

What to WATCH

SONY ESPN
Pakistan v Sri Lanka
Second Test, Day Four
Live from 11:00am
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
India v West Indies

Third ODI
Live from 2:00pm
English Premier League
Watford v Man United
Live from 8:00pm
Tottenham v Chelsea

Live from 10:30pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
Bundesliga
Dusseldorf v Union Berlin
Live from 8:30pm
Paderborn v Eintracht

Live from 11:00pm
TEN 2
Serie A
Atalanta v AC Milan
Live from 5:30pm
Lecce v Bologna

Live from 8:00pm
Sassuolo v Napoli
Live from 1:45am (Monday)

DAY'S EVENT

Federation Cup
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium, Dhaka
Rahmatganj v Sheikh Jamal
Time: 3:30pm
Brothers Union v Ctg Abahani
Time: 6:15pm



Bangladesh Police FC's Mohammad Shadhin (3rd from L) celebrates his stoppage time goal with teammates during a TVS Federation Cup encounter with Arambagh at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. American forward Sydney Adam (2nd from L) scored a brace to help ensure a 3-1 win for Police.

PHOTO: BFF

Police ease past hapless Arambagh

SPORTS REPORTER

Trouble-hit Arambagh suffered a 3-1 loss to newcomers Bangladesh Police in their first match of the TVS Federation Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Arambagh came into the season's curtain-raising tournament with only four days of training after having formed a squad at the eleventh hour following crisis at the club due to the casino scandal which hit Dhaka's Club Para in September this year.

The traditional club still have their tent under lock and key, with the football squad lodged at the Kamalapur Stadium dormitory temporarily for this tournament. The 2018 Independence Cup champions, who had finished fifth in the Bangladesh Premier League last season, had to release most of their high-profile players in the transfer-window and were expected to struggle this season.

And the first match of the season did prove to

be a struggle for Arambagh, who failed to pose much of a threat going forward despite roughly sharing equal possession in the first half.

One goal each in either half from Bangladesh Police's American forward Sydney Adam killed the contest before two late goals at either end gave the match an inflated scoreline.

"We have scraped together a team somewhat and we had only four days of training. In that regard, our performance was not that bad even

though we conceded three bad goals," said Arambagh coach Jahidur Rahman Milon at the post-match press conference, adding that he expected his side to survive the drop while not being too hopeful about their chances in the current tournament.

Adam broke the deadlock in the 32nd minute, tapping home at the far post after a corner from Artur Muladzhyanov was steered towards him. The American doubled Police's

lead in the 82nd minute, smashing home from inside the box.

Arambagh found a consolation goal a minute from time when Jakir Hossain Ziku's goal-bound attempt was deflected off Police defender Aider Mambetaliev and bamboozled goalkeeper Arifuzzaman Himel. But Police ended the match with a two-goal winning margin, thanks to an injury-time strike from Mohammad Shadhin.

"We wanted to be in control of the game like we were today. We had four or five chances and I'm happy with the win. We have to have the same attitude and seriousness in the other matches," Nicolas Vitorovic, Bangladesh Police's Cypriot coach, said at the post-match press conference.

The win lifted Police, who were on the receiving end of a 4-0 drubbing from defending champions Abahani in the opening match of Group A, to three points from two matches. Abahani, who lead the group with three points from one game, will take on Arambagh in the group's last match on Tuesday.

POLICE (Adam 32; Shadhin 90+2)	3 - 1	ARAMBAGH (Mambetaliev 88' OG)
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Usain runs Olympic track

REUTERS, Tokyo

Sprinting great Usain Bolt ran on the track at Tokyo's newly-completed National Stadium yesterday during an event to celebrate the opening of the venue set to be the centrepiece of next year's Olympics.

Bolt, the eight-times Olympic gold medallist, jogged around the track as part of a relay race in front of an audience of approximately 60,000 people.

"It was a great experience being in here and running in front of so many people," said the 100 and 200 metres world record holder. "I was happy and excited because I won't be getting to compete at the Olympics so the fact that I got to run on the track was an experience in itself. I am actually in pain right now from the little run I just did."



NEED FOR COURSE CORRECTION: India captain Virat Kohli puts on his pads for a practice session ahead of today's series-deciding third and final ODI against West Indies at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack; the venue where the Indian master batsman has an aggregate of only 34 runs in four matches. The right-hander also goes into the match having scored 4 and 0 in the earlier two games in Chennai and Visakhapatnam.

PHOTO: AFP

V-Day gymnastics held

SPORTS REPORTER

A day-long Victory Day Gymnastics Championship was held at the National Sports Council Gymnasium in Paltan yesterday, with BKSP leading the medals tally with six gold medals.

Rajib Chakma and Shankhe Ong Khumi of Quantum Cosmo School & College bagged gold in men's vault and floor exercise events respectively while BKSP's Sabina Yasmin Simla and Sathi Akter of Ansar & VDP won gold in women's balance beam and floor exercise events respectively.

Sajid Haque (u-14 parallel bars), Rafil Ahmed (u-14 floor exercise), Md Al Amin (u-12 vaulting table), Khadija Khatun (girls' u-14 balance beam), Meeftahul Yama (girls' u-14 floor exercise) won the other gold medals for BKSP, who fielded 27 gymnasts in the meet.

Bandarban's Quantum, with 33 participants, won two more gold through Hlame Sai Marma (girls' u-12 vaulting table) and Mong Ching Pru Tripura (boys' u-12 mushroom).

BCB unwilling to play Tests in Pakistan

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) have held talks regarding a possible upcoming including three T20Is and two Tests in Pakistan in January-February 2020, but BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury informed yesterday that the board did not want the national team to stay in Pakistan for an extended period of time.

"We have been in contact with the

PCB and all of you must know by now that the BCB has already informed them that we do not want to stay for a long period in Pakistan. In that case, we want to play the three T20Is but we prefer that the two Test matches be arranged at a neutral venue," Nizamuddin told reporters yesterday.

The BCB CEO was of opinion that security arrangements for a longer tour were different than for a short tour and clarified the board's stance.

"At times there have been questions about why we have a problem playing longer-version cricket while we do not

have any issues playing the shorter version. Actually, security specialists can understand that it is a bit different to make [security arrangements] for a longer period than it is for a shorter period. In that case, there would be a lot of restrictions regarding players' movement and other things. So, we made this decision considering everything," Nizamuddin added.

It was reported earlier that PCB CEO Wasim Khan had written to the BCB to ask for the reasons behind the board's unwillingness to play a Test in Pakistan.

Zidane hails Guardiola

AFP, Madrid

Zinedine Zidane insisted yesterday his key aim this season was to win La Liga with Real Madrid, but admitted they faced a thrilling challenge trying to outwit Pep Guardiola and Manchester City, who they meet in the last 16 of the Champions League.

Zidane, who has won three Champions Leagues as a coach compared to Guardiola's two, described the Catalan as "the best coach in the world".

"It'll be fabulous to play against him (Guardiola)," said Zidane, speaking ahead of Real's game against Athletic Bilbao on Sunday, their final Liga match ahead of the winter break.

"I respected him as a player and now as a coach. He's the top coach in the world and has proved it throughout his career."

Arsenal play out drab draw

AFP, Liverpool

Carlo Ancelotti and Mikel Arteta were shown the huge jobs that lie ahead as Everton and Arsenal managers respectively as they watched their new sides play out a drab 0-0 draw at Goodison Park yesterday.

Ancelotti was confirmed as the Toffees new boss on the morning of the match, 24 hours after Arteta took charge of Arsenal.

Both new managers were in the stands with Duncan Ferguson and Freddie Ljungberg in temporary charge for the final time.

And the lack of confidence of two sides struggling at the wrong end of the table was obvious in a match completely devoid of quality.

A point edges Arsenal into ninth, but the Gunners have now won just once in their last 13 games in all competitions.

Everton move up to 15th, but are only four points clear of the relegation zone.

Ferguson's role in Everton's impressive victory over



CARLO ANCELOTTI



MIKEL ARTETA

Chelsea and draw at Manchester United in their last two league games was enough to ensure the temperamental Scot a role in Ancelotti's backroom staff.

However, there was a dramatic dip in his side's energy levels as they looked jaded after a League Cup quarter-final defeat on penalties to Leicester in midweek.

Ljungberg named a youthful Arsenal side with 19-year-old Emile Smith Rowe starting for the first time in the Premier League alongside Reiss Nelson and teenagers Gabriel Martinelli and Bukayo Saka.

Mesut Ozil, Alexandre Lacazette and Nicolas Pepe were among those left out by the Swede, who won just one of his six matches in caretaker charge.

Martinelli had the better chance of a first half that ended without a single shot on target from either side when he sliced wide from Lucas Torreira's fine through ball.

Arsenal were the better side after the break as they finally got top scorer Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang into the game.

Lampard 'happy' to face Mourinho

AFP, London



Frank Lampard insists he doesn't want to emulate Jose Mourinho's unique style as the Chelsea manager plots to out-wit his old boss in today's crucial clash at Tottenham.

Lampard's first Premier League meeting with Mourinho is the headline act in a fascinating derby that will determine which of the London rivals spends Christmas Day in the top four.

Spurs manager Mourinho played a key role in Lampard's emergence as one of Chelsea's all-time greats during their time together at Stamford Bridge.

Yet while Mourinho's managerial credentials are well established after winning a host of trophies during his glittering 19-year career, Lampard is still carving out a name for himself in the coaching world.

The former England midfielder is in just his second season as a manager after leaving Championship side Derby to take charge at Chelsea in July.

Lampard acknowledges Mourinho was a

big influence on him as a player but, now he is in the dug-out, he will follow his own path rather than copy the Portuguese coach.

Asked to name the most important lesson he took from working with Mourinho, Lampard said: "There's not one thing, no; he's obviously a good manager with loads of good attributes.

"But there's not one specific thing I learned working under him, and I wouldn't strive to be a clone or anything. I'm happy to go up against Jose; for me to play under him, he was a big influence in my career."

Lampard and Mourinho remain on good terms from their Chelsea days -- the Tottenham manager promising a "big hug" when they meet before kick-off and talking of his "love" for the 41-year-old. But that didn't stop the student admitting beating his old teacher in such an important game would be a memorable moment.

Mourinho echoed a similar sentiment, saying he wants a win. "I love the guy, I will always love the guy. I hope he loses on Sunday. I lost against Frank last year, I lost. I don't get an extra buzz [facing former players] at all."



The front three of Luis Suarez, Antoine Greizmann and Lionel Messi all got on the scoresheet as Barcelona defeated Alaves 4-1 in La Liga yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS