

FACEBOOK LA LIGA

Villarreal v Eibar  
Live from 8:00pm  
Celta Vigo v Valencia  
Live from 1:00am (Sunday)  
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1  
INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE  
Mumbai v Chennai

Live from 8:00pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2  
PREMIER LEAGUE  
Everton v West Brom  
Live from 5:30pm  
Leeds v Fulham  
Live from 8:00pm  
Man United v Crystal Palace

Live from 10:30pm

Arsenal v West Ham  
Live from 1:00am (Sunday)  
TEN 2 SERIE A  
Fiorentina v Torino  
Live from 10:00pm  
Verona v AS Roma  
Live from 12:45am (Sunday)



## DUPLANTIS SOARS ABOVE BUBKA

Swedish pole vault star Armand Duplantis eclipsed Ukrainian legend Sergey Bubka's 26-year mark, setting a new outdoor pole vault world record of 6.15m at the Diamond League meeting at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome on Thursday night. The 20-year-old, who already holds the world indoor record of 6.18m, bettered the mark of 6.14m achieved by Bubka in July 1994 in Italy. "I think I'm still up in the clouds right now," Duplantis said. "It's a surreal, super crazy feeling."

PHOTO: REUTERS

## There is no pressure on me, says Roy

SPORTS REPORTER



Presidential candidate Badal Roy reiterated his withdrawal from the upcoming Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) polls, citing illness, and apologised to the organisers at the grassroots level.

"I am announcing again that I have pulled out of the elections because the condition of my health is not good. The organisers at grassroots level are really helpless and my mind cries for them. I don't know how they will take it, but I feel they will be hurt. Despite that, I am officially withdrawing from the elections," incumbent BFF vice-president Roy said at a press briefing in Motijheel yesterday, six days after first announcing that he would not compete in the October 3 polls.

The former footballer added: "Today I have come here with a broken mind. I have been with football for a long period and I always talk, criticise and protest in regards to football. But I never spoke against any person. I could not give much time to my family due to football. I cannot live without football. I have no allegations against anyone. The only allegation is that the responsibility of failure has to be borne by everyone but unfortunately there is no such responsibility at the BFF."

After allegedly facing pressure from some quarters to pull out, Roy, one of three candidates for the post of president, applied for a withdrawal on September 12. However,



he submitted his withdrawal form after the deadline and so it was not considered by the election commission.

There were also whispers that pressure from those quarters had forced Roy to appear before the media to declare his withdrawal officially.

"There is no pressure on me from any quarter. It is a personal problem. I recovered from Covid-19 recently and am facing health pressure," said Roy, who however later pointed a finger at incumbent president Kazi Salahuddin.

"There may be a legal problem because I withdrew after the deadline. Mr Salahuddin has a lot of power and he could have solved this problem but I don't know why I am being harassed. I think everyone has to contest in the elections and the councillors will take the final decision," said Roy. "But I am pulling out with a lot of pain because everyone know I wanted to contest in elections because the BFF needs change in its leadership. Although we had before started work with Salahuddin bhai with pride, he never took advice to work at the grassroots."

## IPL starting without the buzz

REUTERS, Mumbai

After months of uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the delayed season of the Indian Premier League will kick off in the UAE on Saturday with a clash between defending champions Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings.

The 2020 edition of the T20 league was originally scheduled to begin on March 29 in India but had to be postponed indefinitely by the country's cricket board due to worsening situation of the pandemic.

IPL's cancellation would have meant a potential \$534 million loss in revenue, leading the board to shift the tournament out of India. The postponement of this year's Twenty20 World Cup in Australia because of the pandemic also helped. It

DREAM 11 IPL 2020 | EDITION: 13TH | HOST: UAE  
VENUES: DUBAI, ABU DHABI, SHARJAH  
SCHEDULE: 19 SEP TO 10 NOV  
NUMBER OF TEAMS: 8  
NUMBER OF MATCHES: 60  
DEFENDING CHAMPIONS: MUMBAI INDIANS

IPL AT A GLANCE	
Most Successful Team:	Mumbai Indians (4 titles)
Most Runs:	Virat Kohli (5412)
Most Wickets:	Lasith Malinga (170)
Highest Innings:	Chris Gayle (175 not out)
Most Runs in an Innings:	RCB (263)
Most Hundreds:	Chris Gayle (6)
Most Fifties:	David Warner (44)
Most Sixes:	Chris Gayle (326)
Most Fours:	Shikhar Dhawan (524)
Best Bowling Figures:	Alzarri Joseph (6-12)
Most hattricks:	Amit Mishra (3)

presented a window in the cricket calendar for the eight-team league, which is attended by most of the world's top players.

The matches will be held in bio-secure bubbles in Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi in front of empty stands but organisers are hoping to allow some fans during the later stages of the tournament.

BCCI chief Sourav Ganguly felt organising the event was an attempt to bring normality to people's life in India.

"Crowds will watch it on television ... they (broadcasters) are actually expecting the highest rating of IPL this season because they believe if (people) don't turn up in the ground, they will be actually watching



Rohit Sharma will lead defending champions Mumbai Indians to the field against Mahendra Singh Dhoni's Chennai Super Kings in the opening match of Dream 11 IPL 2020 in Abu Dhabi today.

PHOTO: MUMBAI INDIANS

## Age is just a number

While male cricketers have returned to training with a set target in mind, the same cannot be said about women cricketers as the Bangladesh Cricket Board is yet to schedule a series for the Tigresses in the pandemic era. Since the halt in cricketing activities, The Daily Star has been talking to women cricketers to learn stories of their early days. In today's instalment, we talk to Shamima Sultana, the wicketkeeper batter who was the top scorer for Bangladesh during their 2018 Asia Cup triumph.

MOSTAFA SHABUJ



How often is it that people shy away from doing something just because they think they are too old to do that? Bangladesh wicketkeeper batter Shamima Sultana is different from everyone in that regard. And hence, her story of emergence is also unique and different from most of her teammates.

Shamima never thought of age as a barrier. The now 32-year-old made her debut for the national side back in 2014 at the age of 26 -- an age by which most cricketers already make a name for themselves. Shamima's late entry to the international stage was owing to the fact that she had not even started playing professional cricket before she was 22.

"If you are persistent and have immense love for what you do then you can succeed in that at

any age -- be it sport or any other work," Shamima said during an interview with this reporter.

Even after starting later than usual, Shamima's persistence and love for the sport did bear fruit. The girl from a small village named Kamlapur in the Sreepur upazila was the highest run scorer for Bangladesh -- fifth highest overall -- when they etched their names in the history book by winning the Asia Cup in 2018 -- first major international trophy won by a Bangladeshi side. Before that, Shamima also became the first Bangladeshi player to have scored a half-century in their South Africa tour in 2017.

Shamima's love for the sport has however remained since her childhood. But her path that led to the international stage had been a bumpy one due to injuries.

"I used to play different kinds of sports since I was four or five. I remember playing with bats made



from tree branches with the local boys in my village. Although my father was a farmer, he or any of my family members never stopped me from playing with boys.

"In 2008, I went to Dhaka

to play in the national league. I was then asked to play as a wicketkeeper but I had never even touched gloves prior to that. In 2011, I was a stand-by as a wicketkeeper-batter for the national side. I got called in the national side the following year. Since 2013, I had been called and dropped from the national side a number of times, mostly due to injuries. I suffered from a torn ligament in 2014 and I was not directly called back in the side after recovering. I was only called after I played well in the Premier League in 2015. But again I was dropped before the 2016 World Cup," Shamima told about her struggles.

There were a lot of ups and downs in Shamima's career. But one thing that the 32-year-old never did was giving up. And as she opined, age could never be a barrier for her as she was persistent about pursuing her dream.

## BCB asks McMillan, Vettori to fly to Dhaka

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board has asked the national team's spin bowling consultant Daniel Vettori and newly appointed batting consultant Craig McMillan to come to Bangladesh ahead of the upcoming Sri Lanka tour.

Both Vettori and McMillan were previously expected to travel directly to Sri Lanka from New Zealand and join the Tigers, but BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury said the board has asked both Kiwi coaches to first arrive in Bangladesh.

"As there are some complications regarding the flights for Colombo, we have asked Vettori and McMillan to first come to Bangladesh and then travel with the team together," Nizamuddin told The Daily Star yesterday.

The fate of the upcoming Sri Lanka tour is still uncertain as the BCB is yet to get any update regarding the revised health protocols. 53 samples submitted for the second coronavirus test conducted by the BCB yesterday.

## Inter's mission to end Juventus domination

AFP, Rome



Antonio Conte begins his second season as Inter Milan coach with a mission to stop his former club Juventus winning a 10th consecutive Serie A title.

Conte led Juve to the first three of their current run of nine straight league crowns starting in 2012 before moving on to coach Italy and Chelsea, taking over Inter in May last year.

The 51-year-old's turbulent first season with Inter was played out against a backdrop of the coronavirus pandemic which caused havoc in northern Italy before spreading across Europe.

HIGHLIGHTS
Juventus are on a winning streak of nine Serie A titles
The Bianconeri have won a total of 36 league titles, a record among Europe's top five leagues
The closest to Juventus' 36 titles in Serie A are Inter Milan on 18
Juventus coach Andrea Pirlo will be making his coaching debut at professional level against Sampdoria on Sunday
Lazio striker Ciro Immobile is the current holder of capocannoniere, having won it for the third time with record-equalling 36 goals last season
Spezia will be making their debut in Italy's top-flight for the first time in the club's 114-year history



Antonio Conte



Andrea Pirlo

The fiery Italian looked poised to leave after a dramatic outburst following Inter's Europa League final loss to Sevilla, despite finishing just one point behind Juve in the league.

"I'm not going backwards. I don't want another year like that," he said, blasting lack of support from team management.

Clear the air talks persuaded him the club's Chinese owners shared his burning ambitions to lift a first Serie A title since 2010, the year of their historic treble under Jose Mourinho.

"I have never seen someone who works so hard, with such intensity, like Conte, this characteristic also unites us," said Inter president Steven Zhang. "Reflection was necessary. I found our coach serene, constructive, far from the

moods we were told by the media. "Inter have a mission, a plan, strategies aimed naturally towards victory... I really believe that the path taken is the right one."

As Serie A returns behind closed doors this weekend, both Inter and Atalanta have been given a one-week delay because of their European exertions last month.

Inter's first match will be against Fiorentina on September 26, followed by a trip to newly-promoted Benevento in their rescheduled opening day fixture four days later.

Gian Piero Gasperini's Atalanta meanwhile start at Torino a few hours before Inter begin their season and then travel to Lazio in their postponed first round match.