

What to WATCH

SONY SPORTS 5
New Zealand vs England
1st ODI
Live from 7:00 am
T SPORTS AND STAR SPORTS 1
ICC Women's World Cup

England vs New Zealand
Live from 11:30 am
Bangladesh vs India
Live from 3:30 pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT HD1 AND 2
Premier League

Arsenal vs Crystal Palace
Live from 8:00 pm
Aston Villa vs Man City
Live from 8:00 pm
Everton vs Tottenham
Live from 11:30 pm



PHOTO: AFP

'IT WAS FUN'

Indian stalwarts Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli rolled back the years in Sydney, stitching a majestic 168-run stand as India crushed Australia by nine wickets in the third and final ODI on Saturday. Rohit's unbeaten 121 and Kohli's fluent unbeaten 74 lit up their likely final Australian outing -- two legends bowing out together, bat in hand. "It was fun all these years we played here," Rohit said, smiling through memories. Australia won the series 2-1.



PHOTO: AFP/REAL MADRID

Pride, position, and more at stake

Real Madrid host Barcelona at the Santiago Bernabeu in LaLiga tonight. While Barca would be hoping to leapfrog leaders Real Madrid in the points table, Los Blancos would look for a much-needed victory after a bleak Clasicos record last season.

- Barcelona are targeting a fifth straight win over Real Madrid in all competitions, something they have only previously achieved under Pep Guardiola, from 2008 to 2010.
- However, Real have won seven of their last 11 LaLiga clashes with Barcelona (L4).
- Kylian Mbappe has scored 11 goals in eight appearances against Barcelona in all competitions, including five in his four Clasicos (all of which he has lost). This is also his most against a non-French side in his club career.
- Flick's Barca won all four Clasicos last season, scoring a total of 16 goals. These numbers would certainly put extra pressure on Xabi Alonso in his first Clasicos as manager.
- Lamine Yamal scored in three of four Clasicos last season.
- Barcelona are two points behind Real Madrid



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Kings lose 3-2 against Al-Seeb

SPORTS REPORTER

Bashundhara Kings suffered a 3-2 defeat against Omani league champions Al-Seeb in an entertaining opening fixture of the AFC Challenge League at the Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Stadium in Kuwait on Saturday.

The game swung back and forth before Al-Seeb came from behind to snatch all three points, overturning a 2-1 deficit early in the second half. A lively crowd was in attendance, including a sizable group of Kings supporters.

The five-time Bangladesh champions fell behind in the seventh minute when Nasser Al-Rawahi controlled a clever through-ball inside the box and fired past goalkeeper Mehedi Hasan Srabon with a powerful finish.

Mario Gomez's men responded in the 41st minute as Raphael Augusto latched onto a through-ball from substitute Saad Uddin and unleashed a stunning volley to level the score.

Rakib Hossain then put the Bangladeshi side ahead nine minutes after the restart with a curling left-footed strike from outside the box. However, Al-Seeb equalised just seven minutes later through Zaher Al-Aghbari, who skillfully weaved his way into the area before finishing coolly.

Abdul Aziz Al-Maqbali sealed the victory for the Omani side in the 77th minute, combining neatly with a teammate before slotting home as Kings struggled to cope with mounting pressure.

Four tons launch 27th NCL



"It looked like the wicket would get spin from the third day, and that's why we targeted to score as much runs as possible."

— Chattogram Division batter Yasir Ali

SPORTS REPORTER

The opening day of the 27th National Cricket League (NCL) 2025-26 was marked by four centuries across three venues yesterday.

In Rajshahi, twin hundreds from Mahmudul Hasan Joy and Yasir Ali propelled Chattogram Division to 401 runs in their first innings against Rajshahi Division, who opted to field. Joy (127 off 165 balls, 15 fours, 2 sixes) and Yasir (129 off 138 balls, 10 fours, 6 sixes) shared a dominant 221-run fourth-wicket stand in near run-a-ball. Spinner Tajjul Islam (4-159) helped the hosts hit back late, who ended the day in a spot of bother at 1-2.

In Khulna, lower-order batters Sheikh Paeviz Jibon (unbeaten 72 off 91 balls) and Ziaur Rahman (69 off 91) helped the hosts reach 312-9 after electing to bat first against Barishal Division. The day was overshadowed by Barishal's Fazole Mahmud, who suffered a heat stroke in the 19th over and was stretchered off.

Meanwhile, in Sylhet, debutants Mymensingh Division recovered from an early collapse after being asked to bat, thanks largely to Ariful Islam, who went on to score his maiden first-class hundred (101 off 208 balls). Mymensingh closed the day at 268-7, with Sylhet pacer Khaled Ahmed taking three wickets.

Elsewhere in Sylhet, Marshall Ayub's 105 off 161 balls rescued Dhaka Division after they slumped to 13-3 against Rangpur Division but were eventually bundled out for 221. Abu Hasim took three wickets for Rangpur, who replied with 65-2 at stumps.

Tug of war between archery and football

SPORTS REPORTER

The Asian Archery Championship, scheduled for November 8 to 14 in Dhaka, may be relocated from the National Stadium to accommodate the Bangladesh national football team's fixtures; a FIFA friendly against Afghanistan on November 13 and an Asian Cup Qualifier against India on November 18.

Speaking to reporters during an exhibition football match between advisers and diplomats at the National Stadium on Saturday, Sports Adviser Asif Mahmud informed reporters that the championship, which expects over 400 athletes and officials from around 30 Asian countries, is being planned to be hosted either at the Army Stadium or Kamalapur Stadium.

Bangladesh Archery Federation General Secretary Tanvir Ahmed noted they have not received official instructions from NSC, despite the ground being allotted a year ago and preparations already underway. He said that technical delegates have inspected the venue and that a relocation would raise "compliance issues" and affect the nation's "prestige and image."

Kazi Razibuddin Ahmed Chapal, a former BAF general secretary and an Asian Archery Federation member, proposed holding the tournament up to the semifinals at the National Stadium, then vacating by 6:00 pm on November 12. Otherwise, he warned, they "might face sanctions."

Can Tigresses avoid bottom finish?

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will look to end their ICC Women's World Cup campaign on a positive note when they take on India in their final league-stage match at the Dr DY Patil Sports Academy in Navi Mumbai today.

The Tigresses are already out of semifinal contention after managing just one win from six matches. Yet their campaign could have looked much brighter, as they came close to victories against England, South Africa, and Sri Lanka before faltering in key moments.

Despite some promising performances, Bangladesh sit at the bottom of the eight-team points table. While Pakistan failed to manage any wins, and Sri Lanka and New Zealand each have one win as well, those teams gained additional points from rain-abandoned matches, whereas Bangladesh endured a series of heartbreaking defeats.

To match their previous World Cup standing, Bangladesh must beat India -- a side they have defeated only once in eight encounters in this format.

"We are now eighth in the points table and it's very disappointing," said batter Sobhana Mostary at the pre-match press conference yesterday. "We won one match against Pakistan and created chances against big teams. The loss against Sri Lanka hurt us a lot."

Sobhana added that the side is focusing on improving batting and fielding. "We are trying to build partnerships, make better use of the Powerplay, and reduce dot balls. It's our last game, and we want to finish the tournament well."

HOCKEY JUNIOR WORLD CUP

Ambitions pivot to 'Plan B'

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh youth hockey coach, Siegfried Aikman, expressed disappointment over the scrapped European tour to Switzerland and Austria, which had been planned as preparation for the upcoming FIH Hockey Junior World Cup in India, which runs from November 28 to December 10.

The tour, which included two matches each against the youth Swiss and Austrian teams, was cancelled due to visa complications. Bangladesh Hockey Federation general secretary Riazul explained at yesterday's press briefing that since the tour was not an official international tournament, the Swiss Embassy did not grant visas for all 26 players in a single application.

Despite the setback, Aikman remains focused. When asked about his frustration, the coach replied, "I'm very disappointed. I was very upset, but you always need a Plan B."

His original plan was partly completed by last month's Malaysia tour, where Bangladesh lost four of five matches. Aikman noted, "In Malaysia, the idea was to test our defensive game." The next step, which would have been the Switzerland tour, was intended to "check how the combination from attack and defence



PHOTO: STAR

would work."

The new Plan B involves training 31 players for both the Junior World Cup and the crucial best-of-three series against the Pakistani seniors next month -- scheduled for November 13, 14, and 16 at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium -- which serves as a qualifier for the Senior Men's World Cup.

Aikman, who previously coached Pakistan and Oman, set a realistic

Junior World Cup goal against their group opponents: Australia, France, and Korea. The Dutchman said he wants to "play competitive matches" against all oppositions and "surprise Korea".

Aikman and his charges are scheduled to depart for India on November 18, where they will train and play practice matches against the Swiss and Chilean teams before the 24-team tournament begins.



Leg-spinner Rishad Hossain trains at the Bir Shrestha Shahid Flight Lieutenant Motiur Rahman Cricket Stadium in Chattogram yesterday ahead of Bangladesh's three-match T20I series against the West Indies, starting at the same venue tomorrow. Player of the series in the earlier ODI series, Rishad will hope to continue his good run, both with bat and ball, to beat the Windies.

PHOTO: BCB