

TEN 2 & PTV SPORTS

Pakistan vs South Africa
First Test (Day 4)
Live from 11:00 am
SONY SIX
Big Bash T20 League
Brisbane Heat vs Adelaide
Strikers
Live from 2:15 pm

TEN 2

Serie A
Torino vs Fiorentina
Live from 1:45 am (Saturday)
FACEBOOK
La Liga
Valladolid vs Huesca
Live from 2:00 am (Saturday)
T SPORTS & SONY SIX

Abu Dhabi T10 League
Pune Devils vs Qalandars
Live from 6:00 pm
Maratha Arabians vs
Delhi Bulls
Live from 8:15 pm
Deccan Gladiators vs
Team Abu Dhabi
Live from 10:30 pm



Abahani winger Jewel Rana (L) celebrates his side's second goal but his jubilation didn't last long as archrivals Mohammedan's Malian striker Souleymane Diabate (R) cancelled it out to help his side earn a 2-2 draw in an exciting Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Shaheed Dhirendranath Datta Stadium in Cumilla yesterday. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Dhaka derby finds life in Cumilla

SPORTS REPORTER

Hosts Mohammedan came from behind twice to share the spoils with archrivals Abahani in a Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Shaheed Dhirendranath Datta Stadium in Cumilla yesterday. Malian striker Souleymane Diabate first canceled out Abahani's 13-minute lead, provided by Brazil's Francisco Rodrigues in the 17th minute. Jewel Rana restored Abahani's lead in the 33rd minute before Diabate volleyed home from inside the box in the 66th minute to ensure the first league draw between the sides in six years. The last draw was a goalless affair

in the 8th edition professional of the football league in 2015. The battle between the country's two traditional powerhouses had once demanded the attention of all the country's football lovers but that shine dulled as the Black and Whites deteriorated over the past decade and the matches became one-way affairs, with Abahani notching five wins in the last six league meetings. Mohammedan even surrendered meekly to Abahani in the Federation Cup this season but yesterday's battle hand an entirely different air about it as everything was present for the 'Dhaka Derby' outside the capital. Excitement among players appeared to return in the middle of

the green pitch and the referee had to book a player on either team to ease the tension following a few scuffles in front of an electrifying 12,000 spectators in the crowd. One group turned up sporting the classic shirts while flags adorned with Mohammedan colours as well as portraits of the club's greats, Badal Roy — a Cumilla native. As in the Federation Cup encounter, Abahani once again capitalised on set-pieces and long throw-ins to take the lead twice but failed to keep up with Mohammedan's never-say-die attitude. Despite the absence of some key players, Abahani dominated proceedings before taking the

lead through Francisco, who nodded home a Belfort Kervens header following a free-kick before Diabate brilliantly flicked home on a feeble drive from Amir Hakim. Jewel Rana restored the lead again with an angled shot following another header from Belfort. To their credit, Mohammedan dominated the entire second half and levelled with another brilliant effort from Diabate, who volleyed past goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Sohel after some feeble defending from 11-time champions Abahani, who could have caught leaders Bashundhara Kings with a fourth straight win. Instead, they slipped to second with 10 points from four matches.

Spinners' competition and pacers' bouncer barrage

MAZHAR UDDIN from Chattogram



Test squad returned to action as head coach Russell Domingo along with other coaching staff conducted a fruitful outing at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday. The cricketers were divided into two groups and took part in skills training with coaches emphasising on specific skill drills for each player, with focus also placed on having fun.

THE SPIN TRIO
In the absence of premier all-rounder

to his bowling action but it seemed that the experienced left-arm spinner is more comfortable with his previous action. "I have worked on my bowling during the long gap and I think in Test cricket, it's important to bowl in the right areas. Normally, I will try to maintain my spot and then look for variations," Taijul told the media after the training session yesterday. MUSHFIQUR'S INTENSITY Much like in the past, Mushfiqur Rahim's intensity during training that caught the eye. The wicketkeeper-batsman looked focused during the net session where he concentrated on his defence and made sure the ball does not fall near the close catchers on either side of the wicket while facing the spinners. After completing his net session,



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Ronaldo under investigation

REUTERS

Police are investigating a potential breach of Italy's COVID-19 regulations by Juventus forward Cristiano Ronaldo after he allegedly travelled between the regions of Piedmont and Valle d'Aosta on Tuesday. Valle d'Aosta police confirmed to Reuters that an investigation is underway into a trip to the Alpine town of Courmayeur by Ronaldo and his girlfriend Georgina Rodriguez. Authorities were alerted to his alleged presence in the region by videos on social media showing the couple sitting on a snowmobile and celebrating Rodriguez's 27th birthday.

Russel, Saif toil for wins

SPORTS REPORTER



Sheikh Russel took sweet revenge for their Federation Cup drubbing at the hands of Chattogram Abahani with a 1-0 win over the port city outfit in a Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. A 43rd-minute header from Brazilian striker Lopes Rodrigues was enough for Sheikh Russel to exact revenge against Ctg Abahani, who saw off Sheikh Russel in the Federation Cup quarterfinals with a 2-0 win. With a third win, Sheikh Russel now share second position with Abahani, both on 10 points, j two behind leaders Bashundhara Kings.

Ctg Abahani, meanwhile, are stuck to sixth place with six points from four matches. Maruful Haque's Ctg Abahani and Saiful Bari Titu's Sheikh Russel displayed entertaining performances with The clear intention of securing three points in the match. The 2012 champions came out successfully by cashing in on one opportunity while the 2018 league runners-up had to pay the prices for squandering good opportunities throughout the match. Lopes utilised his height to rise high to easily nod a Siyovush Asrorov free-kick home two minutes before the break while Charles Didier's attempt was denied in his pursuit of an equaliser by the woodwork.

In the day's second match, Saif Sporting Club came from one goal down to beat Muktiyoddha Sangsad 2-1 and climb up to the fifth position with seven points from four matches. Muktiyoddha Sangsad stunned the Federation Cup runners-up in the 26th minute when Uzbek forward Akbarali Kholdarov beat goalkeeper Pappu Hossain with an angled shot from inside the box before Nigerian Emmanuel Ariwachukwu equalised with a header in the 35th minute. Uzbek midfielder Sirojuddin Rakhmatullaev wrapped up the victory with a powerful drive from inside the box in the 79th minute to give Saif a second win in four matches.

Shakib Al Hasan, who is recovering from a groin injury, the three remaining spinners -- Taijul Islam, Mehedi Hasan Miraz and Nayeem Hasan -- were competing with each other in the nets. All three spinners were keen on bowling in a specific area and testing batsmen with the likes of Mushfiqur Rahim, Nazmul Hossain Shanto and Liton Das looking to pierce the imaginary field set by the bowlers. Left-arm spinner Taijul, who has been one of the most vital instrumental members in the Tigers spin attack, was seen bowling with his previous bowling action after opting to change the action during the BCB President's Cup last year. Taijul had brought some changes in his run-up, which looked more like the carbon copy of Bangladesh's spin bowling coach and former New Zealand skipper Daniel Vettori's action during his playing days. Taijul said previously that he spoke to Vettori and tried to make some changes

Mushfiqur went straight to the other part of the ground where he asked a net bowler to spin the ball from a particular area and the right-handed batsman practised his favourite sweep shots to perfection. TEST FOR TAILENDERS Domingo, along with fielding coach Ryan Cook, had a competition for fast bowlers Mustafizur Rahman, Khaled Ahmed, and Ebadot Hossain when they came to bat in the nets. The challenge was to survive 20 throwdowns from Domingo and Cook and if they got out, they would not get a second chance to bat. The pacers took up the challenge. Khaled faced a barrage of short deliveries and good-length balls from Domingo and Cook which he managed to negotiate well and was praised by the coaches. Mustafizur too was watchful and eventually won the challenge of surviving 20 fiery throwdowns as he walked past the coaches with a big smile on his face.

Wounded Man Utd target quick rebound



REUTERS, LONDON



Just when Manchester United's fans were beginning to dream of a first Premier League title since 2013 along came bottom club Sheffield United to offer a reality check. United's shock 2-1 home defeat by Chris Wilder's side not only stopped Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's team returning to the top of the table, it also snapped a 13-game unbeaten league run. So Saturday's trip to a rejuvenated Arsenal has suddenly assumed greater significance, with Manchester City now above their second-placed city rivals by a point with a game in

hand. Was the Sheffield debacle a blip or was it evidence that the early-season gremlins that had placed Solskjaer under such pressure in November are still lurking at Old Trafford. Victory at the Gunners, who United lost to at home on Nov. 1 before embarking on 10 wins and three draws, would go a long way to proving that the former is the more likely. "When you get kicked down, it's how quickly you bounce back and Saturday's a big one and we've got to get three points," skipper Harry Maguire said after the defeat by Sheffield United. "We are disappointed, it hurts, but we've got to pick ourselves up and bounce back."

'We want to carry on winning'

REUTERS

Barcelona's players face Athletic Bilbao in La Liga on Sunday with revenge on their minds after losing to the Basque side in the Spanish Super Cup final almost two weeks ago. "We want to carry on winning and we're showing that mentality in all competitions we play in," coach Ronald Koeman said after Wednesday's Copa del Rey last-16 victory over Rayo Vallecano. Lionel Messi returned from suspension to help guide Barcelona to a 2-1 win away to Valleciano to reach the quarter-finals of the Copa del Rey.



Pakistan spinner Nauman Ali celebrates the big wicket of Aiden Markram during the third day of the first Test in Karachi yesterday. PHOTO: TWITTER

Late wickets spoil SA's good work

REUTERS



Aiden Markram and Rassie van der Dussen produced patient half centuries but Pakistan grabbed three late wickets as South Africa reached 187 for four in their second innings at the close on day three of a see-saw first Test in Karachi. The tourists lead by 29 runs and have wiped out a first innings deficit after they trailed by 158 having earlier on Thursday bowled Pakistan out for 378. Captain Quinton de Kock has yet to score and will resume on the fourth morning with nightwatchman Keshav Maharaj (2 not out), the pair looking to push South Africa towards a total that will give them something to defend in Pakistan's fourth innings. Their situation looked a lot brighter 30 minutes before the close but Pakistan's spinners grabbed three big wickets as the shadows lengthened on the day. Markram (74 from 224 balls) put on

127 for the second wicket with Van der Dussen (64 from 151) to get their team into the lead, but the latter was caught at silly mid-off by Abid Ali from the bowling of leg-spinner Yasir Shah (3-53). The tourists were dealt a further blow when Faf du Plessis (10) was trapped leg before wicket by the dangerous Shah, but worse was to come as the set Markram was dismissed in the next over, also caught at silly mid-off, though from the bowling of Nauman Ali. Opener Dean Elgar (29) was the other wicket to fall having earlier taken a nasty blow on the hand. He never looked settled after that and was caught by wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan off Yasir. X-rays have revealed no fracture. Pakistan's lower order frustrated the visitors in the morning session as they took the attack to the bowlers. After they resumed on 308 for eight, seamer Kagiso Rabada (3-70) picked up his 200th test wicket when he bowled Hasan Ali (21), becoming the fourth youngest player to reach the milestone.

Ganguly undergoes fresh angioplasty

PTI

Indian cricket board chief Sourav Ganguly underwent another angioplasty yesterday when two more stents were implanted to clear his clogged coronary arteries, an official at the private hospital where he is admitted said.



The 48-year-old cricket icon is "stable". "Two stents have been inserted to clear blocks in Mr. Ganguly coronary arteries," the official told PTI. Earlier in the day, doctors carried out a series of medical tests on Ganguly, who was hospitalized on Wednesday for the second time in a month, because of a cardiac condition. The former India skipper had suffered a mild heart attack in January and he had complained of chest pain while exercising at his residence around three weeks ago and was diagnosed with Triple Vessel Disease. He had undergone an angioplasty procedure during which a stent was inserted into one of the blocked arteries.