

GTV & MAASRANGA
Bangladesh Premier League
Dhaka Dynamites v Rajshahi Kings
Live from 1:00pm
Rangpur Riders v Comilla Victorians
Live from 6:00pm
STAR SPORTS 1
India v Sri Lanka
1st Test, Day-3

Live from 10:00am
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
English Premier League
Arsenal v Tottenham
Live from 6:30pm
Leicester v Man City
Live from 9:00pm
Man United v Newcastle
Live from 11:30pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
English Premier League
West Brom v Chelsea
Live from 9:00pm
SONY ESPN
Ligue 1
PSG v Nantes
Live from 10:00pm
ATP Finals

Group Stage
Busta v Dimitrov
Live from 2:00am (Sunday)
TEN 1
Serie A
Roma v Lazio
Live from 11:00pm
Napoli v AC Milan
Live from 1:45am (Sunday)

TEN 2
La Liga
Leganes v Barcelona
Live from 9:15pm
Sevilla v Celta
Live from 11:30pm
Atletico v Real Madrid
Live from 1:45am (Sunday)

Bangladesh Premier League
Dhaka Dynamites v Rajshahi Kings

Time: 1:00pm
Rangpur Riders v Comilla Victorians

Time: 6:00pm
Venue: SBNS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Premier League
Ctg Abahani v Mohammedan

Time: 4:30pm
Abahani v Farashganj

Time: 6:45pm
Venue: BNS, Dhaka

Struggling Madrid giants face off at Wanda today

AFP, Madrid

Accustomed to unrelenting success in recent seasons, both Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid enter Saturday's first ever Spanish capital derby at Atletico's new Wanda Metropolitan stadium with little room for error.

Early season struggles have left both sides eight points adrift of La Liga leaders Barcelona and four points back on a revitalised Valencia.

Twice finalists in the past four seasons, Atletico also look set for a group-stage exit in the Champions League, whilst Real also suffered their first group-stage defeat for five years to Tottenham Hotspur earlier this month, although they should still progress to the last 16.

A large part in the downfall of both sides of the Madrid divide has been the poor form of their normally reliant source of goals in Cristiano Ronaldo and Antoine Griezmann.

The two went head-to-head for the Ballon d'Or last year after Real and Ronaldo's Portugal edged out Atletico and Griezmann's France in the Champions League and Euro 2016 finals respectively.

However, Ronaldo has scored just once in seven La Liga appearances so far this season.

"It's not my fault if (the ball) does not want to go in," Ronaldo told French sports newspaper L'Equipe on Thursday.

"People look at me like a goal machine, like a guy who has to score all the time."

'NO RAMOS-RONALDO RIFT'

Real coach Zinedine Zidane shrugged off reports of a dressing room rift between Sergio Ramos and Ronaldo. Ronaldo had complained that after a few departures in the summer Real's squad was lacking experience compared to the one that claimed a La Liga and Champions League double last season.

Ramos later described those comments as "opportunistic" and Madrid-based sports daily Marca reported this week on the rising tension between Real's two most decorated players.

"The good thing is I can say truthfully that I have two players that will go down in the history of this club in Sergio and Cristiano. Both of them know what is at stake and they respect each other a lot," Zidane said on Saturday.

"They are intelligent people. They have done a lot together, won a lot together and if now and again one person thinks one way and someone else another way, there is no problem."

Griezmann's commitment has also been questioned despite the Frenchman turning his back on a move away from Spain to sign a new deal with Atletico just five months ago.

"Whoever doesn't want to be here should leave," Atletico midfielder Koke said on Thursday.



PHOTO: COLLECTED



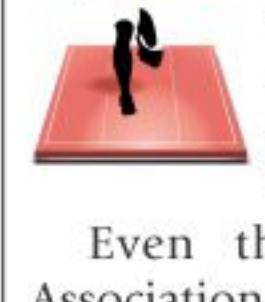
Tottenham Hotspur striker Harry Kane (L) will be hoping to pile the misery on his north London rivals with a few more goals at the Emirates today.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

BANGLADESH YOUTH GAMES

Indecision over events & disciplines

SPORTS REPORTER



The logo and mascot of the inaugural Bangladesh Youth (U-17) Games were unveiled through a colourful ceremony three weeks ago, but preparations is going at a snail's pace with only four weeks left for the start the games.

Even though the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) has fixed dates for the start of the games at district and divisional levels as well as the final phase, most of the districts are yet to start their training camps due to the uncertainty over the number of disciplines each district would be required to host as well as no clear picture about the events they are going to take part.

"We will start training camps after a divisional meeting which will be held on November 22. Besides, we don't know how many disciplines we can host and participate. We have shown our interest to stage 16 disciplines," Rangpur DSA secretary Anwarul Islam said yesterday.

"It would be better for us if we know the events so that we can start training for different disciplines."

Islam said the districts will be given a chance to host the games.

plines," said Islam, adding that his district comprises of eight upazilas and none of those upazilas have started training.

However, Jhalakathi district is a bit ahead as its Sadar Upazila has started training in football and volleyball and waiting for the final approval from BOA to start training in individual disciplines.

"Sadar upazila has started training already, but the training has been halted for the last two days due to rain," Jhalakathi DSA secretary Al Mamun Khan said. "However, three other upazilas are yet to start training because they have not formed squads yet."

Khan informed that the upazila sports association will form their squads after scrutinising athletes from different educational institutes.

Ashiqur Rahman Miku, BOA's deputy secretary general and member secretary of steering committee of the games, however said that they have already had a meeting with 40 districts in presence of divisional commissioners and district commissioners to make the event a success.

"We have already prepared a road map for the games," Miku said. "We will sit with the officials

of the national federations tomorrow [Saturday] to decide the events of 21 disciplines out of which six are team sports."

All 64 districts except Patuakhali have responded positively for participating. Chittagong is on the top of the list to host 19 disciplines out of 21 followed by Narail, who expressed their desire to host 17 disciplines. However, the BOA is likely to award each district a maximum of 10 disciplines and thus shrink the opportunity for athletes to participate.

"It is yet to be decided how many disciplines will be allowed for each district, but each district must host a minimum of five disciplines. As some districts showed interest to host more than 10 disciplines, we will perform a feasibility study on whether there are enough technical personnel to conduct all disciplines within a seven-day period and then decide about awarding the disciplines," explained Miku.

Miku also believes there are some athletes ready to take part in the games at district level as National Sports Council conducted a talent hunt programme for under-16 level last year.

The three issues this weekend

AFP, London

Premier League After the year's last international break, seven weeks of unbroken Premier League football begin this weekend stretching through December and up to the FA Cup third round in early January.

Pep Guardiola's Manchester City are eight points clear at the summit and in danger of disappearing over the horizon.

Their closest challengers, Manchester United, Tottenham Hotspur and defending champions Chelsea, are separated by a single point.

CAN ARSENAL TURN THE NORTH LONDON TIDE?

Tottenham finished above Arsenal for the first time since 1995 last season and have not tasted defeat against their arch rivals in the league in over three years.

Mauricio Pochettino's side have

continued to shine this season, notably in their recent Champions League victory over Real Madrid, and sit four points above Arsenal in the table.

But Spurs have not won at the Emirates Stadium since November 2010 and Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger believes home advantage could give his team the edge.

"I think Tottenham are a good side, but we have the quality to win this game and that's what we want to show," he said.

WILL CHELSEA MAKE A HAPPY RETURN TO THE HAWTHORNS?

When Chelsea last played at The Hawthorns, home of West Bromwich Albion, the stadium found itself staging a title party after Michy Batshuayi's late goal made Antonio Conte's side champions.

Six months on from that game, Chelsea are one of several teams who have not tasted defeat against their arch rivals in the league in over three years.

However, Alvaro Morata's second-

half header brought them an impressive 1-0 win over Manchester United on their most recent outing and they are now just a point off second place.

CAN UNITED GET BACK IN THE GROOVE?

Neck-and-neck with City at the end of September, Manchester United have fallen off the pace after a 0-0 draw at Liverpool and successive away defeats against Huddersfield Town and Chelsea.

But their injury situation appears to be improving, with reports Paul Pogba and long-term absentee Zlatan Ibrahimovic could be on the bench for Saturday's game against Newcastle, which would give Jose Mourinho's side a major lift.

"I'm determined to return better and stronger than before," Ibrahimovic said in a promotional interview with Volvo.

"That is my goal and it will happen. There are no other options."

Asian athletics chief to visit Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

Asian Athletics Federation president Dhalan Al Hamad has given his consent to visit Bangladesh during the 41st National Athletics Championships, which are scheduled to take place at the Bangabandhu National Stadium from December 22 to 24.

The Bangladesh Athletics Federation (BAF) confirmed it yesterday and also informed that they have officially invited legendary pole vaulter Sergei Bubka to visit Bangladesh.

"The president of Asian Athletics Federation had earlier promised to come here and he recently confirmed his tour of Bangladesh. The detailed schedule has not been confirmed yet but he will arrive here on December 21," BAF president ASM Ali Kabir told the Daily Star yesterday.

"We have also sent an official invitation to Sergei Bubka three days ago but we are yet to get any response," said Kabir.

Bancroft, Paine earn Ashes call-ups

AFP, Sydney

Opening batsman Cameron Bancroft is set for his Test debut and wicketkeeper Tim Paine returns in a shock selection in Australia's squad named Friday for the first two Tests against England.

Bancroft gets his chance after scoring heavily in this season's domestic Sheffield Shield, and replaces Matthew Renshaw as David Warner's opening batting partner.

Paine is the selection bolter and gets the nod despite few appearances for his Tasmania state side behind Wade this season.

National selector Trevor Hohns said Bancroft earned his call-up to

the Test side for the first two in Brisbane next week and in Adelaide in early December.

"Cameron has been a player of interest to us for some time now," Hohns said. "He is a very talented and tough cricketer who shows a good temperament for Test cricket."

"He has thoroughly earned and deserves his call-up following some outstanding performances in the early rounds of the Sheffield Shield competition this season."

SQUAD: Steve Smith (capt), David Warner, Cameron Bancroft, Jackson Bird, Pat Cummins, Peter Handscomb, Josh Hazlewood, Usman Khawaja, Nathan Lyon, Shaun Marsh, Tim Paine, Chadd Sayers, Mitchell Starc.

'I want 7 children and 7 Ballons d'Or'

AFP, Paris

Cristiano Ronaldo said on Friday that he was "confident as always" of winning the upcoming Ballon d'Or for best player in the world.

Ronaldo is the overwhelming favourite to collect the award on December 7.

"Last season was exceptional. We won the league and the Champions League, where I was again the top scorer," the Portuguese star told the L'Equipe in an interview. "If I win the Ballon d'Or, it's perfect, otherwise I'll still be the same person."

If Ronaldo wins the award, he will tie Lionel Messi on five victories.

Ronaldo was clearly delighted over the birth of his fourth child, announced on Sunday.

"There's a little more chaos at home and also a little more noise,



but I love that. I am truly happy surrounded by these children. I wanted them."

"Four is not enough, I want more," Ronaldo said, adding: "I want seven children and seven

Ballons d'Or."

"As long as I play, I will be ambitious to win all I can win. Now my dream is a fifth Ballon d'Or. Then next year there will be another to pursue."

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