

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

GTV & MAASRANGA

Bangladesh Premier League

Phase Three

Comilla Victorians v Rajshahi Kings

Live from 1:30pm

Chittagong Vikings v Dhaka Dynamites

Live from 6:30pm

SONY SIX & TEN 2

Australian Open

Round-4

Men's/Women's Singles

Live from 8:15am

TEN 1

La Liga

Eibar v Espanyol

Bangladesh Premier League

Phase Three

Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium

Comilla Victorians v Rajshahi Kings

Time: 1:30pm

Chittagong Vikings v Dhaka Dynamites

Time: 6:30pm

Mohammedan's Nigerian striker Kingsley Chigozie (C) is the toast of his teammates after scoring twice against Team BJMC during their Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

# Kingsley downs 10-man BJMC

SPORTS REPORTER

After being eliminated from the group stages of the season's first two tournaments, falling giants Mohammedan SC may have begun their resurgence with a 2-1 win over 10-man Team BJMC in their first match of the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Away at the Rafique Uddin Bhuiyan Stadium in Mymensingh, title contenders Sheikh Russel KC also got off to a winnings start by defeating the formidable Arambagh KS 1-0.

Mohammedan SC, who had to quit the Independence Cup with two consecutive draws against Sheikh Jamal DC and minnows Rahmatganj MFS, had last month replaced English coach Christopher Evans with local coach Ali Asgar Nasir. Yesterday's win was the Black and Whites' second overall in six matches of the season. It was also Mohammedan's fifth victory over Team BJMC in 14 league outings.

Mohammedan captain Kingsley Chigozie was the architect behind the triumph as the Nigerian marksman struck the winning goal in second half stoppage time after his first strike was cancelled by Uzbek striker Otabek.

"It is a good result for us as we made a win-

ning start, we want to keep this momentum intact for the coming matches," said Kingsley.

Coach Nasir elected to play three central defenders in the match with Japanese midfielder Uryu Nagata marshalling their once vulnerable backline.

The Black and Whites packed the centre field with five midfielders, lead by Landing Darboe, who came close to breaking the deadlock in the 23rd minute with a left-footer from inside the box but it careened miles off target before

MOHAMMEDAN	2 - 1	TEAM BJMC
Kingsley-34, 90+3		Otabek-45+4
ARAMBAGH	0 - 1	SHEIKH RUSSEL
		Azizov-3

Abdullah Al Mamun drove wide on the six-yard box to frustrate Team BJMC two minutes later.

Mohammedan finally took the lead through a Kingsley header as the Gambian connected with a lob from Landing in the 34th minute but Uzbekistan striker Otabek equalled the margin with a freekick in first half stoppage time.

After resumption, both teams fought to get their noses in front but Team BJMC were forced onto their back foot when Cameroonian

Yes, I'm getting goal lonely and it is my job to score. I think my team-mates will come join me [in scoring] because anything can happen in football.

**KINGSLEY CHIGOZIE**  
MOHAMMEDAN STRIKER

defender Baybeck Fombage was sent off in the 80th minute. Mohammedan took the advantage with both hands as they struck the winner in the dying moments of the game.

Substitute Kaiser Al Rabbi whipped in a perfect cross from the left-flank which Kingsley headed home three minutes into the five-minute added time.

In Mymensingh, Uzbekistan forward Azizov Alisher scored in the very third minute to ensure a 1-0 victory for Federation Cup and Independence Cup runners-up Sheikh Russel against Arambagh KS. This was Sheikh Russel's ninth victory over Arambagh KS in 17 league matches.

## SHORT CORNER

PHOTO: AFP

Arsenal's Laurent Koscielny celebrates after scoring the second goal against Chelsea in their Premier League match at the Emirates Stadium on Saturday.

**Sarri slams mentally weak Chelsea**

Chelsea manager Maurizio Sarri labelled his players mentally weak and "difficult to motivate" after losing 2-0 at Arsenal in a toothless performance on Saturday.

The Gunners blew the race for a top-four Premier League finish wide open as first-half goals from Alexandre Lacazette and Laurent Koscielny closed Arsenal and Manchester United, who beat Brighton earlier in the day, to within three points of Chelsea in fourth.

"I'm extremely angry, very angry indeed. This defeat was due to our mentality more than anything else, our mental approach. We played against a team more determined than we were and I can't accept that," said Sarri, who chose to speak through a translator in his native Italian to clearly explain the scale of his frustration.

--AFP

**Atletico shoot for football in cricket-mad Pakistan**

Spain's Atletico Madrid are taking on a challenge tougher than winning La Liga -- developing football in cricket-mad Pakistan, where bat and ball are king, pitches come with stumps not goalposts, and even the prime minister is a former World Cup winner.

During a recent session at the club's new facility in Lahore -- the country's first European football academy -- a cabal of Spanish coaches watched as a new class of young Pakistani hopefuls fired off penalty kicks.

"We are not looking for players for Atletico Madrid because we know that this is going to be very difficult... Our target is to improve the football here," coach Javier Visea told AFP.

--AFP

**Inter launch anti-racism campaign**

Inter Milan launched their anti-racism campaign in reaction to last month's abuse of Senegalese defender Kalidou Koulibaly as 11,000 local schoolchildren watched a goalless draw with Sassuolo at the San Siro on Saturday.

Inter Milan were ordered to play two matches behind closed doors as punishment for racist chants and monkey noises directed at Napoli's Koulibaly on December 26.

Luciano Spalletti's side responded, with permission from Serie A, by inviting children from local schools to the stadium as they launched their 'BUU' initiative, aimed at turning the chant into an acronym for 'Brothers Universally United'.

--AFP

**Technology still error-prone: Taufel**

Former cricket umpire Simon Taufel believes the use of technology is not foolproof and that it too is prone to errors. The biggest example of technology cricket has embraced is the use of the DRS, the Decision Review System than challenges the umpires' on-field call, and Taufel feels no matter how much of a presence technology has in decision-making, it can still err.

"Technology should be there to support improved decision making, not replace the decision-making responsibility and role of the umpire. There should be a balance of technology in the game, where we do not see an over reliance on technology and remove the human element because just like people, technology is also fallible at times," Taufel told Times of India.

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# Man City cut Liverpool gap

AFP, Huddersfield

**Premier League**

Manchester City reduced Liverpool's lead at the top of the English Premier League table to four points as they eventually found top gear to win 3-0 away to basement club Huddersfield Town on Sunday.

This was by no means City's most outstanding display of the season but, ultimately, goals from Danilo, Raheem Sterling and Leroy Sane ensured they did not trip up in the latest leg of their quest to keep the Premier League title-race alive.

Liverpool's captivating 4-3 victory over Crystal Palace on Saturday ensured this was a crunch fixture for

PHOTO: AFP

Manchester City winger Leroy Sane salutes the fans after scoring the third goal during their Premier League clash against Huddersfield Town at the John Smith's Stadium yesterday.

## MOURINHO HID IN LAUNDRY TO SKIRT BAN

Jose Mourinho admitted Saturday that he once got round a two-match ban by hiding in a laundry basket so he could give a team-talk before a Champions League match.

Mourinho, sacked by Manchester United in December, told BeIn Sports how he skirted a touchline suspension on the eve of the 2005 quarter-final against Bayern Munich by getting the Chelsea kit man to help him stow away in the basket. "I go to the dressing room during the day so I was there from midday and the game is seven o'clock. I just want to be in the dressing room when the players arrive," the 55-year-old recalled. "I went there and nobody see me. The problem was to leave after. And the kit man put me in the basket. It was a little bit open so I could breathe.

--AFP

# Stefanos stuns Federer

AFP, Melbourne

**AO**

Defending champion Roger Federer was stunned by fiery Greek Stefanos Tsitsipas who ended his bid for a record seventh Australian Open Sunday on a day of upsets that also saw second seed Angelique Kerber crash out.

The Swiss master caved in under the energy and pressure of a man 17 years his junior to tumble out 6-7 (11/13), 7-6 (7/3), 7-5, 7-6 (7/5) in the last 16 on Rod Laver Arena.

World number two Kerber was also sensationally bundled out by a woman playing the event for the first time, with American Danielle Collins humiliating the Wimbledon champion 6-0, 6-2 in under an hour.

The man Federer beat in last year's final, sixth seed Marin Cilic, was also sent packing by Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut, who now plays Tsitsipas in the quarter-finals.

Five-time Grand Slam winner Maria Shaparova was another to fall, but there was no such drama for a rampant Rafael Nadal who powered into the last eight with a straight sets win over Tomas Berdych.

Federer was gunning for a 21st Grand Slam title but had a battle on his hands from

off against the 20-year-old.

"I'm the happiest man on Earth right now, I cannot describe it," said the 14th seed, who is the first Greek in history to reach the quarter-finals of a Slam.

"I've been idolising him (Federer) since the age of six. It was a dream come true for me just being on Rod Laver facing him. Winning at the end, I can't describe it."

The Swiss great was gracious in defeat, saying "I lost to a better player who was playing very well, who hung in there and stayed calm".

Men's second seed Nadal, returning from foot surgery, barrelled past former world number four Tomas Berdych 6-0, 6-1, 7-6 (7/4) as he stays on track for an 18th Grand Slam title.

"I always say the same when I am back for injury," said the Spaniard. "I don't expect negative or positive things. I just try to do my work every day and just be with (the) right attitude every single day."

He will play world number 39 Frances Tiafoe for a place in the semi-finals after the young American celebrated his 21st birthday by grinding his way past Grigor Dimitrov 7-5, 7-6 (8/6), 6-7 (1/7), 7-5.

Hometown hero Ashleigh Barty also made the last eight after muscling past Sharapova and will next meet Petra Kvitova.

Greece's 20-year-old Stefanos Tsitsipas (Top) celebrates his stunning victory against a dejected Roger Federer during their Australian Open men's singles match in Melbourne yesterday. Federer became the second superstar to make a sudden exit from the tournament following Andy Murray.

PHOTO: AFP

## Bumrah's yorker is best: Akram

PTI, New Delhi

Back in his time, he knew a thing or two about bowling 'toe-crushers' and no wonder Wasim Akram is all praise for Jasprit Bumrah's ability to bowl the "most effective yorker" currently in world cricket.

Bumrah, who played a pivotal role in India's maiden Test series win on Australian soil, has been the X factor in Virat Kohli's set-up.

"Jasprit Bumrah has the best and the most effective yorker among fast bowlers playing international cricket now," Akram told PTI during an interaction.

Arguably the greatest left-arm fast bowler to have ever played the game, Akram believes that Bumrah will make a difference during death overs at this year's World Cup with his 'go to ball'.

"Bumrah has an exceptional action, very different from other fast bowlers and yet he gets the ball to swing and also move off the deck at good pace," Akram said.

"But what makes Bumrah special is his ability to bowl yorkers on a regular basis. Also yorker is not just used for ODIs but for Test matches too as me and Waqar did in our times," the bowler nicknamed the Sultan of Swing said.

A lot of it Akram believes could be attributed to tennis ball cricket, which helps aspiring bowlers perfect their yorkers.