

# What to WATCH

## SONY SIX

Australia vs England  
Second Test (Day 1)  
Live from 10:00 am  
T SPORTS

## LPL

Colombo vs Jaffna  
Live from 3:30 pm  
Pakistan vs West Indies  
Third T20

## Live from 7:00 pm

STAR SPORTS 3  
EPL  
Leicester vs Tottenham  
Live from 1:30 am

## (Friday)

STAR SPORTS SELECT HD2  
EPL  
Chelsea vs Everton  
Live from 1:45 am (Friday)

## STAR SPORTS SELECT HD1

EPL  
Liverpool vs Newcastle  
Live from 2:00 am  
(Friday)

## Central Zone, Rajshahi seal convincing wins

SPORTS REPORTER

Left-arm spinner Hasan Murad finished with his career-best figures in an innings in the first-class circuit to help Walton Central Zone demolish BCB North Zone by an innings and 70 runs on the final day of their Bangladesh Cricket League (BCL) encounter at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

Murad, who scalped three wickets on the previous day, ended with figures of six for 74 in the second innings as North Zone were bundled out for 274 in their second innings. Murad ended with a seven-for in the game, having picked up a wicket in the first innings.

Resuming the day on 172 for five and still trailing by 172 runs, the onus were on North Zone's overnight batters Marshall Ayub and Mahidul Islam Ankon to save the game. The duo showed grit and patience, surviving the morning



session without a hitch. However, the stubborn partnership that consumed almost 60 overs and accumulated 90 runs was broken by Murad when he had Ankon caught at silly point.

Following the end of Ankon's resolute 163-ball 25, North Zone fell into a slump as their skipper Ayub soon followed suit after picking up his 22nd first-class ton.

North Zone had lost their last four wickets for just 18 runs as Central Zone romped to a roaring victory, set up by a mammoth 327-run opening stand between Mizanur Rahman and Mohammad Mithun and an unbeaten ton by Soumya Sarkar in their first innings.

Meanwhile, at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi, BCB South Zone registered a convincing eight-wicket victory against Islami Bank East Zone.

Resuming the day on 195 for five with a 26-run lead, East Zone could only add 62 runs on the day as they were bundled out for 257, setting a modest 89-run target in the process. For South Zone, off-spinner Nahidul Islam scalped three wickets on the day, ending with a four-wicket haul.

And despite South Zone losing both openers early in the chase, an unbeaten fifty by Towhid Hridoy sealed the victory for the Forhad Reza-led side.

## 'I was always available'

REUTERS, New Zealand

India Test captain Virat Kohli confirmed his availability for the one-day leg of the team's South Africa tour on Wednesday and said he was "tired" of explaining there was no rift between him and the team's new white-ball captain Rohit Sharma.

A month after his own decision to relinquish 20-overs captaincy, Kohli was stripped of one-day leadership in a shock move with Rohit put in of both the limited-overs squads.

Kohli will lead India in a three-Test series, beginning in Centurion on Dec. 26, in South Africa and rumours were rife that the 33-year-old would skip the three ODI matches that follow.

"I was always available," Kohli told a pre-departure news conference. "You



should not be asking me this question, honestly... I am available for selection for the ODIs in South Africa and I'm always keen to play."

Kohli felt his removal as the ODI captain was abrupt, a decision conveyed barely 90 minutes before selectors met on December 8 to pick the test squad for South Africa.



## Coach, captain's apprehensions come true

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh coach Iman Gobinathan Krishnamurthy and captain Ashraful Islam had downplayed expectations from the home team ahead of the Asian Champions Trophy, citing their 40-month sabbatical from the international circuit and the shortage of practice for such a big event, much to the displeasure of critics and fans.

But even the coach or his captain might not have expected such a chastening defeat for the men in red and green as Gobinathan's charges were handed a 9-0 drubbing by defending champions India at the Maulana Bhashani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The rust from long absence in international hockey was apparent but so was the gulf in quality with

the top-ranked Asian side, who had beaten Bangladesh 7-0 in their last meeting four years ago at the same venue.

India started their goalfest in the 12th minute with Dilpreet Singh scoring a field goal before the same player doubled India's lead 10 minutes later. Lalit Kumar Upadhyay's penalty corner in the 29th minute saw the defending champions go to the half-time break with a three-goal advantage.

Graham Reid's side turned on the style after the break with Jarmanpreet Singh bagging a brace before Dilpreet got his third in the 44th minute. The Olympic bronze medallist side then saw Akashdeep Singh, Mandeep Mor and Harmanpreet Singh completing the rout with three more goals in the final quarter.

Ashraful said the result was an expected one. "We didn't get much time for this tournament while India are a

powerhouse in world hockey. We conceded a few more goals due to our mistakes," the Bangladesh captain said.

"We were not nervous. The fact is we didn't play any match in three years while they played 50-70 matches. So, the difference is quite expected. We are where we were while they have improved further," Ashraful added.

Player-of-the-match Dilpreet said they didn't repeat the mistakes from the Korea game which is why they had such a comfortable victory. Dilpreet also said that he felt Bangladesh were rusty due to long absence from international hockey.

Meanwhile, the second match of the day ended in a 3-3 draw between Japan and Korea. Japan had twice taken a two-goal advantage, but Korea fought back to draw level.

Korea had drawn their opening match against India 2-2 while Japan had played out a goalless draw against Pakistan in their first match.

## Sergio Aguero: A Manchester City icon

AGENCIES

Sergio Aguero ended his career with Barcelona but will forever be associated with Manchester City and in particular with the goal that won them the Premier League title in 2012.

Barcelona and Argentina striker Sergio Aguero broke down in tears as he announced his retirement from football on Wednesday due to a heart condition, bringing the curtain down on an 18-year career during which he scored more than 400 goals.

Aguero, 33, was taken to hospital on Oct. 30 after experiencing chest pain and breathing difficulties in Barcelona's 1-1 draw with Alaves.

Aguero spent a decade at the English club before departing at the end of last season as their all-time top scorer with 260 goals in just under 400 appearances.

One goal stands out above all the others. On May 13, 2012, Roberto Mancini's City came into the final day of the Premier League season ahead of rivals Manchester United at the top of the table only on goal difference. With



United winning 1-0 at Sunderland and City losing 2-1 at home to Queens Park Rangers going into the 90th minute, it looked like a first league title since the Abu Dhabi takeover of 2008 would escape them.

But Edin Dzeko headed in the equaliser before Mario Balotelli pushed the ball into the path of Aguero to score the most dramatic of winners. "I swear you'll never see anything like this ever again," said Sky Sports commentator Martin Tyler, and the goal has gone down as arguably the most iconic moment in the history of modern English football.

There is even a 93:20 lounge at City's Etihad Stadium in a nod to the timing of Aguero's dramatic title-clinching winner. Aguero, who joined City from Atletico Madrid in 2011, won five Premier League titles in total in his time at the club, as well as one FA Cup and six League Cups.

## জীবন বাঁচায় জীবনকে এগিয়ে নিয়ে যায়

ডায়রিয়া, জ্বর বা ফু সহ যে কোন পানিশূন্যতায় এসএমসি'র ওরস্যালাইন-এন

সিল দেখে কিবুর্ন

ডিসক্রেইমার: শুধুমাত্র রেজিস্টার্ড চিকিৎসকের ব্যবস্থাপত্র মোতাবেক অ্যান্টিবায়োটিক বিক্রয়, সেবন বা গ্রহণ করতে হবে। ঔষধ ক্রয়ের সময় মেয়াদ উত্তীর্ণের তারিখ দেখে নিন। মেয়াদ উত্তীর্ণ ঔষধ ক্রয় থেকে বিরত থাকুন।

## Tigresses begin World Cup against South Africa

AGENCIES



Bangladesh women's cricket team will kick off their maiden World Cup journey with the game against South Africa next year.

The Tigresses will face their South African counterparts on March 5 at the University Oval, Dunedin in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022 in New Zealand.

The tournament will be played in the league format, where all eight teams will face each other once, at the end of which the top four teams will qualify for the semi-finals.

Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, Hamilton, Tauranga, and Wellington will be the six cities that will host the tournament.

The first semi-final will be held at the Basin Reserve in Wellington on March 30, while Hagley Oval in Christchurch will host the second on March 31 and the final on April 3.

### BANGLADESH'S FIXTURES

- March 5: Bangladesh V South Africa.
- March 7: Bangladesh V New Zealand.
- March 14: Bangladesh V Pakistan.
- March 18: Bangladesh V West Indies.
- March 22: Bangladesh V India.
- March 25: Bangladesh V Australia.
- March 27: Bangladesh V England.

Australia, England, South Africa and India qualified for the event through the ICC Women's Championship 2017-20, while New Zealand automatically qualified as hosts.

Bangladesh, Pakistan and West Indies were the last three teams to qualify, sealing their spots on the basis of rankings after a qualifying tournament was abandoned due to travel bans prompted by the discovery of the Omicron COVID-19 variant.

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