

What to WATCH

GTV & STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
Bangladesh v Zimbabwe
 One-off Test, Day 4
Live from 9:30am
TEN 1
UEFA Champions League

Chelsea v Bayern Munich
 Live from 2:00am (Wednesday)
TEN 2
UEFA Champions League
Napoli v Barcelona
 Live from 2:00am (Wednesday)

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh v Zimbabwe
 One-off Test, Day 4
 Time: 9:30am

Venue: BNS, Mirpur
Bangladesh Cricket League
 Five-day Match, Day 4

Time: 9:30am
 South Zone v East Zone
 Venue: ZACS, Chattogram

Bangladesh Premier League
 Brothers Union v

Bashundhara Kings
 Time: 6:30pm
 Venue: BNS, Dhaka

RODRIGO IN THE DOCK FOR IN-YOUR-FACE CELEBRATION

Real Madrid's plan to give Brazilian Rodrigo Goes some extra playing time in the reserves backfired badly after the forward was sent off on Sunday following an overzealous celebration and is now suspended from next week's 'Clasico' against Barcelona. Rodrigo, 18, was involved in farcical scenes in Sunday's 2-0 win at home to San Sebastian de los Reyes. The teenager scored the second goal late in the game with a mesmeric run followed by an audacious chip over visiting goalkeeper Xabi Llorente, who berated the forward after the ball had nestled in the net. Rodrigo responded by waving his arms in Llorente's face in a mock celebration and was shown his second yellow card of the game and was subsequently sent off.



Messi gives troubled Barca hope

AFP, Madrid

Lionel Messi has said Barcelona are not playing well enough to win this season's Champions League but his four goals against Eibar on Saturday were a reminder that with him there will always be hope.

Barca play Napoli in the first leg of the last 16 on Tuesday and will be expected to go through, even if their opponents are on a strong run, having won six out of their last seven matches, including victories over Juventus and Inter Milan.

Yet despite a whirlwind couple of months of political wrangling, remarkably Barcelona approach this tie sitting top of La Liga and with a spring in their step, in large part due to Messi.

His quadruple in the 5-0 rout at Camp Nou on Saturday was cathartic and not only because Real Madrid, whom Barca face in the Clasico on Sunday, failed to regain first place after losing to Levante a few hours later.

"It was a win we needed," said coach Quique Setien.

Messi has scored seven quadruples in his career but none executed amid such an intense time of pressure, with the spotlight on the Argentine.

While other players might have sulked or crumbled, Messi delivered with another breathtaking performance that underlined his ability to drag this troubled team through even the most turbulent of periods.

"He's been in this form for 14 or 15 years and he keeps performing like this," said Setien.

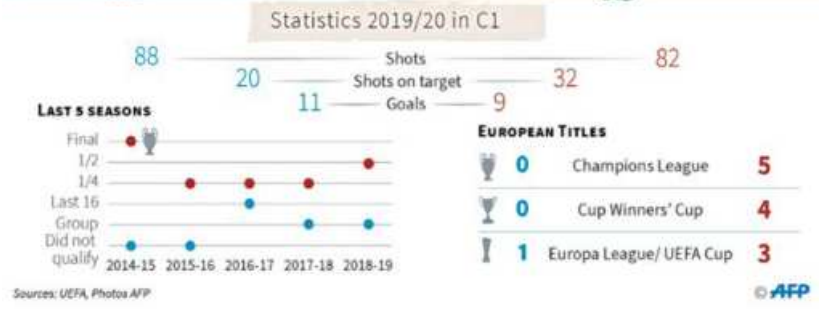
"He's a guarantee for any club and for any coach and that's what makes him the best player in the world. He can do things that others can only dream about."

Messi could have had many reasons to feel upset but he hasn't let them affect his performances.

Barcelona's board sacked Ernesto Valverde last month, despite Messi's public backing three days before, and failed to sign a striker in the transfer window with Luis Suarez and Ousmane Dembele both out injured.

The club's technical secretary Eric

Champions League
 LAST 16 1ST LEG
 Tuesday February 25 20:00 GMT
 Stadium San Paolo (Naples Capacity: 55,000)
 Dries Mertens Forward (BEL) aged 32
 Lionel Messi Forward (ARG) aged 32
 COACH Gennaro Gattuso (ITA)
 COACH Quique Setien (ESP)



Abidal then said the squad were the main reason for Valverde's departure while the president, Josep Maria Bartomeu, has been accused of hiring a PR company that criticised key players, including Messi, in a bid to improve his image online.

Barcelona have denied the allegations but when asked in an interview with Mundo Deportivo last week if he was convinced, Messi said he would wait to see if they were true.

He also admitted, "the way we are at the moment, I don't think it's enough to win the Champions League" and identified Real Madrid, Juventus, Paris Saint-Germain and Liverpool as greater threats.

Setien was more optimistic on Friday. "There are things that I agree with and others evidently... I have seen every year how Champions Leagues are won and I think we could have the same chance as other teams," he said.

Yet if Messi were to win the Champions League this season, it

would surely represent one of his most impressive achievements.

With the likes of Frenkie de Jong and Arthur Melo in midfield and the excellent Marc-Andre ter Stegen in goal, they do not lack for talent but weaknesses in defence remain, not to mention a fragility against the counter-attack.

And by appointing Setien, a coach devoted to a very particular style, Barcelona are having to change mid-season, with Setien admitting this month that it would take time for the players to understand his methods.

"It's not easy," said Messi. "We come from playing under Valverde to playing differently now and being asked to do something else. The truth is we are learning and we still have a lot to learn."

But with in-form Napoli fast approaching and then Madrid to come at the Santiago Bernabeu, time is not on Barcelona's side. For now, they will look to Messi.

Team BJMC opt out of c'ship league

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) has recently withdrawn its football team from the upcoming Bangladesh Championship League, the second-tier professional football league, citing financial constraints.

Team BJMC returned to top-flight football in the 2011-12 season after being relegated from the second division in 1982. Team BJMC played in the Bangladesh Premier League for seven successive seasons before being relegated to Bangladesh Championship League last year.

"In line with a decision of board of directors on April 20, 2019, it is not possible for Team BJMC to take part in Bangladesh Championship League due to financial crisis. The activities of BJMC football team can be resumed from the next season, subject to availability of sponsors," said a BJMC letter signed by Mohammad Nasimul Islam, director general of BJMC.

BJMC placed the letter to Bangladesh Football Federation on February 10, the day the inter-club players' transfer for 13-team Bangladesh Championship League got underway.

Not only the football team, BJMC is set to terminate temporary contracts with nearly 250 athletes who have been representing the company in different disciplines as part of its decision to terminate temporary contracts of some 1800 employees.

Mueller out to show what Germany is missing

AFP, Berlin



A year after being dumped by Germany head coach Joachim Loew, Thomas Mueller is set to showcase why he is so important for Bayern Munich -- and Robert Lewandowski -- at Chelsea in the Champions League.

Alongside Erling Braut Haaland, Bayern's star striker Lewandowski is joint top-scorer in the Champions League with 10 goals going into the last 16, first-leg clash on Tuesday.

In order to keep him fresh, Mueller was a second-half replacement in Friday's 3-2 league win over bottom side Paderborn when Lewandowski netted twice.

The Poland striker is on a career-high 38 goals after 32 games in all competitions and is happiest with Mueller alongside him.

"It's easier with Thomas next to me, he helps me out a lot," Lewandowski has said of Mueller.

"We always have one player more in the penalty area when he plays, I have more space and not always two or three opponents against me."

It's no coincidence that Lewandowski is enjoying his highest goal tally just when

Mueller's 14 assists in Germany's top flight also puts him near his personal best.

The 30-year-old is back to his best after significant setbacks for club and country in 2019.

Alongside fellow 2014 World Cup winners Mats Hummels and Jerome Boateng, Mueller was told last March he was no longer needed by Germany as Joachim Loew rebuilt his squad following the 2018 World Cup debacle.

But when Niko Kovac was sacked in November, caretaker coach Hansi Flick restored Mueller to the starting line-up, often at Coutinho's expensive, and he has flourished.

Mueller was superb in their recent 4-1 win at Cologne, drawing defenders to create goals for Kingsley Coman and Lewandowski as Bayern raced into a 3-0 lead after 12 minutes.

What makes Mueller unique is that he is neither a striker, nor an attacking midfielder, but describes himself as a 'Raumdeuter' -- an interpreter of space.

He is at his deadliest with perfectly-timed runs and quick passes so that his presence in the penalty area creates space for Lewandowski.



Thomas Mueller (C), seen here in training with Bayern Munich teammates in Munich on Monday, would be looking to prove a point when the Bavarians play away to Chelsea in the Champions League tonight.

PHOTO: REUTERS

U-17 FOOTBALL

Ctg division in semis

SPORTS REPORTER

Chattogram Division advanced to the semifinals of Bangabandhu National (U-17) Gold Cup football tournament, beating Rangpur Division 4-3 in tiebreaker at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The match rolled into penalty shootout after regulation time ended in a goalless draw.

The final round of the second edition of the tournament got underway with eight divisional teams yesterday while the eight-team final round of the inaugural edition of Bangamata U-17 Gold Cup will start today at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium.

Youth and Sports Minister Zahid Ahsan Russel, during the inauguration programme at the BNS, said that they were trying to send top teams of both sections aboard for a training camp.

"Last year, we sent four footballers (male) to Brazil. This time, we are planning to send a whole team to Brazil or Argentina. We will also send female players to Europe. It could be to Portugal," said the minister.

Volland out for season

REUTERS, BERLIN

Bayern Leverkusen top scorer Kevin Volland will miss the rest of the season after tearing an ankle ligament in last week's Europa League win over Porto and requiring surgery, the Bundesliga club said on Monday.

Volland was diagnosed with a torn ligament in his left ankle.

"Bayer 04 will have to make do without Volland for about three months," the club said on Monday following an extensive medical check.



Kylian Mbappe tries to restrain Neymar (R) from remonstrating with the referee following the latter's sending off towards the latter stages of PSG's Ligue 1 match against Bordeaux on Sunday. Marquinhos scored twice while Mbappe and Edinson Cavani scored one apiece as the defending champions won the match 4-3.

PHOTO: REUTERS

We let ourselves down: Kohli

AFP, Wellington



Virat Kohli refused to make excuses for India's comprehensive loss to New Zealand in the first Test in Wellington on Monday with the skipper saying his side were simply "not good enough".

The world's top-ranked team crashed to a 10-wicket defeat in the first session of day four to snap a nine-Test unbeaten streak dating back to the 2018 Boxing Day Test in Melbourne.

It was also India's first loss in eight games in the World Test Championship, although they remain at the head of the table, while New Zealand lie fifth with two wins from six matches.

Faced with a first innings deficit of 183 -- after being sent in to bat first on a green wicket and on a windy, overcast day -- India were rolled for 191 in the second innings leaving New Zealand a mere 10 runs for victory.

"We did not show enough competitiveness," Kohli said as his batsmen failed in the face of New Zealand's three-pronged seam attack of senior bowlers Tim Southee and Trent Boult, and newcomer Kyle Jamieson, who took 18 of the 20 wickets.

Player-of-the-match Southee took four for 20 on the final morning to

finish with five for 61 after grabbing four wickets in the first innings.

"We let ourselves down massively in the first innings with the bat," Kohli said.

"You could say the toss played a big role in this Test match but it's uncontrollable so you can't really focus on that and take that as a massive factor."

"We don't want to make too much of this pitch and what conditions were like. The simple truth is we did not play good enough cricket and that's why we lost."

"Some people might want it to be the end of the world but it's not. For us it's a game of cricket we lost and we move on, we keep our heads high."

New Zealand captain Kane Williamson described New Zealand's 100th Test victory as a "special effort with the ball and some handy contributions with the bat."

With short-ball specialist Neil Wagner unavailable, the New Zealand bowlers were forced to mix up their attack which hindered the Indian batsmen's ability to settle.

"We tried doing things a little bit differently," Williamson said.

"The best part of the bowling performance was their ability to put the ball into an area that creates the most opportunity for dismissals like lbws, bowled or caught behind and

we saw that today with the change of lengths to create that."

Southee said a mix of short balls and swinging deliveries had unsettled India's batsmen.

"It's been about buying into what the team needs ... and being willing to try things and look to break the momentum of the batting side," he said.

"They outplayed us" - While New Zealand bowlers made the most of home conditions in their first Test since being thrashed 3-0 in Australia, it was late order batting that made a critical difference.

The last three wickets in New Zealand's first innings produced 123 runs while the last three for India scored 22 in the first innings and two in the second.

Kohli believed if India had been able to post a first innings of around 240 it would have given his bowlers a better number to defend, but they had to accept they were outsmarted by the New Zealand bowlers.

"They get in the mind of the batsmen and then make the batsmen do something that they don't want to," he said.

"To be honest they did not give us any room even on the back foot or the front foot so we have to accept they outplayed us in this game and they bowled much better than we did."

MSC stun Sk Russel

SPORTS REPORTER



Mohammedan handed a surprise 2-1 defeat to Sheikh Russel at the Sylhet Stadium in their Bangladesh Premier League fixture yesterday while Bangladesh Police edged Uttar Baridhara Club by the same scoreline in the battle of the two promoted clubs at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

With the second win in third match, Mohammedan climbed to second position in the 13-team table with six points, one less than leaders Saif SC. Defending champions Bashundhara Kings and six-time champions Abahani have four points each from two outings.

It was the first defeat for Sheikh Russel, who were earlier held to draws by Brothers Union and Rahmatganj MFS while Bangladesh Police tasted their first win in their third match, leaving Uttar Baridhara winless in two matches.

At the Sylhet Stadium, Sheikh Russel were considered the stronger side on paper even though their performance in the two previous matches did not reflect their real strength. The mistakes by the defenders once again made Saiful Bari Titu's charges pay heavily in this match.

Mohammedan went ahead in the sixth minute from a counter-attack when Malian forward Souleymane Diabate received a long-ball and shrugged off his marker outside the box before stepping into the box and placing it to the left-hand side of Sheikh Russel goalkeeper Ashraf Islam Rana.

Sheikh Russel, however, hit back two minutes from the break but in an unimpressive way as Mohammad Abdullah took a weak free-kick which went into the box on two bounce before East Timorese forward Pedro Henrique fired home.

The game seemed to be heading for a draw but Sheikh Russel defenders again showed their sloppy work to lose the ball to Mohammedan and Shahed Hossain scored the winning goal after a poor clearance from Khalekuzzaman fell on his feet four minutes from time.

Police get their first win

At the BNS, Bangladesh Police came strongly against Uttar Baridhara Club

following a morale-boosting 1-1 draw against champions Bashundhara Kings. Police dominated the first half and scored two goals

in five minutes to ensure their maiden win in the top-flight football.

After missing the target narrowly in the 29th minute, Sidney Rivera gave Police the lead in the next minute after rising high to nod home a corner-kick before Bulgarian midfielder Laskov Antonio doubled the lead from a free-kick from the edge of the box in the 35th minute.

Baridhara, however, looked better in the second half and pulled one goal back in the 47th minute when Arif Hossain headed a Landing Darboe corner into the net. Afterwards, both sides created a few chances but none of them could take those home.

প্রতিদিন গড়ে ২৬০ জন
 বিকল কিডনী রোগী ৬০০ থেকে ৩০০০ টাকায় ডায়ালাইসিস নিচ্ছেন, কেবিনে ডায়ালাইসিস নিলে খরচ ৩৫০০ টাকা। সার্বক্ষণিক সেবিকা, চিকিৎসক ও ব্যায়ামোক্তিকের ইঞ্জিনিয়ারের উপস্থিতি থাকবে। গণস্বাস্থ্য ডায়ালাইসিস সেন্টার একেবারে ডায়ালাইসিস নিলে, আপনি সেবার তফাত বুঝতে পারবেন।

ব্রাক, গ্রামীণ ও গণস্বাস্থ্য পরিচালিত
সর্বসাকুল্যে দৈনিক ২০০০০ (বিশ হাজার) টাকায় দেশের সেরা গণস্বাস্থ্য ICU সুবিধা নিন।
 গণস্বাস্থ্য বীমা নিলে দৈনিক খরচ কমে।

বিশ হাজার
 ডাকায় সার্বক্ষণিক চিকিৎসক ও সেবিকা সেবা, প্রয়োজনীয় অক্সিজেন, রক্তের পরীক্ষা, এন্ড্রো, সনোআফী, ECG, ECHO, কার্ডিয়াক মনিটর, ভেন্টিলেটর, নেবুলাইজার, ইনফিউশন পাম্প ব্যবহার এবং গুণ্ড সুবিধা পাবেন।

মার্কিন প্রটোকলে পরিচালিত
গণস্বাস্থ্য ডায়ালাইসিস সেন্টার
 বাজী-১৪/ই, সড়ক-৬, ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা-১২০৫
 ফোন: ৯৬৭০০১-৭৫, ০১৭০৯৬৬৩৯৪৯ Ext. ০, ১১১, ১১৭
 ইমার্জেন্সি ২৪ ঘন্টা খোলা
 সেবা বাড়ানোর জন্য দান করুন।