

What to WATCH

GTV & STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
Bangladesh v Zimbabwe
 Second ODI (D/N)
 Live from 1:00pm

STAR SPORTS 2
ICC Women's T20 World Cup
 Pakistan v Thailand
 Live from 10:00am
South Africa v West Indies
 Live from 2:00pm

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh v Zimbabwe
 Second ODI (D/N)
 Time: 1:00pm

Venue: Sylhet Int'l Cricket Stadium
Bangladesh Premier League
 Muktiyoddha v Saif Sporting

Time: 3:15pm
 Venue: Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni Stadium, Gopalganj

SAMPAOLI TAKES OVER AT ATLETICO MINEIRO

Former Argentina and Chile coach Jorge Sampaoli was named as the new boss of Brazilian top-flight side Atletico Mineiro on Sunday. The 59-year-old, who led Santos to the runners-up spot in Brazil last season, penned a one-year deal. He replaces Rafael Dudamel after the Venezuelan was sacked following the club's shock loss to a fourth-division side in the Brazilian Cup. "It's confirmed, Sampaoli is our new coach," tweeted Atletico president Sergio Sette Camara. Sampaoli was coach of Chile from 2012-2016 and Argentina from 2017-2018.



Nasrin SA register second win

SPORTS REPORTER

Nasrin Sports Academy posted their second victory in Tricortex Women's Football League when they defeated Begum Anwara SC 2-0 at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

After a barren first half, Unnoti Khatun put Nasrin SA ahead in the 65th minute before Razia Khatun sealed the victory in 76th minute. Nasrin SA had earlier thrashed Spartan MK Galactico 12-0 in their first match.

In the day's second match, FC Uttar Bango overwhelmed Cumilla United 7-0, thanks to a four-goal haul from Sultana while Rekha scored twice and Malini scored one goal.

Wins for northern schools

SPORTS REPORTER

Keramatia High School of Rangpur recorded a 2-1 win over Muslim Mission School of Faridpur in First Security Islami Bank National School Hockey Championship at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

In the second match, Municipal School of Dinajpur defeated Navy School and College of Khulna 3-2. Chand Sharif scored twice while Faisal Islam scored once for Dinajpur while Ruhul Amin and Sihab Shahriar scored one goal apiece for Khulna.

Pique's 'worst Madrid' jibe, Ramos's reply

AGENCIES



Gerard Pique believes Barcelona lost to the 'worst Real Madrid he has faced at the Bernabeu' as the Blaugrana crashed to a 2-0 defeat in El Clasico on Sunday night.

With the score deadlocked without a goal at half-time, Pique revealed he was stunned at the low level of Real's performance in the first period and was disappointed to not take advantage.

"Real Madrid in the first half was the worst Madrid I've faced at the Bernabeu," Pique said in the mixed zone post-match.

"We missed a chance to hurt them. We have to play better than in second half, though, we lost balls and they grew in confidence."

When asked if he was bothered by losing to this standard of Real team, Pique replied: "Yes, they were giving off the worst possible impression and I don't say it as a criticism. We all have problems in our clubs. But I have the feeling that it's an important missed opportunity [for Barcelona]."

Real now move one point ahead of Barcelona in the league standings - but Pique is adamant the title race is far from over.

"We still have a margin of improvement and it is enough for us to win La Liga if we do things well until the end of the season - but we have to do them well," Pique said.

"Whenever you lose [at the Bernabeu], you get hurt. Because of the importance of the game, the points."

Sergio Ramos was, however, quick to hit back at Pique's criticism of Real Madrid, saying he would sign up to win every El Clasico playing as badly as the Barcelona defender suggested.

Madrid captain Ramos said he would happily win every Clasico playing how his side did. "Everyone's opinion is respectable. I sign up to win all Clasicos by making a first half as bad as he says," he told reporters, via AS.

"The approach was different. In the first half, we left the ball and in the second we decided to go. They were not so fresh and we started to generate chances."

With 12 La Liga games remaining, Madrid hold a one-point lead over their rivals, having lost just two league matches this season.

While pleased with the advantage, Ramos urged his side to remain focused late in the campaign.

"That's right. After the latest results we wanted to claim [first] and what better way than at home and ahead of a great team like Barca," the defender said.

"It was a unique opportunity to depend on ourselves. There are three important points but there is much left."

"We must have our feet on the ground."



Vinicius Junior brought out the Ronaldo Celebration after scoring the opening goal against Barcelona at the Bernabeu on Sunday. (Inset) Cristiano Ronaldo, who watched his old club's victory from a private box, apparently enjoyed the moment.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Real Madrid topple Barca

REUTERS, Madrid



Real Madrid showed their character by beating Barcelona 2-0 in Sunday's top-of-the-table 'Clasico', leapfrogging their rivals at the La Liga summit after a week in which their pride had taken a beating at home and in Europe.

Brazilian teenager Vinicius Jr scored the opener in the 71st minute with a strike that deflected off Gerard Pique, flummoxing goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen who had made some jaw-dropping saves, and substitute Mariano added the second in added time.

Real's victory means they lead the standings on 56 points after 26 games, with Barca slipping to second spot on 55, while Zinedine Zidane's side also crucially have the better head-to-head

record in the event both sides finish level on points.

Real swallowed chastening defeats by Levante in La Liga and Manchester City in their Champions League last 16, first-leg tie in the past week but in the second half they overwhelmed Barca, threatening on numerous occasions before breaking the deadlock.

"We deserve our victory for everything we did, in attack and defence," Zidane told reporters. "It has been a complicated week for us and we had the chance to turn things around and we did that."

"But this win also doesn't change anything. We have a long way to go and we have to continue. We've got three important points but we'll have more difficult games and we will be criticised again."

Barcelona had bossed the first

period and twice could have taken the lead but were powerless to stop Real after the interval and their impotence was summed up when Lionel Messi raced towards goal but was easily tracked down by Marcelo.

Marcelo's tackle got as loud a cheer as the goals from Madrid's fans who had not been able to toast a league win over Barca at the Santiago Bernabeu since 2014.

The long-awaited victory was confirmed by an unlikely source in forward Mariano, who had only just come off the bench to make his first league appearance of the season.

Barca midfielder Sergio Busquets believed his side deserved better. "We played very well in the first half then in an unfortunate move they score thanks to a deflection. We had a great chance to open up a big gap but it wasn't to be," he said.

Chattogram Abahani go top

Sheikh Jamal win big, Baridhara register a point

SPORTS REPORTER



Chattogram Abahani climbed to the top of the Bangladesh Premier League table with a 2-0 win against visitors Sheikh Russel KC at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

With seven points from four matches, the port city side joined leaders Bashundhara Kings, Abahani and Saif SC, all of whom however played three matches each. Former champions Sheikh Russel stayed in 10th position with consecutive defeats following two draws in their four matches.

The charges of Maruful Haque, who came into the match on the back of a 2-2 away draw against Saif SC, dominated the visitors and went close to breaking the deadlock in the 15th minute but Brazilian forward Nixon Rocha Brizolara saw his tap-in cleared from the goalline by Alison Udoka. Nixon made amends though two minutes later with a powerful shot from the top of the box after Rakib Hossain snatched the ball from a Sheikh Russel player.

Chattogram Abahani squandered a chance to double the lead when Shakwahat Hossain Rony fired wide

of target in the 84th minute before substitute Mannaf Rabbi placed a cross from home in the stoppage time.

At the Bangabandhu National Stadium, a brace from Ballo Famoussa helped Sheikh Jamal return to winning ways with 4-1 win against Arambagh KS.

Sheikh Jamal, who lost 2-1 against Mohammedan in their previous match, took the lead in the 21st

Ctg Abahani Nixon 17', Rabbi 90+1'	2 - 0	Sk Russel
Sk Jamal Famoussa 21', 44', Solomon 59', Jobe 75'	4 - 1	Arambagh E Kingsley 34'
Baridhara Arif 48'	1 - 1	Brothers N Kingsley 90+3'

minute when Famoussa headed in a Zahid Hossain cross but the lead lasted only 14 minutes as Eleta Kingsley who tapped home a cross from Egyptian Mostafa Mahmoud.

Sheikh Jamal restored the lead one minute before the break, with Famoussa sending a Solomon King lob over goalkeeper Rakibul Hasan from the edge of six-yard box.

King made it 3-1 in the 59th minute with a close-range header that was initially parried by goalkeeper Rakibul but it flipped into the net

with a deflection from an Arambagh defender.

Gambian forward Omar Jobe sealed the victory by firing home in the 75th minute as Sheikh Jamal climbed to second position with six points from three matches.

In the second match at BNS, promoted Uttar Baridhara Club earned their first point in the league after a 1-1 draw against Brothers Union.

In the fast-paced game, both sides displayed spirited show. After an equally fought first-half, Uttar Baridhara took a deserved lead in the 48th minute when Simon Ezedodika played a long ball for right-back Arif Hossain, who darted into the box by dancing past a defender and goalkeeper and placing the ball home.

Baridhara could have made the result safe in the 83rd minute but Arif drove wide of the open net. Brothers came close to levelling the margin in the 89th minute but Nkowcha Kingsley was denied by the woodwork.

Kingsley, however, scored the equaliser in the stoppage time by nodding home a corner from Otaleb to give Brothers their third draw in four matches.



Sheikh Jamal's Gambian forward Omar Jobe (C) celebrates his goal against Arambagh in their Bangladesh Premier League fixture at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Sheikh Jamal won the match 4-1.

PHOTO: BFF

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