

# What to WATCH

**STAR SPORTS SELECT 1**  
**Indian Premier League**  
Rajasthan v Mumbai  
Live from 4:30pm  
Delhi v Punjab  
Live from 8:30pm

**STAR SPORTS SELECT 2**  
**English Premier League**  
Man City v Tottenham  
Live from 5:30pm  
Wolves v Brighton  
Live from 8:00pm

Newcastle v Southampton  
Live from 10:30pm  
**TEN 1**  
**Serie A**  
Genoa v Torino  
Live from 7:00pm

**TEN 2**  
**Serie A**  
Parma v AC Milan  
Live from 4:30pm  
Lazio v Chievo Verona  
Live from 7:00pm

Juventus v Fiorentina  
Live from 10:00pm  
Inter Milan v Roma  
Live from 12:30am (Sunday)

## DAY'S EVENT

**Bangladesh Premier League**  
Time: 3:30pm  
Team BJMC v Sheikh Russel

Venue: Shaheed Bulu Stadium, Noakhali  
Arambagh v Brothers Union  
Venue: Rofique Uddin Bhuiyan Stadium, Mymensingh



Chelsea winger Pedro (R) celebrates after scoring his second goal against Slavia Prague during their Europa League quarterfinal second leg encounter at Stamford Bridge on Thursday. PHOTO: AFP

# Chelsea join Arsenal in semis

AFP, Paris



Pedro Rodriguez starred as Chelsea withstood a spirited Slavia Prague fightback in a wild 4-3 victory to qualify for the Europa League semifinals on Thursday, while Arsenal knocked out Napoli after an assured display in Italy.

Leading 1-0 from last week's first leg in the Czech capital, Chelsea appeared to be cruising towards the last four after an early goal blitz at Stamford Bridge.

Pedro struck the opener on five minutes before an unfortunate Simon Deli turned into his own net and Olivier Giroud added a third with barely quarter of an hour gone in London.

Tomas Soucek pulled one back for Slavia on 26 minutes, but Spain forward Pedro replied immediately to restore the Blues' three-goal lead.

Maurizio Sarri's side were made to sweat though as two sublime, quick-fire goals by Petr Sevcik just after half-time gave Slavia hope of an incredible comeback with 35 minutes still to play.

Chelsea eventually saw off the threat to progress 5-3 on aggregate despite an unconvincing second-half display.

"We have been efficient up front and solid at the back but we dropped our intensity after the break," Giroud, who scored his competition-leading 10th goal, told BT Sport.

"We started very badly in the second half but I'm really, really happy because we played well in the first 45 minutes and we are in a European semi-final which is very important to us," added Chelsea boss Sarri.

The 2013 Europa League champions will meet Eintracht Frankfurt in the last four after the Germans eliminated Benfica on away goals.

Eintracht lost 4-2 in Portugal a week ago, but goals by Filip Kostic

and former Bayern Munich midfielder Sebastian Rode sent the German Cup holders through at the Commerzbank Arena.

Kostic turned home a rebound on 37 minutes after Mijat Gacinovic's curling attempt cannoned back off the upright.

Rode, on loan from Borussia Dortmund, hit the decisive goal on 67 minutes as he picked out the bottom corner from the edge of the area.

In Italy, Alexandre Lacazette drilled in a terrific free-kick on 36 minutes at the Stadio San Paolo as the Gunners completed a 3-0 aggregate victory over Carlo Ancelotti's Napoli.

Petr Cech denied Jose Callejon with his legs following a rapid Napoli break on the quarter-hour as the Italians sought to overturn a two-goal deficit from the first leg.

But Lacazette's 30-yard drive all but put the tie beyond Napoli, shortly after Aaron Ramsey hobbled

off with a hamstring injury -- potentially his final appearance for Arsenal ahead of a move to Juventus in July.

"We came here with ambition and wanted to win and score some goals. We did it with Laca," Arsenal captain Laurent Koscielny told BT Sport.

"We kept a clean sheet, which is important for the confidence. Each game we have in front of us is a final."

Arsenal boss Unai Emery will come up against one of his former clubs Valencia, the 2004 UEFA Cup winners, for a spot in the final.

Valencia eased through with a 5-1 aggregate win over Villarreal in an all-Spanish affair.

Toni Lato and Dani Parejo grabbed the goals in a 2-0 second-leg victory for Valencia coach Marcelino against his former club.

The semifinals will be played over May 2 and 9, with this year's final in Baku on May 29.

# Mohammedan hit rock bottom

SPORTS REPORTER



Falling giants Mohammedan Sporting Club ended their first phase of the Bangladesh Premier League with a 2-1 defeat against minnows Rahmatganj MFS at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The eighth defeat in 12 matches means the once-popular Black and Whites stayed in 11th position in the 13-team table with only six points -- their worst-ever first-phase tally in the professional football league history.

Mohammedan's previous lowest tally in the first phase was nine points from 11 matches during the ninth edition where they eventually finished 10th with 20 points from 22 matches.

The Black and Whites had secured only 13 points from 10 matches in the first phase of the fifth edition of the league, but they bounced back strongly in the second phase to eventually finish third with 34 points from 22 matches.

The team's new coach Sean Lane was disappointed with yesterday's result and he felt that no training system has developed in the club due to different coaching applying different methods.

"I have been here for the last two weeks. I understand Mohammedan is a big club in Bangladesh and the position they are in is not good. I will get 15 days before the next match and I will sit with the club officials, players and coaching staff. I will take my plan for mid-term players' transfers to the club and show what is good and what is bad

<b>RAHMATGANJ</b> FAISAL 4', ZUNAPIO 74'	<b>2 - 1</b>	<b>MOHAMMEDAN</b> SHOHAG 11'
<b>MUKTIJODDHA</b>	<b>0 - 2</b>	<b>SAIF SC</b> BOLSHAKOV 48', RAHIM 52'

for the squad and what we need to change during the transfers," Lane said.

"It is possible to take Mohammedan up in the second phase because the players have the desire to perform better. The players are disappointed but working hard and training twice a day," the Australian coach added.

The Motijheel-based club conceded the lead in the fourth minute when Rahmatganj forward Faisal Ahmed drove home from inside the box after Congolese striker Siyo Zunapio whipped in a cross from the right flank. However, Mohammedan hit back seven minutes later, with Habibur Rahman Shohag finding the back of the net with a superb left-footed volley from the edge of the box on a header from teammate Kingsley Chigozie.

After resumption, Mohammedan dominated proceedings and earned a spot-kick in the 57th

minute, but Chigozie squandered the opportunity before Rahmatganj scored the winning goal from a counter-attack with Zunapio heading in a Sohel Rana cross home in the 74th minute.

The second win in 12 matches lifted Rahmatganj to 12 points in ninth position.

At the Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni Stadium in Gopalganj, visitors Saif SC handed a 2-0 defeat on Muktiyoddha Sangsad to maintain their fourth position in the table.

Russian striker Denis Bolshakov and local lad Rahim Uddin scored one goal each in the 48th and 52nd minutes for Saif SC, who raised their points tally to 23 from 12 matches while Muktiyoddha Sangsad remained in sixth position with 15 points.



Two Mohammedan players take a fall while defending an attack from Rahmatganj during their Bangladesh Premier League fixture at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Like the players, the Black and Whites took a tumble, losing the game 2-1 and ended the first leg of the league on a historic low with only six points. PHOTO: BFF

# Athletics team off to Doha

SPORTS REPORTER

A nine-member Bangladesh athletic contingent left for Qatar yesterday to take part in the 23rd Asian Athletics Championships to be held in Doha from April 21 to 24.

Five athletes -- country's fastest man and woman Mohammad Ismail and Shirin Akter, sprinter Hasan Mia, runner Jahir Raihan and sprinter Shohagi Akter -- will be accompanied by four officials of the Bangladesh Athletics Federation. Ismail and Hasan will compete in men's 100m sprint while Shirin and Shohagi will vie in women's 100m sprint. Shirin will also take part in 200m sprint while Jahir Raihan will run in 400m.

Even though four of the five athletes want to improve their personal timing, fever-hit Jahir Raihan is uncertain whether he can run in his favourite 400m.

"As we don't have any chance of winning medals, we will try to improve our personal timing in respective events," eight-time 100m gold-winning sprinter Shirin told reporters before departure.

"I don't know whether I can take part in the event because I am going with a fever," said Raihan, who set a record in 400m run in last national championship clocking 46.86 seconds.

## SHORT CORNER

### Former Scotland cricket captain De Lange dies aged 38

Scottish cricket was in mourning on Friday following the death of former national team captain Con De Lange at the age of 38 following a lengthy illness.

South Africa-born all-rounder De Lange was diagnosed with a brain tumour after falling ill while away on international duty in late 2017.

"Con's death at such an early age is a tragedy," said Cricket Scotland chairman Tony Brian.

De Lange started his career in South Africa, playing for the Knights and Free State and had two years with Northamptonshire before representing Scotland.

At international level, he captained

Scotland to their first 50-over victory over a International Cricket Council full member and hit the winning runs as Scotland chased down 287 against Sri Lanka in May 2017.

--AFP

### EPL players to boycott social media in racism protest

Premier League stars will be among the footballers taking part in a 24-hour social media boycott on Friday as part of a protest against racist abuse online.

The campaign, which is being co-ordinated by England's Professional Footballers' Association, urges players to stay off all social media from 9:00am local time (0800 GMT) Friday after posting the hashtag #Enough.

There have been growing concerns over how football should tackle racism following a number of incidents of abuse both at grounds and on

social media.

England's black players faced repeated racist chants during their Euro 2020 qualifier in Montenegro last month.

Danny Rose said afterwards he had "had enough" and "can't wait" to quit the game, with the Tottenham defender adding attempts by football authorities to punish racist incidents were "a farce".

--AFP

### Milan fined 86,000 euros for Kessie, Bakayoko shirt prank

AC Milan and the Serie A club's players Tiemoué Bakayoko and Franck Kessie have been fined a total of 86,000 euros (\$97,000) for holding up Lazio defender Francesco Acerbi's shirt like a trophy after Saturday's 1-0 win over their Champions League rivals, according to Italian media.

Milan agreed with the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) on a payment of 86,000 euros -- 33,000 euros per player and 20,000 euros for the club, Gazzetta Dello Sport and Sky Sport Italia reported.

The fine was cut by a third as AC Milan agreed to pay it immediately.

Acerbi had angered the Milan pair when he said there was "no comparison" between the teams before the game.

He said swapped his shirt with on-loan Chelsea midfielder Bakayoko "to put an end to the issue" but was furious when they held it aloft on front of Milan's fans afterwards.

Both apologised with the Ivorian Kessie, whose penalty sealed the win, insisting it was "just a joke, nothing more".

--AFP

### MLS boosts expansion fees to \$200 million

Major League Soccer said Thursday it plans to expand to 30 teams, but was unable to say when or which cities it would add to reach that figure.

The league, which currently has 24 teams in the US and Canada, said Thursday that it would charge the 28th and 29th teams an expansion fee of \$200 million.

The league said it is in talks with Sacramento and St. Louis about joining the league. No details were given for the fee or possible name of a 30th expansion team.

"Professional soccer at all levels is thriving in the United States and Canada and we believe there are many markets that could support a successful MLS club," MLS commissioner Don Garber said on Thursday.

--AFP

# Solskjaer shifts focus

REUTERS, Manchester



Following their Champions League elimination, Manchester United must think about nothing else but a potentially season-defining week as the Premier League club looks to secure a top four finish, manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has said.

United, who were knocked out of Europe by Barcelona in the quarterfinals on Tuesday, play Everton, Manchester City and Chelsea over the next eight days as they look to improve on their sixth place in the league standings.

With five games left in the season, Tottenham Hotspur (67 points), Arsenal, Chelsea (both 66) and United (64) are separated by three points with only two Champions League qualification spots up for grabs.

"These three games coming up, they're our short-term focus," Solskjaer told reporters ahead of Sunday's trip to Everton.

"We shouldn't think about anything but having a great week ahead of us.

"It's great to have games to look forward to and the focus will change straight away. We know it's going to be a hard game at Goodison Park, other teams have seen that as well.

"We would have loved a semifinal to play in but that's not the case so we just have to focus on the games we've got.

We want to be here (in the Champions League) again, and to be back at these stadiums again we need to get among the top four."

The Norwegian was honest in his assessment of a few players who he said needed a 'reality check', with Anthony Martial one of the players he said he spoke to.

The French forward, who has scored 12 goals this season in all competitions has scored only four goals in 16 appearances since Solskjaer took over in December.

"Most of them have really impressed me in their attitude and, of course, there are some who need to get a reality check on where they're at," the manager said.

"I've spoken to individuals and they know and Anthony is one I've spoken to. Anthony's got massive talent, got a new contract... He knows we believe in him, so (he needs to) just keep working."



# Kohli delivers RCB's 2nd win

STAR SPORT DESK

Royal Challengers skipper Virat Kohli's swashbuckling century set up the bottom-placed franchise's 10-run win over sixth-placed Kolkata Knight Riders in their Indian Premier League (IPL) encounter at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata yesterday.

Kohli's first hundred of the edition, and a blitzed 28-ball 66 from Moen Ali, guided Bangalore to a mammoth 213 for five and set the stage for just their second win in nine games. Kolkata put up a fight and the game went down to the wire with the home team needing 24 runs off the last over bowled by Ali, but after hitting his ninth six, in-form all-rounder Andre Russell was run out for 65 off just 20 balls. With 17 needed off the last ball Nitish Rana (85 off 46) hit a six.

Earlier, after Kolkata asked Bangalore to bat first, Kohli -- who opened the innings -- batted right through and was dismissed off the last ball of the innings, his 58th. He hit nine fours and four sixes, and had a 90-run third wicket partnership with Ali, whose five fours and six sixes dominated the stand.

## SCORES IN BRIEF

**Bangalore:** 213 for 5 (Kohli 100, Ali 66; Narine 1-32)

**Kolkata:** 203 for 5 (Rana 85, Russell 65; Steyn 2-40, Saini 1-31)

**Result:** Bangalore won by 10 runs

**Player-of-the-match:** Virat Kohli