

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS 1
India v Bangladesh
 1st Test, Day-5
 Live from 10:00am
STAR SPORTS SELECT HD1
 English Premiership

Bournemouth v Man City
 Live from 2:00am (Tuesday)
SONY ESPN
 Serie A
 Lazio v AC Milan
 Live from 2:00am (Tuesday)

SONY SIX
 La Liga
 Eibar v Granada
 Live from 1:30am (Tuesday)

DAY'S EVENT

BANGLADESH CRICKET LEAGUE
(Four-Day Match, Day-3)
 Time: 9:30am

Walton Central Zone v Prime Bank South Zone
 Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium

Islami Bank East Zone v BCB North Zone
 Venue: Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, Chittagong

DRINKING ON THE JOB

How do you celebrate a goal that has lifted your side out of the relegation zone? By taking a swig of a fan's drink of course! Jason Lee of Corby Town ran over with the rest of his team-mates to congratulate Ben Milnes' fine strike and was quick to pour a mouthful of cider down his throat. His side managed to record a narrow 1-0 win over against 16th placed Mickleover Sports after Milnes' second-half strike sealed the three points. Corby Town now sit 20th in the Evo-Stik Northern Premier League. After the match, a fan tweeted Lee asking whether it was lager, he replied by saying: "strongbow, caused severe heartburn with 15 to go." **-AGENCIES**



BFF trains up school coaches

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has finally got itself actively involved with the Bangabandhu and Bangamata Gold Cup Primary School Football Tournaments by providing training to coaches and teachers of those schools which have qualified for the final rounds.

Though the Bangabandhu and the Bangamata Gold Cup, which involved around 65 thousand primary schools, started in 2010 and 2011 respectively, this is the first time that the game's governing body got itself involved, thanks to the success of age-level women's teams in international tournaments.

Some 28 coaches and teachers from 14 schools – seven schools each for boys' and girls' tournaments – were given a three-day training at the BFF House. The course concluded yesterday with the hope that the standard of the footballers would gradually improve.

"Although I have an AFC C license certificate, I have learnt new things from this training course," claimed Golam Raihan Bapon, a teacher of Suti BM High School of Tangail and mentor of the U-16 women's team captain Krishna Rani Sarker.

"We train the girls with our acquired knowledge but we have learnt new things such as techniques, tactics and basic stuff of football. I don't know whether it will help the girls in the final rounds due to shortage of time but I believe it will help me a lot to teach the girls in future," said ATM Masud Ahmed, head coach of Syed Arjumand Ali Primary School of Sylhet.

Primary and Mass Education secretary Mohammad Asif-Uz-Zaman, additional secretary Nazrul Islam Khan, BFF members Fazlur Rahman Babul and Satyajit Das Rupu and technical director BA Jubair Nipu were, among others, present on the occasion.



Burnley's Robbie Brady (R) celebrates after equalising through a beautiful free-kick against English Premier League leaders Chelsea at Turf Moor yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Women's team going to Singapore

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh women's football team will play a three-nation tournament in Singapore from February 16 to 18 as part of the under-16 team's preparation for September's AFC U-16 Women's Championship. The other teams in the tournament are Malaysia and Singapore. The Bangladesh team will leave Dhaka on Wednesday.

The Bangladesh team, which features only four senior players apart from players of the under-16 team, recently played seven matches against Japanese academies as well as the under-16 Thailand team during the J-Green Sakai Lady's football festival in Japan.

"The girls will play two matches in this tournament as part of their preparation for AFC U-16 Women's Championship," Bangladesh Football Federation women's committee chairman Mahfuza Akter Kiron said during a press conference at the BFF House yesterday.

While informing that sponsors Walton will provide all the gear for the team, she also said: "There has been a bad impression on the sponsors due to negative media reports after the men's team's bad defeat against Bhutan and as a result sponsors are going away."

Siddikur 41st in Malaysia

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman couldn't finish the Maybank Championship in Malaysia the way he started after ending tied for 41st yesterday.

The 32-year-old, who managed matching 69s in the opening two rounds, struck 73 for the second consecutive round at the Saujana Golf and Country Club in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday.

Two bogeys and a double bogey against three birdies yesterday meant the two-time Asian Tour winner ended with an aggregate of four-under-par (284). And despite earning 17,400 dollars from this three-million-dollar event, Siddikur dropped to 16th position on the Asian Tour's Order of Merit for the current season.

The biggest cheque of 500,000 dollars was won by Paraguay's Fabrizio Zanotti, who carded a masterful 63 in the final round for an aggregate of 19-under-par (269).

Hom follows up six-for with ton

SPORTS REPORTER



Shuvagata Hom continued to hog the spotlight in the third round of the Bangladesh Cricket League as he slammed a hundred on the second day yesterday after taking six wickets on the opening day at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.



SHUVAGATA HOM...100

Abdur Razzak was the most successful bowler taking four wickets for 118 runs while pacer Rubel Hossain picked up two wickets for 57 runs.

At the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong, Yasir Ali took charge after Afif Hossain's hundred as he hit an unbeaten 110 to help Islami Bank East Zone score a mammoth 490 before being

bundled out.

Yasir played 250 balls to score 110 runs with the help of eight boundaries.

North Zone negotiated eight overs with only damage for 28 runs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ISLAMI BANK EAST ZONE VS BCB NORTH ZONE

ISLAMI BANK EAST ZONE: 490 all out in 169.5 overs

(Imtiaz 81, Afif 105, Tasamul 34, Zakir 64, Yasir 110 not out, Abul 46; Yasir 3-61, Sunzamul 3-131, Ariful 2-64)

BCB NORTH ZONE: 28-0 in 8 overs (Nazmul 13 not out, Junaed 15 not out)

PRIME BANK SOUTH ZONE VS WALTON CENTRAL ZONE

PRIME BANK SOUTH ZONE: 260

WALTON CENTRAL ZONE: 299 all out in 91 overs

(Mazid 38, Saif 49, Taibur 44, Hom 100; Rubel 2-57, Razzak 4-118)

Number eight batsman Hom helped Walton Central Zone take a valuable 39-run first innings lead against Prime Bank South Zone as his 109-run seventh-wicket stand with Taibur Rahman helped his team recover from 132 for six to reach 299.

Hom scored exactly hundred in 125 balls, an innings that featured 11 boundaries and one six while Taibur added 44 off 82 balls with five fours.

It was left-arm pacer Mustafizur Rahman who gave South Zone their first breakthrough by removing Shadman Islam in the 11th over. It was his only success but the encouraging fact was that the bowler bowled 18 overs and gave away only 34 runs.

Left-arm spinner and South Zone skipper

Brady checks Chelsea charge

AFP, Burnley



Home debutant Robbie Brady scored a memorable free-kick to earn Burnley a 1-1 draw on Sunday that prevented Chelsea moving 12 points clear at the Premier League summit.

Brady cancelled out an early strike from Pedro and while the point stretched Chelsea's lead to 10 points, their advantage will be trimmed to eight points if Manchester City win at Bournemouth on Monday.

Brady's goal continued his recent run of success against Chelsea manager Antonio Conte, with the winger having also scored the winning goal for Ireland against Conte's Italy in the Euro 2016 group stage.

Burnley, whose home record is bettered only by second-place Tottenham Hotspur and Chelsea themselves, looked like they might be swept away following an electrifying start from the league leaders.

But Sean Dyche's team, who had won seven straight games at Turf Moor after losing to Manchester City in mid-November, showed great resilience and deservedly equalised after 24 minutes through Brady.

A foul by Nemanja Matic on Joey

Barton on the edge of the area presented Brady, a club-record £13 million (\$16.2 million, 15.3 million euros) signing from Norwich City last month, with his chance.

He took it in style, curling a magnificent 20-yard free-kick over the wall and into the top-left corner.

That cancelled out an equally impressive opener from Chelsea that was started, and finished, by Pedro in the seventh minute.

The Spanish winger helped begin the attack deep in his own half with a pass to Eden Hazard who, in turn, fed Victor Moses on the right.

After skipping past Brady's crude challenge, Moses crossed for Pedro, who had covered nearly 70 yards, and his low, angled shot gave Tom Heaton no chance in the Burnley goal.

Chelsea had threatened to simply sweep their hosts away during a positive opening in which they repeatedly hit Burnley on the break.

But after weathering that pressure, the Claret's began to show why they have become so feared on their own turf.

Ashley Barnes was presented with a couple of half-chances before the equaliser and, soon after it, Andre Gray flashed an inviting low cross through the Chelsea six-yard box.

Burnley should even have taken a lead into the interval after Barton found full-back Matt Lowton, who only had Thibaut Courtois to beat but was denied by a solid block from the Chelsea goalkeeper.

The furious tempo of the game continued after the restart, with a mistake by Matic and an error by David Luiz culminating in Gray gathering Barnes's pass and shooting straight at Courtois.

In response, and thanks to a Ben Bee mistake at the other end, Diego Costa had a shot blocked before Cesar Azpilicueta chanced his luck with a long-range shot that just cleared the Burnley crossbar.

Burnley substitute Scott Arfield was also guilty of a potentially costly error when his weak clearance was picked up by Hazard, but the Chelsea man's effort was hurried and well over.

Yet another Chelsea attack ended in similar fashion a few minutes later with substitute Cesc Fabregas slicing a shot hopelessly wide from the edge of the penalty area.

Arfield almost twisted and turned his way through on goal late on, but Luiz's challenge prevented him from giving Burnley six successive home league victories for the first time in 56 years.

Real back on top

REUTERS, Madrid



Real Madrid returned to the top of La Liga after winning a testing away clash against Osasuna 3-1 on Saturday thanks to goals from talisman Cristiano Ronaldo, midfielder Isco and substitute Lucas Vazquez.

Osasuna striker Sergio Leon cancelled out Ronaldo's 24th-minute opener in the 33rd after defender Tano had been carried off with a sickening double leg break.

Isco restored Real's lead in the 62nd and Zinedine Zidane's side added a third through Vazquez with the last kick of the game.

Real goalkeeper Keylor Navas needed to produce a string of quality saves to preserve their advantage before Vazquez sealed only a second league win in seven visits to the perennial La Liga strugglers.

Real top the standings on 49 points, leapfrogging Barcelona on 48 after the champions thrashed Alaves 6-0 on Saturday.

Zidane's side have two games in hand on their arch rivals as they bid to win the title for the first time since 2012.



Real Madrid midfielder Isco celebrates after scoring against Osasuna in a La Liga match on Saturday. PHOTO: REUTERS

BANGABANDHU CUP Sheikh Russel clinch title

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Sheikh Russel Kria Chakra yesterday clinched the title of the Bangabandhu Cup football tournament beating Bangladesh Navy 5-4 in a penalty shootout in the final at the Muktiyoddha Asaduzzaman Stadium in Magura.

In front of a full-house crowd at the 20,000-capacity stadium, neither Sheikh Russel nor Bangladesh Navy could break the stalemate in regulation time. Sheikh Russel, however, created a couple of scoring opportunities but failed capitalise as the game rolled into tiebreaker, just like the two semifinals.

Former Bangladesh Premier League champions Sheikh Russel converted all five of their attempts while their goalkeeper Biplob Bhattacharjee thwarted a shot from Navy's foreign recruit Augustine WALSON.

State minister for youth and sports Biren Sikder distributed prizes where BFF president Kazi Salahuddin, former footballer Ashraf Uddin Ahmed Chunn, assistant private secretary to the Prime Minister Saifuzzaman Shekhor and Magura zilla Parisad administrator Pankanj Kundu were also present.

Wenger plays down exit talk

AFP, London



Arsene Wenger insists he is not preparing to end his long reign at Arsenal despite Ian Wright's claim the Gunners boss is on the way out.

Wenger's future had been questioned in the wake of defeats against Watford and Chelsea that effectively killed off their Premier League title hopes.

Wenger's side returned to winning ways as Alexis Sanchez's double secured a 2-0 home victory over Hull on Saturday.

But after the game the Frenchman was quizzed on his future, with his current contract expiring at the end of the season and a minority of fans turning on the manager.

Former Arsenal striker Ian Wright had fanned the flames by claiming on Friday that the 67-year-old had told him he was "coming to the end" of his time after 20 years at the helm.

Yet Wenger countered by saying any tiredness stems from his commitment to the job and that Wright must have misunderstood any conversation.

Asked whether he had given Wright the impression he was leaving, Wenger replied: "No, no. Mark [Gonnella, Arsenal communications director] was with me as well on Thursday."

"It was questions and answers. I could be tired because I get up early in the morning and I finish late at night, so I am tired, yes. But I didn't give any indication about my future."

"There were many people there. We (he and Wright) had a little dinner before but it was not the two of us. There were four or five."

Asked if Wright could have misinterpreted any comments, he said: "Yes. You know I appreciate very much that you want me to rest, absolutely. But I am not ready for that yet."

If Arsenal had not won against lowly Hull, it would have ramped up the pressure on Wenger to depart.

Although not at their best, Wenger was pleased to put the recent defeats to bed ahead of a trip to face Bayern Munich in the Champions League last first leg next week.

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