What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS4
Wimbledon Championships
Men's & Women's Second Rd
Live from 5:15pm

TEN CRICKET
Sri Lanka v Pakistan
Third Test, Day 1
Live from 10:30am

SONY KIX
Copa America
THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF
Peru v Paraguay
Live from 5:30am (Saturday)

DAY'S EVENT

BCB XI v South Africa
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium

T20 Warm-up Match, Time: 1:00pm
Bangladesh Premier League
Venue: BNS
Soccer Club, Feni v Abahani
Time: 4:15pm
Brothers Union v Sk Russel

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পবিত্র রমজানে তৃষ্ণা মিটাতে
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শরীরে ক্ষতিকারক Cholesterol জমতে বাধা প্রদান করে।
উচ্চ রক্তচাপ নিয়ন্ত্রণ করে।
ক্যান্সার প্রতিরোধে সহায়তা করে।
অকাল বার্ধক্য প্রতিরোধে সাহায্য করে।
ওজন নিয়ন্ত্রনে কার্যকরী ভুমিকা পালন করে।
হজমে সাহায্য করে।

Ketter happy with progress

SPORTS REPORTER

FIFA consultant Markus Ketter yesterday expressed his satisfaction over the progress of the installation of the artificial turf to be laid at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium under FIFA Goal Project.

Ketter inspected the concrete foundation where the turf will be laid and instructed the construction firm to start the installation of turf within the next 10 days, informed BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag.

Ketter was accompanied by India-based construction firm Great Sports Infra, officials Peter Van Reijen and John K John, along with the BFF general secretary.

BFF reveals preliminary squad

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday announced a 44-member preliminary squad for August's SAFF U-19 Championship and September's AFC U-19 Championship Qualifiers.

Of 44 players, 29 players have been selected from 54 players in the final trial held at the astro-turf adjacent to the BFF House.

Apart from those 29 players, 15 players selected from the professional football league will also join the preliminary squad after the residential camp starts from July 15 under the supervision of head coach Saiful Bari Titu.

USA requests extradition of FIFA officials

AFP, *Geneva*

Switzerland said Thursday the United States had formally requested the extradition of seven FIFA officials arrested in May in a wide-ranging probe into corruption in football's top body.

"On July 1, the US embassy in Bern sent Switzerland formal extradition requests, within the timeframe set down in the bilateral extradition treaty," the federal office of justice said in a statement.

The United States had until July 3 to submit the extradition requests.

Sk Jamal stunned

SPORTS REPORTER

Nigerian Gideon Solomon struck deep in stoppage time as Rahmatganj MFS held holders Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club to a 2-2 draw in the Manyavar Bangladesh Premier League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Nigerian striker Emeka Darlington gave Sheikh Jamal an early lead before Haitian Wedson Anselme doubled the margin. But two-time champions, Sheikh Jamal, were forced to play their third draw in the league after Guinean Laime Camara reduced the arrear on the stroke of the break and Solomon equalised three minutes into stoppage time of the second half to spark wild celebration among the Old Dhaka outfit.

SHEIKH JAMAL 2 - 2 RAHMATGANJ

Sheikh Jamal came into the match on the back of their record-breaking 9-1 win over Farashganj SC and dominated Rahmatganj from the onset, before taking an expected lead in the sixth minute through Emeka, who slid home a Toklish Ahmed cross.

The early lead indicated another one-sided affair between giants and minnows as Wedson danced past goalkeeper Al Amin to double their lead in the 20th minute and raise his goal tally to 11-- just two goals behind top-scorer Augustine Walson of Brothers Union -- after Toklish, drafted in the starting eleven for the first time this season, whipped in a nice cross from the right flank.

But the scenario soon changed as Rahmatganj showed signs of coming back and put pressure on the superior side; finally pulling one goal back through Camara, who did not make a mistake in availing a defensive lapse to drive a powerful shot past national goalkeeper Mazharul Islam Himel four minutes before the break.

After resumption, Rahmatganj looked more confident and fought equally against their illustrious opponents, who could hardly break the backline of the giant-killers.

Rahmatganj almost equalized in the 81st minute when Didarul Alam shot straight at goalkeeper Mazhar in a one-on-one situation, while Sheikh Jamal rattled the bar from Mamunul Islam's shot in the 90th minute.

When it seemed Sheikh Jamal were going to consolidate their solo lead in the 11-team table, Solomon silenced them with a volley that kissed the back of the net giving goalkeeper Mazhar no chance to react.

Despite the draw, Sheikh Jamal were on top of the table with 27 from 12 matches, while Rahmatganj MFS jumped to the seventh position with 10 points from 12 matches.

(L-R) Argentina stars Sergio Aguero, Lionel Messi and Javier Mascherano jog during a training session in Concepcion on Wednesday. PHOTO: AFP

Copa final 'not war'

AFP, *Santiago*

Argentina star Javier Mascherano called for calm on Wednesday as the countdown to this weekend's Copa America final against fierce rivals Chile got under way.

Two teams desperate to succeed will collide in Santiago on Saturday with hosts Chile aiming to end nearly a century of failure by winning a major tournament for the first time in front of an expectant home crowd.

Argentina meanwhile are burning with desire to win a first title in 22 years, determined that one of the most talented generations of players the country has ever produced does not suffer another disappointment.

The high stakes will carry an additional edge thanks to the historical rivalry between the neighbouring nations, who in the past have been at loggerheads over various territorial and diplomatic disputes.

But Mascherano was adamant that politics should not poison what is expected to be a highly charged sporting encounter.

"I hope that people can understand that football is a sport, not war," Mascherano said.

"The past is the past. We must not put sport in the middle of politics. Chile and Argentina are brother countries, we have to show mutual respect," the defensive midfielder added.

"If we stoop to aggression and violence, we lose that message of respect. Sport is about trying to be healthy and having fun, not a war."

Mascherano's words were echoed by Chile defender Eugenio Mena.

"Everyone's going to be watching this final so it's important that the two teams show respect," Mena said.

Rakib keeps solo lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Abdullah Al-Rakib maintained his solo lead in the Walton International Rating Chess at the close of the seventh round at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room yesterday.

Rakib beat CM Mahtabuddin Ahmed Robin to earn the maximum of seven points from as many matches.

Four players -- FM Mehdi Hasan Pagar, FM Mohammad Javed, Golam Mostafa Bhuiyan and Mohammed Enayet Hossain -- were joint second with six points while Faisal Hossain was in the third position with 5.5 points.

U-15 football gets underway

SPORTS REPORTER

Sailor-BFF U-15 National Football Championship got underway at seven different venues yesterday with Tangail, Chapainawabganj, Barisal, Habiganj, Panchagarh, Chuadanga and Chittagong recording their first wins.

There were big wins as Tangail beat Mymensingh 5-0 at Tangail Stadium, Chapainawabganj thrashed Sirajganj 8-3 in Rajshahi, Barisal outplayed Sariatpur 6-1 in Gopalganj and Panchagarh overwhelmed Kurigram 8-1 in Takurgaon.

Aside from that, Habiganj beat Narsingdi 2-1 in Molvibazar, hosts Chuadanga beat Kustia 3-1 in tiebreaker and Chittagong beat Laximpur 3-1 in Chittagong.

UEFA lifts sanctions on PSG

AFP, *Paris*

UEFA has decided to lift the sanctions imposed on Paris Saint-Germain under the Financial Fair Play rule, meaning the French champions can spend more on new players after proving they will be debt-free by the end of next season, according to French newspaper L'Equipe.

UEFA's new ruling means that the Parisians can increase the size of their Champions League squad from 21 to 25 players for next season (2015/16), L'Equipe reported.

Qualifier Dustin Brown is over the moon after seeing off former champion Rafael Nadal in Wimbledon's second round on Thursday. PHOTO: AFP

Rafa bites the Dustin

AFP, *London*

Rafael Nadal was sent crashing out of Wimbledon by dread-locked German qualifier Dustin Brown on Thursday, his fourth successive humiliation at the All England Club.

Nadal, the 2008 and 2010 champion, slumped to a 7-5, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 second round defeat against the world number 102 who hit 13 aces and 58 winners.

It was the 29-year-old's first ever defeat to a qualifier at a Grand Slam and came in the aftermath of losing his French Open crown where he had been champion nine times.

The loss followed his 2012 second round exit to world 100 Lukas Rosol, a first round beating by the 135-ranked Steve Darcis in 2013 and last year's fourth round defeat to Nick Kyrgios, who was at 144.

Down at his lowest ranking for a decade -- at 10 in the world -- Thursday's defeat was yet another symptom of the great Spaniard's game being in a terminal state of decline.

For Brown, who once drove to tournaments in a camper van to save money, it was his second win against Nadal having won on grass in Halle in 2014.

"I had actually never been on Centre Court before," said Brown.

"They asked me before the match if I wanted to go on the court. I didn't know what was going to happen, so I just said I'll just go on when I play."

Earlier, former champions Roger Federer and Andy Murray swept into the third round as a fourth player from the women's top 10 tumbled out of the tournament.

Seven-time winner and second seed Federer eased to a 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 win over Sam Querrey of the United States, the world number 36 who has now lost all three times he has played the Swiss and has yet to win a set.

Third seed Murray, the 2013 champion, was equally dominant, taking just one minute longer than Federer to reach the third round by seeing off Robin Haase, the world number 78 from the Netherlands, 6-1, 6-1, 6-4.

Women's defending champion Petra Kvitova reached the third round with a 6-2, 6-0 win over Japan's Kurumi Nara in a Court One little-and-large tussle.

Second seed Kvitova will face Serbian 26th seed Jelena Jankovic, who dispatched Russia's Evgeniya Rodina 6-7 (4/7), 6-1, 6-3.

Former world number one Caroline Wozniacki made the third round with a 6-1, 7-6 (8/6) win over Denisa Allertova, the world number 83 from the Czech Republic.

German 10th seed Angelique Kerber was also a winner, seeing off Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 7-5, 6-2 while 2012 runner-up Agnieszka Radwanska, the Polish 13th seed, defeated Australia's Ajla Tomljanovic 6-0, 6-2.

However, the women's draw opened up even further when Russian eighth seed Ekaterina Makarova, a quarterfinalist in 2014, went down 6-2, 7-5 to unseeded Magdalena Rybarikova of Slovakia.

Before this tournament, the world number 65 Rybarikova had never won a match at Wimbledon in seven years of trying.