

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
New Zealand v England
Second T20I
Live from 7:00am
India v Bangladesh
First T20I

Live from 7:30pm
SONY SIX
Australia v Pakistan
First T20I
Live from 9:30am

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

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 Bashudhara 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 Ashraful Islam Rana said, adding that during the rest days the players followed fitness regime and diet according to the coach's prescription.

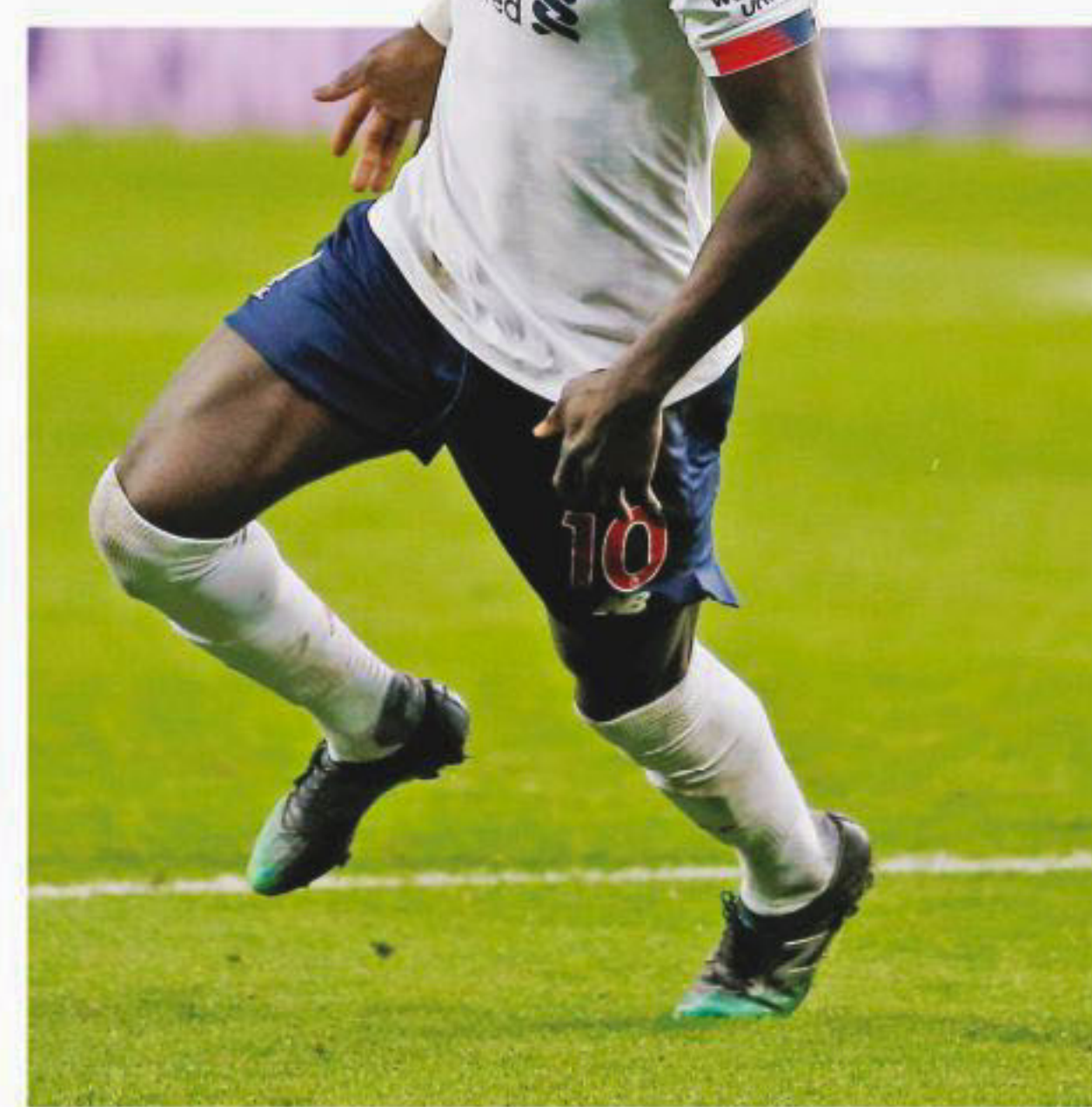
"The match against Oman will be tougher than the one against Qatar as we will play away to Oman. They are one of the two best teams in the group. But we will work on set-pieces and finishing in the training sessions as these areas have troubled us," assistant coach Masud Parvez Kaiser said.

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



Sergio Agüero's (L) 70th-minute strike brought City level before Kyle Walker eventually got the winner in the 86th minute in a 2-1 win against Southampton yesterday, but Sadio Mané (R) hit a 94th-minute winner after Andy Robertson's 86th-minute leveler to ensure Liverpool beat Aston Villa 2-1 and remain top of the Premier League.

PHOTO: AFP/REUTERS



Liverpool, City stage comebacks

AFP, London



Liverpool staged a thrilling fightback to beat Aston Villa 2-1 thanks to Sadio Mané's last-gasp winner, while Manchester City kept in touch with the Premier League leaders after their own escape act in a 2-1 victory against Southampton on Saturday.

Jürgen Klopp's side trailed to Trezeguet's first half goal at Villa Park, but hit back to preserve their unbeaten league record this season

in dramatic fashion.

Andrew Robertson equalised with four minutes left before Senegal winger Mané's stoppage-time goal gave Liverpool their 10th win from 11 league games.

The Reds are six points ahead of second placed Pep Guardiola's champions, who fell behind to James Ward-Prowse's early goal at the Etihad Stadium.

But Sergio Agüero levelled for City with 20 minutes left and Kyle Walker snatched the winner in the 86th minute to keep Liverpool in their sights.

Elsewhere, Manchester United slumped a 1-0 loss at Bournemouth and Arsenal were held to a disappointing 1-1 draw by Wolves, but all the focus was on the drama at the top of the table.

Ole Gunnar Solskjær admitted Manchester United had taken a "step back" after their mini-revival came to a crashing halt as Josh King's strike gave Bournemouth the points at Dean Court.

Solskjær'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 hinted at a turning point.

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.

Elsewhere, Chelsea held on to beat Watford 2-1, with Kepa keeping out a 97th-minute header from opposite keeper Ben Foster.

Foster struck a fine diving header as Watford amped up and the clock went well over the five minutes of stoppage time that were added.

589 going to Nepal 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.

Rafa, Novak 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.

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

Djokovic crushed seventh seed Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-1, 6-2 and will face Grigor Dimitrov.

Humiliation as Bayern lose 5-1

AFP, Berlin



Niko Kovac admitted his future as Bayern Munich coach hung in the balance Saturday after a 5-1 thrashing at Eintracht Frankfurt -- the club's heaviest Bundesliga defeat for 10 years.

Bayern are now four points behind leaders Mönchengladbach after their biggest league loss since a humiliating 5-1 drubbing in April 2009 at Wolfsburg. That defeat a decade ago eventually cost Jürgen Klinsmann his job as boss and Kovac could face a similar fate as Frankfurt shredded 10-man Bayern after defender Jerome Boateng was sent off in the ninth minute.

Kovac has been in charge since June 2018, winning the league and cup double last season, but could only offer a glum "I don't know" when asked about his gut feeling concerning the future.

"I know how this business works -- I am not naive. My feeling is not important, the ones who make the decisions are the ones you have to ask at the end of the day," he added. "After the red card, everything went out the window. That shouldn't have happened to us and it's not what we expect from ourselves. We made too many mistakes."

Goals by Filip Kostic, Djibril Sow, David Abraham and Martin Hinteregger put Frankfurt 4-1 up with an hour played. Robert Lewandowski scored for Bayern in the first half, extending his league record of scoring in the first 10 games this season. However, such was Frankfurt's dominance that head coach Adi Huetter brought on a third striker in Andre Silva for defensive midfielder Gelson Fernandes with 10 minutes left. The bold move paid off as Paciencia added their fifth goal five minutes from time.

"It's not a huge wonder (that this happened)," fumed Bayern captain Manuel Neuer. "Things had already got off to a (bad) start." "That (the red card) didn't make it any easier, of course, but still you can't concede five. We're not consistent in our defence."



Lionel Messi scored again but had to watch Barcelona go down 3-1 after his side conceded three goals in just seven minutes in a La Liga encounter with Levante yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Leo hits 500 but Barca crash

AFP, Valencia



Lionel Messi scored again but was helpless to prevent Barcelona conceding three goals in seven minutes on Saturday as Levante stormed to a surprise 3-1 victory in La Liga.

Messi converted a first-half penalty at the City of Valencia Stadium for his sixth goal in five games only for Levante to stun the defending champions with an incredible treble shortly after the hour.

Jose Campana and Borja Mayoral scored in the 61st and 63rd minutes before Nemanja Radoja added a third in the 68th to finish Barca off and give Real Madrid the chance to move top of the table later on Saturday. Levante climb to eighth.

"Everything unravelled," said Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde. "We didn't start the second half well, we weren't creating chances and although they weren't either they suddenly scored two goals. The third one hurt us a lot."

After seven consecutive wins in all competitions, Barcelona arrived as favourites to cement their place at the top, particularly given Messi's irresistible form.

His goal here was the 500th of his career with his left foot and it looked likely to give Valverde's team another three points until bedlam ensued in the second half.

"Opponents always play us like it is one of the biggest games of the year," Valverde added. "You have to have an answer."



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

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN