

<b>What to WATCH</b>	<b>CHANNEL 9 &amp; SET MAX</b> Indian Premier League Punjab v Mumbai Live from 4:30pm Rajasthan v Delhi	<b>TEN CRICKET</b> West Indies v England Third Test, Day 3 Live from 8:00pm	<b>STAR SPORTS1</b> Serie A Roma v Genoa Live fro 4:30pm Atalanta v Lazio	Napoli v AC Milan Live from 12:45am (Monday)	<b>STAR SPORTS2</b> Primera Liga Espanyol v Valleciano Live from 4:00pm Getafe v Granada	Valencia v Elbar Live from 11:00pm Malaga v Elche Live from 1:00am (Monday)	<b>STAR SPORTS4</b> English Premiership Chelsea v Crystal Palace Live from 6:30pm Tottenham v Man City
	<b>DAY'S EVENT</b> Bangladesh Cricket League Venue: Chittagong East Zone v Central Zone		Longer Version, Day 4 Time: 9:30am Bangladesh Premier League	Venue: BNS Mohammedan v Soccer Club, Feni			



**A CHANGE IN ATTITUDE TOO:** Tigers superstar Shakib Al Hasan (L) matches Pakistan paceman Wahab Riaz word for word during the absorbing final session of the first Test at Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna on Saturday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

# Bangladesh set Maldives date SAFF Championship in Kerala from Dec 21-30

SPORTS REPORTER

With June's qualifiers for the World Cup and Asian Cup and December's SAFF Championship in sight, Bangladesh national team are expected to play a number of friendly and competitive matches in the intervening period including a four-team invitational tournament in Maldives, according to Bangladesh Football Federation officials.

The first of those matches will be a friendly match against Afghanistan held in Dhaka on June 4, just a week before Bangladesh host Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan for the first two qualifiers, confirmed a BFF official.

The BFF has responded positively to a proposal offer from Maldives football federation to take part in POMIS Cup (President of Maldives International Soccer Cup), a four-nation invitational tournament, to be held in Male in November this year, informed BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag.

The BFF general secretary also informed that the BFF president Kazi Salahuddin has made a verbal offer to his Pakistan counterpart to host the Pakistan team for a three-match friendly series in Dhaka at some convenient time this year.

All these proposals were discussed at the sidelines of the Asian Football Federation (AFC) congress held in Manama on April 30, where the date and venue of the SAFF Championship was also fixed.

According to Anwarul Haque Helal, the general secretary of SAFF who was present at the AFC congress, the apex regional football tournament will be held in Trivandrum, the capital of South Indian state of Kerala, from December 21 to 30 this year.

## Bolt back from injury

AFP, Bahamas

Six-time Olympic gold track medallist Usain Bolt will face a showdown against American arch-rival Justin Gatlin at this weekend's IAAF World Relays in the Bahamas.

Bolt, who has anchored Jamaica to two Olympic titles and three world golds in the 4x100m relay, missed last year's inaugural competition in Nassau in an injury-ravaged season.

In last year's 4x200m relay, Jamaica set a world record of 1:18.63 at the inaugural relays, one of three world records to fall in a truly memorable first edition of the latest addition to the roster of IAAF competition.

And with the bigger goal of the World Athletics Championships in Beijing in August, both sprinters have decided that they will be on show this time around, possibly in both the 4x100 and 4x200m relays.

## Chelsea eye glory

AFP, London

Having seemingly been promised to them all season, the Premier League title will be within Chelsea's grasp on Sunday when they host Crystal Palace needing three points to become champions.

While the free-flowing football of the autumn has faded, Chelsea have unquestionably been the season's stand-out team and their coronation is now only a question of time.

It is five years since they last won the title and the circumstances then were quite different, with a side steered by Carlo Ancelotti eviscerating Wigan Athletic 8-0 at Stamford Bridge on the campaign's final day to set a new Premier League scoring record of 103 goals in a season.

The current Chelsea team have faced accusations that they are 'boring' over the past few weeks, following a run of seven wins by a single-goal margin and three draws.

But as manager Jose Mourinho has pointed out, they have won more games (24), been beaten fewer times (twice) and kept more clean sheets (16) than any other team, while only reigning champions Manchester City have outscored them (70 to 68).

# Brothers hold Sk Jamal

SPORTS REPORTER



Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club dropped their first points of the ongoing Manyavar Bangladesh Premier League after being held to a goalless draw by an enterprising Brothers Union side at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The defending champions, who had won their first six matches of the campaign, struggled to impose their natural build-up play in the absence of inspirational midfielder Mamunul Islam. Brothers' backline stood resolute and put the defending champions under pressure on counter-attacks quite a few times.

Chances were few and far between in this match and the first notable attempt on goal came in the 63rd minute from Sheikh Jamal's Haitian forward Wedson Anselme but he was denied by an acrobatic save by Brothers' veteran goalkeeper Biplob Bhattacharjee.

Five minutes later, a fine first-time volley by Brothers winger Shariful Islam failed to test Sheikh Jamal goalkeeper Mazharul Islam Himel.

The game opened up towards the end as both sides looked for the winning goal and chances fell at either end. The best chance fell to Wedson in the first minute of the stoppage time from a quick counter-attack as substitute Taklish Ahmed teed up the ball for the Haitian in front of the box.

Wedson skipped past challenge of a

defender and let loose a powerful diagonal shot which beat Biplob all ends up but came off the crossbar.

Brothers had an appeal for a penalty turned down right at the stroke of final whistle when Kester Akon's close-range header had hit the flailing hand of Sheikh Jamal defender Mohammad Linkon.

The referee paid no heed to the appeal and instead blew the long whistle as the Dhanmondi giants escaped with a hard-earned point.

Despite the draw, Sheikh Jamal's lead at the top of the table was extended to seven points as they moved to 19 points while Brothers remained in fifth position with 11 points.

BROTHERS	0 - 0	SK JAMAL
RAHMATGANJ	1 - 1	MUKTIJODHA

## RAHMATGANJ SHARE THE SPOILS

Meanwhile, veteran striker Enamul Haque scored his seventh goal of the campaign, which was also the 2200th goal overall in the top-tier professional football league history, as Muktijoddha snapped a two-match losing streak with a 1-1 draw against Rahmatganj MFS in the second match of the day.

The former national striker nodded in a goal-bound header from Abbas Inusah to give the All Reds a deserved lead in the in the 67th minute of the match.

However, Rahmatganj rescued a point through a slightly controversial goal in the dying moments from Mannaf Rabbi, who deposited the ball at the back of the net after Nurul Absar won the ball from a heavy challenge against Muktijoddha 'keeper Titumir Chowdhury.

## 'Fight of the century' today

SPORTS REPORTER

Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather Jr will take on each other tonight at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas in what is being touted as 'the fight of the century', with expected revenue of \$400 million. The fighters have long been known as two of the best boxers and fans have been foaming at the mouth to see them take on each other for years. This is the first time that the two will fight in an emotionally-charged match as the world watches with bated breath.

Mayweather, a boxer from the USA and the self-proclaimed best boxer of all time, has 47-0 record so far, meaning he has never lost a match in his 19-year career.

While Pacquiao has chosen to represent the people of his country -- he is currently a congressman -- Mayweather has been known to boast about himself and his wealth -- he will be wearing a \$25000 mouthguard, incorporated with diamond dust and gold flakes.

The belt for the fight itself costs \$1 million, studded with emeralds and featuring the faces of Muhammed Ali and the boxers themselves.

The bout will begin at 9AM BST.

# Goal-crazy Barcelona

AFP, Madrid



Luis Suarez scored his first hattrick for Barcelona as the Catalan giants crushed Cordoba 8-0 on Saturday to take another step towards La Liga title.

Cordoba, who haven't won since January, held out for 42 minutes, but a four-goal blitz in 11 minutes either side of half-time ended their return to the top flight after just one season.

Ivan Rakitic smashed home the opener in style before Suarez added the second with the final touch of the first-half.

Lionel Messi, Suarez and Gerard Pique all then headed home before Messi had the simplest of finishes to roll in his 40th league goal of

the season to move one ahead of Cristiano Ronaldo at the league's top goalscorer.

Messi then allowed Neymar to convert from the penalty spot before Suarez completed his hat-trick two minutes from time.

It was only a matter of time before the league leaders made the breakthrough and they did so in style when Messi's lovely cushioned pass picked out Rakitic and he crashed a shot into the roof of the net.

Suarez made it 2-0 just before the break when he latched onto a similar pass from Andres Iniesta to sneak the ball between Carlos's legs.

The one way traffic continued after the break as Messi expertly nodded home Alves's inch-perfect cross just a minute into the second-half.



Barcelona midfielder Ivan Rakitic (R) celebrates his opening goal with teammates during their Primera Liga match against Cordoba at El Arcangel Stadium yesterday.

# Windies in dire straits

AFP, Bridgetown

Jermaine Blackwood's half-century could not prevent England tightening their grip on the third Test as the West Indies struggled to 139 for seven at tea in reply to the visitors' first innings total of 257 on Saturday.

After James Anderson mowed through the top order of the West Indies batting before lunch, four different bowlers contributed with a wicket each in the afternoon despite Blackwood's stroke-filled defiance.

He resumes in the day's final session on 67 off just 71 deliveries, having stroked nine fours and three sixes.

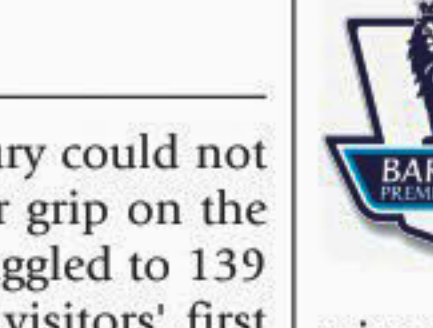
However with Veerasammy Permaul as his partner and the other two tailenders to follow, England will fancy their chances of earning a decent first innings lead on a pitch that is deteriorating rapidly.

Blackwood came to the crease within minutes of the restart after lunch as Moeen Ali's off-spin drew a lazy stroke from Darren Bravo for Chris Jordan to take the first of two catches at slip.

His second was a much more spectacular effort, diving to his right after initially being wrong-footed to hold on to the chance offered by Shivnarine Chanderpaul off Joe Root after the veteran had got to 25 and featured in a 45-run fifth-wicket partnership with Blackwood.

# MU lose 3 in a row

AFP, Manchester



Manchester United slumped to a third successive Premier League defeat for the first time in 13 years as Jonas Olsson deflected in West Bromwich Albion's winner in their 1-0 victory at Old Trafford on Saturday.

United's latest lacklustre display means they have now failed to score in three consecutive league games for the first time since August 2007, statistics that hardly support manager Louis van Gaal's claim that his side will challenge for the title next season.

To make matters worse, 10 minutes after Chris Brunt's free-kick took a huge deflection off Olsson for the 64th minute decider, Robin van Persie wasted a 73rd minute penalty after Saido Berahino was ruled to have handled an Antonio Valencia cross just inside his area.

The Dutch forward's spot kick was saved superbly by Boaz Myhill, who dived low to his left to offer some sense of justice to Albion players who claimed Berahino had been outside the area.

<b>Aston Villa 3</b> (Benteke 10, 45, Cleverley 64) Everton 2 (Lukaku 59-pen, Jagielka 90)
<b>Leicester 3</b> (Ulloa 1, 48-pen, Morgan 17) Newcastle 0
<b>Liverpool 2</b> (Coutinho 19, Gerrard 87) QPR 1 (Fer 73)
<b>Sunderland 2</b> (Gomez 21-pen, 55-pen) Southampton 1 (Mane 22)
<b>Swansea 2</b> (Montero 76, Ki 90) Stoke 0
<b>West Ham 1</b> (Noble 24-pen) Burnley 0

session, took them seven points clear of the relegation zone and should guarantee their survival.

Ashley Young appeared the best early prospect of ending United's goal drought as he probed down the left, cut in from his wing, reached the area and unleashed a powerful shot which deflected behind van Persie.

Van Persie, whose Old Trafford future is the subject of much debate, was appearing for the first time in two months and appeared ring rusty after his lay-off.

On 16 minutes he collected a short Ander Herrera pass and shot on the turn, an effort which Myhill could only parry behind at the expense of a corner from which van Persie was presented with another half-chance, this time hooking his effort directly at the visiting goalkeeper.

# Kolkata, Chennai stunned

AGENCIES, Bengaluru



Talented Punjab batsman Mandeep Singh kept his cool under pressure as his breathtaking 18-ball-45 enabled Royal Challengers Bangalore pip Kolkata Knight Riders by seven wickets in a nerve-wracking Indian Premier League encounter on Saturday.

In a rain-hit tie reduced to 10-overs-per side, KKR scored 111 for 4 courtesy Andre Russell's 17-ball-45 but it was Mandeep's exhilarating effort that saw ViratKohli's boys romp home with two balls to spare.

Mandeep's knock had four boundaries and three sixes with the last two maximums coming off successive deliveries from Andre Russell's last over where RCB required 13 runs.

Meanwhile, in the day's second match David Warner scored a blistering 61 to lead Sunrisers Hyderabad to a comfortable 22 runs win over Chennai Super Kings.

Warner scored his runs off only 28 deliveries as Hyderabad posted a formidable 192 which proved too much for Chennai as they managed 170 in reply.

Result: Hyderabad won by 22 runs.