

SPORT

What to WATCH

SPORTS 18-1
Paris Olympics
Live from 11:30 am
SONY SPORTS 1
Community Shield
Manchester City vs
Manchester UtdLive from 8:00 pm
SONY SPORTS 2
The Hundred
Southern Brave vs
Trent Rockets
7:30 pm
Welsh Fire vsBirmingham
Phoenix
Live from 11:00 pm
T SPORTS
GT20
Qualifier 2
Live from 9:00 pm

Momentum, bragging rights up for grabs

AGENCIES

English football's annual curtain-raiser takes place under the famous arch of Wembley Stadium on Saturday as city rivals Manchester City and Manchester United, just 11 weeks after they met in the FA Cup final, return to the iconic stadium to do it all over again in the Community Shield, with bragging rights, momentum and a big shield on the line.

Erik ten Hag's side got their hands on the FA Cup last season, while Pep Guardiola's men celebrated winning their fourth successive Premier League title.

United ended the 2023-24 season on a high by beating red-hot favourites City 2-1 in the FA Cup final, winning the competition for the 13th time and denying the Citizens a domestic double in the process.

While the recent head-to-head result against City might give United some sense of comfort, problems lie for coach Ten Hag as he faces a defensive headache with injuries continuing to plague his side's preparations.

United are set to be without defenders Harry Maguire, Victor Lindelof, Luke Shaw, and Aaron Wan-Bissaka for the game today.

In addition, centre-back Lisandro Martinez only rejoined the squad this week after taking part in Argentina's successful defence of its Copa America crown this summer.

"From individual to individual we will assess them and make a decision whether they start, or come from the bench, or they don't play," said Ten Hag on Thursday.

Big money summer arrival Leny Yoro will definitely miss out after



Man City have competed in the previous three Community Shield games, but didn't win any of them. Man Utd were the last team to lose four in a row (1998-2001).

Erling Haaland has been involved in nine goals in six appearances against the Red Devils (6 goals, 3 assists).

This will be the eighth time in the history of the Community Shield that the match has been a repeat of the previous season's FA Cup final.

United will go into the Community Shield this weekend seeking to win the title for a record-extending 22nd time.



undergoing foot surgery this week for a knock sustained during a friendly and is unexpected to be unavailable for three months.

Meanwhile, a seventh Premier League crown in eight seasons is firmly in City's sights ahead of what could prove to be Guardiola's ninth and final year in charge of the club, but they will first be out for revenge against Man United as they attempt to win their seventh Community Shield today.

Man City concluded their pre-season tour of the United States on August 3 with a 4-2 victory over Chelsea -- coincidentally their

opponents on the opening weekend of the new Premier League season -- with Erling Haaland netting a hat-trick to help the Citizens register their first friendly win after failing to come out on top in previous matches against Celtic, AC Milan and Barcelona.

It has been difficult to read too much into Man City's pre-season due to the absence of several first-team stars, but some of those could make a timely return on Saturday as Guardiola's side seek to avoid losing English football's annual curtain-raiser for the fourth consecutive year.



At the Iconic Mindil Beach in the Northern Territory of Australia, Bangladesh High Performance (HP) unit skipper Akbar Ali [fourth from right] pose for a photo with the other eight participating team captains of the Top End T20 Series 2024, which got underway in Darwin yesterday. Bangladesh HP will play their first match against Melbourne Renegades Academy on Sunday morning.

PHOTO: BCB

BCB pushing to keep WC hosting rights

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is trying to make headway in communicating with the relevant authorities of the interim government over hosting the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup, slated to be played in October this year.

The BCB has been in communication with International Cricket Council (ICC) over the last 10 to 15 days after the unrest in the country led to serious concerns in the ICC over Bangladesh being able to host the World Cup. ICC has reportedly already looked into alternative options to host the 10-team event.

It is understood that the ICC is in discussion to resolve the matter as early as possible as the cricket's governing body needs adequate amount of time to weigh up alternative options.

Following the fall of the Awami League government last Monday, a new interim government took oath on Thursday. The same day, the BCB wrote to Bangladesh Army Chief of Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman regarding security assurance to host the tournament.

"We had communicated with them [the Army] but by that time the [interim] government had already been formed. Since it has been formed, they will place priority on it as required," BCB chief executive officer Nizamuddin Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We have communicated with them and the sooner we get a response the better we will understand the

situation. We had communicated with them very late yesterday [Thursday] and there was very little time for them to go through it," he added.

With many board members absent from their offices, conducting daily activities has become a challenge for the BCB. The board, however, is still hopeful of hosting the tournament, said the BCB chief executive.

ICC is also monitoring the situation in Bangladesh and most likely is doing an independent assessment.

An ICC spokesperson has said that they will make an announcement only after a decision has been made.

"ICC had sent us a letter and then we communicated with our Army chief. We will again ask tomorrow [today]. The letter that we had written was also directed to the sports ministry, Air Force, Navy and other relevant parties. So, let's see," BCB umpires' committee chairman Iftakhar Ahmed Mithu said yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh are slated to begin their official training session for the upcoming two-Test series against Pakistan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium today.

Bangladesh 'A' team, which includes many of the national Test team stars, left for Pakistan on Friday and the BCB are willing to send the national team to Pakistan ahead of schedule for the series, which begins on August 21. "We are planning to send the team to Pakistan as early as possible. We are in discussion with the PCB and if we go early, they will facilitate it and they are happy to host," Nizamuddin informed.



নির্ভীক ছাত্র-জনতার বিরল
আত্মত্যাগের বিনিময়ে অর্জিত নতুন
বাংলাদেশের সকল নির্মাতাদের
আন্তরিক অভিনন্দন।

একই সাথে বাংলাদেশের
অন্তর্বর্তীকালীন সরকার প্রধান
নোবেলজয়ী ড. মুহাম্মদ ইউনুস এবং
উপদেষ্টামন্ডলীকে

নর্থ সাউথ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের পক্ষ থেকে
অভিনন্দন ও শুভেচ্ছা

নর্থ সাউথ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

ন্যাশনাল ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
প্রতিষ্ঠাতাশীল কর্মতৎপর একটি ব্যাংক

বাংলাদেশ-এর অন্তর্বর্তীকালীন সরকারের
প্রধান উপদেষ্টা
শান্তিতে নোবেল বিজয়ী অর্থনীতিবিদ
ড. মুহাম্মদ ইউনুসকে
আন্তরিক অভিনন্দন ও শুভেচ্ছা।

ন্যাশনাল ব্যাংক বিশ্বাস করে ড. মুহাম্মদ ইউনুসের
যোগ্য নেতৃত্ব ও দিকনির্দেশনায় বাংলাদেশ
বিশ্বের বৃহৎ মাথা উঁচু করে দাঁড়াবে।

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