


What to WATCH

SONY SIX
Pakistan v Sri Lanka
Second T20I
Live from 7:30pm

MURDER CONVICT RETURNS TO THE GAME

The former Flamengo goalkeeper who was sentenced to jail for his part in the murder of an ex-girlfriend made a return to the game on Saturday, with Bruno Fernandes given a warm welcome by fans at his new club Pocos de Caldas. Fernandes, who is better known by his first name Bruno, was found guilty in 2013 of involvement in the murder of Eliza Samudio, a former partner and part-time model who was seeking paternity payments after giving birth to a son she said was his. In a case that shocked both Brazil and the football world, Fernandes told the judge his friends strangled Samudio, cut her body up and fed bits of it to dogs. He was given a 22-year sentence but having now served enough time to qualify for a part-release scheme he was allowed out to travel the 160 km from Varginha, where he served most of his sentence, to his new club in Pocos de Caldas. The 34-year-old is allowed out during the day but must return to Varginha at night.
—REUTERS



Manchesters fall flat

AFP, London

Premier League Manchester City's Premier League title defence suffered another huge blow in a shock 2-0 defeat to Wolves, while Manchester United endured another miserable day in a 1-0 loss at Newcastle on Sunday.

City now trail runaway leaders Liverpool by eight points after just eight games as Adama Traore punished a sloppy performance by the champions with two goals in the final 10 minutes at the Etihad.

"Today we were not at our level," admitted City boss Pep Guardiola. "We had problems to make our game. We have faced many teams defending deep and found a solution, but not this time."

Raul Jimenez failed to make the most of three breakaway chances before the interval, but the Mexican made amends with a great run past the hapless Nicolas Otamendi to set up Traore's opener.

The same two players then combined in stoppage time as Traore raced through to seal a famous win for Wolves.

City have now dropped more points at home this season than the entirety of the previous Premier League campaign, but Guardiola is not yet giving up the title fight.

"The distance to Liverpool is big, but we must not think about the eight-point gap. We are still in October and there are lots

of games and lots of competitions to play."

While City's off day came as surprise, United's defeats are becoming more routine as they dropped to 12th after failing to win on the road for an 11th straight game.

The Red Devils' lack of a killer instinct in front of goal was again in evidence as Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men lacked imagination to open up a defensive-minded Magpies.

But Newcastle hit back with devastating effect 18 minutes from time when 19-year-old Matthew Longstaff sealed a dream Premier League debut by drilling the ball past David de Gea from outside the box.

"We've given ourselves a big, big uphill challenge to get among the top four but it's tight and we need to get a run together," said Solskjaer with United just two points off the relegation zone and five outside the top four.

However, De Gea was more scathing in his assessment. "We didn't create any proper chances. We have some big injuries but that's no excuse. We are Manchester United, we need to keep training hard, fighting and winning games."

Arsenal were also far from convincing but did enough to edge out Bournemouth 1-0 thanks to David Luiz's first goal for the club to move into third.

Chelsea boss Frank Lampard was much happier after his side rounded off an excellent week with a 4-1 win at Southampton to remain just one point behind Arsenal in fifth.



Wolverhampton Wanderers walked away 2-0 winners from their English Premier League match against Manchester City, courtesy of a brace from forward Adama Traore (R), in Manchester yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS



Naomi Osaka secured the China Open title with a 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 win over Ashleigh Barty yesterday. In the men's section, (inset) Dominic Thiem a handed 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 loss to Stefanos Tsitsipas to claim his 15th ATP trophy.

PHOTO: AFP/REUTERS



Osaka beats Barty, retains title

Thiem battles from a set down to claim 15th ATP title

AFP, Beijing

S CHINA OPEN An emotional Naomi Osaka said that she had atoned for the disappointment of the US Open after beating world number one Ashleigh Barty 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 in the China Open final in Beijing yesterday.

In the men's draw, top seed Dominic Thiem recovered from a set down against Stefanos Tsitsipas to claim the 15th singles title of his career.

The 21-year-old Osaka has had a turbulent year, winning the Australian Open but then suffering a dip in form which included exiting Flushing Meadows in the last 16.

But the two-time Grand Slam champion from Japan surged back to win her home Pan Pacific Open last month and made it back-to-back titles with victory in Beijing.

Osaka defeated teenage US Open champion Bianca Andreescu and then French Open winner Barty on the way to the fifth crown of her young career.

Winning in Japan and China had been her aim after the US Open letdown, where she was the defending champion and top seed.

"I don't want to say I planned (it), but I really meditated on it. It just feels like I accomplished what I set out to do," she said.

But Osaka admitted that she had been driven to tears after going down in the first set to Australia's Barty, before powering back to win the final.

Among the changes after the US Open, the young Japanese brought her father Leonard Francois on board as her coach.

It has proved successful in a short time but Osaka does not see it as a long-term arrangement.

"He doesn't like watching my

matches. I think it stresses him out because he twitches every time I hit a ball," she smiled.

The beaten Barty said that her slice shot, a major weapon of the Australian's, was "nullified" because of the cool conditions in the Chinese capital.

The Australian, who took a break from tennis five years ago and played cricket instead, is relishing more showdowns in the future against Osaka and Andreescu, two other major talents.

The Austrian Thiem defeated Greece's third seed Tsitsipas 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 for the men's crown.

The 26-year-old beat former world number one Andy Murray on the way to the title and had also booked his spot in the prestigious season-ending ATP Finals.

Thiem strolled to the crown in the deciding set against Tsitsipas, who at 21 is a rising star of men's tennis.

FARAAZ GOLD CUP Sher-e-Bangla, Gono Univ in quarters

SPORTS REPORTER

Sher-e-Bangla Agriculture University and Gono University moved into the quarterfinals of United Group Faraz Inter-University Gold Cup football tournament at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Sher-e-Bangla Agriculture University beat Shanto-Mariam University 5-4 in tiebreaker after regulation time produced a 2-2 draw.

In the day's second match, Gono University handed a 3-0 defeat to Jahangirnagar University, with Arafat Mia, Ashraful Islam and Shakhawat Hossain scoring one goal apiece.

Kabaddi super league from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The super league stage of Walton Refrigerator 16th Premier Division Kabaddi League gets underway today at the Kabaddi Stadium, with eight teams vying for the prestigious title.

A total of 15 teams took part in the first round of the league in September and top four teams from the two groups advanced to the super league stage. The qualifying teams are: Bangladesh Navy, Air Force, Police, Army, Jail, Border Guard Bangladesh, Azad Sporting Club and Dhaka Wanderers Club. Four matches will take place on each day of the seven-day competition.

Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation's joint secretary Gazi Mohammad Mozammel Haque said at a press conference that they were trying to run the top-flight league for a longer period in a bid to get more players in the pipeline of the national team, which is supposed to travel to Haryana as part of preparation for the upcoming South Asian Games.

Unscathed Djokovic clinches Japan open

AFP, Tokyo



World number one Novak Djokovic clinched the Japan Open yesterday, dispelling concerns about the shoulder injury that forced him out of the US Open.

The Serbian star crushed Australian qualifier John Millman 6-3, 6-2 to mark his 10th win in a tournament main draw debut.

Djokovic, playing in his first Japanese competition, dominated throughout the week, never losing a single set to claim the trophy at the Ariake Colosseum, a venue for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

Beaming Djokovic, the winner of 16 Grand Slams, now goes to the Shanghai Masters, where he is the top seed.

"I didn't drop a set, so I played a fantastic tournament. Everything is positive in my experience on and off the court, the way I feel and motivated for Shanghai, going there with great confidence," he said.

Djokovic started the Japan Open by taking part in a doubles game and switched to higher gears as the week progressed, never allowing his opponents, including world number 15 David Goffin, to pose a serious threat.

In the final, Djokovic grabbed an early break in the first set to take a 3-1 lead with a series of sizzling serves and precision returns that had Millman scrambling across the baseline.

The Serb kept sending sharp returns to deep corners, mixing them with elegant drop shots.

Djokovic fired six aces, never committed a double fault, and scored points on 26 of his 30 successful first serves.

He never faced a break point, while Millman managed to survive only one of four break points during the match.

Siddikur fifth in Taiwan

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman claimed his first top-10 finish of the season when he finished fifth in the Taiwan Mercuries Taiwan Masters at the Taiwan Golf and Country Club yesterday.

The 34-year-old, who was two shots off the lead at the end of the third round, returned a card of three-over-par in the final round for an aggregate score of four-under-par (284).

Suradit Yongcharoenchai of Thailand won the title with a score of 10-under-par (278).

Siddikur settled for a par score of 36 in the front nine, but went for a 39 in the back nine.

His paycheck of 29,250 dollars helped him move from 29th up to 23rd on the Asian Tour Order of Merit.

DT win Media Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Tribune (DT) won the Kool-BSJA Media Cup, defeating Samakal on penalties in the final at the BFF astroturf yesterday.

Earlier in the day, DT clashed with The Daily Star (TDS) in the semis.

TDS played like the current iteration of Manchester United, but fortunately had a 2015 iteration of David de Gea -- Rumman Kalam -- between the sticks. He made three one-on-one saves, putting the icing on the performance of a lifetime.

TDS conceded midway through the first half and could never quite hit back with only two players on the bench.



A Gono University player jostles for the ball with his Jahangirnagar University counterpart during a Faraz Intervarsity Gold Cup match in Kamalapur yesterday. Gono University won the encounter 3-0.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Gatlin gets first gold in relay

AFP, Doha



Justin Gatlin celebrated his first relay gold medal on Saturday as the United States lifted their 4x100 metres curse with victory at the World Championships.

The star-studded quartet of Gatlin, newly crowned 100m champion Christian Coleman, 200m gold medallist Noah Lyles and Michael Rodgers recorded the second fastest time in history -- 37.10 seconds -- as they stormed home at the Khalifa Stadium.

The win comes at the tailend of the 37-year-old Gatlin's career, which has been studded with individual titles but no relay gold medals.

In fact, Gatlin has all too often been part of a pattern of failure that has seen a succession of talented US relay squads fail to add up to the sum of their parts.

Since the 1995 World Championships, the USA has botched no fewer than nine relays in major outdoor championships.



Gatlin revealed on Saturday that the pattern of failure had gnawed away at him for years.

"The gold means so much to me," he told reporters. "This gold has eluded me throughout my whole career, through high school, college, it's always been just right outside the window, just always not able to get the job done and we were successful finally."

The USA victory came after they were given an almighty scare in Friday's semifinals, when they came within a whisker of disqualification after a botched final handover.



The Daily Star's Content Editor Mohammed Al-Amin won the World Sports Journalist Day award while the same organisation's Firoz Ahmed won the Sports Photography award at the Max-BSPA Night at FARS Hotel on Saturday. Meanwhile, Tarek Mahmud, head of sports of Prothom Alo, was named Sports Journalist of the Year.

PHOTO: STAR