

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS 2
ICC Women's T20 World Cup
England v India
First Semifinal
Live from 10:00am
Australia v South Africa
Second Semifinal
Live from 2:00pm

DANIEL BATZ'S GIGANTIC ACT

Saarbrücken became the first fourth division side to reach the last four with a penalty shootout win over Fortuna Düsseldorf on Tuesday, thanks to five saves from the spot by their goalkeeper Daniel Batz. Saarbrücken won the penalty shootout 7-6, with the absorbing contest ending 1-1 after normal and extra time. Batz was Saarbrücken's hero as he saved five penalties, one in normal time and four in the shootout, to send his side through and spark wild celebrations among the jubilant home fans. — REUTERS



Abahani players celebrate one of their four goals against archrivals Mohammedan during their 4-0 win in the Bangladesh Premier League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: BFF

Italian Cup semis postponed

REUTERS, Rome

Italy is likely to order all top-flight Serie A soccer games to be played behind closed doors in efforts to curb Europe's worst coronavirus outbreak, the sports minister said on Wednesday.

"We are heading towards that decision," Vincenzo Spadafora told reporters when asked if the government was thinking of barring fans.

The government last month banned sporting events in the worst-affected northern regions. So far, 10 Serie A matches have been postponed as well as two in the Coppa Italia.

However, Italy's epidemic has spread, with 79 dead and 2,502 cases, and ministers are considering new measures.

The Turin city government has called off the Juventus v AC Milan Coppa Italia semi-final second leg, which had been scheduled for Wednesday, because it could not enforce a ban on fans from affected regions.

Thursday's Napoli v Inter Milan Coppa match is also off.

Spadafora's announcement came as Serie A bosses were meeting to discuss the situation.

Abahani pound Mohammedan

SPORTS REPORTER



Title contenders Abahani put a sparkling performance to inflict a 4-0 defeat on archrivals Mohammedan in their Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Haitian forward Kervens Belfort was the chief architect of the dominating victory with two goals while Kyrgyz midfielder Edgar Bernhardt and local striker Nabib Newaj Jibon came up with one strike each to help the Sky Blues exact revenge on their archrivals for a 4-0 defeat in the league last season.

The third win in four matches put Abahani on top of the table alongside Saif SC and holders Bashundhara Kings, who yesterday defeated Rahmatganj MFS 2-1 at the same venue, with all three teams having 10 points from four outings.

From the outset, Abahani looked very aggressive with Belfort and Sunday Chizoba pressing hard while Bernhardt and Mamunul Islam working well behind the striking duo. They made the prestigious battle a one-way traffic as Mohammedan struggled to keep their own in face of huge pressure from their opponents.

The early pressure almost paid off when Sunday drove a powerful shot from the edge of the box, only to be denied by Mohammedan goalkeeper Mazharul Islam Himel two minutes after the kick-off.

Mohammedan withstood the initial pressure to reorganise and Nigerian forward Obi Moneke launched an attack from the right flank to advance into the box before latching on to a powerful shot from a difficult angle but Abahani goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Sohel saved it for a corner in the eighth minute.

Abahani took a deserved lead in the 16th minute as Belfort rose high to nod a well-judged corner-kick from Mamunul at the near post before Bernhardt doubled the lead in the 33rd minute with a powerful drive inside the box after availing a long-ball from Belfort.

With Mohammedan struggling to unsettle the Abahani defence, Obi tried from distance and Sohel palmed it over the crosspiece.

The Sky Blues killed off the match with the third goal in the 45th minute, with Belfort firing from close range after Sunday made a brilliant dummy on a right-flank cross from Bernhardt.

After resumption, Mohammedan's British coach Sean Lane sent on a pair of fresh legs

Abahani 4 - 0 Mohammedan

Belfort-16, 45, Bernhardt-33, Jibon-64

Rahmatganj 1 - 2 Bashundhara Kings

Turaev-39 Colindres-4, Baktyir-45

and Mohammedan kept fighting to reduce the margin but unable to unsettle the Abahani backline while Abahani widened the margin in the 64th minute with Nabib Newaj Jibon heading a Sunday header home following a right-flank cross from Mamunul Islam.

Despite going 4-0 down, the Black and Whites never gave up and continued to press and came close to scoring twice but Abahani goalkeeper Sohel denied Malian forward Souleymane Diabate, who then rattled the far post in 74th minute.

The margin could have been worse for Mohammedan but a strike from Sunday was ruled out due to off-side and Abahani left the ground with 11st win over Mohammedan in the 24 meetings of the professional football league.

'Rooney can hurt Man Utd'

AFP, London

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is wary of the threat Wayne Rooney poses to Manchester United's FA Cup hopes as the Derby forward looks to prove there is "still fight in an old dog".

The Old Trafford giants, on an eight-match unbeaten run in all competitions, head to Pride Park on Thursday for a fifth-round tie that will pit them against their all-time top-scorer.

Rooney scored a club-record 253 goals across 559 appearances during a trophy-laden spell at United between 2004 and 2017, when he returned to boyhood club Everton before a spell with Major League Soccer outfit DC United.

The 34-year-old returned to home soil to join Championship side Derby as player-coach at the end of last year and is now preparing to line up against his former club.

"He gave absolutely everything for this club and we all appreciate that," Solskjaer said. "But any goal he scores against us will be chalked off his goal tally! He doesn't want to score too many of them."

NATIONS LEAGUE DRAW

Euro champs pitted with WC finalists

AGENCIES

Defending champions Portugal have been drawn with 2018 World Cup winners France and runners-up Croatia for the 2020-2021 UEFA Nations League after a live ceremony in Amsterdam.

Joining them in the difficult League A Group 3 will be Sweden. Also in the top league will be Poland, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Italy and Netherlands in Group 1. Iceland, Denmark, Belgium and England in Group 2. And Germany, Ukraine, Spain and Switzerland in Group 4.

League B will feature Austria, Norway, Northern Ireland and Romania in Group 1. Group 2 will house Czech Republic, Scotland, Slovakia and Israel. Russia, Serbia, Turkey and Hungary will make up Group 3. And Wales, Finland, Republic of Ireland and Bulgaria will round out Group 4.

League C consists of Montenegro, Cyprus, Luxembourg and Azerbaijan in Group 1. Georgia, North Macedonia, Estonia and Armenia make up Group 2. Greece, Kosovo, Slovenia and Moldova are in Group 3. And Group 4 will host Albania, Belarus, Lithuania and Kazakhstan.

In League D will be Faroe Islands, Latvia, Andorra and Malta in Group 1. And Liechtenstein, San Marino and Gibraltar in Group 2.

The first matchday for the tournament will take place on Sept. 3, 2020, with the final scheduled for June 6, 2021.

Portugal, who are also reigning European champs, beat Netherlands in the inaugural final in June of 2019.

Wanyama signs for Montreal

AFP, Montreal

Tottenham midfielder Victor Wanyama joined Montreal Impact on a free transfer on Tuesday, inking a three-year deal with the Major League Soccer franchise.

The Kenyan international captain, 28, heads to Montreal four years after joining Spurs from Southampton in 2016.

He enjoyed a successful first season for Tottenham but a series of knee problems derailed his Premier League career.

Wanyama has made just four appearances for Spurs this season but will now try to resurrect his career under the guidance of Montreal coach Thierry Henry.

"Victor is an important player with a great career," Impact sporting director Olivier Renard said in a statement from Montreal.



Chelsea players celebrate Willian's (R) goal against Manchester City during their FA Cup win at Stamford Bridge on Tuesday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Chelsea KO Liverpool

AFP, London



Jürgen Klopp insisted the best of Liverpool's season may still be to come despite a third defeat in four games saw them crash out of the FA Cup 2-0 at the hands of Chelsea on Tuesday.

Klopp made seven changes to the side beaten for the first time in 45 Premier League games at Watford on Saturday, but still named a far stronger XI than the youthful teams that had seen off Everton and Shrewsbury to reach the fifth round.

However, goals from Willian and Ross Barkley gave Frank Lampard's men a much-needed lift at Stamford Bridge.

"Losing 2-0 is not good, but it is relatively easy to explain. We made two massive mistakes around the goals," said Klopp.

Liverpool remain well on course for a

first league title in 30 years with a 22-point lead at the top of the Premier League, but run the risk of their competitive campaign coming to an early end once the title is sewn up unless they can overturn a 1-0 first leg deficit against Atletico Madrid in the Champions League next week.

"It is not the best three weeks of the whole season but it is a chance to make it the best three weeks now and that is the plan," added Klopp.

"Nobody has to feel sorry for us, we will win football games and that is what we want to do on Saturday."

A run of five wins in 16 league games and a 3-0 thrashing at home by Bayern Munich in the first leg of their Champions League last 16 tie last week meant the pressure was on Chelsea to keep their hopes of silverware this season alive.

2020 BFF POLLS

Stars seek PM's directives

SPORTS REPORTER

A group of former national footballers have sought directives from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to get the country's football out of crisis' ahead of Bangladesh Football Federation's (BFF) elections.

The appeal was made yesterday at a discussion meeting titled 'BFF elections 2020: Time demands change and what we can do', organised by a group of former footballers who represented Bangladesh before and after the Liberation War.

The meeting was held in view of the BFF elections scheduled for April 20, with incumbent president Kazi Salahuddin already announcing his intention to contest fourth a successive term.

Swadhin Bangla Football Team's captain Jakaria Pintu, vice-captain Protap Shankar Hazra, former player-turned-coach Golam Sarwar Tipu, Badal Roy, Korshed Alam Babul, Hasanuzzaman Khan Bablu, Sheikh Mohammad Aslam, Ohiduzzaman Pintu, Kaiser Hamid, Imtiaz Sultan Jonny, Alfaz Ahmed, Arman Mia and others gathered at the National Press Club to discuss the poor state of country's football, which currently lie in the lowest tier of FIFA ranking.

Reading from a written statement prepared by the footballers, Bablu presented facts and figures of country's football such as FIFA ranking, activities

at grassroots, irregular Dhaka leagues, district leagues, failure of establishing a football academy, women's football, participation of lower-standard foreign teams in Bangabandhu Gold Cup and promises made in Salahuddin's 2016 election manifesto.

All the footballers extended their support to Badal Roy, who has said he would contest against Salahuddin if no one else forward to challenge the BFF president, especially after Chattogram Abahani director and Saif SC managing director Tarafder Ruhul Amin pulled out of running.

"The game of football has died. Leadership is important to take the game forward but Mr Salahuddin does not want to face challenge. We can't let him be elected uncontested. He is even trying to influence his opponents to get out of the race. As he is trying to force the opponents to stay away from the election, which is why I am going to contest against him," Roy said, asking Salahuddin to make the election environment congenial.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is like my mother as she saved my life. We believe the PM will take our appeal into consideration as we have all gathered here in the greater interest of football despite retiring from football long ago," Roy said, adding that he cannot avoid responsibility as a vice-president of the federation.

Alfaz Ahmed said, "Salahuddin bhai

had the chance to prove himself as a good organiser, but he could not do so in the last 12 years. I think he should leave the BFF post to give someone a chance to serve country's football."

"Bangladesh is improving in every sector under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina but football is walking backwards. Bangladesh now concede four/five goals against countries we used to beat by seven or eight goals," Kaiser Hamid said, adding a supplementary question, "If any coach fails to bring success to the team, the coach is terminated. Then why the leader of BFF won't be changed?"

Pratap Sankar Hazra said, "Salahuddin should leave the BFF to give someone from the new generation a chance, so that we can again see some hope in football."

Sheikh Mohammad Aslam said, "A yes/no vote can be conducted for Kazi Salahuddin. If countrymen vote for Salahuddin, then he will not need to contest in BFF elections. But I believe 99 percent of people will not choose him."

Imtiaz Sultan Jonny said, "We are not against any individual, we want change in BFF leadership because the former footballers still face uncomfortable questions from the public about the poor state of football."

Later everyone pledged their support to Roy, who said he would meet with the PM before contesting in the BFF polls.

WE ARE HIRING

STS Hospital Chittagong Limited is seeking applications to fill the following positions from interested individual

Position	Job Specifications	Skill Sets
Director, Medical Services (DMS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum MBBS, MD/PG Diploma will be considered as added advantage. Overall, 10-15 years' Experience in Hospital Administration out of which minimum 5-7 years' experience as Director/ HOD level in a JCI or NABH accredited hospital (300-400 beds tertiary care multi-specialty). DMS must have at least 5 years' of clinical experience and substantial medical/administrative background. 	
Director, Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor's/Master's in Business Studies/Administration/Social Science or Hospitality Management from any local/international university. Overall 10-15 years' of experience in any foreign country with substantial job involvement in Internationally accredited hospital/health care service provider or minimum Five Star ranked Hotel at Hospitality or Operations, Customer Relationship Management, culinary management, billings etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpersonal skill Technical skill Problem-solving skill Communication skill
Director, Nursing Services (DNS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master's degree in nursing with ACLS, BLS, ATLS, PALS and Quality assurance certification/s. Minimum 15 years' experience in nursing with a minimum 350-400 beds hospital. Proven experience as Director or HOD of Nursing. Experience in JCI or NABH accredited hospital will be an added advantage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analytical skill A good knowledge of IT packages Decision making skill Communication skill, in person and in writing
Head of Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> B.Sc. in Engineering from any local/international university. Master's in Business Studies/Administration will be an added advantage. Experience in JCI or NABH accredited hospital. Professional certifications in this field, such as the Facilities Management Professional or Certified Facility Manager would be an added advantage. At least 12 years' experience in related sector like hospital with minimum of 300-bed multi-disciplinary hospital/Five-Star ranked International Hotel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analytical and problem-solving skills Leadership Attention to detail but also the ability to see the implications for the bigger picture
Head of Hospitality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor's in Hospitality/Hotel Management from a reputed institution. Professional certifications/post-graduate diploma in this field would be an added advantage. At least 12 years' experience in related sector like hospital with minimum of 300-bed multi-disciplinary hospital/Five-Star ranked International Hotel. Experience in JCI or NABH accredited hospital would be an added advantage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ability to lead and manage teams and projects
Head of Supply Chain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor/Master of Business Administration in Finance, Economics or any other relevant subject from any reputed university. Candidates with professional degree/post graduate diploma in Supply Chain will get preference. At least 15 years' experience in international procurement, logistics and distributions & out of which, 5 years of experience in a managerial role is required. 	

Apply Instructions: Please mail your application to recruit@apollodhaka.com. No hard copy application will be entertained. Only short-listed candidates will be called for interview.

Last date for submission of application is March 18, 2020.

For further details: Visit Apollo Hospitals Dhaka Career Page <http://apollo.bdjobs.com/>