

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

English Premier League

Chelsea v Man United

Live from 1:50am (Tuesday)

TEN 2

Serie A

AC Milan v Torino

Live from 1:45am (Tuesday)

Central Zone v South Zone

Venue: Cox's Bazar

East Zone v North Zone

Bangladesh Cricket League

Four-day Match, Day 4

Time: 9:30am

Venue: Cox's Bazar

Bangladesh Premier League

Saif Sporting v Mohammedan

Time: 3:15pm

Venue: Rofique Uddin Bhuiyan Stadium, Mymensingh

IOC, BARCA TWITTER ACCOUNTS HACKED

Twitter said on Saturday that an official Twitter account of the Olympics and the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) media Twitter account had been hacked and temporarily locked. The accounts were hacked through a third-party platform, a spokesperson for the social media platform said in an emailed statement, without giving further details. A spokesperson for the IOC separately said that the IOC was investigating the potential breach. Twitter also said Spanish soccer club FC Barcelona's account faced a similar incident on Saturday.

--- REUTERS





Abahani striker Sunday Chizoba celebrates his opening goal against Bangladesh Police in their Bangladesh Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Abahani won the match 2-0.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

# Abahani off to winning start

SPORTS REPORTER

Foreign recruits continued dominating the scoresheet of the Bangladesh Premier League Nigerian Sunday Chizoba and Kyrgyzstan's Edgar Bernhardt powered Abahani to a 2-0 win over promoted Bangladesh Police FC at Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Sunday gave Abahani the lead in the 43rd minute before Bernhardt ensured the victory in the 83rd minute, raising the overall goal tally of the league to nine from six matches, all nine coming from nine different foreign players.

The winning start in the league was a relief for six-time champions Abahani following their departure from the prequalifying stage of the AFC Cup last week.

Following a goalless draw in the second leg of that match against Maziya in Male, Abahani coach Mario Lemos urged his forwards to step up. The three forwards -- Sunday, Kervens Belfort and Nabib Newaj Jibon -- worked hard and delivered three points.

Bangladesh Police played with a defensive strategy by deploying five defenders, but failed to keep the Sky Blues at bay for long.

The Dhanmondi giants had a brilliant start and Sunday came close to breaking the deadlock in the eighth minute, but his header off Jibon cross narrowly missed the target while Police also got an opportunity from a sporadic attack but a header from Amirul Islam went over the crosspiece in the

ABAHANI	2	-	0	POLICE
Sunday 43', Bernhardt 83'				

29th minute.

Abahani went ahead from a counter-attack as centre-back Tutul Hossain Badsha released a long ball for Belfort, who nutmegged two Police players to give a resulting through-pass to Sunday inside the box and the Nigerian finished it with a grounder in the 43rd minute.

After resumption, Police tried to press Abahani coming out of their defensive shell, allowing Abahani with acres space to exploit. Jibon came close to doubling the lead but goalkeeper Shariful Islam Khan brilliantly saved a point-blank header in the 65th minute before Sunday had a header come off the near post in the 76th minute.

The Dhanmondi-based outfit kept pressing to extend the lead and Sunday once again went close to doubling the lead, but the long-serving Nigerian saw his close-range header off a Belfort effort cleared off the goalline by defender Khan Mohammad Tara in the 78th minute.

Five minutes later, Abahani made the result safe when left-back Saad Uddin ran deep to whip in a cross for Jibon, who however slipped before taking the control of the ball and hit the ball back to onrushing Bernhardt and the Kyrgyz midfielder drove a harmless left-footer which embraced the back of the net.

## NATIONAL FOOTBALL C'SHIP Final round in March

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation has decided to hold the final round of the Bangabandhu National Football Championship in the first week of March with 10 teams -- eight zonal champions and champions and runners-up teams of services zone.

The decision was taken at a meeting of organising committee of the championship yesterday.

The 10 teams, split into two groups, will compete in two separate venues outside Dhaka as the committee wants to hold it in venues where there is no Bangladesh Premier League fixture.

The game's local governing body is also planning to allow more than 10 teams to take part in the upcoming Bangladesh Games even though the number of teams will be decided later, informed BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag.

The teams playing in the final round of Bangabandhu National Football Championship are: Cumilla, Netrokona, Cox's Bazar, Pabna, Rangpur, Khulna, Satkhira, Sylhet, BKSP and Bangladesh Army.

## PSG held 4-4 by lowly Amiens

AFP, Amiens

Amiens' Serhou Guirassy scored an injury time equaliser on Saturday to secure a roller-coaster 4-4 draw with a Paris Saint-Germain side without Neymar and Kylian Mbappe ahead of next week's Champions League last 16 tie at Borussia Dortmund.

Relegation-haunted Amiens had been on course for a shock win when they surged into a 3-0 lead after 40 minutes before the French champions clawed their way back to lead 4-3 on the back of Tanguy Kouassi becoming PSG's youngest scorer in 44 years.

Brazil forward Neymar has been sidelined since February 1 with a rib injury while France World Cup winner Mbappe was rested ahead of Tuesday's trip to Germany.

The hosts' boss Luka Elsner made two changes to his side from last Saturday's loss to Monaco as Haitam Aleesami and Bongani Zungu started instead of the suspended Thomas Monconduit and Bakaye Dibassy.

Former French youth international Guirassy opened the scoring after nine minutes before ex-Chelsea midfielder Gael Kakuta doubled the lead 20 minutes later.

Fousseni Diabate, on-loan from Leicester City, made it 3-0 on the 40-minute mark after his low effort was deflected by PSG captain Thiago Silva.

Midfielder Ander Herrera cut the league strugglers' lead seconds before half-time with a side-footed volley.

Tuchel made two changes at the break with Marco Veratti and Marquinhos replacing Idrissa Gueye and Silva.

Teenager Tanguy Kouassi scored his first senior goal after an hour from a Julian Draxler header to become PSG's youngest goal scorer since Lionel Justier in 1976.

The 17-year-old holding midfielder, who remains on an academy contract with the Parisians, equalised five minutes later from an Angel Di Maria as PSG pushed on.

The visitors thought they had completed a huge comeback as Juan Bernat found Mauro Icardi at the back-post and the on-loan forward hit his 19th goal of the season.

But after one minute of injury time, Guirassy was fed by winger Quentin Cornette to equalise for his eighth effort of the campaign.

## Klopp revels in 'insane' 25-point lead

AFP, London

Jürgen Klopp described his team's 25-point lead at the top of the Premier League as "insane" after Sadio Mane struck to give Liverpool a 1-0 win at storm-hit Norwich on Saturday.

The champions-elect were short of their fluent best in blustery conditions caused by Storm Dennis at Carrow Road but returned immediately to winning ways after their winter break.

They have now gone 43 top-flight matches unbeaten, just six behind Arsenal's record of 49 games in 2003-04 and are sprinting towards their first league title for 30 years.

Liverpool have earned 103 points from the past 105 available to them in the Premier League, winning 34 of their past 35 matches, and have one more point -- 76 -- than Manchester United accrued in winning the league in 1996/97.

Klopp said the wind and Norwich's organisation made it a tricky game but that his players remained calm.

"I could tell in all the players' faces that they weren't nervous, they were enjoying it, and if one team was going to score it was going to be us," he told Sky Sports.

"We protected against the counter-attack well too. It's really all about these wonderful football players.

"The gap is so insane, I don't really understand it. I'm not smart enough. I've not had that before. It's outstanding, it's so difficult. I go back



Sadio Mane scored in the 78th minute of their Premier League fixture against Norwich City on Saturday to drive Liverpool to a 25-point lead at the top.

PHOTO: REUTERS

into the changing room and we chat about the things and then I'm like 'oh, but congratulations. We won the game, another three points.'

The result leaves Daniel Farke's Norwich rooted to the bottom of the table, six points behind 19th-placed Watford. They look set for an immediate return to the Championship despite their battling performance.

Klopp brought back midfielder Naby Keita for his first start in a Premier League match since December and Mane was on the bench as Liverpool

started full of confidence.

The visitors controlled possession in the early stages without creating many clear-cut openings but Norwich managed some brief spells of attractive passing football themselves.

Just when it seemed Norwich could become only the second team this season, after Manchester United, to deny Liverpool all three points, Mane broke the deadlock.

The second-half substitute controlled a long ball from Henderson with his right foot in the 78th minute before lashing home with his left.

## India to play D/N Test in Australia

PTI, New Delhi

India will play a day-night Test during their much-anticipated tour of Australia later this year, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly said on Sunday.

This comes a month after captain Virat Kohli asserted that his team was ready to play a day-night Test anywhere in Australia.

"Yes, India will play a day-night Test in Australia. A formal announcement will be made soon," BCCI president Sourav Ganguly told PTI.

Ganguly also said that the second Test of the next home series against England will be a day-night affair.

## Dhaka Half Marathon on Feb 28

SPORTS REPORTER

A press conference announcing the third edition of the Glaxose-D Dhaka Half Marathon 2020 was held at a city hotel yesterday. The event will be held on February 28 with 2000 participants.

The Dhaka Run Lords, an organization that aims to inspire people from all walks of life through running, is organizing this annual event in association with GSK Bangladesh.

# Dortmund's 'Yellow Wall' in wait for PSG

AFP, Dortmund



Packed with passionate home fans, Borussia Dortmund's imposing south stand -- dubbed 'The Yellow Wall' -- is the 'gigantic monster' lurking to test Paris Saint-Germain stars like Neymar and Kylian Mbappe in the Champions League on Tuesday.

"It's just a fantastic feeling that I haven't had before," is how Dortmund's star striker Erling Braut Haaland described scoring in front of 'Die Gelbe Wand' (The Yellow Wall) at Signal Iduna Park.

The 19-year-old has bagged nine goals in six games since Dortmund snapped him up for 20 million euros (\$22 million) from Salzburg.

Five of them have come in his three home appearances games, including one in the 4-0 thrashing of Frankfurt on Friday.

"If you are the opposition, it crushes you -- but if you have her at your back as a goalkeeper, it's a fantastic feeling," is how ex-Dortmund shot-stopper Roman Weidenfeller describes the experience of the imposing terrace.

For Bundesliga games, the south stand, which is 100 metres (328 feet) wide and 40 metres high, is packed with 25,000 fans, but capacity is reduced to 16,000 to

meet UEFA regulations for Champions League games.

Nevertheless, the noise will be deafening when the Dortmund team walk out for Tuesday's last 16, first leg tie.

PSG boss Thomas Tuchel, who coached Dortmund for two seasons until 2017, knows what to expect.

"We have a few boys used to the

stadiums of this world and whom I trust to play their best, on this stage as well," the 46-year-old told German daily Welt on Sunday.

"I know very well what energy is waiting for us there."

"Just look at the south stand in Dortmund," Johnny Rotten, lead singer of British punk band The Sex Pistols has

said on the matter.

"They all stand, chant and make such a noise that the stand seems like the pharynx of some huge, roaring monster. It's fantastic."

Dortmund fan Max Kiwit, 27, told AFP why he is a regular on 'The Yellow Wall'.

"Because here, everyone can let go of their emotions. No one will complain if they get elbowed in the head" or if they get showered by beer when Dortmund score to send thousands of plastic cups flying, he said with a smile.

Season tickets for the south stand start at 219 euros (\$237), but are often passed down from generation to generation.

The waiting list is often counted in years, as Max's girlfriend Sabrina Rupp discovered to her cost.

"Until I was 13, I had a season ticket," she admits regretfully.

"I gave it back, and that's the worst mistake you can make, because after that it's almost impossible to get it back."

'The Yellow Wall' is often described as the beating heart of Signal Iduna Park.

It's from there that designated fans lead the chants, yelling into megaphones while drummers beat out the rhythm.

The fans in the south stand sees themselves as the 12th man of the Dortmund team.

# Terengganu yet to get prize money

SPORTS REPORTER



Three-and-a-half months after the completion of the 3rd Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup, champions Terengganu FC are seeking intervention of Bangladesh Football Federation to get their championship money worth 50,000 US

dollars.

The third edition of the international club tournament, organised by Chattogram Abahani, was held in the port city from October 19 to 31. The Malaysian clinched the title, beating hosts Chattogram Abahani 2-1 in the final.

"Terengganu FC informed us the matter verbally a couple of days ago and we have requested hosts Chattogram Abahani to settle the matter immediately," BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag said yesterday. "Chattogram Abahani's secretary general Shamsul Haque Chowdhury told me that they are taking initiatives to clear the prize money."

Tarafder Ruhul Amin, vice-president of the club and chief coordinator of the tournament, said that they could not clear the prize-money due to shortage of sponsorship money but they would try to clear it within a short time.

"We timely cleared the prize money to the champions in the first two editions, but this time we haven't got the full money from the sponsors. However, we are in touch with them [Terengganu FC] and hope to clear the money within the next week whether or not we get sponsorship money," Amin told reporters.

It may be mentioned here that the game's local governing body, BFF, had early taken nearly one-and-a-half years to pay the championship money to Bangabandhu Gold Cup champions Nepal.