

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

GTV & MAASRANGA

Bangladesh Premier League

Phase Three

Khulna Titans v Rangpur Riders

Live from 1:30pm

Comilla Victorians v Dhaka Dynamites

Live from 6:30pm

SONY ESPN

South Africa v Pakistan

Second ODI (D/N)

Live from 5:00pm

SONY SIX & TEN 2

Australian Open

Men's/Women's Quarterfinals

Live from 7:30pm

Bangladesh Premier League

Phase Three

Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium

Khulna Titans v Rangpur Riders

Time: 1:30pm

Comilla Victorians v Dhaka Dynamites

Time: 6:30pm

MOSES WANTS £2.86M 'ASSURANCE FEE'

Chelsea winger, Victor Moses has made a sensational demand of £2.86m as an 'assurance fee' from Fernebahce, in the likelihood of the team getting relegated after he joins them, reports footballlive.ng. The report at the weekend said Fernebahce were still keen on adding Moses to their squad this month but, though the Istanbul-based side have reached an agreement with Chelsea for the winger, the former Super Eagles star is holding out for possible damages. Apart from a princely assurance fee, Moses is also seeking 200,000 euros in bonus fee, if he helps Fernebahce avoid relegation, while preparing a cushion in the event that he failed to save them from demotion. The winger's caution is based on the startling reality that Fenerbahce are in the Turkish Super Lig relegation zone after the first stanza, as The Yellow Navy Blues sit 17th on the 18-team table with 16 points.

—AGENCIES

Serena sends Halep packing

Djokovic outlasts Medvedev

AFP, Melbourne

A fired-up Serena Williams slugged past world number one Simona Halep Monday as she inches ever closer to a 24th Grand Slam title, while Novak Djokovic survived a battle to stay on course for a record seventh Australian

Open crown.

In a towering performance, the American great scored her biggest win since having a baby to grind down the Romanian top seed 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 and move into a quarter-final against seventh seed Karolina Pliskova.

Czech Pliskova is another form player, winning the warm-up Brisbane International and easing past two-time Grand Slam winner Garbine Muguruza 6-3, 6-1 to set up the Williams clash.

"I'm such a fighter, I never give up," declared Williams after the epic encounter.

"It was an intense match and there were some incredible points but I love playing tennis and being out here and I love this court, it's really cool to be back."

While Williams stayed calm, highly-rated German fourth seed Alexander Zverev lost the plot against Canadian Milos Raonic, crashing 6-1, 6-1, 7-6 (7/5) and demolishing a racquet in a massive meltdown.

And Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta also let the pressure get to him, ranting at the umpire after a disputed call when leading the final tiebreak 8-5 against Japan's Kei Nishikori.

He failed to win another point and was booed as he stormed off Margaret Court Arena, angrily throwing his kit bag after losing a 5hr 5min marathon 6-7 (8/10), 4-6, 7-6 (7/4), 6-4, 7-6 (10/8).

Nishikori will now play six-time champion Djokovic, who dropped a set for the second match in a row before seeing off 15th-seeded Daniil Medvedev 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 6-2, 6-3.

"It was definitely a physical battle. It was difficult to get through him," the Serbian world number one said. "In these kinds of matches you just have to hang in there."

Serena Williams exults after winning a point against Simona Halep during a 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 defeat of the world number one in their Australian Open encounter in Melbourne yesterday. (Inset) Novak Djokovic celebrates his 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 6-2, 6-3 victory against Daniil Medvedev in a men's singles round of 16 match.

PHOTO: AFP

Shai is class: Sobers

ICC

Shai Hope, the Windies batsman, has come in for effusive praise from the legendary Sir Garry Sobers, who said the 25-year-old was "class".

Sobers -- widely recognised as one of the game's greatest all-rounders with 8032 runs and 235 wickets in 93 Tests for the Windies -- was immediately impressed by Hope the first time he saw him, when he spent a few weeks coaching the Windies side.

In his conversations with the young batsman, Sobers told him he could "add another string to your bow".

"I saw him when the president [of Cricket West Indies] asked me to come down and do some coaching with the team for four or five weeks," Sobers told Sky Sports. "The first time I saw him, I said, 'Pfft, this is class! This is class.'"

However, Sobers noticed a few things in Hope that he could help make better. "He had one shot that I didn't want to take away from him because he played it all the time," said Sobers. "[He] was hitting the off-spinners, trying to hit them through mid-off and that kind of thing.

"Never take away what a player has. Try to help him with the others or try to

help him to play that shot better. After about two or three weeks watching him, I just said to him, 'Shai, that's your shot, don't lose it, don't let anybody take that away from you but I can just give you another string to your bow.

"There are only two men behind square (on the leg-side), that's a big area for two men to control. If you went over to the off stump a little bit, do you know how many runs you could score through there? They can't put anybody else there, only two. Try it, if you can't do

it, put it away, play the way you play but just give it a try in the nets, practise it and see how it works for you."

And that, in essence, is Sobers' coaching policy. He said it's about improving players, not taking away something that comes naturally to them -- something Sobers believed modern coaches were guilty of.

"The coaches today just say, 'No, bad shot. Don't do that. Do this and do that,'" said Sobers. "I believe some of the coaching now is wrong. I don't know why."

West Indies legend Sir Garry Sobers (C) gives batsman Shai Hope (L) some pointers during a recent net session.

PHOTO: ICC

Funding concerns put SA Games prep on hold

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) will most probably delay preparations for the upcoming South Asian (SA) Games until the government allocates the necessary funds. The BOA has already submitted a whopping Tk 56 crore budget to prepare for and participate in three meets -- the SA Games, Bangladesh Games and Olympic Games.

The 13th SA Games was initially scheduled to start in March but hosts Nepal deferred the multi-sport event by five months, possibly till September but nothing has been confirmed yet.

Bangladesh had prepared for one year ahead of the 10th SA Games in Dhaka, where they bagged 99 medals, 18 of which were gold. However, in the next edition in India, Bangladesh failed miserably as they won only three gold medals on the back of short-term training.

"Before, we began preparation for the SA Games with our own funds and adjusted it when the government released the funds. But this time around, we don't have enough funds to run a training camp for the SA Games. So, we can't start the SA Games training until the government allocates the training funds," said BOA secretary general Syed Shahed Reza yesterday.

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SYED SHAHED REZA
BOA SECRETARY GENERAL

"However, the good news is that we met with the finance minister and sports minister yesterday [Sunday] and got a positive response from them about allocating the funds for training," informed Reza.

Reza also informed that hosts Nepal have yet to declare a possible schedule for the SA Games and that even the BOA is not getting a proper response from the Nepal Olympic Association.

"If Nepal do not inform about the schedules for the SA Games within one or two months, we will not participate; rather we will stage Bangladesh Games in the latter part of the year or early next year and thus start training, subject to the availability of funds," continued Reza.

SA desperate to draw level

AGENCIES, Durban

After a morale-boosting five-wicket win in Port Elizabeth, Pakistan will look to build on the momentum and keep the pressure on South Africa when they collide again in the second ODI in Durban on Tuesday.

Pakistan, however, will expect their bowlers to strike early considering South Africa are not the type of team who will keep repeating the same mistakes.

After slipping to a five-wicket loss in the first ODI, South Africa will be desperate to draw level, and prevent the deficit from becoming even steeper in the five-match series.

South Africa lost just two wickets in the series opener in Port Elizabeth, but still couldn't breach the 300-run mark, ending the innings at 266/2. It was a target that Mohammad Hafeez, the Pakistan batsman, said his side were always confident of chasing, given it was "below par".

Warner to undergo surgery

AFP, Sydney

Banned former Australian vice-captain David Warner is expected to undergo minor surgery on his elbow Tuesday after returning home from the Bangladesh Premier League with an injury.

Warner, alongside former skipper Steve Smith and batsman Cameron Bancroft, was suspended from international cricket over a ball-tampering scandal during a Test match in South Africa last March.

The 32-year-old returned to Australia last week following a stint with the Sylhet Sixers in the Bangladesh Twenty20 tournament after he reported pain in his right elbow.

Warner's elbow will be assessed in Melbourne on Tuesday, before he is expected to undergo minor surgery, cricket.com.au reported Monday.

Cricket Australia's website said Warner's condition was not believed to be as serious as the elbow injury sustained by Smith, also in the Bangladesh tournament.

SHORT CORNER

Dembele sidelined for two weeks

Barcelona's French international forward Ousmane Dembele will be out for two weeks after spraining his ankle in Sunday's 3-1 victory over Leganes, the Spanish champions said on Monday.

The news comes as a blow for the 21-year-old, who opened the scoring for the La Liga leaders and has impressed in recent weeks, netting six times in his last 10 outings.

The injury means he is likely to miss both legs of their Copa del Rey quarter-final with Sevilla, and Sunday's Catalan derby at Girona.

It is also possible that he could be sidelined for the visit of Valencia at the beginning of February, although he should be fit for Barca's Champions League last-16 meeting with Olympique Lyonnais in February.

—REUTERS

Rokeya House retains title

Rokeya House retained the Shaheed Bir Uttam Lt. Anwar Girls' College's Inter-house Annual Sports Competition title while Mashuda Bil Jannah became champion of the individual category.

Rokeya House bagged 233 points, 23 points more than runners-up Rabeya Basari. Mashuda bagged seven points, said a press release yesterday.

The two-day competition ended on Monday with the chief patron of the college -- Major General M Nazrul Islam -- distributing prizes among the winners while the principle and teachers, high-ups of civil and military administrations, guardians and students were present on the occasion.

—SPORTS REPORTER

Shuttlers get training

A badminton training course, organised by Officers Club, concluded at the Officers' Club premises yesterday with some 32 budding shuttlers taking part in the 15-day training.

Former national shuttler Anayet Ullah Khan conducted the training course. Khan informed that some 15 shuttlers were selected for the second-phase of training.

—SPORTS REPORTER

Rashford on same level as Ronaldo, Rooney

Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford is showing maturity beyond his years and can be a "top-class" player in the mould of Cristiano Ronaldo and Wayne Rooney, interim manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has said.

Rashford scored in Saturday's 2-1 Premier League win over Brighton and Hove Albion to take his overall tally to 41 goals in 150 appearances since making his debut in 2016.

"Definitely, he can be absolutely top-class," Solskjaer told reporters when the comparisons were suggested to him. "He is only 21 but the maturity he is showing at times is more than 21."

—REUTERS

Southgate cools United talk

Gareth Southgate insisted on Sunday his work as England manager was far from done as he indicated he had no interest in taking charge at Manchester United any time soon.

"I'm the England manager and it's a privileged position to be in," Southgate told Sky Sports.

A recent report in Britain's Sunday Telegraph said Southgate was on a shortlist being drawn up by Old Trafford chiefs as they sought a permanent replacement for the sacked Jose Mourinho.

But with Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, the caretaker manager, having won his first seven games in charge of United, the Red Devils may have a ready-made successor in their former striker.

—AFP

NZ women cricketers earn 91% less than commentators

With sportswomen world over pushing for pay parity, a startling revelation has been made in New Zealand cricket where reportedly a pay difference of 91% exists between a cricketer and a commentator. Former New Zealand cricketer Peter McGlashan made the claim on his Twitter account to highlight the wage difference in domestic cricket.

The Super Smash doubleheader at the Eden

Park Outer Oval witnessed Auckland Aces take on Otago Volts followed by the women's final between the Wellington Blaze and the Canterbury Magicians. McGlashan commented in both the games before revealing that he was paid more than any of the women players.

In his tweet, McGlashan revealed that seamer Mitchell McClenaghan earned \$575 for his commentating job while White Ferns and Wellington player Sophie Devine received just \$55.

—AGENCIES

How cricket helped Barty

Australia's Ashleigh Barty believes a decision to take a break from tennis and play professional cricket revived her career, giving her the drive to reach a Grand Slam quarter-final in Melbourne this week.

Barty will become the first local hope to play in the last eight at the Australian Open in a decade when she faces Czech rival Petra Kvitova on Tuesday.

The 22-year-old has already claimed her biggest scalp yet with a three-set triumph over five-time major champion Maria Sharapova on Sunday in front of a frenzied Melbourne Park crowd.

But Barty's career was in crisis a few years ago, when the Queenslander walked away from the sport she had played since she was a toddler.

Jaded with the constant travel and loneliness of being on tour, as well as the pressure from Australian fans desperate for Grand Slam success, Barty decided tennis was not for her.

She retired and in 2014 made the stunning announcement that she would instead play professional cricket in Brisbane, preferring a team sport over tennis' gladiatorial ethos.

"There's never a lonesome moment on the field if you're struggling," she said at the time. "There's 10 other girls that can help you out and get you through the tough times."

Barty played for the Brisbane Heat in the Women's Big Bash League, scoring 39 runs from 27 deliveries on debut against the Melbourne Stars.

—AFP

Messi inspires Barca

AFP, Barcelona

LaLiga

Ousmane Dembele gave Barcelona a glimpse into the future but Barcelona still needed Lionel Messi to beat Leganes 3-1 on Sunday and restore their five-point lead at the top of La Liga.

Messi had started on the bench, rested by coach Ernesto Valverde, and for just over an hour at the Camp Nou, Dembele filled the void by scoring the opening goal in a sparkling individual display.

The 21-year-old, however, limped off with a sprained ankle in the 69th minute,

shortly after Leganes had equalised through Martin Braithwaite and Valverde responded by introducing Messi.

He needed only seven minutes to make an impact as his bending shot was followed up by Luis Suarez, who poked the ball in ahead of Leganes goalkeeper Pichu Cuellar. Messi then rounded off the win by scoring himself in injury-time.

Leganes had protested against Suarez's finish, convinced that Pichu had been fouled by a high foot.

"It was a clear foul," coach Mauricio Pellegrino said. "Barca don't need these kind of decisions to help them."

Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi (L) celebrates his goal with teammate Jordi Alba during their 3-1 La Liga win against Leganes at the Nou Camp on Sunday. PHOTO: AFP