

<div> <div>What to WATCH</div> <div> <div>DAY'S EVENT</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div>BTV & CHANNEL 9</div> <div>Bangladesh v New Zealand</div> <div>Third ODI</div> <div>Live from 4:00am (Saturday)</div> <div>BOISHAKHI TV</div> <div>Bangladesh Premier League</div> </div>	<div> <div>Rahmatganj v Abahani</div> <div>Live from 2:45pm</div> <div>Ctg Abahani v Brothers Union</div> <div>Live from 6:15pm</div> <div>STAR SPORTS 2</div> <div>Australia v Pakistan</div> </div>	<div> <div>2nd Test, Day 5</div> <div>Live from 5:30am</div> <div>STAR SPORTS SELECT HD 1</div> <div>English Premiership</div> <div>Hull City v Everton</div> <div>Live from 2:00am (Saturday)</div> </div>	<div> <div>TEN 1 HD</div> <div>Sri Lanka v South Africa</div> <div>1st Test, Day 5</div> <div>Live from 2:00pm</div> </div>
	<div> <div>National Cricket League</div> <div>(Four-Day Match, Day 4)</div> <div>Dhaka Metro v Barisal</div> <div>Venue: BKSP-3</div> </div>	<div> <div>Khulna v Dhaka</div> <div>Venue: Fatullah Stadium</div> <div>Rajshahi v Chittagong</div> <div>Venue: Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury</div> </div>	<div> <div>Stadium, Chittagong</div> <div>Rangpur v Sylhet</div> <div>Venue: Sylhet Int'l Cricket Stadium</div> </div>	<div> <div>Bangladesh Premier League</div> <div>Time: 6:15pm</div> <div>Rahmatganj v Abahani</div> <div>Time: 2:45pm</div> <div>Ctg Abahani v Brothers Union</div> </div>



Bangladesh captain Sabina Khatun (L) celebrates one of her five goals against Afghanistan during their SAFF Women's Championship match at the Kanchenjunga Stadium in Siliguri yesterday.

PHOTO: BFF

MSC hit rock bottom

SPORTS REPORTER


 Mohammedan Sporting Club created an unwanted piece of history as they finished in their lowest-ever position in the country's top flight football, ending at 10th after playing out a goalless draw against newcomers Uttar Baridhara Club in their final Bangladesh Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. The Motijheel-based outfit, who staved off relegation by a securing a point against Sheikh Jamal DC in their penultimate match, could secure only 20 points from 22 matches with three wins, 11 draws and eight defeats in the 12-team league.

Their worst finish previously came in the fourth edition of the professional football league in 2010, when they finished sixth. In their entire history, their lowest finish was eighth, coming in the First Division in 1977. Alongside a worst-ever finish, Mohammedan also extended their barren run in terms of capturing the coveted league title to 14 years, while rivals Abahani celebrated their fifth title in the professional football league, which was introduced in 2006-07 season. The falling giants last won the league title in 2002, in the now-defunct Dhaka Premier League. The Black and Whites have a distinctive record of winning all kinds of titles and trophies, but glory in the professional football league still remains a distant dream



Dejected Mohammedan players leave the field at the end of their goalless Bangladesh Premier League encounter against Uttar Baridhara at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: BFF

SA need 5 wkts

AFP, Port Elizabeth

A moment of hesitation opened the door for South Africa as Sri Lanka battled to save the first Test at St George's Park on Thursday. Sri Lanka were 240 for 5 at close on the fourth day after being set an improbable 488 to win.
 SCORES IN BRIEF
SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 286
 SRI LANKA: First innings 205
 SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings 406 for 6 decl (Cook 117, Elgar 52, Amla 48, Du Plessis 67 not out, De Kock 69; De Silva 2-91)
 SRI LANKA: Second innings 240 for 5 (Karunaratne 43, Silva 48, Mendis 58, Mathews 58 not out; Rabada 2-72, Maharaj 2-84)

Ana calls it quits

AFP, Paris



Former world No 1 Ana Ivanovic on Wednesday announced her retirement from tennis, admitting that the physical toll of the circuit had proved too much. The 29-year-old Serbian held the top spot for 12 weeks in 2008, the season when she claimed her sole Grand Slam success by winning the French Open.

"I've decided to retire from professional tennis," announced Ivanovic after a 13-year career. "It has been a difficult decision, but there's so much to celebrate."

The Serb added: "I was ranked number one in the world and won Roland Garros in 2008. I've seen the highs I never dreamt of achieving."

"I won 15 WTA Tour singles titles, I played in three Grand Slam finals and a Fed Cup final and played so many memorable matches."

"But seeing those 'highs' in any professional sport requires top physical form and it's well known that I've been hampered by injury."

"I can only play if I can perform up to my own high standard and I can no longer do that so it's time to move on."

Ivanovic's last outing was a first-round loss at the US Open in September, a result that saw her drop out of the top 50 for the first times since 2010.

for the popular outfit. Rather than focusing on the one trophy that has eluded them, apparently the club management has made no efforts to form a strong team to challenge for the title that is missing from their rich trophy cabinet.

Mohammedan finished as runners-up in the first three editions of the professional football league, but since then they have struggled in each and every edition. However, as a result of the club's decision makers' lackadaisical attitude, Mohammedan have hit their nadir.

On the other hand, Uttar Baridhara Club are on the verge of escaping the relegation zone with 18 points from 22 matches, three points ahead of bottom-placed Feni Soccer Club.

Feni have still a shot at avoiding the fall if they can secure an outright win against Muktiyoddha Sangsad. If they manage that, then they will take part in a play-off match against Uttar Baridhara to decide who will be relegated from the top flight.

In the second match of the day, last edition's champions Sheikh Jamal finished third with 32 points after coming from behind to play out a 1-1 draw against last edition's runners-up, Sheikh Russel -- who finished eighth with 25 points from 22 matches.

Alamgir Kabir Rana put Sheikh Russel ahead in the 17th minute before Gambian Landing Darboe equalised in stoppage time of the second half from a free-kick taken on the edge of the box.

Bolt to focus on 100m

AFP, Los Angeles



Jamaican track superstar Usain Bolt plans to concentrate on the 100 metres in the 2017 season which will bring the curtain down on a glorious career in which he has captured nine Olympic gold medals.

"Right now, it's my last season and I have to just go out there and enjoy," Bolt told Jamaica-based The Cleaner newspaper.

"I think we have done the bulk of the work over the 10 years we have been working, so now it's my last season."

"The focus is on the 100m, and I will just be trying to enjoy the season, not too much stress," he added.

The 30-year-old Bolt dominated the sprint events over an unprecedented span of years, winning the 100 metres, 200 metres and 4x100 metre relay at three consecutive Olympic Games.

Patel gets nod for third ODI

AGENCIES, Nelson

Off-spinner Jeetan Patel has been selected in New Zealand's squad for the third One-Day International against Bangladesh, scheduled to be played in Nelson on Saturday.

The 36-year-old last played an ODI in 2009 and has been included due to the slow nature of the Saxton Oval pitch and the number of left-handers in the Tigers' batting line-up, coach Mike Hesson said.

"With the slow nature of the Saxton Oval surface and the number of left handers in the Bangladesh line-up, we feel Jeetan will be a good option to have for the final game.

Australia take narrow lead

AFP, Melbourne

Skipper Steve Smith scored his 17th Test century to give Australia a 22-run lead over Pakistan as rain again disrupted play in the second Test in Melbourne on Thursday.

Smith reached his fourth Test hundred of the year before a storm lashed the Melbourne Cricket Ground just before tea and forced the rest of the fourth day's play to be abandoned.

Smith was unbeaten on 100 with Mitchell Starc not out seven in Australia's 465 for six.

It is unlikely there will be a result in the Test with just Friday's final day to play.

The Australians were hoping to build a 100-plus run lead to try and put the tourists under pressure on the final day in the weather-disrupted Test.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: First innings 443 for 9 decl

AUSTRALIA: First innings 465 for 6 (Warner 144, Khawaja 97, Smith 100 not out, Handscomb 54; Sohai 2-86, Yasir 2-150, Riaz 2-135)

Five-star Sabina propels BD

SPORTS REPORTER



Captain Sabina Khatun slotted five goals to power Bangladesh to an emphatic 6-0 win over Afghanistan in their first match of the 4th S A F F W o m e n ' s Championship at the Kanchenjunga Stadium in Siliguri, India yesterday.

The triumph not only gave Bangladesh a sparkling start in the seven-nation tournament but also ensured the side's semifinal berth along with hosts India, who had beaten Afghanistan 5-1 in the Group B opener on Tuesday.

There were apparently some worries going into the match against the new-look Afghanistan, who had included foreign-based players and given India a run for their money before eventually going down 5-1.

However, the girls in red and green made light work of the 'overrated Afghanistan' to keep their winning

record against the Afghans intact. Bangladesh had previously handed the Afghans a 6-1 defeat in the 2014 SAFF Women's Championship in Islamabad.

The Bangladeshi side, comprising mostly of players from the Under-16 national team, did not take much time to get going as Sabina tapped home in the sixth minute after Swapna's effort following a counter attack was well saved by Afghani goalkeeper Durani Hasan.

Sabina doubled the lead in the 14th minute with an angled shot after midfielder Rani Sarker gave her a sweeping long ball. Sabina completed her hattrick in the 40th minute, calmly slotting home after Durani's punched clearance from a powerful Krishna drive landed at her feet.

Bangladesh took a 4-0 lead before the break and this time too, Sabina was the scorer. She tapped in from close range one minute from halftime after Krishna eked out a nice pass from a scramble inside the danger zone.

After resumption, Golam Rabbani

Choton's charges continued their scintillating performance and extended the lead as Sabina, who has played in the Maldives Women's League converted from the spot after Krishna was brought down by substitute Sudaba Sadef.

However, despite trailing by five goals, Afghanistan never looked like giving up and showed some of their skills as they twice came close to pulling one goal back. Unfortunately, both of those efforts came off the crossbar.

Afterwards, the Bangladesh coach made two changes, sending on Mainu Marma and Sanjida to replace Marzia and Krishna after 70 minutes and Swapna struck team's sixth goal to complete the rout.

Both Bangladesh and hosts India are on the top of the three-team Group B table with three points each but Bangladesh are ahead of India by virtue of a better goal difference.

Bangladesh will take on three-time champions India on Saturday in a match that will decide which team will go through as champions of Group B.

Win pleases Pochettino

AFP, Southampton



Mauricio Pochettino is hoping his latest victorious return to Southampton will have a similar effect on Tottenham's season to the previous one.

Spurs came back from behind on Wednesday to win 4-1 at St Mary's and move to within a point of Arsenal in fourth place.

Pochettino, who left Saints to take over at Spurs in May 2014, saw his side beat his former employers 2-0 in December last year.

That was the start of a sequence of results that saw Tottenham win eight of their next 10 Premier League games and lose just once, to eventual champions Leicester City.

Could this victory act as a springboard for

another surge up the table? Pochettino was hopeful that would prove to be the case.

"Why not?" he said. "It has been a very good year for us, we have got 71 points over it and we are still fighting for the big things."

"It was an important three points for us. All the big sides above us all won their games and it was important to get the three points to keep our position in the table and have the possibility to move on."

Southampton took the lead after just 69 seconds through defender Virgil van Dijk but Dele Alli equalised in the 19th minute against the run of play.

Harry Kane made it 2-1 from a corner seven minutes into the second half and Saints were reduced to 10 men soon after when Nathan Redmond was sent off for impeding Alli in the box.



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