

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

English Premier League

West Ham v Arsenal

Live from 2:00am (Tuesday)

DERBY RACIST ARRESTED

British police yesterday arrested a 41-year-old man after a video posted on social media showed a supporter apparently making racist gestures during Saturday's Manchester derby. "Police were called to a report of a supporter making alleged racist gestures and sounds towards players during the Manchester City and Manchester United derby," said Greater Manchester Police in a statement. "A 41-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of a racially aggravated public order and remains in custody for questioning." City pledged to take a zero tolerance approach against supporters found to have subjected United players to racist abuse after the Premier League champions lost 2-1 to their local rivals at the Etihad Stadium. United midfielder Fred was hit by objects thrown from the crowd as he prepared to take a corner in the second half and footage on social media appears to show a City fan mimicking a monkey at the Brazilian.

→ AFP



With performances from Bollywood stars such as Sonu Nigam (L) and Kailash Kher, combined with a local icon like James (R), the opening ceremony of the Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday hit almost all the right notes, barring the event's delayed start.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

PCB proposes D/N Test

SPORTS REPORTER

While the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is still awaiting the green signal from the government to tour Pakistan for a three-match T20I and two-match Test series scheduled for January, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) proposed at least one day-night Test match in Karachi, ESPNcricinfo reported.

The BCB is yet to confirm the tour but have received a draft itinerary including two Tests and three T20Is slated for January-February from the PCB.

"We may ask Pakistan to split the Test and T20I series. The issue of day-night Tests will be decided later because it depends on the government's security report and whether we will tour Pakistan or not. If we don't get the green signal for some reason then we have to discuss playing at a neutral venue. If we get the green signal then it's different," said BCB cricket operations committee chairman Akram Khan.

According to sources close to the BCB, the board is willing to play longer-version cricket away from Pakistan considering the length of the series, reasoning that it would be mentally exhausting for cricketers to play under strict security for such a long period of time.

Akram added that they were not under any pressure to visit Pakistan and said that it had nothing to do with Sri Lanka's recent

We may ask Pakistan to split the Test and T20I series. The issue of day-night Tests will be decided later because it depends on the government's security report and whether we will tour Pakistan or not.

AKRAM KHAN
BCB DIRECTOR

tour -- one that saw Test cricket return to Pakistan after 10 years.

Meanwhile, the PCB proposed at least one day-night Test on the tour.

"The idea behind encouraging day-night cricket and offering Bangladesh is to counter the problem of dwindling crowds. We intend to add at least one day-night Test in our home itinerary. The benefit, other than better crowds, is that we have an opportunity to extend our cricketing season. Like in Pakistan if the season ends in the mid-April or earlier, we can extend it by having day-night games to fill in an empty window," PCB chairman Ehsan Mani told Cricinfo.

Bangladesh played their first day-night Test in India last month, which was also the first day-night match in the subcontinent. Pakistan have already played four Tests under lights, and are on the verge of hosting their first pink-ball Test at home against Sri Lanka later this week.

Juve suffer first defeat of season

AFP, Turin



Italian champions Juventus suffered their first defeat of the season Saturday with a 3-1 loss against Lazio in Rome blowing open the Serie A title race.

Maurizio Sarri's eight-time reigning league champions remain second in the table, two points behind leaders Inter Milan after 15 matches.

Third-placed Lazio clawed to within just three points of Juventus after their first win at home against the Turin giants since December 2003.

Cristiano Ronaldo put Juventus ahead at the Stadio Olimpico when he picked up a Rodrigo Bentancur cross to tap in after 25 minutes.

But Luiz Felipe hit back for the Romans in front of 60,000 fans, nodding in just before the break.

Juan Cuadrado's sending off for a foul on Manuel Lazzari after 69 minutes proved to be the turning point.

Lazio took control as Sergej Milinkovic-Savic connected with a Luis Alberto assist to fire in a stunning goal.

Goalkeeper Thomas Strakosha denied Ronaldo's header on the line while Juventus counterpart Wojciech Szczesny atoned for bringing down Joaquin Correa by saving Serie A top scorer Ciro Immobile's resulting penalty.

Felipe Caicedo snatched the third goal five minutes into injury time as Lazio earned their seventh straight win, fuelling ambitions of challenging for a first Serie A title since 2000.

"Lazio for the Scudetto? Maybe, it depends on how much they will be able to continue this extraordinary moment," said Sarri, "let's say it will be a three-way fight."

"The red card changed everything for us," he added.

Juventus had been the only team left in Europe's top leagues to remain unbeaten in all competitions this season.

"My lads did something extraordinary tonight," Inzaghi said. "We are in an excellent period and we must be ambitious. I have always had faith in this team. Six weeks ago people said we weren't getting results, but I remained calm."

Melody floods the home of cricket

SPORTS REPORTER



The opening ceremony of the Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League (BBPL), organised to mark the 100th birth centenary of Father of the Nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, gathered steam after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina officially announced the opening of the special edition of the T20 tournament at around 7:00pm at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

Bangladesh Cricket Board President Nazmul Hassan had promised that it would be one of the best opening ceremonies in the history of the BPL. However, there was some mismanagement and the programme had to be delayed by more than an hour. Scheduled to begin at 5:25pm, the ceremony finally started at 6:30pm.

After the prime minister inaugurated the event, there was a 10-minute fireworks display to pump up the audience before performers from Bangladesh and India kept spectators on their feet.

The likes of James, Reshmi Mirza and 'dRockstar' Shuvo from Bangladesh entertained the crowd, but another local singer who was scheduled to perform, Momtaz, did not appear.

It was then popular Indian singer Sonu Nigam who surprised everyone by singing the famous Bengali songs 'Dhono Dhanne Pushpe Bhora' and 'Shuno Ekti Mujibur'.

By then, the main attractions of the opening ceremony -- Bollywood superstars Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif -- arrived at the venue and met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and BCB President Nazmul Hassan.

Another Indian singer, Kailash Kher, performed all his famous before Katrina lit up the stage with her dance moves.

The anticipation reached its crescendo and Salman stepped onto the huge stage and the fans at home of cricket in Mirpur stood on their feet and enjoyed the Bollywood star performing in front of their eyes.

Much like the opening ceremony, fans will also hope to witness exciting cricket on the field in the special edition of the BBPL, which is scheduled to begin from December 11.



Juventus forward Cristiano Ronaldo may have scored but that could not prevent his side from conceding their first defeat of the Serie A season to Lazio at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome on Saturday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Messi breaks record and Mallorca hearts

AFP, Madrid



Lionel Messi broke yet another record by hitting his 35th La Liga hat-trick on Saturday as Barcelona thrashed Real Mallorca 5-2 to keep pace with Real Madrid at the top of the table.

A trio of vintage Messi finishes contributed to five stunning Barca goals, the best of them arguably belonging to Luis Suarez, whose brilliant backheel capped a free-flowing move, involving seven different players.

But at the end of a week in which Messi claimed a record sixth Ballon d'Or, it was the Argentinian etching his name into the history books again after pulling clear of Cristiano Ronaldo's 34 La Liga trebles to stand alone.

The efforts of Messi and Suarez overshadowed Antoine Griezmann's opener but that was impressive too, the Frenchman applying a sumptuous chip after being assisted by his own goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

An exhibition of creativity at Camp Nou allowed for the occasional lapse in defence and Mallorca's Ante Budimir twice reduced the deficit to 2-1 and 4-2, even if a comeback never looked likely.

Instead, Messi underlined his status as the world's finest footballer with another sublime performance, instant evidence for why he was presented with his latest Ballon d'Or trophy on the pitch before kick-off.

Messi now has 12 goals this season, the highest in the division and one ahead of Real Madrid's Karim



Barcelona's main man Lionel Messi scored his 35th La Liga hat-trick in a 5-2 thrashing of Real Mallorca at Camp Nou in Barcelona on Saturday, putting him clear of Cristiano Ronaldo's 34 La Liga trebles.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Benzema, who had scored one and set up another in an equally comfortable 2-0 victory over Espanyol a few hours earlier.

It means Madrid and Barcelona are back level on points at the top of the table, with Barca ahead on goal difference. Sevilla, in third, are four points further back.

Benzema's own irresistible form in parallel with Messi adds an intriguing sub-plot to the upcoming Clasico on December 18, which looks

increasingly likely to decide who will sit first over the Christmas break.

After rocky starts, La Liga's most successful two clubs appear to be hitting their stride ahead of a crunch meeting in 11 days' time.

Messi in this mood will be hard to stop. For his first goal, he cut in from the right and bent the ball into the top left-hand corner and his second was almost a carbon copy, Suarez setting it back for his partner to hit the same spot.

Pandev turns villain as Genoa draw

REUTERS, Milan

Genoa's veteran striker Goran Pandev scored a remarkable goal from near the halfway line but turned villain in the second half when he was booked twice in four minutes and sent off in a dramatic 2-2 draw at Lecce yesterday.

Genoa, who led 2-0 at halftime, finished with nine men in the Serie A relegation battle while Lecce drew 2-2 for the third successive home game.

Pandev struck in the 31st minute when Lecce goalkeeper Gabriel sent a clearance straight to him and the North Macedonian controlled the ball on his chest and immediately sent a long, looping shot into the net from around 40 metres.

The 36-year-old also won the penalty which Domenico Criscito converted in first-half stoppage time to make it 2-0.

Filippo Falco pulled one back with a curling shot on the hour, then Genoa had Agudelo sent off and Andrea Tabanelli equalised in the 70th minute. Pandev was booked for diving in the 73rd minute and then received his marching orders for a clumsy tackle shortly afterwards.

Dube lifts India to 170 against Windies

AFP, Thiruvananthapuram



Batsman Shivam Dube struck his maiden Twenty20 international half-century as India reached 170 for seven in the second match against West Indies yesterday.

The hosts, who lead the three-match series 1-0, depended on Dube's 54 off 30 balls and an unbeaten 33 from Rishabh Pant to put up a fighting total after being put into bat first in Thiruvananthapuram.

India lost their openers with the score on 56 but the left-handed Dube counter attacked with three fours and four sixes to take the attack to the opposition.

Indian batsmen including skipper Virat Kohli got starts only to lose their wicket to some disciplined bowling.

Pant, a wicketkeeper-batsman who is often criticised for throwing away his wicket, held firm in his 22-ball stay laced with three fours and a six.

Williams and leg-spinner Hayden Walsh claimed two wickets.



Indian batsman Shivam Dube scored his first T20I half-century to lift his side to 170 for seven in the second match against West Indies yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

'Put my booster on'

AFP, London

Son Heung-min admitted he considered passing before the Tottenham winger "put his booster on" to score his astonishing goal of the season contender against Burnley.

Son's stroke of genius was hailed as one of the best goals in Tottenham's glittering history as he virtually ran the entire length of the pitch before firing home in Saturday's Premier League clash in north London.

Tottenham manager Jose Mourinho dubbed the South Korea star "Son-aldo" in reference to a brilliant strike scored by Brazilian legend Ronaldo for Barcelona against Compostela in 1996.

But Son said he was actually looking to pass to Dele Alli before instead setting off on the counter-attacking gem that earned comparisons with Lionel Messi and George Weah.

"I saw Dele (Alli) running on the left side," Son said. "I tried to pass first to Dele. Then I was just thinking 'should I go?', and I put my booster on. I took the right timing to the booster on. Then in two or three seconds I was in front of the goal and I was really surprised. This kind of goal, especially at home, it makes me so proud and happy. It's amazing."