

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
English Premier League
Chelsea v Crystal Palace
Live from 6:30pm
Tottenham v Sheffield
Live from 9:00pm

Leicester v Arsenal
Live from 11:30pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
Bundesliga
Hertha Berlin v Leipzig

Live from 8:30pm
Bayern Munich v Dortmund
Live from 11:30pm
TEN 2
Serie A

Brescia v Torino
Live from 8:00pm
Inter Milan v Hellas Verona
Live from 11:00pm
Napoli v Genoa
Live from 1:45am (Sunday)

DAY'S EVENT

National Cricket League
Four-day match
Day one
Rajshahi v Khulna
Venue: SBNS, Dhaka
Rangpur v Dhaka

Venue: SCS, Bogura
Barishal v Chattogram
Venue: BDS, Barishal

Dhaka Metro v Sylhet
Venue: SKS, Rajshahi

U-19s draw against Jordan

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh revived their slim hopes of qualifying for the final round of AFC U-19 Championship with a 1-1 draw against Jordan in their second qualifying match at the Khalifa Sports City Stadium in Manama yesterday.

The boys in red and green, who started the campaign with a 3-0 defeat against Bahrain two days ago, will have to beat Bhutan by a big margin on Sunday while hoping other results in the group go their way, in order to qualify for the 16-team final round.

Despite playing with three changes from their first game including the goalkeeper and two forwards, Bangladesh did not make a great start in yesterday's game, conceding the lead from a spot-kick in the stoppage time of the first half.

However, Andrew Peter Turner's charges fought back to equalise in the 74th minute, with skipper Yeasin Arafat heading home Kazi Rahad Mia's long throw-in.

The English coach made three attacking substitutions in the second half, but the youngsters failed to get another goal which would have catapulted them to joint second position.

As things stand, Bangladesh are in third position in the group with a single point, with Bahrain and Jordan occupying the top two spots, but a big win against Bhutan, arguably the weakest team of the group, could see them end as the second-best team, opening up a chance of qualifying.



Manchester United striker Marcus Rashford (L) scores the third goal against Partizan Belgrade during their Europa League match at Old Trafford on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP

MU ease into last 32

AFP, Paris



Teenager Mason Greenwood scored as Manchester United cruised into the Europa League last 32 with a 3-0 win over Partizan Belgrade at Old Trafford on Thursday, while Celtic stunned Lazio with a last-gasp goal in Rome to progress.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's United knew that a third victory in four Group L games would be enough to send them through.

The 18-year-old Greenwood broke the deadlock in the 22nd minute with a cool finish to score his third goal of the season and second in this competition.

Anthony Martial doubled the advantage after the half-hour mark with a brilliant individual goal, before Marcus Rashford lashed home the third four minutes after the interval.

The comfortable victory saw United bounce back after a 1-0 loss at Bournemouth last weekend had ended a three-game winning run.

AZ Alkmaar thrashed Astana 5-0 in Kazakhstan to keep control of the race for second place in Group L behind United, eliminating their hosts and moving four points clear of Partizan.

Olivier Ntcham scored a dramatic injury-time winner to grab Celtic a 2-1 victory at Lazio.

Neil Lennon's outfit remain top of Group E with two games remaining, seven points clear of third-placed Lazio after their second straight win over the Romans.

Ciro Immobile volleyed the hosts into a seventh-minute lead, but James Forrest drew Celtic level before half-time.

But substitute Ntcham latched onto Ousmane Edouard's pass in the fifth minute of added time and dinked a cool finish over Lazio goalkeeper Thomas Strakosha.

The other game in the group saw CFR Cluj move to within a point of qualification by beating Rennes 1-0 in Romania.

Celtic's Old Firm rivals Rangers gave their hopes of reaching the knockout stage for the first time since 2011 a massive boost with a

2-0 victory over Porto at Ibrox.

Second-half goals from Alfredo Morelos and Steven Davis fired Steven Gerrard's men second in Group G, three points ahead of Feyenoord after the Dutch side's 1-1 draw with Young Boys.

Bundesliga leaders Borussia Muenchengladbach grabbed their first win of the Europa League campaign as Marcus Thuram's 95th-minute strike sealed a 2-1 triumph against Roma.

The German club moved second in Group J, ahead of Roma on head-to-head and two points behind leaders Istanbul Basaksehir, who saw off 10-man Wolfsburg 3-0 in Austria.

Wolves made it three straight Europa League wins despite Ruben Neves missing a penalty as Raul Jimenez's 92nd-minute goal grabbed a 1-0 success over Slovan Bratislava at Molineux.

Nuno Espirito Santo's men now sit five points clear of Slovan in second in Group K, with Braga a point ahead of the Premier League side at the top after beating Besiktas 3-1.

Kroos urges Real to keep improving

AFP, Madrid



Toni Kroos admits Real Madrid's players feel frustrated they have not used the inconsistency of Barcelona and Atletico Madrid to establish a hefty lead in La Liga.

Barca have already lost three games out of 11 this season while Atletico Madrid to establish a strong start.

But Madrid have not taken advantage. They missed out on the chance to go top last weekend by drawing at home to Real Betis, just after Barcelona were beaten by Levante and Atletico drew against Sevilla.

Zinedine Zidane's side got back on track with an emphatic 6-0 win over Galatasaray in the Champions League on Wednesday, a morale-boosting win ahead of Saturday's visit to Eibar in La Liga.

"The last few games have been better," Kroos told AFP. "More and more players are coming into form which is good because at the start of the season only a few players were in form which made it difficult."

"To be honest my feeling in the league is that we should be a few points clear by now. But we aren't and we have to keep fighting for that first place."

"You have to be frustrated because we have missed out but we are using that as motivation because we are still in contention. We can't change anything, we have to concentrate on our game."

"We will focus on the others when we play them but we know when they lose points, it gives us a chance and we have to take our chance. We have to get some points ahead."

Madrid's thrashing of Galatasaray means they are virtually qualified from Group A and the victory also launched 18-year-old Rodrygo onto the international stage, after the Brazilian scored a hat-trick.

He is the second youngest player to hit a hat-trick in Champions League history behind Madrid's former striker Raul while his first two goals came before the seventh minute, making his the fastest brace ever in the competition.

Rodrygo joined Madrid from Santos last summer in a 45-million euro deal and has been given his chance on the right of the front three, in the absence of the injured Gareth Bale.

"It's impressive and I'm happy for him," Kroos said. "It's not just about the goals, he helps us in lots of ways. He works very hard on the flanks and he doesn't lose the ball. He is very mature for his age, not only in his game but off the pitch as well. I have no doubt these three goals will not change anything about his character."

Kroos has found a new midfield partner too in recent weeks in Fede Valverde, the 21-year-old Uruguayan who has established himself ahead of Luka Modric in the starting line-up.

"He is amazing," Kroos said. "I really love this player. To come here is not easy and to play like he is at this age means he has a lot of quality. I'm sure he has a great future here for many years to come."

After Madrid face Eibar at Ipurua, Barcelona play at home to struggling Celta Vigo, who appointed Oscar Garcia coach on Wednesday after Fran Escriba was sacked earlier this week.

Fire at old NSC building

SPORTS REPORTER

A fire yesterday gutted one of the rooms on the first floor of the old building of the National Sport Council, but fortunately none of the sportspeople, who are camping in adjacent rooms for the upcoming South Asian Games, were injured as it happened on Friday when all the players were on leave.

The fire broke out at around 10:45am and razed chairs, tables, foams and mats of the taekwondo, wrestling and judo federations, which used the space as a store room.

Niazul Nahid, officer of the general section of the NSC, confirmed the news to The Daily Star.

"Since it was Friday, no one was there at the time. What I heard is that the security guard was present and he called the fire service and the fire was brought under control after a while. Authorities are suspecting a short circuit to be the reason for the fire but the extent of damage is yet to be ascertained," Niaz said.

The first floor of the building is hosting the women's kabaddi team, men's and women's weightlifting teams and men's and women's taekwondo teams for the SA Games camp. However, all the players were on leave on Friday. Had the fire broken out on another day, something more serious could have happened.

Niaz leads despite draw

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Niaz Murshed maintained his solo lead with 5.5 points at the end of the seventh round of the 45th National Chess Championship, which is being held at the Institute of Engineers in Dhaka.

The first GM of the sub-continent drew his seventh-round game against GM Abdullah Al Rakib yesterday to collect 5.5 points, 0.5 points clear of IM Fahad Rahman, Rakib and FM Taibur Rahman.

Tibur drew his game with IM Minhaz Uddin Ahmed while Fahad beat FM Mehedi Hasan Parag.

GM Ziaur Rahman, who drew against nine-year-old CM Manon Reja Neer, shared the third position with three other players on 4.5 points.

5TH SOUTH ASIAN KARATE

Hosts get one gold on Day 1

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh grabbed one gold, four silver and two bronze medals on the opening day of the 5th South Asian Karate Championship, which got underway at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium in Dhaka yesterday.

Bangladesh's only gold of the day came in men's junior team kata event, courtesy of Bijoy, Prashanta and Rabbi.

India got four gold medals while Sri Lanka snatched three gold medals on the opening day. The two-day event, featuring 245 competitors from Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan, will conclude today.

Pressure on Inter, Napoli

AFP, Milan



Inter Milan and Napoli return to the Serie A fray after a disappointing week of European football for the Italian giants as leaders Juventus look to pull clear after punching their ticket to the Champions League last 16.

Juventus have 29 points from 11 games, one point ahead of Inter Milan, with resurgent Roma a further six points adrift in third.

Napoli are seventh after a run of three league games without a victory.

A win over struggling AC Milan would allow Juventus to keep ahead of Inter, who host midtable Verona after their 3-2 Champions League defeat by Borussia Dortmund.

After the frustration of throwing away a two-goal lead against the Germans, Antonio Conte's Inter need a boost against Verona.

KEY STATS

- 101 - Giro Immobile's goals for Lazio
- 16 - Points difference between Juventus and AC Milan
- 9 - Roma's points from their last three games
- 4 - Stefano Pioli's points in four games as AC Milan coach
- 3 - Napoli's run of league games without a win

who were themselves under fire during the week after their fans aimed racist chants at Brescia's Mario Balotelli last weekend.

"This defeat has really got to me and I hope that's the same for my players," said Conte, who blamed a lack of resources despite remodelling the team after his arrival last summer.

"We made some mistakes in planning because we cannot play in two competitions with such a small squad," said former Italy boss Conte, who won three Serie A titles in a row with Juventus from 2012 to 2014, and the Premier League with Chelsea in 2017.

"We cannot play in Serie A and the Champions League constantly pushed to the limits."

Carlo Ancelotti's Napoli host Genoa after a series of poor results which has put the club management at loggerheads with the players who refused to be confined to a training camp this week.

Napoli have slipped 11 points off the pace after collecting just two points from their last three matches.

Ancelotti's side also missed a chance to secure their Champions League last 16 berth with a 1-1 stalemate against Salzburg.

"We are not in a good moment, but we must react and move forward," said captain Lorenzo Insigne.

Klopp sings Pep's praises

REUTERS, London



Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp has hailed Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola as the best manager in the world as the Premier League rivals gear up for Sunday's top-of-the-table clash at Anfield.

Leaders Liverpool have a six-point advantage over the defending champions and the match is a crucial one for both sides. Klopp, who has taken a dig at City's "tactical fouling", drew a line under the verbal sparring on Thursday in an interview with Sky Sports television.

"We constantly get asked questions and sometimes we say what is in that second in our mind without thinking about anything else, that we are in public, that there is a camera," said the German.

"I couldn't have more respect for Pep Guardiola, that's how it is. I've known him for so long, for me still it's a big thing to be his contender."

"For me he's the best manager in the world and we have the chance to win against his team which is very difficult but possible. That's enough for me."



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