

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

Indian Premier League

Chennai v Punjab

Live from 4:30pm

Hyderabad v Mumbai

Live from 8:30pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2

English Premier League

Newcastle v Crystal Palace

Live from 8:00pm

Bundesliga

Bayern Munich v Dortmund

Live from 10:30pm

TEN 1

Serie A

Juventus v AC Milan

Live from 10:00pm

Sampdoria v Roma

Live from 12:30am (Sunday)

TEN 2

Serie A

Parma v Torino

Live from 7:00pm

FA Cup

Man City v Brighton

Live from 10:30pm

La Liga

Barcelona v Atletico Madrid

Live from 12:45am (Sunday)

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh Premier League (Football)

Saif SC v Nofel SC

Time: 3:30pm

Venue: Rafique Uddin Bhuiyan Stadium, Mymensingh

Brothers Union v Rahmatganj MFS

Time: 6:00pm

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium, Dhaka

High-scoring chase caps off exciting day

Mancini wants tough measure on racism

SPORTS REPORTER

Prime Bank Cricket Club pacer Al-Amin Hossain bagged a fifer to help his side bundle out Bangladesh Kriya Shikha Protisthan (BKSP) for a meagre 50-run total and win the game by a mammoth 172 runs during their Dhaka Premier League (DPL) encounter at the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah yesterday.

Meanwhile Dhaka's Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur witnessed an exciting match as Delwar Hossain put in an all-round performance, bagging decisive figures of five for 46 with the ball before a crucial 19-ball 34-run cameo with the bat to help Shinepukur Cricket Club chase down 324-run total posted by Mohammedan Sporting Club and win by two wickets.

At BKSP-3, Brothers Union let an easy win slip out of their grasp as a middle order batting collapse -- courtesy of Gazi Group bowler Nasum Ahmed's five for 49, his best figure in List A -- saw Gazi Group defend a below-par 206-run total to win by nine runs.

Al-Amin ran riot at Fatullah as BKSP batsmen had little clue about how to survive through his spells. Except Shamim Hossain's run-out in the 10th over, all five other top order wickets were scalped by the right-arm medium fast bowler. When Al-Amin rattled the stumps of Abdul Kayum in the 11th over, BKSP were left reeling on 26 for six and they never recovered. Parvez Hossain Emon (15 off 37) remained the only BKSP batsman to have reached two-figure mark as BKSP suffered a huge defeat.

Earlier, although Prime Bank batsman Abhimanyu Easwaran missed out on his century for eight runs, scoring 92 off 109

Cricket Board



PHOTO: BCB

SCORES IN BRIEF

**PRIME BANK V BKSP**  
**Prime Bank:** 222 for eight in 50 overs (Easwaran 92, Nahidul 50; Murad 2-35)  
**BKSP:** 50 all out in 22 overs (Parvez 15; Al-Amin 5-20, Nayeem 2-6)  
**Result:** Prime Bank won by 172 runs.  
**Player-of-the-match:** Al-Amin Hossain.

**MOHAMMEDAN V SHINEPUKUR**  
**Mohammedan:** 324 all out in 49.3 overs (Liton 84, Raqibul 74; Delwar 5-46)  
**Shinepukur:** 325 for eight in 49.4 overs (Afif 97, Delwar 34; Gazi 2-40)  
**Result:** Shinepukur won by 2 wickets.  
**Player-of-the-match:** Delwar Hossain.

**GAZI GROUP V BROTHERS UNION**  
**Gazi Group:** 206 all out in 49.4 overs (Kamran 81, Mahedi 48; Sajedul 4-54)  
**Brothers Union:** 197 all out in 48.5 overs (Junaaid 72, Fazle 31; Nasum 5-49)  
**Result:** Gazi Group won by nine runs.  
**Player-of-the-match:** Nasum Ahmed.

Gazi Group's Nasum Ahmed (L) poses with his man of the match award at the end of their Dhaka Premier League match against Brothers Union at BKSP-3 yesterday.

balls, a half-ton from Nahidul Islam at the death saw Prime Bank post a challenging 222 for eight.

Meanwhile in Mirpur, Shinepukur pulled off a dramatic win over Mohammedan as they chased down a 300-plus total with two balls to spare. After being asked to bat first, Mohammedan got off to an incredible start. Contributions from their top-order and middle-order with Liton Das (84 off 89), Irfan Sukkur (50 off 66), Avishek Mitra (50 off 59), Raqibul Hasan (74 off 48) and Shohag Gazi (45 off 22) amongst the runs, helped Mohammedan reach an above-par total.

After the exchange, Shinepukur never

looked on course to chase down the mammoth total until the 118-run sixth-wicket stand between Afif Hossain and Amite Hasan. However, after Amite (43 off 49) and Afif (97 off 86) fell in the 41st stand 44th over, it was Delwar, who struck three sixes in penultimate over and decided the fate of the game.

In the other game, after Gazi Group posted a below-par total, Nasum Ahmed returned his best List A figures and ensured Brothers suffer a middle and lower order collapse, eventually falling short on the day.

'Good signals from Ronaldo'

Zidane praises Hazard

AFP, Rome

Cristiano Ronaldo could be back in the Juventus line-up in time for their Champions League quarterfinal with Ajax, coach Massimiliano Allegri revealed on Friday.

Ronaldo hasn't played for the run-away Serie A leaders since scoring the sensational hat-trick that saw Juve come back from a 2-0 first-leg deficit to knock out Atletico Madrid last month.

He was rested in the subsequent 2-0 league defeat at Genoa and then picked up a thigh injury on international duty with Portugal last week, but Allegri is confident the 34-year-old will be ready for Wednesday's first leg in Amsterdam.

"There are good signals from Cristiano Ronaldo ahead of the match with Ajax," he said to reporters ahead of Saturday's visit of fourth-placed AC Milan.

Ronaldo will however not be ready for Milan, who are battling to qualify for next season's Champions League, after missing recent wins over Empoli and Cagliari, the latter of which was overshadowed by racist abuse directed at young Italy striker Moise Kean.

Kean's Juve and Italy teammate Leonardo Bonucci was heavily criticised in the aftermath of that match for saying that Kean was as to blame for the monkey chants to which he was subjected as the Cagliari supporters,



comments for which he apologised on Thursday.

"Racism must always be fought against. It can never be justified," said Allegri.

Bonucci, with his mind still on the game, expressed himself badly but immediately apologised and explained what he meant.

Juve are 18 points clear of nearest challengers Napoli having lost just once this season and will win their eighth title in a row with seven matches to spare at the weekend if they beat Milan and Napoli lose to Genoa.

Should they win it either this week-

end or next it would be the earliest any team has ever won Serie A, and would allow them to focus even more on winning their first Champions League since 1996.

"We'll only celebrate when we win the title. Winning eight in a row is never easy, in particular with these numbers," said Allegri, who has won four straight league and cup doubles with Juve and taken them to two Champions League finals.

"Napoli are having a season with what would often be title-winning form, but we're doing something extraordinary."

AFP, Madrid

Zinedine Zidane expressed his admiration for Eden Hazard on Friday ahead of an expected move for the Chelsea forward from Real Madrid this summer.

Hazard's contract expires in June 2020 and he is yet to sign a new deal, leaving Chelsea in a difficult position if they want to avoid losing the Belgian for free.

After last year's World Cup, he admitted "it might be time for something different" while in October, he said it would be a "dream" to play for Real Madrid, "the best club in the world".

Asked about Hazard at a press conference before Madrid's La Liga game against Eibar on Saturday, Zidane said: "He is a player I have always rated, as everyone knows.

"He is a player that has played in France, that I have watched a lot and that I know personally. There's nothing new about what I think of him as a player. He's a fantastic player."

Real Madrid have certainly struggled for goals this season.

They have scored 26 fewer than Barcelona in the league and rarely threatened Valencia on Tuesday, when they were beaten 2-1 at Mestalla.

"I know the numbers and it has cost us," Zidane said. "This year we have had difficulty scoring. Will we change things? Yes."

Barcelona play at home to second-placed Atletico Madrid on Saturday, meaning Real can close the gap on the top two if they

overcome Eibar at the Santiago Bernabeu.

But they are five points behind Atleti and 13 adrift of Barca while the loss to Valencia in midweek exposed their weaknesses both in attack and defence.

"I'm not worried," Zidane said. "This season has been difficult and I cannot say in two minutes what has happened but there are things that you have to accept.

"We know what all these players have won, not just in my time, but in the last five, six, seven years. We are going to try to turn it around, the club needs change, to win again, to do great things and that's what I'm here for.

"Our problems on the pitch? We accept them. Fewer people in the stadium? We accept it. But we must not forget what these players have done either. I'm not worried at all."

Dani Carvajal returned to training on Friday after recovering from a thigh injury but Thibaut Courtois is unlikely to be available after missing the session, along with Vinicius Junior and Marcos Llorente.



EDEN HAZARD

Rose disillusioned by racism

AFP, London

England defender Danny Rose said Friday that he's looking forward to the end of his career after unchecked racism left him completely disillusioned with football.

The 28-year-old also blasted the game's rulers for handing out meagre fines to clubs and countries who fail to rein in their fans, comparing the sanctions to what he spends "on a night out".

Rose says the way racism is combatted is "a farce".

"I have had enough," he said. "I just think that I've got five or six more years left in football and I just can't wait to see the back of it, seeing how things are done in the game at the minute."

Such is his frustration and anger that Rose even admitted he had fully expected to be racially abused when England played a Euro 2020 qualifier against Montenegro last month.

During England's 5-1 win in Podgorica, Callum Hudson-Odoi and Rose had monkey noises aimed at them before fellow black player Raheem Sterling celebrated his goal by cupping his ears to the haters in the crowd.



Sterling later tweeted a picture of his goal celebration, saying: "Best way to silence the haters (and yeah I mean racists)".

Rose said the punishments are so weak that fans will never be deterred from abusing players.

"There's so many politics and whatever in football and I just can't wait to see the back of it, to be honest," added the Tottenham defender.

"Obviously it's sad but when countries only get fined what I probably spend on a night out in London then what do you expect?"

"A country can only get fined a little bit of money for being racist. It's just a bit of a farce at the minute."

SHORT CORNER

**TT C'ships start today**  
After a one-and-a-half year hiatus, the 38th National Table Tennis Championships gets underway from today at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium with Bangladesh Ansar and Bangladesh Army expected to dominate the six-day meet.

The Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation (BTTF) this time inserted a new law that each team must have a player from their own district or division in the three-member squad for team events. Each district or division is allowed to rope in two players from beyond their respective district or division.

However, the service teams are not bound by the law and usually form their squads with top players and the title contenders this time are also confined to three service teams -- Bangladesh Ansar, Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Biman.

Bangladesh Ansar clinched four titles out of seven -- men's singles, doubles, team, women's singles, doubles, team and mixed doubles -- while the rest went to Bangladesh Army in the last edition.

Some 260 players from 44 men's teams and 13 women's teams are expected to vie in seven events. The return of Dhaka University is also a new attraction for the championships, sponsored by Wisdom Attire and co-sponsored by Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA).

-- SPORTS REPORTER

**Sevilla down Alaves to move back into contention**  
Goals from Roque Mesa and Pablo Sarabia lifted Sevilla back into European contention on Thursday with a crucial 2-0 win over Alaves.

The Basque side moved up from seventh to

sixth, displacing Alaves to go level on points with fifth-placed Valencia who downed Real Madrid 24 hours earlier.

Mesa put Sevilla into a 41st minute lead with a perfectly weighted rising shot from the right that dipped over keeper Fernando Pacheco and into the far corner of the net.

With Alaves struggling to make an impact the home side doubled their advantage when Sarabia's skimming shot flashed past the hapless Pacheco and into an empty net with 10 minutes remaining.

For Sevilla this was a vital three points after Valencia had inflicted Zinedine Zidane's first defeat since returning as Real boss on Wednesday. --Afp

**Pele 'improving' in Paris hospital**  
Brazilian football legend Pele is "improving" after being hospitalised in Paris for a urinary infection, his spokesman said Thursday, although it was not clear when he would be released.

The 78-year-old three-time World Cup winner was admitted for treatment on Wednesday and his entourage had expressed hope he would be out within two days.

"Everything is under control, always improving," the spokesman confirmed in a WhatsApp message to AFP.

Pele, who won the World Cup in 1958, 1962 and 1970, had been in Paris for a promotional appearance alongside France star Kylian Mbappe.

The declining health of the player known as 'O Rei' has been a cause for concern in recent times, and the planned meeting with Mbappe had already been postponed last November. --Afp

**Simeone demands Atletico show true colours against Barca**  
Diego Simeone called on his Atletico Madrid side to show their true colours when they face La Liga leaders Barcelona on Saturday in a crucial title clash.

Barcelona hold an eight-point lead over second-placed Atletico, which would be reduced to five if the visitors can win at the Nou Camp.

Atletico, however, have never beaten the Catalans in the top flight since Simeone took charge in December 2011.

"That we've never won at the Nou Camp (actually) makes me very optimistic," Simeone told reporters on Friday.

--Reuters

**Barca want to keep Messi till end**  
Barcelona president Josep Bartomeu has said he plans to offer Lionel Messi a new contract in the hope the Argentinian will stay at the club his whole career.

Messi's current deal runs until 2021, the same year he turns 34, but the Argentinian has been in brilliant form again this season.

He has 42 goals for club and country while his 32 scored in La Liga have propelled Barca to within touching distance of their fourth league title in five years.

"We would like to renew his contract, that's the idea," Bartomeu told ESPN in an interview published on Friday. "I believe he still has many years in front of him and in the coming months we will sit down with him so that he has many more years at Barcelona."

Messi joined Barcelona's academy aged 13 and is one of the few players left from Pep Guardiola's iconic team that won the treble in 2009. --AFP



OUTLETS

BANANI  
GULSHAN  
BARIDHARA  
JYP  
UTTARA  
DHANMONDI  
MIRPUR  
BALAKA  
DHAKA