

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
New Zealand v England
Second Test, Day-2
Live from 4:00am (Saturday)

SONY SIX
Australia v Pakistan
Second Test, Day-1
Live from 9:30am (D/N)

KANTE ACCUSES FORMER AGENT OF FRAUD

Chelsea and France midfieler N'Golo Kante has filed a criminal complaint accusing one of his former agents of fraud and attempted fraud, Paris prosecutors said on Thursday. The complaint, originally reported by L'Equipe sports newspaper, also alleges breach of trust and the illegal practising of the profession of agent. The allegations concern an agent who had responsibility for Kante's image rights whom the player accuses of demanding an additional payment in return for cancelling their contract in 2017. Kante, 28, also accuses the agent of trying to interfere in his career by attempting to persuade him to join Real Madrid when it was not his role to do so. Kante said: "I believe my confidence has been abused. We had reached an agreement to cancel the contract but this person went back on it."



MSC to hold AGM within eight weeks

SPORTS REPORTER



Mohammedan Sporting Club Ltd. finally received a copy of instructions from a High Court bench, which on August 28 had passed an order for the club to hold their suspended annual general meeting (AGM) after appointing an independent interim president.

"We received a copy of the court's order yesterday [Wednesday]. The court appointed an independent president who will make all the preparations required for the AGM within eight weeks after consulting with the existing members. He even can bring change and refinement to complete the duty if needed," said Mohammedan director Sarwar Hossain yesterday.

The company court appointed Supreme Court Bar Association president AM Amin Uddin as interim president in order to conduct the AGM after director-in-charge of MSC Ltd Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan filed a writ two-and-a-half years ago to hold the AGM, citing that current president Obaidul Karim could not give time to the club, which also can't hold an AGM without the president," added Hossain.

Hossain also informed that the

independent president was yet to receive his copy of the court orders till Wednesday and they would invite him to the club as soon as he received a copy.

In reply to a query, Hossain said, "It is not a matter of acceptance, the independent president will get remuneration for his job as long as he is at the helm."

Although the court passed the order on August 28, Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan disclosed it to the media on September 25, just day before he had been detained by Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) for his alleged connection with illegal gambling at the Mohammedan SC premises.

After his detention, former players and organisers who once moved away from the club began to regroup and dreamt of electing a new board of directors through the AGM, which was last held in 2013. However, the current board of directors is running the club after seeking time from the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms.

"I think the court has given a timely order which will help the club form a new board of directors and it is inspiring for Mohammedan supporters as the club had hit a new low on the ground, especially in football," said Badal Roy, former Mohammedan SC player and permanent member of the club.

Cash awards for SA Games medallists

SPORTS REPORTER

The State Minister for youth and sports Jahid Ahsan Rasel yesterday announced the cash-awards for any Bangladeshi athlete to win a medal at the 13th South Asian Games, which begins in Nepal on Sunday.

Athletes who win gold medals in individual events will receive Tk six lakh, one lakh more than what they would have received if they won a gold in the last edition in 2016, while silver and bronze medal winners will get Tk three lakh and Tk one lakh respectively, which is the same amount they would have been paid before.

In team events, each member will get Tk one lakh for gold medals while Tk 50 thousand and Tk 25 thousand will be paid to each member of silver and bronze medal winning teams respectively.

This announcement was made during a view exchange meeting with journalists at the National Sports Council conference room yesterday.

"We decided to reward those athletes who win medals in SA Games in Nepal. Besides, we will also provide financial assistance to federations which perform better in the upcoming Games so that they can continue uninterrupted training after the tournament," said Rasel.

A total of 462 athletes from 25 disciplines will battle for a total of 1119 medals -- 319 gold, 319 silver and 481 bronze. Bangladesh won four gold, 15 silver and 56 bronze medals in the last edition held in India in 2016.

Liverpool, City head into crucial month

REUTERS, Manchester

Premier League
Premier League leaders Liverpool and champions Manchester City are heading into an intense month of fixtures with neither looking close to their best.

Liverpool laboured to a 1-1 draw with Napoli in the Champions League on Wednesday, lacking the intensity and attacking potency that has been at the heart of their success under manager Jürgen Klopp.

City stumbled to a 1-1 draw with Shakhtar Donetsk in the same competition, with no sign of the zip and verve that has characterised Pep Guardiola's team over the past two title-winning seasons.

Both looked like sides who could do with a rest, a nice week in a warm-weather resort recharging their batteries, but the price of competing at the highest level -- at home and abroad -- is a gruelling December that offers no respite and plenty of potential bumps in the road.

City need no reminders of the dangers that lie in wait for them in Newcastle on Saturday -- one of their four defeats last season came in a 2-1 reverse at St James' Park in January.

With their all-time top scorer Sergio Agüero sidelined by injury, Guardiola is banking on his only other striker, Gabriel Jesus, delivering goals and keeping fit

through the coming month.

He also needs his team to rediscover the slick passing game and dominance of midfield that has been their hallmark but has been sorely missing in recent weeks.

Injuries are part of the process at this time of year especially and Liverpool suffered a blow with their key holding midfielder Fabián Pizarro picking up an ankle injury against Napoli.

It is unclear how long the Brazilian will be sidelined for but they will probably be without him at home to Brighton on Saturday.

Against Napoli, only Roberto Firmino looked in top form and that will be a concern for Klopp as he heads into a month in which his team also have to contend with two games in Qatar in the Club World Cup.

To add to the workload, both teams have derby matches on the horizon with Liverpool hosting Everton on Wednesday and City taking on Manchester United on December 7.

It looks the ideal moment for second-placed Leicester City to take advantage and push themselves into the race.

Brendan Rodgers' side are a point ahead of City and eight behind Liverpool and on Sunday they face an Everton team whose manager Marco Silva will be worrying he might not even survive to Wednesday's Merseyside derby.

Messi fires Barca into last 16

AFP, Paris

UEFA Champions League
A Lionel Messi-inspired Barcelona booked their place in the Champions League knockout stages on Wednesday by crushing a desperate Borussia Dortmund 3-1, while RB Leipzig made the last 16 for the first time with an incredible stoppage time comeback.

Lucien Favre's position as Dortmund coach looks increasingly in peril following the thumping at the Camp Nou, orchestrated by a sensational Messi that ensured Barca's progress to the last 16 as Group F winners and leaves the Germans in danger of not qualifying.

The Argentine scored one and set up the other two for Luis Suárez and Antoine Griezmann to inflict a punishing defeat on Dortmund and move up to 11 points, four ahead of the Germans and Inter Milan, who won 3-1 at Slavia Prague.

"He (Messi) was incredible," said Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde. "It's all about what he does and when he does it. It was a performance to put us through."

Messi got the ball rolling with a neat pass which allowed Suárez to open the scoring in the 29th minute, before the Uruguayan returned the favour four minutes later to lay on Messi for his 613th Barca goal on his

700th appearance.

Messi, who has scored 10 times in his last nine games, was also at the heart of the goal which extinguished Dortmund's hopes of a result in the 67th minute, slipping a wonderful through ball for Griezmann that the Frenchman could happily stroke first time past Roman Burki.

Dortmund slip down to third after losing to Antonio Conte's Inter side, who roared to a fine win which keeps alive their hopes of a place in the next round.

Romelu Lukaku's first Champions League goal for Inter and a Lautaro Martínez double saw off a spirited Slavia side that had levelled in the 37th minute through a VAR-awarded Tomáš Souček penalty after Lukaku thought he had doubled his side's lead.

Lukaku had another strike ruled out for offside by VAR in the dying moments, but it made no difference to the result and now a win over Barca at the San Siro next month will guarantee them a place in the last 16.

Leipzig made the knockout stages in dramatic style after Emil Forsberg fired them back from two goals down in the final minute to draw 2-2 with Benfica.

The Germans needed a point to qualify but looked down and out as the match dragged towards added time, but Forsberg pulled a goal back from

the penalty spot in the 90th minute before hitting the leveler six minutes later, sparking wild celebrations.

The draw gave Lyon a big let-off after they failed to snatch a knockout spot when they fell to 2-0 defeat at Zenit Saint Petersburg.

Rudi García's team looked in peril of not qualifying at all from Group G after the loss but Leipzig's last-gasp efforts mean they will go through with a win over the Bundesliga side on December 10.

Liverpool and Napoli were made to wait for their spots with a tense 1-1 draw at Anfield.

Dries Mertens opened the scoring with a sweetly struck opener midway through the first half, before Dejan Lovren's header salvaged a point to keep the Reds top of Group E.

However the European champions still need to get at least a point away to Salzburg next month to secure their passage into the last 16, while Napoli need a draw with bottom side Genk to claim their spot.

Ajax also need a point to go through thanks to a 2-0 win at Lille that featured the fastest goal of this year's competition to open a two-point lead at the top of Group H.

Hakim Ziyech netted after 94 seconds at eliminated Lille with Quincy Promes hitting his fourth of the tournament on the hour mark.

Booters start against Bhutan

SPORTS REPORTER

The India football team have finally officially pulled out of the South Asian Games, making it a five-nation event which will take place in a round-robin format from December 1 to 10 at the Dasarath Stadium in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The football event was deferred by one day and will now begin on December 2 with the Bangladesh Olympic squad set to take on Bhutan in the opening match rather than gold medallists Nepal, who were earlier scheduled to be Bangladesh's opponents.

The boys in red and green will take on Maldives in their second match the very next day before going on to face Sri Lanka on December 5.

The fourth and final group match, against hosts Nepal, will be held on November 8.

The top two teams of each of the five-team group will face off in the final on December 10.

December 2 Bangladesh vs Bhutan
December 3 Bangladesh vs Maldives
December 5 Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka
December 8 Bangladesh vs Nepal



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday felicitated the Bangladesh teams for their performance in the recent Bangamata U-19 Women's International Gold Cup and the UEFA Assist U-16 Development Tournament at Gonobhaban. Bangladesh Football Federation president Kazi Salahuddin (L) and State Minister for Youth and Sports Zahid Ahsan Rasel (R) were, among others, present during the programme.

Tangail Premier cricket league from today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The Tangail Premier Division Cricket League 2019-2020 is all set to begin its maiden voyage in Tangail district today with a total of 12 teams taking part.

Tangail deputy commissioner Md. Shahidul Islam will inaugurate the tournament at the Tangail Stadium in the morning.

The semifinals will be held on January 5 and 6 while the final is slated for January 10.

Kane wants strong bond with Mourinho

REUTERS, London

Tottenham Hotspur striker Harry Kane hopes the club's winning start under new manager José Mourinho can help forge a strong relationship between the pair and lead to trophies.

"When you are winning, it definitely helps your relationship. Hopefully we can build a strong relationship," Kane told the British media.



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India thump Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh national volleyball team suffered a straight 3-0 sets defeat to title holders India in their second and final group match of the 13th South Asian Games at the Rangashala Stadium in Kathmandu, Nepal yesterday.

The boys in red and green, who fought bravely against hosts Nepal and notched a

thrilling 3-2 win in the first match, could barely put up a resistance against India, who remain in a higher category than Bangladesh in the Central Asian zone. Bangladesh lost the first set 25-18 before going on to suffer 25-14 and 25-15 in the following two sets. Bangladesh still have a good chance to move into the semifinals as group-runners up if India overcome hosts Nepal in the last group match today.

Harry Kane hopes the club's winning start under new manager José Mourinho can help forge a strong relationship between the pair and lead to trophies. "When you are winning, it definitely helps your relationship. Hopefully we can build a strong relationship," Kane told the British media.