

T SPORTS

Road Safety World Series
India Legends vs South Africa Legends
Live from 7:30 pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
English Premier League
Leeds United vs Chelsea
Live from 6:30 pm
Crystal Palace vs West Brom

Live from 9:00 pm

T SPORTS & STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

English Premier League
Everton vs Burnley
Live from 11:30 pm
Fulham vs Manchester City
Live from 2:00 am (Sunday)
TEN 2

Serie A

Benevento vs Fiorentina
Live from 11:00 pm
Genoa vs Udinese
Live from 1:45 am (Sunday)

FACEBOOK

La Liga
Real Madrid vs Elche
Live from 9:15 pm



Members of the Bangladesh Blue team celebrate alongside the BCB and BOA officials after winning the first gold medal of the Bangabandhu 9th Bangladesh Games with an eight-wicket win over Bangladesh Green team at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium yesterday. After being sent in to bat, Bangladesh Green team were bundled out for just 72 runs in 36 overs, with Jahanara Alam and Mumta Hena bagging three wickets each. Bangladesh Blue chased down the target at a canter, reaching the target in 18.2 overs, thanks to Shamima Sultana's 31 and Fargana Haque's unbeaten 28.

PHOTO: BCB

Emerging team clinch series over Wolves

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Emerging team took an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match unofficial ODI series after beating the visiting Ireland Wolves comprehensively by eight wickets in the fourth game at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Bangladesh reached the small target of 183 runs set by Ireland in 41.3 overs, riding on unbeaten 80s from opener Mahmudul Hasan Joy and Towhid Hridoy. After the first ODI was cancelled due to an Irish player testing positive for Covid-19, the hosts have won the next three games, therefore winning the series with a game remaining.

Bangladesh, however, were in a spot of bother and were struggling on 10 for two inside the first four overs. Right-arm pacer Peter Chase dealt the early blows, removing opener Tanzid Tamim and Yasir Ali cheaply.

But since then, the two former

under-19 World Cup-winning teammates Mahmudul and Hridoy steadied the ship. The pair joined in an unbeaten 176-run third-wicket stand to guide the hosts to an easy win.

Hridoy top-scored with 88 off 97 balls, featuring nine fours, while Mahmudul scored 80 off 135 balls with eight fours.

Earlier, taking first guard, the Ireland Wolves batsmen struggled from the start. Pacer Sumon Khan was the pick of the bowlers, picking up four wickets for 31 runs from his 8.1 overs while another pacer Mukidul Islam, Rakibul Hasan and skipper Saif Hasan took two wickets each as Ireland Wolves were all out for 182 in 46.2 overs.

Irish top-order batsman Adair top-scored with 40 off 49 balls while Ruhan Pretorius added 35 as none of the other visiting batters were able to make an impact with the bat.

The fifth and final match of the series will take place tomorrow at the same venue. The visitors are also scheduled to take part in two-match unofficial T20I series after the ODI series.



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

An unbeaten 176-run third-wicket stand between Mahmudul Hasan Joy and Towhid Hridoy helped Bangladesh Emerging Team register a convincing eight-wicket victory over visiting Ireland Wolves, clinching the five-match one-day series 3-0 with one match in hand, at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Booters' WC qualifying fixtures in Qatar in June

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will play their remaining Group E fixtures of the World Cup/Asian Cup joint qualifiers in June in Qatar, a press release by the Asian Football Confederation confirmed yesterday.

According to the fixtures, Bangladesh will play against Afghanistan on June 3, against India on June 7 and their final group fixture against Oman on June 15.

All the remaining matches of the eight qualifying groups will take place at centralised venues during the FIFA window of May 31 to June 15.

China, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Japan, UAE and South Korea will host the remaining fixtures of the rest of the groups.

"Following a process of close

GROUP E FIXTURES			
DATE	MATCH	VENUE	KICK-OFF
June 3	Bangladesh v Afghanistan India v Qatar	TBC TBC	TBC TBC
June 7	Oman v Qatar Bangladesh v India	TBC TBC	TBC TBC
June 11	Afghanistan v Oman	TBC	TBC
June 15	India v Afghanistan Bangladesh v Oman	TBC TBC	TBC TBC

consultation with Asia's Member Associations, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has today confirmed the centralised venues for the Asian Qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and AFC Asian Cup China 2023 matches

scheduled to take place from 31 May to June 15, 2021," read the AFC press release.

The AFC, however, is yet to confirm specific venues and times for the fixtures.

Bangladesh, sitting bottom of

Group E with one point from five matches, lost to Qatar 5-0 away from home in December last year. The booters have played four of their five group fixtures away from home, with their 2-0 defeat to Qatar in October 2019 being their only match at home in the joint qualifiers.

And despite Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) wanting to host the remaining three group fixtures at home, travel restrictions due to the coronavirus meant the decision to host the matches at a centralised venue was prioritised.

Bangladesh were scheduled to host Afghanistan on March 25 in Sylhet. However, the latest fixtures announced for the joint qualifiers rules out possibilities of any home matches for Bangladesh.

Jamie Day's charges will instead leave for Nepal on March 18 to play a tri-nation tournament.

Mithali Raj first Indian woman to 10,000 runs

AFP, New Delhi

Mithali Raj became the first Indian woman cricketer to pass 10,000 international runs on Friday, as she made 36 in a one-day match against South Africa.

Raj's knock took her total to 10,001 runs across three formats, before she fell to the next ball from Anne Bosch in the third of five ODIs in Lucknow.

Sachin Tendulkar, the world's leading run-scorer in men's cricket, congratulated Raj, saying on Twitter: "Terrific achievement... Keep going strong!"

England's Charlotte Edwards, who quit international cricket in



2016, remains the leading scorer in the women's game, with 10,273 runs in Tests, ODIs and Twenty20 matches.

Raj, 38, who retired from the T20 format in 2019, has accumulated 6,974 runs in 212 ODIs since making her debut in 1999.

She led India to the finals of the 2017 Women's Cricket World Cup only to lose the final to hosts England.

India's women's team will play a one-off Test in England later this year, six years after playing their last five-day game in 2014.



Milan players celebrate Simon Kjaer's stoppage-time equaliser against Manchester United in their Europa League last-16 first leg fixture at Old Trafford on Thursday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Milan draw at MU; Wins for Arsenal, Spurs

REUTERS, Manchester



A stoppage-time header from defender Simon Kjaer earned AC Milan a 1-1 draw at Manchester United in the blockbuster Europa League last-16 first-leg at Old Trafford on Thursday.

Kjaer's goal after teenager Amad Diallo had given United the lead leaves the clash of the heavyweights in the balance ahead of the second leg in the San Siro next week.

Ajax Amsterdam put one foot in the quarter-finals with a 3-0 win over Swiss side Young Boys -- the goals all coming after the hour mark from Davy Klaassen, Dusan Tadic and Brian Brobbey.

Arsenal are in a strong position thanks to a 3-1 win at Olympiakos in which with Martin Odegaard scored his first goal for the club and Gabriel and Mohamed Elneny struck late on.

The English side were knocked out last year by Olympiakos but now look set to progress, as do their north London rivals Tottenham Hotspur who had a Harry Kane brace to thank for a 2-0 home win over Croatian side Dinamo Zagreb.

Europa League regulars Villarreal and their La Liga rivals Granada are also well-placed to reach the last eight. Villarreal beat Dynamo Kyiv 2-0 away with goals by Pau Torres and Raul Albiol while Granada beat Molde 2-0 with former Tottenham striker Roberto Soldado on target.

"We're very disappointed to concede with one of the last kicks of the game," United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said.

"That makes it harder of course, but it was always going to be down to the second game there anyway."

Newly crowned Scottish champions Rangers fought back to earn a 1-1 draw at Slavia Prague.

Romanian Nicolae Stanciu fired the Czech side ahead in the sixth minute with a superb strike but Steven Gerrard's side drew level through Filip Helander.

In the night's other tie, AS Roma enjoyed a 3-0 home win over Shakhtar Donetsk.

Shohag determined to make late call-up count

ANISUR RAHMAN



"Because of my laziness, I could not get into the national team in the past," was the honest admission of Habibur Rahman Shohag, the Mohammedan player who recently been selected for the national squad for this month's tri-nation tournament in Nepal.

A versatile player with a gifted left-foot, Shohag was always regarded highly for his set-pieces and range of passes, but those qualities could not mask the fact that he was less-than-effective in his defensive duties.

Learning his trade in Narayanganj, the versatile player was never considered for the national team despite playing top-flight football for 12 years and representing the country in each age-group team from the U-13s to the U-23s, including captaining the U-19 team.

"My dream to play for the

national team would have not come true if Sean Lane was not appointed as Mohammedan coach. He pushed me a lot to perform on the pitch. He can never accept the fact that I cannot be a part of the national team. Due to his encouragement, I am now a more active player and I cannot be lazy even if I want to," Shohag told The Daily Star.

Shohag joined Abahani in 2009 after playing in the Pioneer League and made his debut in professional football the same year before earning a regular place in the starting eleven the following year. The forward also represented Abahani in AFC President's Cup and was part of the team which won Assam's Bordoloi Trophy in 2010.

But he switched allegiance the next year, moving to archrivals Mohammedan in 2011 where he spent four seasons. From there he moved to Muktiyoddha Sangsad and Arambagh before coming back to Mohammedan where he thrived

under Sean Lane last season.

"I played in Number 10 position for Abahani previously, but now I'm playing as a centre-back for Mohammedan. However, the coach deployed me in three positions in a single match. Sometimes I played in left-back position, as a defensive



midfielder and as an attacking midfielder," the 28-year-old said.

Replying to a query, Shohag said, "There was a gap between the national coaches and myself because I was not regular in starting elevens of clubs in the middle of my career. So previous national team coaches could not watch

me properly, and even when I performed, they were not there to see my performance. This season, though, Jamie Day watched a lot of matches and picked me."

Shohag once used to walk eight to 10 kilometres from Madanganj to Narayanganj Osmani Stadium to play football but since he got into top-level football, he failed to do the hard yards which could have rewarded him with a national call-up earlier in his career.

Shohag has regrets but now that he has finally found a call, he wants to grab the opportunity with both hands.

"I felt sad that I could not turn myself into a hard-working player even as I had watched how players like Matiur Rahman Munna, Rajani Kanta Barman, Alfaz Ahmed pushed themselves even in the twilight of their careers," Shohag said. "But now I've become more disciplined and responsible as a player to push myself for a place in the playing eleven of the national team."



Bangladesh ace left-arm pacer Mustafizur Rahman bowls as Liton Das looks on from the non-striker's end during Tigers' practice session at the John Davies Oval in Queenstown yesterday. It was the cricketers' second team practice session at the picturesque ground.

PHOTO: BCB

Afghans enforce follow-on on Zim

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Ace leg-spinner Rashid Khan and fellow slow bowler Amir Hamza shared seven wickets between them to leave Zimbabwe battling to avoid defeat in the second Test in Abu Dhabi on Friday.

Forced to follow-on after being dismissed for 287 all out, Zimbabwe were 24 without loss in their second innings after the third day's play at Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

Afghanistan had made a mammoth 545-4 declared in their first innings.

Openers Kevin Kasuza was unbeaten on 20 and Prince Masvaura was on three as Zimbabwe still need 234 runs to avoid an innings defeat.

Afghanistan will hope their spinners Rashid Khan, who took 4-138 in a marathon 36.3 overs, and Hamza run through Zimbabwe once more to level the two-match series.

Zimbabwe won the first Test by ten wickets, also in Abu Dhabi.