

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS 1
New Zealand v India
Second Test, Day 4
Live from 4:30am (Tuesday)

STAR SPORTS 2
ICC Women's T20 World Cup
Bangladesh v Sri Lanka
Live from 6:00am
Australia v New Zealand
Live from 10:00am

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh Premier League
Sheikh Jamal v Arambagh KS
Time: 3:30pm

Uttar Baridhara v Brothers Union
Time: 6:30pm
Venue: Bangabandhu National

Stadium, Dhaka
Ctg Abahani v Sheikh Russel
Time: 6:30pm

Venue: MA Aziz Stadium,
Chattogram

NADAL CRUISES TO ACAPULCO TITLE

World number two Rafael Nadal captured his first ATP Tour title of 2020, easily defeating unseeded Taylor Fritz in straight sets, 6-3, 6-2, in the final of the Mexico Open on Saturday. The 33-year-old Nadal, playing in his first tournament since losing in the quarter-finals at the Australian Open last month, didn't drop a set all week and improved to 19-2 all-time at this event. He nabbed his third Mexico Open title to go with victories in 2013 and 2005. "I couldn't be happier. I played a great event from the beginning to the end," Nadal said. "Acapulco was the first big title that I won in my career, so to be able to stay here after 15 years is amazing. I can't thank enough the people who make me feel at home every single time."

--- AFP



Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp consoles defender Andrew Robertson after the leaders' unbeaten run came to an end with a 3-0 defeat against Watford at the Vicarage Road Stadium on Saturday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Klopp warns Reds as unbeaten run ends

AFP, Watford



Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp insisted the title is not won yet after his side were beaten for the first time in 45 games in the Premier League as Watford thrashed the European champions 3-0 on Saturday.

Klopp's men still enjoy a 22-point lead at the top of the table and need a maximum of four wins from their remaining 10 games to secure a first league title for 30 years.

However, defeat at Vicarage Road continues a downturn in form as they sneaked past relegation-threatened Norwich and West Ham in their two previous league games and lost the first leg of their Champions League last 16 tie to Atletico Madrid.

"What the boys did so far is exceptional but it is not over," said Klopp.

"We did not expect the number of games we won. It was never easy and it will never be easy, so now let's carry on."

Klopp has long been an advocate of a winter break amid the gruelling English campaign to give his players a chance to rest and recuperate.

But a two-week break earlier this month appears to have disrupted the Reds' rhythm. "Shape, form is not something we can take for granted. We fought against each every feeling in the body. We fought against everything and that's why we have that amount of points," added Klopp.

"The biggest surprise for me is that Watford is fighting to stay in the league. Now is the moment when everybody is fighting like crazy.

"We don't think it is the biggest catastrophe in world football. We feel the defeat really and now we have the chance to show the reaction again."

Ismaila Sarr was the star for Watford as the Senegalese struck twice in six minutes at the start of the second half and then teed up Troy Deeney to add a third.

The comprehensive scoreline had the added bonus of edging Watford out of the relegation zone by one goal ahead of Bournemouth.

However, after slipping back into the bottom three following a fine start to his reign, Hornets' boss Nigel Pearson is all too aware of the importance of backing up a famous win for the remainder of the season.

"It's such an important win for us. But it is one win," said Pearson.

"They are such an outstanding side, we had to get our performance right and I thought we thoroughly deserved the win."

"We threatened with the ball and defended with discipline, energy and commitment. That's been the message from day one.

"It's in our own hands, and we have to deliver that performance week in, week out."

Jibon rescues Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER



A 'controversial' headed goal from Nabib Newaj Jibon rescued Abahani in the Bangladesh Premier League in a single-goal win over Rahmatganj MFS at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Jibon, who seemed to be in an offside position, nodded a Kervens Belfort header into the net following a freekick from Mamunul Islam as the Sky Blues took revenge for their tiebreaker defeat against the Old Dhaka outfit in the Federation Cup quarterfinals.

Coming into the match on the back of a 1-1 draw against Brothers Union, the six-time professional league champions could hardly improve their performance against Rahmatganj, who took a counter-attacking approach by keeping a compact defence. However, captain

Jibon rescued his side with a decisive header which prompted the Rahmatganj players to protest by surrounding assistant referee Monir Dhali but referee MA Nahid stuck to his decision.

Rahmatganj, who held Sheikh Russel to a draw in their previous match, were in a defensive mood from the word go and kept their superior opponents at bay, thanks to some brilliant saves by former national goalkeeper Rasel Mahmud Liton.

Abahani forwards broke the Rahmatganj defence a few times, but Liton stood tall to deny Sunday Chizoba, Jibon, Edgar Bernhardt and Belfort.

Belfort released a nice forward-pass to Sunday in the fifth minute but the Nigerian striker saw his low drive inside the box easily gripped by Liton, who then stopped a powerful 25-yard shot from Jibon in the 13th minute.

Jibon once again came close to breaking the

deadlock in the 35th minute but failed to beat Liton from close range before eventually getting the better of Liton in the 55th minute.

After conceding the lead, Rahmatganj started to press against the Sky Blues, who however went close to doubling the lead but Sunday hit the ball straight at Liton after Saad Uddin whipped in a low cross from the right.

Rahmatganj's real chance to level the margin came in the 75th minute, but Guinean defender Camara Younoussa saw his header go inches over the crossbar while Belfort failed to beat Liton from a one-on-one situation four minutes later.

In face of pressure from Rahmatganj, Abahani coach Mario Lemos sent on Egyptian defender Eissa Elmaghraby in place of Sunday and Abahani left the field with their second win in their third match to join leaders Bashundhara Kings and Saif SC on top of the table.



Manchester City players Bernardo Silva, Benajmin Mendy, Riyad Mahrez and Raheem Sterling pose after securing a memorable hattrick of the League Cup.

PHOTO: REUTERS

SHORT CORNER

Kings put 13 past Spartan

Bashundhara Kings recorded another big win in Tricotex Women's Football League when the title-contenders handed a 13-0 defeat on Spartan MK Galactico Sylhet FC at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

Bashundhara Kings, boasting a host of national team players, came into the match on the back of a 12-0 win over Begum Anwara Sporting Club in the opening match. The Kings dominated yesterday's game against the Sylhet side, which featured six girls working in a tea garden.

Striker Sabina Khatun and midfielder Monika Chakma struck hattricks while Tohura Khatun and Dipa Munni scored two goals each. Krishna Rani Sarker and Sheuli Azim netted one goal each while Mukta Das scored an own goal. --SPORTS REPORTER



Monika Chakma scored three goals as Bashundhara Kings beat Spartan MK Galactico 13-0.

PHOTO: BFF

School hockey

Shaheed Mamun Mahmud School of Rajshahi notched a massive 6-0 win over Navy School and College of Khulna in First Security Islami Bank National Hockey School tournament at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Jahid Hasan scored twice while Nur Hossain, Tahmidur Rahman, Shakil Hossain and Habib Hossain hit the board once in the one-sided match. Meanwhile, Muslim Mission School of Faridpur beat Lohagara Govt. Pilot School of Narail 2-0, with Mizanur Rahman and Maruf Mollah scoring

one goal apiece.

--SPORTS REPORTER

Inter-University sports meet underway

Bangabandhu Inter-University Sports Championships got underway with a colourful opening ceremony at Hazi Mohammad Moshin Hall ground of Dhaka University yesterday.

Foreign minister Dr A K Abdul Momen officially declared the championships open as some 101 public and private universities will take part in the championships. Approximately 6000 athletes including 1200 female athletes are expected to vie for 687 medals in 12 disciplines -- athletics, football, cricket, basketball, table tennis, badminton, volleyball, cycling, swimming, handball, chess and kabaddi.

As many as 13 universities will host the championships which will come to an end on April 18.

State minister for youth and sports Zahid Ahsan Russel, University Grants Commission chairman Dr Kazi Shahidullah and Mohsin Hall provost professor Nizamul Haque Bhuiyan were, among other present, at the occasion. -- SPORTS REPORTER

Glaxose-D Dhaka Half Marathon 2020 takes place

The Glaxose-D Dhaka Half Marathon took place on February 28, highlighting Bangladesh from a new perspective on the global platform. Dhaka Run Lords organised the event which consisted of a 21.1km half marathon and a 7.5km mini marathon.

In the half marathon men's category, first, second and third places were awarded respectively to Sazzad Hossain, Emon Hossen and Mahfuzul Haq.

In the half marathon women's category, Jane Crowder, Alexa Mekonen and Hamida Akter Jeba attained first, second and third places respectively.

In the mini marathon men's category, Rakibul Islam, Mohammed Moshir Ahmed and Shahriar Bin Bashar came in first, second and third place respectively.

--Sports Reporter

'Ashamed' Bayern to punish culprits

AFP, Berlin



Bayern Munich chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge vowed to "take all-out action" against the fans who unfurled a banner insulting Hoffenheim benefactor Dietmar Hopp during the Bundesliga leaders' 6-0 victory on Saturday.

The game in Hoffenheim finished in bizarre circumstances with both teams passing the ball between each other after a lengthy delay over an offensive banner in the section housing travelling Bayern supporters.

Players from both sides stood on the field but refused to play for the final 10 minutes as the clock wound down.

Rummenigge said he was "deeply ashamed of these chaotic people" who have "discredited the name of FC Bayern".

The entire Bayern team -- along with coach Hansi Flick and Rummenigge -- approached the ultras block and pleaded with fans to remove the banner.

"Today, at the absolute latest, the moment has come when the entire Bundesliga needs to take action against these chaotic people.

"We must all stand together. We have closed our eyes for far too long. This is the ugly face of football."

German Football Association boss Christian Seifert indicated after the match that no action would be taken against either side.

The fans refused to withdraw the banner, prompting a surreal conclusion to the match.



Manchester United's new recruit Bruno Fernandes continued to shine, scoring the goal to rescue a 1-1 draw with Everton in a Premier League game yesterday.

City retain League Cup

AFP, London



Manchester City claimed the League Cup for the fourth time in five seasons by beating Aston Villa 2-1 at Wembley on Sunday thanks to goals from Sergio Agüero and Rodrigo.

Mbwana Samatta pulled a goal back, but their wait for the club's first silverware since 1996 goes on as Pep Guardiola's men have now won six of the last seven major trophies in English football.

Guardiola made eight changes from the side that won 2-1 at Real Madrid in the Champions League on Wednesday with Kevin De Bruyne among those left on the bench.

However, it mattered little as City had the luxury of recalling Agüero, Raheem Sterling and David Silva to the starting XI, and the gulf in class showed.

Guardiola's raft of changes also handed a rare start to Phil Foden and the 19-year-old more than justified his selection.

Rodrigo's fine pass picked out Foden to head back into the path of Agüero and the Argentine's deflected effort beat Orjan Nyland in the Villa goal to open the scoring on 20 minutes.

Foden was then inches away from a goal himself with a deflected shot that

flew inches wide.

Villa felt aggrieved when City were awarded a corner moments later after Jack Grealish fired the ball off Ilkay Gundogan for what should have been a goal kick.

Instead, City doubled their lead as Gundogan's corner was met with a powerful downward header from Rodrigo.

Villa could barely even get a touch for the next 10 minutes as the holders threatened to run riot in a repeat of the 6-1 thrashing they handed the hosts at Villa Park last month.

Sterling had a glorious chance for his first goal of 2020 deflected behind by a brave block from Tyrone Mings.

But moments later the reason Mings is ahead of John Stones in the pecking order for England selection became clear as the City defender inexplicably fell to the floor to give Villa a lifeline.

A long ball forward eventually came to Anwar El Ghazi and from his cross Samatta headed low past Claudio Bravo to the delight of the travelling thousands from Birmingham and Villa fan Prince William in the stands.

The difference in the desperation for success between the supports was obvious as Villa were roared on vociferously throughout, while City failed to sell out their allocation.

Ancelotti sees red after VAR drama

AFP, Liverpool



Everton manager Carlo Ancelotti was sent off after approaching the referee as yet more VAR controversy contributed to a fiery finish in a 1-1 draw with Manchester United on Sunday.

Goalkeeping errors by both United's David De Gea and Everton's Jordan Pickford were central to the outcome at Goodison Park.

But Everton thought they had won the game in stoppage time when a shot from Dominic Calvert-Lewin, who had opened the scoring, deflected off United's Harry Maguire and into the net. The goal, however, was ruled out by VAR with the offside Gylfi Sigurdsson, lying in the path of De Gea, deemed to have obstructed the view of the keeper. Ancelotti was sent off after approaching referee Chris Kavanagh on the field after the final whistle and arguing the merits of that decision.

"He sent me off the pitch but then after that I had a long conversation with him that I would like to keep private," Ancelotti told Sky Sports. "I hope not because I did not disrespect the referee, he knows this."

PHOTO: AFP