

What to WATCH

SONY SIX
South Africa v England
Second T20I
Live from 10:00pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
English Premier League

Wolves v Leicester
Live from 1:50am (Saturday)
STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
Bundesliga
Dortmund v Eintracht Frankfurt
Live from 1:15am (Saturday)

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh Cricket League
Four-day Match, Day 1
Time: 9:30am

Central Zone v South Zone
Venue: Cox's Bazar
East Zone v North Zone

Venue: Cox's Bazar
Bangladesh Premier League
Saif Sporting v Rahmatganj

Time: 3:15pm
Venue: Rofique Uddin Bhuiyan Stadium,
Mymensingh

Arambagh KS v Mohammedan
Time: 6:30pm
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium, Dhaka

Chelsea get Ziyech for just €40m

AFP, London

 Hakim Ziyech will join Chelsea from Dutch champions Ajax this summer in a 40 million-euro deal, the two clubs confirmed Thursday.

The announcement ends days of speculation over the future of the 26-year-old attacking midfielder, a Moroccan international.

"Ajax and Chelsea have reached an agreement for the transfer of Hakim Ziyech. The player will join the Premier League club on July 1st 2020 and will finish the season in Amsterdam," the Eredivisie champions said in a statement.

Chelsea confirmed the deal, praising Dutch-born Ziyech as a "prolific scorer throughout his career."

"Ziyech is a left-footed attacker who is comfortable playing off the right flank and coming inside, as he has often done in recent years to such devastating effect for Ajax, or on the left to attack with width and deliver into the box," Chelsea said.

The London-based side added: "The move is subject to the player agreeing personal terms and he will remain at the Dutch club for the rest of this season."

Ziyech joined Ajax in 2016 from fellow Eredivisie club FC Twente for a fee of 11 million euros, and has now scored 49 goals in 160 appearances for Ajax. His contract at Ajax was due to run until June 2022.

Ziyech was a key figure in Ajax's sensational run to the Champions League semifinals last year. But he reportedly wanted more football in Europe's top flight after the Dutch side were eliminated in the group stage this year -- in part because they lost at home to Chelsea and later threw away a three-goal lead at Stamford Bridge.




Fabian Ruiz celebrates his decisive goal Napoli against Inter Milan during a 1-0 win in their Coppa Italia semifinal first leg on Wednesday.

PHOTO: SSC NAPOLI

Ctg Abahani cruise, Kings toil

SPORTS REPORTER

 Heavyweights Bashundhara Kings and a rejuvenated Chattogram Abahani got off to winning starts, but title contenders Sheikh Russel stumbled against visiting Brothers Union on the opening day of the Bangladesh Premier League across three venues yesterday.

Interestingly, all five goals scored in the three matches came from foreign players, who basically made the difference in all three matches.

COLINDRES SINKS BARIDHARA

A late strike from Daniel Colindres helped holders Bashundhara notch a hard-fought 1-0 win over just-promoted Uttar Baridhara Club. Although the latter gave their superior opponents a run for their money, they were not lucky enough to snatch a point from the home side at the Sheikh Kamal Stadium in Nilphamari.

Bashundhara Kings, who started the season by lifting the Federation Cup five weeks ago, were made to sweat against Baridhara. The holders could hardly find any holes in the opposition defence but still fortunate to leave with three points courtesy of a strike from inspiring Costa Rican forward Colindres.

After a barren first half, Bashundhara Kings pushed hard for the lead and Argentine midfielder Nicolas Delmonte saw his left-footed shot from 30 yards go inches over in the 46th minute.

Spanish coach Oscar Bruzon strengthened the attacking line-up by sending on the fresh legs of Mahbubur Rahmn Sufil and Colindres rattled the sidebar in the 69th minute.

Centre-back Tapu Barman then failed to connect to a free-kick from Colindres in the 74th minute and three minutes later, Baridhara came close to taking the lead as Suman Reza rattled the woodwork.

Bashundhara ultimately broke the deadlock in the 86th minute when Baridhara defenders failed to stop a lob from Sufil and an unmarked Colindres tapped in from close range to send the few hundred spectators into a frenzy.

However, the holders left the field with 10 men after defender Yeasin Khan committed a second bookable offense just a minute



Chittagong Abahani's Chendu Mathew (C) casually celebrates the opener against Sheikh Jamal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium during the opening round of the Bangladesh Premier League yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

before regulation time ended.

NIGERIAN DUO OVERPOWER SHEIKH JAMAL IN DHAKA

One goal each from from Nigeria's Chendu Mathew and Jean Charles Didier powered visiting Chattogram Abahani to a convincing 2-0 win over three-time champions Sheikh Jamal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

A rejuvenated Chattogram Abahani created more chances compared to their opponents and came close to taking the lead in the 17th minute but a powerful header from Uzbek defender Shukur Ali came off the crossbar.

Chittagong Abahani finally took a deserved lead in the 55th minute when national midfielder Rakib Hossain played

a diagonal pass to Mathew on the edge of the box and the Nigerian shrugged off his marker before firing home from inside the box.

Ten minutes later, Maruful Haque's charges doubled the lead as Mathew entered the box from the right side and cut back to Didier, who did not hesitate in driving a powerful left-footer past goalkeeper Ziaur Rahman.

After going two goals down, Sheikh Jamal coach Shafiqul Islam Manik sent on three pairs of fresh legs but it had made hardly an impact and Chattogram Abahani left the field with three points.

OTABEK CLAIMS DRAW WITH STUNNER

Although they finished in third place last

season, Sheikh Russel opened the new season by dropping points to lightweights Brothers Union after surrendering a first-half lead in a 1-1 draw at the Sylhet District Stadium.

Sheikh Russel got off to a fine start by taking the lead in the fourth minute through Raphael Odoyin, who rose above Brothers' foreign centre-back pairing to nod home a well-judged cross from Yeamin Munna.

However, the 2012 champions failed to hold onto the lead and Brothers levelled on the hour mark. Otabek worked hard on the left, nutmegging three players on his way into the box, before unleashing a curling shot from inside the box past national goalkeeper Ashraful Islam Rana to claim a share of the spoils.

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