

# What to WATCH

**BANGLA TV & BTV**  
**Bangladesh v Qatar**  
**FIFA World Cup & Asian Cup**  
**Qualifiers**  
**Live from 7:00pm**

**STAR SPORTS 1**  
**India v South Africa**  
**Second Test, Day One**  
**Live from 10:00am**

**SONY ESPN**  
**Shanghai Masters**  
**Live from 10:30pm**

## DAY'S EVENT

**Bangladesh v Qatar**  
**FIFA World Cup & Asian**  
**Cup Qualifiers**

Time: 7:00pm  
 Venue: Bangabandhu  
 National Stadium, Dhaka

**Nat'l Cricket League**  
**Four-Day Match, Day 1**  
 Time: 9:30am

Rajshahi v Dhaka  
 Venue: KSOAS  
 Rangpur v Khulna

Venue: SANS  
 Barishal v Sylhet  
 Venue: SKS

Dhaka Metro v Chattogram  
 Venue: SBNCs

## XABI APPEARS IN COURT FOR TAX CASE

Former Liverpool midfielder Xabi Alonso appeared in a Madrid court on Wednesday, facing charges of tax fraud to the tune of two million euros, a court spokesman said. At the two-day hearing, the 37-year-old was quizzed over allegations he used a company based on the Portuguese island of Madeira to avoid paying taxes on his image rights to the Spanish authorities. If convicted, he risks up to five years behind bars for the alleged fraud which prosecutors say took place between 2010 and 2012 when he was playing for Real Madrid. They are also asking that Alonso and his accomplices pay a fine of 4.0 million euros and the outstanding tax to be paid with interest.



# Fizz fit one day, not the next

Mehedi, Saifuddin also out of NCL first round

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national bowlers Mustafizur Rahman and Mehedi Hasan Miraz will not be featuring for Khulna Division in their National Cricket League (NCL) opening-round fixture against Rangpur Division today, with the official line being that both players were rested, but for different reasons. Off-spinner Mehedi's case is a straightforward one as he bowled 120.1 overs in the just-concluded two-match four-day series between Bangladesh A and Sri Lanka A and was therefore given a breather. While Mehedi had bowled a lot in longer-version cricket, Mustafizur, it was learnt from a source close to developments, had wanted to sit out the first round and head into next month's tour of India after playing the second and third rounds.

The left-arm pacer was left out of Bangladesh's one-off Test against Afghanistan a month ago because of discomfort in his ankle and some

back pain, but did feature in the ensuing T20I tri-series.

It should also be mentioned here that the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) made it compulsory for national players to play the NCL, barring injury.

According to the source, national physio Julian Calefatto had told the national selectors that Mustafizur would be fit to play from the first round of NCL. However, on Tuesday, a day after the NCL squads were named, Mustafizur communicated with Calefatto and a few hours later the physio sent an email to the selectors advising that the pacer be rested from the first round.

Adding a further layer of confusion, Mustafizur had actually gone to the airport on Tuesday to catch a flight to Jessore, presumably to join the team in Khulna, where the match will take place.

He then turned back because of the latest advice from the physio.

"Mustafizur is not available for the opening game as our physio instructed

recently that he is yet to recover sufficiently from the ankle injury to take the load of longer-version cricket. According to the physio, Mustafizur is yet to bowl the number of overs in practice that would have indicated that he is fully fit to take on the load of bowling 25 to 30 overs a day," national selector Habibul Bashar told reporters yesterday. "We are hoping to have him in the second round as he is expected to complete the required amount of bowling before then."

"As far as Mehedi is concerned, he bowled quite a few overs in Sri Lanka during the two four-day games and certainly deserves some kind of rest," Bashar added.

Bangladesh's limited-overs all-rounder Mohammad Saifuddin has also been advised not to take part in the first round for Chattogram because of a lingering back injury. Bangladesh Test and T20I skipper Shakib Al Hasan is the other notable national absentee as he is in the West Indies playing the Caribbean Premier League for Barbados Tridents.



**A Gono University player (L) skips past a player of defending champions Fareast University in the first quarterfinal of the Faraaz Gold Cup at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday. Gono University won the game 2-0 while the other quarterfinal saw BUTEX beat Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University 1-0**

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## BSPA sports carnival from today

SPORTS REPORTER

Marcel-BSPA Sports Carnival gets underway today with some 17 events from nine disciplines scheduled to be held during the 10-day meet.

The disciplines are: carom, table tennis, badminton, chess, swimming, marathon, shot put, shooting and archery. The carnival opens through swimming at the Ivy Rahman Swimming pool, said a press release from BSPA yesterday.

## Sri Lanka whitewash Pakistan

AFP, Karachi

Sri Lanka defeated Pakistan by 13 runs to win the third and final Twenty20 international in Lahore on Wednesday, routing the world number one team 3-0 in the series.

Sri Lanka scored 147-7 with debutant Oshada Fernando scoring a brilliant 48-ball 78 not out with three sixes and eight boundaries. For Pakistan, pacer Mohammad Amir took 3-27.

Pakistan were then undone by leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga who took 3-21 as they managed 134-6 in 20 overs.

Sri Lanka won the first match by 64 runs and the second by 35 runs -- both in Lahore.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
**SRI LANKA:** 147 for 7 in 20 overs (Fernando 78 not out, Perera 13; Amir 3-27)  
**PAKISTAN:** 134 for 6 in 20 overs (Sohail 52, Azam 27; Hasaranga 3-21, Kumara 2-24)

**Result:** Sri Lanka won by 13 runs and clinched the three-match series 3-0  
**Man-of-the-match:** Wanindu Hasaranga  
**Man-of-the-series:** Wanindu Hasaranga

# Tax issues made Messi want to leave Barca!

AFP, Barcelona



Lionel Messi has admitted he wanted to leave Barcelona when he was under investigation from the Spanish tax authorities but insists now he intends to finish his career at the club.

In an interview with Catalan radio station RAC1, Messi also said he had expected Neymar to sign for Real Madrid last summer after Barca failed to strike an agreement with Paris Saint-Germain.

Messi and his father Jorge were found guilty of defrauding Spain of 4.1 million euros in taxes between 2007 and 2009, for which they paid close to 10 million euros and Messi was handed a 21-month suspended prison sentence.

Asked on Tuesday night if he had ever wanted to leave Barcelona, Messi said: "In 2013-14, when I started having the tax problems, it was very difficult for me and my family. My children were young and we had a very bad time. At that time, I had it in mind to leave, not because I wanted to leave Barca but because I wanted to leave Spain. I felt mistreated and I didn't want to be here anymore."

"The 32-year-old's current contract expires in 2021 and Messi believes extending his deal "will not be a problem".

"Today it is clearer that my idea is to finish here," Messi said.

Messi added that he was keen to be reunited with Neymar last summer.

"I honestly thought at one time, especially in this market, that if he did not come here, he would go to Real Madrid because I thought he wanted to leave," Messi said.

"I wanted Neymar to come because as a footballer, he is one of the best in the world. He is unpredictable and having him in our team would have given us more options. But aside from the sporting side, he left in the way that he left. We could have left it at that. A lot of the fans didn't want him to come back and that's understandable."

Barcelona did sign Antoine Griezmann from Atletico Madrid and Messi denied suggestions by the media of a rift between him and the Frenchman.

"The first year when we wanted to sign Griezmann, I said he was one of the best and that the best are always welcome," Messi said. "I have never had problem with him coming. So it's a lie."

Messi also offered his support to Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde, who has been under pressure after a bumpy start to the season followed the team's Champions League collapse against Liverpool in May.

"It was not the coach's fault but it was also not my decision for him to stay," Messi said. "The club decided Valverde would continue and for me that was a joy, good for stability and he is a coach we support and love."



**Ben Stokes's wife laughed off claims that the cricketer 'angrily choked' her at an awards ceremony -- saying it was a way of showing affection. She also posted a similar picture on Instagram, making light of the media circus around the situation.**

PHOTO: COLLECTED

# Accent on competition

SPORTS REPORTER



The 21st edition of the National Cricket League (NCL), the country's oldest first-class competition, will kick off across the country today with an emphasis placed on more competitive cricket.

In the Tier-1 matches defending champions Rajshahi Division will take on Dhaka Division in Fatullah while Rangpur will square off against Khulna in Khulna. In Rajshahi, Tier-2 teams Barishal will lock horns with Sylhet and Dhaka Metro will take on Chattogram Division in Mirpur.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) had initially raised the fitness standards for this edition by increasing the minimum requirement in the beep test from nine in the previous

season to 11. The selectors did then relax the fitness requirements for some experienced campaigners, who were unable to meet the standards, just for this season.


The board also made changes to the point system this season, with points awarded for consecutive wins. The bonus points will also see some changes, with teams earning 0.01 points for every run they score above 250 in the first 100 overs of the first innings. The bowling team will be awarded 0.5 points at the fall of the fifth, seventh and ninth wickets in the first 100 overs of the first innings.

This season's NCL is also considered as preparation for Bangladesh's tour of India next month as the board made it compulsory for national players to take part in the NCL, most of whom

have not been regular participants in the competition in past years.

Meanwhile this year's NCL will also see former Bangladesh batsman Aftab Ahmed embark on his maiden stint as head coach of Chattogram Division. The former hard-hitting Bangladesh batsman had already established himself as coach of Legends of Rugganj in the last edition of the Dhaka Premier League, in which his side finished second.

"When played, my intention was to play with an attacking mindset and now as a coach, I don't want to see my team at the bottom. My attacking mindset will remain as coach too and regardless of the result I will try to give my best," Aftab told reporters yesterday. *The points breakdown can be found in the online version of this article.*





## Request for Proposals

for "ReCAP Impact Case Study on Bangladesh"

The Research for Community Access Partnership (ReCAP) is a six-year programme of applied research and knowledge dissemination funded by UK aid through the UK Government. The overall aim is to promote safe and sustainable rural access in Africa and Asia through research and knowledge sharing between participating countries and the wider community. Cardno Emerging Markets (UK) Ltd has been contracted by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) to manage ReCAP.

The ReCAP programme is aiming to have lasting impacts in the countries it works with so as to demonstrate that the investment in rural roads research and research capacity forms a valuable contribution, among other factor, towards the desired impact. The programme's logframe contains the applicable impact and outcome indicators and ReCAP is now looking to document its impact through an impact case study centred on one of its ReCAP partner countries, Bangladesh.

The purpose of this project is to develop an impact case study for Bangladesh covering ReCAP logframe impact and outcome indicators as well as additional impact indicators to be identified. This will include an overview of the current status of rural road infrastructure and transport research in the country. Selection of Bangladesh as a country for this project is based on the assumption that sufficient data is readily available to undertake the impact study and limited additional new research is needed to obtain impact data, although relevant additional research/data collection may be required.

Cardno Emerging Markets (UK) Ltd is therefore seeking proposals to undertake an Impact Case Study on Bangladesh. The objective of the impact case study is to demonstrate the contribution of ReCAP research undertaken since 2014 in Bangladesh in a qualitative and/or quantitative (where possible and appropriate) manner and in the wider causal package towards improved rural access in the country.

ReCAP is looking for a team of experts to undertake the study with proven experience in undertaking impact studies, including determining methodology, scope and implementing research needed to obtain impact data.

Those interested can request the Request for Proposals (RfP) document by sending an e-mail to [recap.procurement@cardno.com](mailto:recap.procurement@cardno.com) with copy to [Edson.Madeira@cardno.com](mailto:Edson.Madeira@cardno.com), stating the project reference number GEN2160B in the subject line.

All submissions of proposals must be received no later than 18th November 2019, 17:00 UK time.

For further information about ReCAP please visit [www.research4cap.org](http://www.research4cap.org).

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