

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

GTV, STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

Bangladesh v Zimbabwe

First ODI (D/N)

Live from 2:30pm

STAR SPORTS 1

India v West Indies

Bangladesh v Zimbabwe

First ODI (D/N)

Time: 2:30pm

Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium

First ODI

Live from 2:00pm

TEN 2

Serie A

Frosinone v Empoli

Live from 4:30pm

Parma v Lazio

Live from 7:00pm

Fiorentina v Cagliari

Live from 9:00pm

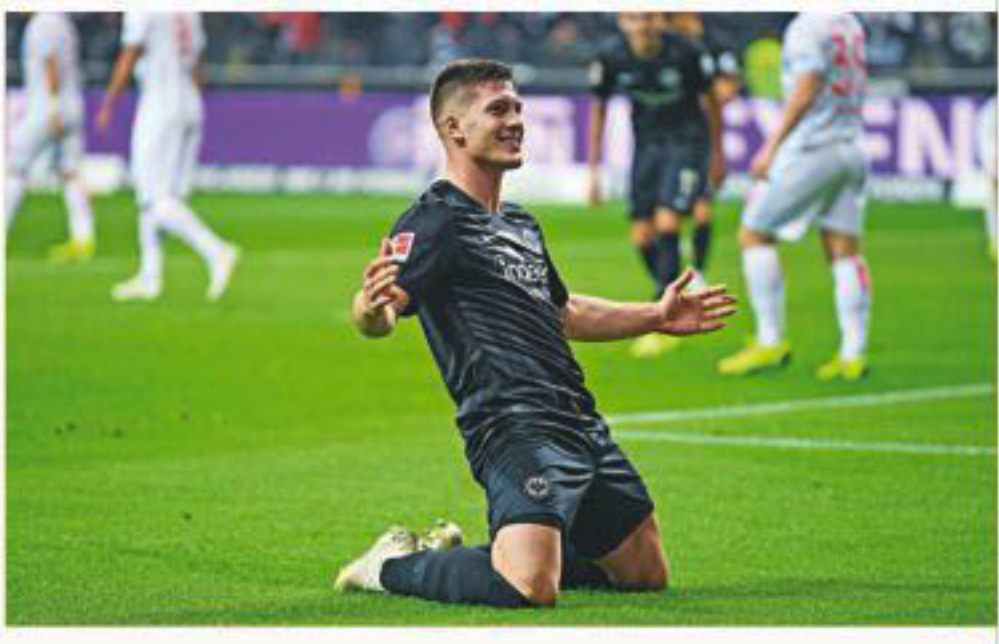
Inter Milan v AC Milan

Live from 12:30am (Monday)

FIVE-STAR JOVIC MAKES HISTORY

Luka Jovic has been hailed as a "potential world-class striker" after the 20-year-old's five goals in Eintracht Frankfurt's 7-1 drubbing of Fortuna Dusseldorf. The Serbian striker needed just 55 minutes to complete his Friday night haul, becoming the youngest player in Bundesliga history to achieve the feat. He is also the first Frankfurt player to score five in one league match since Eintracht was founded in 1899. "You always have to be careful with superlatives, but for me, he has the potential to become a world-class striker," enthused Frankfurt coach Adi Huetter. Jovic now has seven goals to make him the top scorer in the Bundesliga so far this season.

—AFP



Newcomers in group of death

13-team Federation Cup from Oct 27

SPORTS REPORTER



Newcomers NoFeL Sporting Club were pitted in the group of death of the season's curtain-raising Federation Cup football tournament when the draw was held at the Bangladesh Football Federation house yesterday. The Championship League runners-up of last season are in Group D, also featuring three-time league winners Sheikh Jamal DC, Mohammedan Sporting Club and big-spending newcomers Bashundhara Kings.

This is the only group with four teams as the 13 teams were split into four groups, with the other three groups featuring three teams each. The seedings were done based on the table of last season's Bangladesh Premier League.

Kamal Babu, coach of NoFeL sporting, felt unlucky to have found themselves in the toughest group. "This is a very tough group and I don't think we have a chance here. It could have been good for our young team had they come into the season with some form behind them. But we've only had ten days of training so far," the veteran coach said.

Last year's champions Abahani were drawn in Group C alongside the 2013-edition champions Sheikh Russel KC and Muktijoddha Sangsad KC.

Abahani manager Satyajit Das Rupu was looking to retain the title. "We will have to perform to progress from whichever group we are pitted in. No matter how hard the opponents are, we will have to fight," he said.

Group A features Saif SC, Arambagh KS and Rahmatganj MFS while Group B includes last year's runners-up Chittagong Abahani, Brothers Union and Team BJMC.

The tournament will kick off on the 27th of this month while the final is scheduled to be held on November 25. The tournament will, however, have a break of nine days due to the FIFA matchdays from November 12 to 20.

The draw ceremony was followed by a contract signing with Walton Group as the sponsors of the tournament. Abdus Salam Murshedy, senior vice-president of BFF, Walton Group's director Iqbal Bin Anwar and other high officials of the football federation were present at the programme.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the professional football league committee yesterday decided to host the Bangladesh Premier League, which will commence after the end of the Federation Cup, at seven venues across the country.

GROUPS

- Group A:** Ctg Abahani, Arambagh, Rahmatganj
- Group B:** Abahani, Sheikh Russel, Muktijoddha Sangsad
- Group C:** Saif Sporting, Brothers Union, Team BJMC
- Group D:** Sheikh Jamal, Mohammedan, Bashundhara Kings, NoFeL Sporting



Sergio Aguero opened the floodgates with his 17th-minute strike against Burnley, with four others adding a goal each in a 5-0 demolition yesterday. Chelsea drew 2-2 while Liverpool won 1-0 to leave City joint leaders with the Reds on 23 points each, two points ahead of the Blues.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Last-gasp Chelsea stay unbeaten

Mourinho plays down touchline melee



After living up to his promise to be on his best behaviour for 96 minutes of Manchester United's visit to Chelsea yesterday, Jose Mourinho blew his lid after Chelsea's assistant coach Marco Ianni (L) celebrated right in front of his face following a last-minute equaliser.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



AFP, London

Premier League

Jose Mourinho played down an ugly touchline melee after watching his Manchester United side concede a heartbreaking late equaliser as Chelsea preserved their unbeaten Premier League record on Saturday.

Ross Barkley scored in the sixth minute of injury time to level the match at 2-2 after Anthony Martial had scored twice in the second half to cancel out Antonio Rudiger's opener.

Mourinho took exception to the celebrations of one of Chelsea's backroom staff, Marco Ianni, who ran in front of the Portuguese on the touchline, as he seemed set for a

sweet victory over his old club.

When asked about the incident, former Chelsea boss Mourinho said: "Oh come on, I can tell you that 97 minutes of the game was so good that you have to focus on that.

"I did not get respect back from Chelsea (fans) but that is not my responsibility. What I did here today I will do in Madrid, in Milan, in Porto, the reaction from the fans is not up to me.

"I am not annoyed with anything. What happened with (Maurizio) Sarri's assistant, Sarri was the first one to come to me and say he will resolve it.

"The assistant has already come to me and apologised, I told him to forget it. I have made a lot of mis-

takes in my career."

Mourinho, who won three Premier League titles in two spells at Chelsea, said United were the better side.

"We were the best team on the pitch. If you say before the game that one point at Stamford Bridge is a good result, it is so difficult to win here but after the game with the way the game was it is an awful result for us and a phenomenal result for them.

"We were in the game, we controlled their triggers, (Eden) Hazard and Jorginho was well controlled.

"After we were 2-1 up we had possibilities to score the third goal, we were the best team, we were calm in control.

"I hope every referee does the same as Mike Dean and gives six minutes, I don't know where they came from. We always tried to play, there was no time-wasting."

The result means Chelsea go top of the table, at least temporarily, but United are still languishing in eighth spot, seven points off the pace.

Chelsea goalscorer Barkley hailed his team's never-say-die attitude.

"My confidence has grown but our target was to win the game so it is disappointing," he said.

"The manager told me to help the team win the game and try and get a result. We conceded a goal that we should have stopped but we came back."

Pressure on Julen



Despite ending Real Madrid's goal drought 56 minutes into their match against Levante, Marcelo and his teammates crashed to a third straight defeat yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

AFP, Madrid

Laliga

Real Madrid failed to ease the pressure on coach Julen Lopetegui and instead set the record for the second-longest goal-drought in the club's history during a surprise 2-1 defeat by Levante on Saturday.

Defeat means Madrid have now gone five games without a victory and by the time Marcelo gave them hope of a comeback at the Santiago Bernabeu, they had gone 481 minutes without a goal.

The club's worst run had been 485 minutes, in 1985. But this is a streak that reflects just as badly on Lopetegui as the results, which could leave Real four points adrift of Barcelona later on Saturday, with a 'Clasico' to next weekend at the Camp Nou.

If Barca's players were watching, they would have been licking their lips at the sight of Raphael Varane handing Levante a two-goal lead after just 13 minutes. Jose Luis Morales and Roger Marti, from the penalty spot, were the beneficiaries.

At half-time, there were a scattering of white handkerchiefs -- the traditional expression of discontent -- but more whistles. After the restart, the home fans sang "echale huevos", meaning, "play with some balls"

Finally, Madrid scored in the 55th minute with that pair involved again as Bale flicked to Benzema at the back post. He picked out Marcelo to drive into the roof of the net.

Madrid believed again but it was not to be.

SHORT CORNER

PSG make it 10 out of 10

A trio of headed goals from Marquinhos, Adrien Rabiot and Julian Draxler and strikes from Kylian Mbappe and Moussa Diaby made it a perfect 10 wins in 10 Ligue 1 games this season for Paris St Germain as they hammered Amiens 5-0 on Saturday.

Defender Marquinhos opened the scoring at the Parc Des Princes by heading home from an Angel Di Maria corner in the 12th minute, and Adrien Rabiot made it two from another corner by Di Maria three minutes before half-time.

Amiens defended bravely but they fell apart towards the end, with Draxler heading home in the 80th minute and Mbappe rifling a shot low to the right of the goalkeeper to make it four two minutes later.

Midfielder Diaby jinked into the box and placed the ball in the same spot to make it 5-

O two minutes from time in front of a raucous home crowd.

--Reuters

Thai cave survivors train with Ibrahimovic's LA Galaxy

The Thai junior football team who were rescued from a flooded cave after being trapped for more than two weeks trained with the Los Angeles Galaxy and their star striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic on Friday in the latest stop of an international tour.

The Wild Boars team, who earlier this month were guests at the Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires, were given a tour of the Galaxy's StubHub Center stadium before training with members of the MLS team at a nearby pitch.

The Thai youngsters, aged between 11 and 16, were retrieved from the Tham Luang cave complex in July after a dramatic rescue effort.

Friday's visit to the Galaxy was set up by US television star Ellen DeGeneres, who hosted the team on her show on Monday.

Former Sweden international Ibrahimovic had also appeared as a surprise guest to meet the team on the show.

"I thought I was brave, but these kids, this team, is more braver than me...This is probably the best team in the world," Ibrahimovic said.

The team became the centre of global media sensation as the world watched and waited for news of their rescue in June.

The rescue effort claimed the life of a rescue diver, former Thai Navy SEAL Saman Kunan.

--AFP

Stephens backs on-court coaching

Former US Open champion Sloane Stephens has thrown her support behind a push for on-court coaching to be allowed at Grand Slams.

Patrick Mouratoglou, the coach of Serena Williams, has called for a rule change with on-court coaching currently banned in Grand Slams but allowed in WTA events.

Sloane, who is in Singapore for the season ending eight-player WTA Finals, afreed with Mouratoglou's sentiments.

"I think that a lot of coaching does happen from the stands, anyway," she told reporters on Saturday. "Whether it's right, wrong, whatever, I think that coaching is a big part of tennis, and you're out there alone. You know, a lot goes into it behind the scenes, preparation and everything." "So I think that I can't say definitely there should be or should not be, but I think there needs to be a little bit of a change to the rule, definitely."

--AFP

The Daffodil Captain Cup Golf Tournament 2018 came to a close on Friday with a prize distribution ceremony and a gala event at the Kurmitola Golf Club. Here, the winners of the three-day tournament pose for a photo alongside chief guest Lieutenant General Md. Shafiqur Rahman.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

BD clubs risk AFC Cup absence

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh may not have a representative in next year's AFC Cup unless one of the four eligible teams win the upcoming Federation Cup.

Bangladesh currently gets two spots in the second-tier club competition of Asia -- one direct spot into the group stages for the top-tier league champions of the most recent season and one spot into the qualifying rounds of the competition which goes to the most recent Federation Cup champions.

However, the deferment of this year's football calendar, which begins with the Federation Cup on October 27, means Bangladesh has already lost the direct spot.

"We had asked the AFC to consider two teams from last year's league, but the regional football's governing body declined our request," Bangladesh Football Federation general secretary Abu Nayem Shohag said yesterday.

"So there will be only one team in the AFC Cup from Bangladesh next year and that will be the Federation Cup champions, given that the club has an AFC club license," the BFF spokesman added.

Bangladesh were represented by last year's league champions Abahani and fourth-place finishers Saif SC in this year's AFC Cup. This year four clubs -- Abahani, Saif SC, Sheikh Russel KC and Bashundhara Kings -- have renewed their club licenses with the AFC.

In case any of the nine other participating teams of the Federation Cup go on to win the title, there will be no representative from Bangladesh next year, with the competition expected to begin in February.

BFF's senior vice-president Abdus Salam Murshedy has said that the rescheduling of the football calendar was made to align itself with the international calendar. "We saw in the past that our football calendar conflicted with the international one, causing problems to clubs and international engagements. The monsoon season was also another consideration in this regard. But now that we have fixed this once, we hope that this system will be carried forward from this year onwards."