

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

STAR SPORTS 2

Women's T20 World Cup Final
India v Australia
Live from 1:00pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

Premier League
Chelsea v Everton
Live from 8:00pm
Man United v Man City
Live from 10:30pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2

Bundesliga
Bayern Munich v Augsburg
Live from 8:30pm
Mainz v Dusseldorf
Live from 11:00pm

Bangladesh Premier League

Rahmatganj v Uttar Baridhara
Time:6:30pm

Venue: Bangladesh National Stadium

STARC JETS OFF TO WATCH WIFE IN T20 WC FINAL

Pace spearhead Mitchell Starc was released from Australia's tour of South Africa Friday so he can return home to watch his wife Alyssa Healy in the women's Twenty20 World Cup final. Defending champions Australia face India in the T20 final at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Sunday, with wicketkeeper-batswoman Healy a key part of their team. The decision means Starc will miss the third one-dayer against the Proteas in Potchefstroom, the last game of the series. "It is a once-in-a-lifetime chance for Mitch to watch Alyssa in a home World Cup final," said coach Justin Langer. "So we were happy to allow him to return home to support his wife and be part of a fantastic occasion."

--AFP





Mohammedan forward Obi Moneke shapes up to shoot during their Bangladesh Premier League fixture against Bashundhara Kings at the Shaheed Dhirendranath Dutta Stadium in Cumilla yesterday. The Black and Whites won the historic match by a single goal.

PHOTO: BFF

League leaders fall on Mohammedan's day

SPORTS REPORTER

All three league leaders suffered defeats in the Bangladesh Premier League yesterday, with Mohammedan Sporting Club hogging the spotlight with a 1-0 win over defending champions Bashundhara Kings in their home debut at the Shaheed Dhirendranath Dutta Stadium in Cumilla yesterday.

The Black and Whites had suffered two defeats against two wins in the league thus far, all the matches technically away from home as their home venue in Cumilla was yet to be prepared. Eventually the venue was free for football, and the Black and Whites made the venue – which was making its debut as a football venue for the first time in top-tier professional league – with a sweet victory.

Nigerian forward Obi Moneke's 25th minute strike, a superb curling effort from the edge of the box, proving to be enough to split the sides. Both sides had chances to score more in front of a decent crowd which was made up mostly of travelling Bashundhara Kings supporters, but Sean Lane's charges had the last laugh.

Mohammedan forward Yusuf Sifat failed to find the net from in front of goal on a cross from Soleymane Diabate on 36 minutes while Bashundhara Kings' Bakhtiyar Duishobekov headed wide from a similar position five minutes after restart.

Sifat was once again at fault for wasting a glorious chance right after the hour-mark while Bashundhara Kings' Argentine midfielder Nicolas Delmonte stabbed wide of target on injury time as the defending champions suffered their first defeat of the league.

The win for Mohammedan saw them move to nine points while Bashundhara Kings remained on 10 points, still in joint lead. The other results of the day meant four teams were

on 10 points with two more a point behind.

Chattogram Abahani dominate their Dhaka namesake

The port city outfit moved to the top of the table with a 2-0 win over hosts Dhaka Abahani at the Bangabandhu National Stadium later in the evening.

Following a barren first-half, Charles Didier gave Chattogram Abahani the lead in the 63rd minute with a superb left-footed strike from outside the box after receiving a cutback from Rakib Hossain. Abahani were desperate to find

Mohammedan	1 – 0	Bashundhara
Moneke 26'		
Saif	1 – 2	Sheikh Jamal
Fahim 79'		Jobe 14', Famousa 54'
Abahani	0 – 2	Ctg Abahani
		Didier 63', Nasirul 90+4'
Sheikh Russel	2 – 0	Muktijoddha
Odoyin 6', Alison 28'		

an equaliser and their desperation proved their undoing deep into stoppage time when former national team defender Nasirul Islam scored a glorious left-footed goal.

Sheikh Jamal inflict first defeat on Saif

Sheikh Jamal notched their third straight victory in the league, following their first-game defeat, with a 2-1 win away to Saif Sporting Club at the Shaheed Rafique Uddin Stadium in Mymensingh yesterday. Gambian forward Pa Omar Jobe and Ivorian forward Ballo Famousa gave the visitors a 2-0 lead before Faisal Ahmed Fahim's later in the match only reduced the margin of defeat for the home team.

Jobe opened the scoring in the 14th minute with a clever dink over Saif goalkeeper Pappu Hossain following a flick from Famousa. The Ivorian doubled the visitors' lead nine minutes after restart, tapping home a low cross from the man whom he had set up the opening goal.

Fahim, the young forward who was called up to the senior national team squad for the first time in the Bangabandhu Gold Cup in January, scored a brilliant goal with a left-footed strike from the top of the box in the 79th minute as the hosts mounted some challenge, but they failed to find an equaliser.

The defeat left Saif on 10 points from five matches while Sheikh Jamal, thanks to their three-match winning streak, moved up to nine points from four matches.

Sheikh Russel get first win

Sheikh Russel KC snapped a two-match losing streak and registered their first win of the league, thanks to a 2-0 win over fellow strugglers Muktijoddha Sangsad KC at the Sylhet District Stadium.


Sheikh Russel, last year's third-place finishers, had suffered consecutive defeats following two draws in their first two matches. But they had it easy yesterday against Muktijoddha Sangsad, who had themselves come into the match with a single point from three matches.

The hosts took the lead in the seventh minute when Raphael Odoyin tapped in Hemanta Vincent Biswash's shot from inside the box. The lead was doubled by Alison Udoka 21 minutes later, the Nigerian rising high to head home Khalekuzzaman's free-kick.

The win took Sheikh Russel up to eighth position with five points from five matches while Muktijoddha remained at the bottom with a single point from four matches.

Liverpool bounce back in style

AFP, Liverpool

 Liverpool recovered from back-to-back defeats and conceding the opening goal on Saturday with a 2-1 win over Bournemouth to move to within three wins of ending a 30-year wait for the Premier League title.

Callum Wilson's controversial early opener sent shockwaves around Anfield after a run of three defeats in four games in all competitions.

However, the prolific duo of Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane quickly turned the game around and a heroic goal-line clearance from James Milner in the second half secured the win to open a 25-point lead at the top of the table.

Jurgen Klopp's decision to make seven changes for Tuesday's 2-0 defeat at Chelsea in the FA Cup had been questioned as Liverpool lost the chance to build some momentum heading into a big week.

Atletico Madrid visit fortress Anfield in the Champions League on Tuesday hoping to defend a 1-0 first leg lead and despite the enormity of that clash, Klopp only rested Andy Robertson although first-choice goalkeeper Allison Becker was also sidelined by a hip injury.

The spread of coronavirus could have a big impact on the Reds' title celebrations in the weeks to come with the possibility of games being played behind closed doors. But the abandonment of the normal pre-match ritual of handshakes was the only disruption to the Premier League calendar this weekend.

Liverpool's dip in form has coincided with a lack of clean sheets for Klopp's men after a run of 10 in 11 league games between

early December and mid-February.

The hosts' backline was breached again after just nine minutes, although Klopp was rightly furious that VAR did not intervene to disallow the goal.

Joe Gomez was knocked off balance by Wilson to start the move and the Bournemouth striker then had the simple task of tapping home Jefferson Lerma's cross.

Defeat leaves the Cherries still in the bottom three. They were left to rue not making even more of a bright start as stand-in goalkeeper Adrian turned over Nathan Ake's powerful header.

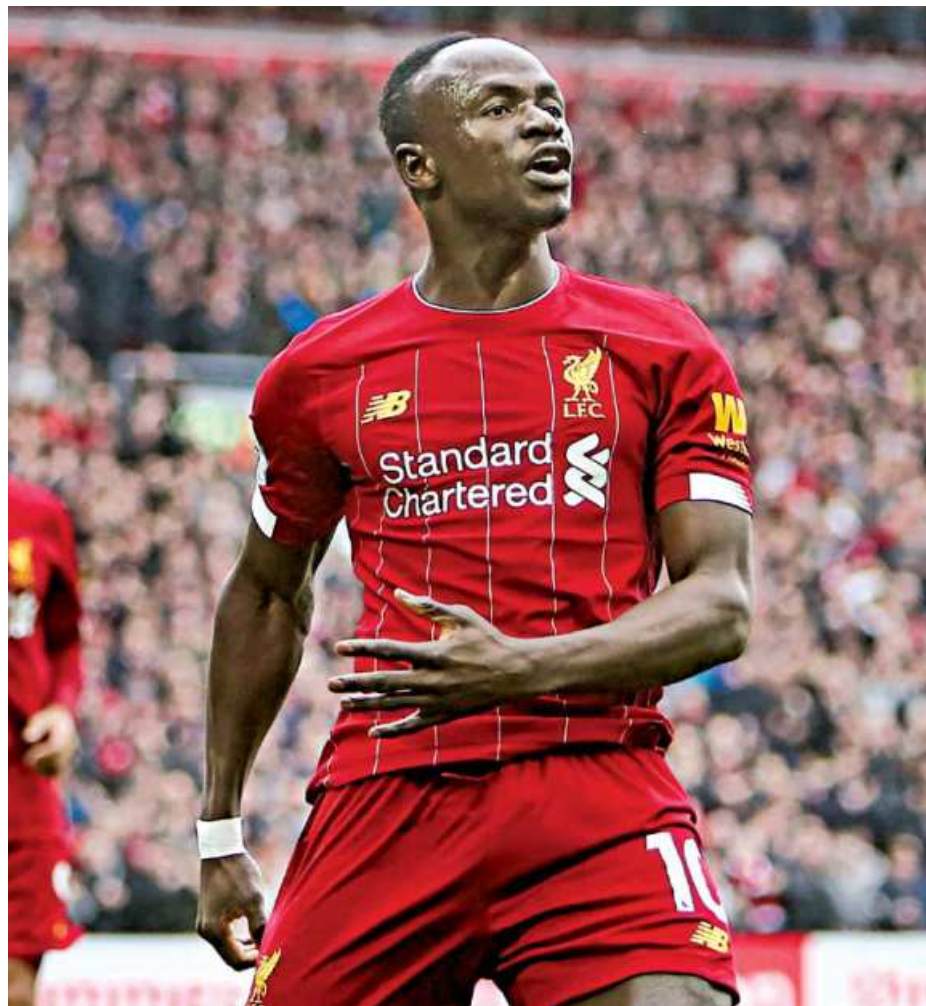
Bournemouth played a large part in their own downfall and settled Liverpool's nerves when substitute Jack Simpson gifted possession to Mane in a dangerous position. Despite a poor pass from the Senegalese, Salah steered the ball into the bottom corner to mark his 100th Premier League appearance for the club in style.

Eight minutes later, Liverpool led when Bournemouth again gave the ball away cheaply. Virgil van Dijk released Mane in behind and he kept his cool to slot into the far corner.

The champions-elect still needed a brilliant clearance from Milner to secure all three points as he sprinted back to clear Ryan Fraser's lob over the stranded Adrian on the hour.

Wilson and Ake also passed up a huge chance to level in the final minute.

However, Liverpool could easily have had more goals themselves. Mane curled a brilliant long-range effort off the bar and Roberto Firmino fired over with a glorious chance for his first league goal at Anfield this season.



Liverpool forward Sadio Mane celebrates his decisive goal against Bournemouth in their English Premier League fixture at Anfield yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal and State Minister for Youth and Sports Zahid Ahsan Russel were among the guests during the inauguration of the Bangabandhu Sports Championship at Hatirjheel in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Sabina turns cyclist!

SPORTS REPORTER

Sabina Khatun, the prolific captain of the Bangladesh national women's football team, put off her shooting boots and instead donned cycling gears for a day in Dhaka's Hatirjheel yesterday.

The 26-old striker has scored three hattricks in three matches of the ongoing women's football league for title-contenders Bashundhara Kings, with her latest match coming on March 5. Her next match is tomorrow.

The prolific striker took this time off to hone her cycling skills, motoring to second-place finish for Gono

University on the opening day of the Bangabandhu Sports Championship.

Cycling was one of the two events to take place on the opening day of the meet, with marathon being the other.

Around six thousand students from 101 universities will be competing in 12 events in the largest university sports meet of the country. 13 universities will host the meet.

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal and State Minister for Youth and Sports Zahid Ahsan Russel inaugurated the meet and witnessed the events on the opening day.

Ronaldinho arrested

AFP, Asuncion

Former Brazilian football star Ronaldinho and his brother were arrested Friday in Asuncion, Paraguay's public ministry said, after entering the country on fake passports.

"The Attorney General's office issued a warrant for their arrest, charged the player Ronaldinho with using a public document with false content and requested preventative detention," the ministry tweeted.

The two men will be held overnight at a police station.

Sources from the public prosecutor's office told AFP that the brothers will be summoned for a hearing on Sunday to impose measures.

Ronaldinho and his brother Roberto de Assis Moreira had finished a court appearance and left the Palace of Justice Friday night at 8:15 pm (2315 GMT). Ronaldinho declined to comment to reporters as they left the building.

The state attorney general decided to rectify a request for "opportunity criteria" in favor of the 2005 Ballon d'Or winner and changed prosecutors for the case. The original prosecutor, Federico Delfino, had decided Thursday not to pursue charges.

A new prosecutor ordered the men's arrest.

Plainclothes policemen then picked the brothers up from their hotel and drove them to the National Police headquarters, which also houses VIP prisoners and

former law enforcement officers who have committed crimes.

"We don't know under what authority they were arrested," their lawyer Adolfo Marin told reporters.

The brothers had been questioned for more than seven hours on Thursday by the public prosecutor in Asuncion.

Delfino said he had decided not to pursue charges against the pair, as they



"contributed relevant information to the investigation" and were acting in "good faith" when they received the falsified Paraguayan documents.

Brazilian authorities withdrew Ronaldinho's passport in November 2018 after he failed to pay a \$2.5 million fine for environmental damage incurred during the building of a property in Porto Alegre, in southern Brazil.

Brazil call up Guimaraes

AFP, Rio De Janeiro

Brazil coach Tite named Lyon midfielder Bruno Guimaraes to the national team for the first time Friday as the Seleccion launch their qualifying campaign for the 2022 World Cup.

Guimaraes, who has stood out for Olympique Lyonnais since arriving at the French Ligue 1 club last month, will make his debut with the men's senior team when Brazil play qualifiers against Bolivia and Peru later this month.

Unsurprisingly, he also named star Neymar and Paris Saint-Germain teammate Marquinhos.

The most notable absence is Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson, who will be replaced by Manchester City's Ederson.

Tite included three players from current Brazilian powerhouse Flamengo: midfielder Everton Ribeiro and strikers Gabriel Barbosa and Bruno Henrique alongside defenders Alex Sandro and Danilo of Juventus.