

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

CHANNEL 9 & STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

New Zealand v Bangladesh  
Second Test, Day five  
Live from 3:30am (Tuesday)

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2

Bundesliga  
Fortuna v Eintracht  
Live from 1:30am (Tuesday)

TEN 2

Serie A  
Roma v Empoli  
Live from 1:30am (Tuesday)

Dhaka Premier League

Time: 9:00am  
Abahani v Uttara SC  
Venue: KSOAS, Fatullah

Sheikh Jamal v Brothers Union

Venue: SBNS, Dhaka  
Legends of Rugganj v Shinepukur  
Venue: BKSP-3, Savar

# Reds stay in hunt

## Arsenal inflict damaging defeat on MU

AFP, London

**Premier League**

Liverpool cut Manchester City's lead at the top of the Premier League to a single point on Sunday as Manchester United slipped to their first domestic defeat under Ole Gunnar Solskjaer at Arsenal.

Chelsea, also in the hunt for the Champions League qualification spots, needed a last-gasp equaliser from Eden Hazard to earn 1-1 draw against Wolves.

A disappointing run of results has badly dented Liverpool's bid for a first English league title since 1990 and fans' nerves were jangling after they fell behind against struggling Burnley at Anfield on Sunday.

But Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mane both scored twice as Jurgen Klopp's team battled back to win 4-2, lifting them to 73 points, one behind Pep Guardiola's City, who saw off Watford on Saturday.

"The message from today is that nobody gets rid of us," said Klopp, whose team had won just two of their previous six Premier League matches. "We had the perfect mixture of fighting the opponent and playing football.

"All we have to do is make sure that we stay in this really interesting competition on top of the table. We have no problem with confidence, we're in a good moment."

Tottenham's third defeat in four Premier League matches on Saturday has thrown the



Arsenal striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang celebrates after scoring his side's second goal from a contentious penalty against Manchester United in a Premier League meeting yesterday. The 2-0 loss was a first domestic defeat for United boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

PHOTO: REUTERS



Lionel Messi scored a goal and set up another in Barcelona's 3-1 win over Rayo Vallecano in La Liga on Saturday night.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## 29TH NATIONAL SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

# Junayna shines on record-breaking day

SPORTS REPORTER



Junayna Ahmed, the England-born young Bangladeshi swimmer, met expectations to set two new national records out of five records set on the opening day of the Max Group 29th National Swimming, Diving and Waterpolo Championships at the Shaheed Nazrul Islam Swimming Complex in Mirpur yesterday.

The 17-year-old, who had set eight new records in the junior championships two years ago, won gold comfortably in the 200m freestyle and 200m backstroke events, in record time.

Appearing for Bangladesh Navy, Junayna set the pace in 200m freestyle, winning the dash in 2:19.89min, beating her nearest compatriot by more than 3.5 seconds. Her effort wiped out the 12-year-old record held by Sabura Khatun by close to five seconds. Navy's Sonia Akter Tumpa, the champion in the last edition, also set record time yet had to settle for the silver medal.

The teenager from England then went on to break the three-year-old record in 200m backstroke, finishing her dash in 2:40.75min, some 4.05 second faster than the previous record. The second-placed Suraiya Akter finished the dash



in 2:46.56min while former record holder Naima Akter finished third, 0.37 seconds further adrift.

Junayna was obviously satisfied with her performance but she expects more from herself. "I don't count gold medals or records, I just want to better my performance. I want to clock faster times," said the youngster, adding that her aim is to represent the Bangladesh national swimming team.

Junayna, though, was not the only swimmer to hog the limelight on the opening day as three other records were set by three different swimmers. Tumpa of Navy broke her own record by 1.09 seconds to win the gold in the 100m butter-

fly event.

In the men's section, Jewel Ahmed of Bangladesh Army broke a 16-year-old record, thus far held by Rubel Rana, to win the gold in 200m backstroke. He broke the record by 0.62 seconds while winning by 0.46 seconds against the second-placed Mamunur Rashid, who also bettered the previous record.

Mahmudun Nabi Nahid of Navy broke the 100m butterfly record, clocking 0:56.82min, beating the old record by 0.68 seconds.

Junayna, with two gold medals, led the women's medals tally while Tumpa was in second position with a gold and a silver. Among the men, Ariful Islam of Navy led the tally with a gold and a silver medal.

Navy took stranglehold of the medal tally with six gold, five silver and three bronze followed by two gold, two silver and five bronze medals won by Army. A total of eight events were decided on the opening day of the four-day meet.

Even though the organisers previously said that the electronic timer was made functional again, the events were yet again recorded on hand-timing, a continuation of the trend since the end of the 2010 South Asian Games.

# 'I haven't slept since MU defeat'

AFP, Paris



Kylian Mbappe said he was left "stunned" by Paris Saint-Germain's gut-wrenching exit from the Champions League as Manchester United pulled off an improbable comeback in the last 16.

Marcus Rashford's 94th-minute penalty at the Parc des Princes gave United a 3-1 win in France to send the English club through on away goals after becoming the first team in the competition's history to overturn a 2-0 home defeat.

"I'm stunned. I haven't been able to sleep," Mbappe said in an interview. "It's difficult, we'd worked so hard to get to this point and we're disappointed. We're going to try and pick ourselves back up."

The stadium was full for a magnificent occasion, we spoiled the party. We didn't want to ruin it but in the end we did.

**KYLIAN MBAPPE**  
PSG FORWARD

PSG's game at Nantes this weekend was postponed but they remain well clear of second-placed Lille and all but assured a sixth Ligue 1 title in seven seasons.

Thomas Tuchel's men are also

through to the last four of the French Cup, but Mbappe admitted it was hard to look ahead to rest of the season with the pain of Wednesday's defeat still raw.

"Honestly, it's hard to give it too much thought because the Champions League was our goal. The stadium was full for a magnificent occasion, we spoiled the party. We didn't want to ruin it but in the end we did."

However, the 20-year-old allayed any fears among PSG fans that his immediate future could lie elsewhere in the wake of the club's latest European failure.

"I think I will be here, that's guaranteed even," he said. "With this elimination and all the problems it's going to create, there's no point in my personal situation being added to it. So there, that's clear and precise."

## Rumi's death anniversary today

SPORTS REPORTER

Today is the 16th death anniversary of noted sports journalist and former president of Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association (BSJA) Masud Ahmed Rumi. The popular sports journalist passed away in 2003 at the age of 2003.

Born in 1947 in Naogaon, Rumi started his sports journalism career in 1978 with Dainik Bangla before working for Bangladesh Sangbad Sangtha as its sports editor till the time of his death. He served two stints as the president of BSJA in the early '90s.

## Invader attacks Grealish

AFP, London

Aston Villa midfielder Jack Grealish was punched by a pitch-invading Birmingham fan in a shocking incident during Sunday's Championship clash between the bitter rivals.

Grealish was in the Birmingham penalty area in the 10th minute when a man ran on to the field and threw a punch from behind at the Villa captain. The blow caught Grealish on the side of the head and sent him sprawling to the turf.

The intruder was restrained as Villa players rushed to Grealish's defence. He was taken to jail afterwards.



The Bangladesh women's team were yesterday given a warm welcome on their arrival at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, from where they flew to Biratnagar in the afternoon. The team will take part in the SAFF Women's Championship, scheduled to begin tomorrow. Bangladesh play their first match against Bhutan on Thursday.

PHOTO: BFF

# 23-man squad named

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday released a 23-member squad for the upcoming AFC U-23 Championship Qualifiers featuring 11 players who were a part of the senior squad which beat Cambodia 1-0 in a FIFA Friendly in Phnom Penh on Saturday.

The seniorsquad, along with the 11 players of the under-23 team, returned to Bangladesh late last night. The 11 players will be joined by the 12 newly selected players and these 23 players will fly for Qatar for a week-long conditioning camp from where they will fly to Bahrain for the AFC U-23 Championship Qualifiers on March 20.

The 23-member squad features six players from Bashundhara Kings, six from Saif SC and five from Arambagh, apart from two each from Abahani and Sheikh Russel and

one each from Rahmatganj and NoFeLSC.

Bangladesh are in Group B alongside hosts Bahrain, Palestine and Sri Lanka. The men in red and green will play their first match against Bahrain on March 22 before facing Palestine on March 24 and Sri Lanka on March 26.

11 group winners and four best runners-ups will join hosts Thailand for the final round, which will be held in 2020.

### SQUAD

Tutul Hossain Badsha, Faisal Ahmed, Pappu Hossain, Rahmat Mia, Yasin Arafat, Riyadul Hasan, Mohammad Al-Amin, Jafar Iqbal, Bishwanath Ghosh, Biplo Ahmed, Mahfuz Hasan Pritom, Mohammad Rokey, Mohammad Sujon, Rabiul Hasan, Arifur Rahman, Anisur Rahman, Shushanto Tripura, Mashuk Mia Johnny, Matin Miah, Mahbubur Rahman Sufil, Mohammad Ibrahim, Rakib Hossain, Khondokar Ashraful Islam.



Two fencers battle to outsmart each other during the opening day of the 3rd Independence Cup Fencing Championship at the Shaheed Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. A total of 13 teams, including defence forces, clubs and educational institutions, are taking part in the five-day meet.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED