

What to WATCH

CHANNEL 9
Independence Cup
Ctg Abahani v NoFel SC
Live from 3:00pm
Mohammedan v Rahamatganj
Live from 5:15pm

TEN 2
Pakistan v New Zealand
Third Test, Day One
Live from 12:00pm
Serie A
Atalanta v Napoli
Live from 1:30am (Tuesday)

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
FIF World Cup
Spain v France
Live from 5:30pm
New Zealand v Argentina
Live from 7:30pm

DAY'S EVENT

Independence Cup
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Ctg Abahani v NoFel SC
Time: 3:00pm

Mohammedan v Rahamatganj
Time: 5:15pm

ZIA'S SON HOLDS HIM TO A DRAW

GM Ziaur Rahman maintained his solo lead in the Omicon 44th National Chess Championship with 7.5 points at the end of the ninth and penultimate round yesterday. GM Zia drew against his son Tahsin Tajwar in the ninth round while IM Abu Sufian Shakil and FM Mehdi Hasan Parag were in second position with 6.5 points each. Shakil drew against Khandakar Aminul Islam while Parag beat Md Jamal Uddin in this round. GM Reefat Bin Sattar, IM Minhaz Uddin, FM Khandakar Aminul Islam and CM Subrota Biswas shared third position with 5.5 points each.

-- SPORTS REPORTER



Kings ease past Sheikh Jamal

SPORTS REPORTER



Big-spenders Bashundhara Kings cruised to a 2-0 win over Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club in the first match of Group D at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Defender Nasiruddin Chowdhury and Kyrgyz midfielder Bakhtiyor Duishobekov scored in the first half as the Federation Cup runners-up team took pole position in the group, which also features former champions Sheikh Russel KC.

These two sides were pitted against each other in the season's curtain-raising Federation Cup as well, and that fixture had proved to be a very entertaining one as the two powerhouses shared the spoils of a 1-1 draw.

In comparison, yesterday's encounter was far less attractive as the Kings had everything go their way once they found the opening goal.

Daniel Colindres's powerful shot from 25 yards came off the crossbar, and the clearance led to a corner which earned the Kings the opening goal. Colindres curled the ball into the middle of the box, with Nasir heading at the far post after shrugging off his marker.

Sheikh Jamal's Gambian forward Solomon King had a brilliant effort six minutes later, his dipping volley coming off the crossbar, but that was the closest the side got to scoring.

Bashundhara Kings put clear daylight between themselves and the opposition when Duishobekov slid the ball home past Sheikh Jamal keeper Mohammad Nayeem after receiving a square-pass from Colindres.

ABAHANI 2 - 1 MUKTIJODDHA
FAISAL 76', 78' KATO 90'+2'
SK JAMAL 0 - 2 BASHUNDHARA
NASIR 18', DUSHOBOKOV 38'

While Sheikh Jamal had a few long-range efforts on goal, it was Kings who went close to increasing the margin, with substitute Emon Babu almost finding the back of the net in the 83rd minute with a fierce shot, only for Sheikh Jamal defender Manjur Rahman to head it clear off the line.

ABAHANI CONTINUE WINNING RUN

Federation Cup champions Abahani got off to a winning start in Group C with a 2-1 win against Muktiyoddha Sangsad KC in the first match of the day.

The Sky Blues, who flew in new coach Mario Lemos yesterday, edged the All Reds, thanks to two goals in three minutes from second-half substitute Faisal Ahmed.

Both teams had to substitute a player each in the first half after Abahani goalkeeper Shahidul Alam collided heavily with Muktiyoddha's Guinean forward Younoussa Camara.

Muktiyoddha keeper Omar Faruk Linkon made a double save to keep the Sky Blues at bay at the end of the half.

Abahani, however, took the lead in the 76th minute when Faisal, coming off the bench in the second half in his first match of the season, beat Linkon with a placing shot. The young forward doubled the lead two minutes later, heading home a cross from Kervens Belfort following restart after the first goal.

Muktiyoddha's Japanese recruit Yousuke Kato scored a consolation goal from the penalty spot two minutes into stoppage time after being brought down inside the box by Abahani centre-back Tutul Hossain Badsha just before the final whistle was blown.



Arsenal forward Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang scored two goals, including a stunning long-range strike, as Arsenal defeated neighbours Tottenham Hotspur in a tempestuous North London Derby at the Emirates Stadium yesterday. The Gunners won the Premier League game 4-2.

PHOTO: AFP

Siddikur ends with a flurry

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman produced a magnificent six-under on the final day of the AfrAsia Bank Mauritius Open to stake a claim for the 20th position yesterday.

The two-time Asian Tour winner exchanged seven birdies for a single bogey at the Four Seasons Golf Club in Anahita on Sunday to rack up an aggregate score of nine-under-par (279).

The former runner-up of this event pocketed a paycheck of 11,433 euros for his effort, which should lift him up considerably in the Order of Merit from his current 52nd position.

Kurt Kitayama of the United States won the title with an aggregate of 20-under-par (268).

AFP, London



Unai Emery hailed Arsenal's explosive 4-2 win over bitter rivals Tottenham as a statement of intent from his revitalised side.

Emery's team extended their unbeaten run to 19 matches in all competitions after fighting back from 2-1 down in arguably the Premier League's game of the season so far.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's penalty had put Arsenal ahead before Eric Dier's header and a Harry Kane spot-kick gave Tottenham the lead at half-time at the Emirates Stadium.

Dier's gloating celebration had triggered a touchline brawl involving Arsenal substitutes.

But the fireworks were far from over as Aubameyang's superb long-range equaliser sparked a second half surge from the Gunners.

Alexandre Lacazette came off the bench to put Arsenal ahead and Lucas Torreira sealed the points with his first goal for the club.

Capping a miserable day for Jan Vertonghen, the Tottenham defender was sent off in the closing stages after earlier giving away Arsenal's penalty.

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UNAI EMERY
ARSENAL MANAGER

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'Proud of the boys'

It was a full circle of sorts for head coach Steve Rhodes -- his first assignment was a humbling 2-0 series in the Caribbean in July, and he has removed that black mark by paying West Indies back in kind in the return series that ended yesterday. It must have been especially gratifying for a coach who is known for spotting talent that two debutants excelled in the two-Test series. He spoke to The Daily Star after the innings-and-184-run win:

ON THE TWO DEBUTANTS:

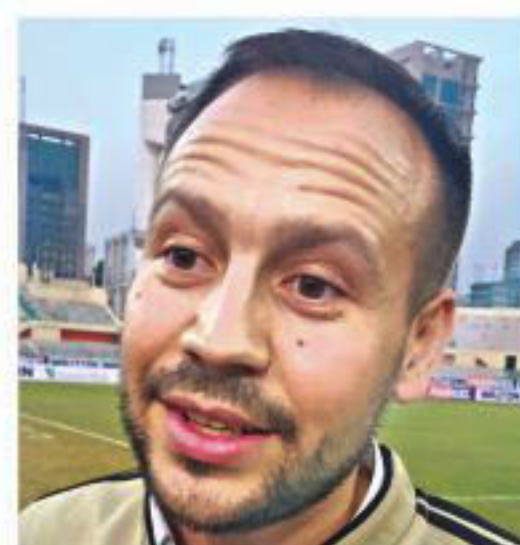
Whenever we win, people always talk about the stars. But we got two remarkable debutants with Shadman [Islam's] resilience as he showed what he did in the practice game [for BCB XI against West Indies in Chattogram] and hopefully that's the start of many. Nayeem [Hasan's] five-wicket haul in Chattogram was outstanding and he has backed that in this game; maybe he didn't pick up wickets but he bowled brilliantly. He is a very capable fielder and also [good] with the bat and certainly has a big future.

THE TURNAROUND FROM LAST SUMMER: Look, we have put in a lot of hard work since Antigua and I knew the acid test is going to be when we go abroad and how we do away from home. Coming away with a victory against West Indies in a Test series, no matter whether its home or away, is a very special effort. So I am very proud of the boys. You know we were shell-shocked in Antigua and we were hopeful of



doing something similar here in Bangladesh against the West Indies.

REVENGE: There is always work to do as this will be history tomorrow and we will be moving forward to the one-day series with our plans. But at the moment we will see it as a victory today and again, I talk about Shakib Al Hasan -- how he marshalled the troops over the two matches. He has done it both as a captain and an individual and his performance was commendable.



New coach for Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Premier League and Federation Cup champions Abahani flew in coach Smario Lemos yesterday.

The Portuguese, who was a fitness trainer under former Bangladesh national team head coach Andrew Ord, joined on a seven-month agreement having seen out his contract as head coach of Malaysian side Negre Sembilan.

"Although I was a fitness trainer under Ord for three months here, my job was that of an assistant coach as I scouted and helped in making gameplans. I know the players very well, so it won't be a problem for me," added the AFC A licence holder.

Abahani recently retained their Federation Cup crown under local coach Jakarta Babu, but they had been looking for a foreign coach ever since Drago Mamic left the club in November last year.

'He must score them all'

AGENCIES, Milan



Cristiano Ronaldo converted a penalty to cap a dominant 3-0 win for Juventus over Fiorentina on Saturday as the Italian champions continued their charge to an eighth consecutive league title by opening an 11-point lead on top of Serie A.

Ronaldo slotted in his 10th goal from 14 league games from the spot after 79 minutes, adding to Rodrigo Bentancur's opener and Giorgio Chiellini's 69th-minute volley.

"Great team effort. Important win," the five-time Ballon d'Or winner wrote on social media after the game.

Massimiliano Allegri's side have 40 points from 14 games with second-place Napoli on 29 points.

Allegri spoke of Ronaldo's responsibilities, saying the Portuguese must always score penalties in order to be forgiven for haunting the club in last season's

After Ronaldo scored that penalty against us in the 98th minute at 139km/h, am I supposed to let somebody else take them? He has to do something to be forgiven.

MASSIMILIANO ALLEGRI
JUVENTUS MANAGER

Champions League.

Ronaldo's 98th-minute penalty for Real Madrid had seen Juventus eliminated in the quarterfinals last season.

"Ronaldo takes the penalties," he said. "After he's scored that one against us in the 93rd minute at 139km/h, am I supposed to let somebody else do that? He has to do something to be forgiven. He's got to take penalties and score... always."



Juventus's Cristiano Ronaldo does his trademark celebration after netting versus Fiorentina on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

Tamim returns for ODIs

SPORTS REPORTER

A 16-member squad featuring opener Tamim Iqbal was announced yesterday for the upcoming three-match ODI series against West Indies, scheduled to start from December 9 in Mirpur.

After suffering a left-knuckle fracture in the first game of the Asia Cup back in September, it was hoped that Tamim would feature in the recently-concluded Test series against the West Indies. However, a side strain incurred during practice kept him out of the series.

Shakib Al Hasan will also make a return to the format after last featuring in an ODI in the Asia Cup.

Fazle Mahmud and Nazmul Hossain Shanto were the two exclusions from the previous ODI squad that played against Zimbabwe in October.

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, who will contest the upcoming national election, is also set to return to cricketing action after a month.

SQUAD: Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (C), Tamim Iqbal, Imrul Kayes, Soumya Sarkar, Liton Das, Shakib Al Hasan (VC), Mushfiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah Riyad, Rubel Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman, Mehedi Hasan Miraz, Nazmul Islam, Md Mithun, Saif Uddin, Abu Hider Rony, Ariful Haque.