



Arsenal striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (L) celebrates his winning goal with teammates Alexandre Lacazette (C) and Matteo Guendouzi during their Premier League encounter against Burnley at the Emirates Stadium yesterday.

L’pool, Arsenal stay perfect

AFP, London



Liverpool extended their perfect start to the Premier League title race as Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino sealed a 2-1 win at Southampton, while Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang fired Arsenal to a 2-1 victory over Burnley on Saturday.

Jurgen Klopp’s side matched a club record of 11 successive Premier League wins to build on last week’s 4-1 thrashing of Norwich in their season opener.

Liverpool took the lead in first half stoppage-time when Senegal winger Mane, who scored twice against Chelsea in the European Super Cup victory in midweek, returned to haunt his former club with an agile turn and curling strike into the far corner.

Firmino made it two with his 49th league goal for Liverpool, the Brazil forward taking Mane’s pass, dribbling and then firing home in the 71st minute.

Liverpool goalkeeper Adrian started despite suffering an ankle injury when a fan slid into him during the celebrations against Chelsea in Istanbul.

But Adrian, deputising for the injured Alisson Becker, was guilty of a mistake in the 83rd minute when he hit a panicked clearance against Danny Ings, the ball bouncing off Southampton’s former Liverpool striker into the empty net.

At the Emirates Stadium, Gabon forward Aubameyang was Arsenal’s match-winner again.

Aubameyang had netted the only goal in last weekend’s victory at Newcastle and he emulated that crucial contribution with another decisive strike.

Alexandre Lacazette’s first goal of the season had given Arsenal the lead before Ashley Barnes equalised for Burnley just before half-time.

With two successive wins to start the season for the first time in 10 years, the early signs are promising for Unai Emery’s team ahead of sterner tests against Liverpool and Tottenham in their next two games.

Real off to a flying start

REUTERS, Vigo

Real Madrid got off to a flying start in La Liga by beating Celta Vigo 3-1 away from home on Saturday with the help of a magnificent long range strike from Toni Kroos, although they had Ballon d’Or winner Luka Modric sent off for a straight red card.

Karim Benzema put Madrid ahead in the 12th minute after a superb piece of wing play from Gareth Bale, who had earned a surprise starting berth due to injury to Eden Hazard after a close season period of uncertainty over his future.

Celta had an equaliser ruled out on the stroke of halftime for offside after a video review but they benefitted from the use of the technology in the 56th minute when Modric was punished for raking his studs against the heel of Denis Suarez.

The hosts could not make the most of the extra man as German midfielder Kroos doubled Madrid’s lead five minutes later with an unstoppable distance strike, while substitute Lucas Vazquez added a third in the 80th after a pass from Benzema.

UEFA ASSIST U-16 FOOTBALL Cambodia, Maldives confirmed

SPORTS REPORTER

Cambodia, Maldives and a yet-to-be-named European team will play against hosts Bangladesh in the four-nation UEFA Assist U-16 Football Tournament, which will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka from October 15 to 20.

The four teams will play against each other once and from there the final standings will be decided in this development tournament, which is held in different venues every year with funding from the European football governing body UEFA.

“AFC has confirmed the participation of Maldives and Cambodia while the European team will be finalised by the UEFA within a few days,” Bangladesh Football Federation general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag told The Daily Star yesterday.

Bangladesh had participated in the under-15 version of the same tournament in Thailand last year, finishing third among four teams. The boys in red and green lost against Cyprus 4-0 in their first match before holding Thailand to a goalless draw and wrapping up the campaign with a 10-0 drubbing of Maldives.

Neymar left out again

AFP, Saint-Germain-En-Laye

The world’s most expensive footballer Neymar will again be absent when Paris Saint-Germain take on Rennes on Sunday in the second round of Ligue 1 matches, coach Thomas Tuchel said on Saturday.

“Ney didn’t finish the training with the squad today,” said Tuchel. “It’s too early. We’re waiting another week for him to start with the group again.”

“When I think of a strong team, it’s with him,” added Tuchel. “Nothing has changed, he has three years of contract.”

PSG bought Neymar for 222 million euros (\$261 million) from Barcelona in 2017, but has made clear he craves a return to Spain, whether with his old club or Real Madrid.

Lord’s Test in the balance

REUTERS, London



England battled to 96 for four in their second innings by the end of a dramatic fourth day at Lord’s to lead Australia by 104 runs and leave the second Ashes test on a knife-edge on Saturday.

England had bowled out Australia for 250, Steve Smith making 92 after retiring hurt when he was struck on the neck by a venomous Jofra Archer bouncer.

Smith left the field for treatment and returned 40 minutes later, adding 12 runs before he was trapped lbw by Chris Woakes.

England, 1-0 down in the series, led by eight runs on first innings but they quickly slumped to 9-2 on a gloomy evening as Pat Cummins dismissed Jason Roy and Joe Root in successive deliveries.

The fast bowler caught and bowled Roy for two and produced a superb outswinger which captain Root nicked to wicketkeeper Tim Paine.

Rory Burns and Joe Denly scrambled 55 runs for the third wicket, Denly making 26 before he was caught and bowled by Peter Siddle.

Burns’s battling knock of 29 ended when he edged a lifting delivery from Siddle to Paine but Ben Stokes, dropped by David Warner at slip off Nathan Lyon, survived to reach 16 not out at the close with Jos Buttler on 10 to give England hope of setting the touring side a testing target on the final day.

The first day and much of the third were washed out by rain and Australia had resumed on 80-4 in reply to England’s 258, losing only one wicket on a sunny morning when Matthew Wade, on six, edged Stuart Broad to Burns at third slip.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ENGLAND: First Innings 258 and second innings 96 for 4 (Burns 29, Stokes 16 not out, Buttler 10 not out; Cummins 2-16, Siddle 2-19)

AUSTRALIA: First Innings 250 (Khawaja 36, Smith 92; Broad 4-65, Woakes 3-61, Archer 2-59)

8TH ASIAN WOMEN’S YOUTH HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Bangladesh team leaving with minimal hopes

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh women’s youth handball team will fly to India today with the aim of gaining experience more than anything else in the 8th Asian Women’s Youth Championship, which will be held in Jaipur from August 21 to 30.

Bangladesh are participating in this event for only the second time – the first since hosting it in 2000 –and it is a case of learning the game by brushing shoulders with some tough opponents for the 14-member team, with five officials in company.

Although the championship offers four slots for the Women’s Youth World Championship to be held in France next year, with two teams from each of the two groups to qualify, the Bangladesh team are only aiming for a respectable show in this event.

Bangladesh have been pitted in Group A of this championship, alongside strong opponents such as South Korea, Japan, Chinese Taipei and lightweights Uzbekistan. Group B features India, China, Kazakhstan, Nepal and Mongolia.

The Bangladesh team management feel that they have been handed a very tough group, where their only realistic chance of winning a match is against Uzbekistan.

“Had we been in Group B, we would have had teams like Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Nepal who are similar in strength to us. But in our group, we can hope to do well against Uzbekistan while the other three teams are very strong,” Bangladesh team coach Tauhidul



Bangladesh women's youth handball team pose for a group photo at the Handball Stadium premises in Patna yesterday ahead of their departure for India.

PHOTO: STAR

Alam Sohul told reporters at a press conference at the Bangladesh Handball Federation (BHF) yesterday.

The team captain Kolpona Akter, however, was optimistic about giving their best shot. “We will play against some tough teams but we are not weak either. If they have got two hands to play, we too have two hands,” she said.

The Bangladesh team, comprising under-17 players who were selected from a pool of

70 players initially chosen from last year’s Bangladesh Youth Games, have had one month’s training for this event. The women in red and green will start their campaign on August 21 against seven-time champions South Korea before playing against Japan, Chinese Taipei and Uzbekistan on August 23, 25 and 26 respectively in the group stage. However, they will get to play classification matches after that.

The team will return on August 31.

SL batters set up final day thriller

AFP, Galle



Sri Lanka’s batters set the stage Saturday for a thrilling final day, reaching 133 without loss at stumps on day four as they chased 268 to beat New Zealand in the first Test in Galle.

Openers Dimuth Karunaratne and Lahiru Thirimanne were involved in a record opening stand of 133 runs and benefited from some sloppy fielding by the tourists.

It leaves Sri Lanka needing a further 135 runs to record their first win in the World Test Championship.

Karunaratne was unbeaten on 71 off 168 balls with two boundaries while Thirimanne was on 57 having faced 132 deliveries and hit four fours. They were in no mood to withdraw to the dressing room but bad light ended play 34 minutes before schedule.

Batting fourth in Galle is not the prettiest thing for batsmen and the highest successful run chase here is 99. But this track held together and there weren’t any demons for batsmen making life difficult.

Both openers were slow off the blocks

with the first boundary coming in the 22nd over. Karunaratne was the first to reach half-century with a cut shot off William Somerville. It was the Sri Lankan skipper’s 23rd Test fifty.

Thirimanne reached his sixth half-century with a flick for four off Ajaz Patel. After a series of low scores, he was under pressure to post a decent figure and the half-century will have saved his place for the next Test in Colombo.

A bat pad chance off Thirimanne when he was on 29 fell just short of short leg fielder Tom Latham. But the luckier of the two openers was Karunaratne, who was put down twice. Latham spilled a chance at short leg when he was on 58 off the bowling of Patel and in the very next over B.J. Watling missed a stumping chance off Somerville.

SCORES IN BRIEF

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 249 and second innings 285 all out (Latham 45, Nicholls 26, Watling 77, Southee 23, Somerville 40 not out, Boulton 26; De Silva 3-25, Embuldeniya 4-99, Kumara 2-31)

SRI LANKA: First innings 267 and second innings 133 for no loss (Karunaratne 71 not out, Thirimanne 57 not out)



April 25 SC players arrive at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka yesterday for their AFC Cup first leg match against Abahani on August 21. The second leg of the inter-zone semifinal playoff will be held in Pyongyang on August 28.

PHOTO: BFF