

What to WATCH

GTV & MAASRANGA

Bangladesh Premier League
Sylhet v Rajshahi
Live from 2:00pm
Dhaka v Cumilla
Live from 7:00pm

SONY ESPN

Pakistan v Sri Lanka
First Test, Day Three
Live from 10:30am

SONY SIX

Australia v New Zealand
First Test, Day Two
Live from 11:00am

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2

Bundesliga
Hoffenheim v Augsburg
Live from 1:30am (Saturday)

DAY'S EVENT

Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Dhaka
Sylhet v Rajshahi
Time: 2:00pm
Dhaka v Cumilla
Time: 7:00pm



Bayern Munich's Thomas Muller (2nd from L) celebrates with teammates after scoring in the 45th minute of a 3-1 win over Tottenham in a UEFA Champions League encounter at the Allianz Arena on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP

Bayern Munich win six straight

AFP, Munich

Bayern Munich on Wednesday became the first German club to win all of their six group matches in the Champions League when they swept to a 3-1 home victory over Jose Mourinho's Tottenham.

Both sides had already made sure of their progress to the last 16, but victory would have been a relief to caretaker-coach Hansi Flick after the German giants had lost their last two Bundesliga games.

Kingsley Coman, who suffered two ankle injuries in 2018, put Bayern ahead at the Allianz Arena before needing to be helped off on 27 minutes after badly twisting his knee.

Coman's injury "cast a big shadow on this game," said Flick.

Although teenager Ryan Sessegnon equalised with his first goal for Spurs, Coman's replacement Thomas Mueller restored Bayern's lead when he tapped home with half-time approaching.

With an hour gone, Philippe Coutinho bagged Bayern's third goal by firing an excellent shot into the far corner of the Spurs net.

Bayern ran riot with a 7-2 thrashing of Spurs in north London when the clubs last

met in October, but this was a far more subdued affair with both teams resting their star strikers.

As he had hinted Tuesday, Mourinho rested several stars with Lucas Moura taking the place of England striker Harry Kane.

Flick left Poland striker Robert Lewandowski, the competition's top-scorer with 10 goals in five games, on Bayern's bench.

The hosts went ahead on 13 minutes when Serge Gnabry spotted Coman unmarked to sweep the ball in and score his first Bayern goal for nearly three months.

However, Spurs drew level on 20 minutes when winger Sessegnon fired home the visitors' first clear chance to claim his first goal for the club since joining from Fulham.

Bayern then lost Coman, who was in clear distress after twisting his knee and had to be helped off.

Gnabry hit the woodwork for Bayern and just before the break, left-back Alphonso Davies hit the post, but Mueller was on hand to tap home the rebound.

Coutinho then netted his first Champions League goal since joining Bayern on loan from Barcelona when he picked his spot in the far corner in the 64th minute.

No home hopes after Urmi exit

SPORTS REPORTER



After the exits of the country's top-ranked men and women shuttlers from the qualifying or final stages of Yonex-Sunrise Bangladesh International Challenge badminton tournament, home hopes rested on fifth-ranked shuttler Urmi Akter but an injury forced her to forfeit the women's singles pre-quarterfinal against India's Ira Sharman, which was supposed to take place at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium yesterday.

Urmi, who won the mixed doubles bronze with Salam Kahan in the just concluded SA Games, did not show up to the court following an injury to her right ankle sustained during Wednesday's match against Maisa Fathuhulla Ismail of Maldives. The treatment was not sufficient and the ankle swelled up overnight. In line with the walkover rules, she and Dulali Halder also forfeited the women's doubles event.

However, Urmi has no regrets and is now focusing her attentions on producing better results in the junior competition of the challenge, which is scheduled to start on December 17 at the same venue.

"I didn't take the risk because the injury could have worsened had I forcefully played the match. I'm now looking forward to playing the junior tournament with the hope of performing better than at the senior level," the girl from Pabna told reporters at the venue yesterday.

The shuttler however had some regrets for not getting enough opportunities to train and develop her skills.

"To be honest, our training is conducted ahead of a tournament and beyond that, there are no opportunities to train. However, I want to thank my coach Rashid sir, who helped me come this far," Urmi said. "All sub-continent countries, except Bhutan, have gone past us. Nepal is a fast-improving nation that conducted long-term training under a foreign coach for the SA Games.

"But we don't have such opportunities to train under a foreign coach. It is really hard for us to build a career in badminton, which realistically has no future in Bangladesh," said Urmi, who also won a bronze medal in the 2016 SA Games while paired with Shapla Akter.

"For the first time I lost to a Nepalese player in the SA Games and the experience in Nepal was really bad. Our badminton has gradually been going backwards. The bottom line is that there are no plans in badminton but there is a lot of natural talent in this discipline. The federation must show the way up for upcoming players and arrange training for at least seven to eight months," said national champion Shapla, who partnered Alina Sultana in the women's doubles and lost to the Indian pair of K Maneesha and Rutaparna Panda 21-16, 10-21, 16-21 in the quarterfinals yesterday.



PSG superstars Neymar and Kylian Mbappe both got on the scoresheet of a 5-0 win against Galatasaray at the Parc des Princes on Wednesday, making the Brazilian's return to the Champions League a memorable one.

PHOTO: AFP

PSG hammer Galatasaray

AFP, Paris



Neymar marked his first start in a Champions League game in a year by scoring one goal and setting up two more as Paris Saint-Germain cruised to a 5-0 win over Galatasaray on Wednesday.

Mauro Icardi and Pablo Sarabia netted in the first half at the Parc des Princes, with the world's most expensive player getting his team's third within two minutes of the restart.

Kylian Mbappe scored the fourth goal and substitute Edinson Cavani added a late penalty as PSG -- who had already qualified for the last 16 as group winners - made it 16 points out of a possible 18 in Group A to finish five points ahead of Real Madrid.

Despite PSG already being comfortably through and France being in the grip of a transport strike that has almost completely shut down the Paris metro system, the Parc des Princes was still largely full for this game.

That included a sizeable travelling support, and there were incidents outside the stadium ahead of the match between rival fan groups, with police responding by firing tear gas before calm returned.

The game itself carried the air of a training exercise for the home side, with PSG coach Thomas Tuchel resting stars such as Angel Di Maria, Thiago Silva, Marco Verratti and goalkeeper Keylor Navas.

Sergio Rico made just his second appearance in goal since signing on loan from Sevilla at the start of the season, while Argentine international Leandro Paredes was handed a rare start in midfield.

Alongside him was the 17-year-old Tanguy Kouassi, who made his senior debut in a Ligue 1 game at Montpellier last weekend and has still not signed full professional terms.

The two biggest stars were on the pitch, however, and both Neymar and Mbappe proved too hot for the Turkish champions to handle.

Nat'l football C'ships back after 13 years

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has decided to revive the National Football Championship after a gap of 13 years on January 10 to celebrate the 100th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The decision was taken at the meeting of the BFF organising committee, which named the championship after Bangabandhu. The last edition of the Sher-e-Bangla national football championship was held in 2006 and the BFF, despite announcing repeatedly in the interim that they would stage it, had since failed to keep their word.

"The participating teams will be divided equally into eight zones, with each team playing matches on a home-and-away basis. The winners will progress to the next round while the losers will play plate-phase matches. Finally, eight zonal champions will play the final round in Dhaka," said Bangabandhu National Football championship committee chairman Harunur Rashid yesterday.



Juventus forward Cristiano Ronaldo (L) is seen with a pitch invader during Wednesday's Champions League match against Leverkusen.

PHOTO: AFP

Invaders mar Juve's 2-0 win

AFP, Paris



Cristiano Ronaldo was confronted by two pitch invaders, including one seeking a selfie, after his goal helped Juventus defeat Bayer Leverkusen 2-0 in the Champions League on Wednesday.

Firstly, the Portuguese star was warmly hugged in the middle of the pitch by a fan wearing a Juve shirt and hat.

Just moments later, a second supporter, dressed all in black, sprinted across the BayArena pitch to snap a selfie.

An angry Ronaldo pushed the fan away before security staff intervened.

Ronaldo scored his second Champions League goal of the season for Juve who were already sure of top spot in Group D and a spot in the last 16.

Substitute Paulo Dybala was the creator of the 75th-minute opener, crossing low for Ronaldo to tap in a record-extending 128th goal in the competition, before Gonzalo Higuain's injury-time clincher for the Italian giants.

Day 2 hit by bad weather

AFP, Rawalpindi

Heavy rain and bad light hit the second day of the historic Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka in Rawalpindi yesterday, Pakistan's first home Test since a deadly attack in 2009.

Sri Lanka, resuming at 220-5, had progressed to 225-5 in 7.5 overs when heavy rain in the morning forced the teams to have early lunch.

Play was stopped for two hours and 43 minutes but when it resumed only 10 overs were possible with Sri Lanka losing Niroshan Dickwella for 33 before bad light accompanied by rain forced an early call-off at 3:30 pm (1030 GMT).

At the close Sri Lanka were 263-6 with Dhananjaya de Silva unbeaten on 72 and Dilruwan Perera not out on two.

The stop-start play left both teams frustrated as well as 2,000 fans who had come to watch the revival of Test cricket in Pakistan. **SCORES IN BRIEF**
SRI LANKA: First innings 263 for 6 (Karunaratne 59, Fernando 40, Mathews 31, Dhananjaya 72 not out, Dickwella 33; Shaheen 2-47, Naseem 2-75)

Marnus's third straight ton guides Aus

AFP, Perth



Emerging batsman Marnus Labuschagne yesterday posted his third successive Test century to frustrate a resilient New Zealand attack on the opening day of the first Test in Perth.

After Australia won a potentially pivotal toss in scorching heat and elected to bat in the first ever day-night Test in Perth, the home team were 248 for four at stumps after facing some challenging bowling from the disciplined Kiwis.

Having toiled without much success in

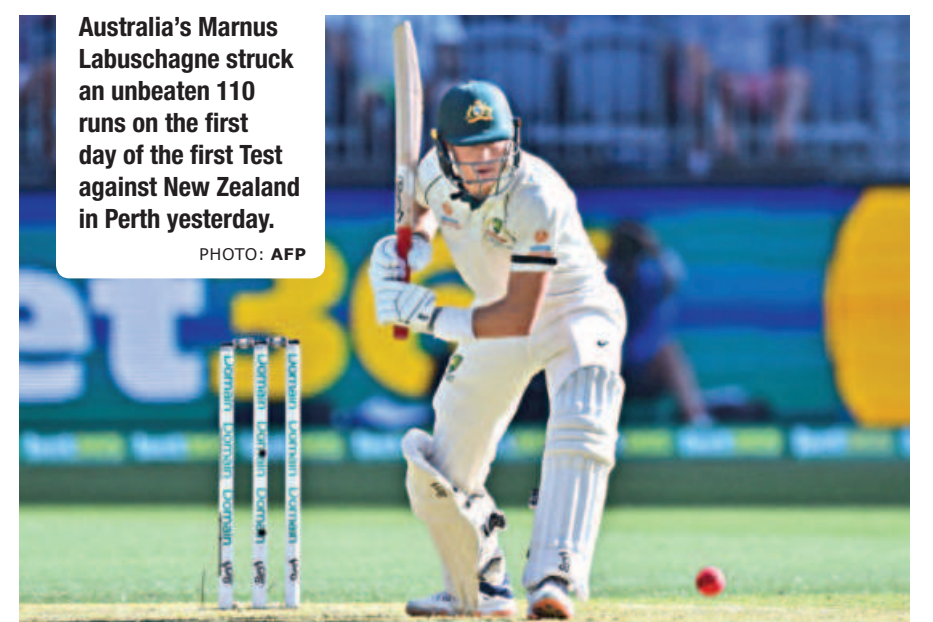
40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) heat, the Kiwis fought back late in the day by removing Steve Smith (43) and Matthew Wade (12).

However, Labuschagne was the rock of the Australian innings and was unbeaten on 110, with Travis Head on 20.

Batting was hard work for most of the Australian top order in the high temperatures, but Labuschagne further added to his rapidly growing status with a chanceless century.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: First innings 248 for 4 (Warner 43, Labuschagne 110 not out, Smith 43, Head 20 not out; Wagner 2-52)



Australia's Marnus Labuschagne struck an unbeaten 110 runs on the first day of the first Test against New Zealand in Perth yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP