

Valencia v Huesca  
Live from 8:00pm  
Elche v Real Sociedad  
Live from 10:30pm  
Real Betis v Real Madrid  
Live from 1:00am (Sunday)

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE  
Kolkata v Hyderabad  
Live from 8:00pm  
STAR SPORTS SELECT 2  
PREMIER LEAGUE  
Brighton v Man United

Live from 5:30pm  
Crystal Palace v Everton  
Live from 8:00pm  
West Brom v Chelsea  
Live from 10:30pm  
Burnley v Southampton  
Live from 1:00am (Sunday)

Torino v Atalanta  
Live from 7:00pm  
Cagliari v Lazio  
Live from 10:00pm  
Inter Milan v Fiorentina  
Live from 12:45am (Sunday)

## No movement on SL tour front

SLC yet to provide revised health protocol

SPORTS REPORTER

There have been a lot of confusion over Bangladesh's upcoming tour of Sri Lanka as the Sri Lankan Covid-19 task force are yet to provide the revised health protocol to Sri Lanka Cricket. The cloud over the tour became darker after Sri Lanka Cricket CEO Ashley de Silva stated that if the Bangladesh Cricket Board are not willing to abide by the protocols set by the country's Covid-19 task force, the tour will be called off and rescheduled.

"Whatever the feedback which we would get from the Covid task force, will be shared with the Bangladesh Cricket Board. And once we get the response, if they [BCB] are not prepared to abide by those guidelines given by the task force, then we would be compelled to call off the tour and reschedule the tour during the same cycle maybe for next year or the following year," de Silva said during an interview to ThePapare.com on Thursday.

Earlier, BCB President Nazmul



Hassan said that it would not be possible for Bangladesh to follow the mandatory 14-day strict quarantine and SLC officials have since had a series of meetings with Sri Lankan government officials in an effort to relax the protocol. But it seemed the Sri Lankan government officials and the task force were unwilling to relax the quarantine period.

While nothing definite could be known about whether the tour will go ahead or not, it is by now almost certain that there will be a delay as the



Tigers were scheduled to travel to the island nation on September 27. During the tour Bangladesh were scheduled to play three Tests under the ICC Test championship.

According to BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury the board is yet to receive the revised health protocol, adding that the board will assess the protocols before making the final call.

"Look we are still in the same state as before and what the SLC CEO had said is that they are yet to receive the revised health protocol

and after getting that they will send that to us. After receiving that the BCB will assess that and then decide whether we will tour or not. But first, we need to receive the health protocol which we are still expecting from the SLC," Nizamuddin told The Daily Star.

The BCB is expecting to receive the health protocol from the SLC soon but Nizamuddin also added that the main priority for the BCB would be to send a well-prepared team for the tour.

"Our main priority will be to send a well-prepared team as we cannot send a team not fully prepared to play a series and the final call over the tour will be taken by the BCB," he added.

The BCB has already started a residential camp for its 27-member preliminary squad by creating a bio-secure bubble with frequent coronavirus testing. As the uncertainty continues, many cricketers want domestic cricket to resume, with the Dhaka Premier League having been suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic in March.

SPORTS REPORTER



Eager to stage the Premier Division Hockey League after a two-year hiatus, the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) received applications from two clubs to lift suspensions on their respective officials so they can participate.

"We have recently received letters from Dhaka Mariner Young's Club and Mohammedan SC, although both of them had previously applied to withdraw suspensions of their officials in 2019. But we could not discuss it at the meeting," said acting BHF general secretary Mohammad Yousuf. "Mariner wanted to know the decision regarding their previous letter while Mohammedan again requested lifting the suspension on their officials. We will discuss the matter in the next executive committee, which may take place in the first week of October."

The BHF imposed a suspension on Mohammedan manager Ariful Haque Prince and assistant manager Asaduzzaman Chandan and banned Mariner Young's general secretary Hasanullah Khan Rana and manager Nazrul Islam for breaching the code of conduct during a decisive league match on June 7, 2018. All four officials

and one judge were handed suspensions between three and five years in November that year, but have not really missed out on much as no league has been held since.

Of the 12 Premier Hockey League sides, seven clubs sent representatives to the league committee meeting. Dilkusha SC, Victoria SC and Ajax SC were yet to send the names of their representatives while Mohammedan and Mariner were waiting for feedback from the executive committee.

Handing and lifting punishments is common practice in the BHF, which has previously lifted punishments on officials "for the greater interest of hockey".

In July, 2013, the BHF suspended five players and officials, including Prince and Chandan, for terms ranging from three years to life in the wake of the assault on Pakistan national team coach Naveed Alam. Four players, including Rasel Mahmud Jimmy, were also handed suspensions for different terms due to deliberately putting up poor performances in the 2014 Asia Cup. All suspensions were later lifted.

"Previous punishment will also come be a factor and we will see how to make it tolerable. We want all clubs to take part in the league as all rules and regulations are formed for the smooth running of the game," said Yousuf, adding that they were ready to start the league.

## Razib, Aminul slip from top

SPORTS REPORTER

GM Enamul Hossain Razib and FM Khandokar Aminul Islam slipped from lead to fourth position in Joytu Sheikh Hasina International Online Chess tournament as Indonesian GM Susantoat Megaranto took solo lead at the close of the sixth round yesterday.

Megaranto secured 5.5 points, 0.5 points more than Vietnamese GM Ngoc Truong Nguyen and Indian GM Diptayan Ghosh.

Seven players shared the third position with 4.5 points each while 11 players including five Bangladeshis -- Aminul, Razib, Abu Sufian Shakil, Taibur Rahman and Azad Al Javed -- were occupying fourth position with four points each.

Seven Bangladeshi players including GM Ziaur Rahman, IM Minhaz Uddin Sagar and IM Fahad Hossain were in fifth position with 3.5 points each.

## Aus cricket mourns Deano

AFP, Sydney



Australian cricket was reeling Friday at the shock death of batting great Dean Jones, with national coach Justin Langer leading tributes to a player he called "the stuff of legend".

Langer revealed he was on the cusp of recruiting Jones into his coaching set-up for next year's World Cup when the 59-year-old died of a heart attack in Mumbai, where he had been commenting on the Indian Premier League.

"I was talking about getting Deano in to help us with World Cup stuff as a mentor and coach, sadly that's not going to happen," Langer told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. "(But) the legacy he leaves to Australian cricket and Australian cricketers won't be lost on us."

Jones' dashing strokeplay inspired generations of batsmen, including current power-hitter Glenn Maxwell. "Incredibly shocked by the news that Dean Jones has passed away. Had a poster of the great man in my room as a kid," Maxwell tweeted.

Jones played 52 Tests from 1984-1992, amassing 3,631 runs at an average of 46.55, while his 164 one-day internationals yielded

6,068 runs and an average of 44.61.

Known universally as "Deano", Jones was remembered as a fierce competitor whose knockabout demeanour concealed a keen cricketing mind bursting with innovative ideas.

"The cricket world is shattered today for it has lost one of its greatest characters, a totally original maverick talent whose contribution went far beyond mere statistics -- however excellent they were," the Brisbane Courier-Mail's Robert Craddock wrote.

The ABC's Russell Jackson said Jones' daredevil batting revolutionised one-day cricket and helped Australia win the 1987 World Cup.

"Jones could be subtle and brutal in the space of a minute," Jackson wrote.

"He dictated terms, using the width of his crease and the full 360 degrees to set new standards."

For all his exploits in the limited-overs game, it was Jones' gutsy Test innings against India at Chennai in 1986 that remained etched in the minds of his admirers after 34 years. Jones defied furnace-like conditions to score 210, vomiting and shaking at the crease to save Australia's hopes in cricket's second-ever tied Test, and was then taken to hospital for dehydration after losing eight kilos during the innings.



Javi Martinez came off the bench in extra time and headed home the decisive goal as Bayern Munich laid hands on the UEFA Super Cup for the second time following their 2-1 win over Sevilla in Budapest on Thursday night. The match had rolled into extra time after Leon Goretzka had cancelled out Lucas Ocampos' early strike for Sevilla. The 32-year-old Spaniard re-enacted his heroics from the 2013 Super Cup final when he had scored in the last minute of extra time to take the game into penalties where the Bavarians prevailed over Chelsea. The win added the newest silverware to Bayern's rich cabinet, with four trophies won in 2020.

PHOTO: BAYERN MUNICH



## Messi angry again

REUTERS, Barcelona



Lionel Messi has launched his latest attack on Barcelona's hierarchy by criticising the way the club treated strike partner Luis Suarez, who left for La Liga rivals Atletico Madrid this week.

Captain Messi, who threatened to leave Barca last month and recently hit out at president Josep Maria Bartomeu's leadership of the club, said the Uruguayan, the club's third-highest scorer of all time, was harshly treated by Barca.

New coach Ronald Koeman called Suarez several days after getting the job to inform the striker, who had one year left on his contract, that he was no longer wanted.

Bartomeu had left Suarez off a list of players he considered not for sale in the aftermath of the 8-2 defeat to Bayern Munich in the Champions League in August.

"You deserved a farewell befitting who you are: one of the most important players in the history of the club, achieving great things for the team and on an individual level," Messi wrote on his official Instagram account on Friday.

"You did not deserve for them to throw you out like they did. But the truth is that at this stage nothing surprises me anymore."

Suarez had paid tribute to Messi in his farewell news conference on Thursday, recalling that everyone had told him the Argentinian was difficult to get on with, but declaring they had become best friends as well as prolific strike partners.

"It will be strange to see you in another shirt and even stranger to come up against you on the pitch," Messi added.

"I had already begun to imagine it but today I went into the dressing room and it truly dawned on me. It's going to be so difficult not to continue to share every day with you both on the pitch and away from it."

## Odds heavy against the king

AFP, Paris



The undisputed king of clay, Rafael Nadal is one title away from matching Roger Federer's all-time Grand Slam record, but 15 years on from the Spaniard's first French Open triumph he appears more vulnerable than ever at his beloved Roland Garros.

Nadal owns an astounding 93-2 record in Paris dating back to his debut in 2005, when, still a teenager, he became the first player to win the French Open on his first attempt since Mats Wilander in 1982.

Fast-forward to the present day, and his 19 Grand Slam crowns -- a record 12 of which have come at Roland Garros -- coupled with Federer's absence after knee surgery leave him on the brink of history at a venue where he has won each of the past three years.

Yet a multitude of factors, mostly beyond his control, have conspired against Nadal and offered hope to his chief rivals -- namely Novak Djokovic and recent US Open winner Dominic Thiem.

Boris Becker, a former coach of world number one Djokovic, suggested the rescheduled tournament -- pushed back from its traditional spring billing due to the coronavirus pandemic -- will be tougher than usual for Nadal.

The heavier conditions could suit hardcourt players more and negate some of Nadal's lethal topspin, possibly aiding Thiem who has finished runner-up in Paris twice in succession.

"This year is going to be particularly hard for Rafael Nadal. He's my number one favourite but the difference between him and the other players is less big this year than usual," said Becker, a six-time Grand Slam champion.

often played four big clay tournaments, which he had generally won."

Nadal will head into the French Open without a clay title under his belt for the first time, having lost in straight sets to Diego Schwartzman in the quarterfinals at Rome -- his first tournament in six months.

"It's not a moment for excuses. I've spent a long time without competing, I played two good matches," Nadal, who skipped the US Open citing Covid-19 concerns, said following the defeat.

"It's a completely special and unpredictable year," he added. "I did my job here. I did a couple things well and other things bad. At least I played

showed that Nadal is beatable on clay," added the Serb.

"The conditions that they played on, obviously heavy clay, not much bounce, humid, night sessions, we are going to have that as well in Paris. I'm pretty sure that he does not prefer that to a high bounce. I know he likes the high bounce."

"He likes the hot and warm and fast conditions, where he can use his spin a lot. Even though he's the favourite, I think there are players that can win against him there."

Another championship run for Nadal, not accounting for potential walkovers, would take him to a century



three matches."

Despite the sense this is the most understrength version of Nadal at the French Open in recent times, Djokovic remains adamant the 34-year-old is again the favourite to lift the Coupe des Mousquetaires.

"The record that he has there, the history of his results, you just can't put anybody in front of him," said Djokovic, himself vying to add to his lone 2016 triumph at Roland Garros.

"But, you know, definitely Diego

of wins at the French Open. Only Federer, Serena Williams, Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert have hit triple digits in wins at a single major in the Open era.

Schwartzman agreed that Nadal was still the favourite.

"Rafa is the king. It's his house. He went to Roland Garros many years playing good, sometimes not playing his best and he won."

"I think Rafa is always there, the guy who is going to win."

## Jose moves the goalposts

REUTERS

Tottenham Hotspur manager Jose Mourinho said he had to demand Europa League opponents Shkendija fix the goalposts ahead of their tie on Thursday after his keepers alerted him to the fact they were too small.

Spurs goalkeepers Hugo Lloris and Joe Hart noticed the dimensions were wrong and told Mourinho, who took the matter up with UEFA's delegate.

After the game Mourinho posted a picture of himself on Instagram nearly touching the crossbar.

"Before the game was a funny situation because my goalkeepers told me that the goal was small," said Mourinho after goals from Erik Lamela, Son Heung-min and substitute Harry Kane fired his side to a 3-1 victory.

"I went by myself and of course the goal was small. The goalkeepers, they spend hours and hours and hours in the goal so they know when the goal is not the right dimension."

"I am not a goalkeeper but I know football since I was a kid and I know when I stand there and spread my arms and I know the distance so I felt immediately that something was going wrong. "We got the UEFA delegate to confirm and yes it was 5cm smaller (too low), and of course we demanded for the goals to be replaced with goals of the right dimension."