

SPORTS

What to WATCH

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Bangladesh Premier League
Abahani vs Sheikh Russel
Live from 4:00 pm
Muktijoddha Sangsad vs Brothers
Union
Live from 6:00 pm

The Hundred
Women's
Northern vs Birmingham
Live from 8:30 pm
Men's
Northern vs Birmingham
Live from 11:30 pm



Mushfiqur Rahim (R) and Liton Das (L), both having missed the Australia series recently, were among the first few to start training at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday for the upcoming five-match T20I series against New Zealand.

PHOTO: BCB

Kiwis to receive similar bio-bubble as Aussies

SPORTS REPORTER

The home of cricket in Mirpur once again returned to its usual business. The cricketers started the optional individual training session ahead of the upcoming home series against New Zealand set to begin next month.

Mushfiqur Rahim and Liton Das who missed out on the historic five-match T20I series against Australia at home are gearing up for the return and spent time at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium alongside Soumya Sarkar and Shamim Hossain yesterday.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board has successfully hosted three international series since the pandemic started last year and the board is all set to host the fourth

international series with the Kiwis scheduled to arrive in the country on August 24.

Meanwhile, the New Zealand Cricket [NZC] has requested the BCB to provide Covid-19 safety protocol similar to what was in place for the Australian cricket team's visit earlier this month.

BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury informed the board is making an effort to create a similar environment for the New Zealand cricket team.

"They have been requesting us to provide the same bio-bubble protocol that was in place for Australia. We will also try to create a similar environment. Like I have said before, the bio-bubble was not to keep only Australia or now New Zealand team safe but our team too. Considering all the facts and practicality we will try to create a complete bio-bubble environment

and complete this series too successfully," Nizamuddin told media at Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

There will, however, be a change in protocol at the airport in Dhaka this time around where Australia had reached Bangladesh on a chartered flight but New Zealand will be travelling on a commercial carrier.

"New Zealand will be travelling to Dhaka on a commercial flight. So the protocol at the airport will not be the same as it was for Australia. Australia had travelled to Dhaka on a chartered flight. But we will make effort to minimise public contact with the New Zealand team at the airport and transfer them quickly to the hotel. We are planning on it," he added.

As part of the safety protocols, the tourists have discouraged playing the scheduled warm-up

game ahead of the series which was set to take place in BKSP on August 29. All the matches of the five-match series will be played at the SBNS behind closed doors starting from September 1, 3, 5, 8 and 10 respectively.

"When we travel to another country, we look for facilities and practice match to get the team with the foreign condition. Based on this we had offered New Zealand for a practice match [at BKSP]. But this will require an additional bio-bubble at the venue. So they are discouraging this and are pressing for limited movement in Dhaka and successfully complete the series," said Nizamuddin.

According to the BCB CEO considering the viewership and the local time of New Zealand in mind the board is planning to start the matches at 4 pm local time.

'This is the beauty of Test cricket'

AFP, Kingston



West Indies scrambled a pulsating one-wicket victory over Pakistan on Sunday as the visitors self-destructed in the final session of the fourth day when on course to take the first Test of the two-match series at Sabina Park.

Defending a modest target of 168 after they were dismissed in the morning session for 103, Shaheen Shah Afridi led the attack with figures of four for 50 in reducing the home side to 114 for seven at tea with only wicketkeeper-batsman Joshua da Silva and the tailenders left.

However, in scenes reminiscent of a similar one-wicket loss in the deciding Test of the 2000 series in Antigua, the Pakistanis lost the discipline in their bowling and composure in the field.

Three catches were missed to allow Kemar Roach and last man Jayden Seales to take their team to the target with a last-wicket partnership of 17. Roach, who was dropped twice, hit the winning runs off Hasan Ali to finish unbeaten on 30.

Ironically, it was Hasan who missed a straightforward catch at deep square-leg off Shaheen which allowed Roach to eventually complete the job at the end

alongside a jubilant Seales.

Seales was named man of the match for his match haul of eight for 125 which included five for 55 in the second innings.

For the fast bowler, who is less than a month away from his 20th birthday, it was an historic achievement when he mopped up the Pakistan tail with the last three wickets to become the youngest-ever to take five wickets in a Test innings for the West Indies.

"I just decided to take it step by step, run by run," said a relieved Roach minutes after completely what looked an unlikely task when he joined da Silva at the start of play after tea. "This is easily the most important innings I have ever played and credit to Jayden as well for holding on with me at the end and for his five-wicket haul today because he's someone really special as a young fast bowler."

Pakistan captain Babar Azam did well to hide his disappointment but could not avoid referencing the obvious costly errors when it mattered most. "This is the beauty of Test cricket. Our bowlers were really good especially Shaheen and Abbas," said the skipper, omitting to mention the three wickets taken by Hasan in the push for victory.

"Had we taken those catches the result could have been different."



SALMA MAKES HISTORY

FIFA assistant referee Salma Akter Moni made a piece of history in country's top-flight football yesterday by becoming the first female assistant referee to conduct a Bangladesh Premier League fixture. Although there were previous instances of female referees conducting lower-tier men's matches, the fixture between Uttar Baridhara Club and Arambagh KS at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium, which Baridhara won 1-0, was the first top-tier match conducted by a woman. Meanwhile, at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Sheikh Jamal DC came from a goal down to beat Bangladesh Police 2-1 to consolidate second position on the 13-team table.

PHOTO: BFF

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Kazi Salahuddin, the president of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), wants to be a direct part of the national football team's think-tank in the upcoming three international friendlies in Kyrgyzstan as well as October's SAFF Championship in Maldives, in an attempt to solve technical issues of the national team with head coach Jamie Day.

"We will participate in the SAFF Championship after playing three international friendlies. I asked him (Jamie) to forget the past and said, 'If you want, we can work together and I directly want to work with

you because I think there had been some lacking in Nepal and other matches," Salahuddin told The Daily Star after having a meeting with Jamie Day at his office as the 41-year-old coach entered the second year of his two-year contract.

The BFF president had once expressed his frustration over the performance of the national team



in the World Cup Qualifiers and the Three Nations Cup in Nepal as the British coach adopted a counter-attacking game after having employed a deep defence against Nepal and a few other opponents.

"I also discussed several technical aspects with Jamie regarding the issues related to formations during the matches we played," said Salahuddin, who was the first Bangladeshi footballer to play in professional football outside the country.

Salahuddin had once coached the national team after retirement and also trained Abahani, even though he has not acquired any institutional coaching certificate as

of now. "I left everything to work alone and never looked back in the last eight years but this time I want to be part of the management and work for the development of the national team. I would like to travel with the national team this time.

"Jamie has no problem working with me. I think we can discuss those issues before Jamie makes the final decision," added Salahuddin.

The BFF president also informed that the national team would be provided with additional foreign coaching staff like physiotherapist, fitness coach and goalkeeping coach ahead of the three friendlies, SAFF Championships and AFC U-23 Championship.

Bayern next up for Haaland

AFP, Berlin

Bayern Munich are the next team to try to shackle Norwegian goal-machine Erling Braut Haaland when the defending Bundesliga champions face Borussia Dortmund for the German Super Cup on Tuesday.

Under new coach Julian Nagelsmann, Bayern are bidding to win a tenth straight Bundesliga title, but were held to a 1-1 draw at Moenchengladbach last Friday on the season's opening weekend.

Dortmund threw down a marker before the one-off German Super Cup match by beating Frankfurt 5-2 at home on Saturday with Haaland involved in all of the hosts' five goals.

The towering striker, who only turned 21 last month, has now scored a phenomenal 62 times in 61 games for Dortmund.



Barcelona take 'leap into unknown'

AFP, Madrid



Barcelona started life without Lionel Messi by defeating Real Sociedad 4-2 in their La Liga opener at the Camp Nou on Sunday even if fans admitted it felt like "a leap into the unknown".

Captain Gerard Pique gave them a 19th minute lead with his 50th goal for the club.

Martin Braithwaite found the net in first half injury time and in the 59th minute. Sergi Roberto added a fourth in the last minute of the game.

Just over 20,000 fans were in attendance as crowds returned for



the first time since the pandemic.

However, they had to hold their breath at one stage when Sociedad came back from 3-0 down to get to 3-2 thanks to goals from 20-year-old Julen Lobete in the 82nd minute and a 30-metre free-kick from skipper Mikel Oyarzabal three minutes later.

Six-time Ballon d'Or winner



Messi called time on his two-decade career at Barcelona last week and moved to Paris Saint-Germain.

Messi's memory lingered heavy over the Camp Nou on Sunday despite the removal of a giant photograph of the Argentine superstar from the entrance in the wake of his move to France.

Some banners were in place well before kick-off venting the fans anger towards president Joan Laporta. One read "Laporta, Barca is not your business", while another proclaimed "Barca yes, Laporta no!"

"It was a big emotional blow," said 23-year-old Barca fan Adria De Lucas. "I was in my room when I saw the news. I started sending messages to all my friends, and no one believed it. It was emotionally

hard."

The supporter added: "It's a leap into the unknown (without Messi). We will see what happens."

Inside the Camp Nou, fans made the most of their return after 18 months, chanting "Messi! Messi!". Banners expressed their "eternal gratitude".

"The supporters are with us, they want to see football," said Pique. "We knew they were going to react that way. We all know what Leo represents, but everything changes and we have to keep going."

"We will be very competitive and we will fight for titles to the end. We will not have his talent, but we have proven that we can all play together."



Indian players celebrate the dismissal of England's Jonny Bairstow, who was removed by Ishant Sharma on the last ball before Tea, on the final day of the second Test at Lord's yesterday. India put on a terrific display of new-ball bowling to leave England tottering at 75-5 in pursuit of a target of 272. Earlier, India declared on 298-8 after Mohammad Shami and Jasprit Bumrah put on an unbeaten partnership of 89 for the ninth wicket.

PHOTO: REUTERS