

	<b>Bangladesh Premier League</b>	Time: 4:00pm	Noakhali
	Muktijoddha v Sheikh Russel	Venue: Sheikh Kamal Stadium, Nilphamari	Ctg Abahani v Abahani
	Time: 4:00pm		Time: 7:00pm
	Venue: Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni Stadium, Gopalganj	Team BJMC v Arambagh	Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium, Dhaka
	Bashundhara v Mohammedan	Time: 4:00pm	
		Venue: Shaheed Bulu Stadium,	



Rahmatganj midfielder Landing Darboe sees his shot sail past Brothers Union goalkeeper Sujon Chowdhury during their Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Brothers, Rahmatganj play out a 2-2 draw

SPORTS REPORTER

Mannaf Rabbi converted a stoppage-time spot-kick to help Brothers Union to a 2-2 draw against Rahmatganj MFS in their Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The outcome left both Rahmatganj MFS and Brothers in their previous 10th and 11th positions respectively with 20 and 19 points from 22 outings. Both teams are still in threat of being relegated from top-flight football, with 12th-placed NoFeL SC breathing on their neck with 16 points from 22 matches. All three teams have still two matches in hand.

Gambian midfielder Landing Darboe put Rahmatganj ahead in the 21st minute with a diagonal shot from the right-hand of the box before Sudanese forward James Moga levelled the margin for Brothers Union with a grounder in the 47th minute.

Both teams seemed happy to earn a draw from the match as there was lack of urgency from both sides even though Rahmatganj were denied twice by the woodwork. Then it was Darboe again who

tapped in to restore Rahmatganj's lead in the 88th minute after Brothers had turned into 10-man team in 72 minutes following the sending off of Park Jaehyeong for an off-the-ball incident with Faisal Ahmed of Rahmatganj.

Brothers, though, scored the equaliser in the stoppage time with Rabbi converting the penalty.

**SAIF COMPOUND NOFEL'S MISERY** At the Shaheed Bulu Stadium in Noakhali, Saif SC handed a 3-0 defeat to hosts NoFeL SC to put the hosts into deep into relegation zone.

Smarting from a 4-1 defeat against Abahani in their previous match, Saif SC came heavily on NoFeL SC to take the lead in the fifth minute when Colombian Deiner Cordoba scored his 12th goal of the campaign.

Faisal Ahmed Fahim doubled Saif SC's lead in the 47th minute while Uzbek forward Otabek Zokirov ensured the team's victory with his fourth goal in the league in the 67th minute.

With their 13th win in 22 matches, Saif SC raised their tally to 44 points in fourth position. NoFeL SC, on the other hand, remained second from bottom with 16 points from 22 matches.

## Ronaldo will not face rape charges

AFP, Los Angeles

Juventus star Cristiano Ronaldo will not face any charges over an alleged rape in Las Vegas a decade ago after US prosecutors said Monday they did not have enough evidence to proceed.

A district attorney in the state of Nevada said it would not prosecute the Portuguese soccer player because it "cannot be proven beyond a reasonable doubt" that a sexual assault occurred.

Kathryn Mayorga, a former model, alleges that Ronaldo raped her in a Las Vegas hotel in 2009.

# Celebration or another delay for Kings?

SPORTS REPORTER

After being denied by Sheikh Russel KC in the previous match, newcomers Bashundhara Kings are determined to celebrate title triumph at home venue when they host a rejuvenated Mohammedan SC in the Bangladesh Premier League at the Sheikh Kamal Stadium in Nilphamari today.

Bashundhara Kings are on top of the table with 58 points from 21 matches and a win over Mohammedan will help them take an unassailable lead in the 13-team table, ensuring their maiden league title in debut season with two matches in hand, emulating Sheikh Jamal's feat in their debut season in 2010.

Even a draw for the debutants might be good enough if second-placed Abahani drop points against Chittagong Abahani in another match in Dhaka today.

Bashundhara Kings have been in fantastic form since the start of the 11th edition of the league in January, having posted 19 wins -- 14 of those in a row -- along with only one draw. However, their 20-match unbeaten run was ended by Sheikh Russel in their 21st match.

Having termed the match against Sheikh Russel KC as a 'bad day', Bashundhara Kings coach Oscar Bruzon said that even the best teams in the world endure bad days.

"I am hopeful that the boys will return to their natural form against Mohammedan and deliver their best performance to ensure the title on home ground because all players are fit and eagerly waiting for the match," Bruzon told reporters.

However, the task is not going to be as easy as it was against Mohammedan during their 4-1 win in the away match as a rejuvenated Mohammedan are in fantastic spirit, especially in the second leg where they secured 17 points from nine matches including a record-equalling 4-0 win over archrivals Abahani.

Mohammedan's striking pair of Souleymane Diabate and Toklish Ahmed have been in fine form as they shared 13 goals among them in the last nine matches and they will definitely be hoping to carry their rich form and delay Bashundhara Kings's title party by at least one more match.

## Jamal Bhuiyan show-caused

SPORTS REPORTER

Saif SC captain Jamal Bhuiyan was yesterday show-caused by the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) for making open comments against referees on a private TV channel.

"On Monday, Jamal criticised referee at a TV interview which is a violation of code of conduct because he can't make any comment against the referee in line with the disciplinary code," BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag said. "He has been asked to explain within next 48 hours [by July 25] why any action against him would not be taken."

Jamal was sent off after Saif SC's match against Abahani on July 20 after he argued with referee Anisur Rahman following the final whistle. Saif SC lost the match 4-1 against Abahani.

### KANE, ALLI AND LAMELA TAKE ON 100 KIDS

Tottenham's pre-season preparations took an unusual turn in China as Harry Kane, Dele Alli and Erik Lamela played against 100 local children. Spurs trained for the first time on Chinese soil on Tuesday morning -- and a handful of lucky souls then returned to Yuanshen Stadium for an unfamiliar second session. To celebrate club sponsors AIA's 100th anniversary, Kane, Alli, Lamela and Juan Foyth took part in the '3 v 100 Challenge' in the stifling midday heat in Shanghai. "Another tough challenge," Alli told PA with a smile. Having fallen a goal behind in their mini match, Tottenham were not to be denied and Alli slammed home a penalty to secure a 3-2 aggregate win -- albeit after going down in exaggerated circumstances.

-- AGENCES



### BAF ELECTIONS

# Montu, Alam make big promises for athletics

SPORTS REPORTER

Promising to elevate Bangladesh athletics to its past glory, the current general secretary of Bangladesh Athletics Federation Abdur Rokib Montu and its former general secretary Shah Alam yesterday submitted their nomination papers for the general secretary post of the BAF Polls, scheduled for August 3.

Some 45 candidates submitted their nomination papers against 28 posts -- five vice presidents, one general secretary, two joint secretaries, one treasurer and 19 members. 120 councillors will cast their votes to elect a new committee at the BAF, which saw its last polls in 2013.

Apart from Montu and Alam, Sadat Hossain Sohel, a councillor of Jahangirnagar University, also submitted nomination papers for the general secretary post.

The country's athletics, which once produced some of the fastest sprinters of the subcontinent, has been in poor state for a long time and there is seemingly no visible improvement.

However, Montu and Alam pledged to bring back the past glory by taking

proper plans and initiatives if they are elected in the coming elections.

"I admit that athletics had a past glory but it lost its way some years ago. We, the ad-hoc committee, tried to bring back life to athletics by conducting different championships and coaching courses. If I am elected, I will hold all national competitions timely and bring athletes under long-term training. I will also deliver two to three gold medals in the 14th SA Games, the one that will be held following the SA Games in December this year," said Montu, claiming that district, division and university councillors have pledged their support to him.

"I was coach of sprinters Biman Chandra Tarafder and Mahbub Alam, who won gold medals in SA Games. I will try to bring back those days in athletics if I am elected and given the opportunity to serve again," Alam said.

Interestingly both candidates have been members of the ad-hoc committee which ran the game's governing local body in the last two years, but there was hardly any improvement in athletics during that period.



Chelsea striker Tammy Abraham celebrates after scoring the opening goal against Barcelona during their pre-season friendly at the Saitama Stadium in Japan yesterday. Chelsea won the match 2-1.

PHOTO: REUTERS

# Chelsea edge Barca in Japan friendly

AFP, Saitama



Goals from Tammy Abraham and Ross Barkley saw Chelsea grab a 2-1 victory against Barcelona on Tuesday in an exhibition match in Japan.

Chelsea striker Abraham opened the scoring in the 34th minute by pouncing on a mistake by Barcelona midfielder Sergio Busquets who attempted to clear the ball.

But with Chelsea midfielder Jorginho applying pressure, the ball rolled towards Abraham who only had to step past rushing goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen and gently send it into the net.

Four minutes later, Chelsea midfielder Christian Pulisic showed off his speed and footwork to infiltrate the Barca defence, but his left footer went just wide.

Barcelona went on the offensive in the second half, with substitute striker Carles Perez leading the way.

But superb saves by Chelsea goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga repeatedly denied Barca any attempt to equalise.


In the 55th minute Perez zipped past three Chelsea defenders but his left toe kick finish was not good enough to get past Arrizabalaga.

A few minutes later, he dashed deep into the left side to feed a high-speed cross to striker Malcom, but Arrizabalaga again denied them.

Chelsea made it 2-0 with less than 10 minutes left as midfielder Barkley picked up a cross in front of the box and curled it into the net, with substitute 'keeper Neto getting a touch it but unable to block it.

Just before injury time, Barcelona got a free kick just outside the box but midfielder Ivan Rakitic's shot went above the bar.

Rakitic however quickly redeemed himself in injury time, picking up a cross and firing a lightning right footer that went deep into the net for a consolation goal for Barcelona.



**সম্প্রীতি উৎসব ২০১৯**

## সম্প্রীতিতে গড়ি সুন্দর বাংলাদেশ

যুগে যুগে বিশ্বজুড়ে তরুণরাই অশান্তি, অরাজকতা, উগ্রবাদ ও অসহিষ্ণুতা দূর করতে তাত্পর্যপূর্ণ ভূমিকা রেখেছে। সকল দূর্যোগে তারা সাহসিকতার সাথে কাজ করে গেছে দেশ, সমাজ ও মানুষের মঙ্গলের জন্য। মুক্তিযুদ্ধের চেতনায় উদ্দীপ্ত হয়ে তরুণরাই পারে সম্প্রীতির শক্তিতে একটি সুন্দর বাংলাদেশ গড়তে। তাই তোমাদের জন্যই সম্প্রীতি উৎসব ২০১৯।

**সবার মাঝে সম্প্রীতি ছড়াতে, চলে এসো সম্প্রীতি উৎসবে যোগ দিতে**

- প্রিয় ব্যক্তিত্বের অনুপ্রেরণামূলক বক্তব্য
- প্যানেল আলোচনা
- প্রতিযোগিতামূলক আয়োজন
- স্টল প্রদর্শনী
- প্রিয় তারকাদের পরিবেশনায় সাংস্কৃতিক অনুষ্ঠান
- কনসার্ট

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**২৫-২৬ জুলাই**

সকাল ১০টা থেকে সন্ধ্যা ৬টা

**বঙ্গবন্ধু আন্তর্জাতিক সম্মেলন কেন্দ্র**

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**অনুষ্ঠানটি সবার জন্য উন্মুক্ত**

