



What to Watch

GTV & STAR SPORTS 1

Asia Cup

Super Four

India v Afghanistan

Live from 5:30pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

Bundesliga

Werder v Hertha Berlin

Live from 10:30pm

Bayern Munich v Augsburg

Live from 12:30am (Wednesday)

TEN 1

Serie A

Inter Milan v Fiorentina

Live from 1:00am (Wednesday)

TEN 2

La Liga

Espanyol v Eibar

Live from 12:00am (Wednesday)

Atletico Madrid v Huesca

Live from 2:00am (Wednesday)



Juventus superstar Cristiano Ronaldo (R) celebrates his opening goal with teammate Federico Bernardeschi during their Serie A encounter against Frosinone in Turin on Sunday. PHOTO: AFP

Nat'l women's hockey returns

SPORTS REPORTER

National women's hockey competition returns to the field after a three-year gap, with seven teams competing this time in the week-long tournament beginning today at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium in Dhaka.

Although the first three editions of the tournament was held among district teams and school sides, this time the organisers have decided to run the tournament among seven divisions.

The seven divisions have been split into two groups, with Group A featuring Khulna, Rajshahi, Mymensingh and Barisal and Group B featuring Dhaka, Chittagong and Rangpur.

Rajshahi will take on Barisal while Khulna will play against Mymensingh in the two matches of the opening day.

The group champions and runners-up teams will move into the semifinals while the final and the third-place deciding match will take place on October 1.

All this information was revealed at a press conference at the Bangladesh Hockey Federation auditorium, where the federation's high-ups and representatives of sponsors Walton were present.

Double for Elina

SPORTS REPORTER

Elina Sultana grabbed a double in the Summer Open (Ranking) Badminton Tournament, which concluded at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium in Dhaka yesterday.

The Bangladesh Army shuttler defeated Shapla Akter of Kawasaki Bangladesh in the singles final before winning the women's doubles title with teammate Nabila Zaman.

Elina took the first set 24-22 before Shapla got sick, and failed to return to the match. Elina then beat Brishti Khatun and Rehana Khatun pair of Bangladesh Army with her partner Nabila by 21-19, 21-11 points in the doubles final.

Meanwhile, Gourab Singh of Syhlhet beat Mangal Singh 21-17, 21-06 to take the men's singles title while Parash-Sohel pair won the men's doubles title beating Kausaw-Tagar pair by 21-15, 21-13 points.

Juve stay perfect

AFP, Milan



Cristiano Ronaldo erased the frustration of his Champions League red card by scoring the opener and setting up Federico Bernardeschi for a second as Juventus maintained their perfect record in Serie A after five games with a 2-0 win at promoted Frosinone on Sunday.

The Portuguese star had threatened several times at the Stadio Benito Stirpe but finally found a way through nine minutes from time, and then helped substitute Bernardeschi to score Juve's second four minutes into injury time.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner had scored his first goals last week with a double in a 2-1 win over Sassuolo, before the 33-year-old was sent off in tears on Wednesday in a 2-0 Champions League win over Valencia.

Juventus -- the only unbeaten team in Serie A -- have 15 points from five games, three points ahead of Napoli who beat Torino 3-1 earlier on Sunday.

Seven-time reigning champions Juventus and Napoli, last season's runners-up, will go head-to-head next Saturday in Turin.

Frosinone had frustrated the champions for long periods but caved in late and have now conceded 12 goals to remain second bottom of the table with just one point.

"We expected this type of match. Frosinone had conceded five (goals) to Sampdoria and we played with 10 men for 70 minutes against Valencia on Wednesday," Allegri told Sky Sport Italia.

"We just needed to have patience and after many shots, crosses and passes, we found the breakthrough."

Fiorentina and Sassuolo are joint third

on ten points after beating SPAL (3-0) and Empoli (3-1) respectively this weekend.

Earlier Lorenzo Insigne bagged a brace to inspire Napoli to a 3-1 win in Torino, while Roma plunged further into crisis with a 2-0 loss at Bologna.

In Turin, Ancelotti switched things around following Napoli's uninspiring goalless draw at Red Star Belgrade in the Champions League midweek.

Insigne played a more central role along with Dries Mertens as defender Sebastiano Luperto got his first start for the Serie A runners-up.

"I'm satisfied, we dominated in Belgrade but we couldn't finish things off like we did today," said Ancelotti.

"Insigne was decisive, but everyone put in a strong performance."

The Italy winger struck his first after just four minutes when poor Torino defending saw Emiliano Moretti clear to Nicolas N'Koulou with the rebound favouring Insigne, who finished off under the crossbar.

Simone Verdi added the second with a half-volley on 20 minutes, with Torino pulling one back after the break when Andrea Belotti slotted in a penalty.

But Insigne restored Napoli's two-goal lead after 59 minutes to condemn Torino to 15th position with five points.

Roma coach Eusebio Di Francesco is under increasing pressure after a fourth league game without a win sees last year's third-placed team slump to 14th with five points.

"The facts condemn us, they condemn me. Clearly something has to change. I feel I'm one of those to blame," said Di Francesco, who lamented his side's lack of "inner fire".

Pique rescues 10-man Barca

AFP, Barcelona



American fans will be licking their lips if this is what awaits Miami's Hard Rock Stadium in January after Barcelona and Girona played out an enthralling 2-2 draw at the Camp Nou on Sunday.

There were four goals, one for Lionel Messi and two for Girona's Cristhian Stuani, not to mention a controversial red card shown to Barca defender Clement Lenglet.

Gerard Pique salvaged a point for the hosts to complete his own block-buster night, after clearing one shot off the line and making mistakes for each of Girona's goals.

By the end, Barca had surrendered their perfect record in La Liga, as well as a two-point advantage over Real Madrid. They return to the top of the table, but only on goal difference. Girona move up to sixth.

"For us, this is a triumph," Stuani said. "Coming here and getting this result is so valuable for us."

Hanging over this game was always the wider prospect of it not being returned, given La Liga's desire to move the reverse fixture at Girona's Estadi Montilivi on January 26 to the United States.

A point may not be viewed as a bad return either for Barca, having played through the best part of an hour with 10 men, but changes made by coach Ernesto Valverde failed to hit the mark. Lenglet came in for Samuel Umtiti,

PITCH INVADER GETS JERSEY

Paris Saint-Germain and Brazil superstar Neymar showed his generous side for a second time this season as he made another emotional young supporter's day in Rennes. The 26-year-old notched an assist before he was substituted moments before full-time in Sunday's 3-1 win for the French champions at Roazhon Park. And, just like a youngster by the name of Zakaria after PSG's 4-2 win away at Nimes three weeks ago, the tearful fan in Rennes took to the pitch and approached Neymar. Neymar stuck with the precedent he set at Nimes by giving his newest young admirer a hug and his jersey. The worry for Neymar -- and for PSG's new kit suppliers -- is how many other youngsters will now be inspired to try their luck. --AGENCIES



No time for celebration

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh under-18 women's football team will leave for Bhutan tomorrow to participate in the inaugural SAFF U-18 Women's Championship, which will get underway from September 28.

The team will feature 13 players from the under-15 squad, which qualified for the second round of the AFC U-16 Championship qualifiers in Dhaka on Sunday. 10 senior players will join them, making the team a strong contender for the title.

The under-15 girls hardly had time to celebrate their win over Vietnam as they will have to turn their attention to the Bhutan assignment. The girls in red and green are set to open their campaign against Pakistan on September 30 before taking on Nepal on October 2 in the last match of Group B. Group A features India, Maldives and hosts Bhutan.

The under-15 players, along with 16 other senior players who are in long-term camp, were greeted by the Bangladesh Football Federation president Kazi Salahuddin at the BFF office yesterday. The BFF boss handed small monetary awards to them and highly praised their performance while expecting good things from them in their next mission. Two months ago, the Bangladesh under-15

team failed to defend their title in the SAFF U-18 Women's Championship in Bhutan. The defeat in the final against India was a shock result and it left the team downhearted. Now with a fresh triumph at home, the players and coaches of the team believe that they can redeem themselves by winning the title in Bhutan.

"We expected to win that tournament but lost in the final against India. It was a very sad moment for us," striker Saraban Tohura said on Sunday. "We want to win the next assignment in Bhutan and forget that memory."

The under-15 team captain Maria Manda said they want to celebrate Sunday's triumph together with a victory in the SAFF U-18 Championship. "We lost the U-15 SAFF in Bhutan. So we want to bring the U-18 SAFF title home and celebrate both victories," the midfielder said.

Coach Golam Rabbani Choton, who is in charge of all the women's teams, said that long-term training will help them become victorious in Bhutan.

"These girls have been together for three years and have a good understanding among them. Even if they haven't played international matches, they play three to four games each week against the under-16 girls' team. So I am hopeful that the girls will produce good results," Choton recently said about the team's chances in Bhutan.



Barcelona defender Gerard Pique celebrates his equaliser against Girona at the Nou Camp on Sunday. PHOTO: REUTERS

presumably to bed in next to Pique, given Umtiti is suspended for Barcelona's Champions League game against Tottenham later this month.

But he was, perhaps harshly, sent off in the 35th minute with Barca one up, and they then conceded before Umtiti came on at half-time. Arthur and Arturo Vidal - also brought in - were substituted before the hour.

"When we got the red card, our intention was to make a change but we had to let him (Umtiti) warm-up," Valverde said. "It looks like an error on my part."

Messi and Pique had changed too, each shaving their beards, but it had contrasting effects based on the evi-

dence of the first half.

Within 19 minutes, Messi had put Barca ahead, a slick finish into the corner finishing off Vidal's pass for the Argentinian's eighth goal in six games.

Pique, however, was at fault for the equaliser, a lethargic attempt at a clearance allowing Stuani to poke the ball past Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

Girona had been spurred on by Lenglet's red card, after VAR showed the French defender landed an elbow into the face of Pere Pons, and referee Jesus Gil deemed it deliberate.

The red card rippled through the French contingent as Lenglet's dismissal meant Ousmane Dembele was replaced by Umtiti at half-time.

Ranieri coy on Roma link

AFP, Milan

Former Roma coach Claudio Ranieri remained tight-lipped on Monday amid talk that he could be in line to replace under-fire Eusebio Di Francesco in the Stadio Olimpico hotseat.

The club's billionaire American owner James Pallotta said he was "disgusted" after the Serie A giants plunged to 14th with a 2-0 loss at Bologna.

The 66-year-old Ranieri led Leicester City to the English Premier League title in 2016, but has been without a club since leaving French Ligue 1 club Nantes last May.

"I am a fan, Roma is in my heart, but I hope that Di Francesco can move forward," Ranieri told Radio Anch'io Sport when asked if he would be interested in a move back to his hometown club.

Former defender Ranieri started his senior football career in Rome in 1973 and later coached the club for two years from 2009, just missing out on the Serie A title in 2010.

"That Scudetto we lost in the last half-hour of the final day still burns. I think about it often, although I partly redeemed myself at Leicester."



PHOTO: COLLECTED

French prodigy Kylian Mbappe shows off a signed shirt from Brazil legend Pele on his Twitter with the caption 'Thanks for this amazing gift, King'.



Mrs. Nasreen Fatema Awal

Honorary Consul of Mongolia in Bangladesh & President, Women Entrepreneurs Association of Bangladesh (WEAB) met H. E. Mr. Enkhbold Miyegombo, Speaker of the Mongolian Parliament in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia when she led a Bangladeshi Women Entrepreneurs Delegation to Mongolia during 7-14 September, 2018. They have shared many bilateral issues for extending future socio-economic ties between the two countries.

We are proud of her exemplary achievement with a view to widen the new horizon of friendship between Mongolia and Bangladesh.



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