

What to WATCH

CHANNEL 9 & STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
New Zealand v Bangladesh
First Test, Day four
Live from 4:00am (Sunday)

SONY SIX
West Indies v England
Fifth ODI
Live from 9:00pm
STAR SPORTS 1
India v Australia
First ODI
Live from 2:00pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
English Premier League
Tottenham v Arsenal
Live from 6:30pm
Man United v Southampton
Live from 9:00pm
West Ham v Newcastle
Live from 11:30pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
English Premier League
Bournemouth v Man City
Live from 9:00pm
Bundesliga
Gladbach v Bayern Munich
Live from 11:30pm

TEN 1
La Liga
Huesca v Sevilla
Live from 11:30pm
Real Madrid v Barcelona
Live from 1:45am (Sunday)

TEN 2
La Liga
Espanyol v Valladolid
Live from 6:00pm
Serie A
Parma v Empoli
Live from 8:00pm
AC Milan v Sassuolo

Live from 11:00pm
Lazio v Roma
Live from 1:30am (Sunday)

DAY'S EVENT

Women's National Cricket League
Time: 9:00am
Sylhet v Rajshahi

Venue: SKICS-1
Khalna v Dhaka
Venue: SKICS-2



The Bangladesh Under-16 team celebrate their solitary goal victory over hosts Myanmar in their Group B encounter of Qualifiers-2 in the AFC U-16 Women's Championship at the Mandala Thiri Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: BFF

U-16 girls in final round again

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh made it to the AFC U-16 Women's Championship finals by notching a hard-fought 1-0 win over hosts Myanmar in a Group B encounter of Qualification Round-2 at the Mandala Thiri Stadium yesterday.

Midfielder Monika Chakma struck the lone goal from the right-corner to shoot the girls in red and green into the final round of the championship for the second time in a row as well as ensure a semifinal berth alongside favourites China, who beat Philippines 7-0 in the other Group B match. Following two defeats, Myanmar and Philippines were eliminated while Bangladesh and China, with two wins each, will square off tomorrow to decide the group winners.

Fresh from a morale boosting 10-0 win over Philippines, the charges of Golam Rabbani Choton faced a tough challenge from Myanmar due to their physical superiority, giving Maria Manda, Monika Akhi Khatun, Tahura Khatun and the others a run for their money before the hosts ultimately went down in front of a home crowd.

Bangladesh were thoroughly tested by Myanmar, who were seemingly more skilled and stronger than their counterparts. However Akhi, Nilufar Yeamin Nila, Nazma Khatun and Anai Mogini built a rock-solid defence, preventing Myanmar's forwards from inflicting any damage.

Myanmar midfielder Pont Pont Pyae

Maung controlled the game after the side effectively diffused two of Bangladesh's key midfielders -- Maria and Monika -- but the hosts were hardly able to penetrate the attacking third with Bangladesh's defence thwarting them at every turn.

Returning after a barren first half, Bangladesh looked more organized and tried to attack on the break despite the lack of a strong midfield. Anuching darted into the box and struck one straight to the goalkeeper in 62nd minute before Bangladesh goalkeeper Rupna Chakma came out from her post to deny forward Myat Noe Khin in the 63rd minute.

Afterwards, Bangladesh claimed two successive corners, the second of which Monika Chakma used to find the back of the net from the right side. Monika mustered a beautiful left-footed curving corner which kissed the back of Myanmar's net, even though the goalkeeper got a hand to it, in the 68th minute.

Six minutes later, Myat Noe Khin beat the last defender, Akhi Khatun, but floated her shot over the crosspiece from outside the box, much to the relief of Rupna Chakma. Anuching could have doubled the margin but she drove narrowly wide with the goalkeeper beaten two minutes into the four-minute stoppage time.

"It was a tough and competitive match for us as Myanmar is a strong side which we knew before by playing against their senior sides. So, we had some hard works for this match and finally beat them," said captain Maria Manda on a TV interview in Myanmar.

Meet Robbie Fowler

Robbie Fowler is considered a god by many at Anfield. Having graduated from the Liverpool academy as a local boy, Fowler burst into top-tier football and instantly endeared himself to the club's faithful with a flurry of goals. The second-highest scorer for Liverpool in the Premier League era and the sixth-highest overall, he hung up his boots in 2012 and has become a club ambassador. He is currently in Dhaka as part of a promotional campaign of the club's commercial partners Standard Chartered Bank. During an interview with The Daily Star's Atique Anam, Fowler reflected on his football career, his greatest memories, his football philosophy, his thoughts on the current Liverpool team and much more. Here are excerpts of that interview:

TDS: This is your first time in Bangladesh. How excited are you and what are you looking forward to?

RF: I literally got in last night, but what I've noticed so far is the hospitality. People are tremendously friendly here. I'm here as a part of a Standard Chartered promotional trip and it's always nice when you go to a new country, new city. So I'm looking forward to it.

TDS: So what's keeping Robbie Fowler occupied these days? We see you as a football pundit for various TV channels. What else are you involved with?

RF: I still do a lot of work for the club. I travel around the world to represent Liverpool, which for me is very good as an ex-player.

TDS: Many of your contemporaries including [Steven] Gerrard, [Ryan] Giggs and [Paul] Scholes are into big-time coaching. When can we expect to see you in the dugout of a top-flight club?

RF: Hopefully pretty soon. As a player, I've had a decent career, but when you're finished playing you need something different to do. I've done all the coaching badges, pro licenses. So my next step is to go into coaching a football club and take it from there. I feel I have a lot to give.

TDS: Let's talk about your professional career which started as a graduate from the Liverpool academy and then making a senior appearance for the club, making an instant impact in the Premier League. If you have to pick out one of those early days and moments, which would be your most memorable one?

RF: There are so many. For me to represent Liverpool as a local lad was brilliant. I was fortunate to have a decent career, but I worked hard for my career. I wanted to be the very best that I could be. It was what I always wanted to be, growing up as a footballer. However, the best thing to ever happen to me was signing again for Liverpool.

TDS: How was the reaction from the crowd when you stepped up to take to the pitch for the first time in your second stint for Liverpool?

RF: The reaction from the crowd was unbelievable. The atmosphere at Anfield is always brilliant. The crowd was always very good to me, and when I re-signed, that noise and atmosphere when I made my debut again was the best thing ever.

TDS: You've scored some wonderful goals for Liverpool and other clubs.

Is there any goal in particular that you still cherish?

RF: As a goalscorer, I think every goal for me was the same. It's obviously nice to score against big teams like Manchester United, Arsenal, Chelsea and Everton. I've had my fair share of goals against most teams.

TDS: How satisfying was it to win the treble with the club in 2000-2001?

RF: Brilliant; when you play football the ambition is to win as many games and trophies as possible. That season was extra special because of the trophies we won.

TDS: Despite playing for the club in 2006-07, you were excluded from the Champions League final squad against Milan and also missed out on the FA Cup success due to being Cup-tied. That must have been



frustrating for you.

RF: Obviously the Champions League final is a big game and you want to be a part of big games, but I was happy being back in Liverpool. It is what it is in football. The managers have to make difficult choices. Disappointed that I didn't play, but more disappointed that the club didn't win the Champions League final.

TDS: During your 20 year professional career and beyond, how much do you think English football has evolved?

RF: Football has changed gradually with sports science. Players are looked after a little bit better, preparation for games are a little bit better. Football has got a little bit quicker, but I think technically there were better players back then; players with understanding of the game and authority to make their own deci-

sions. Football now is geared more from a coaching point of view.

TDS: Working with which coach gave you the most satisfaction?

RF: My favourite manager is Roy Evans. He got the best out of players. I don't think technically or tactically he was as good as Rafa [Benitez], but he was my favourite.

TDS: The best player you played alongside?

RF: Ian Rush and John Barnes were brilliant. Among the modern day players you can't look any further than my big pal Steve McManaman, and then obviously Steven Gerrard. These four players, for me, embody Liverpool Football Club.

TDS: You once won a UEFA fairplay award for admitting that you were not fouled by Arsenal goalkeeper David Seaman when a penalty was given. Your thoughts

bits and pieces around the city through the club.

TDS: Looking back, do you have any regrets regarding your career?

RF: Not at all. There are maybe things I would change, but regret is a strong word. You learn from things and the best thing is to put things right into practice and pass it on to the next generation.

TDS: Despite being one of Liverpool's all-time greats, you didn't have enough impact playing for England. Would you say your career coincided with the emergence of better strikers in England or would you put it down to injuries that you suffered?

RF: Injuries play a part in football and I've had many injuries, but I don't think it's injuries. Managers have ideas of certain players and certain formations. Sometimes you can't fit in, as much as you want to, into everyone's ideas and plans. So you just got to go with it.

TDS: But you only played 26 times for England. Don't you think you should have got more chances to prove yourself?

RF: I think so, I really do. As a football player, I scored nearly 100 goals before I got my first cap. Nowadays that is unheard of. It's unfortunate that I didn't have many more England caps, but it wasn't a be-all, end-all for me. I was happy playing football full-stop.

RF: I still live in Liverpool; my family lived in Liverpool. People see me all the time. I'm a local lad and I do

Federer two wins from 100th title

AFP, Dubai



Roger Federer moved to within two wins of a 100th career title on Thursday after coming through a tough test in difficult conditions against Marton Fucsovics to reach the Dubai Championships semi-finals.

The seven-time champion beat his Hungarian opponent 7-6 (8/6), 6-4 in conditions which were far from comfortable with gusting winds and brief rain delays.

"You just go out there and try your best. Sometimes you get in the lead, sometimes you don't. It was important not to get down in the score early on," Federer said.

"It was tricky. A couple of rain delays, especially one at 5-all, coming back with sort of no preparation.

"The energy of the body, the adrenaline, tactics, all that stuff kind of fades away just a little bit in those rain delays.

"We made the most of it, the tie-breaker was tough. I'm happy I found a way to get out of that one. That was an exciting match, to say the least."

The 20-time Grand Slam winner will face Borna Coric after the Croatian sixth seed



defeated Nikoloz Basilashvili of Georgia 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (7/1).

"You look at the score at home and it looks like an easy straight sets," said Federer.

"But it is so close, you can never underestimate anyone. I'm very happy with my level. It was tough with the wind, but it's a challenge and that's why I'm here."

Federer had to save two set points in an opener which lasted for just over an hour.

He then got into his rhythm but needed a big effort to break on his fifth chance of the ninth game of the second set, taking a 5-4 lead before serving it out on his second match point.

Zahid brace powers Arambagh

SPORTS REPORTER



A brace from veteran winger Zahid Hossain powered hosts Arambagh KS to an emphatic 2-1 win over the visiting Muktijoddha Sangsad at the Rafique Uddin Bhuiyan Stadium in Mymensingh yesterday.

At the Shaheed Bulu Stadium in Noakhali, visitors Rahmatganj MFS notched a single-goal win over Team BJMC, thanks to a decisive strike by Congolese forward Siyo Zunapio.

With their fifth win in nine matches, Arambagh remained glued at fifth position and raised their points tally to 15 while Rahmatganj, with four wins in eight matches, leapt from 11th to ninth position with seven points.

Smarting from an unfortunate 3-2 defeat at the hands of leaders Bashundhara in Nilphamari, Arambagh took to their home ground with hopes of returning to winning ways. Winger Zahid, who scored a hat-trick on this pitch against Mohammedan, gave Arambagh the lead in the 13th minute with a left footer after nutmegging a Muktijoddha Sangsad defender inside the box.

After resumption, it was again Zahid who drove home with an angular shot after Paul Emile failed to connect with a square-pass from Chinedu Mathew in the 57th minute. Evan had reduced the margin with a low shot from outside the box in the 66th minute but Muktijoddha ultimately could not avert their fourth defeat in eight matches.

In Noakhali, Zunapio struck his sixth league goal in the 77th minute to give Rahmatganj their maiden victory in the ongoing tournament following four draws in their last seven matches. BJMC, with six defeats in nine matches, remained in second last position.

ARAMBAGH KS
ZAHID HOSSAIN 13/7

2 - 1

MUKTIJODDHA
EVAN 66

RAHMATGANJ MFS
SIYO ZUNAPIO 77

1 - 0

TEAM BJMC

Barca eyeing Real double

AFP, Madrid

After knocking Real Madrid out of the Copa del Rey, Barcelona now have the opportunity to send their rivals packing in the title race too.

Barca's 3-0 victory on Wednesday means Barca will return to the Santiago Bernabeu on Saturday with a spring in their step, even if Madrid were the better side and had the better opportunities until the chaotic final 30 minutes, when a Luis Suarez double and Raphael Varane own goal gave victory to the Catalans.

A repeat this weekend in La Liga would leave Santiago Solari's side 12 points adrift of Barcelona, who would effectively have an extra point's advantage given their superior head-to-head record.

They should feel confident if recent form between the two sides is any guide. The Copa del Rey win was Barcelona's fourth in six games at the Bernabeu.

BURGER KING
OUTLETS
BANANI
GULSHAN
BARISHAHARA
JIFFY
ITTARA
DHANMONDI
MIRPUR
BALAKA
SHIMAKOTO