

# What to WATCH

**STAR SPORTS SELECT 1**  
New Zealand v England  
Third T20I  
Live from 7:00am

**SONY SIX**  
Australia v Pakistan  
Second T20I  
Live from 2:10pm  
UEFA Champions League  
Dortmund v Inter Milan

Live from 2:00am (Wednesday)  
**SONY ESPN**  
UEFA Champions League  
Zenit v Leipzig  
Live from 11:55pm  
Lyon v Benfica

Live from 2:00am (Wednesday)  
**TEN 1**  
UEFA Champions League  
Chelsea v Ajax  
Live from 2:00am (Wednesday)

**TEN 2**  
UEFA Champions League  
Barcelona v Slavia Praha  
Live from 11:55pm  
Liverpool v Genk  
Live from 2:00am (Wednesday)

## DAY'S EVENT

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

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

Venue: SBNS, Dhaka

# Booters reach Muscat after mid-air scare

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national football team landed in Muscat safely yesterday noon after surviving a scare in the early hours of Monday as their original flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines was forced to return to the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport more than an hour after take-off due to a technical glitch.

The team later flew to Muscat by another flight for a 10-day training camp ahead of their World Cup qualifying fixture against Oman on November 14.

The footballers and officials were scared when the flight captain mid-air made the sudden announcement that the aircraft would return to Dhaka. The aircraft, however, landed at the airport at around 1:45am.

"Our flight was scheduled to depart at 9.45pm but it was delayed by nearly two hours. We also waited for almost another hour after boarding the aircraft.

"After take-off, the flight hovered in the air for half an hour. Then the sudden announcement came from the captain that we were going back to Dhaka because of some technical glitch," team manager Satyjit Das Rupu told The Daily Star over phone a few minutes before the second take-off in the morning.

After reaching Muscat, assistant coach Masud Kaiser told the Daily Star that they checked in at Hotel Radisson without any further trouble.

"We all were a bit scared after hearing the announcement as power went off in some portions of the cabin and the air-conditioning system was not working properly. However, we landed in Dhaka safely and



Bangladesh football team striker Nabib Newaz Jibon smiles at the camera during their flight to Oman yesterday morning. (L) Midfielder Mamunul Islam and others take lunch at the Radisson Hotel in Muscat later in the day.

PHOTO: BFF



flew out again at 11:00am in the morning," said Kaiser.

He also informed the team would start training this morning focusing on tactical aspects of the game.

Players like Mahbubur Rahman Sufl and Ashraf Islam Rana also shared their experiences of the situation on their social media

accounts.

Manager Rupu informed that captain Jamal Bhuiyan also reached Muscat after delivering commentary on Barcelona's La Liga match against Levante while head coach Jamie Day and assistant coach Stuart Watkiss were scheduled to reach there

later in the night.

Bangladesh 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.

# 'Vardy playing with a smile'

AFP, London



Jamie Vardy is playing with a smile on his face after "little adjustments" helped him rocket to the top of the Premier League goalscoring charts, according to Leicester boss Brendan Rodgers.

The 32-year-old former England marksman took his tally to 10 league goals with the Foxes' second goal in their 2-0 win over Crystal Palace on Sunday which took them back into third place in the Premier League.

Leicester are ahead of Chelsea on goal difference and six points clear of fifth-placed Arsenal, whom they host next weekend, in the early battle for a place in next season's Champions League.

Vardy's goal was an ideal response to taunts from the Palace fans over his wife Rebekah's public falling-out with former friend Coleen Rooney, wife of former England captain Wayne.

"Jamie is so thick-skinned and is just one of those boys -- that makes him better," said Rodgers.

"He knows he has taken a wee bit of stick over a couple of games but he is very concentrated on his game and much focused in the game."

Rodgers, who left Celtic after a successful spell to take over at Leicester after Claude Puel was sacked last season, said Vardy's form had improved due to minor changes.

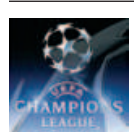
"Firstly from a defensive perspective he is not having to press the whole back four," said Rodgers.

"He is a guy who will run all day for you. Now it is a lot more synchronised in how we want him to press and he is doing short bursts of pressing, which he is very good at. "He is so clever at setting traps to press so he is a real focal point in that aspect."

"He is a really top striker at this level and we have done some little adjustments which have helped him, but he is playing with a smile and really enjoying his football and that is always important as a player."

# Test of Barca's credentials

AFP, Madrid



They may be one of Europe's most devastating teams at their best but another collapse in La Liga last weekend has shown Barcelona can be a soft touch.

Their 3-1 defeat by Levante on Saturday reopened old wounds from Anfield and Rome and suggests they have not learned from either of those collapses.

Levante scored three times in seven minutes after half-time exposing Barcelona's inability to regroup during a spell of intense pressure -- a familiar weakness since coach Ernesto Valverde came to the helm in 2017.

Most clubs in Europe would gladly take winning two league titles and a Copa del Rey in that time but Barcelona are a team concerned with details, the small margins that could define a good season or a great one.

Barca play Slavia Prague on Tuesday in the Champions League, when victory at Camp Nou against Group F's weakest team will ensure the frustration and failings from Levante swiftly fade.

But fragility persists that can be exposed by elite opponents when it matters most, as Roma and then Liverpool so emphatically proved in the last two Champions League campaigns, when three-goal first-leg leads were squandered by the Catalan giants.

Barcelona have shown they lack steel when they are uncomfortable, not least away from home, where their record under Valverde has been disappointing.

In Valverde's three seasons, they have won only 25 out of 44 league matches on the road. By comparison, Manchester City have won 35 out of 44. In the Champions League Barca have only won five out of 13 away games.

"It is true we are not getting the same results away as we are at home but after the first few games we have managed to put together a good run," Valverde said on Saturday.

"We have lost a match and that's it, it's true that we must analyse it but we know when we lose that criticism is strong. We always respond and this time it will not be different."

A habit for conceding in streaks, which resurfaced at the City of Valencia

Stadium, is also nothing new. Since the start of last season, Barcelona have shipped two goals within 15 minutes on seven occasions, six of them away from the Camp Nou.

This after they threw away a 4-1 lead in 2018 to lose to Roma in the Champions League quarterfinals, and 3-0 lead to Liverpool in the semifinals earlier this year.

"It might be down to a lack of concentration," said Antoine Griezmann on Saturday.

Asked if the problem was due to their football or their attitude, he said: "It is a bit of everything. We must make sure it doesn't happen again."

Some have suggested Barcelona lack leaders although few could argue the likes of Lionel Messi, Gerard Pique, Luis Suarez and Sergio Busquets do not command respect.

There is a vulnerability in midfield, where Barca have struggled against teams on the counter-attack, particularly when players pour through directly and at pace.

"In the first half I didn't like us very much," said Levante coach Paco Lopez. "But at half-time we said we had to be more adventurous, more direct and we did it."

# Mahfuz also steals gold

SPORTS REPORTER

Following the success of Zahir Rayhan, high-jumper Mahfuzur Rahman bagged gold medal in India's 35th National Junior Athletics Championship in Gunter, Andhra Pradesh on the third day of the meet yesterday.

Mahfuzur, who represents Bangladesh Navy in domestic circuit, cleared 2.10 metres to win the gold, beating his Indian counterparts.

The lad from Kushtia had set a new national record in last Summer Athletics Championships clearing 2.15 metres. Before setting the record, he won five more gold medal in domestic championships in Bangladesh.

Five Bangladeshi athletes are taking part in the Indian meet after an invitation from the Athletics Federation of India.

# Bayern sack Kovac

AFP, Berlin



Bayern Munich on Sunday sacked coach Niko Kovac, a day after the German champions suffered a historic 5-1 loss against Eintracht Frankfurt -- their worst Bundesliga defeat in a decade.

"FC Bayern Munich have relieved head coach Niko Kovac of his duties," the club said in a statement.

The "mutual decision" was taken following talks with club president Uli Hoenes, chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic and Kovac himself.

"The performances of our team in recent weeks and the results have shown us that there was a need for action," said Rummenigge.

"We all regret this development. I would like to thank Niko Kovac on behalf of FC Bayern for his work, particularly for last season's double win."

Assistant coach Hansi Flick will take charge of the team "until further notice", the statement added.

The 48-year-old former Croatia international said it was the right move for the side who sit in fourth place in the table after a series of disappointing matches.

"I think this is the correct decision for the club at this time," Kovac said.

"I would like to thank FC Bayern for these past 18 months. During that time our team won the Bundesliga, the DFB Cup and the Supercup. It was a good time. I wish the club and the team all the very best."

Bayern will play a Champions League match against Olympiakos on Wednesday before facing their biggest rivals Borussia Dortmund in the German top-flight on Saturday.

Saturday's hammering by Eintracht was the club's worst league defeat since a humiliating drubbing at Wolfsburg by the same scoreline in April 2009.

A 10-man Bayern was shredded by Eintracht after defender Jerome Boateng was sent off in the ninth minute, and leaving Kovac's future at the club hanging



in the balance.

"I know how this business works -- I am not naive," Kovac told reporters after the match.

Bayern have won only five of their last 10 Bundesliga matches, leaving them with 18 points -- four points behind leaders Borussia Moenchengladbach.

Even their few victories have been lacklustre, with few goals to brag about and a shaky defence that has struggled to gain momentum.

"I don't think the performance we produced will bring us serious success if we don't get a handle on things," Rummenigge bluntly told the squad after a hard-won 3-2 victory at Olympiakos in late October.

Germany's top-selling Bild newspaper on Sunday reported Kovac's men had started to lose faith in him.

"The players are criticising him more often and more openly, allowing them to shift attention away from their own shortcomings," the daily wrote.

"I'm now expecting a positive development from our players and an absolute desire to perform so we can achieve our goals for the season," said Salihamidzic.

# 45th NATIONAL CHESS Shakil beats Zia

SPORTS REPORTER

The 45th National Chess Championship continued to produce surprising outcomes as IM Abu Sufian Shakil beat GM Ziaur Rahman in the third round at the Institute of Engineers of Bangladesh Building in Ramna yesterday.

Shakil, playing with white pieces in Ruy Lopez opening, beat Zia in the 89th move to climb to the second position along with GM Abdullah Al Rakib, GM Reefat Bin Sattar, IM Mohammad Fahad Rahman and IM Minhaz Uddin Ahmed. All five have 2.5 points each.

On the opening day, CM Manon Reja Neer stunned FM Sheikh Nasir while FM Abdul Malek surprised GM Enamul Hossain Razib on the second day.

Meanwhile, sub-continent's first Grand Master Niaz Murshed took solo lead after notching up his third successive win following a victory over FM Malek.

GM Rakib drew against IM Faha Chowdhury; GM Reefat beat FM Debaraj Chatterjee; IM Mihaz beat CM Saiful Islam and FM Mehdi Hasan drew against GM Razib.

# Spurs consider appeal over Son's red card

AFP, London



Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino hinted the club may appeal against Son Heung-min's red card following the horrific injury suffered by Everton's Andre Gomes in the 1-1 draw on Sunday.

Pochettino -- whose side were denied a first away win in the league since January with a late stoppage time equaliser from Cenk Tosun -- blamed VAR for the red card as Son had been initially just booked.

The 26-year-old Portuguese international's injury -- a fracture dislocation to his right ankle which he will have surgery on Monday -- occurred as his momentum from Son's trip saw him crash into Spurs defender Serge Aurier.

Pochettino -- whose side remain in the bottom half in 11th place with 13 points from their first 11 games -- expressed his sorrow for Gomes but said a visibly distressed Son had not intended to provoke such an injury.

"It was clear it was never the intention of Son to create the problem that happened afterwards," said Pochettino.

"It is unbelievable to see a red card. In that situation we need to help because the decision of the referee was a yellow card but the VAR changed the decision.

"It is the latest example of it being not clear. VAR needs to check if it was a bad tackle from Son and judge the



Tottenham Hotspur striker Son Heung-Min (R) reacts after his involvement in an incident resulted in the injury of Everton midfielder Andre Gomes in their Premier League match at Goodison Park on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

action, not what happened after.

"I don't know what will happen now (in terms of an appeal). The club will see if it is possible but what we cannot change is what happened after (the incident)."

The Premier League issued a statement after the game to clarify why the card had been upgraded, in which it said: "The red card for Son was for endangering the safety of a player which happened as a consequence of his initial challenge."

Pochettino expressed his gratitude in the way the Everton players handled the incident and especially

the behaviour of the captain Seamus Coleman, who suffered a similar injury in March 2017.

"The players from Everton were fantastic," said Pochettino. "The captain came to the dressing room to console Son."

"I want to say thank you to the players and Coleman, who came in on behalf of the squad of Everton."

Tosun said he and his team-mates could not understand what Gomes was saying. "Everybody is sad inside. Some players, they nearly cried," said the Turkey international.

# 15th International Conference on Inclusive Insurance Coping with Climate Risk

5-7 Nov 2019  
Dhaka, Bangladesh

