

# What to WATCH

## T SPORTS & GTV

ICC Men's T20 World Cup  
Papua New Guinea vs Scotland  
Live from 04:00 PM  
Bangladesh vs Oman  
Live from 08:00 PM

## TEN 1

UEFA Champions League  
PSG vs RB Leipzig  
Live from 01:00 am (Wednesday)

## TEN 2

UEFA Champions League

## Brugge KV vs Manchester City

Live from 10:45 pm  
Atletico Madrid vs Liverpool  
Live from 01:00 am (Wednesday)

## TEN 3

UEFA Champions League

## Ajax vs Dortmund

Live from 01:00 am (Wednesday)

## SONY SIX

UEFA Champions League  
Shakhtar vs Real Madrid  
Live from 01:00 am (Wednesday)

## DAY'S EVENT

### NCL (Day-3)

DHAKA v SYLHET, SICS Academy (Sylhet)  
KHULNA v RANGPUR, SICS

### CHATTOGRAM v RAJSHAH, ZACS

DHAKA METRO v BARISHAL, SICS Academy  
(Cox's Bazar)

# Sri Lanka hammer Namibia

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Spinners Maheesh Theekshana and Wanindu Hasaranga set up a comprehensive seven-wicket win for Sri Lanka against debutants Namibia in round one of the Twenty20 World Cup on Monday. Theekshana returned figures of 3-25 and Hasaranga took two wickets to help dismiss Namibia for 96 in the second Group A encounter of the day in Abu Dhabi.

Namibia hurt Sri Lanka with three wickets in the chase but Avishka Fernando (30) and Bhanuka Rajapaksa (42) put on an unbeaten stand of 74 to steer the team home in 13.3 overs.

The left-handed Rajapaksa, who survived a dropped catch on 18, smashed four fours and two sixes in his 27-ball blitz.

But bowlers remained key to victory with quick Lahiru Kumara also chipping in with two wickets to bowl out Namibia in 19.3 overs after



Sri Lanka chose to field first.

Craig Williams with his 29, skipper Gerhard Erasmus, 20, and JJ Smit, unbeaten on 12, were the only three batsmen to manage double figures.

Sri Lanka, champions in the 2014 edition, top the group table ahead of Ireland, who thrashed Netherlands by seven wickets in the first match that witnessed Curtis Campher taking four wickets in four balls.

### CAMPHER'S FOUR-IN-FOUR UPENDS NETHERLANDS

Fast bowler Curtis Campher took four wickets in four balls to help Ireland thrash Netherlands by seven wickets in a first-round match on Monday.

Campher took a hat-trick and then struck again to return figures of 4-26 as Netherlands were dismissed for 106 in the Group A opener in Abu Dhabi.

In reply, Ireland lost two early wickets but veteran opener Paul Stirling, who made an unbeaten 30, and Gareth Delany, who scored 44, put on 59 runs for the third wicket to ease into their chase. Ireland achieved their target with 4.5 overs to spare as Campher hit the winning runs for his team's first win over the Netherlands in a World Cup.



## Not an upset

NABID YEASIN

The deafening roar of the Scottish players from an adjacent room disrupted the rhythm of the Bangladesh T20I skipper Mahmudullah Riyad, who was fielding questions with a glum face at the presser after Bangladesh's six-run defeat against Scotland in the two sides' T20 World Cup opener in Oman on Sunday.

This particular incident reflected precisely how the day went for Bangladesh - bleak, with Scotland dominating proceedings for the most part of the game. With that win, Scotland remained perfect against the Tigers with two wins out of two in the format while Bangladesh succumbed to their 20th defeat in T20 World Cups - most by any team who have played all the previous six editions of the marquee event.

However, despite the Tigers losing to a side ranked eight places below in the T20I rankings, it clearly wasn't an upset. There were signs, which the Tigers' team management was aware of but chose to ignore. And if the team management, at some point, claims to have not seen the signs, it would only mean that the ones at the helm need to refine their own thought process.

Bangladesh boasted about the 'winning momentum' they took to the Middle East for the tournament. Only looking at the statistics would make their claim true as the Tigers won seven of their last 10 games, registering maiden T20I series victories against Australia and New Zealand in the process, before they faced Kyle Coetzer's side.

So, how did the Tigers suffer such a humiliating defeat against an associate member despite being in such a rich

vein of form in T20Is? Bangladesh did lose both of their official T20 World Cup practice games -- against Sri Lanka and Ireland in the UAE -- prior to the main tournament. But even before those defeats, there were indications of an impending mishap.

The 20 innings played at the slow and low Mirpur pitches during the Tigers' 10 previous T20Is yielded runs at a 110.4 average per innings. And only once in those games the Tigers were asked to chase a score above 140. That only meant that even though Bangladesh won most of the low-scoring affairs, they were out of the habit of chasing a score that is even considered par in T20Is -- and hence their failures in chasing Scotland's 140 for nine on Sunday and Ireland's 177 for three in the official warm-up game were inevitable.

The slow nature of the Mirpur surfaces also meant Bangladesh were unable to rectify their shortcomings, especially the discernible ones in the top-order of Bangladesh's batting line-up. The Tigers' average score for the opening stand in the last 10 games has been 21 despite using as many as four different players in the opening slot.

There were concerns in the middle order as well. Bangladesh's batting mainstay Mushfiqur Rahim has been trying to find his old rhythm since returning to the side against the Kiwis last month while Shakib Al Hasan still battling to find his form with the willow.

Would it not have been wiser if the team management opted to prepare sporting wickets in those 10 matches to help get the batters amongst runs even if it meant a few extra defeats?

The signs were very clear. But unfortunately, at the end, probably the 'winning momentum' is all that mattered for the Tigers' team management.



Sri Lanka batsman Bhanuka Rajapaksa plays one on the off side as Namibia wicketkeeper Zane Green watches during their Twenty20 World Cup match at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday. The Lankans won the match by seven wickets. Earlier in the day, Ireland beat the Netherlands by the same margin.

PHOTO: AFP



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**SCORES IN BRIEF**

**NAMIBIA**  
96 all out in 19.3 overs (Williams 29, Erasmus 20; Theekshana 3-25, Kumara -29)

**SRI LANKA**  
100 for 3 in 13.3 overs (Rajapaksa 42 not out, Fernando 30 not out; Smit 1-7, Scholtz 1-16)

**RESULT**  
Sri Lanka won by seven wickets

**PLAYER-OF-THE-MATCH**  
Maheesh Theekshana

**NETHERLANDS**  
106 all out in 20 overs (O'Dowd 51, Seelaar 21, extras 5; Adair 3-9, Campher 4-26)

**IRELAND**  
107 for 3 in 15.1 overs (Stirling 30 not out, Delany 44, extras 9; Klaassen 1-18, Glover 1-21, Seelaar 1-14)

**RESULT**  
Ireland won by 7 wickets.

**PLAYER-OF-THE-MATCH**  
Curtis Campher.

# Hockey league starts today

SPORTS REPORTER



Club Cup Mariner Youngs Club will take on Bangladesh Police in the opening match of the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League, which gets underway at the Maulana Bhashani Hockey Stadium today.

Defending champions Mohammedan will take on Dilkusha SC while former champions Abahani will play

against Azad SC in the two other matches on the opening day of the league, which returns to the turf following a three-year absence.

A total of 12 teams will play against each other once to decide the qualifiers for the Super Five round, with 66 matches to be played in the first round over the course of the next one month. The eight teams participating in the Club Cup will be joined by Shadharan Bima, Dilkusha, Victoria and Wari to make up the 12 teams of the premier league.

A press conference in this regard was arranged yesterday at

the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) conference room where the organisers and sponsors spoke about various issues of the league.

BHF's acting general secretary Mohammad Yousuf expected that there won't be any trouble on the pitch during this league.

"We will conduct the matches with foreign umpires. Two of them have already arrived and another one is scheduled to come. The club officials are sincere about keeping discipline on the turf. We have learnt from the mistakes of the club cup. Hopefully, the league will be without trouble,"

Yousuf said.

There were rumours that Mohammedan might skip the league after giving walk-over to Mariner Youngs in the Club Cup semifinal in protest of suspension to Rasel Mahmud Jimmy. But the BHF GS brushed aside the rumour, saying: "There is no binding requirement for any team to play in the Club Cup as it is an invitational tournament. But Mohammedan will have to play in the league and they have assured us, in writing, about participating. However, if Jimmy wants to play, he will have to pay Tk 50,000 fine first."



**Paris St Germain players train ahead of their Champions League clash against RB Leipzig on Wednesday (1am, Bangladesh Standard Time). Mauricio Pochettino's side, who were held to a 1-1 draw by Club Brugge before storming to a 2-0 win over Manchester City, will hope to make it back-to-back wins. But they will miss Brazilian forward Neymar, who trained with the team yesterday, through an injury. City will, meanwhile, be looking to bounce back when they face hosts Club Brugge today at 10.45 pm (Bangladesh Time). Another key clash on Wednesday (1am, Bangladesh Standard Time) sees Atletico Madrid host Liverpool.**

PHOTO: REUTERS



## Yasir, spinners shine on Day 2

SPORTS REPORTER



On the second day of the National Cricket League, spinners remained dominant but Chattogram's Yasir Ali managed to score a ton against Rajshahi in their tier-2 encounter at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium yesterday.

Coming to bat at four, Yasir stitched together a 134-run stand with skipper Mominul Haque. The right-arm batter hit 15 fours and three maximums during his 198-ball 129. Meanwhile, Rajshahi spinner Taijul Islam picked up four wickets in his 28-over spell that featured three maidens.

In the second innings, Rajshahi put 79 runs on the board by losing three wickets as they trail by 104 runs at the end of day two.

In tier-1, Dhaka Division's Nazmul Islam, who scalped six wickets in the first innings, shone with the ball in the second innings as well as he picked up four for 41 in his 24.4 overs that included eight maidens in their game against Sylhet. Supporting Nazmul in the spin department was off-spinner Shuvagata Hom, who picked up three wickets giving away 62 runs in his 22 overs as Sylhet were bowled out for 174.

Chasing a 66-run target, Dhaka scored 48 for three as Saif Hassan's side would need only 18 to win today.

In the other tier-1 match, Khulna's Mehedi Hasan Miraz, who ended the opening day with four wickets, scalped a couple more yesterday while seamer Al Amin Hossain picked up three wickets as Rangpur were bundled out for 257.

Rangpur spinner Sohrarordi Shuvo took three wickets as Khulna ended the day with 171 for four on the board.