

# What to WATCH

**BTV & BANGLA TV**  
**Sheikh Kamal Int'l Club Cup**  
 Young Elephants v TC Sports Club  
 Live from 4:00pm  
 Ctg Abahani v Mohun Bagan  
 Live from 7:00pm

**DAY'S EVENT**

**Sheikh Kamal International Club cup**  
 Time: 4:00pm  
 Young Elephants v TC Sports Club

Time: 7:00pm  
 Ctg Abahani v Mohun Bagan  
 Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chattogram

## INTER INTERESTED IN MUELLER

Inter Milan are interested in signing former Germany star Thomas Mueller, who has lost his starting place at Bayern Munich, magazine Kicker reported on Thursday. The 30-year-old has often found himself on the bench this season behind Philippe Coutinho, who Bayern coach Niko Kovac prefers in the attacking midfield role. According to Kicker, Inter's "interest is intensifying" and the Italian giants could bring Muller to Milan in the January transfer window. Mueller made a rare start, only his fifth of the season, in Tuesday's 3-2 win at Olympiakos in the Champions League on the right wing, helping set up two goals for Robert Lewandowski. "I'm trying to concentrate on playing football. Slowly all the discussions will come to an end," Mueller told reporters in Athens when asked about his future at Bayern. --AFP



Chennai City FC's Japanese midfielder Katsumi Yusa (3rd from R) is restrained from attacking referee Lakmal Weerakkody (2nd from L) during their Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup match against Bashundhara Kings at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

# Referee in spotlight in Kings' labouing victory

ATIQUA ANAM from Chattogram

Sri Lanka referee Lakmal Weerakkody became the centre of talk following an ill-tempered affair which saw Bashundhara Kings struggle past nine-man Chennai City FC in their second Group B fixture of the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

The 3-2 victory kept the Bangladesh Premier League champions in race for the last four, but the victory became a secondary issue after Chennai City's assistant coach Satyasagara alleged the referee of biased officiating as well as racism.

The controversy started in the 23rd minute when Chennai City midfielder Katsumi Yusa snapped following a foul on one of his teammates. Despite the referee awarding a free-kick, the Japanese midfielder burst into a rage, arguing with Bashundhara Kings coach Oscar Bruzon for a while before kicking the fourth official's desk at the sideline and then running back into the ground attempting to assault the referee.

"On behalf of the management of the club, the officials who officiated the game is really a setback. The federation must investigate the decision he made today. The referee made a racist remark calling him (Katsumi), China. He (Katsumi) went emotionally down and cried at the dressing room," Satyasagara claimed at the post-match press conference.

"The opponent coach ran out to

the pitch to our technical area but he (referee) decided to give red card to both coaches which is not fair. Why should the opponent coach run to our area and entangle our coach," the Singaporean added.

The Indian outfit later filed a complaint to the match commissioner in this regard, it has been learnt.

The match proved to be a feisty affair right through as both teams were looking for their first points following defeats in their opening games. Bashundhara Kings made four

### Bashundhara 3 - 2 Chennai

(Jalal 6', 88'; Bakhtiyar 59') - (Manzi 43, Shereef 72')

changes to their starting eleven and looked a different side when they took a sixth-minute lead, with Lebanese international Jalal Kdouh receiving Bakhtiyar Duyshobekov's back-header with his outstretched right foot and volleying home with his left.

The I-League champions felt the referee overlooked a handball by Bashundhara Kings defender Bishwanath Ghosh on the edge of the box before Katsumi snapped following the controversial moment.

The Chennai players walked off and were cajoled in by their officials about 12 minutes later before skipper Pedro Manzi Cruz got them on level terms on 43 minutes, smashing home a rebound.

During the extended stoppage time, Bruzon charged down towards the opposition dug-out following a foul on one of his players. Chennai

City coach Akbar Nawas retaliated and the two coaches engaged in a fracas, forcing the referee to expel both with red cards.

Despite the initial stranglehold, Bashundhara Kings looked less organised, especially in defence, as the match went on but they regained the lead right before the hour-mark when Bakhtiyar, who played as a centre-back, headed home a cross from Daniel Colindres.

Mohammad Ibrahim and Jalal wasted two gilt-edged chances before Chennai City were reduced to nine men in the 69th minute when Roberto Suarez got a second yellow card for a foul on Colindres.

The nine-man Chennai City, though, restored parity three minutes later, with Shereef acrobatically volleying home a miscued clearance from Nurul Nayeem Faisal, with goalkeeper Anisur Rahman was out of position.

While Chennai City tried to catch attacking Bashundhara Kings' high line of defence on the break, the Bangladesh champions got the decisive goal on 88 minutes, Jalal smashing home a rebound after substitute forward Rabiul Hasan's powerful shot was parried in front of goal by Chennai City keeper Nauzet Garcia Santana.

The goal may have got the Bangladesh champions across the line, but their unimpressive performance left a big question mark over their fate in the competition, with a must-win game against an impressive Terengganu FC scheduled for tomorrow.

## Gokulam, Terengganu share spoils

SPORTS REPORTER from Chattogram

Gokulam Kerala of India and Terengganu FC of Malaysia played out a goalless draw in their Group B fixture of the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup to go joint top of table with four points each.

Gokulam Kerala had won their opening match against Bashundhara Kings 3-1 while Terengganu FC had beaten Chennai City 5-3 in their first game.

The result means I-League champions Chennai City, who lost 3-2 against Abahani in the day's first match, are out of the race with zero points from two matches.

Bashundhara Kings are ahead of them with three points. The Bangladesh champions will play against Terengganu FC while Gokulam Kerala will take on Chennai City in the two matches tomorrow.

## UEFA fines France

AFP, Paris

UEFA has fined France 20,000 euros (\$22,200) for playing the wrong national anthem for Albania ahead of a Euro 2020 qualifying match last month, according to multiple sources.

The Andorra national anthem was played instead of Albania's prior to the September 7 fixture, triggering confusion and a delay in the start of the game as the correct anthem was subsequently aired.

France won the match 4-1.

# Maruful, Jamal eager to beat Mohun Bagan

SPORTS REPORTER from Chattogram

Hosts Abahani have almost ensured their qualification for the semifinals of the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup following wins in first two matches and only a heavy defeat against Mohun Bagan today might see them miss out on last four.

Coach Maruful Haque sounded confident about his team's semifinal berth and gave a hint that he might rest a few players from the starting eleven of the previous matches, with the semifinals scheduled only three days later.

"There are areas we can improve. These players are playing at this club for the first time and most of the local players joined the camp only a couple of days before the tournament. But they are improving," said the coach, who guided the now-troubled Arambagh KS last two seasons.

"My playing eleven will depend on the result of TC Sports versus Young Elephants match. I may rest a few players depending on that game. There is also the case of testing the bench players," said Maruful.

The veteran coach's only international success came in the 2014 King's Cup in Bhutan when he guided Sheikh Jamal to the title, beating Pune FC of India in the final.

Sheikh Jamal, a force in South Asian football at that time, beat Mohun Bagan 5-3 in a group stage match of that tournament. Mohun Bagan started the current tournament on a losing note before bouncing back against defending champions TC Sports on Wednesday.

Maruful made comparison to the current Mohun Bagan side and the one from 2014.

"I think the team at that time had better fitness than this one. Furthermore, that team had players like Sony Norde and a few good Asian players," said the veteran coach, whose last domestic success was with Arambagh Club in Federation Cup in 2018.

Captain Jamal Bhuiyan, who is in spectacular form recently with both club and country, has scooped man-of-the-



match awards in both games for Chattogram Abahani. The 29-year-old midfielder, who guided the national team to a 1-1 draw against India in Kolkata recently, has scores to settle in this tournament.

"I want to be group champions and I want the Indian teams out of the tournament which will be a good motivation. Everybody is motivated for the next game," said Jamal, who was sent off in the final of King's Cup in 2014.

Since Jamal Bhuiyan's debut, Bangladesh have not lost against India. All three meetings ended in draws, with India scoring last-ditch equalisers on all three occasions.

While India are way ahead in ranking and enjoy a much greater success against Bangladesh, Jamal says what hurts him is the Indian players looking down upon their Bangladesh counterparts.

"We have a history against India. India always felt on top of Bangladesh, so tomorrow is a great chance to show that India are not on top of Bangladesh. We can prove them wrong that Bangladesh players can also play football," Jamal said.



Bangladesh Women's T20 team skipper Salma Khatun (R) pose with the trophy with her Pakistani counterpart Bismah Maroof ahead of their three-match T20 series, scheduled to begin tomorrow in Lahore.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## La Liga to appeal against new date

AFP, Madrid

La Liga confirmed on Thursday it will appeal the decision to play Saturday's postponed Clasico between Barcelona and Real Madrid on December 18.

La Liga proposed the postponement last week but want the match to be rescheduled for December 4.

The appeal will be lodged in the common courts and to the Spanish government's Sports Council (CSD).

# Messi sets goals record

Impressive wins for Liverpool, Chelsea

AFP, Paris

Liverpool and Chelsea clinched impressive victories on the road in the Champions League on Wednesday as Lionel Messi, Dries Mertens and teenage sensation Erling Braut Haaland claimed impressive goal-scoring landmarks.

Defending champions Liverpool defeated Genk 4-1 which saw Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain score twice while Michy Batshuayi gave Chelsea a

1-0 win at Ajax.

Elsewhere, Messi became the first player to score at least once in 15 successive Champions League seasons as Barcelona beat Slavia Prague 2-1.

Napoli defeated Salzburg 3-2 in a game which saw Mertens go past Diego Maradona's 115-goals tally for the Italian club while Haaland's two strikes for the Austrians in the same game made him the first player to score six times in his first three Champions League games.

England international Oxlade-Chamberlain opened the scoring in

the second minute at the Luminus Arena and scored Liverpool's second just before the hour mark.

Sadio Mane and Mohamed Salah then set up each other for late goals to wrap up the victory

Barcelona stay top of Group F after a 2-1 win at Slavia Prague.

Messi opened the scoring after three minutes, beating Slavia goalkeeper Ondrej Kolar with a low left-foot shot.

Barca grabbed a second on 57 minutes when Slavia winger Peter Olayinka deflected a Luis Suarez close-range shot into his own net.

## Looking beyond the horizon

Healthcare Pharmaceuticals Limited (HPL) has collaborated recently with Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA to provide the access of the innovative medicines to the people of Bangladesh. Eli Lilly and Company, USA is more than a century old company founded by discoveries in medicines and devotes its time, resources and expertise for advancing health and improving lives- all with the goal of making life better for people around the world. Globally, Lilly is acknowledged for its research in insulin & diabetes, osteoporosis, auto-immune disorders, oncology and many more difficult-to-treat diseases.

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