

What to WATCH

CHANNEL 9 & SET MAX
Indian Premier League
Delhi v Mumbai
Live from 8:30pm

TEN CRICKET
West Indies v England
Second Test, Day 3
Live from 7:45pm

TEN ACTION
UEFA Europa League
Napoli v Wolfsburg
Live from 12:00am
(Friday)

TEN SPORTS
UEFA Europa League
Zenit v Sevilla
Live from 12:00am
(Friday)

DAY'S EVENT

BD U-19s v SA U-19s
Venue: Chittagong
Seventh Youth ODI

Time: 9:00am
Bangladesh Cricket League
Venue: Fatullah Stadium

South Zone v North Zone
Longer Version, Day 3
Time: 9:30am

FIRED TWICE IN 4 DAYS

Former Brazil international Ze Maria has been sacked not once, but twice by Romanian club Ceahlăuul Piatra Neamț over the course of a few days. Ze Maria was first fired last Wednesday after a dismal run of results left Ceahlăuul third-bottom of Romanian Liga 1. However, the club's "flamboyant" owner Angelo Massone decided to reinstate Ze Maria the very next day, deciding the coaching staff deserved another chance. Ceahlăuul lost their next game 2-0 against FC Botosani on Saturday, leading Massone to fire Ze Maria once again and bringing in Serbian coach Vanya Radinovic as his replacement.



---INTERNET



PHOTOS: STAR

THE WINNING MOMENTS: (Clockwise from top right) The Tigers shake hands with their Pakistan counterparts after winning the first ODI by 79 runs on April 17, Tamim Iqbal and Shakib Al Hasan cross for a single on way to guiding the hosts to a 7-wicket victory two days later and yesterday the whitewash was complete, thanks to a brilliant hundred from Soumya Sarkar, as the hosts romped to an 8-wicket victory.

'Body language the difference'

SPORTS REPORTER

The professionalism his troops showed in the third and final ODI on their way to inflicting the 3-0 whitewash on Pakistan pleased Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza most.

Mashrafe was understandably delighted with the scoreline, but he expressed his satisfaction with the way his team rose up to the challenge of restricting Pakistan to 250 after the visitors had cruised to 203 for 2 in 39 overs.

"We had already confirmed the series. I had earlier said that there might come a time when we would face a difficult challenge and I would like to see my team respond to that... so I am happy with the way they responded today.

"At one stage Pakistan were in a position to score 300-plus runs, but we bounced back. We will win more matches if we can show this kind of character. We should appreciate this professional attitude," remarked a delighted Mashrafe at the post-match briefing last night.

"Everyone in the dressing room was saying that winning this series 3-0 was one of our best achievements. We are happy. Rubel is also happy," he chuckled.

Bangladesh looked like a different side from before -- winning this series with ease and continuing their World Cup form -- and Mashrafe said that positive body language was behind his team's success.

"What I wanted from my team was a change in body language. There were times

when we broke down due to a dropped catch or something like that and I wanted this mentality to change.

"Small things like Nasir's catch today can make a huge difference to the team. That was one of the turning points. If we want to be a leading cricket team in the world, we have to continue in this spirit," said Mashrafe.

The Bangladesh skipper was not ready to undermine any of Bangladesh's victories by comparing this to the others as to him every international victory had helped Bangladesh improve its value.

"I earlier said that every win had its own value. Now we need to win matches to improve our ranking. I think we need these kinds of wins as much as possible," he said.

"As a captain I never thought about the 3-0 victory before the series. Instead my focus was to play good, positive cricket. We had a good World Cup and we wanted to continue our form. We played good cricket and we got the result... that's it," he continued.

Mashrafe said he believed this team could improve and had got the ability to perform better. "It is natural for the captain to get credit when the team does well. But the truth is that the players have been doing well and they are well aware of their responsibilities.

"As a captain, what I can do is guide them. The players are actually working very hard. If we can continue this trend then it's possible to take this team further," hoped Mashrafe.

In the end, the brave-heart cricketer thanked everybody as he believed the success was a result of a united effort from the entire team.

Siddikur's Indonesian challenge

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's premier golfer Siddikur Rahman will be looking to bounce back to form when he takes on a stellar field in the CIMB Niaga Indonesian Masters starting today. The 30-year-old golfer has not had a great season so far, missing cut in the first two events of the Asian Tour before relinquishing a winnable opportunity in the Hero Indian Open to eventually finish joint seventh, earlier in February.

Siddikur did participate in a couple of events at home since and finished third in the Patron's Cup last week before flying off to Indonesia. The two-time Asian Tour winner will have to contend with the likes of former number-one Lee Westwood of England and 15-time European Tour winner Thomas Bjorn of Denmark in this 750,000-dollar event.

West Ham show the way

INTERNET

West Ham have become the first Premier League side to announce that they are planning to slash their ticket prices as a direct result of the enormous new television right deal signed a few months back, reports from BBC said.

Sky and BT Sport have paid £5.13 billion to secure the live Premier League television rights for three seasons from 2016/17.

Bayern, Barca cruise into semis

AFP, Paris



Doubles from Robert Lewandowski and Neymar inspired Bayern Munich and Barcelona respectively into the Champions League semifinals on Tuesday.

Lewandowski's brace came in a crazy first half where Bayern rattled five goals past a demoralised Porto side, who had come into the game leading 3-1 after the first leg and with real hopes of reaching their first semifinal since they won the trophy in 2004.

The game ended 6-1 and a 7-4 aggregate victory for Bayern and extended their coach Pep Guardiola's remarkable record in the competition where in six campaigns he has never failed to reach the last four.

While Bayern president Karl-Heinz Rummenigge said 'We have seen

something miraculous', Guardiola poured praise over his players.

"At this moment, it's easy to love my players," beamed Guardiola.

Not even splitting his trousers while shouting instructions from the sidelines could take away the joy the 44-year-old Spaniard felt.

"Ah, they broke. It's not so bad, I'll just put on a new pair for the next game," said Guardiola.

For his opposite number, Julen Lopetegui, it was a devastating evening.

"The first half here in Munich cost us everything, we were punished and now we have to pick ourselves up again," said Lopetegui.

Neymar also scored his double in the first half for Guardiola's former side Barcelona -- whom he guided to two Champions League trophies in his spell there -- as they eased to a 2-0 win on the night and a 5-1 aggregate win over French champions Paris Saint

Germain.

"I am very happy with the season I am having and we need to continue like this to achieve our objectives. We need to keep going and get to the final," said Neymar, who took his tally to 30 goals for the season.

"In my first goal Iniesta did everything. All I had to do was dribble past the goalkeeper and score."

Barcelona coach Luis Enrique was delighted with the result in what was his 50th match in charge and still on course for a treble this season, all the more extraordinary that rumours earlier in the season suggested his job was at risk after apparently falling out with Lionel Messi.

"I hope the best is yet to come," said the 44-year-old former Spain international, who played for both Real Madrid and Barcelona.

"We are where we wanted to be but we need to go forward from here.

"We are determined to be among the best two clubs in Europe."



Barcelona forward Neymar (on top) celebrates his second goal with teammate Dani Alves during their Champions League quarterfinal against PSG at the Nou Camp on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

Gazi guides South Zone

SPORTS REPORTER



A fierce century from Shohag Gazi at number eight tilted the Bangladesh Cricket League's first four-day encounter towards Prime Bank South Zone as they finished the second day on a strong note against BCB North Zone at Fatullah.

South Zone began the second day on 255 for 8, with Shohag unbeaten on 24. While North Zone were expecting to wrap things up quickly, Shohag suddenly began to counter the bowling attack with powerful blows. He ended up hammering five sixes and eleven fours, reaching his century off just 102 balls. Together with Al-Amin Hossain, the pair shared a century stand and took South Zone past the 300-mark.

Of the 105 runs hammered in the ninth wicket stand, Shohag scored 92 while Al-Amin stayed resolute and ensured that he remained not out after 28 balls. The innings ended after Shohag departed for 108.

Visibly tired from the sudden change in the momentum, North Zone, after the exchange, were reduced to 161 for 5 by the end of the day. While they began well, courtesy of a 55-run stand between Mshukur Rahman and Junaid Siddique, they lost wickets at crucial times. While wickets fell in tandem, a resolute Naem Islam held one end with an unbeaten 42, scored off 141 balls.

After smacking the ball out of the park a number of times, Shohag returned to take the wicket of North Zone skipper Mahmudul Hasan. Veteran slow left-armer Abdur Razzak took two wickets while pacer Al-Amin entered the wickets column with another.

SCORES IN BRIEF	
SOUTH ZONE: 352 all out in 108.5 overs (Shohag 108, Anamul 94, Ariful 6-75, Saqlain 2-45)	
NORTH ZONE: 161 for 5 (Naem 42 not out, Junaid 30; Razzak 2-40, Shohag 1-27)	

Hyderabad, Chennai win

AGENCIES, Visakhapatnam

Skipper David Warner led from the front with a blistering 91 as Sunrisers Hyderabad defeated defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders by 16 runs via Duckworth-Lewis method in a rain-truncated match of the Indian Premier League on Wednesday.

Courtesy Warner's 55-ball knock, Sunrisers scored a decent 176/4 in 20 overs but due to an hour long rain delay, the revised target for KKR turned out to be 118 from 12 overs. The Shah Rukh Khan owned franchise could only manage 101 for four in 12 overs.

In the second match of the day, Chennai Super Kings beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by 27 runs. Put into bat after a 25-minute rain-delayed start, Chennai rode on Suresh Raina's brilliant attacking half-century and his 54-run quickfire partnership from just four overs for the third wicket

with his captain MS Dhoni.

Chennai lost a bit of momentum in between with quick dismissals of Raina, Dhoni and Ravindra Jadeja but they still scored 181 for eight as Faf du Plessis remained not out on 33 from 18 deliveries.

Bangalore got a decent start but once the openers departed, they struggled to score barring skipper Virat Kohli. However, he ran out of partners which included his wrong call that cost Bangalore the wicket of AB de Villiers.

SCORES IN BRIEF

HYDERABAD: 176 for 4 in 20 overs (Dhawan 54, Warner 91; M Morkel 2-31)

KOLKATA: 101 for 4 in 12 overs (Uthappa 34, Pandey 33 not out; Bopara 1-7)

Result: Sunrisers Hyderabad won by 16 runs (D/L method)

CHENNAI: 181 for 8 (Raina 62, Smith 39; Chahal 3-40)

BANGALORE: (Kohli 51, Wiese 22; Nehra 4-10)

Result: Chennai Super Kings won by 27 runs

Samuels ton lifts Windies

STAR SPORTS DESK



A fighting century by Marlon Samuels and a wag of the tail helped West Indies to 285 for 9 after 101 overs during a rain-interrupted second day of second Test against England in St George's, Grenada yesterday.

Samuels played 228 deliveries and smashed 14 boundaries in his composed knock before being caught by Ian Bell off James Anderson for 203.

There was substantial support for Samuels in the form of skipper Denesh Ramdin's 31 before Devendra Bishoo and Shanon Gabriel put on some stiff resistance in the tenth wicket.

Broad was the wrecker-in-chief for England, accounting for the scalps of Darren Bravo, Ramdin, Holder and Kemar Roach.

SCORES IN BRIEF

WEST INDIES: First innings 285 for 9 in 101 overs (Samuels 103, Bravo 35, Ramdin 31, Holder 22; Broad 4-61, Anderson 2-47)

AFC U-14 GIRLS' C'SHIP Big win powers BD into semis

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh moved into the semifinals of the AFC U-14 Girls' Regional Championship after a 16-0 win over Bhutan in their last group match at the Dasarath Stadium in Kathmandu, Nepal yesterday.

Maria and Sanjida scored four goals each while Moushumi struck a treble, Marzia scored a brace and Krishna, Shapna and Tahura netted one goal each for Bangladesh in the one-way affair.

The win helped Bangladesh top Group B ahead of India on goal difference. India had beaten Bhutan by 12-0 goals and held Bangladesh to a 1-1 draw.

MU table bid for Hummels

AFP, Berlin

Manchester United have tabled a 30-million euro bid for Borussia Dortmund's Mats Hummels, according to a report in Sport Bild.

Hummels admitted earlier this month he was weighing up his options amid reports United boss Louis van Gaal wants Dortmund's World Cup winner at the heart of his defence for next season.

German daily Bild claim United's offer is too low for Borussia, but Dortmund could be persuaded to part with their captain for 40 million euros.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Rangpur Division, Sylhet and Dhaka won their respective matches of the Agrani Bank 25th National Youth Hockey Championship at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Syhet beat Patuakhali 2-1; Dhaka thrashed Manikganj 14-0 while Rangpur Division beat Natore 8-7 in shootout after stipulated time produced a 3-3 draw.

Dhumketu, gladiators in basketball semis

Dhumketu Club moved into the Citycell Federation Cup Basketball Championship semifinals with a comfortable 66-49 win over Baksibazar Club at the Dhanmondi Gymnasium yesterday.

Ovi and Sajid caged 14 and 13 points respectively for Dhumketu Club, who dominated the first half 43-21. Yeasin and Tahsan scored 20 and 10 points respectively for the losing side.

Earlier on Tuesday night, Dhaka Gladiators had confirmed their semifinal berth beating Dhumketu Club by 87-62 points.

BJMC regain women's handball title

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) regained the title of the Exim Bank National Women's Handball Championship after beating last year's champions Bangladesh Ansar 20-16 at M Mansur Ali National Stadium yesterday.

It was the eighth title for BJMC, who led the first half of the final by 9-5 goals. Shirin Akter scored 10 goals while Sahida Khatun and Sumi Begum netted four goals each for the winners. Ismat Ara Nishu scored six goals for Ansar.

Div-I badminton

Knit Concern Badminton Club, Gulshan SC, Dhaka Gladiators and Maha Badminton Club won their respective matches of the Helvetia First Division Badminton League at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium yesterday.

Knit Concern beat Kawasaki Club; Gulshan beat Ahban and Dhaka Gladiators beat Surjo Tarun, all in 4-1 sets while Maha beat Rockland by straight 5-0 sets.