

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
England v South Africa
4th Test, Day-3
Live from 4:00pm
SONY SIX & TEN 3
India v Sri Lanka
2nd Test, Day-4
Live from 10:20am

Caribbean Premier League
Kitts & Nevis v Guyana
Live from 9:00pm
Jamaica Tallawahs v Barbados
Live from 1:00am (Monday)
STARSPORTS SELECT 2
IAAF World Championships
Morning Session

Live from 3:00pm
Evening Session
Live from 12:00pm
TEN 2
FA Community Shield
Arsenal v Chelsea
Live from 7:00pm

Bridge to the top

SPORTS REPORTER

Bridge may not be a popular game in our country. This card game may not even be that well-known among the masses. But this game has recently earned a rare distinction for Bangladesh, something which has been achieved in very few other sports.

The Bangladesh national team qualified for the World Bridge Championship, finishing runners-up to India from the South Asia and Middle East zones, with the qualifying phase taking place in UAE in April this year. And by dint of that feat, the team will be playing for the Bermuda Bowl alongside 21 of the top teams from around the world in the global event, scheduled to be held from August 12 in Lyon, France.

A six-member team, spearheaded by veteran captain Sajid Ispahani, will feature Zia Huq, Kamruzzaman Sohad, Nayeem, Anisur Rahman Chowdhury and Moshir Rahman. Bangladesh Bridge Federation's president Mushfiqur Rahman Mohon will also accompany them.

All of the six members of the team are established professionals in various fields and belong to various age groups, but they are bound by one passion, which is bridge.

Despite being a game on the decline, especially among younger generations, these individuals have kept their passion going and continued to up their game over the last few years, before eventually claiming a coveted spot in the World Championship this year.

Ispahani, with an experience of more than three decades and a passion still going strong, feels that qualification for the World Championships in itself is a big achievement for a country where it considered an amateur sport.

"In the last two qualifying tournaments,

we lost in the semifinals. But this time we beat Pakistan and only finished second to India. Out of the 22 teams participating, only Bangladesh and Guadalupe are amateur teams, the rest are all professionals. So it is a big achievement for us," Ispahani said during an interview with The Daily Star.

As a devoted bridge player and perhaps the game's biggest sponsor in Bangladesh, Ispahani is glad that he will be leading the side into their first ever world event. He said all this has been made possible by the players' devotion and the preparations they have taken.

"Due to the heavy traffic in Dhaka, it's not possible for us to get together most of the times. So we practice on our own. Now that the game is available on computers and there's a website where you can play the interactive game, we do our practice on our own," he said.

However, there are few issues, misconceptions specifically, that hurts this veteran. "Firstly there is a taboo in our country associated with the game. People think it's gambling, but there is in fact no involvement of money here.

"In fact this is a very complicated game, which involves psychology, memory, logic and even numerology. You have to have the mental stamina as well as physical fitness to do well here.

"Unfortunately, though, this is a dying game because younger people are not coming up. Kids these days are more interested in iPads, Xbox and stuff. But there's not much interest about bridge," he opined.

However, the Bangladesh captain is hopeful that the World Championships participation and a decent finish there would help the game's local governing body spread the sport more and therefore youngsters would be encouraged to take up the game like they do in cricket, football or even chess.



The members of the Bangladesh bridge team, which recently qualified for this month's Bridge World Championships in Lyon, pose for a photograph. PHOTO: COLLECTED



British long-distance runner Mo Farah captured a fifth gold in his final 10,000m race at the IAAF World Championships in his home town of London on Friday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Wazed Mia KC, Shantinagar FC in final

SPORTS REPORTER

Dr. Wazed Mia Krira Chakra and Shantinagar Football Club moved into the final of the Walton 1st Dhaka Metropolitan Football Tournament yesterday.

Dr. Wazed Mia Krira Chakra beat Azampur Football Club 4-3 in tiebreak in the first semifinal of the tournament at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium while Shantinagar Football Club defeated Bangladesh krira Shikkha Protishthan 1-0 in the second semifinal at the same venue. Sadek Hossain scored the only goal of the game in the 22nd minute.

The final will be held on August 13 and the champions will be awarded Tk1 lac while the runners-up team will receive Tk50,000.

Farah's double in danger after injury

AFP, London



Mo Farah's hopes of winning his third successive world championship distance double could be in jeopardy after requiring medical treatment following Friday's epic victory in the 10,000m.

The 34-year-old British legend won despite being spiked twice in the final lap -- the first saw him almost come to grief and fall into the infield -- and which resulted in blood pouring from his left calf.

The Somalia-born runner, who prior to Friday's victory had racked up two Olympic and world doubles as well as the 2011 5,000m world crown, tried to shrug off the battering he had taken but still curtailed media commitments so he could be attended to by medical staff.

"I am hurt, I just have to be strong now and see the doctors," said Farah. "I've got a few cuts and bruises, perhaps I will need a few stitches, I need to recover and get ready, I've got enough days (before the 5000m heats which are on

Wednesday and the final on Saturday)."

Farah though rejected notions that the spiking was deliberate.

"I've got such a long stride I don't blame anyone," he said. "I recalled how I went down in Rio (in the 10,000m after which he got up to win). I got caught twice and I was thinking 'I can't go down I can't go down'."

Farah, whose association with controversial coach Alberto Salazar has been a source of disquiet, admitted the 'surging' tactics used by primarily the Kenyan and Ugandan athletes -- upping the pace then reducing it so he couldn't get into his rhythm -- had forced him to dig deep.

"It was one of the toughest races in my life," said Farah. "The guys gave it to me, it was 'how do we beat Mo?' again. You had the Ethiopians, Kenyans, Ugandans, they worked as a team against me. I had to stay strong. I was thinking that I can't lose in my home town."

Farah, who was winning in the same stadium where he won Olympic gold in 2012 and is yet to be beaten there, said his confidence grew having weathered the earlier storm in the race.

FARAH IN 10,000M	
2012 Olympics	2013 World Championships
2015 World Championships	2016 Olympics
2017 World Championship	2011 World Championships

Saif SC notch first win

SPORTS REPORTER



Newcomers Saif Sporting Club notched their first win of the Bangladesh Premier League with a 1-0 victory over Arambagh KS at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Matin Mia's early strike proved to be the decisive goal of the game as cash-rich Saif Sporting inflicted their second defeat in two matches on Maruful Haque's beleaguered outfit.

Arambagh were lucky not to concede the opener in the fourth minute when Matin's back-heel, following a

header from Colombian midfielder Lordaba Escarpeta, was blocked at the near post by Arambagh goalkeeper Mohammad Parvez.

However, they conceded the lead six minutes later when Parvez, who had an otherwise brilliant outing between the sticks, made a meal of a regulation cross from Saif Sporting's Riyadul Hasan. The goalkeeper failed to judge the flight of the ball as Matin smashed it home on the rebound.

Parvez produced another great save to deny Lordaba's header in the 38th minute as Maruful Haque's side went into the break with a slim deficit.

Saif Sporting goalkeeper Anisur Rahman Zico was called into action in the 77th minute as he brilliantly fisted away Shahrier Bappy's powerful strike from the middle of the box to help his side grab all three points.

The win lifted Saif Sporting to sixth position with three points while Arambagh stayed rooted to the foot of the table, alongside Mohammedan, with no points from two matches.

Chittagong Abahani and Sheikh Jamal jointly lead the table with six points each as the second round of fixtures ended, with the third round scheduled to start tomorrow.



Saif SC forward Matin Mia (C) celebrates with teammates after scoring the decisive goal in their Bangladesh Premier League fixture against Arambagh KS at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Four-star Anderson leaves SA on ropes

AFP, Manchester



James Anderson took four wickets from the newly-named James Anderson End to leave England in a commanding position against South Africa in the fourth Test at Old Trafford on Saturday.

South Africa were 220 for nine in reply to England's first innings 362, featuring Jonny Bairstow's 99, at stumps on the second day.

That left them with a deficit of 142 runs in a match they have to win to draw this four-match series 2-2.

Morne Morkel was 18 not out after Kagiso Rabada (23) was brilliantly caught by a diving Ben Stokes in the gully off Stuart Broad in what became the last ball of the day.

At stumps, pacesman Anderson had figures of four wickets for 33 runs in 15 overs.

The 35-year-old was now in sight of his first five-wicket haul in a Test innings at Old Trafford.

But his seventh Test at Old Trafford was the first fixture since what was known as the Pavilion End had been renamed in honour of Anderson, England's all-time leading Test wicket-taker.

SCORES IN BRIEF:

ENGLAND: First innings 362 all out (Bairstow 99, Stokes 58, Root 52; Rabada 4-91, Morkel 2-91, Olivier 2-92)

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 132 for 5 (Bavuma 46, Amla 30, Du Plessis 27; Anderson 4-33, Broad 2-45, Ali 2-57)

শাখা স্থানান্তর

খুলনা জেলার বাগেরহাট, ফয়লাহাট শাখাটি আরো উন্নত ও আধুনিক সেবা প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে **আজ ৬ আগস্ট ২০১৭ইং** রোজ রবিবার নতুন ঠিকানায় স্থানান্তরিত হয়ে ব্যাংকিং কার্যক্রম শুরু হতে যাচ্ছে।

~~পুরাতন ঠিকানা~~

~~জনতা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড~~

~~জনাব মোঃ মিজানুর রহমান মজিনু সাহেবের ভবন~~
~~সন্তোষপুর, ফয়লাহাট, রামপাল, বাগেরহাট।~~

৬ আগস্ট ২০১৭ইং

নতুন ঠিকানা

জনতা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

জনাব মোঃ সিরাজুল ইসলাম আকুঞ্জী সাহেবের ভবন

সন্তোষপুর, ফয়লাহাট, রামপাল, বাগেরহাট।

জেএল -৫৮, খতিয়ান নং-বিএস-২২৪

দাগ নং-বিএস-৪২৫, ৪২৬, ৪২৭

সম্মানিত গ্রাহক, পৃষ্ঠপোষক ও শুভানুধ্যায়ীদেরকে নতুন ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগ ও ব্যাংকিং কার্যক্রম সম্পন্ন করার জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে।

জনতা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

উন্নয়নে আপনার বিশ্বস্ত অংশীদার

www.janatabank-bd.com

AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION EXPO

CHITTAGONG DHAKA

Aug 9 (10-5) Aug 10 (10-5)

Hotel Well Park Lake Shore Hotel

Register Today!

www.globalreach.in/bangladeshexpo