

What to WATCH

RTV & NAGORIK TV
Bangamata U-19 Women's Int'l Gold Cup
 Bangladesh v Mongolia
 Live from 6:00pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
Indian Premier League
 Bangalore v Rajasthan
 Live from 8:30pm

TEN 2
UEFA Champions League
 Tottenham v Ajax
 Live from 1:00am (Wednesday)

DAY'S EVENT

Bangamata U-19 Women's Int'l Gold Cup
 Bangladesh v Mongolia
 Time: 6:00pm
 Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium, Dhaka

POGBA'S BOOTS SELL FOR €30,000

The football boots with which Paul Pogba effectively won the World Cup for France last year were sold for 30,000 euros (\$33,470) at a Paris auction on Monday. The Manchester United midfielder, who scored France's third goal in the 4-2 victory over Croatia, had donated them to a French charity which helps high school students from tough areas. Christie's auction house had hoped that the boots would go for between 35,000 and 50,000 euros.



--AFP



Laos midfielder Pe is truly a force to be reckoned with as the tournament's top scorer added four more goals to her tally during their 7-1 rout of Kyrgyzstan in a Bangamata Under-19 Women's International Gold Cup semifinal encounter in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Weakened Abahani face Chennaiyin FC

SPORTS REPORTER



Abahani will aim for any result other than a defeat when the six-time Bangladesh Premier League champions take on Chennaiyin FC in an away match of the AFC Cup at the Arena Stadium in Ahmedabad, India today.

Abahani and Chennaiyin FC are equal on four points from two outings, however, the Indian Super League champions are ahead of Abahani with a better goal difference. Therefore, today's match is crucial for both teams if either hope to strengthen their position in the four-team group.

The Sky Blues seemed to have been in high spirits following an away-win over Manang Marshyangdi and a draw at home against Minerva Punjab but after their on-song Nigerian striker Sunday Chizoba failed to obtain a visa to travel with the team, the side's morale dropped a bit.

In addition, centre-backs Tapu Barman and Tutul Hossain Badsha will probably not be available against Chennaiyin FC

due to injuries and so, Abahani are likely to face problems in the attacking third as well as the backline.

With three key players absent for the encounter, Abahani should hope to only avoid defeat in their bid to remain in the title race alongside Chennaiyin FC, who are said to be a fierce opponent to face on their home ground.

"The first target is to achieve the full three points. If it is not possible, then one point is still a good result since we have a few players are absent because of injuries and Sunday's visa situation," Abahani's Portuguese coach Mario Lemos told The Daily Star over phone yesterday.

"I think Chennaiyin FC are a very strong opponent with a lot of quality players but we are looking forward for this match and believe we can get a result from here," added an optimistic Lemos, who is however a bit concerned with the heat and humidity in Ahmedabad.

"The preparation has been good. We are adapting to the weather which is very hot, plus 40 degrees average," said Lemos.

'Bangladesh confident even without Swapna, Mousumi'

SPORTS REPORTER



Hosts Bangladesh are looking to confirm their final berth in the Bangamata U-19 Women's International Gold Cup with a victory against Mongolia in the second semifinal today, despite probably missing their two key strikers in the form of Sirat Jahan Swapna and Krishna Rani Sarker.

The match will kick off at 6:00pm at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The two strikers, who scored three of the four goals in Bangladesh's two group-stage matches, sustained knee injuries during the match against Kyrgyzstan on Friday and are likely to miss the semifinal against the Central Asian nation.

The team's coach Golam Rabbani Choton is counting on replacements such as Tohura Khatun and Sajeda Khatun to get the job done upfront while he also wants his charges to be more precise in front of goal.

"Sajeda and Tohura are playing well and they are likely to play [against Mongolia]. We can win and win by big a margin with the players that we have," the coach said after a team practice session in the

Laos storm into final

SPORTS REPORTER

Laos stormed into the Bangamata Under-19 Women's International Gold Cup final by inflicting a massive 7-1 defeat on Kyrgyzstan in the first semifinal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Laos midfielder Pe scored four goals while forward Vady Inthiya, midfielder Monthip Sisketh and defender Lanoy Vongsingkhom struck one goal apiece in the one-way traffic. Defender Askarova Aiturgan pulled a solitary goal back for Kyrgyzstan.

Pe slotted her hattrick by scoring in the eighth, 21st and 86th minutes while she wrapped up the rout by claimed her

fourth goal two minutes from time. Vady, Monthip and Lanoy also got their names on the scoresheet, scoring in the 57th, 74th and stoppage time respectively.

Laos will play the final on May 4 against the winners of the second semifinal between Bangladesh and Mongolia today.

Having struck 18 goals in three matches, Laos have already sent a strong message to whoever their opponents will be in the final.

Pe is now the highest scorer of the tournament with eight goals, striking a brace against both Mongolia and Tajikistan in the group stage.

and 2-1 against Kyrgyzstan - Mongolia have had a mixed bag in the group stages, winning the first match against Tajikistan 3-0 before taking a pounding in a 5-0 defeat against tournament-favourites Laos.

Skipper Mishrat Jahan Mousumi was optimistic that whoever plays in the team will adjust to the others and fill the void left by the injured striking pair.

"Both Krishna and Swapna are experienced players. We will definitely miss them, but those who will replace them are good enough too. Those who come to replace starters can cope up very easily. So it won't be too big a problem for us," Mousumi said. "We didn't watch Mongolia's matches but our coaches watched their matches and gave us information about the opposition and relayed the gameplan."

The skipper expects a big crowd at the BNS today and she feels the crowd is an encouragement for the team rather than a pressure.

"Having large crowds in the gallery is an inspiration. We don't often see such big crowds in Dhaka. Having a big crowd is not any pressure for us, rather it is an inspiration," Mousumi added.

While Bangladesh won both their matches in group stage -- 2-0 against UAE

are physically a bit ahead of Kyrgyzstan. But we have formulated our plan according to their game," said Choton.

While Bangladesh won both their matches in group stage -- 2-0 against UAE

Van Dijk named PFA's best player

AFP, London



Liverpool centre-back Virgil van Dijk was named as England's PFA Player of the Year for 2019 on Sunday.

Van Dijk succeeded Liverpool teammate Mohamed Salah in winning the award, voted for by his fellow players and saw off competition from Manchester City striker Raheem Sterling.

But Sterling, 24, was named the Professional Footballers' Association Young Player of the Year, following on from City colleague Leroy Sane.

Van Dijk joined Liverpool from Southampton for £75 million (\$97 million, 87 million euros) in January 2018.

The 27-year-old Dutchman has been an ever-present for Liverpool in their bid to dethrone City as Premier League champions this season, with Sterling's side one point clear of the Reds at the top of the table with just two games left to play.

Van Dijk has starred in a hugely improved Liverpool defence that has kept 20 clean sheets and conceded a mere 20 goals in the current campaign.

"It's pretty difficult to put into words," said Van Dijk, the first defender to win the award since Chelsea's John Terry 14 years ago.



SHORT CORNER

Ireland name squad for ODI & tri-series

Ireland have announced their squad for the one-off ODI against England on May 3 and for the first half of their tri-series involving Bangladesh and West Indies.

William Porterfield will once again lead the side, while the 14-man squad includes two players yet to make their ODI debuts in Lorcan Tucker and Josh Little.

"We have been delighted to watch the continued improvement of Josh Little and Lorcan Tucker -- both of whom will now be in the running to make their debuts in one-day international cricket," said Andrew White, Ireland's chair of national men's selectors.

Squad: William Porterfield (c), Andrew Balbirnie, George Dockrell, Josh Little, Andrew McBrine, Barry McCarthy, James McCollum, Tim Murtagh, Kevin O'Brien, Boyd Rankin, Paul Stirling, Stuart Thompson, Lorcan Tucker, Gary Wilson.

Czech international killed after Turkish bus crash

Czech international Josef Sural has died of injuries sustained in a minibus crash while returning with teammates from a match in southern Turkey, his Turkish club Aytemiz Alanyaspor said on Monday.

The club's chairman said the accident occurred after both the drivers on the bus fell asleep.

"Czech player Josef Sural who was seriously injured after an accident involving a private minibus carrying seven of our footballers after an away game at Kayseri could not be saved despite all of the hospital's efforts," the club said on Twitter.

The six other players were injured but not seriously

in the crash, close to the southern town of Alanya, state news agency Anadolu said.

--AFP

Bayern, Dortmund exchange title race war of words

Bayern Munich sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic was involved in a war of words with Borussia Dortmund CEO Hans-Joachim Watzke this weekend as a thrilling Bundesliga title race took another unexpected turn.

Reigning champions Bayern remain on course to wrap up a seventh successive title, but missed the chance to pull clear of Dortmund as both sides dropped points this weekend.

Ahead of Saturday's derby with Schalke, Dortmund CEO Watzke claimed that "70 percent of Germans" wanted his club to win the title, and that hardly anybody would turn up to celebrate if Bayern were crowned champions.

"When they celebrate in the (Munich central square) Marienplatz, there will be about 3000 people and maybe 1500 tourists there."

"In Dortmund, the title celebration is another thing entirely."

Watzke's side promptly lost 4-2 to rivals Schalke, giving Bayern the chance to pull four points clear on Sunday, and Bayern sporting director Salihamidzic couldn't resist a sarcastic response.

"Maybe we will invite Mr Watzke to our title celebration, then he will see that there are many thousands of people there," he told Sky on Sunday.

--AFP

Zidane apologises after Real lose

AFP, Madrid



Zinedine Zidane apologised and said he wished Real Madrid's miserable season would end now after they were beaten by 19th-placed Rayo Vallecano on Sunday.

Madrid's response to Barcelona winning the title on Saturday night was to slip to a 1-0 defeat at Vallecas and fall 18 points behind La Liga's newly-crowned champions.

Zidane took over knowing Madrid's title challenge was all-but extinguished but the difference on Barca then was 12 points while catching Atletico Madrid, now nine ahead, seemed achievable.



We must be very angry. I am angry, because the image we gave off today was bad. I am responsible for this as well, not just the players. But we have to apologise for our performance today, all of us.

ZINEDINE ZIDANE

Real Madrid coach

Adri Embarba's penalty, given after consultation with VAR, was enough for Rayo, who move to within six points of survival, with three games left to play.

"Today we did nothing," Zidane said. "From minute one until the end, at all levels. Sometimes you cannot score but today we did not even create chances, did not play at all."

Asked if he would like the season to end now, Zidane said: "Yes, but we have to play these three games and do something different. We cannot end like this."

"It is about me's work, today what I did in the shape of the team, it didn't work at all. We must respect football and what this club represents."

Not since March 31 has anyone except Karim Benzema, out with a hamstring injury, scored for Madrid, who created precious few chances against a Rayo side that have conceded 62 goals this term. No side in the division has shipped more.

Zidane said last week that the league would be the club's first priority from August but, even with new signings and fresh motivation, it could prove difficult to flick the switch. Madrid's winning habit has long-been lost.

Mominul wins the battle

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) organiser AKM Mominul Haque Shaheed was elected as general secretary of the BHF, beating former star player and outgoing general secretary Abdus Sadeque, in the highly anticipated BHF polls yesterday.

Two panels -- one was led by Sadeque and Sajed AA Adel while the other by Shaheed and Abdur Rashid Shikdar -- contested the hyped up polls amid huge enthusiasm. Nearly 1000 people came to support the Shaheed and Rashid panel, turning the road in front of the Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex in Dhanmondi into a sea of purple as supporters wore matching Tee shirts and chanted for AKM Mominul Haque Shaheed.

Shaheed, councillor to Mohammedan SC and chairman of Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club, came out on top by bagging 47 votes, 11 more than Sadeque. The Abahani club representative got 37 votes out of 83 with one vote being cancelled.

Although the former general secretary lost the election, most of his followers won their respective seats to grab 17 posts -- four vice presidents, one joint secretary

and 12 executive posts -- while the Shaheed-led panel won one vice president, one joint secretary, one treasurer and 7 executive member posts. Unfortunately, former hockey captain Mahbub Ehsan Rana failed to secure a position.

Of the 28 posts up for grabs, Mossadek Hossain Chowdhury Pappu bagged the most votes, securing 80 out of 84 for a member post. Former national player Alamgir Alam was a close second with 74 votes for another member post while Mohammad Yousuf came in third with 69 votes for the joint secretary position.

"After a long 14 years, councillors got back their right to cast votes and elected me as general secretary. I am thankful to all those who elected me. I want to work for hockey with unity as I also want to bring those who could not pass in the elections. I want to spread hockey across the country," Shaheed told reporters.

"I am happy with the results and wish them the best of luck," the defeated candidate, Abdus Sadeque, said over the phone. "However, I'm a bit scared over whether they can work together. It is good for hockey if they can work together as candidates from both panel have been elected".



Tottenham Hotspur striker Son Heung-Min (C) practises shooting during a training session at Enfield Training Centre yesterday on the eve of their Champions League semifinal first leg encounter against Ajax.

PHOTO: AFP

System Upgradation কার্যক্রমের জন্য ব্যাংকিং সেবা সাময়িকভাবে বন্ধ রাখার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

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