

T SPORTS & SONY SIX
BANGLADESH VS SRI LANKA
Second Test (Day 2)
Live from 10:30 am

PTV SPORTS
PAKISTAN VS ZIMBABWE
First Test (Day 2)

Live from 1:30 pm
STAR SPORTS 1 & STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE
Punjab Kings vs Royal Challengers Bangalore
Live from 8:00 pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT 2

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE
Southampton vs Leicester City
Live from 1:00 am (Saturday)
FACEBOOK LA LIGA
Celta Vigo vs Levante
Live from 1:00 am (Saturday)

HIGHLIGHT

Dimuth Karunaratne has become the 10th Sri Lanka batsman to score 5000 runs in Test cricket in his 72nd appearance after Arjuna Ranatunga, Thilan Samaraweera, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Marvan Atapattu, Angelo Mathews, Aravinda de Silva, Sanath Jayasuriya, Mahela Jayawardene, Kumar Sangakkara, and the fourth fastest to do so in terms of matches played.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Sri Lanka: First innings-291 for 1 in 90 overs (Karunaratne 118, Thirimanne 131 not out, Fernando 40 not out, extras 2; Shoriful 1-51)

"It's always good to see runs under your name. I think [it's the best I've batted]. I learned from the mistakes I made in the West Indies. Nothing much for the bowlers, but there might be something for the spinners later on. We need to score as many as we can, 600 is the target so we can give the bowlers something to bowl at."

DIMUTH KARUNARATNE



209-run partnership: Dimuth Karunaratne and Lahiru Thirimanne

Another batsman's paradise?

Sports Reporter



Will the pitch be any different? This was the most asked question before the opening day of the second and final Test between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium in Kandy today.

The fact that the hosts had amassed 291 for one before stumps were drawn on Day 1 only shows that the pitch has not been very different to the one that received a below-average rating by match referee, leading to ICC levying a demerit point to the venue after the first Test.

The opening day of the Test already saw two centuries. Sri Lanka skipper Dimuth Karunaratne (118 off 190) notched his 12th Test ton before being the first Test scalp of young pacer Shoriful Islam, who made Test debut yesterday. The left-hander, who strung together a 209-run opening stand with Lahiru Thirimanne, was the only one to be dismissed yesterday when he under edged a Shoriful delivery in the final session of the day.

Thirimanne was the other centurion as he notched his third Test ton and remained unbeaten on 131.

Before the Lankan batters turned up the pressure on Bangladesh bowlers, the pitch, however, did behave differently in the first hour yesterday and the likes of pacers Taskin Ahmed and Shoriful were able to keep a tight leash on the hosts initially after



they elected to bat.

In fact, Taskin, who had been troubling the two Lankan openers with pace and bounce, induced an edge off Karunaratne on the final delivery of the 20th over but poor fielding once again let the Tigers down. Najmul Hossain Shanto at wide slip failed to hold on to a regulation catch as the Lankan skipper breathed a sigh of relief on 28.

Barring a few close calls in the final session of the day, Sri Lanka batted with ease since this one clear chance and

it seems that the hosts will bat for at least another two sessions today before putting up a mammoth total on the board.

The big challenge for the Bangladesh batsmen will be to bat long after having already spent 5-6 sessions fielding in hot and humid conditions. Batting coach Jon Lewis believes that there already is a template that the Tigers could follow to succeed while batting.

"It's a bit of a mirror image of the first Test match at the moment. It seems like Sri Lanka will get a big score and we will spend at least a couple of more sessions on the field. If that's the case, it's okay as it's something that we have to deal with. The pitch still looks good at the moment and hopefully, it will still look good for a while to come. We have got to deal with the fact that they have got a score on the board," Lewis said at the post-day press conference yesterday.

"They [Sri Lanka] showed us the way to do it, they showed us the template in the first Test match and we should be in good confidence because we have some batsmen who have some good form behind them after the first Test."

However, things might get a bit tricky for Bangladesh batsmen because, unlike the pitch in the first Test which proved equally favourable for batsmen throughout the five days, the pitch of this Test might see some wear and tear that could bring spinners into the action on the last two days of the Test like a typical Sri Lankan pitch.

City move closer to long-awaited glory

Agencies



After 10 years of trying and billions spent to make it possible, Manchester City are closer to winning the Champions League than they

have ever been.

A come-from-behind 2-1 win away to Paris Saint-Germain on Wednesday has put Pep Guardiola's side in sight of the final.

The threat posed by PSG's star duo Neymar and Kylian Mbappe remains ahead of Tuesday's semi-final, second leg in Manchester, but City appear to have learned from many years of harsh lessons in Europe's premier club competition.

A clash between the French champions and soon-to-be-crowned Premier League winners was also a proxy battle between Qatar-owned PSG and Abu Dhabi-backed City. Despite changing the face of European football with their investment in

way, we cannot do it another way," said Guardiola, on his side's passing rhythm. "Only what I want is to be ourselves in the second game."

City took a cautious approach in the first half, and Guardiola said he did not blame them for it.

"They're a team who are able to do whatever they want because they have the quality, so that's why you play a bit cautious. You cannot win the qualification in the first leg, but you can lose it in the first leg," he told a news conference.

"I told them 'I understand you guys, I was a player myself. If you lose you lose but you have to try to play our game. What is our identity as a team without the ball and with the ball?'"

Paris St Germain boss Mauricio Pochettino said they will need to maintain their intensity levels throughout the game if they are to overturn a 2-1 deficit against Manchester City in their Champions



Manchester City's Riyad Mahrez celebrates scoring their second goal after his free kick flew straight through a flimsy PSG wall and past the helpless Navas in the Champions League semifinal first leg on Wednesday.

PHOTO: TWITTER

the transfer market over the past decade, both clubs are still waiting for the ultimate glory of winning the Champions League.

In Guardiola's first four seasons in charge of City, setbacks in Champions League knockout ties have often deteriorated into collapses.

In another change from previous seasons, there was no surprise in Guardiola's team selection for a big Champions League tie. The former Barcelona and Bayern Munich boss has often been accused of overthinking his tactics in the latter stages of this competition, only to cause confusion among his own players.

This time he stuck by the striker-less system that has carried City to the brink of a third Premier League title in four years. The flexible front four of Kevin De Bruyne, Phil Foden, Riyad Mahrez and Bernardo Silva took the ball and control of the game away from PSG in the second half.

"We are good playing in a certain

League semi-final second leg next Tuesday.

"We were the better team in the first half but then we conceded two goals we normally don't concede," Pochettino said. "The key was that we didn't show the same energy with the ball than in the first half," Pochettino explained.

"But we are confident that we can turn this around and approach the second leg the same way. The first half showed that we were right in our approach of the game. We just have to keep the same intensity with the ball. That's what we have to improve."

Paris St Germain were "emotional and aggressive in a stupid way", contributing to their second-half capitulation in Wednesday's 2-1 Champions League defeat at home to Manchester City, former Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said. "I must say in the second half PSG were protective and not progressive any more," Wenger told beIN SPORTS. "Is it because they were not physically capable?"

Daily Star Books discusses cricket with Ramachandra Guha

STAR BOOKS DESK

In accompaniment with a book review of Indian historian Ramachandra Guha's latest book *The Commonwealth of Cricket* (HarperCollins India, 2020) published on April 29, Star Books organised a live virtual discussion with the author yesterday on The Daily Star's Facebook and YouTube channels. Moderated by Kazi Akib Bin Asad, editor of SHOUT magazine, the webinar engaged Guha in conversation with Asrar Chowdhury, professor of economics, cricket enthusiast, and a columnist of The Daily Star.

"Cricket has taught me the value of discipline, teamwork, taking failure in your stride", Guha shared, kick starting a nostalgic discussion on the novelty of listening to cricket

"Cricket has taught me the value of discipline, teamwork, taking failure in your stride."

RAMACHANDRA GUHA

on the radio in the 1950s, before television and eventually online streaming made the sports more widely accessible.

Insider anecdotes including the 1971 series, the debut of a 21-year-old Sunil Gavaskar, Guha's favourite moments of Bangladeshi cricket, and the "romance and enjoyment" of the draw which distinguishes Test cricket from one-day matches came up during the conversation, as did the ethics of continuing the IPL as India suffers through its worst yet wave of the coronavirus epidemic.

"When we are going through such enormous suffering [...] it is indefensible that the IPL is continuing now and the players are silent except for Ashwin (Ravichandran) and Harbhajan (Singh)."

When asked about the future of international cricket, Guha spoke of the need for international club tournaments, South Asian tournaments, and a tamping down of the monopoly of the Indian cricket team.

The Commonwealth of Cricket is to be the last book on cricket by Guha, who has also written extensively on Gandhi and Indian history. The virtual conversation can be watched on the Daily Star Books Facebook page and The Daily Star's YouTube channel.



Abahani and Bashundhara Kings players seem in high spirits during practice sessions yesterday ahead of their respective Bangladesh Premier League matches at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

BPL set to resume from today

SPORTS REPORTER



The second phase of the Bangladesh Premier League will get underway at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today following a nearly two-month break due to the mid-term transfers' window and the coronavirus-induced lockdown.

There may be some impact on the performance of the players following a long break, fear of being infected by Covid-19 and the scorching summer heat, but the top clubs are eagerly waiting to get back onto the field.

The title race is usually between two or three teams but this time around only one team, Bashundhara Kings, dominated the 13-team table. They have an eight-point cushion over

second-placed side, three-time champions Sheikh Jamal. Six-time champions Abahani are in third, nine points behind the leaders.

"Everything will be quite unpredictable in the first game as this long break might have affected some of the teams," Bashundhara coach Oscar Bruzon told The Daily Star. "In our case, we keep our willingness and expectations at maximum levels as we have completed excellent training sessions at our facilities during the last weeks."

The Spaniard also wants to focus on the first three matches of the league to secure maximum points before shifting focus to the AFC Cup, where Kings will play in the group phase to be held in Maldives from May 14.

Abahani's Portuguese coach

POINTS TABLE

	M	W	D	L	A/F	Pts
Bashundhara Kings	12	11	1	0	32/5	34
Sheikh Jamal DC	12	7	5	0	31/16	26
Abahani	12	7	4	1	23/12	25
Saif SC	12	7	1	4	23/16	22
Sheikh Russel KC	12	6	2	4	20/15	20

Mario Lemos is also determined to put on a good show with the help of fit-again players return alongside the inclusion of Nigerian striker Sunday Chizoba. He will hope to banish those inconsistent performances which saw the team dropping 13 points by losing one game and drawing four.

"We want to do better and must do better. We have prepared

and changed a couple things and are looking forward to playing," said Lemos. "The league matches are very important to prepare for the AFC Cup; the players will get playing time, and for us some mistakes we can make in the BPL, we can try to fix them in the AFC Cup."

Like Abahani, Sheikh Jamal are also looking forward to putting up spirited performance

like they had at the start of the season, especially with the best attacking line-up in the league.

While the second phase is important for the top sides looking to improve their position in the table, it will also feature a three-horse battle for the golden boot among Brazil's Robson Da Silva (12 goals), Gambia's Omar Jobe (12 goals) Argentina's Raul Oscar (11 goals).

The second phase is also important for teams like Brothers Union, Arambagh, Muktiyoddha Sangsad and Rahmatganj, who will be looking to survive the threat of relegation.

There will be three matches today. Uttar Baridhara will take on Kings, Bangladesh Police will face Abahani and Brothers Union will meet Sheikh Russel KC, all at the same venue.