

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

BTV & RTV

Bangabandhu Gold Cup

Bangladesh v Sri Lanka

Live from 5:00 pm

STAR SPORTS 1 & STAR SPORTS 3

India v Australia

Thrid ODI

Live from 2:00 pm

SONY ESPN

South Africa v England

Thrid Test, Day 4

Live from 2:00 pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

Premier League

Burnley v Leicester

Live from 8:00 pm

Liverpool v Manchester United

Live from 10:30 pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2

Bundesliga

Hertha Berlin v Bayern Munich

Live from 8:30 pm

Paderborn v Bayer Leverkusen

Live from 11:00 pm

TEN 2

Serie A

AC Milan v Udinese

Live from 5:30 pm

Lecce v Inter Milan

Live from 8:00 pm

Genoa v AS Roma

Live from 11:00 pm

Juventus v Parma

Live from 1:45 am (Monday)

Bangabandhu Gold Cup

Bangladesh v Sri Lanka

Time: 5:00 pm

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium, Dhaka



Bangladesh skipper Jamal Bhuiyan (L), with his left leg bandaged, forlornly watches his teammates (R) train at the Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday morning ahead of today's do-or-die clash of the Bangabandhu Gold Cup against Sri Lanka.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Jamal doubtful as Booters take on Lanka in do-or-die clash

SPORTS REPORTER

Skipper Jamal Bhuiyan is doubtful for the do-or-die clash against Sri Lanka today as Bangladesh look to pip the islanders for the runners-up position in Group A of the Bangabandhu Gold Cup.

The 30-year-old midfielder injured his left hamstring during the opening match against Palestine, which Bangladesh lost 2-0, and sat out training in the last two days.

Arguably the most influential member in the side, Jamal has not been ruled out entirely but coach Jamie Day did not want to risk aggravating the injury further, resting him for two successive sessions. It has been learnt that a decision on whether Jamal will play will only be taken after further assessment this morning, with the match scheduled to kick off at the Bangabandhu National Stadium at 5:00pm.

Bangladesh must beat Sri Lanka,

even if in shootout, to eke out the second qualifying spot from the group as defending champions Palestine have already booked their semifinal berth with two victories in two matches. After beating Bangladesh 2-0, Palestine applied the same dose on Sri Lanka, albeit the two goals coming right at the end.

The results mean a draw in regulation time would see both Bangladesh and Sri Lanka finish on equal points and with same goal-difference. According to the tournament bylaws, the runners-up spot will then be decided by penalty shootout, with no option for extra-time.

“The probability of my playing is 75 per cent. Still there is pain and I’m facing difficulties in moving my leg,” Jamal told reporters as he watched his teammates go through the training session at the Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday morning.

Sri Lanka (200), the second-lowest ranked side in the

tournament, will not pose the same challenge as Palestine (106), the highest-ranked team of the six-team tournament. Bangladesh have beaten Sri Lanka four times in their last five meetings even though the last meeting between the two sides ended in a victory for the Lankans in a friendly in Bangladesh in 2018.

Jamal, despite his injury, is optimistic about being part of the team in this must-win game. “I will try running again tomorrow [Sunday] morning. If I do not feel pain, I will play. Our target is to reach the semi-finals. We could not win the first game and we cannot let that happen again. We’ll have to keep our defence intact and then go for scoring,” Jamal added.

But if Jamal fails to recover from his injury, there is the option of playing Manik Mollah in his position, with Mamunul Islam and Sohel Rana slotting in as the two other midfielders. There could be changes in other positions as well, with the coach expressing his frustration over poor finishing and

lapses of concentration in defence after the first match.

With Sri Lanka being a predominantly defence-oriented team, Bangladesh coach could employ an extra striker to combine with Saad Uddin upfront, which means a change in formation.

There will be a forced change in defence after centre-back Yeasin Khan yesterday left the team with fever.

Day, himself, was also hopeful about a victory against the Lankans. “Preparation is good. Obviously, we are eyeing a win against Sri Lanka,” the 40-year-old coach said.

Skipper Jamal, though, is seeking inspiration from their win against the Lankans in the recent South Asian Games, where the Olympic team of the red and greens won 1-0, their only victory in the tournament.

“We beat the Lankans in the South Asian Games. We are ahead of them in attacks too. We want to replicate that performance in Dhaka,” said Jamal.

Casemiro brace takes Real to top

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid climbed above Barcelona to top of La Liga on Saturday as Casemiro scored twice in a gritty 2-1 win over Sevilla.

Casemiro’s double proved the difference amid a three-goal flurry early in the second half, with Luuk de Jong briefly drawing Sevilla level.

Madrid were underwhelming at the Santiago Bernabeu, at times reverting back to the stodgy days of last season when the team struggled for goals under Julen Lopetegui, who is now in charge of Sevilla.

Yet with Eden Hazard, Gareth Bale, Karim Benzema and Sergio Ramos all missing from their starting line-up, this might be the kind of victory that could prove crucial to their hopes of winning the title in May.

Sevilla stay fourth, eight points off the top.

Barca can reclaim first place on Sunday when they face Granada at Camp Nou, where Quique Setien will

be overseeing his first game since being appointed early last week.

Setien has said he will not be happy if his team win while playing badly but Zinedine Zidane is likely to be less choosy.

His Madrid side are now 17 games unbeaten, a streak that has included them winning the Spanish Super Cup in Saudi Arabia last weekend. Ramos, who is still recovering from an ankle injury, paraded the club’s latest trophy on the pitch before kick-off.

Benzema came on in the second half after shaking off a dead leg but Bale’s absence was more mysterious. The Welshman missed the trip to Jeddah through illness but had returned to training on Tuesday.

Lopetegui was back at the Santiago Bernabeu for the first time since he was sacked by Madrid last season, 138 days after they appointed him, and his Sevilla side arguably deserved more.

Converting impetus into goals has been their problem all season, and so it proved again.



Real Madrid's Brazilian midfielder Casemiro jumps for joy to celebrate his first goal at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium against Sevilla FC during their Spanish League match in Madrid yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Shirin Akter and Saiful Ismail Khan Sunny fly the Bangladesh Navy Flag after winning their respective 200m sprints to help their team emerge champions of the 43rd National Athletics Championship at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

BFF, AIUB strike deal

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) and American International University, Bangladesh (AIUB) yesterday signed an education partnership agreement for the national players for three years.

BFF president Kazi Salahuddin and an AIUB founder member Hasanul A Hasan signed the deal on behalf of their respective organisations at the BFF house.

Under this deal, all male and female footballers of senior and age-level national teams will get opportunity to pursue academic career at the AIUB alongside their sporting activity.

Initially, the AIUB will give scholarship in each year to six players, who will be nominated by the BFF, for a four-year degree.

Besides, there will be training course including English speaking, leadership building and the art of speaking before media for other players for free of cost.

Shirin, Sunny propel Navy

SPORTS REPORTER



Sprint queen Shirin Akter romped to the 200m sprint title as the Bangladesh Navy regained their dominance of the National Athletics Championship, the 43rd edition of which concluded at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

Shirin had lost her 200m sprint title to Shohagi Akter in the last edition of the national championship. Even though the Navy sprinter had her revenge in the summer meet in September last year, she eclipsed her previous best yesterday to retain the national title.

The former BKSP student clocked 24.70 seconds, beating her previous best effort by 0.27 seconds, to reclaim the gold medal after having won the 100m gold on the previous day. Sharifa Khatun of Navy won the silver while Aysha Akter of Bangladesh Jail settled for the bronze medal. However, the records will not be considered official as this event is being held on grass surface and in hand-timing method.

In men’s 200m sprint, Saiful Ismail Khan Sunny of Bangladesh Navy edged teammate and former champion Zahir Raihan by 0.20 seconds to win gold. Sunny clocked 21 seconds, beating Raihan whom he had beaten in the summer meet, too, four months ago. Hasan Mia of Bangladesh Army settled for the bronze medal.

Sunny and Raihan later teamed up to win the men’s 4X400m relay event too, helping Navy to the top of the medals tally.

Navy, who had lost their dominance to Army in the last national meet before emerging champions in the summer meet, topped the tally with 21 gold, 18 silver and eight bronze medals. Army finished second with 14 gold, 14 silver and 14 bronze medals. Bangladesh Ansar and VDP finished distant third with one gold and one silver medal.

India, Aus meet today in decider

STAR SPORT DESK

A feisty Australia will take on a resilient India in the third and series-deciding ODI, with hopes of clinching the coveted series at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru today.

Australia started the series in an emphatic fashion, hammering the hosts by 10 wickets in the series opener at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Tuesday. But Virat Kohli’s team dominated Friday’s second match and won by 36 runs, with opener Shikhar Dhawan hitting 96 and KL Rahul smashing 80 off 52 balls.

India got their batting combination right in the second ODI as skipper Kohli returned to his usual number three spot while Shreyas Iyer was back at number four. Rahul, who batted at number five, also seized the opportunity in his new batting position. And with Rohit Sharma and Dhawan opening, the same order is likely to be followed today.

However, the call on the participation of both Rohit and Dhawan will be made prior to the start of today’s game as both the batsmen suffered blows in the second ODI.

Rohit, who is yet to make a mark in the series, hurt his shoulder while fielding while Dhawan was hit on the rib cage off a Pat Cummins delivery that forced him out of action when Australia batted.

“Dhawan and Sharma are progressing well. Their recovery is being closely monitored and a call on their participation in the final ODI will be taken before the match,” BCCI said in a statement.

It, however, remains to be seen if Manish Pandey, who played in place of injured Rishabh Pant on Friday, will start today or Pant will make a comeback.

Guardiola’s birthday ruined

AFP, London



Pep Guardiola’s birthday celebrations went flat as Fernandinho’s late own goal forced Manchester City to settle for a 2-2 draw against Crystal Palace, while Tottenham’s hopes of finishing in the top four were dented by a goalless stalemate at Watford on Saturday.

On a busy day of top-flight action, the pitchside VAR monitor was used in the Premier League for the first time at Norwich and Arsenal were held to a 1-1 draw by Sheffield United.

It was the drama at the Etihad Stadium that took the spotlight as Fernandinho’s last-gasp blunder left Guardiola in no mood to party after City’s faint hopes of retaining the title suffered another hammer blow.

The champions trail Liverpool by 13 points ahead of the runaway leaders’ clash with rivals Manchester

United on Sunday.

Cenk Tosun marked his first league start since his loan move from Everton with his maiden goal for the Eagles, the Turkish striker netting a close-range strike from Martin Kelly’s flick in the 39th minute.

Sergio Aguerro appeared to have turned the game on its head in the 82nd minute when the Argentine striker bagged his 250th goal in 360 games for the club.

Aguero put City ahead in the 87th minute with a typically predatory header from Benjamin Mendy’s cross.

But there was a sting in the tale for Guardiola as Fernandinho turned Wilfried Zaha’s cross into his own net in the 90th minute to end second-placed City’s run of three successive league wins.

At Vicarage Road, Troy Deeney’s 70th-minute spot-kick was saved by Paulo Gazzaniga before Tottenham’s Erik Lamela was denied a last-gasp winner by Ignacio Pussetto’s goal-line

clearance.

With England captain Harry Kane sidelined after hamstring surgery, Tottenham have gone three league games without scoring.

Jose Mourinho’s side are without a win in four league matches since December 26 and sit eight points behind fourth-placed Chelsea, who visit Newcastle in Saturday’s late game.

Arsenal are 10 points adrift of the top four after the Blades continued their superb first season back in the Premier League.

Bottom of the table Norwich’s vital 1-0 win over fellow strugglers Bournemouth saw the pitchside monitor finally used to decide a red card call.

Wolves climbed to sixth after a thrilling fightback in their 3-2 win at Southampton while Everton drew 1-1 at West Ham.

Aston Villa’s Jack Grealish rescued a 1-1 draw at Brighton.



BURUNDI 3-1 SEYCHELLES
Jospin 54', Amissi 60', 62' Moniaie 26'

The Burundi players have not only added pace and guile to the ongoing Bangabandhu Gold Cup, they have brought their own unique dance, which they performed after each of their goals during a 3-1 win against Seychelles at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Two wins in two matches helped Burundi cruise into the semifinals as Group B champions with six points.

PHOTO: BFF