

**SONY SIX**  
Australia v India  
First Test, Day One  
Live from 6:00am (Thursday)

**TEN 2**  
New Zealand v Pakistan  
Third Test, Day Three  
Live from 12:00pm

**STAR SPORTS 1**  
English Premier League  
Tottenham v Southampton  
Live from 2:00am (Thursday)

**STAR SPORTS 2**  
English Premier League  
Wolves v Chelsea  
Live from 1:45am (Thursday)

**STAR SPORTS SELECT 1**  
FIH World Cup  
Germany v Netherlands  
Live from 5:30pm

**STAR SPORTS SELECT 2**  
Malaysia v Pakistan  
Live from 7:30pm

English Premier League  
Man United v Arsenal

Live from 2:00am (Thursday)  
**STAR SPORTS SELECT 2**  
English Premier League  
Burnley v Liverpool  
Live from 1:45am (Thursday)

**Bangladesh Cricket League**  
Four-day match  
Day One

South Zone v North Zone  
Time: 9:30am  
Venue: ZACS, Chattogram

East Zone v Central Zone  
Time: 9:30am  
Venue: SCS, Bogura

**Independence Cup**  
Muktijoddha v Brothers Union  
Time: 3:00pm

Bashundhara v Sheikh Russel  
Time: 5:15pm  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

# Politician Mashrafe plays to merit

MAZHAR UDDIN

It was unlike the typical press conferences that have taken place at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, where cricket has always remained at the forefront of all discussions.

There was no shortage of excitement and curiosity among the numerous reporters present at the home of cricket in Mirpur yesterday as they waited for Bangladesh ODI skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza to make good on a promise he made the day before to answer all questions regarding his involvement in politics.

For Mashrafe, it must have seemed like an intense batting session on a bouncy pitch during a Test where the inspirational cricketer tried to play according to merit. Asked whether it is now difficult to keep his focus on the game ahead of the ODI series against West Indies beginning on December 9, Mashrafe made his intentions clear.

"To me, not at all [difficult]. There is no chance for me to be distracted. At the moment I am not involved there [in politics] and my entire focus is on practice. Obviously I will concentrate on that after the 14th [the ODI series] but till the 14th, I want to keep my concentration on my game," he told reporters.

Soon after negotiating that length ball, Mashrafe had to deflect another one coming to the stumps when asked for the reason behind him joining politics.

"First of all, consider that the World



Mashrafe Bin Mortaza made good on his promise to answer all questions regarding his political career at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. The inspirational ODI captain reaffirmed his commitment to the sport but also spoke of his passion to serve for the greater good.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Cup it is still eight-nine months away. If my career ends after the World Cup, I don't know what will happen in the next four and half years. I have an opportunity to serve the people now, which is something I always enjoyed.

"The honourable Prime Minister [Sheikh Hasina] gave me the opportunity and as you know I have a foundation which works for the people of my hometown. I think it's a great opportunity

for me to work for the people and only from that point I thought that there won't be an election after eight nine-months," he continued.

The 35-year-old further elaborated his reasons for joining politics at this point by informing that it is his passion to serve the people on a broader scale and only a politics could help him achieve that goal. In addition, he referenced how he is not Sachin

Tendulkar nor Glenn McGrath that everyone will remember him after his playing career.

The name Mashrafe is in the hearts of the entire nation, however, his introduction to politics will give rise to new opponents but the pacer made clear that his main aim is to serve the people.

In came a yorker when he was told that many young politicians had given hopes of change in the past but eventu-

I am not Sachin Tendulkar or Glenn McGrath that people will remember my name long after I am gone from the sport, I played cricket my way. Despite my struggles, I played as well as I could throughout my career. However, I always enjoyed working for the people, you could say it was a childhood dream.

MASHRAFE BIN MORTAZA  
BANGLADESH ODI SKIPPER

ally went on to work in the 'conventional way' and ended up as disappointments.

"Look I am not here to show dreams. If there is anything conventional I won't say anything like that which you are not going to relate in future. If you want to review my work after I'm elected, you can," Mashrafe assured.

Lastly, there was a well directed bouncer aimed at his silence during the quota reform and road safety demonstra-

tions but Mashrafe managed to duck.

"What happened in the quota demonstration, I was never involved in such deep politics and I don't know about it. What I said clearly is that my intention is very simple and that I get the peace of mind by serving people.

"If you think of me as a deep level politician, that is not what I am as I am relatively inexperienced. But what I said is that I want to do good work," he added.

Politics in Bangladesh has always been uncertain and so Mashrafe opined that it is important to keep your intentions clear and not worry about the consequences.

Heading towards the end of an eventful session, Mashrafe was asked if he is ahead of his opponent in the upcoming election, he played a delightful cover drive for a boundary and said, "I have never said that I am better than him. I respect him, how could I disrespect him and say that I am better than him? Look I am a sportsman and there has to be that mentality there."

He may be a greenhorn in politics but Mashrafe showed that he certainly has learned a few things already when asked why people would vote for him.

"Everyone has one vote each and if someone thinks I am capable he will vote for me," he said.

However, he concluded with: "At the moment, political campaigning is not allowed."

## Gold Cup underway

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Manikganj

Dashara Palli Mangal Samity (DPMS) registered an emphatic win in their opening match of the Manikganj Municipality Gold Cup Cricket

Tournament, defeating Young Strangers by 137 runs at the Shaheed Miraz-Tapan Stadium yesterday.

After electing to bat, DPMS put up 266 runs for six wickets in 40 overs. Sagar top scored for the side with 85. In reply, Young Strangers were all out on 140 runs in 36.3 overs.

Rajib of DPMS, who picked up four wickets, was adjudged the man-of-the-match.

## Arambagh, Saif SC through to last 8

SPORTS REPORTER

Arambagh Krira Shangha moved into the quarterfinals of the Walton Independence Cup with a 2-1 victory over Team BJMC in their Group A fixture at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The win ensured Maruful Haque's charges a place in the last eight as Team BJMC were eliminated from the three-team group with two defeats in two matches. Saif Sporting Club, who had beaten Team BJMC 1-0 in the first game of the group, also went through.

Rabiul Hasan gave Arambagh a fourth-minute lead with a brilliant free-kick as his left-footer from 25 yards curled into the left side of the baffled Team BJMC goalkeeper

Shohag Hossain.

Team BJMC found the equaliser in the 37th minute when Nigerian forward Samson Iliasu turned in a cross from the left flank into the far post from the edge of the six-yard box.

However, Arambagh regained their advantage just before the break, with Arifur Rahman slotting home past Shohag from the top of the box after a quick one-two with Cameroonian forward Paul Emile.

Maruful was not satisfied with the performance of his players as he felt the team were demoralised after their quarterfinal exit from the Federation Cup. "It was difficult to motivate the players after the Federation Cup exit. Not happy with overall performance but still it's enough to bag the win and three points."



TEAM BJMC 1 - 2 ARAMBAGH  
ILIASU 37' RABIUL 4', ARIFUR 45+2'



Tamim Iqbal gives some advice to his opening partner Soumya Sarkar at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday ahead of the three-match ODI series against West Indies starting on November 9.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Icardi Serie A's best

AFP, Milan

Inter Milan's Argentina striker Mauro Icardi won the Serie A Footballer of the Year award at the Gran Gala del Calcio ceremony in Milan on Monday night.

The 25-year-old becomes the first player outside Juventus to win the Italian Players' Association award, voted for by his peers, since Zlatan Ibrahimovic with AC Milan in 2011.

Icardi was joint top scorer with Lazio's Ciro Immobile in Serie A last season with 29 goals.

The Argentine also won the best goal award for his spectacular backheel during a four-goal haul against Sampdoria last March.

Icardi disagreed with the choice, insisting his "one (goal) at AC Milan was more beautiful".

Juventus were voted top team with Massimiliano Allegri winning coach of the year after the Turin side won a league and Cup double for the fourth consecutive year.

"It's a group of great men, with a great club behind us," said Allegri, who has won

the award four times.

"I'm fortunate to have worked with so many marvellous players and tonight I see the maestro Andrea Pirlo too."

Allegri's side are on track for an eighth straight Serie A title, with Allegri hailing the impact of five-time Ballon d'Or winner Cristiano Ronaldo who arrived last summer.

"Ronaldo has brought professionalism, competitiveness and is a humble guy," said Allegri.

Portuguese star Ronaldo finished runner-up to Croatia's Luka Modric in this year's Ballon d'Or prize which was awarded in Paris on Monday.

Fiorentina's Italian international defender Alia Guagni won the Serie A women's Player of the Year award.

Roma legend Francesco Totti and former AC Milan and Juventus great Pirlo both received Lifetime Achievement Awards.

Meanwhile, Gianluca Rocchi won the award for the best referee 24 hours after being whistled off the pitch at the Stadio Olimpico over his decision not to award Roma a penalty in a 2-2 draw against Inter Milan.



(L-R) Best strikers of Serie A Lazio's Ciro Immobile, Inter's Mauro Icardi and Juventus's Paulo Dybala pose with their Best XI awards at the "Gran Gala del Calcio" awards ceremony in Milan on Monday. Icardi (C) also won the Footballer of the Year award.

PHOTO: AFP

### SHORT CORNER



**Gambhir quits cricket**

Former India opening batsman Gautam Gambhir on Tuesday announced his retirement from all forms of cricket, saying his time to continue with the game was over.

The 37-year-old Delhi batsman announced his decision in a video post on his Twitter handle.

Gambhir played in 58 Tests between 2004 and 2016, scoring 4154 runs at an average of 41.95, with the help of nine hundreds and 22 fifties. He also played in

147 ODIs between 2003 and 2013, besides featuring in 37 T20 Internationals. --Pti

**Super sub Milik lifts Napoli**

Arkadiusz Milik came off the bench to snatch a late 2-1 win for Napoli over Atalanta on Monday that consolidated second place in Serie A and reduced the gap on leaders Juventus to eight points.

Polish forward Milik scored the winner five minutes from time shortly after coming on after Fabian Ruiz had put the visitors ahead just two minutes into the clash in Bergamo and former Napoli man Duvan Zapata had pulled Atalanta level 11 minutes after the break.

"It's a very, very important goal for all of us," said Napoli coach Ancelotti.

"Milik went through a difficult period because he didn't play consistently, but he remained motivated and focused, so deserves this." --AFP

**PSG game postponed by Paris police**

Paris Saint-Germain's home Ligue 1 game against Montpellier on Saturday has been postponed after a request from police in the French capital, the club said on Tuesday.

The match was due to be played at 4:00 pm (1500 GMT) at the Parc des Princes. No reason was given for the postponement but it is likely to be down to security concerns.

Paris has been the scene of protests for three weekends running from "yellow vest" demonstrators unhappy at planned fuel tax rises. --AFP

**Qatar World Cup games could start at 1000 GMT**

World Cup matches in Qatar could kick-off as early as 1000 GMT if it holds four games a day during the 2022 tournament group stage, organisers confirmed Tuesday.

The other three games would start at 1300, 1600 and 1900 GMT, Nasser al-Khater, assistant secretary general for the World Cup organising body the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, told local broadcaster, Qatar Television.

"There's a proposition to hold four matches a day, one at 1300, 1600, 1900, and 2200 Doha time. This will be finalised with FIFA," he said.

"We are currently planning for three matches per day, but also considering four a day as the weather and temperature will be good, and also all stadiums enjoying air conditioning." --AFP

**Klopp accepts FA charge**

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp accepted on Tuesday a charge of misconduct levelled by the Football Association (FA), saying "if you break rules you have to pay for it."

The 51-year-old German had been charged after his exuberant celebrations following Divock Origi's goal in the 96th minute for Liverpool in the Merseyside derby with Everton on Sunday which gave them a 1-0 victory.

The Liverpool manager had already admitted after the match his behaviour was "not cool" and at his press conference on Tuesday said he held his hands up to the charge. --AFP

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