

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
Indian Premier League
Final
Mumbai v Chennai
Live from 8:00pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
English Premier League
Brighton v Man City
Live from 8:00pm

SONY SIX
La Liga
Athletic Bilbao v Celta Vigo
Live from 10:30pm

TEN 1
La Liga
Atletico Madrid v Sevilla
Live from 10:30pm

TEN 2
Serie A
Torino v Sassuolo
Live from 4:30pm
Sampdoria v Empoli
Live from 7:00pm

La Liga
Barcelona v Getafe
Live from 10:30pm
Serie A
Roma v Juventus
Live from 12:30am (Monday)



Jos Buttler's unbeaten 110 off 55 balls trumped (Inset) Pakistan's Fakhar Zaman's 138 off 106 balls as England won the second ODI against by 12 runs at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



Buttler makes the difference

AFP, Southampton



Jos Buttler's stunning 50-ball century just about proved the difference as England beat Pakistan by 12 runs in a thrilling second one-day international at Southampton on Saturday.

New father Buttler's 110 not out was the cornerstone of World Cup hosts England's 373 for three.

But Pakistan, thanks mainly to opener Fakhar Zaman's 138, stayed in the game before a target of 19 off the last over, bowled by Chris Woakes, proved beyond them as they finished on 361 for seven.

Following Wednesday's no-result washout at The Oval, victory left England 1-0 up in this five-match series.

Man-of-the-match Buttler's innings featured nine sixes, including a straight drive off Hasan Ali that took him to three figures.

Together with England captain Eoin Morgan, who won the toss, Buttler shared an unbroken stand of 162.

But Pakistan, chasing a national record 374 for victory, saw Fakhar and Babar Azam (51) put on 135 for the second wicket. But when both batsmen fell in successive overs, it seemed Pakistan's chance of an improbable had gone with them.

Asif Ali, however, ensured Pakistan stayed in the game with 51 before he was caught in the deep off David Willey, who held his nerve well late on to finish with two wickets for 57 runs in 10 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ENGLAND: 373 for 3 (Roy 87, Bairstow 51, Root 40, Morgan 71 not out, Buttler 110 not out)

PAKISTAN: 361 for 7 (Zaman 138, Babar 51, Asif 51, Sarfaraz 41; Willey 2-57)

Result: England won by 12 runs.

Chennaiyin FC due in town today

SPORTS REPORTER

Former Indian Super League champions Chennaiyin FC will arrive in Dhaka today to play their away fixture of the AFC Cup against Bangladesh Premier League champions Abahani on May 15.

The Indian outfit, who are on top of Group E with seven points, will arrive in the evening and hold their first practice session on the following day at the Abahani club ground.

This tie is crucial for both teams, with Chennaiyin FC looking to consolidate their top spot while Abahani will look to reduce the gap with the leaders.

The Sky Blues have four points from three matches, thanks to their opening-game win against Manang Marshyangdi, followed by a 2-2 draw against Minerva Punjab of India. Abahani, however, lost the away fixture against Chennaiyin FC 1-0 in Ahmedabad on April 30.

Minerva Punjab have three points while Manang Marshyangdi have a single point. Only one team from the group will advance to the next stage.

BHF's new committee has ambitious plans

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Hockey Federation's (BHF) newly-elected general secretary Mominul Haque Shaeed yesterday said the federation plans to host a multinational tournament in Dhaka next year, marking the birth centenary of the father of the nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"We plan to hold an invitational international tournament and a divisional tournament next year," Shaeed told reporters after the first executive committee meeting, with the BHF president Air Chief Marshal Masihuzzaman Semiabat in chair, at the BHF headquarters yesterday.

"Today we discussed our future plans and exchanged views for a time-bound action plan," said Shaeed while highlighting plans on local and international hockey leagues, tournaments and training facilities for the players.

The committee is set to hold the AGM after Eid

[June].

The federation will introduce indoor hockey and run a camp hiring an Iranian coach at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) or at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium in July, the BHF spokesman added.

Besides, the new committee has a plan to arrange a franchise-based league with local teams, a women's league at divisional level and run the school hockey tournament across the country with more than a hundred teams.

Meanwhile, the players' transfer window for the second division league will conclude within May and the league is expected to roll on the ground in June, informed Shaeed.

The federation president Masihuzzaman Semiabat hoped that hockey will flourish through the action of the new committee and urged all to perform their respective duties sincerely.

"From now on, a new era begins in Bangladesh hockey. I believe hockey will thrive with the new committee," Semiabat said after formally handing over the charge to the new general secretary.



Tamim lauds Soumya's support during opening stand



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Klopp eyes another miracle

AFP, Liverpool



Jürgen Klopp says Liverpool's astonishing European fightback proves his side will not give up hope of winning the Premier League until Manchester City have the trophy in their hands on Sunday.

Klopp's team staged arguably the greatest comeback in Champions League history on Tuesday when they thrashed Barcelona 4-0 to overturn a 3-0 semifinal first-leg deficit.

With an all-English Champions League final against Tottenham set for June 1, Liverpool can pour all their energy into one last push to win their first English title since 1990. The Reds are one point behind leaders Manchester City heading into their final game of the season against Wolves at Anfield. City will retain the title if they

win at Brighton but a draw or loss for Pep Guardiola's men would open the door for Liverpool to be crowned champions if they defeat Wolves.

Given Brighton's lowly position, the odds are firmly on a City coronation, but Liverpool boss Klopp says this week's astonishing Champions League drama showed anything can happen when the pressure mounts.

Not only did Liverpool author a fightback for the ages, but Tottenham scored three times in their semifinal against Ajax to go through on away goals after trailing 3-0 on aggregate with just 35 minutes left.

"It's been a week of big football moments. But from our point of view it could be a big football moment on the weekend -- the week is not over yet," Klopp said.

"I think at the start of the week most people expected me to be sitting here and saying 'OK, after

not being in the Champions League final, it's difficult to be champions'. Well now we are in the final and it is still difficult.

"We are not used to moments of glory but we win from time to time. Focus is not a problem. The only thing we can do is win this game."

In virtually any other season, Liverpool, who have 94 points and have lost only once in the league, would have been champions by now. Having secured successive Champions League final appearances, the sting of failure will not be quite so sharp if Liverpool do not get a helping hand from Brighton this weekend.

But do not tell that to Klopp and his players.

Reflecting the togetherness and desire fuelling their remarkable season, Klopp revealed Mohamed Salah, Andy Robertson and Jordan Henderson will all play through the pain barrier against Wolves.

'Money risks ruining sport'

REUTERS, Vienna



Sepp Blatter, the former boss of soccer's world governing body FIFA who was ousted during a corruption scandal, has said money risks ruining the sport.

FIFA's Ethics Committee banned Blatter, who led FIFA for 17 years, from "all football activities" in 2015 after finding him guilty of unethical conduct related to a global corruption scandal which rocked the organisation.

Switzerland's attorney general is still investigating cases of suspected corruption involving FIFA, which is based in Zurich, dating back to 2014 and Blatter's presidency.

"People already pay a lot to get into the stadium. Prices are getting higher and higher, because clubs need more money," Blatter said in an interview with Swiss newspaper Schweiz am Wochenende published on Saturday.

The 83-year-old added his belief that viewer numbers are falling this season in the French, Italian, English, Spanish and German leagues. "That is a bad sign. Football must remain accessible," he said.

Blatter has told various media that he plans to take legal action against his successor Gianni Infantino over damage done to his reputation by the corruption scandal and information FIFA made public about payments to him that he says was inaccurate.

BD U-19 win first one-dayer

SPORTS REPORTER

An all-round performance from Mahfuzur Rahman Rabbi helped Bangladesh Under-16 romp to an 89-run victory over Pakistan Under-16 in their first 50-over game at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

Sent in to bat, Bangladesh were left reeling on 109 for seven in 28.4 overs before Rabbi and Azizul Haque Rony strung together an 87-run eighth-wicket stand to void being bundled out for a below par score. Rabbi scored 66 runs off 71 balls while Rony remained unbeaten on 35 as the young Tigers posted 228 for nine.

After the exchange, Rabbi also shone with the ball, returning figures of two for 31 to help bundle Pakistan out for a paltry 139 in 41.4 overs.



Former Warwickshire cricketer, Trevor Penny, has been appointed as the Bangladesh Under-19 team's new fielding coach on a short-term deal with the Bangladesh Cricket Board. Penny, who arrived in Dhaka on Thursday, joined the U-19 team for a month in two phases while the game's local governing body is also considering his expertise for the High-Performance Squad. He has previously worked as the fielding coach of India and England and as the assistant coach of Sri Lanka.

PHOTO: BCB



Borussia Dortmund midfielder Thomas Delaney celebrates after scoring the second goal against Duesseldorf during their 3-2 win in the Bundesliga in Dortmund yesterday. With this win Dortmund cut the gap on leaders Bayern Munich by two points.

PHOTO: AFP

SHORT CORNER

Eka guides Keraniganj

An unbeaten 65-ball 44 from Eka Mallick helped Keraniganj Cricket Academy register a seven-wicket win over Kalabagan Krira Chakra in a Premier Division Women's Cricket League match, which was reduced to 30 overs due to overnight rain, at BKSP-3 in Savar yesterday.

Keraniganj took just 22.5 overs to chase the 99 for six posted by Kalabagan, courtesy of Eka's unbeaten knock. --SPORTS REPORTER

Herrera confirms MU exit

Manchester United midfielder Ander Herrera has revealed he will leave Old Trafford at the end of the season amid reports of a move to Paris Saint-Germain.

Herrera's United contract expires at the

end of the season and it is believed he has lined up a deal with French champions PSG.

United hadn't commented on Herrera's future, but the 29-year-old Spaniard posted a goodbye message to fans via the club's Twitter account on Saturday.

"There is red in my heart, I knew it from the first time I played here and in the moment I started to wear it," said Herrera, who has also been linked with Arsenal, Juventus and Inter Milan.

"Every time I represented this club, in every game, in wins and losses, even when I couldn't help from the grass, I understood what this club means. --AFP

Raiola handed global ban

Super-agent Mino Raiola, who counts

Manchester United's Paul Pogba amongst his clients, on Friday had a three-month Italian ban extended to a global sanction, FIFA announced.

"The chairman of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee has today decided to extend the sanctions imposed by the Italian Football Association (FIGC) on the intermediaries Carmine (Mino) and Vincenzo Raiola to have worldwide effect," said a FIFA statement.

"Carmine Raiola is suspended for a period of three months and Vincenzo Raiola for a period of two months."

The outspoken agent -- whose high-profile clients also include Marseille's Mario Balotelli and Juventus teenager striker Moise Kean -- was handed the FIGC suspension on Wednesday. --AFP



Ranga no more

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) condones the passing away of former cricketer Al Amin Mahbabul Alam (Ranga).

Ranga, who was a familiar name in the cricket fraternity played in representative games for zonal sides against foreign touring teams. He also appeared for Biman Bangladesh Airlines in the Dhaka Premier and First Division leagues in the 70s and 80s, breathed his last in Dhaka yesterday at the age of 61 on the date of his birthday.

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