

What to WATCH

SONY SIX
England v Pakistan
First ODI (D/N)
Live from 6:00pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
Indian Premier League
Eliminator
Delhi v Hyderabad
Live from 8:00pm

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

BCB to assess SL security

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is currently monitoring the security situation in Sri Lanka, where Bangladesh are scheduled to play a three-match ODI series in July after the ICC Cricket World Cup in the United Kingdom.

BCB chief executive Nizamuddin Chowdhury informed that the board will heed advice from the concerned authorities, such as Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), before taking any decision on the matter.

Last month, over 300 people were killed while many more were injured during a string of bomb attacks in the island nation.

"We will take advice from our foreign ministry and the Bangladesh High Commission in Sri Lanka. We are also likely to hold talks with the SLC during the Asian Cricket Council meeting," Chowdhury told Cricinfo.



Manchester City captain Vincent Kompany (R) is ecstatic after scoring the all-important goal from a spectacular strike during their Premier League encounter against Leicester City at the Etihad Stadium on Monday. PHOTO: AFP

Kompany's stunner the difference

AFP, Manchester

Amyeric Laporte hailed the influence of Vincent Kompany after Manchester City's inspirational captain struck a stunning winner in the critical Premier League clash with Leicester.

The long-serving defender once again proved the man for the big occasion as he netted with a ferocious long-range strike 20 minutes from time to settle a tense encounter at the Etihad Stadium on Monday.

The 1-0 win lifted treble-chasing City back to the top of the Premier League, one point ahead of Liverpool, with just one game remaining in a gripping title race.

Kompany's decisive contribution ranked alongside his vital winner against rivals Manchester United during the 2012 title run-in for importance.

Fitness issues may mean the 33-year-old is no longer a regular starter but the influence of the three-time title-winning skipper shows no sign of waning even though he admits his future is uncertain.

"It is amazing, unbelievable," said fellow central defender Laporte. "I never see one goal like that -- maybe because I wasn't on the pitch, I don't know -- but we are so satisfied with this game."

"He is a guy (who is) very important for us, for the club. I think he gives us a lot of things. He is an example for us."

"We have to improve and keep working with him because he can give a lot and he is a very good guy on and off the pitch."

Kompany's sensational strike came as City piled on the pressure in the second half, knowing anything less than a 13th

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AYMERIC LAPORTE
MAN CITY DEFENDER

successive league win would hand the initiative to Liverpool heading into the final fixtures.

They now know victory over Brighton on Sunday will see them become the first back-to-back title winners in a decade, regardless of how Liverpool fare against Wolves.

Laporte said: "We are focused on us. It is the most important. We have to win every single game and if we win the next game, we are the champions."

Kompany, whose contract is up in the summer, shed a few tears as he set out on the end-of-season lap of honour ahead of his teammates, but does not want to retire.

"I do not know at this point," Kompany told Sky Sports when asked about his future after the match.

Asked if he will retire, the Belgian said: "Absolutely not. I am going to play."

Guardiola's regard for Kompany's experience has been clear in recent weeks, with the veteran selected for each of the past three league games, against Manchester United, Burnley and Leicester, with their title hopes on the line.

ARCHERY WORLD CUP

Sana sees the other side too

SPORTS REPORTER

Country's top archer Ruman Sana saw the other side of the coin six weeks after producing his career best score as the national champion performed below-par to score 655 in the qualification round of Hyundai Archery World Cup (stage 2) in Shanghai, China yesterday.

Sana, who scored his career best of 681 to finish top in qualification during the Asian Cup (Stage-1) in Bangkok in March, this time finished 35th out of 99 archers in the qualification round where Hakim Ahmed Rubel finished 28th with a score of 658, four points more than what he scored in Thailand.

Tamimul Islam and Imdadul Haque Milon scored 650 and 640 points to become 47th and 68th to set up matches against Finland's Antti Tekoniemi and England's Patrick Huston in the first round of elimination today. Sana, who got two byes during the Bangkok competition following his top-place finish, will face 78th-ranked Ding Yiliang of China while Rubel will play against 85th-ranked Finn Matheson of New Zealand in elimination round.

Beauty Roy bettered her qualification score of Asian Cup (stage-1) competition by scoring 612 points but she had to be satisfied with a 51st-place finish out of 76 in qualification and set her elimination clash against Iran's Rarmida Ghassemi.

Like Sana, the archers in compound event also frustrated as Ashim Kumar managed 669 points, some 22 points less than what he scored in Bangkok, to finish 60th out of 65 archers while Sushmita Banik finished 18th out of 55 competitors with a score of 681 points, four points less than what she scored in Bangkok.



MURRAY GIVEN QUEEN'S WILDCARD

Andy Murray has been given a wildcard to play at London's Queen's Club next month even though he has yet to set a date for a potential return to the court after hip surgery. The tournament in London, from June 17 to 23, could offer the five-time former winner a chance of some grass-court action ahead of Wimbledon, should he feel fit enough. The British former world number one, currently ranked 217 in the world, had the hip resurfacing operation in London in January and says he is now pain-free, although he has only been hitting balls from a stationary position so far.

--AFP



Shooting team set for Munich World Cup

SPORTS REPORTER



After failing to send the squad to Beijing for ISSF World Cup in April, the Bangladesh Shooting Sports Federation (BSSF) is now planning to send a seven-member team to the Germany World Cup which will be held in Munich from May 24 to 31.

BSSF has already selected six players -- three each in air-rifle and pistol events -- after Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Army agreed to bear expenditure of five shooters while the game's governing body will bear the expenditure of a rifle shooter and a coach.

"We have been going through some financial crisis, so we can't send the shooters to every international meet. This time around, the services teams have agreed to bear the cost of some shooters which paved the way for sending shooters to Munich. However, participation in World Cup also depends on getting government order and German visa," BSSF chief executive Mustaque Waise told the Daily Star yesterday.

"Though the BSSF decided to send the

shooters to Beijing in April, but we could not send them due to short period of time," Waise said, adding that Bangladesh Navy will bear the expense of three shooters -- Commonwealth Games double silver medallist rifle shooter Abdullah Hel Baki along with Rabbi Hasan Munna and pistol shooter Piash Hossain.

He added that Army would bear the expense of Commonwealth Games silver medallist pistol shooter Shakil Ahmed as well as Abdur Razzak. The game's local governing body would bear the expense of rifle shooter Rabbi Hasan Munna and a coach.

Even though BSSF is struggling to send shooters aboard with an aim of earning quota places for Tokyo Olympics, the shooters are not much optimistic.

"Preparation is going on and I hope to do well in Munich," Baki said. "To be honest, it is very tough for us to reach eight-man final round because world's top shooters will come to fight for quota places for Olympics."

"However, our final target is Asian Championship in September where we will try to qualify for the final round," added Baki.

Treble on Ajax's sight

AFP, Amsterdam



There are few clubs with a history to match that of Ajax, but they are in the process of writing a new chapter in Amsterdam with Erik ten Hag taking them to within sight of a first treble since the days of Johan Cruyff.

On Sunday, Ten Hag's spellbinding team secured the first leg as they beat Willem II 4-0 to win the Dutch Cup.

The battle with PSV Eindhoven for the Eredivisie title resumes this weekend, and by then Ajax could be through to their first Champions League final since 1996.

They take a 1-0 lead into their semifinal second leg against Tottenham Hotspur on Wednesday, with young stars like Matthijs de Ligt, Frenkie de Jong and Donny van de Beek mesmerising Europe on a run that has already seen them defeat Real Madrid and Juventus.

Those players have dominated the headlines, but the work done by the 49-year-old Ten Hag has been remarkable, and entirely in keeping with his progress up until now.

His career as a player was unremarkable by comparison, with the 2001 Dutch Cup the only major trophy he won on the field. The midfielder captained Twente to victory on penalties against PSV Eindhoven.

Ten Hag was close to Fred Ruten, his coach at Twente, and after ending his playing career aged just 32, he later became Ruten's assistant at PSV.

These days, Ten Hag's playing style draws comparisons to Pep Guardiola.

"When we lose the ball, we must win it back immediately," goalkeeper Andre Onana told AFP.

"He is focused on that, he is always telling us that if we have control of the ball, we have the ability to push back any opponent."

In his first season as a coach in his own



Ajax Amsterdam captain Matthijs de Ligt celebrates with the Dutch KNVB Cup after winning the final against Willem II in Rotterdam on Sunday. PHOTO: AFP

right, Ten Hag won promotion with Go Ahead Eagles, but he left them for a job with Bayern Munich's reserve side in the German fourth tier.

His time in Bavaria coincided with Guardiola's first two years as Bayern coach.

"I still remember very well that when I quit the Eredivisie to go and coach in the German Regionalliga, lots of people in the Netherlands were sceptical," he told German daily Bild.

"I never regretted that decision. To work at a club as big as Bayern, with strong characters like Pep Guardiola or (sporting director) Matthias Sammer was like winning the lottery."

Ten Hag lapped up the opportunity to watch Guardiola's training sessions up close before returning to the Eredivisie with Utrecht in 2015.

After two top-five finishes and a Dutch Cup final appearance, Ajax saw Ten Hag as the ideal man to take over midway through last season when Marcel Keizer was sacked.

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