

What to WATCH

BTV AND CHANNEL 9

Bangladesh v New Zealand
First Test, Day 5
Live from 3:30am (Monday)
STAR SPORTS 1
India v England
First ODI
Live from 2:00pm

STAR SPORTS 2

Australia v Pakistan
Second ODI
Live from 9:00am
TEN 3
South Africa v Sri Lanka
Third Test, Day 3
Live from 2:00pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT HD 1

Premier League
Everton v Man City
Live from 7:30pm
Man Utd v Liverpool
Live from 10:00pm
SONY ESPN
Serie A

Cagliari v Genoa

Live from 3:00pm
Fiorentina v Juventus
Live from 2:00am (Monday)
SONY SIX
La Liga
Valencia v Espanyol
Live from 5:00pm

Granada v Osasuna

Live from 11:30pm
Sevilla v Real Madrid
Live from 1:45am (Monday)

Record stand goes in vain

SPORTS REPORTER

Sharmin Akhter and Rumana Ahmed contributed a record 127-run stand after a four-wicket haul by Khadija Tul Kubra but their efforts went in vain as the Bangladesh women's cricket team lost the second ODI of the five-match series to their South African counterparts at the Sheikh Kamal International Cricket Stadium in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

The visitors took a 2-0 lead in the series as the hosts finished their 50-over quota for 206 runs courtesy of the brilliant third-wicket partnership in reply to South Africa's 223 runs, which the visitors scored riding on a 115-run opening partnership between Lizelle Lee (70) and Andrie Steyn (66).

In chase, Bangladesh lost two quick wickets but Sharmin and Rumana revived hopes. The third wicket partnership was broken when captain Rumana was dismissed for a 95-ball 68 in 42.2 overs. Sharmin, who made 74 off 127 balls, departed soon after as the team stumbled in chase of the target.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SOUTH AFRICA: 223 all out in 49 overs (Lee 70, Steyn 66; Kubra 4-56)

BANGLADESH: 206-8 in 50 overs (Sharmin 74, Rumana 68; Kapp 2-41, Luus 2-31)

Result: South Africa won by 17 runs.

Player-of-the-match: Lizelle Lee.



Sharmin Akhter and Rumana Ahmed recorded Bangladesh's highest ever partnership for any wicket when they shared 127 runs for the third wicket at the Sheikh Kamal International Cricket Stadium in Cox's Bazar yesterday against South Africa.

BFF undecided over national team coach

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday approved the appointment of a fitness coach and extended contract with a goalkeeping coach to work on its various teams for a short-term. John Whittle, an Englishman with experience of heading youth football department of AFC, was handed a contract for two months, effective from January, as the head of strength and conditioning of BFF while Ryan Sanford, a goalkeeping coach who has been working with the national team, has been handed an extension for three months.

The decisions were approved at an emergency meeting of the executive committee of BFF after being proposed by the National Teams Committee (NTC). However, the meeting could not reach a decision over appointment of a head coach for the men's

national team. NTC chairman Kazi Nabil Ahmed said they are working on bio-data of two to three foreign coaches.

"We have discussed about two-three coaches, all of whom are foreigners. We haven't reached a decision as yet, and we will sit again two days later. If we can reach a decision that day, we might be able to start the camp by 20 to 22 January," Nabil said after the meeting.

It was learnt that there is division among the NTC over the head coach issue as one group, led by the deputy chairman Tabith Awal, want to bring back former coach Lodewijk De Kruif while the other group, led by Nabil, want to give the charge to recent league champions Abahani's Austrian coach George Kottan.

"There is a bright chance of appointing a coach who has worked for a club in the last domestic season," said a committee member seeking anonymity.

5-star Barca close gap

AFP, Barcelona

Luis Suarez scored twice and Lionel Messi continued his sensational form as Barcelona moved to within two points of La Liga leaders Real Madrid on Saturday with a 5-0 rout of Las Palmas.

Suarez opened the scoring after just 14 minutes, but Barca had to wait until early in the second-half to double their lead when Messi scored for the seventh straight game.

And Barca turned their domination into further goals as Suarez's second, Arda Turan and Aleix Vidal's first goal for the club rounded off the scoring.

Victory eased a growing sense of unease around the Camp Nou this week with divisions between the squad and the club's board over ongoing talks to extend Messi's contract beyond 2018.

Youth hockey starts today

SPORTS REPORTER

Agrani Bank 26th National Youth Hockey Competition starts at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium today, with a total of 38 teams taking part. The teams, mostly district teams plus division and educational institutes, will compete in knockout format over the next three weeks.

The top four teams from the knockout stages will compete in the semifinals stage on February 4 while the final will be held on February 6.

Spurs, Arsenal on the move

AFP, London



Harry Kane plundered a hat-trick as Tottenham Hotspur climbed to second place in the Premier League on Saturday with a classy 4-0 demolition of West Bromwich Albion.

The England striker, who became a father for the first time last weekend, took his tally for the season to 15 goals in all competitions as Mauricio Pochettino's side recorded a sixth successive league win.

They closed to within four points of leaders Chelsea, who visit Leicester City later on Saturday, while Arsenal moved up to third place after winning 4-0 at Swansea City.

"The first 45 minutes was fantastic. It was wonderful football," said Spurs manager Pochettino, whose side ended Chelsea's 13-game winning streak on their previous league outing.

"I think after Chelsea it was a big challenge to keep the momentum and show that we are mature enough to fight for big things and today was a very good example of that."

The only low point for Spurs was an ankle injury that forced centre-back Jan Vertonghen off midway through the second half. Pochettino said the early signs looked "very bad".

Kane put Spurs in front from Christian Eriksen's cute pass in the 12th minute at White Hart Lane before a shot from Eriksen deflected in off Gareth McAuley for an own goal.

Kyle Walker crossed for Kane to hook in Spurs' third goal in the 77th minute and he completed his hat-trick five minutes later with a volley from Dele Alli's clever scooped pass.

Arsenal moved above Liverpool, who visit arch rivals Manchester United on Sunday, on goal difference after a pair of own goals helped them to victory at struggling Swansea.

Olivier Giroud broke the deadlock in the 37th minute, slamming home his fifth goal in five games after Mesut Ozil's header hit Alfie Mawson.

Alex Iwobi's shot deflected in off Jack Cork early in the second half and the Nigerian youngster's cross was then turned in by Kyle Naughton for a second own goal.

Alexis Sanchez sealed victory with a 73rd-minute volley that took his tally for the campaign to 14 goals.

It was a first home league game to forget for Swansea's new manager Paul Clement, whose team sank to the foot of the standings.

Marco Silva had a more memorable league bow as Hull City manager, with Abel Hernandez scoring twice and Tyrone Mings putting through his own own goal as they came from behind to beat Bournemouth 3-1.

Sunderland slipped below Hull to 19th place after a dispiriting 3-1 home defeat by Stoke City.

South Africa sweep series against SL

AFP, Johannesburg

Sri Lanka lost 16 wickets in day as South Africa's fast bowlers sent them crashing to defeat by an innings and 118 runs in the third Test at the Wanderers Stadium on Saturday.

Sri Lanka were bowled out for 131 and 177 as South Africa's four pacemen tore the batting apart handing the home side a 3-0 series whitewash.

In a dismal third day of the final Test for the tourists, Sri Lanka were able to add only 51 runs to their overnight first innings total of 80 for four and seldom looked like providing sustained resistance in the second innings, despite a fighting 50 by opening batsman Dimuth Karunaratne.

SCORES IN BRIEF
SOUTH AFRICA: 1st innings 426

SRI LANKA: 1st innings 131

SRI LANKA: 2nd innings 177 (Karunaratne 50; Pamell 4-51)

Result: SA won by an innings and 118 runs.

Man of the match: JP Duminy (SA)

Youth shooting gets underway

SPORTS REPORTER

Hamidur Rahman 2nd Youth Shooting Championship got underway at the National Shooting Sports Federation (BSSF) in Gulshan yesterday.

Named after the legendary politician and social activist Hamidur Rahman and sponsored by Hamid Group, the three-day meet will be contested by 125 shooters from 27 shooting clubs of the country, said a press release from BSSF.

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