

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.



Hetmyer lifts WI to 207

PTI, Hyderabad

Shimron Hetmyer struck a quick half-century as West Indies produced a fine batting display to post a challenging 207 for 5 against India in the first T20 International of the three-match series yesterday.

An aggressive Hetmyer made 56 off 41 balls which was studded with two boundaries and four hits over the fence to hold West Indies from one end after being sent into bat.

He first added 37 runs with Brandon King (31 off 23 balls) and then shared 71 runs with skipper Kieron Pollard (37 off 19 balls) to lay the base for the West Indies total.

Off-spinner Washington Sundar (1/34) leaked runs in the first over before Deepak Chahar (1/56) gave India the breakthrough in the next over, taking the wicket of Lendl Simmons.

Evin Lewis (40 off 17) and young King then added 51 runs for the second wicket to take West Indies forward.

He pulled Chahar for two sixes in the fourth over to make his intentions clear.

Lewis continued the onslaught and

struck comeback man Bhuvneshwar Kumar for a six and a four in consecutive balls. He then smoked off-spinner Sundar over the cover boundary but perished in the next ball, LBW in search of one shot too many.

Young King and Hetmyer then added 37 runs for the third wicket before the former was stumped by Rishabh Pant off Ravindra Jadeja's (1/30) bowling.

Hetmyer, on the other hand, went about his business in a quiet fashion, hitting the bad deliveries out of the park to register his fifth half-century in T20 cricket in 35 balls.

But a double breakthrough by leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal (2/36) in the 18th over put a check on West Indies' scoring rate.

Hetmyer was the first to depart in the first delivery of the 18th over when he gave a simple catch to Rohit at deep backward square and then a ball later, Pollard was cleaned up by Chahal.

Jason Holder (24 not out off 9 balls) and Dinesh Ramdin (11 not out off 7) remained unbeaten as West Indies scored 63 runs off the last five overs.

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)

West Indies batsman Shimron Hetmyer (R) struck a 41-ball 56, laced with two fours and four sixes, to help his side post 207 for five in the first T20I against India at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium 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."

PREMIER DIVISION CHESS LEAGUE Debutants Police eye title

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 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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