

STAR SPORTS 2

South Africa v Australia
1st Test, Day 4
Live from 8:30am
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
English Premiership
Arsenal v Tottenham

Live from 6:00pm
Liverpool v Watford
Live from 8:00pm
Leicester v West Bromwich
Live from 10:30pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
English Premiership

Swansea v Man United
Live from 9:00pm
SONY ESPN
Serie A
Pescara v Empoli
Live from 5:30pm
Inter Milan v Crotona

Live from 11:00pm
Roma v Bologna
Live from 2:00am (Monday)
SONY SIX
La Liga
Real Madrid v Leganes
Live from 5:00pm

Villarreal v Real Betis
Live from 11:30pm
Sevilla v Barcelona
Live from 1:30am (Monday)
SONY SIX HD
La Liga
Espanyol v Athletic Bilbao

Live from 9:00pm
TEN 3
Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe
2nd Test, Day 1
Live from 2:00pm

BFF approves 4-yr calendar

SPORTS REPORTER

The executive committee of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday approved a four-year football calendar without injecting any new event.

As per the calendar, prepared by BFF's technical and strategy director Paul Smalley, the 2017-18 season will commence on May 1 with the players' transfer window.

The curtain raiser Federation Cup will be held from July 20 to August 13 while the first phase of the Bangladesh Premier League is set to begin on August 18 and end on November 7. The league will have a two-month gap in between the two phases which will accommodate the national team's participation and preparation in the SAFF Championship, scheduled to be held in Dhaka in December 2017.

The season will conclude with the Independence Cup, which is scheduled for April 10-22, 2018.

According to the calendar, players will get only one month's free time between two seasons even though the next season will start at least five months after the end of an ongoing season.

Meanwhile, the meeting also decided to hold the Subrawardi Cup Under-19 tournament and the Sher-e-Bangla Cup district football tournament next year.

Murray new world No.1

AFP, Paris

Britain's Andy Murray became the new world number one on Saturday after Milos Raonic withdrew from their Paris Masters semi-final due to injury.

The walkover will see Murray, 29, move to the top of the rankings for the first time in his career after replacing long-time incumbent Novak Djokovic.

Raonic said he had suffered a muscle tear in his right leg in his previous match, sending Murray through to face John Isner in Sunday's final.

Colombia recall Falcao

AFP, Bogota

Rejuvenated striker Radamel Falcao was on Friday handed an international recall by Colombia after a year's absence from the squad for two key World Cup qualifiers.

The 30-year-old Monaco star hit two goals in a 3-0 midweek Champions League win over CSKA Moscow to take his total to six in nine games this season.

Falcao, who missed the 2014 World Cup finals through injury, last played for Colombia on October 13, 2015.



Sheikh Russel forward Shakhawat Hossain Rony leaps in the air to celebrate his second goal against Rahmatganj in their JB Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: BFF

Wheels falling off Rahmatganj

SPORTS REPORTER



Shakhawat Hossain Rony scored twice as Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra heaped more misery on title-aspirants Rahmatganj MFS with a 2-0 win in their JB Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Rony, the national team striker who had only two goals to his name coming into the 13th match of the league, scored twice in space of three minutes of the second half as Sheikh Russel lifted themselves off the dropzone and into the 10th position with 11 points. Rahmatganj, on the other hand, lost more ground in their illusive title chase with a third straight defeat which leaves them in fourth position on 22 points, four points behind leaders Abahani who have played a match less.

The first half of the fixture at the soggy BNS pitch was a barren affair, with the Old Dhaka outfit making a bigger impression. They could have got the lead during the 32nd minute when Dawda Cessay beat advancing goalkeeper Ziaur Rahman before providing a square pass to his strike partner Siyo Zunapio but Sheikh Russel defender Ahmed Said Hasan made a brilliant last ditch clearance.

The charges of Shafiqul Islam Manik were more penetrative in the second half and were rewarded for their efforts in the 52nd minute. Forward Rummon Hossain ran past his marker before providing a

through pass to Rony, who slid the ball home through the legs of Rahmatganj goalkeeper Mahfuz Hasan Pritom.

The lanky striker doubled the lead three minutes later after Eleta Benjamin's back header slipped through Pritom's grasp, allowing him to tuck it into the empty net to forge a three-match winning streak.

SHEIKH JAMAL SNAP LOSING STREAK
Two-time defending champions Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club snapped a three-match losing streak with a 2-0 win against table-sweepers Uttar Baridhara Club in the second match of the day.

The Dhanmondi giants imposed themselves on the lightweights for the better part of the match, and yet failed to find a breakthrough before Emeka Darlington scored in the 84th minute with a towering header on a cross

from substitute Mohammad Linkon as Baridhara goalkeeper Mohammad Ershad haplessly stared at the far post while lying on the ground with an injury.

The goalkeeper was soon replaced and minutes later, his deputy failed to block a powerful yet straight-forward attempt from Landing Darboe as the three-time champions wrapped up three crucial points.

The win took Sheikh Jamal to 22 points, level with Rahmatganj but ahead of them on goal difference while Baridhara stay rooted at the bottom with nine points from 13 matches.

Meanwhile, the two matches scheduled for today have been bodily shifted to tomorrow due to rain and unplayable conditions at the BNS.

SHEIKH RUSSEL 2 - 0 RAHMATGANJ
SHEIKH JAMAL 2 - 0 UTTAR BARIDHARA

De Roon brings City down to earth

AFP, Manchester



Marten De Roon's dramatic stoppage-time header cancelled out Sergio Agüero's first-half goal and earned Middlesbrough a point with a 1-1 draw at Manchester City on Saturday.

Agüero touched in his 150th City goal from Kevin De Bruyne's low cross to cap a dominant first-half performance from Pep Guardiola's side.

But they could not match it in the second, despite creating several good chances, and were caught late on as Dutch midfielder De Roon powered in George Friend's cross for his first goal since joining Boro from Atalanta for £12m (14m euros, \$15.5m) in the summer.

The point was enough for City to go a point clear of Arsenal and Liverpool, who both play on Sunday, whilst Chelsea could go top late Saturday if they beat Everton.

It secured a terrific result for Aitor Karanka's side, but was desperately disappointing for Guardiola, four days after his side had produced an outstanding performance to defeat Barcelona in the Champions League.

Guardiola decided to give centre-back Nicolas Otamendi and winger Raheem Sterling a rest after a hectic recent schedule, while Claudio Bravo returned in goal, having been suspended for the midweek win over Barcelona.

There was no place in the squad, though, for Yaya Toure, despite his apology for criticism aimed at the manager by his agent Dimitri Seluk.

City dominated the opening half, but had to be patient in the face of some resolute

defending and inspired goalkeeping by Victor Valdes.

The former Manchester United keeper, returning to the city for the first time since leaving Old Trafford, made a series of excellent stops.

Having held a fierce rising 20-yard effort from Aleksandar Kolarov, he then dived to his right to beat the ball away moments later as Agüero danced through the visitors' defence.

Valdes reacted brilliantly after that when David Silva turned Jesus Navas' low deflected cross towards goal at the near post, and was off his line bravely to smother-taking a bang to the thigh in the process - as the former Sevilla winger tried to connect with Ferdinandinho's diagonal through ball.

Amid those saves, Valdes saw De Bruyne roll a shot just beyond his far post, and Agüero narrowly fail to connect with a John Stones flick from a Silva corner.

But he could do nothing two minutes before half-time as Agüero nipped in between two defenders for the opening goal. Navas nearly added a second with the last kick of the half, as his rising drive hit the outside of the near post.

Middlesbrough, who lacked any kind of attacking intent in the first half, began the second more positively.

Their former City striker Alvaro Negredo almost equalised with an outrageous lob from the halfway line, but the ball was tipped over by a backpedalling Bravo, who then dashed from his line moments later to block at the feet of Adam Forshaw.

Guardiola's team battled to reassert themselves, without regaining their first-half levels of superiority.

Balotelli out in the cold

AFP, Milan



Italy coach Giam Piero Ventura has left Mario Balotelli out in the cold ahead of an upcoming

World Cup qualifier at Liechtenstein and a friendly at home to Germany. Ventura, announcing his 28-man squad on Saturday, instead recalled Simone Zaza despite the fact he has failed to find the net since joining West Ham from Juventus in the summer.

Balotelli has not played for Italy since their disastrous first-round exit from the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, after which he was partly blamed for the Azzurri's doomed campaign.

He had been expected to feature in Ventura's squad after scoring seven league goals since joining French outfit Nice from Liverpool on the transfer

deadline day at the end of August.

But, even in the absence of Graziano Pelle -- who was suspended for failing to shake Ventura's hand after his second-half substitution against Spain last month -- it

was not enough to sway Ventura.

Inter Milan striker Eder, who usually plays alongside Pelle, is set to be partnered with either one of Serie A's two most on-form Italian strikers.

Lazio's Ciro Immobile has hit nine goals this campaign, only one behind the league-leading tally of Roma's Bosnian striker Edin Dzeko. Andrea Belotti, meanwhile, has found the net six times for Torino.

In midfield, Ventura has recalled Claudio Marchisio, who has recently returned to the fray for Juventus following a six-month absence due to a knee injury.

Lazio midfielder Danilo Cataldi and Sassuolo winger Matteo Politano are also in the squad, but have yet to debut for the Azzurri.

Italy face Liechtenstein in Vaduz on November 12 in a World Cup qualifier, and host Germany at Milan's San Siro ground three days later.

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Gianluigi Buffon (Juventus), Gianluigi Donnarumma (AC Milan), Mattia Perin (Genoa)
Defenders: Luca Antonelli (AC Milan), Andrea Barzagli (Juventus), Leonardo Bonucci (Juventus), Matteo Darmian (Manchester United/ENG), Mattia De Sciglio (AC Milan), Alessio Romagnoli (AC Milan), Daniele Rugani (Juventus), Davide Zappacosta (Torino)
Midfielders: Giacomo Bonaventura (AC Milan), Antonio Candreva (Inter Milan), Danilo Cataldi (Lazio), Daniele De Rossi (Roma), Lorenzo Insigne (Napoli), Claudio Marchisio (Juventus), Marco Parolo (Lazio), Matteo Politano (Sassuolo), Nicola Sansone (Villarreal/ESP), Marco Verratti (Paris Saint Germain/FRA)
Strikers: Andrea Belotti (Torino), Eder (Inter Milan), Manolo Gabbiadini (Napoli), Ciro Immobile (Lazio), Leonardo Pavoletti (Genoa), Simone Zaza (West Ham/ENG)

Atletico pay the penalty

AFP, Madrid

Atletico Madrid's La Liga title hopes suffered another serious setback as two Real Sociedad penalties inflicted a 2-0 defeat on the Champions League finalists on Saturday.

Carlos Vela opened the scoring nine minutes into the second-half before handing responsibilities from the spot to Willian Jose to seal Sociedad's third straight win 15 minutes from time.

A second league defeat in three games means Atletico remain three points behind league leaders Real Madrid, but their city rivals can extend that advantage to six when they host Leganes on Sunday.

Atletico host Real in a rematch of the Champions League final after the international break on November 19.

Diego Simeone's men had sealed their place in the last 16 of the Champions League on Tuesday with a stoppage time victory over FC Rostov, but suffered a European hangover in an insipid display lacking in energy and invention.

Sociedad dominated possession in the opening 20 minutes, but it was Atletico who had the best chance before half-time when Kevin Gameiro was played in by Yannick Carrasco.



Shakib Al Hasan poses with a cutout of himself at Linc Pens' 25th special annual sales conference in Agargaon yesterday where the all-rounder was unveiled as a brand ambassador of the company. PHOTO: COLLECTED

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