

WHAT TO WATCH

SONY SIX
India vs England
Third Test (Day 4)
Live from 4:00 pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
English Premier League
Manchester City vs Arsenal
Live from 5:30 pm
Newcastle vs Southampton
Live from 8:00 pm

Liverpool vs Chelsea
Live from 10:30 pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
English Premier League
Norwich City vs Leicester
Live from 8:00 pm
STAR SPORTS 3
English Premier League
West Ham vs Crystal Palace
Live from 8:00 pm

T SPORTS & MTV
La Liga
Celta Vigo vs Athletic Bilbao
Live from 9:00 pm
Elche vs Sevilla
Live from 11:30 pm
Real Betis vs Real Madrid
Live from 2:00 am (Sunday)
TEN 2
Bundesliga

Stuttgart vs Freiburg
Live from 7:30 pm
Bayern Munich vs Hertha Berlin
Live from 10:30 pm
STAR SPORTS 1
CPL
Guyana vs St Kitts and Nevis
Live from 8:00 pm
Barbados vs Jamaica
Live from 12:30 am (Sunday)



Bangladesh's foreign coaching staff look on as the players train at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday ahead of the series with New Zealand. (L) Nurul Hasan and Soumya Sarkar apparently enjoyed the time at the ground a lot following a three-day quarantine period. (Bottom) The New Zealand players sweated it out too.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Tigers, Kiwis begin practice

SPORTS REPORTER



Following three days of mandatory quarantine inside their rooms, members of the Bangladesh and New Zealand teams yesterday started training at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur ahead of a five-match T20I series starting from September 1.

The Tigers were at the home of cricket for around three hours after arriving at around 10:00am with every member barring star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan.

Shakib, who returned from the United States after spending time with his family, will join the squad today after completing his mandatory three-day quarantine.

Wicketkeeper-batsmen Mushfiqur Rahim and Liton Das also joined the team after missing the last series against Australia, which should give the team management a decision to make about who to pick behind the stumps against the Kiwis. A third wicketkeeper-batsman, Nurul Hasan, has also enjoyed his comeback to the T20 side in the series against Zimbabwe and kept the momentum going against Australia.

"Whether I score a hundred or a fifty, it's not worth it if it doesn't help the team's cause.



But if I am able to contribute to the team's win by making five or ten runs, that is important for me. Regardless of the situation, I get an opportunity. We managed to play the last two series as a team which was important," Nurul said yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Black Caps gathered together for the first time since landing in Dhaka on August 24. Glenn Pocknall will oversee the Kiwis in Bangladesh while head coach Gary Stead, who is in New Zealand, will be passing along instructions.

"There's no doubt with Finn (Finn Allen) being likely to be ruled out for the first few matches. Matt Henry will be coming over as a bowler. I think it will provide a lot of opportunities for the guys who were around the team. I think if you look at our squad it is more likely the bowlers will have to be rotated about or given the opportunities to have different roles and we are looking forward to this as well," Stead said.

Pacer Matt Henry will be making his comeback to the T20I side after four years, replacing Allen, who tested positive for Covid-19. Henry said he was looking forward to adjusting to the tough conditions.

"I have played a lot against Bangladesh over the last few years. Obviously, our conditions are very different to what we are about to experience. Bangladesh have been very strong as we have seen in the recent series and they are always a tough team to play at home. It's been good preparation for us at the Lincolns, practicing on some slow wickets and trying to replicate some zip and turn and keeping it so slow and low in nature. There will be a lot of change in pace and it's going to be different sorts of cricket and bowling. I'm thankful we have experience in such conditions but obviously Bangladesh will be a tough challenge so it will be an exciting series," said Henry.

RONALDO SAYS goodbye to Juventus

AFP, Manchester

Manchester United joined rivals Manchester City in the race to sign Cristiano Ronaldo on Friday after Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri confirmed the five-time Ballon d'Or winner's desire to leave the Italian giants.

"Yesterday, speaking with Cristiano, he told me that he has no intention of staying at Juventus, for this reason he will not be picked tomorrow. This morning he didn't train," Allegri told reporters ahead of Juve's Serie A match against Empoli on Saturday.

Premier League champions Manchester City have been widely linked with a move for the 36-year-old after missing out on England captain Harry Kane.

However, United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer hinted the Red Devils could make a late swoop to bring Ronaldo back to Old Trafford.

Ronaldo won the first of his five Champions League titles and was first crowned the world's best player during six years at United between 2003 and 2009.

"Cristiano has been a legend of this club, he is a legend of this club, he's the greatest player of all time, if you ask me," said Solskjaer, who played alongside Ronaldo.

"I didn't think Cristiano was going to leave Juventus. It's been speculation the last few days, of course.

"We've always had a good communication. I know Bruno (Fernandes) has been talking to him as well. He knows what we feel about him. If he was ever going to move from Juventus, he knows that we're here."

City seemed to be in pole position to land what would be the biggest signing in the club's history as they look for a replacement for Sergio Agüero.

However, manager Pep Guardiola insisted any arrival is "far away" and he will be happy with his squad even if they do not add another striker before the end of Tuesday's transfer deadline.

"Cristiano will decide where he wants to play, not Manchester City or myself. Right now it looks far, far away," said Guardiola.

"These type of players decide. They knock the door, they call and after there are situations I cannot control. It is not my business."

City missed out on reuniting Lionel Messi with former Barcelona boss Guardiola after the Argentine joined Paris Saint-Germain earlier this month.

"What these two guys have done only we can say 'thank you'," added Guardiola on Messi and Ronaldo's consistency. "The Argentinean and Portuguese guy were amazing in every single club, what they have done we will not watch something similar in the future."

Ronaldo's three-year stay at Juventus is almost certainly over, but the Italians reportedly want a transfer fee in the region of 25 million euros (\$29.4 million) to sell with one-year left to run on his contract.

"He was here three years, he made his contribution, he made himself available to Juventus and now he's leaving. Life goes on," added Allegri.



England's Ollie Robinson appeals unsuccessfully for the dismissal of India's Rohit Sharma on the third day of the third Test at Headingley in Leeds on Friday. Trailing by 354 runs in the first innings, India fought back and reached 112 for the loss of one wicket at Tea with Sharma batting on 59 and Cheteshwar Pujara on 40.

PHOTO: AFP

A new-look team away on its mission

SPORTS REPORTER

Head coach Jamie Day is willing to adopt a new playing system for Bangladesh national football team in upcoming Three Nations Cup in Bishkek as the men in red and green were scheduled to leave during early hours today for Kyrgyzstan to play three international friendly matches.

In the tournament, Bangladesh will face Palestine on September 5 before taking on hosts Kyrgyzstan on September 7 within the FIFA window while the charges of Jamie will also play a friendly against Kyrgyzstan U-23 side on September 9 as part of their preparation for October's SAFF Championship in Maldives.

Meanwhile, the 41-year-old British coach has also integrated two expatriate players - Rahbar Wahed Khan from Canada and Tahmid Islam from France - to consider including them in SAFF squad based on their performances in the international friendlies.

"We will look at some new players to see if they are ready for the level of international football, and possibly try a new system with future games in mind," Jamie told The Daily Star on the eve of departure yesterday.

Jamie is likely to modify his counter-attacking



playing style which he usually executed ever since his appointment three years prior. However, BFF president Kazi Salahuddin is apparently not pleased with the deep-defensive strategy of Jaime and earlier in the middle of this month, he sat with the British coach to discuss different aspects of the national team.

Perhaps the latest inclusion of expatriate players have promoted Jamie to lean to an attacking brand of football in upcoming international friendlies in which Bangladesh's tie against Kyrgyzstan will be counted as a FIFA

friendly.

Defender Tapu Barman, who along with eight other Bashundhara Kings players recently joined the national team after playing AFC Cup, is eager to raise performance against the familiar yet superior opponents Palestine and Kyrgyzstan and vowed not to lose any of the matches.

Tapu is optimistic about the inclusion of two expatriate players.

"If you look back at our previous matches of World Cup Qualifiers, we mostly struggled in midfield and the backline made mistakes when facing tremendous pressure from opponents. So far, I heard that both Tahmid and Wahed are upfront players, so if they can perform better by holding the ball upfront, then our squad depth will increase, I think," opined Tapu, who is also ready to assist expatriate players in settling down.

Ahead of the first game against Palestine, Jamie will get a week to prepare his charges and fine-tune his probable new playing system.

"A schedule of three games in five days will be tough, especially considering Palestine and Kyrgyzstan will get four days rest between their matches. Besides, they are 90 places ahead in ranking," said Jamie.

Sheikh Jamal finish second

SPORTS REPORTER



Sheikh Jamal DC finished second behind champions Bashundhara Kings in the Bangladesh Premier League after winning 2-0 against Mohammedan SC in their last league encounter at the Bangladesh Army Stadium in Banani yesterday.

It was Sheikh Jamal's 15th win in the league as they ended with 52 points, six more than third-placed Abahani who will play their final game against champions Bashundhara Kings.

On the other hand, the defeat saw Mohammedan drop down to sixth in the points table. A win for the Black and Whites could have seen them climb to fourth but a brace from Gambian Solomon Kings -- in the 52nd and 89th minutes respectively -- shattered Mohammedan's hopes.

At the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS), Saif SC, under the guidance of Julfiker Mahmud Mintu, showed tremendous character to ensure at least a fourth-place finish as they registered their sixth successive victory with a 1-0 win over Brothers Union.

Saif, who still have a match against Kings, raised their points tally to 44 from 23 games. Chattogram Abahani also have equal points but are behind Saif in goal difference.

Like Saif, Ctg Abahani also showed their improvement throughout the second leg of the league as they beat Muktiyoddha Sangsad 1-0 in their last match to collect 25 points from 12 matches of the second leg.

Nigerian Chinedu Mathew struck the decisive goal against Muktiyoddha Sangsad. Muktiyoddha, who had started the campaign following a stiff financial crisis, finished 10th in the table with only 19 points from 24 matches.

At the Army Stadium, Sheikh Russel KC beat Bangladesh Police 1-0 to confirm a seventh-place finish. Russel, however, will play Kings in their final game of the league.

Police, meanwhile, finished ninth with 25 points from 24 outings.

Rahmatganj MFS thrashed relegated Arambagh KS 3-0 and due to a better goal difference, the Old Dhaka outfit finished eighth despite having equal 25 points as Bangladesh Police. Felix struck twice and Shahedul Alam netted one for Rahmatganj at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.



Sheikh Jamal players celebrate one of the two goals by Solomon King during their 2-0 win over Mohammedan at the Army Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: BFF

Cairns paralysed

AFP, Wellington

New Zealand cricket legend Chris Cairns has been left paralysed after suffering a stroke during a heart operation and faces "a long road to recovery", his family said Friday.

Cairns, 51, suffered a life-threatening heart condition this month when a tear developed in the lining of a major artery. The Canberra-based former international underwent emergency surgery in Sydney but his family said he suffered a stroke during the procedure.

"This has resulted in paralysis in his legs," the family said in a statement. "As a result, he will be undertaking a significant rehabilitation process at a specialist spinal hospital in Australia."

It said Cairns and his family had returned to Canberra to focus on spending time together and "making whatever progress they can in his recovery".

"Chris and his family remain appreciative of the immense public support as they deal with this difficult time," the statement said. "They also appreciate the way in which their privacy has been respected."

Cairns played 62 Tests between 1989 and 2004, averaging 29.4 with the ball and 33.53 with the bat, including 87 sixes -- a world record at the time.

However, his on-field achievements were overshadowed by match-fixing allegations, strongly denied by Cairns, that resulted in two court cases. Cairns was cleared on both occasions but complained his reputation had been "scorched" regardless.