



The girls of Panchagarh leap into the air in delight as they celebrate victory over their Naogaon counterparts in the final of the Walton 2nd National Youth (Under-17) Handball Competition at the Shaheed (Captain) M Mansur Ali National Handball Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Reality check for Chelsea

REUTERS

 Chelsea tasted defeat for the first time this season as Pep Guardiola's Manchester City earned a statement 1-0 win at Stamford Bridge on a day that Manchester United were beaten by Aston Villa and Liverpool were held by Brentford.

Manchester United slumped to a first Premier League defeat that paved the way for Liverpool to go top later, although Juergen Klopp's side had to be settle for a point as Brentford secured a 3-3 draw in a thriller.

Liverpool have 14 points from six games with City, Chelsea, United and Everton all on 13 points. Brighton & Hove Albion could go top with 15 points if they beat Crystal Palace on Monday.

Tuchel had enjoyed mastery over his Man City counterpart Guardiola, winning all three matches against him since arriving at Stamford Bridge in January -- a sequence culminating in the Champions League final victory.

But this time Guardiola won



Mohamed Salah scored his 100th Premier League goal for Liverpool but the league leaders were still held to a draw by Brentford as the two sides played out a 3-3 thriller on Saturday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

the tactical battle as his side dominated possession and barely gave Chelsea, who were joint top before the lunchtime kickoff, a sniff.

Jesus's low shot on the turn in the 53rd minute earned City the win and but for Chelsea goalkeeper Edouard Mendy they would have enjoyed a bigger margin.

Victory made Guardiola City's most successful manager in terms



It's why we have won a lot of titles." It was a reality check for Chelsea whose cautious approach backfired completely.

"We were excellent but only in the last 20 metres of the match, not in the other 80 metres," Tuchel said.

"Part of performance is to make an opponent underperform and City did that. They were stronger, sharper, had more precision."

West Ham United, who beat Manchester United in the League Cup in midweek, followed up with a 2-1 victory against Leeds United thanks to a late goal by Michail Antonio at Elland Road.

Norwich City's horrendous start to the season continued as they made it six defeats from six games with a 2-0 loss at Everton.

Jamie Vardy scored twice for Leicester City and once for Burnley in a 2-2 draw, although Burnley had a late 'winner' cancelled out by a VAR check. Watford also had a late goal disallowed by VAR as they came back to draw 1-1 at home to Newcastle United who are still without a league win.

Sabina hits four versus Hong Kong

SPORTS REPORTER

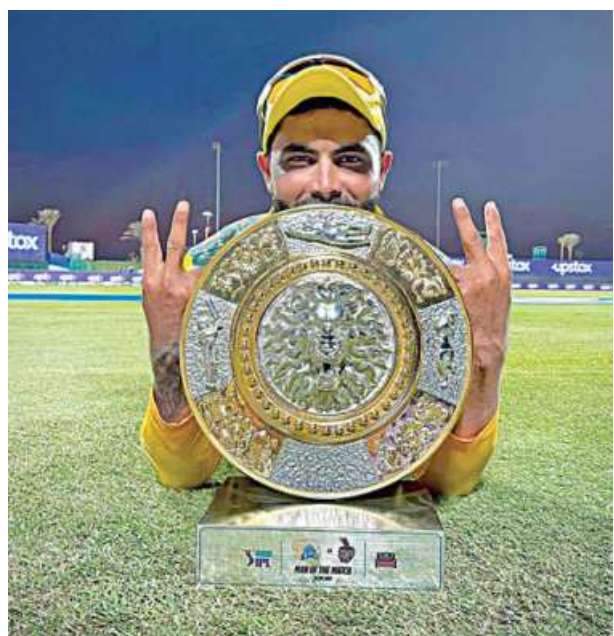
 Bangladesh, inspired by four goals from prolific striker Sabina Khatun, registered a massive 5-0 win against Hong Kong in a women's international friendly at the JAR Academy training ground in Uzbekistan yesterday.

Both teams had travelled to Uzbekistan to play their respective group matches in the AFC Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers, but were ousted from the group stages of the tournament and decided to play the friendly.

At the tournament, Bangladesh suffered 5-0 defeats to Jordan and Iran in Group G while Hong Kong lost 1-2 to eventual group champions Philippines and played out a goalless draw against Nepal to finish second in Group F.

However, Bangladesh seemed to find some solace for their 5-0 drubbings, repeating that margin in a win after taking a 5-0 lead.

Young forward Saraban Tahura gave Bangladesh an 18th-minute lead before Sabina doubled it in the 43rd minute. In the second half, Sabina netted again in the 53rd minute before completing her hattrick four minutes later. Bangladesh's captain wrapped up the win with a fourth strike in the 85th minute.



Ravindra Jadeja won a thriller for Chennai Super Kings (172-8 in 20 overs) as his back-end pyrotechnics during 8-ball 22 ensured a two-wicket victory over Kolkata Knight Riders (171-6 in 20 overs) in an Indian Premier League match at Abu Dhabi yesterday.

PHOTO: TWITTER



REUTERS

 Paulo Dybala scored a superb goal before leaving the pitch in tears with an injury as Juventus beat Sampdoria 3-2 in Turin on Sunday, their first home victory in the Serie A season.

The Argentina international fired a low shot into the bottom corner after 10 minutes but limped off soon after with an apparent muscular problem, which could rule him out

of Wednesday's Champions League clash with European champions Chelsea.

Leonardo Bonucci doubled Juve's advantage from the penalty spot before Maya Yoshida quickly pulled one back for Samp, stretching the home side's run without a league clean sheet to 20 games.

Manuel Locatelli scored his first goal for the Bianconeri in the second half, but Antonio Candreva's late strike meant Juve had a nervy

ending before claiming their second consecutive league win.

Paulo Dybala and Alvaro Morata will miss Juventus' next two games, against Chelsea and Torino, after picking up injuries in a Serie A win over Sampdoria, coach Massimiliano Allegri said on Sunday.

Massimiliano Allegri's side climb to ninth place in the table on eight points, three points clear of 14th-placed Sampdoria but eight adrift of league leaders AC Milan.

One of Italian football's most famous names returned to a Serie A scoresheet on Saturday when Daniel Maldini netted in a 2-1 win for AC Milan over Spezia on his first league start for the club. The 19-year-old followed in the footsteps of his father Paolo and grandfather Cesare, two Milan greats, by scoring in Italy's top flight with a 48th-minute header, which sent the Rossoneri top of the table. Italian media said it was the first time three generations of the same family have started in Serie A, with Paolo Maldini's last goal coming in 2008 and Cesare's in 1961. "It was a very strong emotion," the 19-year-old Maldini told DAZN.



Tigers set to begin red-ball tune-up

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh's focus has been on the shortest format of cricket with the T20 World Cup looming, but the selectors showed a willingness to prepare for the longest version of the game as well, with the stage set for the start of a fresh season of the National Cricket League from next month.

The first-class competition was initially postponed and later cancelled earlier this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, after having already announced 20-member squads for participating teams, the country's premier first-class competition is now tentatively slated to begin from mid-October.

That means members of Bangladesh's T20 World Cup squad will not be able to participate from the start of the tournament since they are scheduled to travel to the middle-east in the first week of October.

Selector Habibul Bashar nevertheless opined that the NCL would be good preparation for players ahead against Pakistan in November a two-match Test series.

"We have a few Test matches right after the World Cup. It's a good opportunity to prepare players. We didn't get much of a chance to play Tests. Obviously, there is a difference between a practice match and

a competitive match. I think the NCL will be adequate preparation for the Pakistan series," Bashar told media yesterday.

The former Bangladesh captain expressed hope that it would be a competitive competition considering the amount of time the players have to prepare.

"This time we are starting the NCL with enough time on hand. Teams will get sufficient time, around a month, to prepare. The players will undergo a fitness test on October 1 and are expected to start skills training by October 5. As the pitches will also get plenty of rest, we are hoping to have a competitive league this time around," he added.

The Tigers fared horribly in the previous World Test Championship cycle, failing to register a single win. But Bashar is confident of a better showing in the second cycle, starting with the series against Pakistan.

Despite the fact that a majority of players will be engaged in the T20 World Cup, the upcoming NCL will help prepare red-ball only cricketers, including the likes of Test skipper Mominul Haque, Saif Hasan, Shadman Islam, Najmul Hossain Shanto, Abu Jayed and Ebadot Hossain.

"I think the NCL is going to be very good preparation for us ahead of the Pakistan series. We also had two four-day practice matches between the A team and High Performance squad and I think that was also very fruitful," Test opener Shadman Islam told The Daily Star yesterday.



Bangladesh pacer Taskin Ahmed bowls under the supervision of local coach Mizanur Rahman Babul while Tigers' T20I skipper Mahmudullah Riyad looks on during training ahead of the ICC T20 World Cup at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

NEWS IN BRIEF

U-19s to tour Sri Lanka in October

Bangladesh U-19s will tour Sri Lanka in October for a five-match one-day series, the SLC confirmed in a media release today. Bangladesh will reach Sri Lanka on October 7. The first one-dayer is slated to be played on October 15 and the series will end with the fifth and final one-dayer on October 25.

'Sorry I am late'

Pele on Saturday praised "outstanding" Lionel Messi for breaking his record as the top goal scorer in a South American national team but apologised for the delay in offering his congratulations. Messi's hat-trick in a World Cup qualifier for Argentina against Bolivia on September 9 came just four days after Brazilian legend Pele had undergone surgery for a suspected colon tumour. "Hi @leomessi, sorry if I'm late. However, I didn't want to pass up the chance to congratulate you for another record broken earlier this month," Pele wrote on Instagram. "Your talent when playing soccer is outstanding! I hope you achieve even more, alongside



my friends @k.mbappe and @neymarjr (at PSG)." Messi surpassed Pele's record of 77 international goals and now boasts 79 in his career.

India end Australia's 26-match winning streak

Australian women's world record 26-match winning streak in one-day internationals came to an end after India pulled off their highest-ever run chase to defeat Meg Lanning's team by two wickets in the third ODI on Sunday. India held their nerve to win with three balls to spare after half-centuries from Shafali Verma and Yastika Bhatia helped them chase a target of 265 in Mackay. The 38-year-old Jhulan Goswami also starred for India, picking up three wickets before clinching the victory with a boundary in the final over.