

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
English Premier League
 Liverpool v Bournemouth
 Live from 6:30pm
 Arsenal v West Ham
 Live from 9:00pm

Burnley v Tottenham
 Live from 11:30pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
Bundesliga
 Wolfsburg v Leipzig
 Live from 8:30pm

Borussia M'gladbach v Dortmund
 Live from 11:20pm
SONY SIX
South Africa v Australia
 Third ODI (D/N)
 Live from 2:00pm

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh Premier League
 Saif Sporting v Sheikh Jamal
 Time: 3:30pm

Venue: Rofique Uddin Bhuiyan Stadium, Mymensingh
 Mohammedan v Bashundhara Kings

Time: 3:30pm
 Venue: Shaheed Dhirendranath Stadium, Cumilla

Abahani v Ctg Abahani
 Time: 6:30pm
 Venue: BNS, Dhaka

Sheikh Russel v Muktiyoddha
 Time: 6:30pm
 Venue: Sylhet District Stadium



Bangladesh opens Liton Das (L) and Tamim Iqbal pummeled Zimbabwe in the third and final ODI yesterday with a historic 292-run partnership for the opening wicket, the most for any wicket in Bangladesh history, at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Liton, Tamim create history

SPORTS REPORTER from Sylhet

There were records galore for Bangladesh as openers Tamim Iqbal and Liton Das whipped up a storm with twin tons at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium in the third and final against Zimbabwe ODI yesterday.

The hosts were looking for a perfect finish with a whitewash that would give their captain, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, a memorable send-off. And ever since Zimbabwe skipper Sean Williams surprisingly opted to field on a rather flat track, Tamim and especially Liton took a toll on the visiting bowlers and ensured the crowd stayed on their feet throughout Bangladesh's innings.

Tamim and Liton broke almost all the batting records for Bangladesh as the duo posted 292 of Bangladesh's 322 runs for the first wicket -- the Tigers' best opening stand and the highest partnership for any wicket in ODIs.

Before rain interrupted the game for more than two-and-a-half hours, Liton and Tamim broke Bangladesh's 21-year-old record ODI opening stand of 170 runs between Shahriar Hossain and

Mehrab Hossain.

Liton, who struck his third ODI century and his second in the series after a magnificent 126 in the first ODI, went on to grab Bangladesh's highest individual ODI score. He surpassed Tamim Iqbal's 158 just one game after it was recorded.

Liton was eventually dismissed after a magnificent 176 off 142

already become the third-best opening-wicket partnership and the sixth-best in terms of runs for any wicket in one-day cricket history.

West Indies batsmen John Campbell and Shai Hope hold the record partnership for the opening wicket with their 365-run stand against Ireland in 2019, followed by the 304-run stand between

Riyad's 224-run stand in the 2017 Champions Trophy against New Zealand in Cardiff.

Liton did find slices of luck during his masterclass, being dropped three times after reaching his century as some sloppy fielding from the visitors saw him survive scapes on 102, 122 and 144.

The best part of the partnership was how Tamim complemented Liton, even congratulating him with a hug when the right-hander went past 158 with a boundary.

Liton now has two centuries in the past three matches while Tamim got a second consecutive century in the format for the second time in his career and extended his Bangladesh record tally of ODI centuries to 13.

Tamim had previously gotten back-to-back hundreds against Pakistan in Dhaka in April 2015, scoring 132 in the first ODI and an unbeaten 116 in the second.

From the way Liton was taking on the Zimbabwe attack, it looked at one point that the wicketkeeper-batsman could well register the first ever ODI double hundred for the Tigers. That did not happen in the end and it seemed that Tamim was the most disappointed after Liton's dismissal.

TOP FIVE PARTNERSHIPS			
PARTNERS	RUNS	WKT	OPPOSITION
Tamim Iqbal, Liton Das	292	1st	Zimbabwe
Shakib Al Hasan, Mahmudullah	224	5th	New Zealand
Imrul Kayes, Soumya Sarkar	220	2nd	Zimbabwe
Tamim Iqbal, Shakib Al Hasan	207	2nd	West Indies
Shakib Al Hasan, Liton Das	189*	4th	West Indies

balls, smiting a record eight sixes, the most by a Bangladeshi batsman in an ODI innings.

At the other end, Tamim joined the party and remained unbeaten for a 109-ball 128.

The hurricane 292-run stand came to an end with Liton's departure, but by then it had

Imam-ul-Haq and Fakhar Zaman for Pakistan against Zimbabwe in 2018.

During the course of their whirlwind knocks, Tamim and Liton also surpassed the highest partnership for any wicket for Bangladesh, eclipsing Shakib Al Hasan and Mahmudullah

NUMBERS GAME

1 The 292-run opening stand between Tamim Iqbal and Liton Das yesterday was Bangladesh's biggest partnership for any wicket, comfortably beating Mahmudullah Riyad and Shakib Al Hasan's 224-run fifth-wicket stand against New Zealand in the 2017 ICC Champions Trophy.

1 Liton's 176 is the highest score by Bangladesh in ODIs, beating the 158 scored by Tamim in the second ODI. His third century puts him level with Mahmudullah at joint-fifth in Bangladesh's list of century-scorers.

3 It was the third-highest opening stand in ODI history, coming in behind John Campbell and Shai Hope's 365-run partnership against Ireland in 2019 and the 304 put on by Pakistan openers Imam-ul-Haq and Fakhar Zaman against Zimbabwe in 2018.

5 Partnerships in ODI cricket history that were bigger than the Tamim-Liton stand. The 372-run second-wicket stand between West Indies' Chris Gayle and Marlon Samuels, also against Zimbabwe, in 2015 tops the list.

6 322 for three is Bangladesh's sixth-highest total in ODI cricket, but as it was a 43-over match because of a rain interruption, the Tigers would have easily surpassed their highest total of 333 for eight -- scored during last year's World Cup match against Australia -- had it been a 50-over game.

All-Basque final in Copa del Rey

AFP, MADRID

A goal nine minutes from time by defender Yuri Berchiche took Athletic Bilbao into an all-Basque Copa del Rey final against Real Sociedad on Thursday when they edged Granada on away goals.

Athletic had led 1-0 from the first leg but fellow La Liga side Granada levelled the tie on the night through Carlos Fernandez in the 48th minute with a fine header from a cross by Venezuelan Darwin Machis.

Granada, in their first semi-final since 1969, then took a 2-1 overall lead thanks to a goal from German Sanchez after 76 minutes, again with Machis the provider from a corner.

However, their hopes of making the final were dashed when left-back Berchiche scored with a low drive in the 81st minute after being set up by Mikel Vesga to secure his team a spot in the April 18 finale in Seville.

Police hold Brothers

SPORTS REPORTER

Falling giants Brothers Union continued their spate of draws in the Bangladesh Premier League, surrendering a lead to play out a 1-1 draw against promoted Bangladesh Police FC in their home match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

It was the fourth draw in five matches for Brothers, who had also suffered a narrow 3-2 defeat against holders Bashundhara Kings. The draw left Brothers behind in eighth place with four points, one behind Police, who moved up to seventh.

Brothers, who came into the match on the back of a 1-1 draw against Uttar Baridhara, faced stiff challenge from Police and survived a close call.

Police came close to taking the lead in the fifth minute but Sidney Rivera, being set up by Luka Rotkovic, incredibly drove

wide from inside the six-yard box before Brothers made them pay three minutes later when Jonov Otabek found the net with a 25-yard free-kick.

Police started pressing and a powerful header from Joyonto Kumar Roy off a corner from Khan Mohammad Tara was saved by Brothers goalkeeper Titumir Chowdhury, who however could not stop a close-range shot from SM Bablu in the 20th minute.

After resumption, the Gopibagha-based outfit looked better and exposed the opposition defence time and again. However, Police goalkeeper Saiful Islam Khan was solid under between the sticks, making at least three good saves. Brothers were deprived of the lead again in the 57th minute when Otabek saw his powerful shot from the right flank come off the crossbar.

Police also had a good opportunity in the dying minutes, but Antonio Laskov floated his shot over.

ISSF World Cup postponed due to coronavirus

The ISSF World Cup in New Delhi was postponed yesterday following the host nation's proposal to the ISSF to defer the tournament due to the outbreak of the coronavirus.

The World Cup was scheduled to be held from March 15 and six Bangladeshis -- Abdullah Hel Baki, Shakil Ahmed, Risalatul Islam, Anwar Hossain, Syeda Atkia Hasan and Jakia Sultana -- were supposed to participate. The event lost its merit after the ISSF announced that the tournament would not have

any world ranking points due to the Indian government's new guidelines for issuing visas to foreigners intending to come to India following the outbreak of the coronavirus.

The World Cup is now likely to be held in two phases. The rifles and pistol competitions will be held from May 5 while the shotgun competitions will take place from June 2.

--SPORTS REPORTER

Swarnavo wins rapid school chess

Swarnavo Choudhury of Faizur Rahman Institute became champion with six points in seven games in the Walton Air Conditioner FIDE Rapid School



Chess tournament, which was held at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room yesterday. Sadnan Hasan Dihan of Narayanganj Ideal School became runner-up.

A total 41 school students participated in the seven-round Swiss League format event.

--SPORTS REPORTER

Anwara SC notch maiden win

Begum Anwara SC notched up a maiden victory in Tricotex Women's Football League with a 1-0 win over Cumilla United at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

--SPORTS REPORTER

Ronaldinho won't face prosecution

Former Brazilian football star Ronaldinho and his brother were "deceived" and will not face prosecution for traveling to Paraguay on false documents, officials said Thursday.

-- AFP