

What to WATCH

T SPORTS
Bangladesh women vs Sri Lanka women 2nd T20I
Live from 1:30 pm
SONY SPORTS 1,2,5

Europa League Semifinals
Live from 1:00 am (Friday)
Conference League Semifinals
Live from 1:00 am

(Friday)
STAR SPORTS SELECT HD1
IPL
Gujarat vs Bengaluru
Live from 8:00 pm

History makers settle for silver

SPORTS REPORTER

After scripting a piece of history in the country's sports, the Bangladesh women's hockey team had to settle for the runners-up trophy in the Asian Games Qualifiers after surrendering a lead to suffer a 3-1 defeat to favourites Chinese Taipei in the final at the GBK Stadium in Jakarta, Indonesia yesterday.

Bangladesh travelled to Jakarta hoping to secure a place in the upcoming Asian Games in Japan by finishing among the top four, and a second-place finish in the eight-nation tournament is a significant achievement



for the senior women's side, who were participating in an international tournament for the first time following a journey of less than five years.

The women in red and green had given Chinese Taipei a tough challenge in the pool-stage match, which ended in a thrilling 5-5 draw. However, in the final, inexperience and defensive frailties proved costly against an opponent, who had also defeated Bangladesh in the Junior (U-21) AHF Cup in Singapore in 2024.

The final proved to be a bit of a mismatch as Bangladesh lagged behind in experience despite showing some scintillating build-up play on the blue turf.

Orpita Pal gave Bangladesh a deserved lead by converting a penalty corner in the eighth minute, but a fragile backline allowed Chinese Taipei to strike back with two quick goals.

Bangladesh struggled to contain their experienced opponents during transitions and counter-attacks, conceding all three goals from such situations, with defender Neelandri Barua making costly errors in the first two.

Although Bangladesh looked comfortable in possession with crisp passing, they lacked composure inside the striking circle. A lack of variation in penalty corners also made it easier for Chinese Taipei to defend.

Chinese Taipei equalised through open play in the 17th minute when Neelandri failed to control the ball inside the circle, allowing Lai Ya-Han to set up Wang Yu-Chiu, who made no mistake.

Another defensive lapse from Neelandri in transition led to Fan Hui-Yun assisting Mao I-Hsuan, who gave Chinese Taipei the lead in the 32nd minute. Moments later, Zhu Yi-Chun struck the post, sparing Bangladesh further damage.

Kona Akther thought she had equalised in the 33rd minute during a goalmouth scramble, but the effort was disallowed. Chinese Taipei then sealed the match in the 40th minute, with Huang Yu-Ting finishing from Mao I-Hsuan's powerful strike.



The Champions League delivered a night for the ages in Paris yesterday, where reigning champions PSG edged Bayern Munich 5-4 in one of the competition's greatest ever semifinal clashes. In a breathless contest between the season's two most prolific sides, Bayern struck first through a 17th-minute penalty from Harry Kane before Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and Joao Neves turned it around for PSG. Michael Olise levelled with a brilliant solo effort before Ousmane Dembele's stoppage-time penalty made it 3-2 at the break. PSG looked out of sight when Kvaratskhelia and Dembele struck twice in two minutes to make it 5-2 by the 58th minute, but Bayern roared back. Dayot Upamecano and Luis Diaz scored in a three-minute burst to cut the deficit to one, keeping the tie finely poised ahead of the return leg in Munich next week.

Madness in Paris

● With nine goals, this is the joint-highest scoring semifinal match in European Cup/Champions League history, matching Rangers 3-6 Eintracht Frankfurt (1959-60), and the highest-scoring Champions League semifinal.

"This is what happens when two teams with the same philosophy face each other, you get thunder and lightning. We can score goals, we've shown that, and we will do it at home too."

Bayern coach Vincent Kompany

"I've never seen such intensity, physical level and pace. We deserved to win, we deserved to draw and we deserved to lose today. It was a fantastic game -- the best match I've been in as a manager. No doubts."

PSG coach Luis Enrique



PHOTOS: AFP/FACEBOOK

● PSG coach Luis Enrique reached 50 Champions League wins in just 77 matches -- the fastest in the competition's history.

● PSG (43) and Bayern (42) made this the first Champions League campaign with two teams scoring 40+ goals.

● Since joining PSG last year, only Harry Kane (21) has more Champions League goal involvements than Khvicha Kvaratskhelia (13 goals, 7 assists).

● Bayern conceded five goals in Europe

for the first time since their 5-2 defeat to Ajax in the 1994-95 Champions League semifinal second leg.

● Bayern's front three -- Kane (54), Olise (20) and Diaz (26) -- have combined for 100 goals this season. All three have 10+ Champions League goal involvements in 2025-26, a first for the club.

● Michael Olise is the only player in Europe's top five leagues with 20+ goals and 20+ assists this season (20 goals, 25 assists).

42 DAYS TO GO



Oldest to find the net

The record for the oldest goalscorer in World Cup history belongs to Cameroon's legendary striker Roger Milla. He scored against Russia in the group stage of the 1994 tournament in the United States at the age of 42 years and 39 days. However, his team suffered a 6-1 defeat in that match. In the same game, Russia's striker Oleg Salenko became the only player in World Cup history to score five goals in a single match.

****Visit The Daily Star's website to also read: 'Hand of God or the Devil's claw?'**

Zaragoza keeper given 13-game ban

AFP, Madrid

The Spanish football federation banned Real Zaragoza goalkeeper Esteban Andrada for 13 matches on Wednesday after he punched a Huesca player in the face.

The federation's disciplinary committee said in a statement both the Argentina international and his club would also be fined, after he was first sent off and then "attacked" Huesca's Jorge Pulido in the second tier derby clash last Sunday.

Andrada was issued a 12 match ban for the punch itself, while his initial red card carries an automatic one-match ban, ruling him out for the rest of the season dealing a blow to Zaragoza's hopes in their battle to avoid relegation.

The 35-year-old, on loan from Mexican side Monterrey, shoved over Pulido and was shown a second yellow card for the incident.

Andrada then became enraged, running to hit Pulido and sparking a brawl on the pitch in stoppage time.

"The truth is I'm very, very sorry for what happened," said Andrada afterwards.

"It's not a good image for the club, for the fans, and especially not for a professional like myself. So, I'm very sorry."

Rain washes out 2nd NZ T20I



****Visit The Daily Star's website to also read: 'Success for New Zealand is not 'outcome based', says Kelly'**

Persistent rain forced the abandonment of the second T20I between Bangladesh and New Zealand in Chattogram yesterday without a ball being bowled. Heavy showers left the outfield unplayable, with officials, following multiple inspections, calling off the match in the afternoon. Bangladesh lead the three-match series 1-0 after winning the opener by 25 runs. The decider is scheduled for Saturday in Mirpur, while the Bangladesh Cricket Board confirmed ticket refunds for the abandoned fixture.

PHOTO: BCB

Cash surge, stricter laws for 2026 WC

AGENCIES

FIFA has significantly increased financial distributions for the 2026 World Cup while introducing a series of rule changes aimed at strengthening discipline and tackling misconduct.

● FIFA has raised the total World Cup distribution fund to \$871 million, a 15 percent increase from the previously announced \$727 million.

● Each of the 48 participating teams will receive higher financial support, with preparation funds increased from \$1.5 million to \$2.5 million and qualification payments rising from \$9 million to \$10 million.

● Additional support will include contributions toward team delegation costs and increased ticket allocations,

with total added benefits exceeding \$16 million.

● The decision follows concerns from member associations over high operational costs, including travel, taxes and logistics, particularly for a tournament spread across the United States, Canada and Mexico.

● FIFA expects the current four-year World Cup cycle, which concludes with the largest World Cup in history, to generate around \$13 billion, underlining the commercial

scale of the expanded competition.

● New rules approved for the tournament include potential red cards for players who cover their mouths during confrontations, part of efforts to combat racism.

● Players leaving the pitch in protest of refereeing decisions will also risk dismissal, while teams responsible for abandoned matches will forfeit the game.

● Yellow cards received in the group stage will be cleared after the first round and again after the quarterfinals, reducing the risk of suspensions in crucial matches.



PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

Bank Asia

This is for information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of Bank Asia PLC. in its 583rd meeting held today, the 29 April 2026, at 3:30 p.m. at the Board Room of the Bank at Bank Asia Tower, 32 & 34 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215, has approved the audited Financial Statements of the Bank for the year ended on 31 December 2025, and took the following decisions:

i)		8.50% Cash Dividend & 8.50% Stock Dividend			
i	Proposed Dividend for the Year Ended 31 December 2025				
27 th Annual General Meeting (AGM)		Date :	11 June 2026		
		Time :	11:00 a.m.		
		Venue :	Through Digital Platform (link will be communicated in due course)		
ii	Record date	20 May 2026			
Particulars		Solo		Consolidated	
		2025 (Taka)	2024 (Taka)	2025 (Taka)	2024 (Taka)
iv	*NAV per Share	27.47	24.83	27.42	24.80
v	**Earnings per Share (EPS)	3.19	1.88	3.18	1.95
vi	**Net Operating Cash Flow per Share (NOCFPS)	41.25	45.74	41.74	45.87

* NAV improved mainly due to growth in shareholders' equity, driven by higher paid-up capital, statutory reserves, and retained earnings.

** Higher operating profit led to higher net profit after tax resulted in increased Earnings per Share (EPS) compared to last year.

*** Net Operating Cash Flow per Share (NOCFPS) decreased mainly due to reduced cash inflows from Deposits compared to previous year.

Disclosure for recommendation of Stock Dividend:

- Stock dividend have been recommended to strengthen the capital base of the bank to support business growth,
- Stock dividend have been recommended out of the current year profit, and
- Stock dividend are not declared from the capital reserve or revaluation reserve or any unrealized gain or out of the profit earned prior to incorporation of the company or through reducing paid up capital or through doing anything so that the post dividend retained earning becomes negative or debit balance.

ii) In the same Board Meeting the Board of Directors have approved the following resolution:

PROPOSED SPECIAL RESOLUTION : The Authorized Capital of the Company will be increased from 15,000,000,000.00 (Taka one thousand five hundred crore) divided into 1,500,000,000 (one hundred fifty crore) ordinary shares of Tk. 10.00 each to Tk. 30,000,000,000.00 (Taka three thousand crore) only divided into 3000,000,000 (three hundred crore) ordinary shares of Tk. 10.00 each subject to approval from Bangladesh Bank and the adoption of Special Resolution by the Shareholders of the Company at the General Meeting.

The Shareholders whose names will appear in the Share Register of the Company on the Record Date will be entitled to attend and vote at the 27th AGM and to the dividend declared in the same.

Dated: Dhaka
29 April 2026

Bank Asia PLC., Corporate Office
Bank Asia Tower
32 & 34, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue
Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215