

What to WATCH

SONY SIX
Australia v Pakistan
First T20I
Live from 9:30am
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
New Zealand v England

Second T20I
Live from 7:00am
India v Bangladesh
First T20I
Live from 7:30pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
English Premier League
Crystal Palace v Leicester
Live from 8:00pm
Everton v Tottenham
Live from 10:30pm

TEN 1
Serie A
Hellas Verona v Brescia
Live from 8:00pm

TEN 2
Serie A
Atalanta v Cagliari
Live from 5:30pm
Genoa v Udinese
Live from 8:00pm

Fiorentina v Parma
Live from 11:00pm
AC Milan v Lazio
Live from 1:45am (Monday)

DAY'S EVENT

National Cricket League
Four-day-match, Day Two
Time: 9:00am

Rajshahi v Dhaka Division
Venue: SKICS-2, Cox's Bazar
Rangpur v Khulna

Venue: SBNS, Dhaka
Barisal v Sylhet
Venue: SKICS-1, Cox's Bazar

Dhaka Metro v Chattogram
Venue: ZACS, Chattogram

Booters leave for Oman today

10-day training camp before WC qualifier on Nov 14

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national football team will leave for Oman tonight for a 10-day training camp followed by the World Cup qualifying fixture against the hosts on November 14.

The Red and Greens are at the bottom of Group E with a single point from three games, but a dominating draw against India in Kolkata last month following a close 2-0 defeat against Qatar at home lifted the spirit of the footballers and everyone concerned.

Hence Jamie Day's charges will leave for Oman with a renewed belief that they can take the fight to a side 100 places above them in world ranking at their own backyard.

"Oman are way ahead of us in FIFA ranking. But we expect to perform the way we performed against Qatar and India. If we don't concede early goals, the game will be competitive," team manager Satyajit Das Rupu told journalists at a press conference at the Bangladesh Football Federation house yesterday.

The team will leave tonight while the foreign coaching staff, including head coach Jamie Day who is currently holidaying in USA, will join the team on Monday morning.

Captain Jamal Bhuiyan, who is currently in Barcelona to do commentary on Barcelona's La Liga match against Levante, will join the same day while young

defender Yeasin Arafat will join the team on November 11 after completing his AFC U-19 Qualifiers campaign in Bahrain.

There is only one change to the squad from the match against India, with Rahmartganj midfielder Rakib Hossain replacing Abahani's Jewel Rana.

Since the match against India on October 15, the team will train for the first time together in Oman on Monday. However, majority of the players of the 23-member team were involved with Bashuddin Kings and Chattogram Abahani in the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup over the last two weeks. The others, mostly from Abahani, started training at the club a few days ago.

"Oman will be a very difficult prospect for us. But with the belief we gained from the match against India, we will be full of confidence. We will not go there to return with a defeat," first-choice goalkeeper Ashrafur Islam Rana said, adding that during the rest days the players followed fitness regime and diet according to the coach's prescription.

"The match against Oman will be tougher than the one against Qatar as we will play away to Oman. They are one of the two best teams in the group. But we will work on set-pieces and finishing in the training sessions as these areas have troubled us," assistant coach Masud Parvez Kaiser said.

The team is supposed to play a warm-up match on November 9 against a top Omani club as part of their preparation.



Bournemouth striker Joshua King (R) scores the all-important goal past Manchester United goalkeeper David de Gea during their Premier League encounter at the Vitality Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

United crash at Bournemouth

AFP, Bournemouth



Manchester United's mini-revival came to a crashing halt as Josh King's strike on the stroke of half-time earned Bournemouth a 1-0 win in treacherous weather conditions on England's south coast.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men had not won away from home since March until 10 days ago, but three consecutive wins on the road at

Partizan Belgrade, Norwich and Chelsea to book a place in the League Cup quarterfinals in midweek hinted at a turning point for the Norwegian.

Instead, the failings that have characterised their season were back in evidence as a lack of goal threat and one moment of slack defending inflicted a fourth Premier League defeat in 11 games.

The visitors had started the brighter as both sides struggled to cope in the howling wind and rain.

Daniel James whistled a long-range effort just wide, whilst Anthony Martial saw appeals for a penalty waved away.

Bournemouth struck their decisive blow just before the break when King, who started his career in England at United after being recommended to Alex Ferguson by Solskjaer, came back to haunt his former employers.

The Norwegian acrobatically lifted the ball beyond Victor Lindelof and bamboozled Aaron Wan-Bissaka

before firing past David de Gea.

United enjoyed plenty of possession in the second period to try and find a route back into the game, but even with Martial back to partner Marcus Rashford in attack, they lacked a cutting edge.

Greenwood came closest to an equaliser when he hit the post with his first touch before Scott McTominay's shot was too close to Ramsdale, who collected at the second attempt.

589-member team for SA Games?

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) has prepared a tentative list of 589 members including athletes, coaches and officials for the 13th South Asian Games, which will be held in Kathmandu and Pokhara from December 1 to 10. Bangladesh will take part in 25 disciplines in the regional sports meet.

A total of athletes 468, including 262 male and 206 female, will compete in the 25 disciplines of the regional mega event, informed contingent leader Asaduzzaman Kohinor, who is also the deputy secretary general of BOA.

"We have prepared a tentative list of 589 members for the SA Games. However, we will be able to finalise the number of participants for each discipline after a meeting on November 9 and then we will be able to confirm the final size of the contingent," Kohinor told The Daily Star.

The BOA deputy general secretary also claimed that the preparations of the organising committee in Nepal is going at a slow pace, which is creating confusion for them regarding their programme.

Bangladesh, featuring a 718-member contingent, finished fifth among eight nations in the last South Asian Games in India in 2016, winning four gold, 15 silver and 56 bronze medals.

Meanwhile, the meeting, chaired by BOA secretary general Syed Shahed Reza, also decided to hold the 9th Bangbandhu Bangladesh Games from April 1 to 10 next year. The last edition of the national multisport event was held in 2013.



South Africa players celebrate with the Webb Ellis Cup after winning the Rugby World Cup final against England at the International Stadium in Yokohama yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Tigresses on the back foot

SPORTS REPORTER



Following a whitewash at the hands of their Pakistani counterparts in a three-match T20I series, the Bangladesh women's team began the three-match ODI series against the hosts on the back foot as the Tigresses suffered a 29-run defeat in the first match at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore yesterday.

The Jahanara Alam-led Bangladesh had Pakistan bundled out for 215 runs in 48.5 overs but could not manage to steal their first win of the tour despite a fifty from Nigar Sultana.

Electing to bat, the Pakistan openers -- Nahida Khan and Sidra Amin -- gave the side a decent start with their 59-run stand before Sidra saw her stumps rattled off of a Fahima Khatun delivery in the 21st over. Javeria Khan's dismissal in the very next over could have seen Pakistan in trouble but Nahida strung together another crucial 69-run partnership with skipper Bismah Maroof to revive the innings. Nahida top scored for the team, scoring 68 off 97 balls as Pakistan managed to put up a modest total before being bundled out.

Following the exchange, Bangladesh lost two quick wickets as they slumped to two for nine in 3.2 overs. Nigar was the only exception in the Tigresses' squad as she managed to convert her start to a fifty, scoring a 77-ball 58, which however was not enough as Bangladesh were bundled out for 186 in 47.4 overs.

Neer stuns Nasir in opening round

SPORTS REPORTER



Nine-year-old Candidate Master Manon Reja Neer sprung a big surprise on the opening day of the 45th National Chess Championship yesterday, beating FIDE Master Sheikh Nasir Ahmed at the Engineers' Institute in Dhaka. Neer played with black pieces against English Opening of Nasir and won after 41 moves.

The nine-year-old had recently become the youngest chess player in the country to qualify for the national championship after finishing sixth in qualifying.

In the other games, FM Syed Mahfuzur Rahman drew against defending champion GM Ziaur Rahman while FM Mohammad Javed drew against GM Reefat Bin Sattar. GM Abdullah Al Rakib beat Anata Choudhury; GM Enamul Hossain Razib beat CM Sharif Hossain while GM Niaz Murshed beat CM SM Sharon.

Toure sent off in China

AFP, Shanghai

Yaya Toure was sent off after kicking an opponent just 10 seconds into Qingdao Huanghai's celebratory final match of the China League One season on Saturday.

The midfielder lashed out as Qingdao went on the attack from kick-off at home to Nantong Zhiyun.

After a review by the video assistant referee (VAR), the referee showed the 36-year-old Toure a red card with less than two minutes on the clock.

Dijon stun PSG

AFP, Paris



Paris Saint-Germain suffered a shock 2-1 defeat at the hands of rock-bottom Dijon on Friday with coach Thomas Tuchel accusing his expensively-assembled team of "being too passive and not playing together".

It was the third loss of the Ligue 1 season for the French champions who could also see their lead at the top trimmed to just five points by the end of the weekend.

Dijon, who started the day at the foot of the table with just nine points, fell behind to Kylian Mbappe's fifth goal in seven games.

However, Mounir Chouair levelled in the sixth minute of stoppage time in the first half before Venezuelan international Jhonder Cadiz hit the winner in the 47th minute.

"We were too passive in the first half, not only in defence but also in attack because we did not play together," said Tuchel.

"We lacked precision and rhythm. It was much better in the second half because we had three shots before half-time and 17 after the break. Maybe we didn't deserve to have success or luck with us today."

PSG were without the injured Neymar but looked more than capable of blowing away a Dijon team who had managed to score just six goals in 11 games before Friday's match which was played out in torrential rain.

Dijon had previously never defeated PSG in the top flight in 2011, conceding 31 goals in eight meetings.

Mbappe gave PSG the lead in the 19th minute after a terrible mix-up in the Dijon defence allowed Angel Di Maria to steal possession and feed Mbappe.

The French World Cup winner finished with a delightful chip over Alfred Gomis in the Dijon goal.

After the match was held up due to a nasty blow suffered by Fouad Chafik who collided with Gomis, Dijon were on level terms.

Didier Ndong crossed from the right with PSG keeper Keylor Navas clearing the ball only as far as Chouair who hit the target. Two minutes into the second period, Cadiz shrugged off the attentions of Marquinhos and Idrissa Gueye before tucking away a left foot shot between the legs of Navas.

Nadal, Djokovic edge closer to final

AFP, Paris



Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic, fighting it out for the year-end world number one spot, edged closer to a possible Paris Masters final clash as both eased into the last four on Friday.

The 33-year-old Nadal, who can secure the end-of-year top ranking ahead of Djokovic by winning his maiden Bercy title, beat French wildcard Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 7-6 (7/4), 6-1.

Nadal is bidding for a record-extending 36th Masters crown and will take on Denis Shapovalov in the last four on Saturday after the Canadian youngster thrashed Gael Monfils 6-2, 6-2.

The Spaniard has reached the semis for the first time at the event since 2013, having withdrawn injured before the quarter-finals on his last appearance in 2017.

"I've had a lot of injuries in this tournament (historically)," said Nadal. "I'm happy to be back in the semi-finals."

Djokovic had earlier crushed seventh seed Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-1, 6-2 and will next face Grigor Dimitrov, who saw off unseeded Chilean Cristian Garin 6-2, 7-5.

Nadal has now reached 73 Masters semi-finals in total and is two wins away from his 85th ATP title, but only third indoors.

Tsonga was rock solid on serve in a first set which did not see a single service game from either player even reach deuce.

But second seed Nadal stepped it up in the tie-break, with two incredible winners

on the run helping him take a crucial one-set lead.

Tsonga's serve briefly deserted him in the second game of the second set, as successive double faults allowed Nadal to claim the first break of the match and he then sped to victory.

Djokovic said he played "one of his best matches of the season" to thrash Tsitsipas.

The 32-year-old dispatched his Greek opponent in only 58 minutes.

The 16-time Grand Slam champion went into the match with a 2-1 losing record against Tsitsipas, but put the young world number seven in his place with a commanding victory.

"I played one of the best matches of the season," said Djokovic. "I prepared myself very well for this match."

"I lost to Stefanos about three weeks ago in Shanghai. And obviously I went through the videos and understanding on what I did well, what I didn't do so well, what I can do better."

Djokovic will be usurped by Nadal at the top of the rankings next week, but can ensure the race to be the best player at the end of the year reaches the ATP Tour Finals in London by winning a fifth Paris Masters title.

The defeat ended Tsitsipas' run of three consecutive semi-finals and dealt a blow to his confidence ahead of his maiden appearance at the season-ending championships, which start on November 10.

Djokovic holds an 8-1 winning head-to-head record against Dimitrov.



Sayeem of Breakers Pool & Snooker plays a shot during the 4th National Snooker Team Championship which began yesterday at Uttara Club.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN