

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS 1
Premier League
Liverpool v Chelsea
Live from 6:45pm
MU v Crystal Palace
Live from 9:00pm
QPR v Man City

Live from 11:30pm
STAR SPORTS 2
Indian Super League
Chennai v North East
Live from 7:30pm
La Liga
Real Madrid v Rayo

Live from 1:00am (Sunday)
Celta Vigo v Grenada
Live from 3:00am (Sunday)
STAR SPORTS 4
La Liga
Almeria v Barcelona

Live from 9:00pm
Getafe v Elche
Live from 11:00pm
Serie A
Sampdoria v Milan
Live from 1:45am (Sunday)

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'They worked well as a team'

SPORTS REPORTER from Khulna

Zimbabwe captain Brendan Taylor has said that his side's 162-run defeat in Khulna was 'a tough pill to swallow' considering that the visitors had worked hard for four and a half days. He also conceded that Bangladesh were the better team and praised Shakib Al Hasan's stupendous all-round effort. "If a guy hits a century and takes ten wickets, he is certainly going to be a threat. There were others who were good too. Tamim's hundred was really good. They worked well as a team," said Taylor. "I thought maybe Bangladesh should have declared earlier but on a wearing wicket on Day Five, you can never be too sure. They have quality spinners and they proved to be very difficult. Bangladesh played better cricket than us and deserved to win. We fought hard for four and half days and it's a tough pill to swallow that we got blown away in the last hour or two," he added. Taylor reckoned that the batsmen in his side should have taken a lesson from the way Hamilton Masakadza, who scored more than 200 runs in this match, batted. "There were times when we lost wickets in a group. We lost wickets at crucial times; before tea intervals, after drinks and before lunch. So it's always tough to rebuild from that. But Masakadza proved it wasn't all unplayable. He was fantastic throughout this Test. So there is a lot we can learn from him," he said. Despite the series defeat Taylor is looking forward to a win in Chittagong in the third Test which begins on November 12. "If we can iron out the few flaws, I am sure the third Test will be a lot closer," said the visiting skipper.

TEST TURNERS

- Bangladesh are now ranked ninth in the ICC Test rankings and have overtaken Zimbabwe. Even if they lose the next Test they will be ahead by two points.
- This is Bangladesh's sixth win in 87 matches and their fourth against Zimbabwe. This also their first series win since 2009.
- The win is Mushfiqur Rahim's third as a captain, the most by any Bangladeshi.
- Tajjul Islam bowled Malcolm Waller with a delivery that bounced twice. This was the second time that a Bangladeshi bowler got a wicket in this manner after Mohammad Ashraful got AB de Villiers caught in 2008 that witnessed a similarly bizarre dismissal.

IVY LEAGUE	NAME	RUNS	W	1ST INNS	2ND INNS	AGAINST	YEAR
	Ian Botham	114	13	6/58	7/48	India in Mumbai	1980
	Imran Khan	117	11	6/98	5/82	India in Faisalabad	1983
	Shakib	137	10	5/80	5/44	Zimbabwe in Khulna	2014



MY BEST performance

BISHWAJIT ROY from Khulna

Ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan yesterday added yet another feather to his already illustrious cap by becoming only the third player in Test cricket to score a century and take ten wickets in a match, propelling him in the same echelons with Ian Botham and Imran Khan. The 27-year-old all-rounder feels it is a great honour to be bracketed with two of the greatest all-rounders of all time. "I heard of the record from a journalist a few weeks ago. I was lucky and fortunate to have done it," said the man-of-the-match Shakib during his post-match reaction. However, the 27-year-old all-rounder feels it his contribution towards the team's success more pleasing for him than the individual record. "It's really big if you can bracket my name with them (Botham and Khan) as they are great players. But my duty is to perform for my team and country, and my only motto is to perform watching good performances. Actually I didn't follow any particular player. I loved to watch anyone whether it's good bowling or good fielding. I never thought I would be like someone else in my career, so in a sense no one was my idol. I always tried to establish my own identity," said the all-rounder, who has amassed 2441 runs and 139 wickets in his 36-Test career so far.

Considering the match situation and pitch condition, Shakib judged this performance as the best of his career but made it clear that he was looking for more success in the coming days. "If I consider everything, it's the best performance of my career. But I believe it is possible to perform even better. You never know if I can continue to improve then the performance may be much better," said a confident Shakib. Shakib felt his five-wicket haul in the second innings, on a pitch that was not necessarily assisting the spinners a great deal, was crucial to the outcome. "They had two-and-a-half sessions on their hand and if they could have done it (negotiated), the match would have ended in a draw. It was very difficult to take wickets on this pitch even on the fifth day. So, considering that the five-wicket haul in the second innings was really important for me," he added. The way Shakib performed in this Test, it would have been a fitting end to the match had the all-rounder taken the last wicket. He almost had the last man Tendai Chatara caught at mid-on, only to find Shahadat Hossain spill the ball through his hands. Shakib was seemingly frustrated at the time, but felt better when left-arm spinner Tajjul Islam brought an end to the proceedings in the first ball of the very next over. "Honestly speaking I was excited because it could have been better for me had I finished the game. But at that moment I didn't feel as bad as I had already completed the five-wicket haul," said Shakib with a wry smile. In the end captain Mushfiqur Rahim preserved the best accolade for Shakib as the little man jokingly said: "Hope he will continue his performance and also give us some opportunity to perform."

'WI act not good for cricket'

AFF, London

Sachin Tendulkar said Friday the West Indies' shock decision to cut short their tour of India was "not good for cricket". However, the India great was at a loss to know what caused them to take such drastic action. Tendulkar, in London to promote his autobiography, 'Playing It My Way', said that since retiring last year, having played his 200th Test match and become the only man to score 100 international centuries, he had not been that heavily involved in cricket. "Since I've retired I've not been following cricket as closely," he said during a press conference at Lord's. "I only read a couple of things -- to go into details I really don't know what transpired that made them take that decision. "It's definitely not good for cricket but if I speak further on this topic it would be unwise," the 41-year-old added.

U-12 football fest begins today

SPORTS REPORTER

A two-day football festival for U-12 booters, organised by Sonali Otit Club and sponsored by Max Group, gets underway today at the artificial turf adjacent to the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF). BFF president Kazi Salahuddin is expected to inaugurate the festival which would feature 16 teams. The participating teams, split into four groups, will be taking part in the seven-a-side affairs and top two teams from each group will qualify for the quarterfinals. "We believe this type of football festival will help develop interest among kids in future. We will pick 20 talented footballers from here for BFF's U-12 team to be sent to Malaysia in an international tournament," said Sonali Otit Club's president and BFF vice president Badal Roy at a press conference yesterday, adding that the selected players might also be considered for the BFF Academy in Sylhet. The club's vice president Hasanuzzaman Khan Bablu, general secretary Sheikh Mohammad Aslam, former footballer Nurul Haque Manik, Yousuf and Badal were also present at the press conference.

ITF JUNIOR TENNIS

Dual crown for Ho Chao

SPORTS REPORTER

HSIA Ho Chao of Chinese Taipei clinched the girls' singles title in the ITF Junior Tennis Championships after beating Maria Dominique of Philippines 6-3, 6-0 in the final at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday. The Taipei teenager also won the girls' doubles crown, pairing up with Julia Vulpio of Dominican Republic, as they beat Lin Hsuan Yu and Runa Ichinose pair 4-6, 6-1, 10-7 in the final. In the boys' singles, Sharmay Dhawan of India beat compatriot Sonami Parikshit 2-6, 7-5, 6-3 to set up a final clash against India's Sunish Dhruv, who defeated compatriot Ballekere Ravikumar 6-2, 6-2.

Colour-blind Rogers not in danger

AFF, Sydney

Cricket Australia said Friday that colour-blind batsman Chris Rogers's decision to withdraw from a match in which a pink ball will be trialed would not jeopardise the opener's Test career. Rogers has pulled out of Victoria's day-night Sheffield Shield clash against Tasmania, starting on Saturday, citing his difficulties in detecting the experimental pink ball. "The selectors have reiterated that no player is judged on one match."

Reds face Chelsea challenge

AFF, London

Brendan Rodgers insists there is no chance Steven Gerrard will crack under pressure when the Liverpool captain bids for redemption against Chelsea on Saturday. Gerrard endured one of the worst moments of his career when the Reds midfielder last faced Chelsea in April as his disastrous slip allowed Demba Ba to score the goal that shattered Liverpool's challenge to win the title for the first time since 1990. The 34-year-old has been well below his best since that agonising mistake and his spluttering campaign, which mirrors his team's own struggles, suffered another blow on Tuesday when he was restricted to a 20-minute substitute appearance in the 1-0 Champions League loss at Real Madrid. Reds boss Rodgers also rested several other key players and said he was trying to keep Gerrard, who has been bothered by a hamstring injury, fresh ahead of the Chelsea showdown. But with Liverpool languishing 12 points behind leaders Chelsea, Gerrard desperately wants to erase the bitter memory of last season's mistake and this week's demotion by delivering a dominant display against Jose Mourinho's team, who will swagger into Anfield unbeaten in 16 games in all competitions this season. Gerrard has risen to the occasion many times before and Rodgers is banking on another inspirational display from his talisman. "He has had hard moments in his career and he always responds magnificently. There was no blame. It was just an unfortunate thing," Rodgers said of the slip that is now immortalised by Chelsea fans in a taunting chant Gerrard is sure to hear many times on Saturday. "He was instrumental in our run last year and how well we played. "He is a big character and bounces back from that. It shows you the character of Steven." As if Gerrard's attempt to make amends for his costly mistake isn't a juicy enough sub-plot to Saturday's clash, there is also the lingering bad blood following Rodgers's criticism of Mourinho's cautious tactics in their 2-0 win at Anfield last season.

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FIXTURES

(1500GMT unless stated)

Saturday
Burnley v Hull, Liverpool v Chelsea (1245GMT), Manchester United v Crystal Palace, QPR v Manchester City (1730GMT), Southampton v Leicester, West Ham v Aston Villa

Sunday
Sunderland v Everton (1330GMT), Swansea v Arsenal (1600GMT), Tottenham v Stoke (1330GMT), West Brom v Newcastle (1330GMT)

Messi eyes Zara record

AFF, Madrid



Lionel Messi continues his quest to become the all-time leading goalscorer in La Liga just days after equalling a similar feat in the Champions League when Barcelona visit Almeria on Saturday. Messi drew level with Real Madrid legend Raul on 71 Champions League goals with a brace as Barca bounced back from two consecutive defeats to beat Ajax 2-0 in midweek and progress to the last 16. The Argentine is just one goal short of the 251 goals Telmo Zarra scored for Athletic Bilbao between 1940 and 1955, but has been kept scoreless in his last La Liga outings as Barca slipped to defeat against Real Madrid and Celta Vigo.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Rajshahi retain title

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi retained the title of the Inter-District Women's Volleyball Championship after handing a 3-2 defeat to former champions Pabna in the final at the Volleyball Stadium yesterday. Rajshahi won the first set by 25-11 points before losing two successive sets by 16-25 and 19-25 points. But they bounced back to win the last two sets by 25-20 and 15-10 points to retain the inter-district title, which has been clinched by Rajbari for the highest five times. Meanwhile, Chittagong finished third after beating Khulna in the place-deciding match.

FIXTURES

(all times GMT)

Saturday
Almeria v Barcelona (1500), Getafe v Elche (1700), Real Madrid v Rayo Vallecano (1900), Malaga v Eibar (2100), Celta Vigo v Granada (2100)

Sunday
Sevilla v Levante (1100), Espanyol v Villarreal (1500), Valencia v Athletic Bilbao (1700), Real Sociedad v Atletico Madrid (1900)

However, Barca boss Luis Enrique played down the importance of Suarez's slow start and is confident his star front three of Messi, Suarez and Neymar will click in the coming weeks. "Messi is the best player I have seen in my life," said Enrique. "In attack we have distinct possibilities. We know that Neymar and Luis can play in different positions and that their responsibilities change when we have the ball and when we don't. "I like to have those variations. We have players of a very high level." At the back Enrique will still be without the injured Jeremy Mathieu, so Gerard Pique may be recalled after missing out in the last two games. League leaders Real Madrid are also in action on Saturday as they look to extend their 12-game winning streak against Rayo Vallecano at the Santiago Bernabeu.



Australia draw level

AFF, Melbourne

Australia bounced back from their opening heavy loss to hammer South Africa by seven wickets and square their Twenty20 series in Melbourne on Friday. The Australians, beaten by the same margin in Adelaide on Wednesday, were superior with bat and ball to cruise to victory. The home side restricted South Africa to 101 for seven off their 20 overs and had few problems reaching 102 for three in 12.4 overs to wrap up victory. The series now goes to a decider in Sydney on Sunday.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SOUTH AFRICA: 101 for 7 in 20 overs (Duminy 49, Hendricks 18, Rossouw 12; Faulkner 3-25, Boyce 2-15, Cummins 1-11)

AUSTRALIA: 102 for 3 in 12.4 overs (Finch 44 not out, Watson 30, Dunk 23; Parnell 2-17, Rabada 1-25)

Result: Australia won by 7 wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Cameron Boyce.