

WHAT TO WATCH

**TEN 2**  
UEFA Champions League  
Istanbul Basaksehir v Man United  
Live from 11:55pm  
Ferencvaros v Juventus  
Live from 2:00am (Thursday)

**TEN 1**  
UEFA Champions League  
Barcelona v Kyiv  
Live from 2:00am (Thursday)  
**SONY SIX**  
UEFA Champions League

Chelsea v Rennes  
Live from 2:00am (Thursday)  
**STAR SPORTS 2**  
Jio Women's T20 Challenge  
Supernovas v Velocity  
Live from 8:00pm

BANGABANDHU T20 TOURNAMENT

## Seven-day delay likely

SPORTS REPORTER

The upcoming five-team Bangabandhu T20 tournament is set to be pushed back by a week from Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) President Nazmul Hassan's originally stated start date of November 15.

According to the BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury the board have received a good response from sponsors after the advertisement seeking the Expression of Interest for team sponsors, but he was reluctant to disclose the exact number of the

applicants.

"As you all know we have already given the advertisement seeking sponsors for the upcoming Bangabandhu T20 tournament and we are hopeful of finalising things very soon. We have got a good response and we are yet to take the final decision... the interested sponsors will get the confirmation from the board. I am not going to disclose the exact numbers but we will try to confirm the five sponsors [for the five teams] and make the declaration," Nizamuddin told the reporters yesterday.

"We are planning to start by November 20 or it may take a

couple of days more but we are progressing according to plan. What we are trying is to prepare the schedule along with the grounds and other things."

Aspects such as whether there will be icon players or if the selectors will finalise the squads are yet to be decided, and Nizamuddin said those are under process and will be disclosed within a few days.

When asked whether the tournament would be in the same format as the Bangladesh Premier League, Nizamuddin said this tournament is different as the board is trying to adapt to the new normal of playing amid

a pandemic.

The board is trying to gather experience of hosting such tournaments as preparation for eventually hosting international cricket in Bangladesh.

"Look, the three-team tournament [50-over BCB President's Cup] that we arranged, although it was challenging, we managed to complete that successfully. Considering the viewership and other aspects we got a guideline on the challenges we are going to face and we will be more experienced in the coming days and have the knowledge before taking the decision to return to international cricket," he said.



PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAKER

JFA U-14 National Women's Football Championship got underway with defending champions Rangpur taking on Thakurgaon at the Dinajpur District Stadium yesterday.

## JFA U-14 C'ship tourney kicks off

SPORTS REPORTER



With most national sports federations planning to return through competitive tournaments in December amid the new normal, Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday kicked off the JFA U-14 National Women's Football Championship across the country following a seven-and-a-half month break due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Though a few federations such as karate and weightlifting held online competitions in October, taekwondo dared stage to the physical tournament by holding a Poomsae event, one kind of physical demonstration, at National Sports Council in September after the government allowed the federations to start activities at a small scale.

Bangladesh Handball Federation also staged the Federation Cup in a small scale with participation of only four teams but football's governing body is planning to hold the JFA Cup on a large scale with participation of nearly 900 footballers from 49 district teams.

The sixth edition championship got underway in Dinajpur -- one of seven zonal venues -- which is hosting defending champions Rangpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Nilphamari, Kurigram and Lalmonirhat at Dinajpur district stadium.

"We are strictly following health guidelines and not allowing anyone other than people related with the match enter the

ground. We have also made arrangement for accommodation and availing those facilities depends on the participating teams," Dinajpur DFA president Golam Nobi Dulal said. "Dinajpur district administration is determined to keep coronavirus at bay, so everyone wears the mask," Dulal said, adding that they did not arrange any publicity campaign and the stadium was almost empty with 15 to 20 spectators turning up to watch the day's first match.

"Despite some challenges, we convinced parents of the girls to release their daughters as we bore expenditure for transport, food and kits of the players during the 15-day training camp," said Dulal. Lalmonirhat DFA president Younus Hossain, however, said they had to face problem to form the squad as most guardians did not want to allow their children to play football in such a situation.

"It could have been better had the tournament been staged one or two months later. Then we could have got more time for preparation," Hossain said, adding that they do not have much problem with Covid-19 as everyone is living a normal way.

"The children are really happy to take part in training as they were confined inside their homes for a long time due to the pandemic even though a few people were infected with the virus in Panchagarh," Panchagarh DFA president Shafiqul Islam said. "We will start tomorrow (Wednesday) morning for Dinajpur, play the match there and stay there if we win."

## Tips from mentor

Bangladesh ODI skipper Tamim Iqbal and all-rounder Mahmudullah Riyad are set to leave the country on November 8 for the Pakistan Super League playoffs after being included in the squads of Lahore Qalandars and Multan Sultans respectively. Having a few days in hand, Tamim took time out to practice in Mirpur. Tamim, who has had a lean BCB President's Cup last month, would surely like to recover

from his form slump, especially after already vowing to help his PSL side to win the title this year. And in that regard, just as seen in the picture, the southpaw could use some tips from his mentor Mohammad Salahuddin, who was of the opinion that cricketers playing in such foreign leagues have become a need of the hour to help build their confidence and ability.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



## FLOORED BY A BOUNCER

While Tamim was practicing in the BCB Academy Ground, Mohammad Naim Sheikh, playing in an intra HP-squad practise game inside the same premises, was thrown some tough challenges by right-arm pacer Mukidul Islam. Naim however still prevailed as the top scorer on the day but not before being floored by a lethal bouncer from the young pace bowler.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Giggs denies allegations

REUTERS

Wales manager Ryan Giggs denied allegations of assault on Tuesday after British media reported he had been arrested following a disturbance at his home.

"Mr. Giggs denies all allegations of assault made against him," representatives of the 46-year-old said. "He is cooperating with the police and will continue to assist them." The Sun reported that police were called to the former Manchester United winger's home on Sunday night after receiving reports of a disturbance.

## 'Make helmet mandatory'

REUTERS, NEW DELHI



Indian batting great Sachin Tendulkar has asked the governing International Cricket Council (ICC) to make it mandatory for all batsmen to wear helmets irrespective of whether facing a pacer or a spinner.

During a recent Indian Premier League match in Dubai, Sunrisers Hyderabad batsman Vijay Shankar was knocked down after being hit in the helmet by a full-blooded throw from Kings XI Punjab fielder Nicholas Pooran.

"The game has become faster but is it getting safer?" Tendulkar said on Tuesday, reacting to the video of the incident on Twitter. "Recently we witnessed an incident which could've been nasty". "Be it a spinner or pacer, wearing a HELMET should be MANDATORY for batsmen at professional levels."



With Josep Bartomeu gone, Lionel Messi (L) is apparently enjoying his time at Camp Nou again as Barcelona host Dynamo Kiev tonight in the Champions League with six points in the bag after Matchday 2. Meanwhile, Messi's great rival Cristiano Ronaldo made an instant impact on his return to the pitch with two goals against Spezia at the weekend and he would be expected to produce a similar performance when the Bianconeri travel to Budapest to face Hungarian champions Ferencvaros.

PHOTO: TWITTER/REUTERS

## Barca aim to maintain perfect start as Ronaldo returns

AGENCIES



Barcelona aim to maintain their perfect start in the Champions League when they host Dynamo Kyiv at Camp Nou tonight while Cristiano Ronaldo is back for Juventus after recovering from coronavirus.

**LANDMARK BECKONS MESSI**

Lionel Messi is set to make his 150th appearance in the UEFA club competition while looking to extend his record haul of 70 group-stage goals. If that wasn't daunting enough for Dynamo Kyiv, the Blaugrana head into tonight's fixture with maximum points in Group G with a comfortable 2-0 win at Juventus in their last outing.

The visitors can however not only focus on Messi with Ousmane Dembele scoring in both group games and young stars like Ansu

Fati and Pedri flourishing in Europe's elite competition.

**JUVE GET RONALDO BOOST**

Juventus were outclassed by Barcelona in their previous Champions League game and cannot afford to slip up against Ferencvaros.

La Vecchia Signora have managed only three points in the Champions League so far but the return of Ronaldo should translate into a comfortable victory for the Italian giants.

Ferencvaros and Juventus will meet for just the second time in European competition, with the previous game coming in a 1-0 win for the Hungarian side in the 1964/65 Inter-Cities Fairs Cup final.

**LIMELIGHT ON RASHFORD**

Marcus Rashford's off-field achievements recently earned him an MBE but it has not caused him

to take his eye off the ball on the pitch.

The Manchester United striker plundered the first hat-trick of his club career against Leipzig and is the group stage top goalscorer, having also grabbed a winner in Paris on Matchday 1.

**MBAPPE MISSING FOR PSG**

Kylian Mbappe has joined fellow forwards Neymar and Mauro Icardi on the sidelines at Paris Saint-Germain, with the Ligue 1 giants revealing that a hamstring problem will keep the World Cup winner out of their clash against RB Leipzig.

Wednesday's game is a rematch of August's Champions League semi-final in Lisbon which PSG won 3-0 before losing to Bayern Munich in the final.

**HAALAND TO CONTINUE ROLLING?**

The Erling Braut Haaland

bandwagon continued hurtling along last time out as his goal against Zenit made it 14 in as many games for club and country this season. But can he do it on a cold November night in Belgium?

Club Brugge won't make things easy, though -- they are above Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League, unbeaten with only two goals conceded.

**HOME, NOT SWEET FOR WERNER**

Chelsea's Timo Werner broke his European duck for the club with a penalty at Krasnodar, but all eight of his UEFA Champions League goals have now been scored away from home.

Rennes have only kept the opposition out once in 11 games this season so the German striker may not get a better chance to end his streak at Stamford Bridge.



West Indies batsman Andre Fletcher shows a double thumbs up sign ahead of their first day's training session yesterday in Christchurch as the Caribbean side shook off a long flight, jet lag and three days of isolation. The majority of the team and management arrived in New Zealand last Friday after a 54-hour flight from Barbados and they had to spend the first three days in isolation and then returned negative Covid-19 tests before they could begin training at New Zealand Cricket's high-performance centre.

PHOTO: TWITTER