

What to WATCH

SONY SIX
Australia v New Zealand
First Test, Day Five
Live from 11:00am
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
English Premier League
Crystal Palace v Brighton

Live from 1:45am (Tuesday)
TEN 2
Serie A
Cagliari v Lazio
Live from 1:45am (Tuesday)

CRUYFF LEAVES CHONGQING LIFAN

Coach Jordi Cruyff has left China's Chongqing Lifan after failing to agree a new contract for next season, the club said yesterday. The 45-year-old enjoyed a successful 16 months at the Chinese Super League club, taking them from relegation candidates last year to a 10th-place finish this season. The former Manchester United and Barcelona midfielder, son of late Dutch great Johan Cruyff, paid tribute to Chongqing's supporters. "Without their backing it would have been impossible to achieve the targets we set ourselves as a team," Cruyff, who previous coaching job was at Maccabi Tel Aviv in Israel, said in a statement. "As I call time on my spell at Chongqing, I wanted my first words of thanks to go to the club's fans for their constant shows of affection, which really touched me, despite the language barrier."



—AFP



Juventus talisman Cristiano Ronaldo (R) celebrates with his teammates after scoring his second goal against Udinese in a Serie A encounter at the Allianz Stadium yesterday. Leonardo Bonucci scored the third as Juventus walked away 3-1 victors.

PHOTO: AFP

Greenwood rescues point for United

AFP, Manchester



Mason Greenwood came off the bench to rescue Manchester United as the teenage striker's late equaliser secured a 1-1 draw against Everton yesterday.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side fell behind to Victor Lindelof's controversial first half own-goal after United's appeals for a foul on David de Gea were ignored by VAR.

But Greenwood, introduced in the second half, underlined his vast potential with a clinical strike 13 minutes from full-time.

The 18-year-old is the third youngest player to score a Premier League goal at Old Trafford after former United forwards Federico Macheda and Danny Welbeck.

Bradford-born Greenwood, a product of United's youth academy, now has seven goals in his breakthrough season after netting twice in his previous appearance against Alkmaar in the Europa League on Thursday.

This was his second Premier League goal after his strike against Sheffield United in November and his rapid progress is a bright spot in a difficult season for Solskjaer's sixth placed team.

It was fitting that Greenwood scored in the 4,000th senior match in succession in which at least one youth graduate was represented in United's first-team or matchday squad, an extraordinary record stretching back over nine decades.

After their impressive wins over Tottenham and Manchester City in their last two league games, United's frustrating draw reaffirmed how much improvement is still needed under Solskjaer despite Greenwood's ascent.

For Duncan Ferguson, Everton's caretaker manager, this spirited performance built on the momentum from last weekend's win over Chelsea.

Another of United's homegrown products should have opened the scoring within 20 seconds when Fred's burst into the Everton area ended with Jesse Lingard swivelling onto the loose ball and shooting wide from 10 yards.

Daniel James' blistering pace was on full display when the winger raced clear for a low drive that flashed wide of the far post, prompting an angry exchange between Everton keeper Jordan Pickford and teammate Lucas Digne about who was to blame for the break.

Police beat Saif to take solo lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Police, yesterday, took solo lead with maximum 18 points after the ninth round of the Walton Refrigerator Premier Division Chess League, which is being held at the NSC Tower Auditorium.

In the ninth round, Bangladesh Police beat reigning champions and overnight joint-leaders Saif Sporting Club by 2.5-1.5 game points. GM Jobava Baadu and GM Mikheil Mehedlishvili of Bangladesh Police won against GM Kovalev Vladislav and GM Ziaur Rahman of Saif Sporting Club respectively. GM Niaz Murshed of Bangladesh Police drew with GM Eltaj Sarali of Saif Sporting Club while IM Fahad Rahman of Bangladesh Police lost against GM Enamul Hossain Razib of Saif Sporting Club, who are in second position with 16 points. Uttara Central Chess Club are in third position with 14 points while Bangladesh Navy are in fourth position with 13 points.

The 10th round of the 11-round championship, comprising of 12 teams, will be played today.

YONEX-SUNRISE BADMINTON

Malaysia scoop three titles

SPORTS REPORTER



India's Lakshya Sen and Vietnam's Thuy Linh Nguyen became champions in men's and women's singles of Yonex-Sunrise Bangladesh International Challenge Badminton tournament at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium yesterday.

Tournament's top-ranked Sen handed a 22-20, 21-18 points defeat to Malaysia's Leong Jun Hao in men's singles final while Nguyen beat Crystal Pan of USA by 21-8, 21-16 points in women's singles final.

However, three others crowns went to Malaysia as they won in all three events of men's and women's doubles and mixed

doubles. Yee Jan Chang and Kai Wun Tee pair beat Indian pair of MR Arjun and Dhuruv Kapila in men's doubles by 21-19, 21-16 points while Tan Pearly Koongle and Thinaah Muralitharan pair beat India's K Maneesha and Ritupama Panda pair by 22-20, 21-19 points in women's doubles final.

In mixed doubles, Malaysia's Hoo Pang Ron and Cheah Yee See beat compatriots Choong Hon Jian and Lim Peiy Yee by 21-8, 21-19 points.

Meanwhile, Yonex-Sunrise Bangladesh Junior International Badminton tournament will get underway on Tuesday at the same venue, with 52 shuttlers including 20 girls from five countries -- Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Nepal and Thailand -- taking part.



Winners of different categories pose for a photograph with organisers at the end of the Yonex-Sunrise Bangladesh International Challenge Badminton tournament at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Women's football league deferred again

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has once again deferred women's football league, which will be held in January next year after the game's local governing body has failed to confirm participating clubs for the league, which was last held in 2013.

Bangladesh have had reasonable success at age-group women's football but the senior women's team, which mostly comprise of junior players, have failed to replicate that success at international level. Hence there has been a demand for a long time to resume women's league so as to give the age-group players a platform to mature by playing domestic league, which will also help them financially and prolong their football career.

Having boldly announced its plan

of restarting women's league from October-November, the BFF in March this year had prepared a set of rules under club licensing regulations for clubs, organisations and corporate houses willing to take part. The BFF also invited its affiliated bodies and corporate houses to be part of the league.

But the game's local governing body failed to meet the deadline, deferring it to December. BFF also did not send the women's football team in the just-concluded South Asian Games citing the start of women's league, but it has now rescheduled the start of the league to January, a month when Bangabandhu Gold Cup international football tournament is scheduled to take place.

"Some five to seven teams are ready to take part in women's football league and we are expecting to start it in the third week of January even though the final decision will be taken at the meeting of women's committee

within a week," BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag told The Daily Star. "Earlier, no teams were willing to participate in women's league but this time around, we have some teams who want to play."

According to Shohag, Bashundhara Kings, Sheikh Russel KC, Sheikh Jamal DC and one team each from Rangpur and Old Dhaka have confirmed their participation while Team BJMC will inform of their decision by Tuesday.

"We have sent invitation to all affiliated bodies. Former women's league champions Abahani and two-time women's league runners-up Mohammedan informed us in written that they would participate in women's league if we hold it in April but we don't want to make any further delay as we also have a plan of holding another women's league in the latter part of next year," said Shohag, adding that they will hold the league in double-leg format if they have six teams in the league.

"বাংলার মাটি দুর্জয় ঘাঁটি বুঝে নিক দুর্বৃত্ত"

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Summit Pro, Summit Cup underway

SPORTS REPORTER

The 10th Summit Professional and 24th Summit Cup Golf Tournament got underway at the Kurmitola Golf Club in Dhaka yesterday. More than 700 amateur and professional golfers are participating in the two tournaments, scheduled to conclude on December 20.

The professional tournament has a prize purse of Tk 15 lakh.

Verona fight to 3-3 draw

AFP, Milan

Hellas Verona battled back from three goals down in a 15-minute second-half spell to hold Torino 3-3 in Serie A yesterday.

Torino took a comfortable lead after Christian Ansaldi scored a double with Alex Berenguer also on target for the visitors.

But the hosts hit back with three goals after 69 minutes from players who all came off the bench.

ইসলামী ব্যাংক
বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড
ইসলামী শরী'আহ মোতাবেক পরিচালিত

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