

What to WATCH

CHANNEL 9
Bangladesh Premier League
Sk Russel v Sk Jamal
Live from 4:15pm

CHANNEL 9 & SET MAX
Indian Premier League
Punjab v Hyderabad
Live from 8:30pm

STAR SPORTS2
Primera Liga
Valencia v Granada
Live from 12:45am (Tuesday)

DAY'S EVENT
Bangladesh Premier League
Venue: BNS
Sk Russel v Sk Jamal
Time: 4:15pm
Brothers union v Abahani
Time: 6:30pm

BOOTS FOR KHALEESI

Puma have cooked up these new evoSPEED 1.3 Graphic boots which, according to the company, take their inspiration from the Japanese dragon, "a traditional symbol of speed, power, wisdom and agility". Rather amusingly, the boots are styled in white, sea pine blue and 'high risk red'. Professionals like Sergio Agüero, Marco Reus, Radamel Falcao, Antoine Griezmann, Marco Verratti and Santi Cazorla will all be wearing these things come the weekend.



--- INTERNET

Gladiators clinch title

SPORTS REPORTER
Dhaka Gladiators clinched the Citycell Federation Cup Basketball Championship with a 92-66 win over Dhumketu Club in the final at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.
Dhaka Gladiators led the first half 40-35. Tareq of Dhumketu scored 46 points but his performance was not enough to edge Gladiators, who saw Soaib and Swadis score 23 and 22 points.

Ansar best Tangail

SPORTS REPORTER
Ansar VDP emerged champions in the Dhaka (North and South) City Corporation Pioneer League with an enthralling 3-2 win over Tangail Football Academy at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.
Ansar staged a brilliant comeback in the final after Tangail took a 2-0 lead, with Arif putting Tangail ahead in the 52nd minute followed by Joy doubling the lead five minutes later. But there was plenty of excitement left as Ansar pulled one goal back in the 67th minute through Shamim, followed by Borhan equalising in the 78th minute. With extra-time looming, Jewel struck the winner one minute from time to frustrate Tangail.
For third-place Fakirepool Surjo Tarun Sangha beat Bangladesh Football Supporters Forum 1-0, and qualified for 3rd Division Football League along with Ansar and Tangail.

Titans in youth hockey final

SPORTS REPORTER
Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan and Dhaka moved into the Agrani Bank 25th National Youth Hockey Championship final after beating their rivals yesterday.
BKPS thrashed Rajshahi 7-0 while Dhaka defeated Dinajpur 6-1 in the second semifinal.



These U-14 football team contingent was airlifted out of Nepal yesterday, where they had been trapped since Saturday. A Bangladesh Air Force cargo plane airlifted them and brought them back to the BAF Bangabandhu Base in Kurmitola last night.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Rescued from the valley of death

SPORTS REPORTER

The C-130 cargo plane of Bangladesh Air Force touched down at the Bangabandhu Base of the Bangladesh Air Force in Kurmitola at around 8:35pm last night as the harrowing ordeal of some 48 Bangladeshi civilians including the under-14 girls' football team in earthquake-hit Nepal ended in relief.

A journey of one hour and 40 minutes from Kathmandu to Dhaka ended a harrowing ordeal which had begun when the first earthquake of 7.8 magnitude hit the Himalayan nation at around 11:57am local time. Since then they have survived one more major tremor and hundreds of aftershocks over the past 19 hours, and lived to tell their stories.

The most terrified of those were the girls of the Bangladesh under-14 football team, which had gone to Kathmandu a week earlier to participate in the AFC U-14 championship Qualifiers. They had performed admirably to reach the final of the championship by beating Iran in the semifinals. They were preparing for the afternoon's final match yesterday when the earthquake struck.

"We were in a team meeting on the sixth floor of our hotel (Hotel View Bhrikuti in Lalitpur) when suddenly everything started to shake violently," Krishna Rani, the skipper of the Bangladesh team, revealed to the reporters who had gathered at the air force base last night.

"We started screaming and trembling, as we hugged on to one another in fear. Then our coach Chhoton sir (Golam rabhani Chhoton) rushed us down the six flights of stairs and we finally made it out to the open. There was dust everywhere as the mountains were trembling," recalled Krishna.

And it was like that for the rest of the day, and the night, and the day after. The players and the team officials stayed on the lawn outside the hotel, where they spent the night as aftershocks rocked them almost every half hour.

"Our team had been brilliant. The way we beat Iran in the semifinal, we were confident of winning the final as well. But once the tremors hit, football became the least of our priorities. We were concerned about staying alive and getting back home safely," said the coach.

"We were lucky in a sense because the area we stayed in wasn't the most

badly hit. But as we came to the airport this afternoon, we saw the city in rubble," recalled Chhoton.

However, not everyone was as lucky as the Bangladesh team. There are still many Bangladeshis reportedly trapped in different parts of Nepal, waiting to be rescued and brought back home. Among them are 12 employees of the Bangladesh office of SNV (Netherlands Development Organisation) stranded at the Last Resort, an eco-style resort some 100 kilometres from Kathmandu near the Tibet border. Five of their female employees were sent home while the other 12 are still stranded in that remote area, virtually without any food, money or medical supplies.

Earlier the cargo plane, led by Bangladesh Air Force's Group Captain M A Awal Hossain, left for Kathmandu around 1:30pm with six medical teams of Bangladesh Army, 34 members of the air force and 10 tons of medical supplies and relief materials. This mission was meant for relief only. But since the Biman Bangladesh Airlines, which was supposed to bring back Bangladeshi civilians, could not land at the Tribhuvan Airport due to heavy air traffic, the relief mission turned into a rescue mission.

Decisive round in BCL

SPORTS REPORTER

The crucial sixth round of Manyavar Bangladesh Premier League begins today at the Bangabandhu National Stadium with holders Sheikh Jamal DC facing title contenders Sheikh Russel KC, while Abahani play against a spirited Brothers Union.

Leaders Sheikh Jamal DC will look to keep their winning run intact against Sheikh Russel, who want to make up for three points lost to Muktijoddha Sangsad in a bid to stay in the 11-team race.

Sheikh Jamal have been in fantastic form and have notched up wins in all five matches and will definitely have the upper-hand against Sheikh Russel, though the two-time champions are worried about their performance against Team BJMC in the previous match, where they survived a second-half scare and won 2-1.

The Federation Cup champions, Sheikh Jamal, are in an advantageous position in the point table, garnering maximum 15 points, three clear of second-placed Muktijoddha Sangsad and six ahead of Sheikh Russel, although the latter have a game in hand.

And Sheikh Jamal are now focused on recovering from the previous match's poor performance and playing as a team, which was not the case against BJMC. They also have a point of relief -- their striking duo of

Haitian Wedson Anselme and Nigerian Emeka Darlington have been among goals -- and coach Maruful Haque will definitely rely on them to overcome a major hurdle on the way to the clinching a third professional football league title.

Sheikh Russel also don't want to miss the opportunity to close the gap with the leaders but the task is going to be a hard one as the 2013 season's treble winners are likely to miss the services of Bosnian stopper Bojan Patric and Nigerian striker Kingsley Chigozie.

However, they will be boosted the return of creative midfielder Hemanta Vincent Biswas and rely on heavily on winger Zahid Hossain, who had contributed to the goals in all previous matches.

On the other hand, Abahani will be hoping to bounce back against Brothers Union following their 0-2 defeat at the hands of Sheikh Russel.

Four-time champions Abahani, who have already dropped five points in five matches, have no alternative but to win against Brothers if the Sky Blues want to stay in the title race.

The charges of Austrian George Kottan have been displaying lovely performances on the pitch, but the lack of prowess from the forwards is gradually taking them to the backseat. In a bid to take Abahani to the right direction, the Sky Blues need to do something against Brothers, who will be lining up against Abahani on the back of their moral boosting 5-2 win over Muktijoddha Sangsad.

Chelsea dominate team of the year

AFP, London

Chelsea dominated the team of the year announced Sunday by Professional Footballers' Association, with six players from the Premier League champions-elect in the side voted for by their fellow pros in England.

The PFA team comprised just four English players. Eden Hazard was in midfield along with Chelsea teammate Nemanja Matic.

Manchester United's David de Gea was in goal, while Tottenham Hotspur's Harry Kane partnered Costa in attack.

PFA team of the year:
David de Gea (MUN); Ryan Bertrand (SOT), Branislav Ivanovic (CHE), John Terry (CHE), Gary Cahill (CHE); Eden Hazard (CHE), Philippe Coutinho (LIV), Nemanja Matic (CHE), Alexis Sanchez (ARS); Harry Kane (TOT), Diego Costa (CHE).

Royals move to top of IPL

AGENCIES, New Delhi

Defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders' match against Rajasthan Royals was abandoned at Eden Gardens because of heavy rain and thunderstorm.

Both teams were awarded one point each as RR benefitted, climbing up to the top of the table replacing Chennai Super Kings with 11 from eight.

Royal Challengers Bangalore chased down Delhi Daredevil's 95 run target with ease on the back of Chris Gayle's unbeaten 62.

Anderson leads England to glory

AFP, St. George's

England ended a wait of two-and-a-half years and 10 matches for Test success away from home with a nine-wicket win over the West Indies in the second Test on Saturday.

Set a modest target of 143 after the home side folded for 307 in their second innings just after lunch, Gary Ballance and skipper Alastair Cook eased to the target with an unbroken 142-run second-wicket partnership after Jonathan Trott fell without scoring to Shannon Gabriel.

James Anderson starred with the ball and in the field at Grenada's National Stadium on Saturday.

He triggered a collapse which saw the home side lose eight wickets for 83 runs after they resumed in the comfortable position of 202 for two with opening batsman Kraigg Brathwaite on 101 and first innings century-maker Marlon Samuels at the crease.

Anderson made full use of the second new ball in the morning session, removing Brathwaite for 116 with a sharp lifter that was fended to gully.

He then added the other key wickets of Shivnarine Chanderepaul, via an excellent reflex-action take by Cook at first slip on the rebound from second slip fielder Ian Bell, and Marlon Samuels to finish with the excellent figures of four for 43 off 22 overs. He also held two catches at mid-off and ran out Jason Holder, the man whose maiden first-class century denied England victory in the first Test in Antigua a week earlier, with a direct hit of the stumps at the non-striker's end.

There was one ray of hope for the Caribbean side when England started their run-chase as Trott played on to Gabriel.

However, Cook and Ballance hardly appeared troubled against a West Indies team fast running out of enthusiasm on another afternoon of blistering sunshine.

SCORES IN BRIEF
WEST INDIES: First innings 299
ENGLAND: First innings 464
WEST INDIES: Second innings 307
ENGLAND: Second innings 144 for 1 (Cook 59 not out, Ballance 81 not out; Gabriel 1-20)
Result: England won by 9 wickets and lead 3-match series 1-0.
Player-of-the-match: Joe Root.



A 5-a-side football tournament comprising 24 teams was held in Kolkata recently. Bando Design, a Bangladeshi garment manufacturer and the sole representative of Bangladesh in the tournament, played scintillating football throughout and defeated Xpertech 3-1 in the final to be crowned the champions.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Our Warmest Felicitations to His Majesty King Willem-Alexander and to the Friendly People of the Netherlands on their King's Day

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