

<div>What to WATCH</div> <div>DAY'S EVENT</div>	GTV & MAASRANGA BBPL Khulna v Rangpur Live from 2:00pm Chattogram v Cumilla Live from 7:00pm	SONY ESPN Pakistan v Sri Lanka First Test, Day Two Live from 11:00am	STAR SPORTS SELECT 2 Bundesliga Hoffenheim v Dortmund Live from 1:30am (Saturday)	TEN 2 Serie A Fiorentina v Roma Live from 1:45am (Saturday)
	Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League Venue: Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury	Stadium, Chattogram Khulna v Rangpur Time: 2:00pm	Chattogram v Cumilla Time: 7:00pm Federation Cup	Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium, Dhaka Sheikh Russel v Uttar Baridhara Time: 3:30pm Muktijoddha v Mohammedan Time: 6:15pm

Russia decides to contest ban

AFP, Moscow

Russia decided yesterday to contest its ban from major sporting events over doping violations, as President Vladimir Putin slammed its sidelining as unfair and insisted athletes should be able to compete under the national flag.

Russia's RUSADA anti-doping agency "made a decision not to agree" with the four-year ban by the World Anti-Doping Agency's decision, the head of RUSADA's supervisory board, Alexander Ivlev, told journalists.

The decision will have to be communicated to WADA before the end of the month, triggering the appeal process in the Lausanne-based Court of Arbitration for Sport.

WADA on December 10 banned Russia for four years from major global events, including the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, over manipulated doping data.

Putin appeared to indicate a lengthy legal battle loomed, as he addressed a throng of journalists in his annual press conference.

"We will have to calmly await all the relevant decisions, including the decision by the arbitration court, then we will understand what position we're in," he said when asked about the prospect of cancellation of events on Russian territory.

Putin reiterated that he believes WADA's decision to be "not only unjust, but also not corresponding with common sense or law", saying Russia was being punished the second time for the same alleged offence.

"If WADA does not have any issues with our national Olympic committee our team must compete under its flag," Putin said.

"If a majority of our athletes are clean, how is it possible to slap sanctions against them for someone else's actions?"

"Russian athletes have been training and will be training for competition," Putin said.



Barcelona talisman Lionel Messi (L) is hounded by Real Madrid player Luka Modric during their La Liga Clasico encounter at Camp Nou on Wednesday. Although Real pressed hard, the match ended in a draw.

PHOTO: REUTERS

NATIONAL ARCHERY C'SHIPS

Tirandaj emerge as champs

SPORTS REPORTER

Tirandaj Sangsad emerged as champions of the Teer 11th National Archery Championships by bagging three gold, two silver and two bronze medals during the three-day tournament, which ended at the Shaheed Ahsan Ullah Master Stadium in Tongi, Gazipur yesterday.

Bangladesh Ansar finished second with three gold, one silver and four bronze medals while Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) became third with two gold, three silver and two bronze medals.

On the concluding day, BKSP beat Dhaka Army Archery Club in both the men's and women's recurve team events while Tirandaj defeated BKSP in the recurve mixed team final.

Dhaka Army bagged a gold medal in the men's compound team event by beating BKSP while Bangladesh Ansar won both gold medals in the women's compound and mixed compound team events, beating Dhaka Army and Tirandaj Sangsad respectively.

Navy clinch title again

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Navy clinched the Victory Day Hockey Tournament title with a single-goal win over Sonali Bank in the final at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Khorshedur Rahman separated the sides in the 53rd minute by converting a penalty corner. It was Navy's fourth successive triumph in the Victory Day Hockey Tournament.

Mushy, Fizz unsold in IPL auction

AGENCIES, undated



Bangladesh wicketkeeper batsman Mushfiqur Rahim and left-arm pacer Mustafizur Rahman went under the hammer in the Indian Premier League (IPL) auction held in Kolkata yesterday but both of them remained unsold.

The base price for Mushfiqur, who was in the wicketkeeper category, was 75 lakh rupees. Mushfiqur was not initially part of the 971 players who registered for the IPL auction, but he was a part of the 24 additional players who were added to the list after their names were requested by the franchises.

Meanwhile, Mustafizur whose base price was 1 crore rupees, also remained unpicked. Mustafizur featured in three IPL editions (2016,2017 and 2018) but remained unsold this time following his poor form for the national outfit.

Australian players attracted big prices at the auction with paceman Pat Cummins becoming the costliest overseas buy after he went to Kolkata Knight Riders for 15.50 crore rupees.

Cummins broke the record held by England's Ben Stokes, who was bought by Rising Pune Supergiant for 14.5 crore rupees in the 2017 auction.

Cummins initiated the biggest bidding war. Bangalore and Delhi Capitals both upped the ante before Kolkata swooped in for their former player, who has claimed 32 wickets in 25 IPL matches.

Explosive all-rounder Glenn Maxwell joined Kings XI Punjab for 10.75 crore rupees after recently returning to cricket from a short break due to mental health issues.



Sri Lanka bowler Lahiru Kumara celebrates after taking the wicket of Pakistan's Yasir Shah on the first day of the second Test in Karachi yesterday. Pakistan ended the day on 191 all out while Sri Lanka scored 64 for three in reply.

PHOTO: AFP

Urmi, Nasima reach quarters

SPORTS REPORTER

Shuttlers Urmi Akter and Nasima Khatun advanced to the quarterfinals in women's singles section of the Yonex-Sunrise Bangladesh Junior International Series by beating their respective rivals at Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium yesterday.

Urmi and Nasima beat compatriots Lika Poddar and Jerin Ahmed respectively by straight 2-0 sets.

FIFA bans Alvarado

AFP, Lausanne

Ariel Alvarado, a Panamanian who was a member of FIFA's ethics committee, has been banned from football for life, the governing body announced yesterday.

FIFA's adjudicatory chamber said in a statement Alvarado was "guilty of bribery in violation of the FIFA Code of Ethics."



Juventus forward Cristiano Ronaldo (3rd from R) goes airborne as he heads in an inch perfect Alex Sandro cross in the 45th minute of a Serie A encounter with Sampdoria in Genoa on Wednesday. Thanks to his towering header, Juventus walked away 2-1 winners.

PHOTO: TWITTER

Real keen to seize momentum

REUTERS, Barcelona



'El Clasico' may have finished goalless, but Real Madrid were left emboldened by their superb performance at Barcelona and will hope to build on the momentum when they host Athletic Bilbao on Sunday in their final La Liga game of 2019.

Zinedine Zidane's side became the first team to take points off Barca at the Camp Nou this season but were left feeling short changed by the draw after dominating the play and having two strong penalty appeals turned down.

Real are now unbeaten in 12 games in all competitions and have come into their own against the toughest opponents, with Wednesday's performance ranking alongside their 2-2 draw with Paris St Germain as their best of the season.

"We are in great form and we are

also in good shape physically. It's a shame that the year is about to end, we would like it to not stop," said Real captain Sergio Ramos.

Barca, meanwhile, gave an uncharacteristically shy account of themselves and the onus will be on them to produce an emphatic

response at home to Alaves on Saturday after a match which has further harmed coach Ernesto Valverde's reputation.

Newspaper Marca said the match, the first 'Clasico' to finish goalless in 17 years, had "caused a lot of damage" to Valverde, who in his third season in charge is struggling to get his immensely talented side to play as they know how.

Valverde's defence of his side's uninspiring display indicated he might not be capable of giving the team the shake up they need to win the title race.

"Barca-Real Madrid matches should be evenly matched, they are a great team, a powerful force so it's normal that they made life tough for us," said the coach. "It's not normal that we put five goals past them or finish 17 points above them, even though that's what has happened in recent years."

CLASICO STATS

- Real Madrid have gone seven La Liga meetings without beating Barcelona (D3 L4), their worst such run in El Clasico since December 2011.
- Lionel Messi has failed to score or assist in his last four games against Real Madrid in all competitions.
- Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos now has the most appearances in El Clasico history (43), surpassing Manolo Sanchis, Francisco Gento, Xavi and Messi (42 each).
- Zinedine Zidane is unbeaten in his five managerial games at the Nou Camp in all competitions (W2 D3) and is the first Real Madrid manager to remain unbeaten in five away games at Barcelona.
- This was the first goalless El Clasico in all competitions since November 2002, 6,235 days ago.

Congratulations!

Bangladesh National Golf Team on winning the silver medal in S A Games 2019

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