

GTV & STAR SPORTS SELECT 1 Bangladesh v Zimbabwe Second ODI (D/N) Live from 2:30pm **STAR SPORTS 1 India v West Indies**

Second ODI (D/N) Live from 2:00pm **SONY SIX** Pakistan v Australia First T201 Live from 10:00pm

UEFA Champions League Dortmund v Atletico Madrid Live from 1:00am (Thursday) TEN 1

SONY ESPN

UEFA Champions League

Venue: RCG, Rangpur Dhaka v Chattogram Time: 9:00am Venue: SKICS, Cox's Bazar

Club Brugge v Monaco Live from 10:55pm Liverpool v Red Star Belgrade Live from 1:00am (Thursday) TEN 2

UEFA Champions League

PSV Eindhoven v Tottenham Live from 10:55pm Barcelona v Inter Milan Live from 1:00am (Thursday)

Bangladesh v Zimbabwe Second ODI (D/N) Time: 2:30pm Venue: Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium

National Cricket League Four-day match Day Three Khulna v Rajshahi

Time: 9:00am Venue: SANS, Khulna Rangpur v Barishal Time: 9:00am

Sylhet v Dhaka Metro Time: 9:00am Venue: SKS, Rajshahi

AFC U-19 Women's Championship Qualifiers

Bangladesh up against mighty South Korea

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will begin their AFC U-19 Women's Championship Qualifiers campaign today when

they take on two-time champions South Korea in Group D opener at the Republican Central Stadium in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

The match will get underway at 3:00pm (BST) before hosts Tajikistan and Chinese Taipei lock horns in the day's second match.

The girls in red and green went to the Central Asian nation following a triumphant campaign in the inaugural SAFF U-18 Women's Championship, but the AFC tournament is expected to offer a lot more competition than the SAFF tournament.

Moreover, South Korea played the AFC U-19 Women's Championship final three times in nine editions and clinched the title twice in 2013 and 2004. They,

however, had a poor outing last time when they finished third among four teams in the group stage with defeats to eventual champions Japan and Australia.

Although Bangladesh are not dreaming of a victory over the South Koreans, they promised to put up a good show as the togetherness for nearly two years is inspiring them to judge their level against South Korea, against whom they suffered a 6-0 defeat in a friendly at the under-16 level.

"All the teams in the group are good. We have come here with a good preparation of last 12 months. The girls won the all matches. Bangladesh are a good SAFF U-18 Women's Championship in Bhutan earlier this month and there have been some under-15 players, who have recently played in the SAFF U-15 Championship and the AFC U-16 Championship Qualifiers. So the girls are confident about playing in the final round of the AFC U-19 Women's Championship," head coach Golam

Rabbani Choton was quoted as saying at a pre-tournament conference in Tajikistan by a BFF press release.

Bangladesh have targeted to finish as group runners-up and squeeze into the next round as one of two best runners-up from six groups, and the team will certainly hope to keep the margin of defeat to as low as possible.

South Korea coach Hut Jung Jae claimed they had little idea about Bangladesh, but was optimistic of a good show.

"We have prepared intensively to win team and it will be a good match between two sides though we have little idea about our opponents," said Jae.

Bangladesh participated in the AFC U-19 Women's Championship for the first time in 2012 and lost both group-stage matches against India and Uzbekistan before skipping the next two editions due to a shortage of players.



Neymar and Kylian Mbappe (R) were in high spirits in training, joking around the Camp des Loges yesterday on the eve of their crucial Champions League clash against Napoli.

With his penchant over the past few weeks of showing up at the most opportune moments, Inter captain Mauro Icardi could make the difference against Barcelona in their Champions League encounter tonight. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Messi absence makes Christensen Milano-Ma us equals, says Icardi

AGENCIES, Madrid



Lionel Messi's absence levels the playing field for Inter Milan in their Champions League clash against Barcelona tonight, according to captain Mauro Icardi.

Barca will be without the five-time Ballon d'Or winner for Wednesday's fixture at Camp Nou after Messi fractured his arm in last week's 4-2 victory against Sevilla in La Liga.

Inter and Barca have won their opening two games heading into matchday three and Icardi believes the Serie A side can go toe-to-toe with La Liga champions in the absence of Messi.

"It's a pity Messi can't be there because it's nice to play against great footballers like him, who is one of the best in the world," Icardi said. "He's a big miss and it means we can go head to head because we have the qualities needed to take them on."

Icardi and Inter head to Barcelona full of confidence following their last-gasp derby win over AC Milan on Sunday. Icardi was the hero thanks to his 92nd-minute header at

San Siro after Milan goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma misjudged Matias Vecino's

"We had a great September before the international break and we had to win to stay on this path, so we could arrive at Barcelona with this mentality, which is very important for us," Icardi added.

Icardi also discussed his future, having been linked with Champions League holders Real Madrid and Chelsea.

The 25-year-old Argentina international -who has scored at least 20 league goals in three of the previous four seasons -- is out of contract in 2021 with a reported 110-millioneuro release clause for foreign clubs.

"There is a lot of talk but I'm happy at Inter, with my present and the future that I can have here," Icardi said. "When offers come we will evaluate them but I'm very happy to stay."

OTHER KEY MATCHES

Borussia Dortmund v Atletico Madrid, Liverpool v Red Star Belgrade, PSG v Napoli

SPORTS REPORTER



Klavs Christensen has left his job as the rifle coach of Bangladesh team after the Bangladesh Shooting Sports Federation (BSSF) failed to renew his contract due to a lack of funds and shortage of ammunition. The Dane, who signed a four-year deal in December 2016

as part of BSSF's ambitious 'vision 2020' targeting a medal in the Tokyo Olympics, returned to Denmark from Argentina after the Youth Olympic Games, which ended on October 18. The 57-year-old coach guided Arnab Sharar Ladif and Amira Hamid in the Buenos Aires games.

"Though we had signed a four-year deal with Christensen, there was no way for us to renew the contract after the Youth Olympic Games due to a fund constraint and shortage of ammunition. He is, however, ready to return once we manage funds and collect ammunition for training," BSSF's chief operating officer Mustaque Waiz said yesterday.

Christensen, who guided Abdullah Hel Baki to silver medal in the Commonwealth Games and Arnab Sharar to qualifying for the Youth Olympics through winning silver in 10th Asian Air Gun Championships, was given 300 euros per day as salary from the Tk 2 crore fund allocated by the Finance Ministry. Pistol coach Marko Sokic, meanwhile, left Bangladesh after the team's poor performance in the Commonwealth Games this year.

SHORT CORNER

I'm an example, insists Ronaldo A smiling Cristiano Ronaldo insisted Monday he is an "example" in his behaviour on and off the field amid allegations of rape made against the five-

time Ballon d'Or winner in the United States. "I know I am an example, 100 percent, in the pitch and outside the pitch," Ronaldo told a press conference ahead of his return to Manchester United, where he spent six years as a player, with

Juventus in the Champions League. "I am always smiling, I am happy man, I'm blessed that I play in a fantastic club, I have a fantastic family, I have four kids, I am healthy," added Ronaldo. "I have everything. So the rest, it doesn't interfere on me. I'm very, very well."

"I'm not going to lie in this situation," he added. "My lawyers they are confident and of course I am too. The most important (thing) is I enjoy the football, I enjoy my life. Of course, the truth is

always coming in the first position. So, I'm good." **Bolt, Mariners to part ways**

The chances of Usain Bolt playing in the A-League are all but over with the Jamaican sprinter set to knock back a contract offer from Central Coast Mariners that falls well below his asking price.

Fairfax Media understands the club tabled a contract to the Jamaican sprinter understood to be worth around the mean salary for an A-League player of less than \$150,000, almost \$2.9 million beneath Bolt's initial asking price.

The club has put an ultimatum on Bolt to accept the offer or end his trial period, confirming the world's fastest man will no longer train with the Mariners until a deal is reached.

That looks unlikely given the enormity of the gap between their offer and his demands and unless a third party is willing to subsidise his wages with a commercial deal, Bolt's journey with Central Coast will likely reach its conclusion.

Wawrinka pulls out of Basel

A back injury suffered during a Sunday practice session with compatriot Roger Federer forced Stan Wawrinka to pull out of the Swiss Indoors tournament on Monday, while Marin Cilic eased into the second round in Basel.

"I turned my back, and retiring was the only decision I could make," said the three-time Grand Slam champion, adding that he will end his season early and not play at the Paris Masters next week.

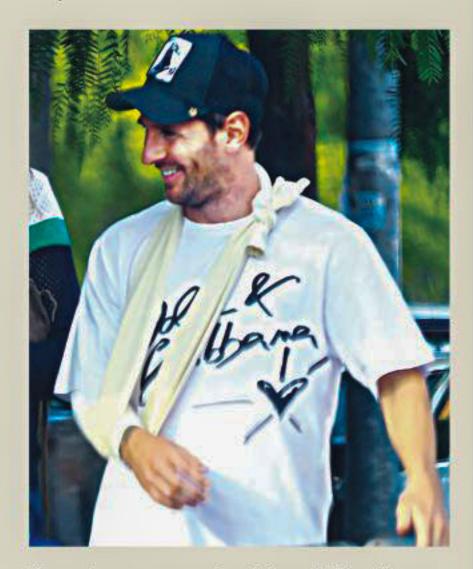
North Korea's anthem played for South Korea

South Korean footballers were left dumbfounded ahead of their AFC under-19 Championship qualifier against Jordan in Indonesia when organisers played the North's anthem instead.

Instead of Seoul's hymn-like anthem "Aegukga", North Korea's national tune blared out, leaving them stony-faced and silent.

The South's coaching staff told officials of the mistake, and while the right song was then played, they protested after the game on Monday evening. Seoul's football authorities said they will file a

complaint with the Asian Football Confederation.



Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi was pictured out and about the city with his arm in a sling. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Arsenal make it perfect 10 Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Mesut Ozil stole

the show as Arsenal swept to their 10th successive win with a 3-1 victory against Leicester on Monday.

Unai Emery's side trailed to Hector Bellerin's first-half own goal at the Emirates Stadium. But Ozil produced a majestic display to lead the fightback. He equalised just before half-time and played a key role in Aubameyang's second-half double. Ozil summed up Arsenal mood, tweeting after the match: "I think we played some sexy football tonight. Proud captain of this team."

24 shuttlers picked for training

International badminton tournaments in Dhaka in December

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Badminton Federation (BBF) yesterday announced squads for Yonex-Sunrise Bangladesh International Badminton Challenge and Younex-Sunrise Bangladesh International Junior Badminton to be held in December in Dhaka.

The senior squads include the top-ranked 12 male and four female shuttlers while the junior squad followed the same system with the inclusion of top 12 boys and four girls.

The training of those 24 players will start from November 1 under the guidance of Malaysian coach Arabinda Jeeva Nanthan at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium where both the tournaments will take place.

Girls set for int'l rugby

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh women's rugby team leave for India today to take part in Asian Rugby Sevens Trophy (U-18) to be held in Bhubaneswar from October 26.

They will play their first match against Sri Lanka on the opening day before facing other Group B opponents India and UAE Emirates on October 27.

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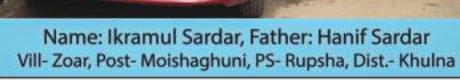
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