

What to WATCH

SONY ESPN
Sri Lanka v New Zealand
Second Test, Day Five
Live from 10:00am

TEN 1
West Indies v India
First Test, Day Five
Live from 7:30pm

RACIST ABUSE 'ONLY MAKES ME STRONGER'

Paul Pogba says he is ready to fight against racist abuse after the Manchester United star and his teammate Marcus Rashford were subjected to social media taunts following their penalty misses. Chelsea striker Tammy Abraham and Reading's Yakou Meite were also recently the target of racist abuse on social media. "My ancestors and my parents suffered for my generation to be free today, to work, to take the bus, to play football," Pogba wrote on Instagram on Sunday. "Racist insults are ignorance and can only make me stronger and motivate me to fight for the next generation." Pogba's message was accompanied by a photograph showing him holding his baby alongside portraits of his late father Fassou Antoine and civil rights activist Martin Luther King. United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer condemned the incidents, saying: "I'm just lost for words if it keeps going. We keep having all these campaigns 'No to Racism' and it keeps hiding behind fake identities. It's just crazy that we talk about this in 2019."



The top-order trio of Shadman Islam, Mushfiqur Rahim and Soumya Sarkar underwent some slip catching practice at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday as the Tigers prepare for the upcoming one-off Test against Afghanistan, slated to begin from September 5.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

'We have more experience than Rashid and Co'

SPORTS REPORTER

It has been almost three years since Mehedi Hasan Miraz made his Test debut for Bangladesh with a bang, creating history by taking 19 wickets in a two-Test series against England -- the highest haul by a debutant in a series of that length. The little-known youngster surprised England with his off-spin, bagging six wickets in each innings of the second Test after picking up seven wickets in his debut Test. Mehedi has since witnessed both sides of the coin as the keen learner has also gone through some tough phases in his young career, especially away from home. Of the 86 wickets Mehedi has taken so far in 19 Tests, only 28 have come in nine Tests away from home. He has also gone wicketless in five innings abroad. The 21-year-old, who already owns seven five-wicket hauls and has also bagged 10 wickets in a Test twice, but has managed to pick five wickets or more in an innings away from

home just once, against the West Indies last year in Kingston. As Test cricket is set to return to Bangladesh with the one-off Test against Afghanistan next month, Mehedi will be eager to put the opportunity to full use. A lot will be expected of the Tigers' spin department manned by Shakib Al Hasan, Taijul Islam and Mehedi as the spin trio have been instrumental to home success, accounting for 161 scalps in the last 10 home Tests, while pacers bagged just 15. Mehedi picked up 43 wickets in nine of the last 10 Tests Bangladesh played and the Bangladesh think tank will be expecting similar returns from the youngster. With the likes of Rashid Khan and Mujeeb ur Rahman in the opposition, the Tigers' team management are well aware of the spin threat from, but according to Mehedi the experience of the home side in the longest format of the game, especially at home, will work in the Tigers' favour. "Our bowlers have a vast experience, with the likes of Shakib bhai having played for over 13 years and Taijul bhai, who is just a wicket

away from 100 Test wickets. I have also gained experience over three-four years now, and I can say that we have more experience compared to them [Afghanistan]. "There is a huge difference between one-day or T20s and Test cricket. Their bowlers have been checking runs in the limited-over formats and have gotten success. But Test cricket is totally different -- the batsman doesn't charge the bowlers often and it is important for the bowlers to have patience," Mehedi told reporters in Mirpur yesterday. When it comes to batting, however, the right-hander's performance has lagged far behind his impressive bowling displays. A genuine all-rounder at Under-19 level, the youngster is yet to justify that tag at the highest level. With an average of just 18.46 in 19 Tests, Mehedi has scored 554 runs with just two fifties and the cricketer will definitely want to improve those stats to become a genuine all-rounder like Shakib, as he is highly rated to take the baton from the champion all-rounder in future.

Aguero hits 400th; Magpies stun Spurs

AFP, London

Premier League Sergio Aguero reached 400 career goals as the Manchester City striker inspired the champions' 3-1 win at Bournemouth, while Tottenham suffered a shock defeat against Newcastle on Sunday. With Premier League leaders Liverpool off to a perfect start with three successive victories, City are already under pressure to keep pace. Pep Guardiola's side did just that thanks to Aguero as City's record goalscorer hit another milestone with a clinical double in the south-coast sunshine. Raheem Sterling was also on the scoresheet -- making it six goals in four games this term for the England winger -- as City's second win of the season lifted them to within two points of Liverpool. It was a landmark day all round for City, with captain David Silva involved in all three of the goals on his 400th appearance for the club. "We felt Bournemouth's physicality, a nice three points and a big compliment to the players, a few things to improve, that's good it's happened when we are winning games," Guardiola said. "The quality of our players in front made the difference and we won the game." Guardiola was less enthused by a VAR review that denied City a penalty when Jefferson Lerma appeared to trip Silva. City were last week left frustrated during a 2-2 draw with Tottenham when a last-gasp goal from Gabriel Jesus was disallowed by VAR due to a handball against Aymeric Laporte. Asked if City deserved a spot-kick, Guardiola replied in a sardonic manner:

"Penalty? No. It was clear hands last game, clear hands. A penalty today? No, please. The challenge this season will be amazing for us after winning back-to-back two titles, the challenge will be great." Meanwhile, Steve Bruce silenced his critics as Newcastle won 1-0 at Tottenham to secure their first points under the new Magpies boss. Since taking over from Rafael Benitez in the close-season, Bruce had found himself under pressure after losing his first two games, with fans doubting his credentials and former players claiming his squad were uncertain about his methods. But Joelinton's first goal for Newcastle in the 27th minute gave Bruce some breathing space for a few days at least. Newcastle were helped by a poor performance from Tottenham, who have won only once in their first three games. "We didn't perform as we expect. It was a very cheap goal. I'm very disappointed with the performance and with the result," Spurs boss Mauricio Pochettino said. Tottenham playmaker Christian Eriksen was only used as a substitute amid uncertainty surrounding his future ahead of the European transfer window shutting next week. "I am going to be happy in 10 days after we play Arsenal when the transfer window closes in Europe," Pochettino added. In the day's other game, Wolves forward Raul Jimenez scored a stoppage-time penalty to rescue a 1-1 draw against Burnley at Molineux. Ashley Barnes had put Burnley in front after 13 minutes with a blistering strike but Jimenez netted from the spot in the 97th minute after the Mexican was tripped by Erik Pieters.



Sergio Aguero struck two goals either side of half-time to reach 400 career goals as Manchester City cruised to a 3-1 win over Bournemouth yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



SINDHU FIRST INDIAN TO STRIKE GOLD

Pusarla Venkata Sindhu on Sunday became the first Indian to win gold in the badminton World Championships. She defeated familiar rival Nozomi Okuhara of Japan in a lop-sided final at the St Jakobshalle arena in Basel. After waiting in the wilderness for three long years, suffering heart-breaking losses in the finals, Sindhu was finally at her attacking and elegant best. Delighted after winning, Sindhu said, "Last time I lost the finals, before that also I lost finals...and it is very very important to win now. I thank the crowd for supporting me day in and day out." The victory could not come to her on a better day, as Sunday is also the birthday of her mother. "I dedicate this medal to my mother as it is her birthday. A big thanks to my coaches Gopichand and Kim Ji Hyun."

PHOTO: AFP

BPL governing council to finalise bylaws soon

SPORTS REPORTER

BPL The Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) governing council (GC) will chalk out the bylaws for the new four-year cycle after conducting a series of discussions with the six existing franchises. The BPL GC are also set to circulate the new tournament bylaws and playing conditions to the franchises soon. Following criticism over the decision of a new set of rules for the new 4-year cycle, the BPL GC held meetings with all the franchises

recently. The BPL GC yesterday communicated all the issues gleaned from the meetings with the franchises to Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hasan. "We met the president [Nazmul] to apprise him of the issues that were discussed in the meetings we had with the BPL franchises. We will soon sit again to chalk out the bylaws and playing conditions and then circulate those to the franchises," BCB director and BPL GC technical committee chairman Jalal Younus told the media yesterday. "We have listened [in the meeting]

to the suggestions that the franchises had. Now we will work on preparing the bylaws for the tournament," Jalal said when asked if the BPL GC will consider the suggestions of the franchises. Meanwhile, Chittagong Vikings is now left without an owner after its previous owner, DBL Group, decided to discontinue their association with the tournament. The BPL GC is currently looking for a new owner for the franchise. "We have so far received four to five EOI [Expressions of Interest] for Chittagong. We will soon start assessing those," Jalal informed.



Novak Djokovic pulled out his best moves as he danced alongside Brooklyn-born actor, rapper, and dancer Sean 'Arnstar' Kirkland at the US Open Kid's Day on Saturday.

PHOTO: US OPEN

Neymar excluded again

AFP, Paris

Neymar was left out of PSG's third consecutive Ligue 1 match on Sunday as his employers await a resolution to his transfer saga. Neymar was declared fit for the first time since injuring his ankle in May by coach Thomas Tuchel on the eve of Toulouse's visit to the Parc des Princes. But the club's Qatari owners and sporting director Leonardo have sidelined him as a potential transfer to Real Madrid or Barcelona has unsettled their 222-million-euro star.

Another loss for hockey women

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh under-21 women's hockey team lost their fourth match against the Sports Authority of India (SAI) academy women's team 9-3 at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday. The visitors scored four goals in the first half before adding five more after the break. All three goals scored by the hosts came in the second half. Nadira scored two while Ratri scored the other for the hosts. The Bangladesh team had lost the first three matches 6-0, 6-0 and 4-0.