

FACEBOOK

La Liga
Villarreal v Real Valladolid
Live from 2:00am (Tuesday)
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
Indian Premier League
Delhi v Bangalore
Live from 8:00pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2

English Premier League
Fulham v West Brom
Live from 11:30pm
Leeds United v Leicester
Live from 2:00am (Tuesday)
TEN 2
Serie A

Verona v Benevento
Live from 1:45am (Tuesday)



FITNESS THE FOCUS FOR NOW

Head coach Jamie Day (C) speaks with captain Jamal Bhuiyan (R) as striker Nabib Newaj Jibon tries keepy-uppy during a training session of the national team at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Day, along with assistant coach Stuart Watkiss and new goalkeeping coach Les Cleevely, took over from the local coaching staff as the team prepare for their upcoming FIFA friendlies against Nepal. Day later said that they need to work five or six days more to get the players' fitness to the desired level before they can start working on tactical aspects for the two games scheduled for November 13 and 17.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

BANGABANDHU T20 CUP

BCB to prepare players' list after assessing sponsors

SPORTS REPORTER



The last day for submitting the Expression of Interest (EOI) for team sponsorship rights of the five participating teams for the upcoming Bangabandhu T20 Cup 2020 ended yesterday and the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will now assess the applicants before finalising the teams.

The BCB earlier stated that they want to start the T20 tournament by mid-November and according to sources close to developments, there are four interested parties that have already submitted the EOI till yesterday.

It was learned that Beximco, Gemcon, Incepta and BCB Director Alamgir Hossain Alo, on behalf of a company, submitted the EOIs to the board.

BCB officials also said they will invite international broadcasters through a tender to cover the upcoming Bangabandhu T20 tournament. BCB had earlier announced that there will be no Bangladesh Premier League, the franchise-based T20 tournament, this year. Instead, they opted to launch the domestic T20 competition to engage more domestic players after the success of the three-team fifty-over BCB President's Cup last month.

The selectors will prepare the players' draft for the tournament after the

finalisation of the sponsorship of the five teams. The board also announced that the players -- excluding those of the national, high performance and the under-19 teams -- selected in the draft list for the tournament will have to undergo mandatory fitness tests before being considered eligible for the competition.

Meanwhile, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Shakib Al Hasan, whose one-year ban ended on October 29, are also expected to begin their preparations for the T20 competition. Mashrafe had skipped the BCB President's Cup due to a hamstring injury sustained while playing football.

Shakib had trained for a month in October under his mentors Nazmul Abedin and Mohammad Salahuddin, ahead of the Sri Lanka tour, which was eventually postponed due to the strict health protocols of the hosts. Shakib then returned to the United States.

The champion all-rounder is expected to return to Bangladesh on November 4 and will train at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP). However, according to the selectors, Shakib will also have to pass the fitness test to be eligible to take part in the T20 tournament.

Like other domestic players, Shakib will have to score a minimum of 11 on the beep test to be deemed fit to take part in the tournament.



PHOTO: BCB

Former captain and national selector Habibul Bashar gives some tips to batsman Soumya Sarkar, who failed with the bat in the recently concluded BCB President's Cup, during a practice session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

SPORTS REPORTER



Following eight months' break induced by the pandemic, women footballers are set to return to action with the Women's Football League resuming on November 7.

League leaders Bashundhara Kings will take on FC Uttar Banga at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in the first match since the league was suspended in the middle of March due to the outbreak of coronavirus.

Even though Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) cancelled Bangladesh Premier League last season, it did not call off women's league, which had started after a seven-year gap with the participation of seven teams.

"We have been working with the clubs since mid-September to resume the league. We have helped some clubs resume their training by maintaining health guidelines.

The clubs also responded well and they wanted to complete the rest of matches without further interruption," BFF general secretary Abu Nayem Shohag said.

Replying to a query, Shohag said, "It won't

be possible to bring all the players of the league under the Covid-19 tests but players of two to three clubs have already been tested. We have also provided health guidelines to the clubs and we will try to hold the matches according to those guidelines."

The matches of the first phase will come to an end on November 11 and the second phase will resume on November 20. The league is scheduled to complete on December 20.

Meanwhile, the BFF has also decided to start JFA U-14 Women's Football tournament tomorrow with the participation of 49 district teams in seven separate venues of the country.



Klopp hails Phillips

REUTERS

Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp described Nathaniel Phillips as a "monster" in the air after his dominating performance on his Premier League debut in Saturday's 2-1 win over West Ham United.

"He's a brilliant guy, a smart guy, intelligent, everything. He knows... we both laugh about it... I was not really easy on the eye and he's not easy on the eye, we're both not (Lionel) Messi but who cares," Klopp told the BBC on Saturday.

"In the air he's a monster and he loves having challenges on the pitch. He was incredible for his first game. I'm pretty sure everybody can imagine how nervy that can be after a long wait."



SMOOTH FOR SOME, SCRAPPY FOR OTHERS

[Above] Substitute Diogo Jota celebrates after grabbing the winner as Liverpool ground out a 2-1 victory over West Ham United at Anfield on Saturday to take the lead at the top of the Premier League and equal a club record of 63 home league matches unbeaten, while Chelsea and Manchester City also enjoyed victories.

[Below] Kylian Mbappe is ecstatic after scoring the second goal as Paris St Germain cruised to a 3-0 win at Nantes to move three points clear on top of Ligue 1. Barcelona players look dejected as goalkeeper Neto made an embarrassing gaffe to end on a 1-1 draw away to Alaves, despite playing the final half hour with an extra man. Lionel Messi, meanwhile failed to score in a fifth straight Spanish league match. Sergio Ramos congratulates Eden Hazard, who scored his first goal for Real Madrid in over a year, while Karim Benzema also struck twice as the Spanish champions coasted to a 4-1 win at home to Huesca.

PHOTO: REUTERS/TWITTER



'MESSI IS HARD TO MANAGE'

Former Barcelona head coach Quique Setien believes Lionel Messi is hard to manage. In an interview with former Real Madrid and Spain coach Vicente del Bosque for El Pais, Setien spoke about the difficulty of managing a player like Messi. "I think Messi is the best of all time. There have been other great players who have been great, but the continuity that this boy has had throughout the years has not been had by anyone. Leo is difficult to manage. Who am I to change him! If they have accepted him as he is for years and have not changed him," Setien said. "There's another facet beyond just the player and it's more difficult to manage. Much more difficult. It's something inherent in many athletes that can be seen in the Michael Jordan documentary ('The Last Dance'). You see things you don't expect."

Ibra hands Milan late win

REUTERS, UDINESE

Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored an acrobatic late goal, taking his league tally to seven this season, to give Serie A leaders AC Milan a hard-fought 2-1 win at Udinese on Sunday.

Udinese defender Sebastian De Maio sliced an attempted clearance and Ibrahimovic, with his back to goal, hooked it into the net with an overhead kick in the 83rd minute despite not making proper contact.

The 39-year-old also set up Milan's opening goal for Franck Kessie in the 18th minute before Udinese equalised with a controversial penalty converted by Rodrigo De Paul three minutes after halftime.

Siddikur, Jamal not going to India

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman and Jamal Mollah, Bangladesh's top two golfers, are not taking part in the PGTI Players Championship in Panchkula, India as they have not been able to acquire Indian visas yet.

They had applied for visas two weeks ago but were only able to produce authorisation letter from the Indian foreign ministry last Monday right after receiving the document. With the event getting underway on Wednesday, Siddikur said they have both cancelled their entries.

"We have cancelled our entries for this event as we haven't received visas yet. There is another event starting on Nov 9 in Chandigarh but we are not sure whether to participate in that event even if we get the visas," Siddikur told The Daily Star yesterday.

The two-time Asian Tour winner said that he would definitely attend the next three events in India in December. Siddikur had been eyeing a return to competitive golf after eight months through these events and he had been preparing for the last one month at the Savar Golf Club. Now that the Army Golf Club has opened Sunday, Siddikur will start training there.

FIRST ROUND: MATCH 5

MOHAMMADPUR PREPARATORY SCHOOL & COLLEGE

ANANDANIKETAN

INTERNATIONAL HOPE SCHOOL BANGLADESH DHAKA

GENIUS

POWERED BY **WALTON**

Smart Fridge

AN INITIATIVE OF **SHOUT**

LIVE ON

The Daily Star

TONIGHT AT 9 PM

YouTube f LIVE