

What to WATCH

SONY SIX

Sri Lanka v New Zealand

First T20I

Live from 7:30pm

TEN 1

West Indies v India

Second Test, Day Three

Live from 8:30pm

TEN 2

Serie A

Lazio v Roma

Live from 10:00pm

Cagliari v Inter Milan

Live from 12:45am (Monday)

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

English Premier League

Everton v Wolves

Live from 7:00pm

Arsenal v Tottenham

Live from 9:30pm

US Open

Round of 16

Live from 11:30pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2

US Open

Round of 16

Live from 9:00pm



Mahfuzur Rahman of Bangladesh Navy completes his record breaking high-jump in the 35th Trust Bank National Summer Athletics Championships at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. The Kushtia-born athlete cleared a height of 2.15 metres to break the previous record, which he set at 2.11 metres.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

NATIONAL SUMMER ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Shirin, Mahfuz raise the bar

SPORTS REPORTER

Mahfuzur Rahman of Bangladesh Navy set a new national record in the high-jump event on the second and final day of the 35th Trust Bank National Summer Athletics Championships yesterday, raising hopes of a medal in the upcoming South Asian Games.

The Kushtia-born athlete, who won five gold medals in national meets earlier in his career over last five years, was satisfied with having bettered his own record and the national one too, with a 2.15 metre jump, erasing the previous record of 2.11m at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. “I’m very happy with the performance. I tried to break the record three times previously, but didn’t succeed,” said Mahfuzur, who joined Bangladesh Navy last year.

“I have gradually improved my mark. In the last national meet, I cleared 2.00m and then I cleared 2.12m in the inter-defence meet. My target for the SA Games is to clear 2.20m, which should earn me a medal,” said Mahfuzur.

There were two more records made on the second day, one of which went to sprint-queen Shirin Akter. The Navy athlete motored her way towards breaking Shohagi Akter’s 200m record from earlier this year,

clocking 24:97 seconds.

Even though there was no new record in the men’s 200m event, there was a surprise in the form of Saiful Islam Khan Sunny, who beat national champion and favourite Zahir Raihan.

Sunny, another Bangladesh Navy athlete, clocked 21:83 seconds to finish his dash.

Sunny had won the summer meet gold in 2017, but he failed to defend that to rising star Zahir.

Sunny was out with a stress fracture for three months in April this year, and was not even considered for the SA Games training camp. The former BKSP student hopes this performance will help him get a place in the camp.

“After the 400m yesterday, I felt confident that I could do well in my event, which is the 200m. I trained hard and succeeded by my own willpower. I hope now I would get a chance in the SA Games team,” the 22-year-old sprinter from Brahmanbaria said.

These performances helped Navy emerge champions with 19 gold, 15 silver and 12 bronze medals.

Bangladesh Army finished second with 14 gold, 17 silver and 10 bronze medals. BJMC finished third with one gold, two silver and two bronze medals.

City, Liverpool cruise

Man United, Chelsea stumble to draws

AFP, London

Liverpool maintained their 100 per cent start to the Premier League season with a 3-0 win at Burnley to retake top spot from Manchester City, who earlier thrashed Brighton on Saturday. But Manchester United and Chelsea lost further ground on the leaders in disappointing draws with Southampton and Sheffield United.

Liverpool have now won a club record 13 straight Premier League games stretching back to last season when they missed out on the title to City despite amassing 97 points.

Another titanic title race between the two looks on as Liverpool withstood an early Burnley assault before two goals in four minutes took the game away.

Trent Alexander-Arnold’s cross looped in off Chris Wood for a fortunate opener, but Burnley were masters of their own downfall for the second as Bee Mee presented the ball to Roberto Firmino and the Brazilian teed up Sadio Mane to slot home. Firmino added the third himself 10 minutes from time.

City’s 4-0 victory came at a cost as centre-back Aymeric Laporte was stretched off with a knee injury that looks set to rule him out for the foreseeable future.

Southampton clung on for a 1-1 draw at St Mary’s against Manchester United despite playing the last 17 minutes plus stoppage time a man down.

“We’ve been dominating, creating chances and just haven’t been clinical in front of goal to win the games,” said Solskjaer. “It’s not a dip in form, it’s a dip in results definitely.”

At Stamford Bridge, Frank Lampard was left waiting for his first league win after the Blues threw away a 2-0 half-time lead given to them by Tammy Abraham.

“We have to take responsibility, we allowed that to happen. It was on us to take the game away from them and we allowed them to get back into it,” said Lampard. “If we can’t go on and get a third goal that’s something we have to work on, this is the Premier League, it’s ruthless.”

RESULTS			
Southampton	1 - 1	Man Utd	James 10
Vestergaard 58			
Chelsea	2 - 2	Sheffield United	Robinson 46, Zouma 89-og
Abraham 19, 43			
Crystal Palace	1 - 0	Aston Villa	
Ayew 73			
Leicester	3 - 1	Bournemouth	Vardy 12, 73, Tielemans 41
Man City	4 - 0	Brighton	De Bruyne 2, Aguero 42, 55, B Silva 79
Newcastle	1 - 1	Watford	Hughes 2
Schar 41			
West Ham	2 - 0	Norwich	
Hallier 24, Yarmolenko 56			
Burnley	0 - 3	Liverpool	Wood 33-og, Mane 37, Firmino 80

SAARC Snooker Championship from tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh are hoping to see their players reach at least the quarterfinal stage in the five-nation Sheikh Kamal Memorial First SAARC Snooker Championship, which will get underway in Dhaka tomorrow.

Apart from hosts Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will compete in the meet. Afghanistan opted out of the meet at the eleventh hour while Bhutan and the Maldives have no infrastructures for snooker, informed tournament committee director Ibrahim Tajul.

Apart from the four local players, two players each from the four other participating countries will compete in the meet. The overseas teams were due to arrive in Dhaka on Saturday night.

This is the second time Bangladesh is hosting an international snooker tournament after the Presidents’ Cup in 1987.

“Though our players did not have enough practice, we hope our players will be able to reach quarterfinals. We will be happy, if two to three of our players’ can do that,” Bangladesh Billiard and Snooker Federation secretary Syed Mahboob said during a pre-tournament press meet at Dhaka Club yesterday.

The Bangladesh team comprises national champion Nizam Uddin Ahmed, runner-up Abdullah Al Muntasir Siddiqui, Ziaur Rahman Azad and Shubho Biswas.

The champion team will get USD 2500 as prize money while the runners-up team will receive USD 1500. The third, fourth and fifth place finishers will get USD 1000 each.

BCB unveil U-19 Asia cup squad

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board yesterday announced a 15-member Under-19 squad for the ACC U19 Asia Cup, to be held from September 5 to September 14.

Bangladesh were drafted in Group B, alongside hosts Sri Lanka, UAE and Nepal while Group A consists of India, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Kuwait.

The team are scheduled to leave for Colombo on September 3.

In their first match, Bangladesh will take on the UAE on September 6 before going on to face Nepal on September 8. The third and final group fixture will pit the young Tigers against Sri Lanka on September 10.

The semifinals are set to take place on September 12 while the final is slated for September 14.

SQUAD

Tanzid Hasan, Parvez Hossain, Anik Sarker, Mahmudul Hasan, Tawhid Hridoy (vice-captain), Shamim Hossain, Shahadat Hossain, Akbar Ali (captain), Rakibul Hasan, Mirtunjoy Chowdhury, Shoriful Islam, Tanzim Hasan, Mohammad Shahin, Minhazur Rahman and Ashraful Islam.

National U-17 football starts from today

SPORTS REPORTER



Both the Bangabandhu Under-17 (boys) National Gold Cup and Bangamata Under-17 (girls) National Gold Cup football tournaments will get underway today at the Tangail District Stadium, where a total of 113,050 boys and 11,826 girls will take part in the two events.

Arranged by the Youth and Sports Ministry, this will be the second edition of the boys’ event while the girls’ event will mark its inaugural edition in the nation-wide tournaments, floated to find talented footballers for the future.

“These tournaments give a platform to the talented players from the primary school tournaments to further show their skills. We hope to find players who would be considered for club teams and national teams for the future from these tournaments,” State Minister for Youth and Sports Zahid Ahsan Rasel, MP, told the media during the tournaments’ logo and trophy unveiling programme at the NSC Tower yesterday.

In the preliminary round, the boys’ event will start from the upazila level while the girls’ event will start from the district level. The final round, featuring eight teams in each event, comprised of the best performers from previous levels, will be held in Dhaka.

“We found 42 players from the Bangabandhu Gold Cup last year, and those players are now with the BKSP for further training. Four of those players have received higher training in Brazil this year. We hope the talented players we find this year will be further nurtured by the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), who will give technical support during these tournaments,” added the minister.

The program was attended, among others, by Bangladesh Olympic Association secretary general Syed Shahed Reza, BFF president Kazi Salahuddin and secretary of the Youth and Sports Ministry Dr. Jafaruddin.

PHOTO: BFF

WOMEN’S T20 WC QUALIFIER

BD’s opener washed out

SPORTS REPORTER

The opening match of the ICC Women’s T20 World Cup Qualifier between Bangladesh and Papua New Guinea was abandoned without a ball being bowled due to a persistent drizzle in Dundee, Scotland yesterday. However, the match was rescheduled to be played on the same ground tomorrow, the allotted reserve day.



State Minister for Youth and Sports Zahid Ahsan Rasel, MP, addresses a press conference during the logo and trophy unveiling ceremony of both the Bangabandhu Under-17 and Bangamata Under-17 National Gold Cup at the NSC Tower yesterday.



Novak Djokovic celebrates after defeating Denis Kudla in the men's singles third round match of the US Open at Flushing in New York on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

Djokovic rolls on

AFP, New York



Top-ranked defending champion Novak Djokovic rolled into the US Open fourth round on Friday while Serena Williams and Roger Federer cruised into the last 16 and Kei Nishikori was eliminated.

Djokovic, champion in four of the past five Slams and 16 overall, was less bothered by left shoulder pain that nagged him in the second round in defeating 111th-ranked American Denis Kudla 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

“That I managed to play almost pain-free, that’s a big improvement from last match obviously,” Djokovic said. “I didn’t know how my body would react. That was nice.”

Djokovic, who needed treatment throughout his second-round triumph, skipped practice Thursday in favour of

shoulder treatment.

“I’m not going to go into the medical details,” he said. “But it definitely was bothering me in the past couple weeks.”

The 32-year-old Serbian, a three-time US Open winner, booked a Sunday showdown with three-time Slam winner Stan Wawrinka, the Swiss 23rd seed who eliminated Italian lucky loser Paolo Lorenzi 6-4, 7-6 (11/9), 7-6 (7/4).

“There’s something with him that when I get into my best game, I know that it’s going to have some big rallies and I’m going to play good tennis,” Wawrinka said.

Djokovic, no worse than a US Open semi-finalist since a third-round exit in 2006, leads Wawrinka 19-5 in their all-time rivalry, but they haven’t met since Wawrinka beat Djokovic in the 2016 US Open final.

“We’ve had some great battles over the years, but especially here,” Djokovic said. “Let the better player win.”

5 foreigners can be registered

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Premier League clubs will be allowed to register five foreign players, however teams will be eligible to field only four of them in a game. This was decided at an emergency meeting of the executive committee of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday.

The decision was made, in face of the demands from most clubs, to allow teams to have a fall-back for unseen injuries or drop in form.

The meeting also decided to stick to the bylaws, that they would relegate two teams from the top two tiers of professional league, thereby approving the demotion of both NoFeL SC and Team BJMC and the subsequent promotion of Police AC and Uttar Baridhara Club, despite requests from a number of clubs to demote only one club from the top tier.

The meeting, chaired by Professional League Committee Chairman Abdus Salam Murshedy, also discussed the possibility of incorporating venues inside or near Dhaka for the top leagues so as to minimize the load on the Bangabandhu National Stadium, subject to those venues meeting required infrastructural and logistic standards.

Osasuna peg back Barca

AFP, Pamplona

Ansu Fati became the third youngest player to score in La Liga on Saturday but the 16-year-old could not rescue Barcelona from being held to a 2-2 draw away at newly-promoted Osasuna.

Fati equalised five minutes after coming on at half-time and Barca looked likely to complete the comeback when Arthur Melo, also on a substitute, made it two 13 minutes later at El Sadar Stadium.

Yet Roberto Torres, who had given Osasuna an early lead, delivered a twist by scoring a late second from the penalty spot after Gerard Pique handballed.