Rogers Cup trophy following his win in the final against Stefanos Tsitsipas in Toronto on Sunday.

following the win that he had decided to adjust his schedule in order to preserve his fitness.

"I am very sorry to announce that I won't be playing in Cincinnati this year," Nadal said.

"No other reason than personally taking care of my body and trying to keep as healthy as I feel now.

"I am very thankful to my friend Andre Silva, Tournament Director of the Cincinnati tournament, who after speaking to him on the phone under-

stood what I said to him and understands the situation.

"I am sure the tournament will be a success and I wish him and his team all the best."

Tsitsipas took a defeat on his 20th birthday to conclude the tennis week of his life, which saw him beat four Top 10 opponent in a row to reach the title match.

"It's been an amazing week for me," the finalist said. "This trophy means a lot after playing my first Masters 1000 final."

Bolt's only demand

AFP, Sydney

Usain Bolt might be a superstar athlete but the fastest man ever won't be getting special treatment when he arrives in Australia in his bid to become a professional footballer.

Australia's Central Coast Mariners have agreed to help the eight-time Olympic champion achieve his long-held dream, letting him train with the club indefinitely in his pursuit of a playing contract.

He is due to arrive in Gosford, 75 kilometres (47 miles) north of Sydney, on his own this weekend and has made just one demand -- that his hire car is black.

"Colour of choice, apparently," Mariners chief executive Shaun Mielekamp told the Sydney Daily Telegraph Monday. "So black it is."

Asked if there had been other demands, he said: "No, there's only that one.

"We've had no requests for private bodyguards, personal masseurs, chauffeurs. Nothing about providing bottled water from France, either," he added.

And his hire car won't be top of the range either. Instead, he will make do with one of the Hyundais the club is provided with each year as part of a sponsorship deal.

Lewandowski fires Bayern

AFP, Frankfurt

A brilliant hat-trick from Robert Lewandowski led Bayern Munich to a comfortable 5-0 victory over Eintracht Frankfurt in Sunday's German Supercup, giving former Frankfurt coach Niko Kovac a memorable start to his reign at the Bavarian giants.

Kovac returned to Frankfurt for his first competitive game in charge of the Bundesliga winners, having ended two successful years at Eintracht with a shock win over Bayern in last season's German Cup final.

Yet there was no time for sentimentality on Sunday, as Bayern took brutal revenge for their cup humiliation, Lewandowski leaving the Frankfurt defence in tatters.

NOTICE

As per Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) directive effective from 14 August, 2018, local Voice Call rates, Voice Packs, Voice Offers and Voice Bundles of all mobile operators have been revised by eliminating the difference between on-net and off-net tariffs.

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