

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

BTV & BANGLA TV

Sheikh Kamal Int'l Club Cup

TC Sports v Mohun Bagan

Live from 4:00pm

Young Elephants v Ctg Abahani

Live from 7:00pm

SONY ESPN

UEFA Champions League

Genk v Liverpool

Live from 1:00am (Thursday)

SONY SIX

UEFA Champions League

Leipzig v Zenit

Live from 10:55pm

Red Bull v Napoli

Live from 1:00am (Thursday)

TEN 1

UEFA Champions League

Inter Milan v Dortmund

Live from 1:00am (Thursday)

TEN 2

UEFA Champions League

Ajax v Chelsea

Live from 10:55pm

Slavia Praha v Barcelona

Live from 1:00am (Thursday)

Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup

TC Sports v Mohun Bagan

Time: 4:00pm

Young Elephants v Ctg Abahani

Time: 7:00pm

Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chattogram

Gokulam stun Bashundhara

ATIQUE ANAM from Chattogram

Bangladesh Premier League champions Bashundhara Kings were given a rude awakening by Gokulam Kerala in Group B's opening match of the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

The pre-tournament favourites looked ragged in their 3-1 defeat against the Kerala outfit.

Oscar Bruzon, the Spanish coach of Bashundhara Kings, had spoken highly of his latest acquisitions -- both foreign and local -- in the build-up to the tournament. But most of the players, especially the new recruits including Lebanese international Jalal Kdouh and Bangladeshi national team forward Rabiul Hasan were most disappointing while late substitution Eleta Kingsley, who was the top-scorer in the first edition of the tournament two years ago, failed to make an impact.

In contrast, Gokulam Kerala looked far more cohesive and clinical as a unit, which was spearheaded by Trinidadian midfielder Nathaniel Garcia and Ugandan striker Henry Kisekka and safeguarded by Ubaid Chino Kadavath.

The Kings dominated possession at the beginning with Biplu Ahmed's shot and Daniel Colindres' header missing the target before the speedy forward-line of Gokulam caused trouble for the their defence, marshalled by Yeasin Khan

Terengganu FC striker Bruno Suzuki celebrates his fourth goal against Chennai FC. (Inset) Bashundhara players are dejected after their 3-1 defeat against Gokulam Kerala during their Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup encounter in Chattogram yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

later with a thunderous free-kick from 20 yards that evaded the wall.

Kisekka made it 3-0 right after the restart with an excellent placing shot.

Bruzon brought on Matin Mia, Alamgir Kabir Rana and Eleta to salvage a draw and the substitutions made an impact as the Bangladesh champions started to control the game.

Matin reduced the arrears from a rebound in the 74th minute after Jalal's header came off the crossbar while Jalal had another shot off the post before Rana forced a brilliant save from Ubaid in the dying moments of the match.

Suzuki runs over Chennai

Terengganu FC's Brazil-born Japanese forward Bruno Suzuki scored four goals as the Malaysian outfit handed a 5-3 thrashing to I-League champions Chennai City FC in the first match

of Group B yesterday.

Suzuki helped give Terengganu a 3-2 lead with goals in the 39th and 45th minute after the Malaysian outfit had gone 2-1 down despite taking a third-minute lead through Rahmat Bin Makasuf.

Suzuki restored parity with a header before giving his side the lead just before the first-half whistle with a fine lob.

The 29-year-old scored two more in the second half, one with a spectacular finish from the top of the box in the 71st minute and his fourth with a close-range finish eleven minutes later before Chennai City skipper Pedro Manzi reduced the margin from the spot a minute before the end of regulation time.

Katsumi Yusa and Mashoor Shereef scored the first two goals for the I-League champions.

BALLON D'OR SHORTLIST

Modric, Neymar miss out

AFP, Paris

While Megan Rapinoe is the leading candidate for the second ever women's Ballon D'Or, the holder of the men's award, Luka Modric, and the world's most expensive player Neymar missed out as France Football unveiled nominees in four categories on Monday.

Modric, fresh from guiding Croatia to a World Cup final, broke the 11-year Cristiano Ronaldo-Lionel Messi, who are both included, stranglehold on the men's award last year.

Paris Saint-Germain's Neymar, who cost the French club 222 million euros (\$247 million) in 2017, failed to make the 30-man shortlist after a year overshadowed by injury, suspension and controversy for both club and country.

Messi has just collected the FIFA Best award, as did Rapinoe, which split from the Ballon D'Or in 2016.

Rapinoe dominated the Women's World Cup, on and off the field, in the summer.

She was joint top scorer and was voted player of the tournament as she led the United States to victory in France in July.

Last year, Norwegian Ada Hegerberg was the first women's winner.

Virgil Van Dijk, 28, who has had an impressive six months with Liverpool lifting the Champions League, could become a

rare defensive winner of the men's award.

Fabio Cannavaro was the last defender to win in 2006, and only the fourth since the award began in 1956.

Another nominee, Kylian Mbappe, the top goal scorer in Ligue 1 last season, would represent a genuine change of the guard.

This year also sees the introduction of the Yashin trophy, named after the only goalkeeper to win the Ballon D'Or, Lev Yashin of the Soviet Union, to give that ignored minority a chance to get their hands on a prize of their own.

The award winners will be unveiled on December 2 during a ceremony in Paris after a voting process including journalists from 180 different countries.

NEYMAR

MODRIC

30-MAN SHORTLIST

Liverpool - Virgil van Dijk; Firmino; Alisson; Wijnaldum; Trent Alexander-Arnold; Sadio Mane; Mohammed Salah
Manchester City - Bernardo Silva; Riyad Mahrez; Kevin de Bruyne; Sterling; Aguero
Tottenham - Son Heung-min; Hugo Lloris
Barcelona - Messi; Griezmann; Frenkie de Jong; Marc-Andre ter Stegen
Real Madrid - Hazard; Karim Benzema
Juventus - Ronaldo; Matthijs de Ligt
Bayern Munich - Robert Lewandowski
Ajax - Dusan Tadic; Donny van de Beek
PSG - Kylian Mbappe; Marquinhos
Arsenal - Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang
Napoli - Kalidou Koulibaly
Atletico Madrid - Joao Felix.

BFF decides against sending women booters

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has taken the surprising decision to not send the national women's team to December's South Asian (SA) Games in Nepal, citing the considerable difference in ages between Bangladeshi footballers and opposition players.

The game's local governing body communicated their decision on Sunday to the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA), which is taking charge of the athletes participating across 23 disciplines in the regional multi-sport extravaganza. The Bangladesh team has scooped the bronze medal twice since women's football was introduced during the Dhaka SA Games in 2010.

"It is a very simple matter. You all know that our senior women's team are not at that standard because everyone, barring Sabina Khatun, are junior players. So, there is about a 10 to 12-year age gap between the players of Bangladesh and those of India and Nepal. It is not possible to

produce good results at that level," BFF executive member and women's committee chairman Mahfuza Akter Kiron told The Daily Star.

"We won the bronze medal in 2010. Should we go to SA Games for bronze again?" questioned Kiron, who is an executive member of FIFA and AFC. "It is not that we will take part in the SA Games only when the team has the capacity to become champions. Instead, we want to send the team after reducing the difference in standards between our players and those of our opponents. It is tough to compete with an age difference of 10 to 12 years but I think the girls will reach a certain level within the next two to three years."

Asked whether the women's team would refrain from taking part in the SAFF Women's Championship, which will also feature the same opponents from the sub-continent, Kiron said: "No, we will consider sending them to the SAFF Women's Championship. I believe the players will grow in maturity before the next SAFF Championship."

However, players such as Masura Parvin, Misrat Jahan Moushumi, Krishna Rani Sarker, Israt Jahan

Swapna, Sheuli Azim, Israt Jahan Ratna and Sanjida Akter are above U-18 and U-19 level and there is no domestic league or tournament through which they can hone their skills and earn experience.

The same group of girls took part in the 5th SAFF Women's Championship last March in Nepal and played against the hosts and Sri Lanka in the group stage. They reached the semifinals, where they were beaten 4-0 by eventual champions India.

Another team, comprising most of these girls, surprised everyone and became runners-up in the 4th SAFF Women's Championship in 2016, holding the mighty India to a 0-0 draw in the group stage.

It is almost a certainty that the girls are strong contenders for the bronze and any upset in the group stages may even give them hopes of a silver medal in the upcoming SA Games.

"Participating or not is an internal decision of the respective federation. If they feel that they can't produce good result in the Games, then we have nothing to say because we always discourage teams who can't produce good results," BOA general secretary Sayed Shahed Reza said.

Barcelona stars (L-R) Arturo Vidal, Gerard Pique, Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Samuel Umtiti arrive for a training session at Ciutat Esportiva Joan Gamper yesterday on the eve of their Champions League tie against Slavia Prague.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Bangladesh women's team all-rounder Jahanara Alam arrives in Lahore yesterday ahead of the first T20 match against Pakistan women's team on Saturday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

ISL franchises interested in Jamal?

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national football team captain Jamal Bhuiyan yesterday said he has received offers from agents of Indian Super League outfits following his performance in the World Cup Qualifying match against India in Kolkata.

The 29-year-old midfielder, who was credited with neutralising the challenge from India captain Sunil Chhetri in the

match which ended 1-1, said he has been contacted by an ISL agent who wanted to know the details of his current contract.

"An agent asked me whether I am interested to play in the ISL," Jamal said without naming the agent or any particular ISL franchise.

The Bangladesh captain has a contract with Saif Sporting Club for next season at a reported price of Tk 66 lac.

A brilliant series for us: Kohli

AGENCIES, Ranchi

After his side effected a 3-0 win over South Africa -- the first time they've won all matches in a Test series against them -- India captain Virat Kohli was proud of the 'team-first' culture that his players have cultivated.

Kohli's India are ranked No.1 and performed every bit like a team holding that honour, clinically wiping out South Africa with bat and ball, and on the field. Moreover, their win in the third and final Test in Ranchi, which concluded on Tuesday, was also their largest against this opposition -- by an innings and 202 runs.

The day's play lasted just 12 balls in a triumph emphatically ramming home India's feat in beating Australia's record of 10 straight home series wins, and consolidating their place at the top of the World Test Championship.

"It's been a brilliant series for us," said India captain Virat Kohli.

"To be the best side in the world, you need to be multi-dimensional. All facets of your team have to fire," said Kohli.

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: First innings 497 for 9 declared

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 162 and second innings 133 all out (Linde 27, Piedt 23, De Bruyn 30; Shami 3-10, Yadav 2-35, Nadeem 2-18)

Result: India won by an innings and 202 runs and clinched the three-match series 3-0.

Player-of-the-match: Rohit Sharma.

Barca seek sixth straight win

AFP, Prague

Barcelona will be looking to extend their five-game winning streak when they take on Champions League underdogs Slavia Prague in the teams' first-ever encounter in Prague on Wednesday.

Brushing aside political turmoil around them, Ernesto Valverde's men eased past Eibar 3-0 away on Saturday with goals from Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Antoine Griezmann.

Their fifth straight competitive win -- including a 2-1 victory over Inter Milan in their last Champions League game -- took them to the top of La Liga a point ahead of Real Madrid.

Last week the two giants agreed to postpone the Clasico, which would have been a showdown for the top league spot, from next Saturday to December because of the protests in Catalonia.

In a much calmer Prague, reigning Czech champions Slavia came back from a goal down to see off minnows Pribram 3-1 on Saturday to secure a six-point lead in the Czech top flight.

With two games played, Barcelona are second in the Champions League Group F with four points following the Milan win

and a goalless draw with Dortmund who top the group on a goal difference.

Slavia sit at the bottom with a single point after holding Inter to a 1-1 draw in Milan and a subsequent 2-0 loss to Dortmund at home.

Barcelona relished their attacking form after the Eibar clash, giving Slavia a cause for concern.

"There will be better or worse days, but we are getting to know each other little by little and we will go to more," Griezmann said after the game.

"Great players always understand each other and always meet. In the end, with time and with matches they will still find more and better," added coach Valverde.

Slavia are building up confidence, betting on a physical style and tireless pressing promoted by coach Jindrich Tрпиšovský.

Last season, they eliminated Sevilla from the Europa League before bowing out at the hands of Chelsea in the quarter-finals.

"We'll go to the pitch knowing we can succeed," said defensive midfielder Tomas Soucek, the Slavia captain.

"We want at least a point, we have proved we can face the giants and I believe we'll give them a hard time at home," added goalkeeper Ondrej Kolar.