

What to WATCH

BTV & BANGLA TV
Sheikh Kamal Int'l Club Cup
Final
Ctg Abahani v Terengganu FC
Live from 6:00pm

TEN 1
Serie A
Milan v SPAL
Live from 1:00am (Friday)

DAY'S EVENT

Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup Final
Time: 6:00pm
Ctg Abahani v Terengganu FC
Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chattogram

ETO'O RULES OUT CAREER IN POLITICS

Samuel Eto'o is up there with George Weah as an African great on the football field, but he says he has no plans to follow the Liberian into politics "for the moment". "Everyone wants me to go into politics, but there won't be 10 million Weahs," Eto'o said in an exclusive interview with AFP. Weah, the only African player to win the Ballon d'Or, became president of Liberia in January 2018. "Everyone is born with their own star. Everyone at some point gets involved in politics at their own level, but, for the moment, it doesn't interest me." The 38-year-old Cameroon legend recently brought the curtain down on a glittering playing career during which he won the UEFA Champions League twice with Barcelona and once more with Inter Milan.



Advantage Chattogram Abahani?

Hosts take on Terengganu in final today

ATIQUÉ ANAM from Chattogram

Chattogram Abahani stand just a game away from their second title of the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup, and will have the home advantage along with a day's advantage when they take on Terengganu FC in the final at the MA Aziz Stadium today.

The match kicks off at 6:00pm and is expected to draw a full-house crowd to cheer for the home team, who are looking to regain the title after being eliminated from the semifinals last time around.

Even amidst the front-page-headline-making revelations from cricket in Dhaka over the past one week, the third edition of this tournament has generated a lot of excitement in the port city, not just because of the home side's performance but also due to the overall standard of competition, which many believe has been much higher than the previous two editions.

The general perception of the rising stature of Bangladesh as a footballing nation and the participation of three Indian teams has piqued the interest of even the casual fans, with the India versus Bangladesh rivalry working as an X factor.

After 14 matches and 56 goals, a few controversies here and there amid mostly entertaining football, the two teams still standing are Chattogram Abahani and Terengganu FC.

Both teams have shown attacking prowess, but also defensive frailties as this has been a high-scoring tournament so far. Chattogram Abahani have conceded six goals against 11 scored while Terengganu have scored 13 goals against seven conceded.

There is very little to choose from between the two sides at this stage, but Terengganu coach Nafuzi Bin Mohamad Zain believes that an extra day's rest as well as the home support make the home side the favourites.

"It will not be easy to play against the hosts but I'm hoping for a good performance. The home team are favourites because they have home crowd, better



Chattogram Abahani players jog during a training session at the Bandar Stadium in Chattogram yesterday ahead of today's Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup final against Terengganu FC.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

preparation and more time to rest," the Malaysian coach said during yesterday's pre-final press conference.

Terengganu FC have been the most prolific side of the tournament, with two forwards getting three hattricks. The man who has been behind this run is Lee Tuck and he can make the difference on his own like he did in the last two matches.

"It's a special occasion tomorrow. It's been a perfect tournament so far and it will be great way to finish it by winning it. We are ready to show that we have

great quality. We came here to win trophy together as a team," the 31-year-old English forward said.

Chattogram Abahani are aware of the danger from Lee Tuck, who played one season for Abahani. While the hosts have plans for the Englishman, they have also worked out the other sources of danger.

"Lee Tuck performed outstandingly. We have plan regarding his free-kicks and setpieces. But they also have a good combination between (Syafik Bin) Ismail, Bruno (Suzuki) and Lee, and we have to

break this combination," Chattogram Abahani coach Maruful Haque said, claiming that close to 130 minutes of exertion in the semifinal nullified his team's advantage of an extra day's rest.

Team captain Jamal Bhuiyan, like his coach, was confident that he can finish the job he was entrusted with when called up by Chattogram Abahani for this tournament.

"We have only one goal before the tournament and we want to achieve the goal tomorrow by winning the final. Everybody is eager to play the final," Jamal said.

KEY PLAYERS

TERENGGANU FC

ANDREW LEE TUCK

The English forward has been the driving force behind Terengganu FC's run to the final. With six goals including two hattricks in the last two matches, the 31-year-old is top of the goal-scorer's chart. But scoring is not his only quality, the former Abahani forward contributes as much in building attacks and setting up goals. He is by far the biggest contender for the player-of-the-tournament award.



SYAFIK BIN ISMAIL

Syafik Bin Ismail is a pocket dynamo for Terengganu FC. Despite often finding himself under the shadow by the looming presence of Andre Lee Tuck and centre-forward Bruno Suzuki, this 18-year-old forward managed to catch attention with his sublime dribbling skills, giving a hard time to the opposition defences. He is also adept in scoring as his goal gave Terengganu FC the lead against Mohun Bagan in the semifinals.



BRUNO SUZUKI

The Brazilian-born Japanese striker is a true centre-forward, always on the prowl. He knows where he needs to be at the right time and finishes off his chances with great accuracy. He scored four goals in the first match of his team, and despite going goalless since, earned a valuable spot-kick in the crucial semifinal against Mohun Bagan.



CHATTOGRAM ABAHANI

JAMAL BHUIYAN

The Chattogram Abahani skipper was part of the team back in 2017 as well. Jamal has scored in that semifinal defeat against Pocheon FC of South Korea. Now Jamal is a more matured player and a leader. He scored one goal, but was involved in a few other goals as he and his role has changed from a pure defensive midfielder to an attacking one. His set-pieces have improved too, and he has already bagged two player-of-the-match awards.



CHINEDU MATTHEW

The Nigerian striker has been the most consistent performer, not only for his side, but also in the whole tournament. He scored two goals in the first game and followed it up with another in the second. The Nigerian was not on target in the third game where he played only last 30 minutes, but came to his side's rescue by scoring the extra-time winner in the semifinal against Gokulam Kerala.



JEAN CHARLES DIDIER

The Ivorian attacking midfielder was an unknown quantity in Bangladesh football. But he has already become the engine of Chattogram Abahani team, with opposition coaches keeping a close eye on him. The Ivorian scored one goal in group stages but showed his true class with a two-goal haul in the semifinal against Gokulam Kerala. He makes a deadly attacking combination with Jamal and the dynamic duo could decide the outcome of the final.



Bogura Police Lines School players celebrate with the Clear Men U-17 School Football Championship trophy at the Army Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: BFF

U-17 FOOTBALL C'SHIPS Bogura Police Lines School crowned

SPORTS REPORTER

Bogura Police Lines School clinched the title of the Clear Men U-17 School Football Championship after handing a 6-5 defeating Suti VM Pilot High School of Tangail on penalties at the Army Stadium in Banani yesterday.

The final rolled into tiebreakers after regulation time ended 1-1. Each team converted three of their first five shots, forcing sudden death.

Farhan Shahriar of Police Lines School turned hero after stopping the eighth shot from Suti VM Pilot High School, taken by Tanvir Ahmed, and was later adjudged the best goalkeeper of the tournament.

Tasrif Islam put Police Lines School ahead with a header in the 11th minute before Marful Ahmed levelled the margin

in the 25th minute from a free kick.

Unilever, one of leading world's consumer goods companies, in association with Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), launched the school tournament in September with the participation of 272 schools before the final round with eight divisional champions took place in Dhaka.

The BFF selected 36 footballers and they will get the opportunity to have training at BKSP and six top footballers will travel to England for training at Manchester City FC and will get a chance to watch on the Premier League's reigning champions' games from the gallery.

VM Pilot High School duo scooped individual awards, with Shagor finishing as top scorer while Muruf Ahmed of Suti was adjudged the best player.

BCCI orders 72 pink balls

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has ordered 72 SG pink balls to be delivered by next week for use in the first-ever day/night Test between Bangladesh and India at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata from November 22.

BCCI President Sourav Ganguly previously confirmed that SG pink balls would be used in the match and SG Sales and Marketing Director Paras Anand confirmed the order was placed.

The Indian domestic limited-overs Duleep Trophy was played with Kookaburra pink balls for three seasons before the BCCI returned to the red ball this year.

The SG ball had come under fire from some Indian players in the previous domestic season, with captain Virat Kohli saying it got scuffed up too early in comparison to the Dukas used in England and Kookaburra in Australia.

However, Anand was confident that top-quality balls would be delivered for the Kolkata Test. Compared to the red ball, the pink one attracts a lot more dust and tends to get dirty rather quickly, making it tougher to see.

Pak whitewash BD women

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh women's cricket team were whitewashed in a three-match T20I series against their Pakistani counterparts as the visitors were handed a 28-run defeat in the final match at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore yesterday.

Electing to bat first, a 48-ball 54 from opener Javeria Khan and another 29-ball 31 from Umaira Sohail helped Pakistan post 117 for seven in 20 overs. Right-arm seamer Jahanara Alam was the pick of the bowlers for Bangladesh, returning figures of three for 12 in her four overs.

Following the exchange, only three batters could get into double figures, with a team high 44-ball 30 coming from Nigar Sultana's bat, as Bangladesh could only manage 89 for eight in 20 overs.

Messi back to his best

AFP, Madrid

Lionel Messi made it clear he is fit and back to his scintillating best by tearing apart Real Valladolid on Tuesday in a thumping 5-1 victory for Barcelona.

Messi scored another spell-binding free-kick at Camp Nou after his sumptuous pass had already teed up Arturo Vidal for Barca's second. He then drove home his second late on before sliding through Luis Suarez to make it five.

Yet in truth his two goals and two assists were just the start of it, the defining moments of another mesmerizing all-round performance that was dotted with flicks, passes and dribbles, not to mention two humiliating nutmegs.

"I don't know what more I can say," said Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde. "There were wonders coming out of his foot," said Valladolid's Michel. "You can only applaud and enjoy it."

Valladolid had threatened to make a game of it when Kiko Olivas benefitted from a rare Marc-Andre ter Stegen error to equalise, after Clement Lenglet had struck in the second minute.

But with Messi in this sort of mood, the result never felt in doubt as victory sent Barcelona back to the top of La Liga, after Atletico Madrid were held to a 1-1 draw by Alaves a couple of hours before.

Valverde's side have now won seven consecutive matches in all



Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi (L) celebrates one of his two goals with teammate Jordi Alba and Luis Suarez during their La Liga encounter against Real Valladolid at the Nou Camp on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

competitions, a run that began by beating Villarreal on September 24, when Messi returned from injury to make his first start of the season.

Valladolid were perhaps unfortunate the 32-year-old was fresh after the postponed Clasico on Saturday meant Barcelona and Real Madrid were given the weekend off.

It meant this was the first game at Camp Nou since violent protests broke out across Catalonia after nine pro-independence leaders were sentenced

to imprisonment on October 21. Giant yellow banners with 'Independencia' and 'Llibertat' written across them were unfurled before kick-off but there was no sign of unrest. Instead, the mood turned celebratory as Messi got to work.

It was his free-kick that Valladolid made a mess of clearing, as Sergi Guardiola lashed the ball against Joaquin Fernandez and Lenglet reacted fastest, his shot deflecting in before two minutes were on the clock.

Mahanagar General Hospital

কম্পাট করুন ভারতের অ্যাপোলো হাসপাতালের বিশ্ব বিখ্যাত ক্যাম্পার ও অর্থপেডিক সার্জনের সাথে।

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Director, Oncology, Apollo Hospitals Group, Ex Director of Tata Memorial Hospital

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নবাবাজার, ঢাকা-১১০০

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