

# What to WATCH

**GTV & STAR SPORTS SELECT 2**  
**T20I tri-nation series**  
 Bangladesh v Afghanistan  
 Live from 6:30pm  
**STAR SPORTS SELECT 1**  
**English Premier League**  
 Leicester v Tottenham

Live from 5:30pm  
 Man City v Watford  
 Live from 8:00pm  
 Newcastle v Brighton  
 Live from 10:30pm  
**TEN 2**  
**Serie A**

Udinese v Brescia  
 Live from 7:00pm  
 Juventus v Verona  
 Live from 10:00pm  
 AC Milan v Inter Milan  
 Live from 12:45am (Sunday)

## DAY'S EVENT

**T20I tri-nation series**  
 Bangladesh v Afghanistan  
 Time: 6:30pm

Venue: Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, Chattogram

**Walton U-18 Football Tournament**  
 Quarterfinals  
 Arambagh v Nofel SC

Time: 5:00pm  
 Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

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Manchester United newcomer Mason Greenwood made his European debut one to remember, scoring the winner in a 1-0 victory over Astana in a Europa League encounter at Old Trafford on Thursday. PHOTO: AFP

# United, Arsenal start with wins

AFP, Paris

Last season's runners-up Arsenal romped to an impressive 3-0 victory at Eintracht Frankfurt in their Europa League opener on Thursday as Mason Greenwood spared Manchester United's blushes and Rangers got the better of Feyenoord.

On a night which featured five British clubs in action, Unai Emery's much-changed side enjoyed the best result of all with youngsters Joe Willock and Bukayo Saka scoring in Germany.

In between, Dominik Kohr was sent off for last season's beaten semi-finalists Frankfurt, and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang made sure of the win for Arsenal in the Group F clash.

At Old Trafford, United had teenager Greenwood to thank as the 17-year-old's goal gave them a 1-0 win over Astana of Kazakhstan in Group L.

Greenwood became the youngest goalscorer for United in European competition with a composed finish 17 minutes from time.

Victory justified Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's decision to make nine changes from Saturday's Premier League win over Leicester City with a host of youngsters given their chance to impress.

Wolverhampton Wanderers were unable to make it three wins out of three for Premier League clubs as they slumped to a 1-0 home defeat against Braga at Molineux.

Ricardo Horta's second-half goal gave the Portuguese club all three points in Group K and it was a disappointing night for a Wolves team who are still without a win in the Premier League this season.

In the same group Slovan Bratislava were 4-2 winners at home to Besiktas.

Meanwhile, Steven Gerrard's Rangers started in fine fashion as they edged out Feyenoord 1-0 at Ibrox in Group G with Sheyi Ojo scoring the only goal of the game midway through the first half.

James Tavernier missed a penalty before that for the Glasgow side on an emotional night as a minute's silence was held in memory of Fernando Ricksen. The former Rangers and Netherlands

defender died aged 43 on Wednesday after a long battle with motor neurone disease.

Celtic battled to a 1-1 draw with Rennes in France in a fiery Group E encounter, with Ryan Christie's second-half penalty cancelling out M'Baye Niang's 38th-minute spot-kick for the hosts before the visitors had Vakoun Issouf Bayo sent off at the death.

They now host CFR Cluj, the same side who eliminated them in Champions League qualifying. The Romanians shocked Lazio 2-1 on Thursday.

Elsewhere, Sevilla, who won the Europa League three years running from 2014 to 2016, beat Qarabag 3-0 in Azerbaijan in Group A with Javier Hernandez getting their opening goal.

PSV Eindhoven opened up Group D with a 3-2 victory against Sporting Lisbon while Roma crushed Istanbul Basaksehir 4-0 in Group J.

In the same group Borussia Moenchengladbach were stunned by Wolfsburg, losing 4-0 at home to the unheralded Austrian side who were making their group-stage debut.

The biggest winners on the night were Basel, as the Swiss side hammered FC Krasnodar 5-0.

## SAFF U-18 CHAMPIONSHIP

# Bangladesh begin against SL today

SPORTS REPORTER



Last edition's runners-up Bangladesh are looking forward to a winning start in the SAFF U-18 Championship when they take on Sri Lanka in Group B opener at the Armed Police Battalion ground in Kathmandu today.

Though Bangladesh under-15 side have won SAFF title twice, the under-18 side have never tasted glory in the regional event which has been played in 2015 and 2017. This time around they have set their sights on the title as all the players experience of playing in top-flight football in Bangladesh.

Their mission for the boys in red and green starts at 3:00pm today starts against Sri Lanka, who are participating in the regional championship for the first time after skipping the first two editions. The Islanders are not expected to be a tough opponent like two-time champions Nepal and neighbours India.

A victory against Sri Lanka will all but confirm Bangladesh's semifinal berth from the three-team group, with India being the other team in the group.

"The plan is to win the match [against Sri Lanka]," said Bangladesh British coach

Andrew Peter Turner through a video message sent by Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday.

"We really worked hard in the last five weeks and in the last couple of weeks we trained tactically and physically and on every aspect of the game," said Turner, who was a bit concerned about the injury to defender Rakibul Hasan.

Goalkeeper Shanto Kumar Roy is also optimistic about starting the campaign with a victory as he feels everyone is working hard to get a good start.

"We will try to put a collective effort and win the match against Sri Lanka," said Shanto, who believes goalkeeping coach Robert Andrew Mimms has worked a lot on positioning and flight of the ball with the goalkeepers.

Shanto also informed that they will play attacking football against Sri Lanka as coach Turner worked on attacking football in the five-week training and the forwards are in good form before the opening match.

Meanwhile, champions Nepal and Maldives played out a 1-1 draw in the opening match on Thursday while Pakistan withdrew from the championship at the last moment.



Bangladesh coach Andrew Peter Turner instructs his charges during a training session in Kathmandu yesterday, the eve of their SAFF U-18 Championship opener against Sri Lanka. PHOTO: BFF

# U-16 girls hope for a better show

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will hope to repeat their performance of the last edition when they take on Australia in their third and final group match of the AFC U-16 Women's Championship at IEP Chonburi Stadium in Thailand today.

Already eliminated from the group stages with defeats against Thailand and Japan, the confidence of the girls in red and green has hit rock bottom. However, the fighting attitude that the previous batch of players showed in their 3-2 defeat against Australia two years ago could be the one thing to lift the morale of the girls.

The charges of Golam Rabbani Choton wasted a lot of scoring chances in the first

match against Thailand before eventually going down to a 1-0 defeat, but they were completely outplayed during their 9-0 defeat against three-time champions Japan. Now the coach is trying to motivate his players to end the campaign with a good performance.

"We are going to play another tough match against Australia who are a strong side like Japan. We tried to boost the girls in the last two days so that they can put up a good show and fight till the last minute and end the championship with a good performance," said Choton.

Echoing the sentiment of the coach, captain Maria Manda said, "We will try to show better performance than the last match and avoid making the mistakes we made against Japan."

# From Bissau to Barcelona

AFP, Bissau

Ansu Fati has made a long trip from the fields of Guinea-Bissau, where he played as a child, to Barcelona's Camp Nou stadium where the 16-year-old is playing with some of the biggest stars in the world.

Fati, who was granted Spanish citizenship yesterday, has made a stirring start to the season, scoring just two minutes into his full La Liga debut on a magical night when he hardly put a foot wrong in front of over 80,000 astonished Camp Nou fans who gave him a standing ovation as he left the field.

He was just seven years old when he first came to Spain and his startling talent meant he was invited to join Barcelona's prestigious youth academy 'La Masia' aged 10.



ANSU FATI

It was an incredible achievement for a boy from the impoverished West African nation that has never been known for football.

In Sao Paulo, his home neighbourhood in the rundown suburbs of capital Bissau, the children yell "Ansu Fati, Barca

player!" as they run around on ochre soil, under the tropical trees.

Malam Romisio, who coached Fati as a child, told AFP how the boy used to play football wearing only socks or plastic sandals, easily dribbling the ball past bigger, stronger teammates.

In Guinea Bissau, which is one of the world's poorest and most fragile nations, Fati is a source of national pride.

Born on October 31, 2002, he lived in Bissau until he was six.

In the house where he grew up, Fati's uncle Djibi Fati shows photos of the footballer as a child, recalling how others used to tease him for his love of bread and butter.

"Every time he came back from playing football, he would ask for it," he recalls.

# U-16s beat Bhutan 3-0

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh notched an easy 3-0 win over Bhutan in their second match of the AFC U-16 Championship Qualifiers in Doha yesterday.

The boys in red and green, who came into the match on the back of a 2-0 loss against Qatar, put up a much better performance against Bhutan, whom they had beaten 5-2 in the SAFF U-15 Championship in India last month.

However, Bangladesh had to wait till the second minute of stoppage time of the first half to open the account when Saiful Islam headed home the opener from a cross by Moinul Islam.

K Jigme scored an own goal own in the 51st minute while trying to clear a cross from Sumon while Moinul sealed the victory following minute with a placing shot after rounding off the goalkeeper.

# Ruman excels at home too

SPORTS REPORTER

Country's top archer Ruman Sana carried his brilliant international performance to the domestic circuit as Bangladesh Ansar archer bagged recurve gold medal of Madhumati Bank Bangladesh Cup Archery at the Shaheed Ahsan Ullah Master Stadium in Tongji yesterday.

Sana, who returned home recently winning gold medal in Asia Cup: Stage-3 in Philippines, beat BKSP's Mohammad Sakib Molla by 6-2 set points in the final of individual recurve men's event after scoring his career best of 685 points in the qualification round on the opening day.

It was double delight for Sana, who led Ansar to gold medal of recurve team event as they beat BKSP by 5-3 set points in the final.

However, Sana's effort could not help Ansar win the tournament as they had to finish behind eventual champions Dhaka Army Archery Club, who won four gold, three silver and one bronze medal. Ansar grabbed three gold, three silver and one bronze medal. BKSP finished third with two gold, one silver and two bronze medals.



(From L) Alexander Zverev, Dominic Thiem, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer will represent Team Europe in the ongoing Laver Cup tennis tournament in Geneva. On the opening day yesterday, Dominic Thiem edged past Team World's Denis Shapovalov 6-4, 5-7, 13-11 while teammate Jack Sock brushed aside Fabio Fognini 6-1, 7-6 (7-3). PHOTO: AFP

# Foxes take on Spurs tonight

AFP, Leicester



Tottenham's ambitions after reaching the club's first Champions League final and moving into a stunning new stadium were to kick on and challenge Liverpool and Manchester City for major honours this season.

However, Mauricio Pochettino admits his side need to make major improvements and learn from their mistakes just to maintain their status as Champions League regulars.

"We need to improve and I think all the players in the squad feel the same that we need to improve if we are to be a contender for big things," said Pochettino on Thursday.

Spurs travel to Leicester on Saturday already seven points off Premier League leaders Liverpool having won just two of their opening six games to the season.

Leicester are level with Spurs, Arsenal, Manchester United and Chelsea on eight points from their opening five league games of the season and are confident of upsetting the 'top six' appercat again, three years on from their remarkable Premier League title triumph.

And while a return to European football is the Foxes' aim, Leicester manager Brendan Rodgers hopes not having those exertions this season can help his side's challenge for a top-six finish.

## U-18 FOOTBALL

# Kings into semis

SPORTS REPORTER

Bashundhara Kings moved into the semifinals of the Walton U-18 Football Tournament following a come-from-behind 3-2 win over Brothers Union in the first quarterfinal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The Kings found themselves two goals down within the first 21 minutes, thanks to goals from Brothers Union's Habibur Rahman and Rasel.

However, Rehan Bepari reduced the arrears for in the 33rd minute before Sabbir scored the equaliser one minute into stoppage time. Sabbir then ensured Bashundhara's victory with his second goal in the 75th minute.