

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

English Premier League
 Everton v Chelsea
 Live from 6:30pm
 Bournemouth v Liverpool
 Live from 9:00pm
 Man United v Man City

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2

Bundesliga
 Leverkusen v Schalke
 Live from 11:30pm
TEN 2
Serie A

Atalanta v Verona
 Live from 8:00pm
 Udinese v Napoli
 Live from 11:00pm
 Lazio v Juventus
 Live from 1:45am (Sunday)

UNITED PARTNER WITH ALIBABA

Manchester United yesterday announced a partnership with China's technology giant Alibaba Group, boosting the club's engagement with its Chinese fanbase. The partnership will see Manchester United content, including selected first-team matches, highlights and localised original productions, available to around 700 million consumers across Alibaba's platforms. There will also be a dedicated Manchester United channel on Alibaba's video-streaming platform, Youku. It will feature Academy, women's and first-team tour games, plus first-team matches shown on-demand and global and China-specific content. The partnership will also involve collaborating to create a future Manchester United flagship store on Tmall, Alibaba's online retail platform, which will become the official online marketplace store selling Manchester United merchandise to Chinese fans.

-- AFP



Kohli bests Windies

AFP, Hyderabad

Skipper Virat Kohli struck a blistering 94 to power India to a six-wicket win after chasing down 208 against the West Indies in the opening Twenty20 international on Friday. Kohli put on a key 100-run second-wicket stand with KL Rahul, who made 62, as the hosts reached their target with eight balls to spare and lead the three-match series 1-0.

The star batsman smashed six fours and six sixes to record his career-best T20I score in 50 balls as he surpassed his previous high of 90 with a winning hit over the rope.

Kohli arrived with the score on 30 for one to complete his 23rd fifty and soon launched an attack to pulverise the West Indies bowlers as India pulled off their highest ever T20 chase.

Left-handed batsman Shimron Hetmyer made 56 and put on 71 with skipper Kieron Pollard to lead West Indies to 207 for five after being put in to bat on a good batting wicket.

West Indies looked poised to get over 220 but leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal struck

twice in three deliveries to get Hetmyer and send Pollard, who hit 37, trudging back to the pavilion.

Jason Holder then struck an unbeaten 24 off nine balls as West Indies managed 29 off the last two overs.

The match also witnessed the start of a latest trial of technology using a TV umpire instead of the on-field official to call front foot no-balls.

India's Anil Chaudhary called the first no-ball with paceman Kesrick Williams overstepping the line in the 13th over of the Indian innings.

The system was trialled once in 2016, in the series between England and Pakistan, but the ICC wants to come out with a clear implementation of the plan this time around.

The second match of the series is in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday.

SCORES IN BRIEF

WEST INDIES: 207 for 5 in 20 overs (Lewis 40, King 31, Hetmyer 56, Pollard 37, Holder 24 not out; Chahal 2-36)

INDIA: 209 for 4 in 18.4 overs (Kohli 94 not out, Rahul 62, Pant 18; Pierre 2-44)

Result: India won by 6 wickets

Player-of-the-match: Virat Kohli

India skipper Virat Kohli hammered a career-best 94 off 50 balls to guide the hosts past a stiff 208-run target in the first T20I against West Indies in Hyderabad yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



Brighton's Neal Maupay (L) celebrates after scoring the winner in a 2-1 victory over Arsenal in an English Premier League match on Thursday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Arsenal fall to Brighton

AFP, London

Caretaker manager Freddie Ljungberg said Arsenal "did not show up" for the first 45 minutes as the Gunners' winless streak reached nine games in a 2-1 home defeat to Brighton on Thursday.

Neal Maupay headed in a deserved winner for the Seagulls 10 minutes from time after Alexandre Lacazette had cancelled out Adam Webster's opener for Brighton.

Defeat leaves Arsenal in 10th place and 10 points adrift of fourth-placed Chelsea in the hunt for Champions League qualification next season.

On this evidence there is little chance of Ljungberg landing the job on a permanent basis as another sparse crowd at the Emirates greeted the final whistle with a chorus of boos.

After a 2-2 draw at Norwich on Sunday

in the first match since Unai Emery was sacked, there was again no sign of a new manager bounce for Ljungberg's home bow as Brighton dominated the first 45 minutes and could have gone in at the break more than one goal to the good.

"We did not show up in the first half, we very passive, we didn't move. We had chat at half-time, made a tactical change and all of a sudden we looked like the team we wanted to for 20 minutes," said Ljungberg.

Aaron Connolly missed a glorious chance and Bernd Leno denied Maupay and Davy Propper before Brighton deservedly took the lead when Arsenal failed to clear a corner and Webster fired home the loose ball from close range.

Ljungberg's half-time tinkering did the trick as the hosts came out a different side in the second half.

Lacazette's looping header brought Arsenal level just five minutes into the second period.

Pele jersey sells for \$33,000

AFP, Milan

The jersey worn by Brazilian football legend Pele during his final match for the five-time world champions has sold for 30,000 euros (\$33,000) in an auction in Italy.

The three-time World Cup winner wore the jersey in a friendly against Yugoslavia at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro in July 1971, the last time he played for Brazil.

Pele, 79, regarded as among the greatest footballers of all-time, scored 77 goals for Brazil in 92 appearances.

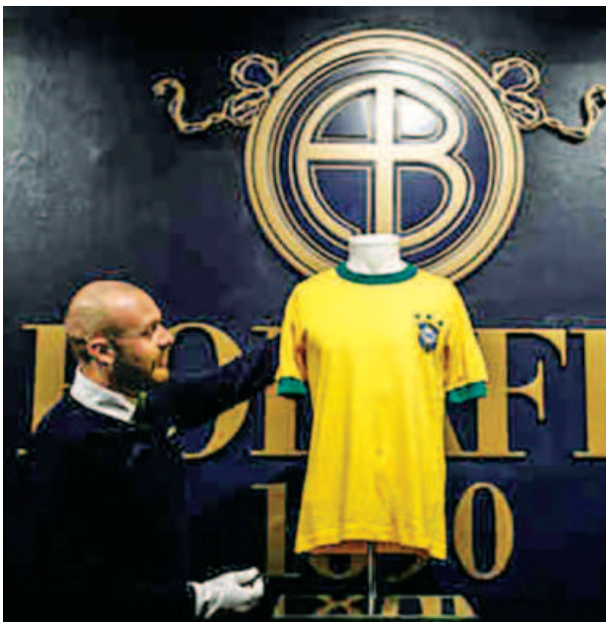
The shirt was the highlight of objects which went under the hammer at the Bolaffi auction house in Turin on Thursday.

Other sporting memorabilia included the yellow jersey won by Italian cycling star Fausto Coppi on his way to victory in the 1952 Tour de France, which sold for 25,000 euros.

A rare blue Juventus jersey worn by Italian defender Luciano Spinosi in the final of the 1971 UEFA Cup sold for 9,400 euros.

Another shirt worn by Argentina legend Diego Maradona during his time playing for Napoli in the 1989-90 season sold for 7,500 euros.

A bat used by US basketball great Michael Jordan during his brief foray into baseball fetched 425 euros.



The jersey Pele wore during his final match for Brazil, against Yugoslavia in July 1971, was sold for 30,000 euros in an auction yesterday.

PHOTO: AGENCIES

Bale doubtful for Clasico

AFP, Madrid

Zinedine Zidane confirmed yesterday that Gareth Bale has not trained ahead of Real Madrid's match against Espanyol as injury threatens to rule him out of this month's Clasico.

Bale is struggling with a minor problem in his thigh although the club remain optimistic he will recover in time for the crunch game against Barcelona at Camp Nou on December 18.

"He did it in the match against Alaves," said Zidane at a press conference before Saturday's La Liga match.

"We've had a few days off but he has felt some discomfort. He hasn't trained with us either today or this week."

CAS reduce Chelsea's ban

AFP, Lausanne



Chelsea manager Frank Lampard admitted the club will be on the lookout for new faces in the January window after a FIFA-imposed transfer ban was reduced on appeal by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) yesterday.

The ban, imposed following violations in the recruitment of minors, was reduced from two transfer windows to one, which Chelsea already served in the summer.

A fine was also reduced from 600,000 Swiss francs (\$607,000; £462,000) to half that amount by the Lausanne-based court.

Lampard insisted he had not yet had any conversations with Chelsea's board about transfer plans, but will start them now in earnest.

"It's a positive outcome for us. It allows us the potential to look at the market going forward," Lampard said at a press conference ahead of Saturday's Premier League trip to Everton. "So I'm pleased from a footballing level. It was never my business to get involved in the reasons why or the legal side of it."

A CAS statement explaining their decision said that Chelsea were guilty of violating rules related to the international transfer and registration of minors, "but for a significantly smaller number of players", concluding that they were only guilty of one third of the violations found by FIFA.

'Smiles are back on our faces'

AFP, Manchester



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer says smiles are back on the faces of his Manchester United players after their victory against Tottenham as he prepares to take on defending champions Manchester City.

United ruined Jose Mourinho's Old Trafford return on Wednesday, winning 2-1 to end their former manager's perfect start to his reign at Spurs.

They are sixth in the table, still eight points adrift of fourth-placed Chelsea, but Solskjaer said the win was a shot in the arm for his team after two disappointing draws.

"Confidence is a strange thing in

football," he said at his pre-match press conference on Friday. "You can get performances and results like Wednesday night and it boosts it so much."

"And I know our boys will be up for it, energy-wise they should be fine, 24 hours less recovery time shouldn't matter (City played on Tuesday), go on adrenaline. I expect them to have had a good night's sleep and the smiles are back on faces."

"I said it before (Spurs) that this is a chance for everyone. It was doom and gloom, but it's a chance to turn that doubt into belief and, for us, if we can manage to get another performance the confidence, the way we played against Tottenham, if we can do that at the Etihad we can come out of it with a result."

Debutants Police eye title

Biman return to Premier Division Chess League after 7 years

SPORTS REPORTER



Having set their sights on the prestigious title, Bangladesh Police Chess Club is all set to make its debut in the Premier Division Chess League (PCL) beginning today at the National Sports Council (NSC) Tower Auditorium Lounge in Paltan.

Apart from debutants Police in top-flight chess, Bangladesh Biman, 15-time chess league champions, are also all set to return to the Premier Division Chess League after seven years since pulling out of the league in 2013, citing a shortage of funds.

Bangladesh Police, who competed in Second Division Chess League this year, entered the PCL after Bangladesh Chess Federation president and RAB Director General Benazir Ahmed said Bangladesh Police should play in top-flight chess at a programme of the Second Division Chess League a few months ago. Bangladesh Police bought out Premier League side E-Soft Arena Chess Club and renamed it to ensure their participation in the top-

flight.

The subcontinent's first Grand Master (GM) Niaz Murshed has been given the responsibility to form the squad, which Niaz believed was worthy of challenging defending champions Saif Sporting Club, who have four local GMs as well as two foreign GMs.

"We flew in two Georgian Grand Masters [Jobava Baadur and Mchedlishvili Mikheil] while IM [International Master] Fahad Rahman, FM [FIDE Master] Abdul Malek and WIM [Women's International Master] Rani Hamid and me are in the squad," Niaz told The Daily Star yesterday.

"Saif SC are a bit ahead of us with six Grand Masters but we also have a chance to clinch the title. I think we can overcome the Saif SC's hurdles, although we do not have the options to choose between GMs that Saif SC have," said Niaz, who helped guide Mohammedan SC to the championship thrice (2011 to 2013) and Sheikh Russel Memorial SC (2015), Saif SC (2016) and Bengal Chess Club (2017) once each in the

last eight years.

Mohammedan SC, Sheikh Russel MSC and Bengal Chess Club did not take part in the league once Niaz left the clubs but he said that those clubs did not continue because of their own problems and not because of his absence.

"Following their financial problems or restrictions on the clubs, they could not continue at in the top league. I was not the reason for their departures," Niaz said. "I think Bangladesh Police is a good institution and they will continue in premier league chess in the future."

Niaz however urged authorities concerned to allow each team only two GMs in a bid to make the league more competitive.

Bangladesh Chess Federation general secretary Syed Shahabuddin Shamim informed that the Bangladesh Biman chess team ensured their participation after replacing Gold Chess Sporting Club and that they have formed a mediocre side, featuring one Indian International Master and five local players.

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