

# What to WATCH

GTV & MAASRANGA

BBPL  
Sylhet v Rangpur  
Live from 1:30pm  
Dhaka v Rajshahi  
Live from 6:30pm

BANGLA TV

Federation Cup  
Abahani v Rahmatganj MFS  
Live from 3:30pm  
Ctg Abahani v Mohammedan  
Live from 6:30pm

DAY'S EVENT

Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League  
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National

Stadium, Dhaka  
Sylhet v Rangpur  
Time: 1:30pm

Dhaka v Rajshahi  
Time: 6:30pm  
Federation Cup

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium, Dhaka  
Abahani v Rahmatganj MFS

Time: 3:30pm  
Ctg Abahani v Mohammedan  
Time: 6:30pm

## BANGABANDHU GOLD CUP

# Six-nation event from Jan 15 at BNS only

SPORTS REPORTER

The sixth edition of the Bangabandhu Gold Cup international football tournament will be held at only one venue, the Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka from January 15 to 25, confirmed Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president Kazi Salahuddin.

The BFF boss, while speaking at the agreement signing ceremony with the tournament's sponsors K-Sports at the BFF house yesterday, said that it was appropriate to stage the tournament at the central stadium named after Bangabandhu.

"Since the tournament is being held as part of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birth centenary celebration, we have decided that it will be held centrally at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, not any other venue," Salahuddin said.

The last three editions, which were held after a gap of 16 years, were held both at the BNS and at one or more venues outside the capital. This is the first time since 1999 that the tournament will be held at a single venue.

The tournament was scheduled for 2019, but the BFF high-ups claimed that to make the tournament part of Bangabandhu's birth centenary celebration, the start of the tournament has been deferred to January 15, 2020. The organisers are expecting

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to grace the final match.

Even though the tournament's participants were not disclosed to the media, a source inside the BFF hinted that they were considering from among Laos, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan as well as a couple of other teams to invite. However, these details will be disclosed during the logo unveiling and draw ceremony next Saturday, the organisers said.

Sponsors' K-Sports' CEO Fahad Karim claimed that they would try to incorporate some new technologies in broadcast and production of the event. "There will be some novelty in production. We will also give emphasis on digital marketing and online streaming of the matches," Karim said.

BFF's general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag informed that they have contacted FIFA for allowing a former player to be part of this tournament as an ambassador, although no official confirmation from FIFA in this regard has been received as yet.

The agreement signing ceremony was attended, among others, by BFF's senior vice-president Abdus Salam Murshedy, BFF women's committee chairman Mahfuza Akter Kiron, a few BFF executive members and K-Sports representatives.



Chelsea's Tammy Abraham (R) celebrates after scoring their second goal in the 87th minute of an English Premier League encounter with Arsenal at Emirates Stadium yesterday. Jorginho scored the other earlier on to help guide The Blues to a 2-1 win.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## TVS FEDERATION CUP Quarters from today

SPORTS REPORTER



Defending champions Abahani will take on minnows Rahmatganj while fallen giants Mohammedan will be up against inform Chattogram Abahani in the first two quarterfinals of the TVS Federation Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

The two Abahanis have been in devastating form in the curtain-raising tournament of the season. The holders scored nine goals against one in their two group-stage victories while the port city outfit, who finished runners-up in the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup in October, have cruised to the quarterfinals with two straightforward victories, scoring four goals without conceding any on the way.

Rahmatganj and Mohammedan, meanwhile, have barely made it through. The Old Dhaka outfit squeezed in with two draws while Mohammedan, who were pitted in a four-team group, moved through on virtue of conceding lesser number of yellow cards after the Black and Whites were on five points along with Muktiyoddha Sangsad and Sheikh Russel.

The third and fourth quarterfinals will be held tomorrow, with the day's first match pitting Saif Sporting Club against newcomers Bangladesh Police and the second match setting up Muktiyoddha Sangsad against last edition's runners-up Bashundhara Kings.

# Chelsea ruin Arteta's homecoming

AFP, London



Chelsea ruined Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta's home debut as Tammy Abraham's late strike sealed a dramatic 2-1 win after Bernd Leno's horrific blunder turned the tide in a thrilling London derby yesterday.

Leading through Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's early goal at the Emirates Stadium, Arteta was just seven minutes away from securing his first victory in his second game in charge.

But Arsenal goalkeeper Leno made a hash of coming to catch a free-kick and Jorginho tapped in to spark a Chelsea fightback that climaxed in Abraham firing home with three minutes left.

After dominating the first half, it was a shocking but familiar collapse from Arsenal, whose lack of steel was the key element in the downfall of Arteta's predecessor Unai Emery.

In their final game of the decade,

Arsenal showed just how much work Arteta has to do to steer the Gunners back to respectability in his first managerial role.

After coming from behind to rescue a 1-1 draw at Bournemouth in his first match on Thursday, Arteta would have been encouraged by their bright start -- but not the woeful meltdown that leaves Arsenal with only one win in their last 15 games in all competitions.

Arsenal, 12 points adrift of the top four, have lost four consecutive home fixtures in all competitions for the first time in 60 years.

While Arteta held his head in despair after Abraham's winner, Frank Lampard's wild celebration showed Chelsea's need for the win after a difficult period of their own.

Fourth placed Chelsea had lost five of their last seven league games, but a second successive away win -- following their recent impressive success at Tottenham -- moves them four points clear of fifth placed Manchester United.



FF and K-Sports high-ups pose for a photograph after signing an agreement regarding Bangabandhu Gold Cup international football tournament at the BFF house yesterday.

PHOTO: BFF

## Dortmund sign Haaland

REUTERS, MUNICH

Borussia Dortmund have signed promising young striker Erling Haaland from Austrian side Red Bull Salzburg on a four-and-a-half year deal, the Bundesliga club said yesterday.

The transfer fee was undisclosed but British media reported the German side paid the equivalent of about 18 million pounds (\$23 million) for the 19-year-old, who signed a deal until June 2024.

Haaland, 19, shot to fame this season when he scored 16 league goals and eight goals in the Champions League group stages -- second only to Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski's tally of 10.

# West Ham to reappoint Moyes?

REUTERS, London



Premier League strugglers West Ham United are set to reappoint David Moyes as their new head coach to replace the sacked Manuel Pellegrini, Sky Sports and the BBC reported yesterday.

Chilean Pellegrini was sacked after Saturday's 2-1 defeat at home by Leicester City, their ninth loss in 12 league games that left the London side 17th in the standings -- one point above the relegation zone.

West Ham had overcome a difficult start to finish 10th in Pellegrini's first campaign in charge and began this season brightly.

It would be Moyes' second stint with West Ham after he saved the club from relegation in the 2017-18 campaign during a six-month deal.

He was hired by West Ham in November 2017 to replace Slaven Bilic with the London side in the relegation zone and



the Scotsman led them to a 13th-placed finish to ensure the club's survival in the top flight.

However, the club chose not to renew his contract and hired Manchester City's former title-winning manager Pellegrini in the off season last year, who led West Ham to a 10th-placed finish last season.

If appointed, Moyes' first game in charge will be at home against 16th-placed Bournemouth on Wednesday.

# Mourinho angered by slack defending

AFP, London



Jose Mourinho bemoaned Tottenham's inability to keep clean sheets after twice having to come from behind to salvage a 2-2 draw at bottom-of-the-table Norwich.

Slack Spurs defending allowed Mario Vrancic to open the scoring and only a VAR review to harshly rule out Teemu Pukki's goal prevented Mourinho's men trailing 2-0 at half-time.

Even once the visitors had regained a foothold in the game via Christian Eriksen's free-kick, they shot themselves in the foot at the back once more as Serge Aurier's calamitous own goal restored Norwich's lead.

Harry Kane's penalty eight minutes from time ensured Spurs did not slump to a third defeat in seven games, but they failed to take the chance to leapfrog Chelsea into the top four.

The area of the field with work to do for Mourinho remains obvious and his side have kept just one clean sheet in 10 games since he took over.

Tottenham's season is being chronicled as an Amazon documentary and Mourinho believes the focus of that show should be on his side's defending.

"I think if Amazon wants to do episodes, they will have for sure one episode about our defensive mistakes



and the goals that we concede," he told Sky Sports.

"We conceded two very bad goals, the first and the one that was offside but two very bad goals.

"Second half I think we were very, very good with the ball; we create, dominate with play but again the goal (conceded) is a very bad one.

"To score two goals away from home, you have to win. You cannot concede as many goals as we do, but our defensive mistakes are match after match."

Tottenham could have been out of sight inside the first 15 minutes as Dele Alli fired wastefully over before Kane was denied by a fine save from Tim Krul when one-on-one.

At the other end, Vrancic could not believe his luck as Toby Alderweireld stood off and allowed him to close in on goal before firing low past Paulo Gazzaniga to open the scoring 18 minutes in.

# Team leaves at halftime

REUTERS, London

English side Abingdon United were set to record one of their most memorable wins on Saturday when they were 8-0 up on rivals Abingdon Town, only to find the opposition had left the stadium at halftime to spare themselves of more embarrassment.

The two teams play in the Hellenic League Division One East, the 10th tier of English football, and second-placed United are chasing promotion while Town are bottom of the standings with only two wins all season.

The hosts were 4-0 up in 15 minutes at the Northcourt Road venue and added four more before the break, after which Town's players refused to come out for the restart.

"In my 30 years of football I've never known anything like that to happen," United secretary John Blackmore told BBC Sport. "The game started off fine, there was no nastiness or anything like that, but we were 8-0 up at halftime and then their manager and players didn't come out for the second half.

"There was a reasonable crowd there of about 160 people and they were as gobsmacked as anybody else. We want to win a game, but not in this sort of fashion."



Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford (C) celebrates with teammates after scoring in extra time of a 2-0 win over Burnley in an English Premier league match at Turf Moor on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

# Man United ease past Burnley

AFP, Burnley



Anthony Martial and Marcus Rashford scored late in each half as Manchester United moved into fifth place in the Premier League with an impressive 2-0 win at Burnley on Saturday.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men have responded positively to a disappointing 2-0 defeat to then bottom-of-the-table Watford less than a week ago to head into the new year with fresh belief they can secure a return to the Champions League next season.

If United are to achieve their goal of finishing in the top four, Martial and Rashford will be key and they again provided the goals for the Red Devils in a game of few clear-cut chances.

There were also positives for Solskjaer at the back as his side ended a club-record 14-match run without a Premier League

clean sheet.

Burnley have not beaten United since 2009 and never looked likely to spring a surprise.

Rashford was first to threaten when he hit the outside of the post midway through the first half.

But Burnley were architects of their own downfall just before half-time when Charlie Taylor gifted possession to Andreas Pereira and he fed Martial to score his third goal in two games.

Phil Bardsley forced David De Gea into a fine save with Burnley's only shot on target.

United finally got the second goal their performance deserved to add a shine to the scoreline deep into stoppage time.

Daniel James led a counter-attack down the right and Rashford slotted home his 16th goal of the season at the second attempt after slipping as he rounded Nick Pope.