

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
English Premier League
Leicester v Newcastle
Live from 9:30pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
Bundesliga

Fortuna v Freiburg
Live from 7:30pm
TEN 2
Serie A
Napoli v Brescia
Live from 4:30pm

Lazio v Genoa
Live from 7:00pm
Cagliari v Verona
Live from 10:00pm
AC Milan v Fiorentina
Live from 12:45am (Monday)

DAY'S EVENT

FIFA Friendly
Bangladesh v Bhutan
Time: 7:00pm

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium, Dhaka

Booters eye win against Bhutan Mohammedan stars want stern action against Lokman

FIFA ranking, fine-tuning team priorities in two friendly matches

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh coach Jamie Day will be looking to find the right combination while expecting a win against Bhutan in the first of two FIFA Friendlies in Dhaka today, which are a part of the team's preparation for next month's World Cup qualifiers against Qatar and India.

The match is scheduled to kick off at the Bangabandhu National Stadium at 7:00pm, with BT and Bangla TV set to telecast the match live.

Even though matches against Bhutan will hardly give an idea of what to expect against Asian champions Qatar and rising giants India, the coach believes that the two matches -- the second one will be played on October 3 at the same venue -- will serve two purposes. The first is a chance to improve in FIFA rankings while the second is a chance to test the players ahead of the two qualifying fixtures through some valuable gametime against an international team.

Bhutan are currently 185th while Bangladesh are two places behind in the latest FIFA ranking.

"We wanted some games. Bhutan have crept above us [in FIFA ranking] and so we want to move up the table. I would rather play a game than just train and I want the boys to win the games. We could have played against local club sides, but it's better to play against a national team," Day told a press conference at the Bangladesh Football Federation house yesterday.

"We want to win, but also take things to Qatar and India matches. The matches give me an opportunity to see the players. If someone does well, he might be selected and if someone does not do well, he might not get a chance in the qualifying matches," the British coach added.

The coach picked 23 players out of 26, who started the training camp on Wednesday, after centre-back Tutul Hossain Badsha was ruled out following a knee injury he suffered from a motorcycle accident. The latest injury leaves the coach in a tight spot as he is already a few



The coaches and captains of Bangladesh and Bhutan teams pose for a photograph at the BFF house yesterday on the eve of today's FIFA Friendly.

PHOTO: BFF

important players short. Midfielder Mashuk Mia Johnny recently underwent an ACL operation and will be ruled out for a long time. Another centre-back, Topu Barman, and midfielder Atiqur Rahman Fahad are also nursing long-term injuries.

However, the coach thinks the players that he has at his disposal should make the most of these two friendly matches.

"Hopefully we will get more of the ball. It will be down to players to hold the ball and pass it well and create more scoring chances than we have done in the past. I also hope we keep a clean sheet," the coach explained.

Team captain Jamal Bhuiyan believes that they should have two positive outings against

Bhutan, who have brought a new-look side, with a focus on December's South Asian Games.

"We will definitely have more chances against Bhutan than we will have against Qatar and India. So it is good for the team if we can score goals because we don't score too many in international matches," the midfielder said.

Bhutan coach Pema, who brought his side here yesterday with four days' training following the end of the first leg of their local league, is seeing the two practice matches as opportunity to test his young side ahead of December's SA Games.

"We have 10-11 new players in the side, most of whom are of the under-23 level. They are very energetic and eager to do well. They will give their 100 percent I'm sure," Pema said.

SPORTS REPORTER

Former star players and members of Mohammedan Sporting Club urged authorities to take stern action against the recently-arrested director-in-charge of the club, Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan, calling for bringing back the money he laundered abroad while urging for actions to rid the club of all evil.

The speakers, under the banner 'Former players and permanent members of Mohammedan Sporting Club', at the press conference titled 'Protest against illegal casino and poor results on the field' made these appeals at a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday.

Badal Roy, star footballer of the '80s and a former director of the club, said those who played for the club and feel the club as their home are saddened by the 'casinogate', an operation carried out by the law enforcement agencies unearthing illegal casino business at a number of sporting clubs, with the pioneering club Mohammedan at the centre of attention.

"Crores of Mohammedan fans are shedding tears in silence now. Casino business does not go with the spirit of Mohammedan. We want stern action against Lokman. There has not been a money laundering case against him. We want the 41 crore taka he siphoned off abroad to be brought back," Roy told reporters.

Roy also urged the Bangladesh Cricket Board to expel the sports organiser where he is currently a director.

"We are saddened by the statement of the BCB president, who called Lokman

Bhuiyan as a friend yet said he was not aware of the casino business. We want Lokman removed from BCB office. We also want the Mohammedan directors to step down within three days. We also want an explanation from the president of the club, Obaidul Karim, regarding how the money from the donors were spent for such activities such as casinos and gambling," Roy said, adding that neither he nor any other member at the press conference were not aware of the casino business at the club tent.

The speakers also claimed that they would go to the club on Sunday and talk with the club officials regarding how to run its activities properly, including taking part in the upcoming football transfers.

Recently a high court bench reportedly appointed Supreme Court Bar Association president AM Amin Uddin as president in order to conduct Mohammedan's suspended AGM.

The tenure of current board of directors ended in 2013. The board of directors tried to hold the elections and AGM in 2015 but could not do it due to a case filed by MSC member Riazuddin. The current body is running Mohammedan.

The press conference was attended, among others, by former Mohammedan football stars Kaiser Hamid, Syaed Hasan Kanon, Fazlur Rahman Babul, Rumman Bin Wali Sabbir, Intiaz Sultan Jonny, Ahmed Intiaz Nakib, Iliyas Hossain; former hockey secretary Sajed A Adel, cricket organisers and former assistant general secretary Mostakur Rahman.

'SA Games to be held on time'

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) dispelled any confusion over the upcoming 13th South Asian Games, confirming that the regional games will be held in Nepal from December 1 to 10 as scheduled.

There were media reports in Nepal over whether the games could be held on time due to infrastructural issues. One of the BOA officials also recently commented that the games could be deferred to March next year. However, BOA secretary general Syed Shahed Reza dispelled all the confusion.

"We received a letter from the Nepal Olympic Association on September 24. The games authorities reassured us that the SA Games will be held on time from December 1 to 10. There will be a meeting of the South Asian Olympic Committee in Kathmandu soon. So there should not be any more confusion over the SA Games," Reza told reporters after a meeting with officials of 23 sports federations at the BOA office yesterday.

City keep perfect Reds in sight

AFF, London



Manchester City clung onto the coat-tails of Premier League leaders Liverpool with a hard-fought win against Everton on Saturday after Jurgen Klopp's men extended their perfect start to the season.

Elsewhere, 10-man Tottenham put their recent wobbles behind them to clamber into the top four with victory against Southampton while Chelsea grabbed their first home league win under new boss Frank Lampard.

Liverpool won their seventh Premier League game out of seven to pull temporarily eight points clear ahead of Manchester City, thanks to Georginio Wijnaldum's fortunate strike in a 1-0 victory at Sheffield United.

The European champions looked short on invention against the Blades until Wijnaldum's shot from the edge of the box 20 minutes from time trickled between the legs of United goalkeeper Dean Henderson.

Liverpool, who have won 16 consecutive league games, finished a single point behind champions City in the Premier League last season but are now setting a searing pace as they chase their first top-flight title since 1990.

"For us it was important to win, we had unbelievably big chances," Klopp told BT Sport. "In the first half we had two big chances and in the second one which we scored from. These games, they are not all beauties and you have

RESULTS		
Aston Villa El Ghazi 33, McGinn 79	2 - 2	Burnley Rodriguez 68, Wood 81
Bournemouth King 17, Wilson 46	2 - 2	West Ham Yarmolenko 10, Cresswell 74
Chelsea Jorginho 50-pen, Willian 76	2 - 0	Brighton
Crystal Palace Milivojevic 21-pen, Townsend 90+2	2 - 0	Norwich
Everton Calvert-Lewin 33	1 - 3	Man City Jesus 24, Mahrez 71, Sterling 84

to work hard for the results."

City were under huge pressure to respond in the late kick-off at Goodison Park and took the lead through Gabriel Jesus midway through the first half.

But while Pep Guardiola's men were irresistible going forward, they looked shaky at the back, with makeshift centre-back Ferdinandinho and Nicolas Otamendi in central defence.

Dominic Calvert-Lewin equalised and both sides had further chances to score before a Riyad Mahrez free-kick and a late Raheem Sterling goal sealed a 3-1 victory, which kept City five points behind Liverpool.

Tottenham boss Mauricio Pochettino recalled his big guns for the 2-1 victory against Southampton at home, making 11 changes from the side that suffered a shock League Cup loss at Colchester in midweek.

Spurs had won just two of their opening eight games in all competitions before Saturday and

looked in deep trouble when they were reduced to 10 men.

Tanguy Ndombele fired the home side ahead in the 24th minute but they suffered a blow when Serge Aurier was sent off after half an hour for two yellow cards.

Hugo Lloris then gifted Southampton an equaliser with a goalkeeping howler, Danny Ings dispossessing the Frenchman in his six-yard box and forcing the ball home before Harry Kane restored the home side's lead shortly before half-time.

The win lifted Spurs into fourth place in the Premier League, one spot behind West Ham, who drew 2-2 away to Bournemouth after beating Manchester United last week.

Pochettino said he was proud of the spirit his side had shown, saying it was an "amazing victory" for his team.

"Unbelievable fightback from the team, scoring the goal with 10 men and then fighting all together in the second 45 minutes, keeping a clean sheet in the second half," he said.

Chelsea boss Lampard said his side's 2-0 home win against Brighton, coupled with a clean sheet, would boost his players' confidence.

Speaking about the crop of young players coming through, he told the BBC: "It is great for the club and a long time coming. The work is done in the academy. The mentality is great. They want to play for this club. At the moment they are earning it and setting a level for others."



Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski (R) became the first player in Bundesliga history to score 10 goals in the first six games of the season, sealing a 3-2 victory at bottom club Paderborn on Saturday with his strike. He also became the first Bayern player to score in each of the first six matches of the season.

PHOTO: AFP



With his 180th goal for Barcelona, Uruguayan striker Luis Suarez took his career tally to the 400-mark yesterday. His strike against Getafe in La Liga moved the Blaugrana up to second in the standings.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Messi-less Barca move to second

AFF, Madrid



Barcelona kept the pressure on Real Madrid ahead of their derby with Atletico Madrid on Saturday with a hard-fought 2-0 win at Getafe that moved them to within a point of the La Liga leaders.

Their first win away from home since April puts Ernesto Valverde's side, who finished with 10 men with Clement Lenglet's late red card, temporarily level on 13 points with Atletico and Real Sociedad as Diego Simeone's side attempt to snatch top spot from their local rivals later.

"This match was crucial for us to rid ourselves of the sensation of never being able to win away," said Valverde.

"We knew that we were going to play at a very demanding ground in hot conditions, on a pitch where the ball doesn't zip much and against a tough opponent that stops you from playing. We didn't play well in the first half but once we took the lead they basically didn't have any chances."

A remarkable counter-attack goal launched by Marc-Andre Ter Stegen and finished off by Luis Suarez put Barca on their way four minutes before the break, and Junior's tap-in shortly after the restart made sure of the three points.

Ter Stegen showed his class when he raced out of his goal to stop a Getafe attack before launching a pin-point pass over the home side's dozing defence to Suarez, who calmly lobbed the opener over David Soria.

"Sometimes when passes come off like this the goalkeeper is just clearing the ball. I don't know if that is the case here, but regardless he brings us a lot," added Valverde.

The win was Barca's second in a week as they attempt to recover from a miserable start that led to questions surrounding Valverde's future.

Earlier Athletic Bilbao lost for the first time this season at home to crisis club Valencia, who bagged their second win of the season thanks to Denis Cheryshev's 27th minute strike.

Sanchez scores and sees red

REUTERS, Milan



Alexis Sanchez scored and was sent off in an eventful first Inter Milan start as his new club maintained their perfect start to the season with a 3-1 win at Sampdoria to stay top of Serie A ahead of champions Juventus, who eased past SPAL 2-0.

The Chilean deflected in Stefano Sensi's long-range opener after 20 minutes and tapping in another Sensi cross two minutes later. However the 30-year-old was sent off after receiving a second yellow card for diving just after the break, leaving his side to play with 10 men and wobbling after Jakub Jankto pulled one back in the 55th minute.

But Roberto Gagliardini slotted in the third just after an hour to give Antonio Conte's side a huge boost days before their trip to Barcelona in the Champions League.

Inter have a maximum 18 points from six games -- two ahead of Juve -- after winning their first six league matches for the first time since the 1966-67 season, with the pair set for a top-of-the-table clash at the San Siro next weekend. Against SPAL, Cristiano Ronaldo notched up his third consecutive goal at home this season after 78 minutes to add to Miralem Pjanic's opener just before the break.