

# What to WATCH

TEN CRICKET  
Sri Lanka v Pakistan  
Second Test, Day 4  
Live from 10:30am

**DAY'S EVENT**

<b>Bangladesh Premier League</b> Venue: BNS	Farashganj v Sk Jamal Time: 4:15pm	Rahamatganj v Abahani Time: 7:30pm
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Argentina forward Carlos Tevez scores the winning penalty in the shootout against Colombia during their Copa America quarterfinal in Vina del Mar on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Tevez the saviour

AFP, Vina Del Mar

Carlos Tevez fired Argentina into the semifinals of the Copa America here Friday, scoring the decisive spot-kick as the tournament favourites defeated Colombia 5-4 in a penalty shoot-out.

Tevez, who missed the crucial penalty when Argentina went out in a shoot-out at the 2011 tournament, rammed home the winning spot-kick after Colombia's Jeison Murillo had blazed over the bar.

The 31-year-old, who came on as a second half substitute, provided the dramatic final twist to a shoot-out which saw Lucas Biglia and Marcos Rojo both miss kicks for Argentina that would have sealed victory after regulation time finished locked at 0-0.

Argentina's win puts them into a semifinal against the winner of Saturday's quarterfinal between Brazil and Paraguay.

Tevez admitted his contribution to victory -- four years after his nightmare miss sealed Argentina's elimination from the 2011 tournament on home soil -- was sweet.

"In soccer there's always a second chance," said Tevez, who earlier Friday

sealed his move back boyhood club Boca Juniors in Buenos Aires. "But tonight is not about me, it's about my teammates. My teammates won this match and I'm very proud of them, and I'm proud to be part of this squad."

Tevez, who spent three long years frozen out of Argentina's national team before returning after the 2014 World Cup, said he was happy with his non-starting role in the Albiceleste.

"I enjoy playing, the team is playing well and I just have to wait for my chance," Tevez said.

Argentina coach Gerardo Martino admitted that he had deliberately omitted Tevez from his list of five designated penalty takers for the shoot-out in order to ease pressure on the former Manchester City striker.

"I didn't put Tevez among the top five because the last time he shot, Argentina went out. We wanted to avoid that," Martino revealed.

Defeat was cruel on Colombia goalkeeper David Ospina, who had single-handedly kept his side in the contest with a series of superb saves during 90 minutes to frustrate the tournament favourites.

Argentina had earlier dominated a one-sided first half which at times threatened to spiral out of control with

both sides committing a series of niggly fouls that went unpunished by Mexican referee Roberto Garcia.

Argentina midfielder Javier Pastore was the first to threaten, touching on a low cross from Angel Di Maria that was cleared at the near post by the Colombian cover after only seven minutes.

Three minutes later captain Lionel Messi swept forward from halfway and released Di Maria in space only for the Manchester United striker to shoot tamely at Ospina.

Colombia star James Rodriguez became the first of six players to receive a caution in the opening 45 minutes when he was booked for dissent.

By half time three more Colombians -- Santiago Arias, Alexander Mejia and Juan Cuadrado -- had earned yellow cards.

For Argentina, both Javier Mascherano and Sergio Aguero were booked.

The highlight of the half was an incredible double save by Ospina in the 26th minute.

Ospina, whose future at Arsenal is now uncertain following the club's signing of Petr Cech this week, reminded Gunners manager Arsene Wenger of his ability to thwart Aguero and Messi in quick succession.

## Martinez going to Atletico

INTERNET

Jackson Martinez has confirmed that he is signing for Atletico Madrid in a four-year deal this summer.

The Colombian's agent had already hinted at the switch from Porto to Atleti, which is believed to be costing the Spanish club €35 million.

"I can confirm I am going to Atletico," he said after Colombia's defeat to Argentina at the Copa America. "I am going there for four years but I still do not know when I will be introduced."

"I have had great progression, always learning, always growing and now I'm going to Atletico where I hope to help the team and continue to grow as a player."

Arsenal and AC Milan had also been linked with the 28-year-old, who has scored 92 goals in 132 games for Porto.

## Diego salutes Don Diego

AFP, Buenos Aires

Diego Maradona saluted his father "Don Diego" who passed away at the age of 87, saying he was at peace and with the "love of us all."

Maradona senior died on Thursday at a Buenos Aires private clinic after failing to recover from long-standing coronary and respiratory illnesses.

Argentina World Cup winner Diego Maradona had been at his father's bedside since flying in from his Dubai home on June 2.

"He is at peace now with all the love of all of us," said an emotional Maradona as he visited a city centre funeral home.

"Don Diego", a popular figure throughout Argentina, had been admitted to hospital for the third time in the last year.

# Reinforced sides start second leg

SPORTS REPORTER



The second phase of the Manyavar Bangladesh Premier League gets underway today when league leaders Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club (23 points) take on bottom-of-the-table Farashganj SC (4 points) at the Bangabandhu National Stadium at 4:15pm. The opening match will be followed by the fixture between four-time champions Abahani and Rahmatganj MFS at 7:30pm.

Sheikh Jamal had beaten today's opponents by 4-1 goals in the corresponding fixture of the first leg. However, there have been some changes at the champions' side since. They have brought back former coach Joseph Afusi after terminating contract with Maruful Haque at the end of the first leg. The Dhanmondi giants have also strengthened their attack by recruiting Nigerian forwards Abdullahi Musa and Johnson Chigozie in the mid-term transfer window.

However, these two players will not take part in today's match as they are yet to arrive in Dhaka. Sheikh Jamal have also been dealt some injury blows as centre-backs Nasiruddin Chowdhury, Yeasin Ahmed and forwards Shakhawat Rony, Emeka Darlington are all expected to miss out today's match.

It will be interesting to see whether Afusi, who gave the Dhanmondi giants their first league title back in 2011, can consolidate the lead at the top, which is now only three points.

Abahani, who are six points off the pace, will hope that their new recruits can eradicate

their old problem of lack of scoring and thereby mount a challenge for the title, which they last won in the 2011-12 season. Abahani were held to a 2-2 draw by Rahmatganj in the corresponding fixture of the first leg.

The Sky Blues, who have former Bangladesh coach George Kottan at the helm, have reinforced the side by including Nigerian striker Sunday Chizoba and Gambian forward Abdou Darboe.

Abahani's opponents Rahmatganj MFS, who are in seventh position with nine points, have also strengthened their side by recruiting Guinean Lamine Camara and Nigerian Divine Lucky.

A total of 24 players including 19 foreigners were drafted in by 10 premier league sides during the mid-term transfer window while Brothers Union, who are on 20 points, did not bolster their strength.

Three matches are scheduled for tomorrow. In Dhaka, Feni Soccer will take on Muktiyoddha Sangsad while Team BJMC will play against Brothers Union. Away in Chiottagong, Chittagong Abahani will host Mohammedan SC.

Meanwhile, former champions Sheikh Russel, who got rid of Montenegrin coach Dragan Djukanovic and brought back Maruful Haque, have no matches in this round of fixtures.

After his appointment, Maruful had asked for strengthening the side and his wish was fulfilled as the club, now bankrolled by Bashundhara Group, roped in Bosnian forward Damir Ibric at a monthly wage of 10,000 dollars and also recruited Cameroonian Yonta Michael.

# Sepp not a candidate

AFP, Geneva



Sepp Blatter will not stand again for the FIFA presidency, he told a Swiss newspaper, but insisted he remained in charge of world football's governing body.

In an interview with Waliser Bote, Blatter said: "I am not a candidate, but the elected president."

Asked what he intended to do when he stands down as president, Blatter replied: "I haven't thought much about it for the time being."

He added: "My decision to leave was really a liberation, both for FIFA and for myself."

The comments come a day after another Swiss newspaper, Blick, published an interview with Blatter in which he insisted he

"did not resign" as FIFA president.

"I did not resign. I put myself and my office in the hands of the FIFA congress, Blick reported Blatter as saying.

The 79-year-old Blatter announced on June 2 that he would step down from the FIFA presidency at an extraordinary congress to be held between December this year and March 2016.

That decision followed the crisis that engulfed FIFA with 18 people indicted in the United States on football-related corruption charges.

Since then, sources close to Blatter have been reported as saying he was not ruling out the prospect of going back on his decision to resign after receiving messages of support from Asian and African federations.

Blatter's announcement on June 2 came just days after he had been re-elected as president.

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**Raffle Draw - 3:00pm, 01 Aug 2015**