

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS 1
 Indian Premier League
 Rajasthan vs Bengaluru
 Live from 8:00 pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT HD1
 English Premier League

Crystal Palace vs Man City
 Live from 5:30 pm
 Fulham vs Newcastle
 Live from 8:00 pm
 Brighton vs Arsenal
 Live from 10:30 pm

Stamford Bridge erupts in celebrations after Chelsea forward Cole Palmer netted home the winner with seconds left in stoppage time against Manchester United in a 4-3 win on Friday. Twenty-one-year-old Palmer scored twice in stoppage time [100th and 101st minute] to complete a first hat-trick for the Blues after he converted a penalty in the first half to take his side 2-0 up following a blistering start from the home side. However, Mauricio Pochettino's side had to pay the price for individual errors and saw United score three and take a 3-2 lead by the 67th minute. The Red Devils kept the lead till 99 minutes and 17 seconds before Chelsea's Palmer, a boyhood United fan, turned the match on its head with two late goals -- a penalty and a thumping left-footed strike. The result meant that United are now the side to have led a Premier League game for most number of minutes and still ended up on the losing side after final whistle.



PHOTO: AFP

Kings soar, Abahani slip up

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Bashundhara Kings coasted to a 5-0 victory over Chittagong Abahani in the Bangladesh Premier League while title aspirants Abahani Limited stumbled against Fortis FC, playing out a 1-1 draw at separate venues yesterday.

In Rajshahi, Rahmatganj MFS tasted their maiden victory in the league with a 2-0 win over visiting Brothers Union.

Kings consolidated their lead with 28 points with their ninth win in 11 matches, eight more than second-placed Mohammedan SC who have played one match fewer than the Kings while Abahani sit with 19 points from 11 matches after the day's draw.

Kings, who had defeated Chittagong Abahani 4-0 earlier in the season, took a 4-0 lead in the first half at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Flight Lt Matiur Rahman Stadium in Munshiganj and added a fifth in the second half.

Local forward Rakibul Hossain scored one goal in each half while Dorielton Gomes, Robson da



Silva and Asror Gofurov scored one each.

At the Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni Stadium in Gopalganj, Abahani dropped points against Fortis FC, who had pulled off a shock 1-0 win over the Sky Blue outfits in their first meeting.

Fortis took a 61-minute lead, with Ukrainian forward Valery Hryshy capitalising on a fumble by goalkeeper Sahidul Alam Sohel and Abahani forward Stewart Cornelious salvaged a draw with a goal in the stoppage time of the second half.

'Transitioning to Tests was difficult'

SPORTS REPORTER

BCB's chief selector Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu identified a few problem areas following the recent debacle in the two-match Test series against Sri Lanka. While talking to reporters yesterday he said that batters found transition from shorter-version to red-ball cricket difficult while also reiterating the need for playing on the kind of sporting tracks that were seen in Sylhet and Chattogram.

"Our performance in Test cricket was disappointing. It is not like result had to come our way but we wanted our team to compete more and perform better," Lipu said when he addressed the media on Friday for the first time in Mirpur since his appointment.

"We wanted to play on sporting wickets

because we have to play lot of Tests abroad. We wanted to judge our strengths and weaknesses and so we had gone for this kind of wicket. Probably that is the reason we are disappointed because our lackings were exposed and our team management would certainly work on those areas in the coming days," he said.

He brought particular attention to the batters' temperament and application. "The way we got out was not good. They got out before settling down and if they had known where their off-stump was, they wouldn't have got out trying to

chase those deliveries. Some were found going for shots the first ball they played in the match. They could not bat with a Test temperament," he said.



Lipu also identified that batters had been getting out to similar plays being used against them.

"The bowlers have repeatedly deceived us by creating angles. This is not the first series that this has happened. I think it is a repetition. We should take this seriously," he said, adding that coaches and analysts have already detected

errors that would be communicated to the players.

There has been question marks over how well Bangladesh prepared for the series and Lipu said he was aware of the problem. There were no warm-up fixtures as players coming from BPL, played the T20I and ODI series before taking on Tests.

"Even three day matches can definitely help with preparations. Especially after white-ball cricket, opening the Test window and transitioning to that temperament, has been found to be difficult in our observation because they were playing the Test match in somewhat of an attacking mode. It may have been a reflection of shorter-version," he said.

Lipu said that talking to players such as Mominul Haque, who brought up difficulties of preparation and handling challenges of international cricket, would be of importance.

Shakib, Tamim face off in DPL today

SPORTS REPORTER

Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal will face off today in the Dhaka Premier League (DPL) when Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club take on Prime Bank Cricket Club at the at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur.

National team players such as Shakib, Najmul Hossain Shanto and Liton Das will join their respective DPL sides ahead of the ninth round, which begins today, following the Sri Lanka series.

Shakib's Sheikh Jamal are second in the standings with 12 points, one place above Tamim's Prime Bank courtesy of a better net run-rate.

Table-toppers Abahani Limited, who have won all of their eight matches so far, will be bolstered by the inclusion of the likes of Shanto and Liton ahead of taking on Legends of Rupganj today.

Yesterday, Shinepukur Cricket Club

picked up their fifth win, beating Rupganj Tigers by 10 wickets at Mirpur. The highlight of the game was Shinepukur opener Tanzid Tamim and Jishan Alam's rampant partnership to finish a chase of 110 in just nine overs.

Batting first, Rupganj Tigers managed just 110 in 39.4 overs. Jishan remained unbeaten 58 off 28 balls with two fours and six sixes while Tanzid made a 26-ball 48 laced with six fours and three sixes as Shinepukur romped to victory.

At the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah, City Club notched their first win of the tournament, beating Brothers Union by 20 runs.

Sazzadul Hoque's 84-ball 70 and Moinul Islam's 53 saw City reach 251-9 as pacer Abu Jayed Rahi picked up four wickets for Brothers.

Right-arm pacer Irfan Hossain bagged a fiver as Brothers were restricted to 231-8 in reply.



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Winning starts for MSC, Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER

Title aspirants Mohammedan and Abahani made winning starts to the Super Six phase of Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Leaders Mohammedan continued their impressive run despite conceding a second-minute lead against Ajax. The Motijheel-based outfit banked on Malaysian recruits to come with a 9-2 victory after having beaten the same opposition 5-3 in the first round of matches.

Faizal Bin Sarri scored a hat-trick while his compatriots Fitri Bin Sarri and Faiz Helmi Bin Jali were among the scorers alongside Din Islam Emon, Shahidul Haque Saikat, Mehedi Hasan and Rasel Mahmud Jimmy.

Meanwhile, smarting from a 2-1 defeat to Mariners in the previous match, Abahani managed to bag all three points with a 7-0 thrashing of Bangladesh Police in the day's first match.

The Sky Blues had beaten the same opposition 4-2 in the first round, but had it much easier yesterday, especially in the last three quarters.

Rumman Sarkar broke the deadlock in the 19th minute before striking his second in the 53rd minute while Ashraful Islam, Shilinand Lakra, Rezaul Karim Babu, Venkatesh Renche and Afan Yousub netted one goal each to wrap up the victory.

Mohammedan have 29 points from 11 matches, one more than nearest rivals Abahani.

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