

## A REWARD DUE FOR BOTH, BUT SERVED TO ONE



SAMAMA RAHMAN

Jürgen Klopp and Mauricio Pochettino will go into the Champions League final on very different footings. Klopp, the Liverpool manager, has reached the stage twice before but never won, and his Tottenham Hotspur counterpart has never managed on a stage bigger than a domestic league final.

Both men are often at stark contrast, starting from their attire -- Klopp prefers the tracksuit on the sidelines while Pochettino can be found in tailored shirts, ties and suits -- to their personalities. The German is enthusiastic and animated, while Pochettino, an Argentine, has a calmer demeanour. Perhaps the latter has seen enough colour from when he famously shared a room with Diego Maradona.

However, although they may be polar opposites off the field, their philosophy of the game is much the same. They both prefer their sides to play fluent, attacking football, often taking the game to their opponent. There is undeniable tactical nous, which can be gleaned from even a cursory glance at the way their teams press.

There is also a similar way that they build their teams: through a focus on youth and shrewd signings. Klopp's Borussia Dortmund side was a prime example of his expertise in the regard, where he blended youth and experience to produce stunning results and end Bayern Munich's monopoly on the Bundesliga. The work he had done at the Westfalenstadion is being carried on today.

Pochettino has his own, albeit less glittering, past. His teams' best result came when Spurs finished as runners-up in the English League Cup. However, his real achievement came with Southampton, when he led the team to an eighth-placed finish in the Premier League. The players he fostered such as Luke Shaw, then in his first full season, and Adam Lallana would go on to make the Premier League's Team of the Season.

Even now there are plenty of examples. Klopp brought in Trent Alexander-Arnold from the youth

ranks and signed Joe Gomez for £3.5 million. Even the £75 million paid for Virgil Van Dijk looks like a bargain and the same can be said for the £23 million paid for Georginio Wijnaldum, the £34 million paid for Sadio Mané -- originally brought to the Premier League by Pochettino when he was at Southampton -- and the 50 million euros paid for Mohamed Salah. Those are all players that fit perfectly into the team that Klopp is creating and the results are evident.

Meanwhile, Pochettino has elevated continual-loanee Harry Kane's game to an elite level, signed Son Heung-Min for £22 million, Christian Eriksen for a paltry £11 million and Dele Alli

years, but adding a sixth European jewel to their crown would take them ahead of Barcelona and Bayern Munich and finally give them something to show for all the progress they have made under Klopp.

For Tottenham, it will be their maiden appearance in the final and a shot at European glory. Much like Liverpool, it will be a chance for them to reap the rewards that seem a long time coming.

The Champions League has not been kind to Klopp, whose defeats in the finals are marked by some of the competition's most famous moments. The first, when he had led his Borussia Dortmund side against Bayern Munich, ended



for a steal at £5 million. Again, these are the players who form the core of the Spurs team and were handpicked to thrive in their system.

Aside from the main men, both teams also have plenty of X-factors. Lucas Moura proved his worth with the incredible hat-trick in the semi-final against Ajax but The Lillywhites also have Fernando Llorente -- who brought the ball down for Moura's third -- and even Moussa Sissoko. The Red corner features Georginio Wijnaldum, Fabinho, Xherdan Shaqiri and Divock Origi -- scorer of the winning goal against Barcelona in the semifinal.

Not only for the managers, the final represents a completely new chapter in the history of the clubs. Perhaps less so for Liverpool, because it is simply a continuation of the success that they have begun to enjoy in recent

with Arjen Robben's shot traipsing into goal in the 89th minute. The second, in last year's final, was a more sobering loss as Real Madrid romped to a 3-1 win, remembered widely for Gareth Bale outdoing Zinedine Zidane and claiming the mantle of the best goal in the tournament's final.

He will be hoping to make up for those stumbles this time around, but he will up against someone very much in the same mould when it comes to the pitch. It could be a fabulous exhibition of football, with breathless end-to-end action. Or it could be the typical cagey final that have been witnessed over the years as nerves take hold. The only certainty is that one manager will finally be able to point to a concrete sign of progress while the other, as much of an injustice as it would be, will have to wait another while.

## Bashundhara, Abahani continue title charge

SPORTS REPORTER



Title contenders Bashundhara Kings and Abahani notched big wins in their away matches of the Bangladesh Premier League yesterday. Following the two encounters, the league was suspended for three weeks to allow the national football team to prepare for the upcoming Joint Qualifiers for the World Cup and Asia Cup against Laos in June.

League leaders Bashundhara kept their unbeaten run intact by handing hosts NoFel SC a 3-1 defeat at the Shaheed Bulu Stadium in Noakhali. Meanwhile, the second-placed Abahani inflicted a 4-1 loss on Muktiyoddha Sangsad at the Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni Stadium in Gopalganj.

With their 14th win in 15 matches, Bashundhara consolidated their lead with 43 points, seven points ahead of Abahani, who have 36 points from 15 outings.

Fresh from a morale boosting 1-0 win over Abahani in the previous match, Bashundhara had to toil to break NoFel before Costa Rican forward Daniel Colindres got the newcomers ahead in the 41st minute while their Kyrgyzstani recruit Baktyair Duyshobekov doubled the lead on the stroke of half-time.

After resumption, Guinean Ismail Bangoura reduced the margin for NoFel by converting a penalty in the 53rd minute. However, Bashundhara



Abahani's four goalscorers (L-R) Mamunul Islam, Sunday Chizoba, Nabib Newaj Jibon and Fils Belfort celebrate their 4-1 victory against Muktiyoddha Sangsad at the Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni Stadium in Gopalganj yesterday. PHOTO: BFF

wrapped up the victory when Brazilian Marcos Vinicius scored his ninth goal of the league in the 74th minute.

In Gopalganj, Abahani came from behind to post as easy win as the on-song Fils Belfort, Nabib Newaj Jibon, Mamunul Islam and Sunday Chizoba scored one goal apiece after Ballu Famosa gave Muktiyoddha Sangsad the lead.

Availing a long ball from Guinean Yamoussa Camara, Famosa entered the box to shoot past the right-hand side of goalkeeper Sultan Ahmed Shakil in the 14th minute, however, Belfort scored a sliding header off a Mamunul Islam free-kick to level the margin in 27th minute.

Three minutes later, Abahani went ahead when Jibon scored from a goal-mouth melee following a free-kick from Wali Faisal while Mamunul Islam hammered a powerful left-footer from the top of the box after capitalizing on a cut-back from Jibon in the 64th minute.

The league's top-scorer, Sunday, then sealed the victory in the 74th minute with his 11th league goal.

NoFel SC Bangoura-53 Marcos-74	1 - 3	Bashundhara Colindres-41, Baktyair-45,
Muktiyoddha Famosa-14	1 - 4	Abahani Belfort-27, Jibon-30, Mamunul-64, Sunday-74

## BD to face familiar foes

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh have been drawn in Group A alongside three-time champions Japan, Australia and hosts Thailand for the final round of the AFC U-16 Women's Championship, to be held from September 15 to 28 in Thailand.

Champions North Korea, runners-up South Korea, China and Vietnam were placed in Group B following the draw for the eight-team final round, which was held at the Oakwood Hotel in Chonburi, Thailand yesterday.

The top two teams from each group will advance to the semifinals while the eventual finalists will represent Asia in the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in India in 2020.

## Team off to Thailand

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh coach Jamie Day announced the team for the Joint Qualifiers of the World Cup and Asian Cup yesterday. The Englishman included two new recruits in his 23-member squad due to the absence of Tapu Barman and Atiqur Rahman Fahad.

Day, who arrived in Dhaka yesterday, made six changes to the squad that beat Cambodia 1-0 in March, drafting in former captain Mamunul Islam, Emon Mahmud, Nasir Uddin Chowdhury and Mazharul Islam Himel while the fresh faces are centre-back Riyadul Hasan Rafi of Saif SC and winger Arifur Rahman of Arambagh.

Tapu, Fahad and goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Sohel were dropped due to injuries while Sohel Rana, Rubel Miah and Manzurur Rahman were left out due to poor form.

"Tapu and Fahad are good players and I will miss them but this is a good opportunity for someone else to come forward. I look forward to seeing Riyadul Hasan, Tutul Hossain Badsha and Yeasin

Khan," Day said at the BFF House.

"It is very important how we work. We want to win against Laos and qualify for the World Cup Qualifiers. I am looking forward to the first match against Laos and hopefully they will perform as well as they did in the past and get a result to qualify for the next round," Day continued.

The 31-member contingent is scheduled to leave for Thailand today to participate in a 10-day preparatory camp ahead of the away match against Laos on June 6. Bangladesh will also play two warm-up matches against Thai clubs on May 28 and June 1 before departing for Laos on June 3. The 39-year-old believes Bangladesh will still have a chance to recover should they lose to Laos.

"It is also an important match for Laos but we believe we can do better with the squad we have. We want to go into the second leg. If we draw the match, it is good result to bounce back from. If we lose, the game is not over. We will have another opportunity at home. The most important thing is that we can't give up after the first-leg but if we lose 4-0, then it would be extremely tough at home," Day opined.



### Career Opportunity

Looking for the next generation of leaders  
BRAC is the #1 ranked NGO in the world, operating in 12 countries across Asia and Africa.

Working at BRAC is more than just a job - it means connecting to millions of lives across Bangladesh and building a world we want.

You will be placed as a management trainee in BRAC's microfinance programme with the opportunity to gain intensive, hands-on experience.

BRAC's microfinance programme serves over 7 million clients through more than 26,000 staff spread across more than 2,200 branches in Bangladesh. 87% of the clients we serve are women.

### Position: Management Trainee BRAC microfinance programme

**What awaits you:**  
A fast-track career  
Training and one-to-one mentoring  
Flexible working hours

**Educational qualification:**  
Masters in any discipline from any recognised university with all 1st division/class or CGPA 3.00

**Professional experience:**  
Minimum one year of experience

**Additional requirements :**  
Strong communication and analytical skills  
Good leadership skills

**Salary :**  
Consolidated salary of BDT 40,000

**Other benefits :**  
Festival bonus, contributory compulsory provident fund, Gratuity, health and life insurance

**Job location :**  
Anywhere in Bangladesh

Please send your current CV to [resume@brac.net](mailto:resume@brac.net) (Please mention the position name in subject line) or apply through [careers.brac.net](http://careers.brac.net) or visit [bdjobs.com](http://bdjobs.com) by 02 June 2019

BRAC believes every one of its employees, suppliers, downstream partners, visitors, clients and community including children, youth and vulnerable adults that come into contact regardless of age, race, religion, gender, disability or ethnic origin has the right to be protected from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect, harassment, and exploitation. We are proud to be an equal opportunity employer and will do everything possible to ensure that those who are suitable to work within our values and beliefs are recruited to work for us.

