



Robert Lewandowski, last season's European Player of the Year, failed to get on the scoresheet against Atletico Madrid in their first match, despite the Polish striker being in red hot form with a record 10 goals in first five games of the Bundesliga season. The 32-year-old striker will surely be looking to fill his boots when the Bavarians play away to Lokomotiv Moscow tonight.

PHOTO: TWITTER

## No respite for Zidane

AGENCIES



Real Madrid have released the pressure on Zinedine Zidane temporarily, with the next job to fix their dismal start in the Champions League.

Madrid's 3-1 victory over Barcelona in the Clasico on Saturday swerved a third consecutive defeat after losses to Cadiz in La Liga and Shakhtar Donetsk. But the effects of the implosion against Shakhtar, who had 10 first team players missing due to coronavirus infections, still linger, with Madrid sitting bottom of Group B.

Zidane will know a convincing performance away to Borussia Monchengladbach on Tuesday should suspend talk of a crisis and dispel doubts about his future, at least for now. Some reports in the Spanish press were even discussing the arrival of Mauricio Pochettino if mistakes were not rectified at

Camp Nou.

"I have always been critical of myself, it is what drives you to improve," said Zidane. "After a loss, as a coach, most of the criticism comes at me and that's normal." Zidane routinely sidesteps the issue of his future, which creates a nervousness after he resigned so unexpectedly after winning the Champions League in 2018.

Every slip-up is projected as a slump and any doubts feed the idea Zidane might suddenly depart. "Nothing changes," he said. "Last year? The same. In my first spell? The same. What I have to do is do my job." Anything but a win on Tuesday and the cycle begins again.

### CAN THE 'LIFEBLOOD OF INTER' KEEP FLOWING?

After Romelu Lukaku scored his eighth and ninth goals of the new season in Inter's Matchday 1 draw with Gladbach, Gazzetta dello Sport called the Belgian



"the lifeblood of Inter, not only for his goals but for his ability to transform every ball he receives into a potential attacking move". Lukaku also struck twice as Inter beat Matchday 2 opponents Shakhtar 5-0 in last season's Europa League semifinal in Dusseldorf. Will the No. 9 bring his shooting boots to Ukraine?

### MOSCOW BECKONS FOR RAMPANT BAYERN

Any fears that Bayern might fluff their lines on their return to the UEFA Champions League were dispelled when they mauled Atletico 4-0, extending their

epochal European winning streak to 13 games. Los Colchoneros at least stopped Robert Lewandowski scoring -- no small achievement given he had hit six in his previous two Bundesliga matches. Lokomotiv Moscow will note that Bayern won 5-0 when they last met the Railwaymen in Moscow, in the UEFA Cup in 1995.

### CAN LIVERPOOL FIGURE OUT MIDTJYLLAND?

After Liverpool drew the Danish champions, Jurgen Klopp said that Midtjylland "has been for years one of the most interesting teams". The club's focus on mathematical modelling and set pieces has caused a stir; indeed, ex-FCM throw-in expert Thomas Gronnemark now works for the Reds. Atalanta blew Midtjylland's cool with a 4-0 victory last time out, but Brian Priske's side could yet add up to be a handful for a Liverpool team still unsettled following centre-back Virgil van Dijk's long-term injury.



## THIS ONE IS FOR DAD

After smashing an unbeaten 107 off just 60 balls to help Rajasthan Royals beat holders Mumbai Indians by eight wickets on Sunday, Ben Stokes raised his bat and hand with a folded finger after the hundred as a gesture to his ailing father whose middle finger was amputated because of injuries while playing and coaching rugby league. "Things are a bit difficult right now, but hope this has given a bit of happiness back home," an emotional Stokes said after the match.

PHOTO: IPL T20

## AZARENKA'S Halloween dilemma

AFP, Prague

Victoria Azarenka ended her season after reaching the Ostrava Open final on Sunday but she is now facing another tough battle -- striking a deal with her son on his Halloween costume.

After losing to compatriot Aryna Sabalenka 6-2, 6-2, Azarenka confessed she had had a "heated argument" with her four-year-old son Leo who insists on being Elsa, the snow queen from the Walt Disney blockbuster "Frozen".

"He likes to wear different costumes every day... and he's into Frozen and Paw Patrol now," said Azarenka. "I said, how about mommy's going to be Elsa, and he said, no, I want to be Elsa, and I said, well, Elsa is a girl, and he said, well, I want to be Elsa." "So that started to be a heated argument and his dad suggested also that maybe he'll be Olaf but he didn't take that lightly, it was a blunt no," she half-sighed, half-chuckled.

The former world number one and this year's US Open finalist still has almost a week to strike a deal with Leo, but she knows outstanding diplomatic skills will be required to reach a compromise. "One Halloween, when we were able to do it together, we were all skeletons so hopefully we'll figure something out," she said.



## Kings, Abahani likely participants in AFC Cup

SPORTS REPORTER



Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society's slim hopes of playing in the upcoming AFC Club Cup were dashed after the giant-killers failed to submit some of the documents for the licensing of Asia's second-tier competition, paving the way for six-time professional league champions Abahani Ltd to participate along with Bashundhara Kings.

The cancellation of the 2019-20 season of Bangladesh Premier League -- the champions of which gain direct entry to the AFC Cup group stage -- due to the coronavirus pandemic offered a glimmer of hope for Rahmatganj as they finished runners-up to Bashundhara Kings in the Federation Cup, which was completed this season.

The second slot, in normal times, went to Federation Cup champions, who would play in the play-offs stage. Bashundhara, having won the Federation Cup, is virtually assured of direct entry and the second slot is now up for grabs, but as runners-up Rahmatganj first had to obtain licence for the AFC Cup, and even that may not have been enough.

Bashundhara Kings (champions in last completed BPL), Abahani (runners-up), Saif SC, Sheikh Russel, Mohammedan SC and Rahmatganj MFS had submitted their documents within the deadline of August 5. The AFC asked Rahmatganj and Mohammedan to submit some more documents within the extended deadline of September 28, but both failed to

produce their documents.

AFC will take the final decision on Bangladesh's slots in late November.

"As Rahmatganj MFS and Mohammedan could not submit all their documents, they don't have any chance of getting the AFC Cup license, leaving four clubs -- Bashundhara Kings, Abahani, Saif SC and Sheikh Russel KC -- to avail the AFC Cup license. The assessment of the documents is going on and we are likely to know within a short period of time," said Bangladesh Football Federation's competition manager Zaber Bin Taher Ansari.

Ansari however said that the AFC has yet to release any regulations relating to the 2021 AFC Cup but the Asian body has already asked them to send the standings of the 2018-19 Bangladesh Premier League, where Bashundhara Kings finished champions ahead of second-placed Abahani.

"It is all but certain that Bashundhara Kings will get a spot in the upcoming AFC Cup as Federation Cup champions but the other one is still uncertain. What I can guess after talking to AFC officials is that Abahani may get a chance as the second team after Bashundhara as the AFC always prioritises the league table over the Federation Cup standings. So, it was not guaranteed that Rahmatganj would have gotten the AFC Cup slot even after obtaining the license," said Ansari, adding that Bashundhara Kings and Abahani will have a greater possibility to represent Bangladesh in the next AFC Cup.

## South Africa cricket board resigns

REUTERS, undated

Cricket South Africa's (CSA) entire board has resigned, the organisation said on Monday, with an interim committee likely to be tasked with bringing the governing body out of its administrative turmoil.

A day after five members, including acting president Binesford Williams, stepped down CSA said its other board members have also resigned.

"...the Members' Council had deliberated and resolved that in order to best serve the interest of cricket in South Africa, the entire Board should resign - which they did," CSA said in a tweet.

"All independent and non-independent directors have now resigned." CSA has been battling governance issues with a damning internal report providing a long list of concerns about the actions of various staff members.

Sports minister Nathi Mthethwa told the International Cricket Council (ICC) this month that he intended to intervene in the running of CSA unless it committed to governance reforms by Oct. 27.

England are scheduled to arrive in South Africa next month to play three Twenty20s and three one-day internationals from Nov. 27.

## 'What a time to be alive'

MOST WINS IN F1 HISTORY	
DRIVER	WINS
Lewis Hamilton (UK)	92
Michael Schumacher (GER)	91
Sebastian Vettel (GER)	53
Alain Prost (FRA)	51
Ayrton Senna (BRA)	41

REUTERS, UNDATED

Lewis Hamilton put no limits on what he could achieve after roaring past retired Ferrari great Michael Schumacher on Sunday as the Formula One driver with most wins in the history of the sport.

The Mercedes driver's 92nd victory was one of his most crushing. Hamilton lapping all but three rivals at the Portuguese Grand Prix.

Hamilton took the chequered flag a huge 25 seconds ahead of second placed teammate Valtteri Bottas, who had led at the end of the first lap.

The six-time world champion, who joined Mercedes from McLaren in 2013 and is now set for a record-equalling seventh title, was just as quick to thank his team mates at track and factory afterwards.

"I knew that we would win championships. Did I think we would win as many as we have? No. Did I think that we would win this many races? Of course not," the Briton told reporters.

"This is a phenomenal time for us and the great thing is it's not just me." "What a time to be alive," he added.

Asked how he could raise the bar, Hamilton said it depended on the team. "Going by our history together...I think there's a lot more for us to do.

"I'm 35 years old, I still feel physically strong but of course you wonder when is it going to tip over, when are you going to start losing performance? But as shown by today, it's not yet."



## From Channel swimmer to Giro winner

AFP, MILAN

Tao Geoghegan Hart, who once played truant to see Sky's launch, on Sunday became the renamed team's latest major tour winner when he seized his opportunity in the closing time trial at the Giro d'Italia.

"It's incredible! It was impossible for me to even think about winning the Giro when we started in Sicily," said the 25-year-old who started the race working for former Tour de France winner Geraint Thomas.

Thomas crashed in the third stage, and Geoghegan Hart, a Londoner with Scottish and Irish roots, became the fifth Briton to win a major tour and the second to win the Giro, following Chris Froome in 2018.

All 12 British triumphs have come since 2011. Sunday's was the 11th in the colours of the team now known as Ineos.



When it was launched, as Sky in 2010, with Brad Wiggins as the star, Geoghegan Hart, a schoolboy from Hackney in east London, turned up to watch.

With his good looks, reddish hair, relaxed nature and easy banter he most resembles Wiggins, another Londoner and Sky's Tour de France

groundbreaker. Geoghegan Hart's name can cause problems and the second line on his personal web page reads: "It's Tayo GAY-gan Hart."

He is passionate about coffee. His web page has a photo of the gear he takes with him: bags of beans, scales, press, grinder, dripper, filters, jugs, kettle with adaptor plug and a mug, "of course." On Sunday, after his triumph, he insisted the coffee would still smell the same.

"I'm going to stay the same person," he said. "Wake up every day looking forward to riding my bike, loving my life and being grateful for the amazing position, the privilege, that I'm in to be in this team and at these races."

The son of a builder and the eldest of five siblings, Geoghegan Hart tried team sports such as football. At 13, was the youngest member of a six-person relay team

from a local club that swum the English Channel.

"He came to us through soccer and swimming; he liked the idea of cycling because he was fed up of other people letting him down, and cycling is a sport where it's largely down to the individual," Hackney Cycling Club coach Keir Apperley told The Guardian. Geoghegan Hart joined Sky in 2017 as a trainee. He moved to Girona in Spain, a popular base for cyclists.

In 2018 he rode his first big tour, the Vuelta. Last year, he was part of the victorious Ineos team at the Giro but crashed and broke a collarbone on the 13th stage. Even so, he developed a taste for the race.

"I really liked the Giro", he said earlier this year. "There are a lot more opportunities than in the Tour de France."

That opportunity arrived this year. Geoghegan Hart grabbed it.

QUIZ CONTEST

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Winners are requested to follow the instructions given in email

QUIZ - 05

What is the website address of STAR Cineplex?

WINNERS LIST OF QUIZ - 04

1. Mofajjal Hossain Mojahid, Cumilla

2. Nafisa Bari, Rayerbazar

3. Shanjid Khan Mojlish, AJUST

4. Nazmul Hasan, Banasree

5. Tushar Bhuiyan, Zigatola

6. Syeda Shadab Mohsin, Motijheel

7. Tabassum Fariha, Circuit House Road

8. Shirin Akter, Gazipur

9. Mahboob N M, Segunbagicha

10. Rafayet Ahmed, Khulna