



**GTV & STAR SPORTS 1**

Asia Cup  
Bangladesh v Afghanistan  
Live from 5:30pm  
SONY ESPN  
Europa League  
Marseille v Frankfurt  
Live from 10:55pm

Leipzig v Salzburg  
Live from 1:00am (Friday)  
**TEN 1**  
Europa League  
Dudelnge v Milan  
Live from 1:00am (Friday)

**TEN 2**  
Europa League  
POAK v Chelsea  
Live from 10:55pm  
Arsenal v Vorskla  
Live from 1:00am (Friday)



Bangladesh forwards kept the Lebanon defence and goalkeeper under constant pressure with their attacking display during their 8-0 win in AFC U-16 Women's Championship Qualifiers fixture at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

# Girls brush Lebanon aside

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh demonstrated more synchronised performance in their second match of Group F of AFC U-16 Women's Championship Qualifiers, outplaying Lebanon 8-0 at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

The girls in red and green, who looked disorganised in their first match against minnows Bahrain despite winning 10-0, came strongly to display their natural performance in all departments and shrugged off any fear they had of Lebanon, who were believed to be a strong opponent due to their age-group women's football leagues at domestic circuit.

However, Maria Manda, Monica Chakma, Ritu Pomo Chakma, Akhi Khatun, Anai Mogini and Sajeda proved too strong for their counterparts in skill, technique, running, power and agility.

Maria and Monica typically controlled the game in midfield while centre-back Akhi Khatun released some well-judged long balls for the forwards, who however did not disappoint a couple of hundred home crowd who defied the scorching heat to attend the match.

Sajeda and Shamsunnahar Jr scored a brace each while Tahura Khatun, right-back Anai and substitute Rojina Akhter scored a goal apiece in the one-sided affair. The margin of victory could have been bigger had the strikers not wasted some good opportunities. Bahrain defender Maria Slim struck her own net while attempting to clear a drive from Tahura.

After wasting a couple of easy chances, Sajeda, who came into the side in place of Anuching Mogini, made amends by shrugging off her marker to coolly place the ball to the left-hand side of goalkeeper Sina Breiche to give the hosts the lead in the 11th minute. And four more goals followed as the home side went into the break with a comfortable 5-0 lead.

After resumption, Bangladesh slowed down the pace of the match but created more chances than the first half, yet converted only three of those as substitutes Rehana Akhter, Mossamat Ilamoni and Rojina wasted some good chances. Ilamoni denied Sajeda of a hat-trick by intercepting the latter's goal-bound drive.

"In the first match, our girls played hurriedly in face of negative football from Bahrain, but today the girls showed their real character and tried to show their natural performance without thinking of the result," explained coach Golam Rabbani Choton at the post-match press briefing.

In the day's other match, Vietnam overwhelmed Bahrain 14-0, with Dang Thanh Thao scoring six goals to ensure their second win in as many matches. Bangladesh, Vietnam and Lebanon have six points each, but Bangladesh and Vietnam are jointly on top with same goal difference. Lebanon have played a game more than the other two teams.

# Firmino delivers deserved win

AFP, Liverpool



Liverpool left it late but showed Paris Saint-Germain have plenty of work to do if they are to challenge for a first-ever Champions League title as Roberto Firmino struck a stoppage time winner in a 3-2 victory at Anfield on Tuesday.

Daniel Sturridge and a James Milner penalty put the hosts in command before Thomas Meunier reduced PSG's arrears. Having kept Kylian Mbappe and Neymar quiet, Liverpool seemed set to pay a heavy price for one poor pass by Mohamed Salah as Mbappe swept home seven minutes from time.

But Firmino, who started on the bench due to an eye injury suffered against Tottenham on Saturday, had the final say as he twisted and turned before firing into the far corner to stretch Liverpool's perfect start to the season to six games.

"You can bring Bobby Firmino on and that helps a lot," said Klopp.

I think Bobby doesn't need his eye to play so I told him. I sent him a message on Monday saying, 'Hey Bobby, come on, we need you'. You've all seen the 'no look' goals so I think he doesn't need his eye to play. I texted him saying, 'You don't need your eye'.

LIVERPOOL FORWARD SADIO MANE

PSG crumbled on their travels to Barcelona, Bayern Munich and Real Madrid in the past two seasons and their ability was again questioned. "Never at any point did we lose our confidence. We played with bravery and strength," insisted Tuchel. "But this is Anfield. This is what Liverpool do and when they press you it is difficult."



Coming on late into the Champions League match due to an eye injury, Liverpool forward Roberto Firmino pulled out a very relevant celebration after his stoppage time winner against PSG at Anfield on Tuesday. PHOTO: COLLECTED

# Costa given 4-match ban

REUTERS, Rome

Juventus winger Douglas Costa has been suspended for four Serie A matches after spitting at Sassuolo's Federico Di Francesco during Sunday's game, the Italian league has said.

Costa escaped with a booking for elbowing and head-butting Di Francesco, but was sent off after cameras caught him spitting at the player in another altercation.

Juventus won the game 2-1 despite the dismissal of Costa, who apologised for his behaviour after the match in a statement.

# 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:

## Messi moves ahead of Ronaldo as Champions League's hat-trick king

Lionel Messi hit his eighth Champions League hat-trick against PSV Eindhoven, going past Cristiano Ronaldo's tally in Europe's premier competition. Kane can't shoulder scoring burden alone, says Lamela Harry Kane is not a "machine" and it is only a matter of time before he is back among the goals, according to Tottenham Hotspur teammate Erik Lamela. Pochettino defends selection after 'cruel' defeat Mauricio Pochettino defended his team selection after Tottenham Hotspur suffered a "cruel" 2-1 defeat by Inter Milan in their Champions League match on Tuesday.



# 'We can compete against anyone'

AGENCIES, Milan



Mauro Icardi insisted Inter can compete against anyone after the stuttering Italian side completed a dramatic turnaround to upstage Tottenham in the Champions League.

Late goals from captain Icardi and Matias Vecino saw Inter to a stunning 2-1

confidence. Vecino has popped up like that for two crucial wins, but what's most important is for Inter to win.

Inter Milan -- who last won the trophy in 2010 under Jose Mourinho -- were returning to Europe's elite event for the first time since 2011-12.

"This is exactly what the fans want to see," said Inter coach Luciano Spalletti.

The late drama was greeted with deafening applause from the 66,000 crowd in the



Inter Milan striker Mauro Icardi scored a sublime volley to equalise against Tottenham Hotspur before Matias Vecino found the winner in stoppage time in their Champions League clash on Tuesday. PHOTO: AFP

victory over Tottenham at San Siro in their Group B opener on Tuesday. Inter trailed until the 85th minute, when Icardi and Vecino struck twice late on in Milan.

Icardi revelled in the result following a turbulent start to the 2018-19 campaign for Luciano Spalletti's Inter, who face Sampdoria on Saturday.

"We know we're a strong team and that we can compete against anyone. We've been waiting for this match for three months and it gives us a lot of strength for the league," Icardi told Sky Italia. "A match like that, in the Champions League, gives you so much but one game means nothing."

"We have to stay calm, take the good things we've done and go to play on Saturday with a different mentality."

"The environment was ugly in these past few weeks, but a game like this gives

San Siro. "The reaction is a sign we are on the right path," added Spalletti.

RESULTS	
Club Brugge	0 - 1 Dortmund Pulisic 85
Monaco	1 - 2 Atletico Madrid Costa 31, Gimenez 45+1
Barcelona	4 - 0 PSV Eindhoven Messi 31, 77, 87, Dembele 74
Inter Milan	2 - 1 Tottenham Icardi 85, Vecino 90+2
Liverpool	3 - 2 PSG Sturridge 30, Milner 36-pen, Firmino 90+2
Red Star	0 - 0 Napoli
Galatasaray	3 - 0 Lokomotiv Rodrigues 9, Derdiyok 67, Inan 90+4-pen
Schalke 04	1 - 1 FC Porto Embolo 64 Otavio 75-pen

# ASIAN MEN'S CHALLENGE CUP Volleyball team in semis

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national volleyball team moved into the semifinals of the AVC 1st Asian Men's Challenge Cup with an emphatic 3-0 sets win over Hong Kong in the fourth quarterfinal in Colombo yesterday.

Bangladesh, who stormed into the last-four after emerging group champions with two wins and a defeat, faced stiff challenge from Hong Kong during the first set, which they took by 25-22 points.

But the men in red and green increased their domination to win the second set by 25-20 points before taking the third set by 25-16 points to finish off the game in straight sets.

In the group stages, Bangladesh opened with a loss to Iraq but defeated UAE and Mongolia to become group champions.

Bangladesh will play the first semifinal today against Saudi Arabia, who beat Mongolia in straight sets in their quarterfinal. Hosts Sri Lanka will take on Iraq in the second semifinal.

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