

# What to WATCH

**SONY SIX**  
Australia v India  
Second Test, Day Five  
Live from 8:30am  
**STAR SPORTS SELECT 1**  
New Zealand v Pakistan

First Test, Day Five  
Live from 4:00am (Wednesday)  
Bundesliga  
Hertha v Augsburg  
Live from 1:30am (Wednesday)

**STAR SPORTS SELECT 2**  
Bundesliga  
Monchengladbach v Nurnberg  
Live from 11:30pm  
Dusseldorf v Dortmund  
Live from 1:30am (Wednesday)

**TEN 2**  
Serie A  
Bologna v AC Milan  
Live from 1:30am (Wednesday)

DAY'S EVENT

**Bangladesh Cricket League**  
Round Five  
Day One  
Time: 9:00am

South Zone v East Zone  
Venue: SCS, Bogura  
North Zone v Central Zone  
Venue: SKS, Rajshahi



Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi (L) celebrates one of his three goals against Levante during their La Liga encounter at the Ciutat de Valencia Stadium on Sunday.

## Messi hits hat-trick

AFP, Madrid



Lionel Messi continued his sublime form by netting his 31st La Liga hat-trick as Barcelona thrashed Levante 5-0 on Sunday to regain their three-point lead at the top of the table.

The 31-year-old Argentinian arrived in Valencia having scored two free-kicks in last weekend's derby thumping of Espanyol. He took his goals tally for the season to 20 after a virtuoso display, while also teeing up Luis Suarez's 35th-minute opener and Gerard Pique's late fifth.

Barca were under pressure after Atletico Madrid and second-placed Sevilla had both moved level on points with the Catalan giants.

But after resting his key stars for their final Champions League group-stage match against Tottenham in midweek, coach Ernesto Valverde saw his refreshed side cruise to a third straight league win without conceding a goal.

"At the beginning it was difficult, they squeezed us and had a chance that hit the woodwork," said Valverde.

Levante started the game brightly and visiting goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen was forced into an early save by Ghanaian Emmanuel Boateng.

But Barca did not take long to start moving through the gears, with Messi curling wide from long range before testing Oier Olazabal in the Levante goal with a free-kick.

Just seconds after Boateng hammered a

left-footed strike against the crossbar, the reigning Spanish champions broke the deadlock as Messi jinked through a mesmerised home defence and picked out Suarez who volleyed home.

But Levante, who had ended Barcelona's dreams of going through last season's La Liga campaign unbeaten with a remarkable 5-4 victory in the penultimate game, came close to a quick response as Jose Luis Morales fired over.

The match was all but ended as a contest when Messi bore down on goal two minutes before half-time and drilled low into the net.

"I'm happy to have won here, because last year we came and they put five goals past us having gone the whole season unbeaten, so we knew about the danger of Levante and it was a match we had marked out," added Valverde.

He wasted little time after the restart to add his second in the 47th minute, sweeping home Jordi Alba's clever cutback, before completing his treble with a simple tap-in from Arturo Vidal's square pass on the hour mark.

Messi has scored five goals in two league games since finishing only fifth in the voting for the Ballon d'Or earlier this month.

A bad evening for Levante worsened with 14 minutes to play, as left-back Erick Cabaco was sent off for a reckless lunge on Ousmane Dembele.

Centre-back Pique added further gloss to the scoreline in the 88th minute, rampaging forward to collect Messi's pass, before keeping his cool and rolling the ball home.

## Local shuttlers shine

SPORTS REPORTER

Junior shuttlers ensured all the medals in men's singles event of the Yonex-Sunrise Bangladesh International Junior competition after sending all seven foreign participants packing on the opening day at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium yesterday.

Tournament's top seed Abdul Hamid Lukman beat Maldives' Mohamed Arsalan Ali 21-8, 21-13 while second seed Syed Sibghat Ullah beat Bhutan's Anish Gurung 21-12, 21-10 to move into all-Bangladeshi quarterfinals.

Apart from them, Mangal Singha, Gourab Singha, Akib Solaiman, Rownak Nabi Priyo, Khandokar Adus Soud and Hanif Mohammad also ensured their quarterfinal berths.

Mangal beat Bhutan's Jamyang Tenzin 21-6, 21-2; Gourab beat Bhutan's Yeshi Rabten 21-7, 21-5 and Akib beat Bhutan's

Tshewang Rinzin 21-11, 21-9. Rownak beat compatriot Rajash Chandra Dey 10-21, 21-17, 21-15; Soud beat tournament's third seed Maldives' Ahmed Nibal 21-13, 21-14; Hanif beat Sri Lanka's Nilanka Randilukshan 21-12, 21-16.

Local female shuttlers also shone in the women's singles event as five shuttlers from the home side moved into the last-eight.

Rehmsa Akter beat Camelia Islam 21-6, 21-4 to set up a clash against top seed Ruhi Raju of USA while Farjana Akter beat Bhutan's Kinley Wangmo 19-21, 21-11, 21-19 to set up a quarterfinal tie against second seed Treesa Jolly of India.

Urmi Akter beat Marjan Riya Ferdous 21-7, 21-7 to set up a quarterfinal against Bhutan's Thinley Wangmo, who beat Bangladesh's Sumana Antora Islam 21-17, 13-21, 24-22. Farbin Binte Emdad and Rahima Jarin Ahmed will play the other quarterfinal as Farbin beat Bhutan's Phuntsho Dema 21-5, 17-21, 21-11 and Rahima beat Maldives' Rasheed Maasha 17-21, 21-16, 21-11.



Bangladesh's young shuttler Akib Solaiman makes a return against Tshewang Rinzin of Bhutan during their second round fixture of the Yonex-Sunrise Bangladesh International Junior competition at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## National archery begins today

SPORTS REPORTER

The 10th edition of the National Archery Championships, which will get underway at the Shaheed Ahsan Ullah Master Stadium in Tongi today, is expected to be more competitive than the previous editions.

All national archers including Roman Sana, who came back home from Switzerland from IOC-sanctioned advanced training, are all set to fight neck-and-neck as the performances of the archers in the national championships will be counted by coach Martin Frederick ahead of

next February's ISSF Islamic Solidarity Archery Championships in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Archery Federation (BAF) has to send entries by December 30 although 27 countries have already ensured their participation in the tourney.

Obviously, the archers will try their best to impress the national coach by giving their best shot to be selected for the preliminary national team. Besides, the championship is considered to be a platform for the national archers to show their improvement.

Some 165 archers including 33 female players from 40 teams are expected to vie in 10 events -- five each for male and female and two mixed events.

## Draw pits Bayern against L'pool

### PSG meet Man United; Real take on Ajax

REUTERS, Nyon



Bayern Munich and Liverpool, both five-times European champions, will meet in one of three England-Germany clashes in the Champions League round of sixteen following the draw made at UEFA headquarters on Monday.

English champions Manchester City will take on Schalke 04 and Tottenham Hotspur will face Borussia Dortmund in the other clashes between the Premier League and the Bundesliga.

Holders Real Madrid will face four-times winners Ajax Amsterdam, who have reached the knockout stages for the first since 2005-06.

In other ties, Manchester United take on Paris St Germain for the first time while Serie A champions Juventus face Europa League winners Atletico Madrid, Barcelona

RESULTS OF THE DRAW			
FC Schalke 04 (GER)	vs	Manchester City FC (ENG)	
Club Atlético de Madrid (ESP)	vs	Juventus Football Club (ITA)	
Manchester United FC (ENG)	vs	Paris Saint-Germain (FRA)	
Tottenham Hotspur FC (ENG)	vs	Borussia Dortmund (GER)	
Olympique Lyonnais (FRA)	vs	FC Barcelona (ESP)	
AS Roma (ITA)	vs	FC Porto (POR)	
AFC Ajax (NED)	vs	Real Madrid CF (ESP)	
Liverpool FC (ENG)	vs	FC Bayern München (GER)	

meet Olympique Lyonnais and AS Roma tackle Porto.

Liverpool coach Juergen Klopp has the chance to renew a fierce rivalry with Bayern which dates back to his days in charge of Borussia Dortmund where he won two successive Bundesliga titles.

Overall, however, Klopp's record against Bayern is not the greatest with eight wins, five draws and 16 defeats.

Liverpool, who finished second in their group behind Paris St Germain, will play the first leg at home.

Recent form would appear to favour Manchester City against Schalke as Pep Guardiola's side are unbeaten in their last seven matches against German clubs, winning six of those.

Tottenham forward Harry Kane will also be looking forward to

facing Dortmund, having scored three times in two matches against them.

Real Madrid are firm favourites against Ajax, having won their last six games against the Dutch side, scoring 20 goals in those fixtures and conceding only two.

They were 4-1 victors both in the Netherlands and Spain in the most recent contests, in the 2012-13 group stage.

History is also in Barcelona's favour against Lyon as the Catalans have won five and drawn one of six previous meetings.

Juventus and Atletico Madrid have met only twice before, in the Champions League group stage in 2014-15.

Those games produced one goal between them and with the same coaches still in charge -- Massimiliano Allegri at Juve and Diego Simeone at Atletico -- another cagey encounter is likely.

## Biratnagar to host SAFF Women's C'ship

SPORTS REPORTER

Nepal has finally been officially awarded the hosting rights of the SAFF Women's Championship in next March even though the draw of the seven-team tournament was finalised in July this year.

Sri Lanka was supposed to host the tournament in December this year, but the Sri Lankan authorities sought more time citing political instability in that country.

All 12 matches will be held at the Sahid Rangashala in Biratnagar, some 399 kilometres east of Nepal's capital Kathmandu.

Four-time champions India, Sri Lanka and Maldives were placed in Group B while hosts Nepal were pitted against last edition's runners-up Bangladesh, Pakistan and Bhutan.

FIXTURES

March 12	Bangladesh v Pakistan
March 14	Bangladesh v Bhutan
March 16	Bangladesh v Nepal
March 20	Semifinals
	Champions A vs Runners-up B
	Champions B vs Runners-up A
March 22	Final

## Sri Lanka crumble after Latham's epic 264

AFP, Wellington



New Zealand opener Tom Latham flayed Sri Lanka's bowlers with an unbeaten 264 on Monday before the tourists' top order failed again, leaving them on the verge of a heavy first Test defeat in Wellington.

Latham walked off to a standing ovation at the Basin Reserve after carrying his bat and helping New Zealand to 578, a commanding first-innings lead of 296.

Seamers Tim Southee and Trent Boult then combined to remove Sri Lanka's top order, reducing them to 20 for three at stumps on day three.

Boult dismissed Danushka Gunathilaka on three, while Southee snared Dimuth Karunaratne for 10 and Dhananjaya de Silva for a duck, taking his tally for the match to eight.

The pair, along with short-ball specialist Neil Wagner, will be relishing the prospect of having two full days to attack Sri Lanka's misfiring batting line-up.

But the day belonged to Latham, who added steadily to his overnight total of 121, offering no chances to the frustrated Sri Lankans.

It was the sixth best Test score by a New Zealander and the highest this year by a batsman from any nation.

His innings, which lasted more than 11 hours, also continued a horror run at the Basin Reserve for Sri Lanka, where they have now conceded double centuries to four New Zealanders.

Latham said he always believed he

Latham's 264 not out is the highest-ever score from a batsman who has carried his bat, beating the previous record of 244 from none other than Alastair Cook.

was capable of producing such a performance but it was pleasing to achieve it on the international stage.

"These innings don't come around too often, so you have to enjoy the moment when they do," he said.

New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson helped the Black Caps reach their imposing total with a spar-

kling 91, while Ross Taylor and Henry Nicholls both reached 50.

Lahiru Kumara was the pick of a Sri Lanka attack that struggled on a flat wicket, taking four for 127.

Taylor was dismissed for 50 in the first over of the day after failing to add to his overnight score, thanks to a sharp catch from Dimuth Karunaratne.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA: First innings 282  
NEW ZEALAND: First innings 578 all out (Raval 43, Latham 264 not out, Williamson 91, Taylor 50, Nicholls 50, de Grandhomme 49; Perera 2-156, Kumara 4-127, De Silva 2-54)  
SRI LANKA: Second innings 20 for 3 (Karunaratne 10; Southee 2-7)



With an unbeaten 264 against Sri Lanka, Tom Latham reached the highest score for a batsman carrying his bat in a Test innings, surpassing Alastair Cook's unbeaten 244 against Australia in 2017.

PHOTO: AFP