

# What to WATCH

**SONY ESPN**  
South Africa v Sri Lanka  
Second Test, Day One  
Live from 2:00pm

**TEN1**  
Europa League  
Valencia v Celtic  
Live from 11:55pm

Inter Milan v Rapid Wien  
Live from 2:00am (Friday)

**Ten2**  
Europa League  
Arsenal v BATE Borisov  
Live from 11:55pm

Chelsea v Malmo  
Live from 2:00am (Friday)

## COLLOVATI SUSPENDED OVER SEXIST REMARKS

Fulvio Collovati, a 1982 World Cup winner with Italy, has been suspended from his role as a television pundit over sexist remarks about women and tactics. "Rai has suspended Fulvio Collovati from all TV and radio activity until Saturday, March 9," the broadcaster said in a statement on Tuesday. The announcement came after the former defender said women could not "speak about tactics" on Sunday's edition of "Quelli che il calcio". "When I hear a woman speak about tactics it turns my stomach. I can't do it. If she talks about the match and how it went, okay. But she can't talk about tactics because a woman doesn't understand like a man," he said in an outburst that caused embarrassment on the set. The 61-year-old former AC Milan, Inter and Roma defender subsequently apologised and received the support of his wife Caterina, also a TV presenter.

—AFP



# Tough challenge for U-16s in Myanmar

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh under-16 women's football team will fly for Myanmar on Saturday with the challenge of reaching the final stage of the AFC U-16 Women's Championship, a stage the previous batch had successfully navigated to two years ago.

The last time Bangladesh emerged champions in their qualifying group to earn a ticket to the final round in Thailand, but this time due to a change in format they are having to go through a second qualifying round despite effortlessly clinching top spot in the first round at home in September last year.

And there lies the big challenge -- Bangladesh have been pitted against China, Myanmar and Philippines in Group B -- all three believed to be very strong opponents, with China tipped to be the best. The girls in red and green will take on Philippines on February 27 before squaring off against hosts Myanmar on March 1. They will end their campaign against China on March 3.

Two teams from two groups will qualify for the final round and join Thailand, North Korea, South Korea and Japan -- who received automatic qualification.

A press conference ahead of the campaign was held at the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) House yesterday, where coach Golam Rabbani Choton expressed

his determination to seal the qualification. "We will go to Myanmar with the ultimate target of going to Thailand," Choton said. "It will be a difficult challenge as the other teams are very strong. But we have been in constant training and have played in tournaments since January last year. So we have gotten better."

"We gave Australia a run for their money in the final round last year and that will be our motivation when we play against teams like China," said Choton, adding that the team has been playing two practice matches every week against the under-19 team for the last one-and-a-half months and the younger team has won more matches.

However, the performance of women's teams have been mixed in recent times. This team lost the final of the SAFF U-15 Championship against India last year while the under-19 team and the Olympic team took a pasting in two campaigns. The saving grace was the under-19 team winning the SAFF title.

Paul Smalley, the technical and strategic director of BFF, informed that all three opposition teams have different attributes and different playing styles, so it will be a very difficult challenge for them but he has confidence on the Bangladesh players to do well.

The 23-member team will be accompanied by 11 senior players in the tour and the seniors will train with the coaching staff with an eye on next month's SAFF Women's Championship, the speakers informed.



Liverpool star Mohamed Salah (L) vies with Bayern Munich's Javi Martinez (C) and David Alaba during their Champions League Round of 16 first leg tie at Anfield on Tuesday.

PHOTO: REUTERS



Captain Maria Manda (L) and vice-captain Akhi Khatun show victory sign during a press conference ahead of the AFC U-16 Championship Qualifiers (2nd round) at the Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## SL chasing history

Second Test against SA starts today

REUTERS, Port Elizabeth

Sri Lanka will be chasing history and a shock series victory when they play hosts South Africa in the second and final Test at St George's Park on Thursday.

The tourists claimed a one-wicket win in the first game in Durban on Saturday thanks to a staggering Test innings from middle-order batsman Kusal Perera, who bludgeoned his way to 153 not out and put on a record 78 runs for the last wicket with Vishwa Fernando.

It was a piece of individual brilliance and leaves Sri Lanka with the opportunity to claim a first ever Test series victory in South Africa, something their sub-continent rivals India and Pakistan have yet to achieve.

It was Sri Lanka's first victory in any format since October after tough tours to New Zealand and Australia, and whether they can back it up with a second heroic performance in Port Elizabeth will be the key question.

South Africa will be without experienced seamer Vernon Philander and could give a debut to all-rounder Wiaan Mulder.

## Bayern stifle L'pool

Valverde finds positives in Lyon draw

AGENCIES



Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp admitted an underwhelming 0-0 draw against old foes Bayern Munich on Tuesday was not what he "dreamed of", but remained confident of progressing to the quarterfinals of the Champions League.

Sadio Mane wasted the best chance when the Senegalese forward fired wide during an open first 45 minutes, but a cagey second half left it all to be decided when the sides meet again in Munich on March 13.

However, without the talismanic presence of Virgil van Dijk through suspension and the injured Joe Gomez and Dejan Lovren, Liverpool at least did not concede an away goal despite fielding a make-shift central defensive pairing of Brazilian midfielder Fabinho and Joel Matip.

"It's not the result or the game we dreamed of," said Klopp. "It is not a game we will remember in 30 years. It's the result we have and we will work with that."

"It was a clean sheet without the big man (Van Dijk). A lot of people wouldn't have expected that. The defending was good. A lot of things were really good, I'm not over the moon but I'm completely OK with the game."

Bayern may not have hit the heights of previous years in the Bundesliga this season as they trail Borussia Dortmund by three points in their quest to land a seventh straight league title.

However, the German champions have made the last eight of the Champions League for each of the past seven seasons and had the experience to hold out for what

they clearly saw as a valuable draw as they wound the clock down in the final stages.

"I can't remember that many clubs that have not conceded at Anfield. They way Liverpool play, they are a sensationally good team. My team as a whole kept everything tight at the back," said Bayern boss Niko Kovac.

"We didn't score but we didn't let one in. Home games are an advantage, we play in front of 75,000, but we know if we concede we have to win."

Meanwhile Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde shrugged off his team's struggles in front of goal after they were held to a 0-0 draw away at Lyon in the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie on Tuesday.

The Spanish side had most of the chances at the Groupama Stadium, with Luis Suarez firing just wide in the second half, although it was Lyon who came the closest when Martin Terrier hit the bar early on.

Lionel Messi and Co were once again left frustrated on the road at the business end of the competition, and have now gone six away matches without winning in the Champions League knockout rounds, scoring just a single goal in that time. It is a run that goes back three years.

"We played good football, but you have to hit the target as well, and we didn't," Valverde said.

"We are on the right road, though, and the tie is still up in the air. We will try to win it in front of our fans."

He added: "I am not happy with the result, but I am happy with the performance and with what we created."

"We didn't score, but that is how it is. It is not easy to win away from home in the Champions League."

## Federer to make clay court return

REUTERS, Madrid

Roger Federer confirmed his participation for this year's Madrid Open on Wednesday, marking his return to the European clay court season after two years away.

The 20-times Grand Slam champion has not played this year since his Australian Open round of 16 defeat by Greek Stefanos Tsitsipas in January.

Federer, whose sole French Open title came in 2009, has preferred to skip the European clay season over the last two seasons to manage his schedule.

The 37-year-old Swiss is the second most successful player at the Caja Magica behind Rafa Nadal, winning three titles in 2006, 2009 and 2012.

World number one Novak Djokovic and 11-times French Open winner Nadal are also expected to feature at the Madrid Open, which will be played from May 3-12.



## Dhaka City FC beat Wari Club

SPORTS REPORTER

Debutants Dhaka City FC registered their first victory in the Bangladesh Championship League with a 2-0 win over Wari Club at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Aurongzeb scored the opening goal in the 60th minute before Sazzad Hossain Munna wrapped up the victory 20 minutes later. The winners had their veteran forward Rokonzaman Kanchan, who played as a left-back, sent off with a straight red card for a blatant challenge as the last man in defence to thwart an opposition forward in the 83rd minute.

Dhaka City FC had started their campaign with a 1-0 defeat against Farashganj SC.

## Int'l solidarity archery from Saturday

SPORTS REPORTER

The third edition of the ISSF International Solidarity World Ranking Archery Championship will get underway at the Shaheed Ahsan Ullah Master Stadium in Gazipur on Saturday.

More than 118 competitors from 25 countries, including 16 archers from hosts Bangladesh -- eight male and eight female -- will take part in the four-day meet.

They will vie for 30 medals -- 10 gold, 10 silver and 10 bronze -- in men's and women's singles, team and mixed events in both recurve and compound divisions.

Ruman Sana, Imdadul Haque Milon, Hakim Ahmed Rubel and Tamimul Islam will compete in men's recurve division while Sheikh Sajib, Asheem Kumar Das, Abul Kashem Mamun and Milon Molla will compete in men's compound division.

Beauty Roy, Nasrin Akter, Dia Siddiquee and Iti Khatun will compete in women's compound division while Shusmita Banik, Bonna Akter, Shyamoli Roy and Tamanna Parvin will vie in women's compound division.

The number of participating countries has increased significantly this time. The first edition hosted 14 countries while the second edition featured 17 countries.

Bangladesh Archery Federation (BAF) secretary Kazi Razibuddin Ahmed Chapal disclosed the details at a press conference at the National Sports Council auditorium where BAF president Moinul Islam was also present.

## CORPORATE BOOKING

Fantasy Kingdom and Water Kingdom will be reserved on 22nd February (Friday), 2019 for Corporate Booking.

From 23rd February (Saturday), 2019 Fantasy Kingdom and Water Kingdom will remain open for all.

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### ইসলামী ব্যাংক

বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড  
ইসলামী শরী'আহ মোতাবেক পরিচালিত

শহীদ দিবস ও  
আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবসে  
সকল ভাষা সৈনিক ও  
ভাষা শহীদদের প্রতি  
গভীর শ্রদ্ধাঞ্জলি