

Sommer time spells
bummer for Barca

San Siro stages a European night for the ages



**** The aggregate scoreline of 7-6 in the Champions League semifinal tie between Inter and Barca is the joint-highest in the competition, equal with the game between Liverpool and Roma in the 2018/19 season.**

**** Inter have reached the Champions League final for the second time in the last three seasons, having done so in just one of their previous 17 European Cup/Champions League campaigns.**

AGENCIES

Inter Milan goalkeeper Yann Sommer produced a number of saves, including a decisive save deep into extra time, to help his side secure a dramatic 4-3 extra-time victory over Barcelona and book a place in the Champions League final, drawing comparisons to club great Julio Cesar.

The 35-year-old Swiss international denied Barcelona teenager Lamine Yamal in the 113th minute with a fingertip stop as he flung himself high to his left to paw away a vicious, curling effort, preventing an equaliser that would have forced a penalty shootout.

The save came from a similar position to where Lionel Messi had famously been denied by Cesar at the Camp Nou in a semifinal in 2010, during the Nerazzurri's treble-winning campaign.

"I'll remember the save for rest of my life," Sommer told reporters after

Inter advanced 7-6 on aggregate at a rain-soaked San Siro.

Sommer's performance was crucial on a night when Inter overturned a

What we have witnessed has been something very special. Everything about this semifinal has been pure entertainment.

Former England captain Alan Shearer.

I think that football was very cruel with us.

Barcelona's Eric Garcia, who scored their opening goal.

3-2 deficit, with Francesco Acerbi and Davide Frattesi finding the back of the net to seal one of the club's most memorable European victories.

Sommer completed 61 touches -- second only to defender Alessandro Bastoni -- and made seven saves.

Inter ended Barca's hopes for the quadruple and are with a chance to lift their first trophy since 2010.

Meanwhile, for the first time since 2019, Barcelona made the final four, but they were dreaming of more.

INDIA-PAKISTAN CONFLICT

BCB and other
sports bodies
observe situation

BCB is closely monitoring the evolving security situation. The safety and well-being of Bangladeshi players currently playing in the Pakistan Super League remain the board's top priority.

BCB press release.

The PSL will go on as per the schedule. The players are getting state protocol, which has been provided during international series.

PCB media official Shafqat Shabbir.

SPORTS REPORTER

As the conflict between India and Pakistan escalates, with both countries exchanging heavy artillery along their contested frontier yesterday, the sporting bodies in Bangladesh are carefully observing the situation which is likely to have long term consequences in sports in the sub-continent.

In cricket, the men's team is slated to play both India and Pakistan within the coming months.

Bangladesh are set to play five T20Is from May 25 to June 3 in Faisalabad and Lahore against Pakistan right after their series against UAE at Sharjah.

The Tigers are scheduled to tour Sri Lanka next in June and then turn their attention to a three-match T20I series in July against Pakistan, outside of FTP commitments.

Following the Pakistan series, India are then slated to arrive in Bangladesh on August 13 for three ODIs and three T20Is. The Asia Cup in September would be next on the agenda for the subcontinental sides.

A Times of India report had recently read that the 2025 Asia Cup and India's white-ball tour of Bangladesh were in doubt.

However, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday said that they are yet to receive any information regarding any series plans being scrapped or suspended and that right now, their "top priority" was ensuring the safety of cricketers Nahid Rana and Rishad Hossain who are in Pakistan taking part in PSL.

"The safety and well-being of Bangladeshi players currently playing in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) remain the Board's top priority," BCB said in a press release yesterday.

"The board has been in regular contact with Bangladesh National Team players Rishad Hossain and Nahid Rana, who are participating in the ongoing PSL. BCB President Faruque Ahmed is also personally keeping track of the developments and has spoken directly with PSL

"The PSL will go on as per schedule. The players are getting state protocol which is provided during international series. We are giving it to ensure the safety of the players," Shafqat Shabbir, a PCB media official, told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, the next edition of

U-19 BOOTERS IN
ARUNACHAL UNFAZED
BY BORDER HEAT

As global attention remains fixed on rising tensions between India and Pakistan, Bangladesh's U-19 footballers have kept their eyes firmly on the fast approaching SAFF U-19 Championship.

Bangladesh will open their campaign against Maldives tomorrow. The venue, in Arunachal Pradesh, is more than 2,500 kilometres from the India-Pakistan border.

"I heard about the India-Pakistan tensions from hotel staff this morning, but I'm not sure if the players are even aware of it," Bangladesh head coach Golam Rabbani Choton told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday.

"Security at the hotel and practice ground has been thorough."

Six nations -- Maldives, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and hosts India -- are set to compete for the regional title.

Choton reported that spirits were high as the squad shook off travel fatigue during their first training session. "We've stayed focused on our work, and the boys looked lively today (yesterday). We're optimistic about our chances."

CEO Salman Naseer and Rishad to ensure the players' safety and peace of mind," the press release added.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) also announced yesterday that PSL will go on as scheduled. PCB sources confirmed that state protocol is being given to the two Bangladeshi cricketers, both of whom are currently in Islamabad, with Rana's Peshawar Zalmi set to play today against Karachi Kings.

the South Asian Games has also been thrown into uncertainty as it is scheduled to take place in Islamabad in next year's January.

"It is too early to make comments on the future of next year's SA Games in Pakistan... After Eid-ul-Adha, we will communicate with other Olympic committees in the sub-continent but we will be observing the situation," said a BOA official requesting anonymity.

What to
WATCH

T SPORTS
Punjab vs Delhi
Live from 8:00 pm
NAGORIK TV
PSL
Karachi vs Peshawar
Live from 9:00 pm

SONY SPORTS 2
Europa League semifinals
Man Utd vs Athletic Bilbao
Live from 1:00 am
(Friday)
SONY SPORTS 1
Bodo/Glimt vs Tottenham

Live from 1:00 am (Friday)
SONY SPORTS 5
Conference League
semifinals
Chelsea vs Djurgarden
Live from 1:00 am
(Friday)

India's Rohit bids
adieu to Tests

AGENCIES

India's Rohit Sharma announced his retirement from Test cricket on Wednesday, but said he will continue to play the shorter format of the game.

Taking to Instagram, Rohit, the incumbent Indian Test captain, stated: "Hello everyone, I would like to share that I am retiring from Test cricket.

"It's been an absolute honour to represent my country in whites. Thank you for all the love and support over the years. I will continue to represent India in the ODI format."

Rohit represented India in 67 Tests, scoring a total of 4301 runs with 12 hundreds and 18 fifties. His career-best Test score of 212 came against South Africa in Ranchi in 2019.

The aggressive right-handed opener scored north of the 150-mark on three occasions, including a 177-run innings as a middle-order batter in his very first Test innings in a game against the West Indies in 2013 at Eden Gardens.

He took over Test captaincy back in 2022 and led India in 24 Tests, winning 12, losing nine, and drawing three.

Rohit retired from the T20I format after leading India to their second T20 World Cup title in 2024.



Man Utd, Spurs
seek Europa
final berth

AGENCIES

Manchester United are preparing for the second leg of their Europa League semifinal on Thursday night against Athletic Bilbao, knowing only a calamity will prevent a likely showdown with Tottenham later this month.

Ruben Amorim's men came away from the first leg in northern Spain last week with one foot firmly in the final, also in Bilbao, after an impressive 3-0 win.

Tottenham are also on the same boat as United as they have a 3-1 advantage over Bodo/Glimt.

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Jamuna Bank PLC. is a leading financial institution committed to providing top-tier banking solutions while ensuring compliance with legal and regulatory frameworks. To further strengthen our legal operations, we are looking for a highly experienced and competent professional to join as Chief Legal Officer (CLO) under the Law Division. This is an excellent opportunity for individuals with strong legal acumen and leadership skills to contribute to the bank & legal excellence.

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