

What to WATCH

G TV, CHANNEL 9 & STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
India v Bangladesh
Third T20I
Live from 7:30pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

New Zealand v England
Fifth T20I
Live from 7:00am
English Premier League
Liverpool v Man City
Live from 10:30pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
English Premier League
Man United v Brighton
Live from 8:00pm
TEN 1
Serie A

Lazio v Lecce
Live from 8:00pm
TEN 2
Serie A
Cagliari v Fiorentina
Live from 5:30pm

Sampdoria v Atalanta
Live from 8:00pm
Parma v Roma
Live from 11:00pm
Juventus v AC Milan
Live from 1:45am (Monday)

MONDAY
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
Afghanistan v West Indies
Third ODI
Live from 2:30pm

DAY'S EVENT

National Cricket League
Four-day match
Day two

Rajshahi v Khulna
Venue: SBNS, Dhaka
Rangpur v Dhaka

Venue: SCS, Bogura
Barishal v Chattogram
Venue: BDS, Barishal

Dhaka Metro v Sylhet
Venue: SKS, Rajshahi

MONDAY
National Cricket League
Four-day match

Day three
Rajshahi v Khulna
Venue: SBNS, Dhaka

Rangpur v Dhaka
Venue: SCS, Bogura
Barishal v Chattogram

Venue: BDS, Barishal
Dhaka Metro v Sylhet
Venue: SKS, Rajshahi

ASIAN WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Hosts off to winning start

SPORTS REPORTER

Hosts Bangladesh made a rousing start to the Bangamata Asian Senior Women's Central Zone Volleyball Championship, beating Afghanistan in straight sets at the Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium yesterday.

The Bangladesh team, which has been training for the last three months with this championship and the South Asian Games in sight, had a comfortable outing as they breezed through with a 25-9, 25-9, 25-3 points victory over the Afghans.

Bangladesh attacker Sabina Yasmin was adjudged the best player of the match.

Bangladesh coach Golam Rasul was satisfied with the performance, but felt his side could play better when playing against better oppositions.

"We played well, but we can play even better. We have played against Maldives and Nepal before and those matches have been competitive. Tomorrow's game against Maldives will be a competitive one," the Bangladesh coach said after the match.

Bangladesh men's team coach Alipour Arozi watched the match too and praised the performance of the host team.

Earlier in the day, Maldives edged past Kyrgyzstan by 3-2 sets in the opening match of the championship. Bangladesh had lost against the Kyrgyz in a practice match ahead of the championship.

Bangladesh will take on Maldives while Afghanistan will square off against Nepal in the two matches today. The top two teams after the round-robin league will meet in the final on November 14.



Bangladesh swatted Afghanistan aside, recording scores of 25-9, 25-9, 25-3 to get off to a flying start in the Bangamata Asian Senior Women's Central Zone Volleyball Championship at the Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: COLLECTEED

Rakib, Fahad join Niaz

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Abdullah Al Rakib and Fide Master Fahad Rahman joined GM Niaz Mursheed at the top of the points table of the 45th National Chess Championship following wins in the eighth round at the Institute of Engineers Building in Dhaka yesterday.

Rakib beat CM Manon Reja Neer while Fahad beat FM Taibur Rahman to grab a share of the lead with six points after GM Niaz drew his game against IM Minhaz Uddin Ahmed.

GM Reefat Bin Sattar was in second position with 5.5 points after beating defending champion GM Ziaur Rahman.

Bulbul cancels youth ODI

SPORTS REPORTER

The first of a five-match youth ODI series between the Bangladesh under-19 team and their Sri Lankan counterparts was washed out due to inclement weather caused by cyclone Bulbul at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

Earlier, the two-match youth Test series between the sides ended in a draw. The second youth ODI will take place tomorrow at the same venue.

Ozil, Kolasinac attacker jailed

AFP, London

An armed mugger has been jailed for 10 years after attempting to rob Arsenal duo Mesut Ozil and Sead Kolasinac of luxury watches worth £200,000.

Harrow Crown Court heard that Ashley Smith and his accomplice did not count on the bravery of Kolasinac in fighting back during the attack in London in July.

Sana to spearhead hopes in SA Games

SPORTS REPORTER

Ruman Sana, the best archer of Bangladesh, said he is confident of delivering gold to the nation in the upcoming South Asian Games to repay the faith of the Bangladesh Archery Federation (BAF) and the support provided by the City Group.

The 24-year-old recurve archer, who qualified for the 2020 Olympics with a bronze-medal winning feat in the World Archery Championships in the Netherlands before winning gold medal in Stage 3 of the Asia Cup – both this year – wants to end the year on a high by adding an SA Games gold medal to his tally.

"All's well that ends well. I would really like to end the year on a high with a good performance at the SA Games after the achievements earlier in the year," Sana told reporters at the Bangladesh Olympic Association following a programme organised by sponsors City Group regarding the third-year budget disclosure of the company's sponsorship deal with BAF.

The archer from Khulna said he and the other Bangladeshi archers are much more improved than before, which is why they are confident of success in the SA

Games, which will be held in Nepal from December 1 to 10.

"I know the Indian archers who will play there and I also know their score updates. I have compared my scores to theirs'. This will be my first South Asian Games. My target is to go to the final, and if I can reach the final, I believe I can win gold medal," Sana said.

BAF's general secretary Kazi Rajib Uddin Ahmed Chapol echoed Sana's sentiment, saying that they expect two or more gold medals from the SA Games.

"In earlier editions, SA Games was not on our priority list. But this time we are prepared for the games and we are hoping to get at least two, maybe more, in recurve and compound events," Chapol told reporters.

Bangladesh had won three silver and three bronze medals in the last edition of the SA Games held in India in 2016.

Earlier, City Group's executive director Zafar Uddin Siddiqui highlighted various aspects of their sponsorship over the last two years and subsequent achievements of the archers. He also disclosed a Tk 2.41 crore budget for archery sponsorship – an increase of Tk 21 lacs from the previous year – for the third year of the five-year deal.



Archery federation officials, coaches and players, including Roman Sana (L), and City Group representatives pose for pictures after a programme at the Bangladesh Olympic Association auditorium yesterday. PHOTO: BAF

SOUTH ASIAN KARATE

BD fourth among five teams

SPORTS REPORTER

Hosts Bangladesh finished fourth among five teams in the 5th South Asian Karate Championship, which concluded at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium in Dhaka yesterday.

Bangladesh finished with 59 medals – seven gold, 28 silver and 24 bronze – to finish ahead of Bhutan. India clinched the top position with 30 gold, 10 silver and 10 bronze medals. Sri Lanka and Nepal occupied the second and third positions respectively.

Klopp rules out Mbappe move

AFP, London

French star Kylian Mbappe is out of Liverpool's price range, the Premier League leaders' manager and long-time admirer Jurgen Klopp says.

The 20-year-old Paris Saint Germain striker – who was instrumental in France's lifting of the 2018 World Cup – has been linked with Real Madrid.

This gathered momentum earlier in the week when Real's coach Zinedine Zidane remarked that Mbappe had always said it was his dream to play for the Spanish side.

Klopp, speaking ahead of Sunday's clash with second-placed Manchester City, had been keen to sign Mbappe in 2017 and met with the player and his entourage.

However, he opted to join PSG for £158 million (\$202 million). PSG are seeking to extend his

present contract and if they were reluctantly to allow him to leave are believed to want more than the record fee of £198 million they paid Barcelona for Neymar in 2017.

"Buying this calibre of player is difficult," Klopp was cited in Saturday's The Times as saying.

"I don't see any club at the moment who can buy Kylian Mbappe from PSG. "I don't see any club. That is how it is. And we are involved in these clubs who cannot do it. Easy as that.

"OK, from a sporting point of view, there are not a lot of reasons to not sign him.

"What a player he is. It is about the money of course. No chance. Absolutely, no chance. Sorry for killing that story."

Klopp, whose side have a six point lead over champions City heading into their match at Anfield, said the minimalist level of activity from him in the transfer market in the close

Liverpool's biggest test

AFP, Liverpool



Liverpool have lived through many false dawns in the 29 years since last lifting a league title, but the class of 2019/20 have the chance to prove they are the real deal when reigning champions Manchester City visit Anfield on Sunday.

City's relentless hunger to push the bar to new heights under Pep Guardiola has kept Liverpool waiting.

Despite posting the third highest points tally in English top flight history last season with 97, Liverpool lost out by a solitary point as City backed up their 100-point campaign with 98 to retain the title.

Beset by defensive injuries, those standards have slipped slightly at the

start of this season, allowing Jurgen Klopp's men to open up a six-point lead ahead of Sunday's battle between the top two.

"Last season we won the Premier League (against) the best contender I ever faced in my career," said Guardiola on Friday.

"Right now Liverpool are the strongest team in the world. Playing at Anfield, we know what it means for them and for all their rivals."

Revitalised since Klopp took charge four years ago, Liverpool have not lost a home game in the Premier League since April 2017.

Their solitary defeat in the last 50 league games on any ground came away to City in January in a titanic tussle that ultimately decided the title race.

The consistency of both sides has

seen this fixture become English football's biggest game in recent seasons.

In 2017/18 it was Liverpool who ended City's quest for an unbeaten league season and thrashed Guardiola's men 5-1 on aggregate in an ill-tempered Champions League quarterfinal.

"It's getting bigger and bigger," said Klopp.

"Man City is a pretty good football team. Thank God there is a rivalry because that means we are not in bad place as well."

While City have suffered shock defeats to Norwich and Wolves in the first 11 games of the season, Liverpool have had the air of champions in recent weeks with their ability to fight to the end for their rewards.

Wenger contradicts Bayern's claim

AFP, Munich



Arsene Wenger has contradicted a claim by Bayern Munich that they turned him down for the vacant head coach's job and accused the defending German champions of a lack of discretion.

Bayern need a new coach after Niko Kovac was sacked last Sunday with former Germany assistant Hansi Flick appointed interim boss for Wednesday's win over Olympiakos and Saturday's home league game against Dortmund.

On Thursday, Bayern put out a statement claiming Wenger had called club chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge to express interest in replacing Kovac, but said the former Arsenal boss had been turned down.

However, Wenger, 70, rejected those version of events and criticised Bayern for leaking "rumours from everywhere".

"My name came out of nowhere," said Wenger in an interview with beIN Sports on Friday.

"On Wednesday, Rummenigge called me, I called back out of courtesy.

"We talked for four or five minutes, maximum, and he reported that they signed Flick (as interim coach) for the next two games.

"He asked me if I would be interested, because they are looking for a coach."

Wenger says he told Rummenigge that he would think about it and "we decided together" to talk again "next week because I am in Doha until Sunday night. This is the true story."

Chelsea leapfrog City

AFP, London



Chelsea manager Frank Lampard insisted his side's target is still to reduce the gap on title favourites Liverpool and Manchester City, despite leapfrogging City into second place with a sixth straight Premier League win on Saturday.

The in-form Tammy Abraham and Christian Pulisic struck in the second half to beat Crystal Palace 2-0 at Stamford Bridge.

Chelsea edge a point clear of City and to within five of leaders Liverpool, who host City in a highly-anticipated clash on Sunday.

"We respect where Liverpool and Manchester City are. That was the gap to try and bridge in some way going into the season," Lampard told BT Sport on the possibility of a title challenge. "We are just happy with what we're doing."

A 4-4 draw with Ajax on Tuesday took the tally of goals in Chelsea's prior 18 games this season to 70 at an average of nearly four per game.

However, the Blues free flowing football was met with a brick wall of a Palace defence for the first 45 minutes.

"I was a little bit frustrated as I felt we allowed the tempo to drop in the first half," added Lampard. "I felt if we

increased the tempo the game was there to win."

Pulisic had scored four goals in his last two Premier League games as the American begins to deliver on his \$58 million (\$74 million) price tag and only a fine save from Vicente Guaita denied the USA captain another strike early on.

Thereafter, Chelsea were largely restricted to efforts from free-kicks on the edge of the box before the break as Willian curled inches wide.

Gary Cahill was making his return to Stamford Bridge after his seven years as a Chelsea player came to an end in the summer.

And Cahill reminded his former employers of why he won eight trophies for the club with a brilliant block to repel Willian's goalbound effort in first half stoppage time.

The Palace resistance was finally broken by one moment of genius from Willian as Chelsea's captain for the day flicked the ball perfectly into Abraham's path to slot home his 10th Premier League goal of the season and join Leicester's Jamie Vardy as the top scorer in the division.

"The number nines that have been at Chelsea are world class strikers. I felt ready in myself and I'm proud of myself," said Abraham.



Chelsea striker Tammy Abraham (L) celebrates his opening goal with teammate Fikayo Tomori during their Premier League encounter against Crystal Palace at Stamford Bridge yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS