



Tottenham Hotspur striker Harry Kane celebrates after scoring the third goal against West Ham during their Premier League encounter at The London Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Spurs sparkle on Jose’s happy return

REUTERS, London

Premier League Jose Mourinho got off to the best possible start as Tottenham Hotspur manager as his new side beat West Ham United 3-2 at London Stadium on Saturday -- their first Premier League away win in 10 months.

First-half goals from Son Heung-min and Lucas Moura and another after the break from Harry Kane -- his 175th for the club -- inflicted West Ham’s fifth league defeat in seven games and piled more pressure on manager Manuel Pellegrini whose side sit close to the drop zone.

Mourinho, however, will not be happy with the way Spurs conceded two late goals as substitute Michail Antonio and Angelo

Ogbonna capitalised on familiar errors in a defence that has kept just one league clean sheet all season.

After Kane had an early effort ruled out for offside, Son put the visitors ahead on 36 minutes, sweeping by Papa Diop and firing past West Ham’s unconvincing keeper Roberto for his sixth goal in as many games.

Mourinho, returning to English football after 11 months, punched the air in celebration and his mood improved further before the break when an outrageous scooped pass from Dele Alli freed Son on the left.

The South Korean’s inviting cross was forced home at the back post by Moura, who was one of three changes on Mourinho’s first teamsheet.

1st SAARC Chess from today

SPORTS REPORTER

Chess The 1st SAARC Chess Championship begins in Dhaka today with close to 100 chess players of seven South Asian countries, sans Bhutan, participating in the FIDE Chess Zone 3.2 event.

Organised under the auspices of FIDE, the nine-round event will be held in Swiss League system, with 20,000 US dollars earmarked for prize money in the open, women’s and blitz chess section. The matches will be held at the FARS Hotel, starting from tomorrow.

A press conference in this regard was held at the National Sports Council conference room yesterday where Bangladesh Chess Federation’s general secretary Syed Shahab Uddin Shamim informed that a SAARC Chess Congress will be held on November 30 while a chess training session will be conducted by British Grand Master Nigel Short.

“We will not get Grand Master Niaz Murshed for this event due to his personal engagement. But we will hope to get the other big chess players within the country onboard for the inaugural edition of this event,” Shamim said.



Bangladesh’s Mahmudullah Riyad (L) leaves the field after suffering a hamstring injury but the team management is hopeful that he will be able to bat on the third day of the second Test against India at The Eden Gardens in Kolkata today.

PHOTO: BCB

Watling puts NZ on top

AFP, Mount Maunganui

Cricket A gritty BJ Watling, New Zealand’s go-to man when the chips are down, produced an unbeaten 119 to put the Black Caps ahead of England in the first innings of the opening Test on Saturday.

After rescuing his country as he has done many times in the past, Watling was at a loss to explain his ability to produce his best when New Zealand are in trouble.

“It just kind of happens” he offered at stumps on day three in Mount Maunganui, after guiding the Kiwis to 394 for six to lead England by 41.

He toiled under a blazing sun for almost seven hours to notch his eighth Test century and pull New Zealand up from a precarious 197 for five.

Much of Watling’s innings-saving mission was in partnership with Colin de Grandhomme in a 119-run stand for the sixth wicket and followed by an unbroken 78 with Mitchell Santner, who was 31 not out at stumps.

When de Grandhomme joined Watling after the dismissal of Henry Nicholls for 41 before lunch, New Zealand’s top five were out and they were still 156 runs behind England’s 353.

De Grandhomme, meanwhile, characteristically punished anything loose -- with a six and seven fours as he raced to 65.

SCORES IN BRIEF
ENGLAND: First innings 353
NEW ZEALAND: First innings (Williamson 51, Watling 119 not out, de Grandhomme 65; Curran 2-74, Stokes 2-37)



Brescia drop Balotelli after bust-up

AFP, Milan

Mario Balotelli has been dropped for Sunday’s Serie A trip to AS Roma after a training ground bust-up with new Brescia coach Fabio Grosso.

Ex-World Cup winner Grosso, who took over the struggling northern side this month, was reported to be angered by the Italian forward’s lazy attitude in training on Thursday.

Balotelli stormed out of the session and has now been dropped and could face disciplinary action.

“I demand great rhythm and intensity, when it doesn’t happen I prefer to change. He didn’t do it and he was cast aside,” Grosso told a pre-match press conference on Saturday.

“I told Mario that I can only help him to a certain point. Then he has to help himself.”

BOA hopeful of better medal-haul

SPORTS REPORTER

South Asian Games Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) secretary general Syed Shahed Reza hoped that Bangladesh would fare much better than they had in the previous editions of the South Asian Games since the athletes are better prepared this time around.

The BOA secretary general said this during a pre-event press meet at the BOA auditorium yesterday in presence of officials of different participating disciplines.

Bangladesh, comprising a 595-member contingent with 462 athletes, would take participate in 25 out of 27 disciplines in the regional multi-sport meet, scheduled to be held in Kathmandu and Pokhara from December 1 to 10.

In the last edition held in India in 2016, Bangladesh won a total of 75 medals, including four gold medals.

“We have high expectations this time around. Our athletes will do much better than the last edition as they’ve had better preparation,” Reza said.

When held at home for the last time in 2010, Bangladesh had clinched as many as 18 gold medals. When asked why the BOA high-ups are not hoping to even eclipse

that haul, especially with regional sporting superpower India not participating in at least 10 disciplines, Reza said, “We had home advantage in 2010. Furthermore there was year-long training ahead of that games which helped them win so many gold medals. However, we are hoping of good outcome this time around without thinking of who is not taking part.”

The BOA spokesman also said that the Bangladesh Youth Games held earlier this year was a milestone event, which helped them find more young players in different disciplines for the SA Games.

The Bangladesh swimming and cycling teams have already reached Nepal while the other teams will leave in turn, starting with the volleyball team on November 25.

Reza also informed that the budget for the Bangladesh team in these games is Tk 30 crore, out of which To 19.5 crore is being spent on training while the rest is for participation purposes.

The press conference was attended, among others, by BOA senior vice-president Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, SA Games’ Bangladesh contingent coordinator AK Sarker, chef de mission Asaduzzaman Kohinoor and the two deputy chef de missions -- Mohammad Omar Faruk and Syeda Zannat Ara.



Bangladesh Olympic Association secretary general Syed Shahed Reza addresses a press conference at the BOA auditorium yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

PSG ease past Lille

AFP, Paris

Neymar made his latest comeback from injury for Paris Saint-Germain on Friday as first-half goals by Mauro Icardi and Angel Di Maria saw the Ligue 1 leaders ease to a 2-0 win over Lille at the Parc des Princes.

The in-form Icardi opened the scoring from close range in the 17th minute with his 10th goal in PSG’s last nine games, and Di Maria doubled their lead just after the half-hour mark.

Despite not being near their best, Thomas Tuchel’s side were too strong for the team who finished runners-up behind them last season.

After just 14 games, PSG are 11 points clear of second-placed Marseille, who play on Sunday.

Neymar had not played for his club since October 5, having suffered a hamstring injury playing for Brazil against Nigeria a week later.

Freak Vidal goal lifts Barcelona

REUTERS, Madrid

La Liga Barcelona came from behind to snatch a 2-1 victory at La Liga’s basement club Leganes on Saturday after another unconvincing display away from home from the champions as substitute Arturo Vidal struck a scrappy late winner.

Struggling Leganes had taken the lead in coach Javier Aguirre’s first home game in charge thanks to a superb strike into the top corner from Morocco forward Youssef En-Nesyri in the 12th minute.

The home side spurned two chances to extend their advantage before the break but Barca levelled in the 52nd minute when Luis Suarez glanced in Lionel Messi’s free kick.

Barca won the game thanks to a fortunate goal in the 79th minute from Chilean midfielder Vidal, who was in a clear offside position when he knocked in from close range but a VAR review ruled him on as the ball had bounced off Leganes’ Ruben Perez.



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