

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

GTV

T20 Tri-series

Afghanistan v Zimbabwe

Live from 6:30pm

SONY SIX

The Ashes

England v Australia

Fifth Test, Day three

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

English Premier League

Liverpool v Newcastle

Live from 5:30pm

Man United v Leicester City

Live from 8:00pm

Norwich v Man City

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2

Bundesliga

Leipzig v Bayern Munich

Live from 10:30pm

TEN 2

Serie A

Fiorentina v Juventus

Live from 4:00pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2

Bundesliga

Leipzig v Bayern Munich

Live from 10:30pm

TEN 2

Serie A

Fiorentina v Juventus

Live from 7:00pm

Napoli v Sampdoria

Live from 10:00pm

Inter Milan v Udinese

Live from 12:45am (Sunday)

Venue: SBNS, Dhaka

Walton U-18 Football Tournament

Sheikh Jamal v Rahmatganj

Time: 4:00pm

Abahani v Bashundhara Kings

Time: 6:30pm

Venue: Bangabandhu

National Stadium, Dhaka

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Using old instruments helped win gold: Sana

SPORTS REPORTER

Country's best archer Ruman Sana grabbed gold in individual recurve event of Asia Cup: Stage-3 after beating China's Shi Zhenqi by 7-3 set points in the final in Clark City, Philippines yesterday.

It is the second major medal for Sana this year after he grabbed a bronze medal in World Archery Championship in Netherlands in June while becoming the country's second athlete to qualify for the Olympics directly.

However, the 24-year-old had to fight back from 1-3 set points down to win the gold medal yesterday. From 1-3 sets down, Sana won the following two sets to ensure his fourth international gold medal -- the first came in 1st Asian Grand Prix in 2014, the second from International Archery tournament in Tajikistan in 2018 while the third from the 2nd ISSF International Solidarity Archery Championships in Dhaka in 2018.

"I'm really happy. I always try to follow my shooting timing and do the same thing. I found good rhythm throughout the tournament. This kind of performance will give me confidence ahead of Tokyo Olympics," Sana said after the final.

"To be honest, a different sort of belief is working inside me since I won the bronze medal in World Archery Championships where I competed against world's top archers. Now I don't feel any pressure when I take arrows," Sana explained the secret to his success.

However, before his departure, the lad from Khulna was not too confident about producing good results after having recently started using new instruments.

"Actually, I wasn't being able to score well with new instruments, so I started using the old ones in Philippines and scored better in the official training. Then my teammates advised me to play with the old instruments and I did it and got the result," Sana explained.

Sana faced stiff challenge in the final but he overcame it to have the final laugh.

"The individual event was the third and last

Bangladeshi recurve archer Ruman Sana eyes his target during his gold-winning tie in Asia Cup: Stage-3 in Philippines yesterday.

PHOTO: WAF

event for me as I took part in men's team event first and then played the mixed event. So, it was a very tight schedule for me. I could not have lunch at hotel, Instead I took snacks before the final match.

"Though I felt tired but I shot well in the first set which ended in a draw. Then I saw my arrows were going upward and I lost the second set. Afterwards, I concentrated more on my shooting and continued putting steady performance and won the match," said Sana, who had earlier lost four finals in different international competitions.

Sana was also part of the recurve men's and mixed team events. The recurve men's team, comprising Sana, Tamimul Islam and Hakim Ahmed Rubel, had to be content with a silver medal after losing to China by 3-5 set points while the mixed team comprising Sana and Beauty Roy beat Chinese Taipei by 5-1 set points to win bronze medal.

It is the first time that Sana won medals in all three events of an international tournament, a feat he had achieved in domestic competition in 2014 where all three medals were gold.

Booters' two-week rest questioned

SPORTS REPORTER

Resting national footballers for two weeks ahead of Joint Qualifiers of the World Cup and the Asian Cup against Qatar and India has raised eyebrows of some of the local coaches and players.

The National Teams Committee of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) on Thursday decided to resume the training camp of the national team from September 25, giving nearly two weeks' rest to the players on the ground that long-term training may adversely impact them mentally and physically.

Coach Jaime Day believes that his charges are fit enough and need no long-term training; instead just two weeks' training ahead of October 10 match against Asian Cup champions Qatar would be enough.

However, local coaches and players differed with the decision.

"I think the training camp should continue. After watching the Bangladesh-Afghanistan match, it seemed there are many areas to work on, especially the team combination, before matches against Qatar and India. Besides, there are also no domestic activities for the players, so they could have utilised the two-week period," said UEFA A licensed coach Maruful Haque.

"If the coach [Jamie Day] is confident with his players, then everything is all right. But I think they players got good time to rest after the completion of the domestic league," said the former national team coach.

"With due respect to the head coach of the national team, I think the players should be given three-to-four days' break instead of such a long one. What I have understood after watching the match between Qatar and India is that Qatar played fast-paced football to attack down both flanks after failing to expose the Indian defence directly. The coach could have worked on tactical aspects of how to play defensive block, what would be players' position, what will be the players' role on the counter," opined AFC B licensed coach Julfiker Mahmud Mintu.

"The coach could have even worked on rectifying the mistakes the players made in the last match. There is also room to work on with the goalkeepers and how to defend set-pieces against Qatar," added Mintu.

Former national team defender Atiqur Rahman Meshu also opposed the idea of two weeks' break for the national team.

"If the players gain weight in two weeks, then the coach will have to work on it again, lessening the time of tactical work. A one-week break was good enough because we, the players, are not at that level of professional football. The big thing is that we forget instructions of the coach during matches, so the repetition of practice is needed," said Meshu, who believes the players can be given rest during the training camp by taking them to outings.

Mourinho itching for managerial return

AFP, Madrid

Unemployed soccer coach Jose Mourinho has had enough of being on holidays, he told Spanish television on Thursday, but has ruled out taking over an international outfit or joining someone mid-season.

Mourinho was fired by Manchester United in December 2018 after a two-year spell of relative success was overshadowed by the results of local rivals and rising football force Manchester City.

The Portuguese shot to fame as the upstart boss of surprise 2004 Champions League winners Porto, then became a superstar with his success and personality at Chelsea, Real Madrid, Inter Milan and finally United.

He picked up the nickname 'the Special One' when joining Chelsea, after saying they had been looking for a top manager and that he was a special one.

"I've had enough, I've really had enough," said Mourinho on Thursday, after being asked if he was enjoying his protracted break after years in the hot-seat.

"I spent this summer like any other fan for the first time, now I understand how that feels," he said.

With the European Championships swinging into view for 2020 the outspoken coach was asked if he would take on a national team.

"Maybe in ten years time," said the 56-year-old.

Kante still not fit

AFP, London

Chelsea manager Frank Lampard confirmed midfielder N'Golo Kante will not return for Saturday's visit to Wolves in the Premier League and faces a race against time to make Tuesday's Champions League opener against Valencia.

Kante has not featured since a 1-1 draw at home to Leicester nearly a month ago.

"He still has issues with his ankle and the medical team are working with him," said Lampard on Friday.

"He's in a bit of a transitional period now where we're trying to get him on the pitch and he's doing some physical work but this game comes too soon for him."

However, Lampard will be able to welcome back Antonio Rudiger for the first time this season.

Hazard to make Real debut

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said Friday that big-money summer signing Eden Hazard has been passed fit and will make his long-awaited La Liga debut against Levante on Saturday.

"We all want to see Eden," said Zidane. "There's a lot of pressure on him, a lot of expectation. But he is ready and that is the most important thing."

Hazard was expected to make his debut in Vigo in the opening round in mid-August after joining Madrid for an initial 100 million euros from Chelsea in June.

But the Belgian pulled up with a thigh strain at the club's training base in Valdebebas and had to sit out the first three weeks of the season during which Real struggled, collecting one win and two draws.

Zidane, however, called for patience as Hazard finds his feet again.

"We have to go gently," he said. "He (Hazard) was injured for three weeks, he

has been back for a week.

"We have seven games in 21 days and we will have to go gently. It will be up to me to keep an eye on his minutes and his playing time, because we need him over a long period, for several matches, not for one."

Hazard's return is timely for Madrid who also start their Champions League campaign against Paris Saint-Germain next week, especially as Luka Modric was driled out this week with a groin strain.

"The season starts now," said Zidane. "We have seven games in 21 days and I think that's what we need, anyway, to play, make matches, compete... that's what players want."

The Frenchman also shrugged off criticism of the team following their indifferent start to the season.

"The comments, everything that is said, that's not going to change," he said.

"We know what we want to change within (the team), we will do everything to do things well. Enough talk, we have perform on the pitch."

Real Madrid forward Eden Hazard (front) jogs with teammates during a training session at the Ciudad Real Madrid in Valdebebas yesterday ahead of their La Liga match against Levante.

PHOTO: AFP

PSG ready to play Neymar

AFP, Paris

With the saga over his on-off move back to Barcelona now over, Neymar could return to action with Paris Saint-Germain this weekend.

The world's most expensive player has had to come to terms with a third season in Ligue 1 after PSG and his former club failed to agree terms on a transfer before the transfer window shut on September 2.

Neymar has since been away on international duty for Brazil in two friendly matches in the USA, scoring one goal and making another in a 2-2 draw with Colombia and then coming on as a substitute in a 1-0 loss to Peru.

Those were his first appearances this season after the 27-year-old was left out of PSG's opening four league games amid the uncertainty over his future.

If he is passed fit after a long trip back across the Atlantic, coach Thomas Tuchel may choose to select Neymar in Saturday's game against Strasbourg, the team against whom he suffered a fractured foot in a cup tie back in January.

PSG are already without Kylian Mbappe, who has a hamstring injury, as they prepare to start their Champions League campaign

at home to Real Madrid next week. Edinson Cavani is also struggling for fitness.

Argentine striker Mauro Icardi is available after joining from Inter, but Tuchel may be tempted to turn to Neymar, even though the Brazilian is suspended for the game against Real and seems unlikely to receive a warm welcome from fans unhappy with his posturing for a transfer.

"He knows that he has made mistakes, but he has no bad intentions," said his club and international colleague Thiago Silva.

Pogba adds to MU woes

AFP, Manchester

Paul Pogba heads a lengthy Manchester United injury list for the visit of in-form Leicester City to Old Trafford on Saturday with Ole Gunnar Solskjaer potentially missing seven first-team players.

Luke Shaw, Anthony Martial, Diogo Dalot and Eric Bailly will also definitely miss the clash with the Foxes, while Jesse Lingard and Aaron Wan-Bissaka are both doubtful after withdrawing from England's Euro 2020 qualifiers against Bulgaria and Kosovo.

Pogba twisted his ankle in the 1-1 draw at Southampton two weeks ago and did not play for France in their two matches during the international break, with the midfielder expected to return for the match at West Ham on 22 September.

Shaw (hamstring) and Martial (thigh) have still not recovered from the injuries sustained in the 2-1 defeat to Crystal Palace on 24 August, while Dalot (hip) and Bailly (knee) are longer-term injuries.

"The treatment room has been busy and it still is," said Solskjaer. "We don't really know who is going to be available.

"Maybe Aaron and Jesse will make

it but that is it from the ones that pulled out.

"Paul will not be fit, not unless he has a miraculous recovery. He has not been ready to do training at 100%."

United are looking for their first win since the opening day of the season with draws at Wolves and Southampton either side of the Palace defeat leaving them down in eighth,

three points adrift of Leicester in third.

Under former Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers, Leicester are aiming to return to the top six at the expense of the likes of United, Chelsea, Arsenal or Tottenham, three years on from their remarkable Premier League title triumph.

"Leicester is always a tough game. They are a club that want to push into the top four, they have good players and a proven top manager," added Solskjaer.

"Brendan's teams always play good football, so we have to play well to get the three points."

Leicester's visit will mean an early reunion with his old club for Harry Maguire, who swapped the Foxes for Old Trafford this summer in an £80 million transfer that made him the world's most expensive defender.

And despite mixed results, Solskjaer is delighted with what Maguire has brought to the club in his first month at United.

"Harry has been brilliant for us," said the Norwegian. "He has come into the dressing room and been a leader there and a leader on the pitch.

"He is going to be a big part of the future of this club. We watched him enough to know he is the guy we wanted."

U-18 CLUB FOOTBALL

Saif held by NoFeL

SPORTS REPORTER

Saif Sporting Club surrendered a lead to play out a 1-1 draw against NoFeL SC in the opening match of Walton U-18 Football Tournament at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Saniyat put Saif SC ahead in the 31st minute by converting a penalty only to be cancelled out by NoFeL SC's Mejbah in the 49th minute.

It was surprising that Saif SC, who have been nursing a youth team round the year, were held by lowly NoFeL SC, who just put on a makeshift youth team to comply with the conditions of the game's local governing body to play in the professional football league.

In the day's other match, Chittagong Abahani thrashed Muktiyoddha Sangsad 5-0.