

What to WATCH

GTV & MAASRANGA
Bangladesh Premier League
Phase One
Rajshahi Kings v Rangpur Riders
Live from 1:30pm
Ctg Vikings v Comilla Victorians

Live from 6:30pm
SONY ESPN
South Africa v Pakistan
Third Test, Day Three
Live from 2:00pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
English Premier League
Everton v Bournemouth
Live from 8:15pm
Tottenham v Man United
Live from 10:30pm

TEN 2
La Liga
Athletic Bilbao v Sevilla
Live from 9:15pm
Barcelona v Eibar
Live from 11:30pm

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh Premier League
Phase One
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium

Rajshahi Kings v Rangpur Riders
Time: 1:30pm

Chittagong Vikings v Comilla Victorians
Time: 6:30pm



Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah celebrates after scoring a 50th minute penalty against Brighton & Hove Albion which saw his side win 1-0 at the Falmer Stadium yesterday, lifting The Reds seven points clear of Manchester City on top of the Premier League table.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Richardson thwarts Sharma

Australia beat India by 34 runs

REUTERS, Sydney

 Paceman Jhye Richardson took four for 26 as Australia finally gave their fans something to smile about with a 34-run victory over India in the first one-day international on Saturday despite a magnificent 133 from Rohit Sharma.

It was only a fourth win in 20 one-dayers going back to June 2017 for world champions Australia and came at the same Sydney Cricket Ground where their first home test series loss to India was sealed on Monday.

The home batsmen, led by Peter Handscomb's 73, posted a competitive 288 for five off their 50 overs and when



Australia pacer Jhye Richardson ran through India's middle-order, scalping the prized wicket of Virat Kohli and three others for just 26 runs, to lead the hosts to a win in the first ODI in Sydney yesterday.

PHOTO: ICC

ers with 2-54 but it was the Australian seamers who were to leave the most decisive mark on the contest.

Debutant Jason Behrendorff removed Shikhar Dhawan in the first over and Richardson drove home the advantage by sending Virat Kohli and Ambati Rayudu back inside three balls.

Rohit, though, would not be cowed and he clubbed a huge six -- one of six in his 129-ball innings -- to move into the seventies before reaching the hundred mark for the 22nd time with two runs behind square.

His celebration of a seventh ton against Australia was subdued as there was still plenty of work to do and once he holed out to Glenn Maxwell in the deep off the bowling of Stoinis, the match was effectively over.

Richardson also removed Ravindra Jadeja and Dinesh Karthik for his best bowling figures in ODIs and the tourists finished on 254-9.

"I'm very pleased," said Finch. "We knew that they would try and take it deep and luckily we were able to take

wickets and stem the flow.

"Anytime you get a team three down so early and three big guns is very important. The youngster Jhye is full of confidence and he's some pace."

India were without KL Rahul and Hardik Pandya, who were suspended and sent home pending an inquiry into comments they made about women on a TV show this week which have been condemned as sexist.

"We're not very pleased with the way we played," said Kohli. "That wicket was about 300-plus par. I think Rohit played outstandingly well and MS supported him but I thought we could have done better with the tempo of the game and we fell short."

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: 288 for 5 in 50 overs (Kohli 59, Marsh 54, Handscomb 73; Kumar 2-66, Yadav 2-54)

INDIA: 254 for 9 in 50 overs (Sharma 133, Dhoni 5; Behrendorff 2-39, Richardson 4-26, Stoinis 2-66)

Result: Australia won by 34 runs.

Player-of-the-match: Jhye Richardson.

India stumbled to four for three inside four overs, it looked like being a rout.

Rohit, who missed the final Test to go home for the birth of his first child, celebrated his return to the tour with a 138-run partnership with Mahendra Singh Dhoni (51) to get the innings back on track, however, and while he was batting, India had a chance.

Australia, wearing a retro canary yellow kit, won the toss and skipper and opener Aaron Finch decided to bat only to depart for a meagre six runs.

Usman Khawaja (59), on his return to one-day internationals after nearly two years, put on 92 for the fourth wicket with Shaun Marsh (54), however, and Handscomb and Marcus Stoinis (47) cashed in at the end.

Left-arm finger spinner Kuldeep Yadav was the pick of the Indian bowl-

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TRAINING THROUGH THE PAIN



Andy Murray, who stated on Friday that the Australian Open may be his final tournament, was seen in training yesterday. However, even during the light session, his condition was made clear when the three-time Grand Slam winner clutched his injured hip before walking to the sidelines for a rest.

PHOTO: AUSTRALIAN OPEN

National School Cricket underway

SPORTS REPORTER



The Prime Bank National School Cricket, a major grassroots tournament, got underway on January 10 in Faridpur.

The excitement and enthusiasm which was once present in school level cricket started to slowly return after the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) began their journey with Prime Bank as sponsors of the event in 2015.

BCB age-level tournament committee chairman Tanjil Chowdhury expressed his willingness to continue the good work during a press conference at the BCB media centre in Mirpur yesterday.

"The lost tradition of school level cricket has almost returned in the past three years. The young cricketers emerged from school level cricket and are now doing well for different age-level national sides. We have been able to continue school level cricket [tournaments] with immense success. The cricket board [the BCB] will make long term plans regarding these young cricketers in the future."

The competition will take place across the country and is set to feature a total of 965 ODI matches in three phases -- 901 fixtures at district level, 57 at divisional level and seven in the National Championship -- with 11,120 budding cricketers from 556 different schools taking part.

"It is always special to be a part of Bangladesh cricket's advancement. Not only sponsoring the tournament, we are also trying to have a part in the development of cricket," said Prime Bank Chief Executive Rahel Ahmed.

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BPL to begin Jan 18

Venue list trimmed to six; duration shortened

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Premier League will get underway on January 18 with the participation of 13 clubs playing at six different venues across the country instead of the previously proposed eight.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the professional football league committee, which also agreed to reduce the duration of the country's top-tier professional football league in line with demands from participating clubs.

at the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) House yesterday.

"We had prepared a draft fixture with eight venues but two of them are not available at the moment and more time is needed to prepare the Faridpur venue. So we decided to hold the league at six venues in Dhaka, Gopalganj, Nilphamari, Noakhali and Sylhet," said league committee chairman and BFF senior vice president Abdus Salam Mursedy after the meeting.

"We initially thought of having three matchdays a week, but now there will be four matchdays a week so clubs can cut down on expenditure. We are hoping to complete the league by mid-July," said Mursedy.

Ending the league in mid-July means that the duration has been cut down by only three weeks compared to the draft fixture, which scheduled the league to end on August 10, and that matches would be affected by the rainy season.

However Mursedy believed rain would not be an obstacle to holding matches as they have now six venues, unlike the previous season when they had only one.

Muktijoddha Sangsad, Sheikh Russel KC, Team BJMC, Bashundhara Kings and NoFeL SC selected home venues outside the capital, while the eight others made their home venue the Bangabandhu National Stadium, which will host the opening match between Abahani and NoFeL SC on January 10.

Leeds sorry for spying scandal

AGENCIES, London

Marcelo Bielsa has been reminded of his responsibilities by Leeds United, and the club's owner Andrea Radizzani has apologised to Derby County counterpart Mel Morris over the spying scandal.

Derby claimed on Friday that a man caught acting "suspiciously" near their training ground a day previously was a Leeds employee, an incident that will be investigated by the Football Association.

Police confirmed a man was found and questioned at the perimeter fence of the complex, before being sent on his way with no arrest made.

Leeds boss Bielsa accepted in a pre-match interview before Friday's 2-0 win over the Rams that he was personally responsible for sending a club employee but showed little remorse in a remarkable defence of his actions.

The Championship leaders have now stated their intention to speak with Bielsa, who conceded he personally sent the man in question without notifying the club, regarding his remarks.

A club statement read: "Following comments made by Marcelo Bielsa yesterday the club will look to work with our head coach and his staff to remind them of the integrity and honesty which are the foundations that Leeds United is built on."