

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

SONY SIX

The Ashes

England v Australia

Fifth Test, Day Five

Live from 4:00pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

English Premier League

Aston Villa v West Ham

Live from 1:00am (Tuesday)

TEN 2

Serie A

Torino v Lecce

Live from 12:45am (Tuesday)

Walton U-18 Football Tournament

Rahmatganj v Arambagh

Time: 4:00pm

Bashundhara Kings v Mohammedan

Time: 6:30pm

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium, Dhaka

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Wasteful girls pay a heavy price

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh had to pay a heavy price for their forwards' profligacy in front of goal, suffering a 1-0 defeat to hosts Thailand in their Group A opener of the AFC Under-16 Women's Championship at the Chonburi Stadium in Chonburi yesterday.

Forward Thawanrat Promthongwee easily beat Bangladesh goalkeeper Rupna Chakma from a 20-yard free kick in 59th-minute after right-back Anai Mogini unnecessarily fouled Janista Jinantuya just outside the danger zone.

Opting for five defenders and three forwards, the visitors got off to a fine start, creating two chances in the first four minutes. However, forward Anuching Mogini saw her shot to the far post go narrowly wide while Tahura Khatun did the hard part by darting into the box and beating onrushing goalkeeper Pawarisa Homayyen, but the slender striker's shot ricocheted off the crosspiece in the fourth minute.

The hosts seemed to have a solid game plan, which was to attempt to take advantage of the weakness and short stature of Rupna -- also goalkeeper of the Bangladesh national team. The hosts earned free-kicks around the danger zone twice and captain Pluemjai Sontisawat unleashed dipping shots that beat goalkeeper Rupna but went narrowly wide of the post on both occasions.

With Bangladesh struggling in midfield due to poor performances from captain Maria Manda, and Monica Chakma, Thailand came close to taking the lead in the seven minutes into the second half. They

capitalised on a misunderstanding between Maria and Anai before defender Akhi Khatun stepped in and swept up the attack.

On a rain-soaked pitch, Janista picked up the ball after Anai's clearance had gotten lodged in the wet field. The right-back committed an unnecessary foul and gave away the free-kick which led to the opener, Thawanrat finding the far corner with goalkeeper Rupna helpless.

After falling behind, Bangladesh pressed hard for the equaliser but could not dispossess Thailand. Coach Golam Rabbani Choton sent on Ritu Parna Chakma in place of forward Anuching to take the control of midfield and Ritu came close to levelling the margin but her shot was well-saved Pawarisa in the 77th minute.

With Bangladesh getting desperate, they fell into the hosts' offside trap a few times, leaving many to wonder what the girls had learnt in the six months that have passed after the SAFF Women's Championship, where they were caught offside several times against Nepal and India.

Thailand came close to doubling the lead twice, but forward Thanatphhat was denied by Rupna in a one-on-one situation in the 80th-minute while substitute Suchavadee Chompaeng failed to convert a penalty in the 85th-minute after Akhi fouled her.

Bangladesh had their final chance to equalise in the 90th-minute, but substitute striker Sajeda Khatun fired straight at the Thai goalkeeper despite the far-post gaping and Bangladesh had to pay the price.

Bangladesh will play their second match against three-time champions Japan on September 18.



Bangladesh forward Anuching Mogini (R) fights for the ball with a Thailand player during their first match of the AFC U-16 Women's Championship in Chonburi yesterday. The hosts won the match 1-0.

PHOTO: AFC

WOMEN'S JR AHF CUP Bangladesh finish fifth

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh finished fifth among six teams in the AirAsia Women's Junior AHF Cup following a 4-2 goals defeat to Chinese Taipei in their last match in Singapore yesterday.

The women in red and green conceded an early lead but Juraiya Ferdous levelled the margin in the 11th minute. However, Chinese Taipei scored three more in the second and third quarters to take the match away. Juraiya scored a second goal in the 32nd minute to reduce the margin.

This was the fourth defeat in five matches for Bangladesh under-21 team, who were playing their first international competition. Bangladesh won against Sri Lanka while losing against Singapore, Hong Kong, Uzbekistan and Chinese Taipei.

The team will return home tomorrow.



At 16 years and 318 days, Barcelona wunderkind Ansu Fati (R) made history against Valencia, becoming the youngest player in La Liga history to score and assist in the same match.

PHOTO: AFP

Fati stars as Barcelona humiliate Valencia

REUTERS, Barcelona



Barcelona's 16-year-old forward Ansu Fati continued his explosive start to life in the first team by scoring and providing an assist as the La Liga champions thrashed Valencia 5-2 on Saturday.

Goals from Fati, Frenkie de Jong, Gerard Pique and two from Luis Suarez gave Barca their second win of the season.

Kevin Gameiro and Maxi Gomez scored for Valencia, who suffered their biggest defeat in over three years in coach Albert Celades' first game.

The victory took Barca on to seven points after four games, while Valencia have four.

Fati, who became Barca's youngest ever goalscorer two weeks ago by netting at Osasuna, struck his first goal at the Camp Nou to give Barca the lead with less than two minutes on the clock by smashing a pass from De Jong into the net.

The goal had the injured Lionel Messi grinning in admiration as he watched on from the stands but the teenager had fans on their feet again



'What planet are you from?' was the question posed by Spanish daily Sport after Ansu Fati's performance.

five minutes later as he dashed into the area and teed up De Jong to score his first goal for the club.

Valencia were playing their first game since owner Peter Lim took the decision to sack Marcelino, the coach who had secured Champions League football twice and also led the team to victory in last year's Copa del Rey.

They pulled a goal back later in the half through Kevin Gameiro but Barca came flying back at them after the interval.

Pique bundled the ball into the net in the 51st minute after Antoine Griezmann had hit the post while Luis Suarez netted twice after coming off the bench.

Making his return after getting injured on the first day of the season, Suarez flummoxed Jasper Cillessen with two thumping finishes.

Suarez was given a warm reception by Barca fans but it was nothing compared to the remarkable standing ovation they gave to Fati, who heard his name chanted by supporters when he came off to make way for the Uruguayan.

"He (Fati) is delighting the fans and making them very excited," said Sergio Busquets of the teenage sensation.

"Every time a player like him bursts on to the scene he is compared to many players but we need to support him and let him continue to grow. He still needs to be aware of where he is and how difficult it is to make it."

Conte's Inter reclaim top spot

AFP, Milan



Inter Milan reclaimed top spot in Serie A after a 1-0 win over 10-man Udinese on Saturday while Napoli warmed up for European holders Liverpool on Tuesday with a Dries Mertens double sealing a 2-0 win over crisis club Sampdoria, to move up to fourth in the table.

Stefano Sensi's diving header was enough to seal a maximum nine points for Antonio Conte's Inter ahead of their European opener against Slavia Prague in the San Siro next Tuesday.

Udinese played an hour a man down after Rodrigo de Paul saw red for slapping Antonio Candreva. Sensi broke through just before the break getting his head to a cross from fellow newcomer Diego Godin.

Former Manchester United forward Alexis Sanchez came on for the final ten minutes, and was denied his first goal by Udinese goalkeeper Juan Musso.

'SARRI SHOULD BE CALM, HE'S ON THE POWERFUL SIDE NOW'

Earlier, Juventus had been held to a 0-0 draw by Fiorentina in an ill-fated game that saw three of the Old Lady's players go off injured. Their manager Maurizio Sarri had commented that it wasn't easy to play in the heat of mid-afternoon in Florence, which he feels might've contributed to the fact Douglas Costa, Miralem Pjanic and Danilo



Stefano Sensi celebrates after getting in front of a defender and scoring the decisive goal from a glancing header in a Serie A match against Udinese on Saturday.

PHOTO: INTER MILAN TWITTER

all limped off.

When Inter manager Antonio Conte was holding his press conference, reporters rather cheekily told the Inter boss about the 'complaint' from Sarri.

"I don't want to say anything, otherwise we'll have to start comparing balance sheets and

financial resources," smiled Conte. "Someone ought to calm down, as he's on the powerful side now."

The reference was to when Sarri battled Juventus for the Scudetto two years ago as coach of Napoli, but hit the headlines for protesting that Juve were always scheduled to play after his own team, which he

believed was an unfair advantage.

Sarri also repeatedly stated that Napoli could not compete with Juventus in terms of financial capabilities. Now that he has worked at Chelsea and returned to Serie A on the Bianconeri bench, those 'excuses' are no longer applicable.

It is a matter of shame: Patwari

SPORTS REPORTER



A dejected Bangladesh under-19 middle-order batsman, Shamim Patwari, yesterday said that their defeat in the final of the Under-19 Asia Cup against India was nothing but shameful.

The young Tigers came agonisingly close to clinching their first ever Asia Cup title but fell just five runs short in chase of a small 107-run target as the Indian side held their nerves in an interesting encounter at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on Saturday.

As was the case for the senior side, it was India who crushed the young Tigers in the recently concluded tri-nation final as well in England.

"We cannot describe this defeat. We always lose the winning matches against India -- it is happening regularly now. This is a matter of shame," Patwari told reporters at the BCB academy ground yesterday.

The youngster termed their repeated defeats against India as a physiological barrier.

"It might be a psychological barrier, maybe it works in our brain when we take on India in the final," he said.

Despite a brilliant performance from Bangladesh's bowlers, who managed to bundle India out on a paltry 106-run total, it was the young Tigers' poor batting which led to yet another defeat in a final.

"We thought we could do something special, finish the match well. But that did not happen in the end. We could not execute. Our bowlers bowled really well. We were good everywhere. Everything was good," he added.

Patwari also opined that some of the umpire's decisions did not go their way, indicating the two leg-before decisions that had ultimately ruined their chances.

Italian coach in basketball

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Basketball Federation (BBF) brought in Italian coach Fabio Fossati for the national team ahead of December's South Asian Games in Nepal.

Fossati, who went to BKSP after arriving in Dhaka yesterday, will conduct a training camp in two phases -- the first phase for 15 days from September 15 and the second one from November 1 to 30 -- informed BBF general secretary AK Sarker.

Sarker added they are planning to send the team to Singapore in October for practice matches.

Arsenal blow two-goal lead

AFP, London

Arsenal blew a 2-0 lead against Watford to draw 2-2 on Sunday. Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang looked to have the Gunners well on course when he struck twice in 11 minutes before the break.

Arsenal then gifted possession away inside their box for Tom Cleverley to equalise before David Luiz upended Roberto Pereyra, who slotted home the resulting penalty.