

What to WATCH

SONY ESPN
Pakistan v Sri Lanka
First Test, Day Five
Live from 10:30am
SONY SIX
Australia v New Zealand
First Test, Day Four

Live from 11:00am
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
India v West Indies
First ODI
Live from 2:00pm
English Premier League
Man United v Everton

Live from 8:00pm
Arsenal v Man City
Live from 10:30pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
English Premier League
Wolverhampton v Tottenham
Live from 8:00pm

Bundesliga
Schalke v Eintracht
Live from 11:00pm
TEN 1
Serie A
AC Milan v Sassuolo
Live from 8:00pm

TEN 2
Serie A
Hellas Verona v Torino
Live from 5:30pm
Juventus v Udinese
Live from 8:00pm
Roma v SPAL

Live from 11:00pm
Fiorentina v Inter Milan
Live from 1:45am (Monday)



Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah celebrates his 38th minute goal against Watford in an English Premier League encounter at Anfield yesterday. Salah scored again in the 90th minute to ensure that his side go 11 points clear at the top of the table.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Liverpool move 11 points clear

AFP, Liverpool



Liverpool moved 11 points clear at the top of the Premier League thanks to Mohamed Salah's double, but had some wasteful finishing from bottom-of-the-table Watford to thank for a 2-0 victory at Anfield yesterday.

The Hornets remain six points adrift of safety, but will wonder how they headed home empty handed after enjoying the vast majority of the chances against the European champions.

Salah produced the two moments of real quality from Jurgen Klopp's men by finishing off from a rapid counter-attack from a Watford corner to open the scoring before flicking home a second a minute from time.

Nigel Pearson was taking charge of Watford for the first time and the impetus of a new manager showed with the 40-point difference between the sides at opposite ends of the table not in evidence in their performances.

However, the big difference was obvious in both boxes as the league's lowest scorers passed up a host of huge opportunities, whilst Salah was deadly.

Only Watford's profligacy allowed Liverpool to keep a first clean sheet at Anfield all season as Troy Deeney just failed to reach a teasing cross across the face of goal before Will Hughes dragged a shot just wide.

Abdoulaye Doucoure then completely miscued with the goal at his mercy from Etienne Capoue's clever cut-back with what incredibly was only the second most embarrassing mishit of the half from Watford.

After so many missed chances, the visitors were made to pay by the ruthless runaway leaders as 15 seconds after a Watford corner, the ball was in their net.

All three of Liverpool's attacking trident were involved as Roberto Firmino's pass over his head freed Sadio Mane down the left and he fed Salah to cut inside on his weaker right foot to bend the ball brilliantly into the far corner.

Watford should still have been level before the break when Ismaila Sarr somehow also failed to connect with Alisson Becker grounded after parrying Gerard Deulofeu's cross.

Salah made sure of the points late on with an imaginative finish to turn home Divock Origi's mishit shot.

BFF to amend its statutes

SPORTS REPORTER



Despite it being in conflict with FIFA and AFC statutes, the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is mulling whether to bring back voting rights for its executive member by amending its constitution ahead of the upcoming BFF polls, which are supposed to be held in April next year.

An emergency meeting of the executive committee yesterday approved the proposal to hold an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) to place the proposal before the councilors, who will ultimately have to endorse the changes in the BFF constitution before they can take effect.

"We decided in principle at today's

meeting to hold an EGM after some executive members demanded their voting rights be returned if they, being BFF councilors, contest in the BFF polls. We need to get approval from general councilors through the EGM, which will be held within two weeks after the official notice," said BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag.

Asked whether the proposal conflicted with the BFF constitution and with FIFA and AFC statutes, Shohag said: "The current status of the BFF doesn't allow its executive members to cast votes. That's why we are going to amend it through EGM, but there are no FIFA/AFC established law about it."

Approximately two weeks before the 2008 BFF polls, executive members lost their voting rights upon instructions from the AFC. Since then,

two more polls followed the rules. The BFF constitution does not permit any members of the current executive committee to become delegates, so they have no voting right.

Shohag informed that they would send the amendments to FIFA and AFC to get final approval, subject to the EGM accepting the proposal.

It has been learnt that there were discussions about making more changes to the constitution by giving councilorship to more clubs of the 2nd and 3rd Division football leagues as well as the Pioneer League.

The meeting discussed two other matters: reinstating the rule of allowing one councilor to contest in the polls and that any BFF president aspirant must be in the executive committee once before contesting the post.



Manchester City players Benjamin Mendy (L) and Bernardo Silva are seen during training on the eve of their English Premier League match against Arsenal today.

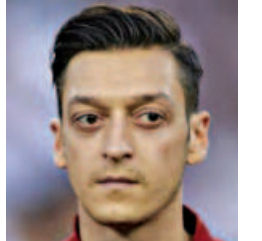
PHOTO: MANCHESTER CITY

Ozil's content 'his personal opinion'

REUTERS, London

English soccer club Arsenal tried yesterday to distance itself from the comments of its star midfielder Mesut Ozil after he posted messages on Twitter and Instagram critical of China's policies toward its Muslim Uighur minority.

"The content he expressed is entirely Ozil's personal opinion," the official account of Arsenal Football Club said in a post on China's Twitter-like Weibo platform. "As a football club, Arsenal always adheres



to the principle of not being involved in politics."

Ozil's posts called Uighurs "warriors who resist persecution" and criticised both China's crackdown and the silence of Muslims in response.

"[In China] Qurans are burned, mosques were closed down, Islamic theological schools, madrasas were banned, religious scholars were killed one by one. Despite all this, Muslims stay quiet," Ozil, who is a Muslim, said in his posts.

The club's Twitter account did not have a post addressing Ozil's comments as of Saturday afternoon.

NZ legend Peter Snell no more

AFP, Wellington

New Zealand running great Peter Snell, a triple Olympic gold medallist, has died at the age of 80, sports historian Ron Palenski said yesterday.

Palenski, a close friend, said Snell's wife Miki had phoned him from their home in Dallas to tell him of the death.

The couple were preparing to go shopping when "Peter nodded off, as is not unusual for him. But he didn't wake up," Palenski said.

Snell, a protege of famed coach Arthur Lydiard, was the most dominant middle-distance runner of his era.



PETER SNELL

He won gold in the only three Olympic events he contested -- the 800 metres at Rome in 1960 and the 800m and 1500m in Tokyo four years later -- set world records for the mile and 800m and also won dual gold at the 1962 Commonwealth Games in Perth.

He was the first male athlete to win the 800m-1500m double at an Olympics since 1920, a feat that has not been achieved by any male since.

Shell was voted New Zealand's "Sports Champion of the Century" and was one of 24 inaugural members of the International Association of Athletics Federations Hall Of Fame.

No rest for Casemiro

REUTERS, Madrid

Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane says next week's match with La Liga title rivals Barcelona will not influence his team selection against Valencia today, even though midfielder Casemiro is one booking away from a suspension.

If Casemiro were to earn a yellow card against Valencia he would be a huge loss to Zidane's side when they visit the Camp Nou on Wednesday.

"Casemiro is like any other player and we know how important he is to us, but I have to pick my team thinking only about tomorrow's game," the coach told a news conference on Saturday.

Out-of-form City face Arsenal

AFP, London



Manchester City's Premier League title defence appears over before Christmas, with Pep Guardiola's men travelling to Arsenal today already 14 points adrift of runaway leaders Liverpool.

City have made the extraordinary routine, winning five of the past six major domestic trophies in England but have dropped as many points in 16 league games this season as in the whole of last season.

So what has gone wrong for a hugely talented and expensive squad under the tutelage of one of football's greatest coaches? Even a squad as rich in resources as City's is not immune to injuries.

Leroy Sane and Aymeric Laporte suffered long-term knee injuries in

the first few weeks of the season, with Laporte's absence leaving a gaping hole at the heart of City's defence.

Guardiola's men re-wrote the history books by registering a century of points for the first time in the English top flight in 2017/18 and backed that up with 98 last season.

Liverpool's tally of 97 was the third highest ever and yet still not enough to end the wait for a first league title on Merseyside since 1989/90.

In most other seasons, City's return of 32 points from their opening 16 games would at least be enough to keep them in the running.

However, they have raised the bar and Liverpool have risen to the challenge. A relentless run of 15 wins and one draw from the European champions has seen them disappear over the horizon and surely out of reach.

মহান বিজয় দিবস

CROWN CEMENT



বিনস শঙ্কা জানাই সেই সকল মহান কীর্তিমানদের
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