

What to WATCH

GTV & STAR SPORTS SELECT 2

Bangladesh v West Indies

Second Test, Day Two

Live from 9:30am

English Premier League

Man City v Bournemouth

Live from 9:00pm

Bundesliga

Hoffenheim v Schalke

Live from 11:30pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

English Premier League

Leicester v Watford

Live from 9:00pm

Southampton v Man United

Live from 11:30pm

TEN 2

Serie A

SPAL v Empoli

Live from 8:00pm

Florentina v Juvetnus

Live from 11:00pm

Sampdoria v Bologna

Live from 1:30am (Sunday)

CHANNEL 9

Independence Cup

Saif Sporting v Team BJMC

Live from 5:00pm

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh v West Indies

Second Test, Day Two

Time: 9:30am

Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium

Bangladesh Cricket League

Four-day match

Day Four

South Zone v East Zone

Time: 9:30am

Venue: SKS, Rajshahi

North Zone v Central Zone

Time: 9:30am

Venue: SCS, Bogura

Independence Cup

Saif Sporting v Team BJMC

Time: 5:00pm

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium



Chelsea continued their perfect streak in the Europa League with a 4-0 win over PAOK on Thursday night courtesy of a first-half double from striker Olivier Giroud. Youngster Callum Hudson-Odoi and Alvaro Morata were the other scorers.

PHOTO: AFP

London duo march on

AFP, Paris

Chelsea and Arsenal both enjoyed high-scoring Europa League wins on Thursday as Glasgow giants Celtic and Rangers were left with work to do on the final matchday to qualify for the next stage.

Unai Emery selected a youthful Arsenal to play in the Ukraine and they romped past Vorskla Poltava 3-0, guaranteeing top spot in Group E in a match switched to freezing Kiev after security concerns in the east of the country.

Teenagers Emile Smith Rowe and Joe Willock scored either side of an Aaron Ramsey penalty as the Gunners went in 3-0 at half-time.

Vorskla Poltava's coach had complained that the switch forced by UEFA had deprived the city of a "holiday", and had also distracted his players.

Arsenal will now avoid any of the Champions League drop outs in the draw for the next round as they have a better head-to-head record with second-placed Sporting Lisbon.

Maurizio Sarri had demanded a reaction from his Chelsea side after they lost at Tottenham in the Premier League and the Blues answered his call, beating PAOK Salonika 4-0 to win their group with a brace from French target man Olivier Giroud.

"The main target was to win, we needed a strong team reaction and we did it well tonight," said the World Cup winner Giroud.

"I am really happy with the team spirit and we can move forwards now and start some new momentum.

"I've scored goals in the past but it's true that I

was waiting for more chances," said Giroud, who broke a long streak without a goal in the last round.

"You need a bit of luck in front of goal. I had a good assist from my team-mates, I love this kind of ball behind the defence.

"Four goals plus a clean sheet, a good night for us. When the manager starts me I try to give my best, do my part."

Celtic still need a final day draw to go through after beating pointless Rosenborg away for the second year in a row thanks to Scott Sinclair's emphatic header just before the break.

The Scots can thank Austrian outfit RB Salzburg, who won Group B outright with a victory over their German sister club RB Leipzig 1-0. The Germans now have to win in Glasgow to qualify ahead of Celtic.

Rangers drew 0-0 at home with Spain's Villarreal, keeping their hopes of last day qualification from Group G alive a point behind the Spaniards and Rapid Vienna who are both on seven.

Bayer Leverkusen, Zurich, Dinamo Zagreb, Arsenal, Frankfurt, Lazio and Chelsea were already qualified before Thursday's games when Salzburg, Sporting Lisbon, Real Betis, Zenit Saint-Petersburg, Dynamo Kiev, Krasnodar and Fenerbahce all secured their place in the hat for the next round draw.

Sporting thumped six past Garabagh in Azerbaijan while in another high scoring game AC Milan emerged as 5-2 winners over minnows Dudelange of Luxembourg but need a draw with Olympiakos in the final game to qualify.

Pacers exploit green top; South recover slowly

SPORTS REPORTER

North Zone pacer Ebadat Hossain has made headlines once again by registering his maiden first-class 10-wicket match haul against Central Zone in their Bangladesh Cricket League second round encounter at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogura yesterday.

The pacer picked up four wickets for 88 runs in the second innings to reach the milestone, which eclipsed his previous best of five for 133, on the third day of the four-day match.

Another one of North's pacers, Mohor Sheikh, also made use of the green-top, registering his second ever first-class five wicket haul.

After resuming the day on 50 for three,



EBADAT... 4 for 88

Central were bundled out on 318 runs in 89.4 overs with Mohor and Ebadat claiming all seven of the wickets that fell on the day.

SCORES IN BRIEF

CENTRAL ZONE V NORTH ZONE
CENTRAL ZONE: 220 all out and 318 all out in 89.4 overs (Mosaddek 104, Mosharraf 54, Shuvagata 45; Mohor 5-69, Ebadat 4-88)
NORTH ZONE: 255 all out and 7 for one in 3.3 overs (Mizanur 7, Junaid 0 not out, Sunzamul 0 not out; Abu Hider 1-5)
EAST ZONE V SOUTH ZONE
EAST ZONE: 473 all out (Rony 53, Shamsur 153, Tasamul 48, Yasir 112, Enamul 46; Razzak 5-171, Mahedi 2-99, Fazle 2-14, Al-Amin 1-40)
SOUTH ZONE: 258 all out in 81.1 overs and 135 for no loss (f/o) in 40 overs (Nafees 81 not out and Anamul 46 not out; Hasan 0-18 in 8 overs)

Central's Mosaddek Hossain became the only centurion of the match so far by striking a 160-ball 104-run knock before being bowled by Ebadat.

In chase of 284 -- a tough task given the type of wicket -- North ended the day on seven runs for one wicket, meaning that they need another 277 runs to win on the final day.

At the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi, a batting collapse saw South Zone bundled out on 258 before being forced to follow-on against East Zone. Mahedi Hasan's 86-run knock and Rakibul Hasan's 66 runs off 153 balls were the only two noteworthy efforts for South.

Following-on, South did not repeat their mistakes, ending the day with 135 runs on the board for no loss of wickets. Openers Anamul Haque and Shahriar Nafees remained unbeaten with scores of 46 and 81 runs respectively at the close.

Can lightweights outgun the heavyweights?

SPORTS REPORTER

Since its reintroduction in 2011, the Independence Cup has become a tournament favouring the lightweights as three smaller teams have emerged champions out of the last five editions. With another Independence Cup starting today, the question is whether the lightweights can continue their surprise trend.

Despite being relegated from the Bangladesh Premier League, minnows Farashganj SC overcame the big names to win the Independence Cup in 2011 with a 5-4 penalty shootout win over Sheikh Russel in the final. Sheikh Russel and Mohammedan then emerged champions in 2013 and 2014 editions before lightweights Chittagong Abahani and Arambagh shocked the heavyweights to clinch the title in 2016 and 2018 editions respectively.

However, this time it is going to be a tough ask for the lightweights as the heavyweights are seemingly very serious following the completion of season's curtain-raising tournament Federation Cup. The coaches believe the Independence Cup will be even

more competitive than the Federation Cup.

"I think there is hardly any chance for the lightweights to win the tournament this time. The big teams earlier did not use to take this tournament seriously since it was held after the completion of the professional league. But this time, the heavyweights are really serious and they have their foreign players in sound state," opined Federation Cup champions Abahani coach Jakaria Babu.

Abahani have won six Bangladesh Premier League titles and four Federation Cup titles since the introduction of the professional football league in 2008, but they are yet to win the Independence Cup despite playing in the 2016 final where they lost against Chittagong Abahani.

"The lightweights have little chance of winning the tournament but there may be some surprises in group-stage matches," said newcomers NoFeL SC coach Kamal Babu, who guided Farashganj to the title in 2011.

"Due to the grouping, a couple of big teams will quit the race. Otherwise big teams like Abahani, Bashundhara Kings, Sheikh Jamal DC, Saif SC and Sheikh Russel are favourites to win the tournament," said Babu, who last

season guided Rahmatganj to the semifinals.

"Matches will be 50-50 in the knockout stages if any of the minnows progress to the quarterfinals and semifinals," opined Rahmatganj MFS coach Syed Golam Jilani.

"This time, five to six clubs have formed strong sides with four foreign players each and the tournament is held before the league, so there is hardly any chance for the lightweights to produce outstanding results," said Jilani, who however believes the lightweights are now more prepared than the Federation Cup and they have the ability to trouble the stronger sides.

Holders Arambagh KS coach Maruful Haque is targeting the semifinals.

"Arambagh KS would have played the final if the tournament was held without foreigners like the previous editions but this time I am not much confident even though but we want to play in the semifinals," said country's lone UEFA A license coach Maruful, who also believes the heavyweights are more focused to do well ahead of the professional league.

In today's match, Saif SC will take on Team BJMC in the opening match at 5:00pm.

Make Kohli your best mate: Jones

AGENCIES, Adelaide

Dean Jones has warned Australia against provoking Virat Kohli on the field during the upcoming Test series, pointing out that the India captain 'thrives on confrontational situations'.

"On his last tour to Australia he [Kohli] was just awesome with four centuries in eight innings," Jones wrote his column for Sydney Morning Herald. "He hits amazing cover drives and whips through mid-wicket with monotonous ease."

"Trying to find a weakness in Kohli's game is like trying to find something wrong with the Mona Lisa. Teams must stop his cover drive and bowl in different areas."

Jones offered several pieces of insight, but his most striking advice was as follows: "Do not talk or provoke him. Make him your best mate."



WHEN CHAMPIONS UNITE: World Cup winner Kylian Mbappe (C) caught up with four-time Olympic gold medal-winning long-distance runner Mo Farah (L) and 2018 WTA Finals winner Elina Svitolina at a Nike event on Thursday night.

PHOTO: TWITTER

Libertadores moved to Bernabeu

Boca, River both appeal

AFP, Asuncion

South American football's governing body CONMEBOL on Thursday confirmed that the twice-postponed Copa Libertadores final second leg between Argentine rivals River Plate and Boca Juniors will be played on December 9 at Real Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu stadium.

Originally scheduled for last weekend at River's Monumental stadium in Buenos Aires, it was postponed after some Boca players were injured when their team bus came under attack from their arch rivals' fans throwing projectiles.

Boca appealed to CONMEBOL's independent disciplinary committee to be awarded the trophy and have River expelled from the competition, but that was also rejected on Thursday.

Instead, CONMEBOL hit River with a two-game stadium closure "that will be applied from 2019" in official continental competitions, and "a \$400,000 fine."

In a separate statement issued late Thursday, Boca Juniors said it "did not share" the arguments of the CONMEBOL disciplinary panel and planned to appeal. River Plate later stated that they would also be appealing the punishments, including the decision to move the Copa Libertadores final second leg to Madrid.

CONMEBOL president Alejandro Dominguez said that Real president Florentino Perez had offered use of the Bernabeu "for free."

"Madrid is the city with the biggest Argentine population in the world, outside Argentina," said Dominguez. "It's the 10th safest city in the world, it has the airport with the greatest connectivity, and it's a city with a football tradition."

He added that fans of both teams would be admitted to the Bernabeu, something that was not the case for the original clash.

SHORT CORNER

Siddikur makes cut in Mauritius

Bangladesh's Siddikur Rahman made the cut in the AfrAsia Bank Mauritius Open with a two-round aggregate of four-under-par (140) yesterday. The two-time Asian Tour winner, who finished second in this tri-sanctioned event in 2016, carded 70s in the first two rounds and was in 22nd position going into the weekend rounds. Kurt Kitayama of USA grabbed the clubhouse lead at 14-under-par (130) following matching 65 in the first two rounds played at the Four Seasons Golf Club at Anahita, Mauritius. -- SPORTS REPORTER

Navy, Army win in V-day hockey
Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Army registered victories in their respective matches of the Victory Day hockey competition at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Navy beat Bangladesh Air Force 3-0, with goals from Ashraful Islam, Seen Islam and Roman Sarker. In the second match, Army edged BKSP 3-2, with Hasan Jubayer Niloy, Milon Hossain and Mahbubur Rahman scoring for Army. Parvez scored both for BKSP. -- SPORTS REPORTER

Sanchez out for extended period
Alexis Sanchez's miserable spell at Manchester United took another turn for the worse on Friday with manager Jose Mourinho announcing he faces several weeks out with a hamstring injury.

The 29-year-old Chilean forward suffered the injury in training on Thursday.

"It is an aggressive muscular injury," Mourinho said at Friday's press conference. "He has not had a scan yet but the player is experienced. He knows what injury is."

"From my experience, the painful scream and way it happened, it will be a long time. It is not a little muscular injury that he will be ready in a week. -- AFP

Rule change means Jofra can play for England
Barbados-born all-rounder Jofra Archer will be eligible to play for England at next year's Cricket World Cup following a rule change announced on Thursday.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said overseas players would, from Jan. 1, become eligible to play for England after living in the country for three years rather than a previous seven.

Archer would not have been able to play for England until 2022 under the existing rules.

The 23-year-old Sussex player, who has a British father and passport, featured for West Indies at under-19 level and arrived in Britain in 2015.

The Rajasthan Royals paid 72 million Indian rupees for him after a fierce bidding war in last January's Indian Premier League Twenty20 auction.

Archer could also be available for England's Caribbean tour that runs from January to March, and includes matches in Barbados.

"It may or may not happen but I would love to debut in front of my family," he said on Twitter on Thursday. -- REUTERS



Bayern Munich midfielder James Rodriguez posted this adorable picture of him working out with his daughter on Twitter, with the caption: "With my personal trainer."

PHOTO: TWITTER