

## 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 go 10 clear

### Leicester held; Bouremouth stun Chelsea

AFP, London

Liverpool tightened their grip on the Premier League title race thanks to two Mohamed Salah goals in a 2-0 win over Watford to extend their lead at the top to 10 points as second-placed Leicester were held 1-1 at home by Norwich.

Chelsea were also shocked 1-0 at home to Bournemouth to see their lead over the chasing pack in fourth further cut, while Sheffield United moved into fifth with a 2-0 win over Aston Villa.

At Anfield, Liverpool kept their first clean sheet at home this season but only thanks to Watford's wastefulness in front of goal as the Hornets showed why they are the lowest scoring side in the league.

Abdoulaye Doucoure and Ismaila Sarr both failed to make a proper connection with the goal gaping in the first half and the 40-point difference between the sides in the table was shown only in the difference of quality in the finishing.

Salah struck twice as he rounded off a rapid Liverpool counter-attack from a Watford corner eight minutes before half-time. The Egyptian then settled nerves a minute from time when he cheekily flicked home Divock Origi's mishit shot.

"In December and January especially, you need to show resilience - that's the most important thing and we showed that," said coach Jurgen Klopp. "We had to fight, that's what we did and that's why we won."

Leicester will be Liverpool's next opponents after the European champions' quest to win the Club World Cup this week.

The Foxes had the chance to cut the gap at the top to just five points ahead of that meeting had they beaten Norwich and Manchester City next weekend.

However, a club record run of eight straight Premier League wins for Brendan Rodgers's men came unstuck. Teemu Pukki broke clear and finished calmly for his ninth goal of the season to put the visitors in front. Leicester levelled before the break when Jamie Vardy's header was turned into his own net by Norwich goalkeeper Tim Krul. But the home side could not make their dominance count.

Chelsea's hold on the fourth Champions League place could be down to as little as two points should Manchester United beat Everton on Sunday as their poor run continued.

Frank Lampard's men have now lost four of their last five Premier League games and had only themselves to blame as they had 18 shots on goal without finding a way past Aaron Ramsdale.

## 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 councillorship 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 councillor to contest in the polls and that any BFF president aspirant must be in the executive committee once before contesting the post.



Bayern Munich midfielder Philippe Coutinho, on loan from Barcelona, scored a sublime hat-trick and got two assists in a 6-1 demolition of Werder Bremen at the Allianz Arena in the Bundesliga yesterday

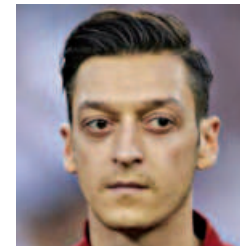
PHOTO: MANCHESTER CITY

## 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



## 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.

Snell 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.

## Ter Stegen error costs Barcelona two points

AFP, Madrid

Barcelona gave Real Madrid the chance to go top of La Liga ahead of Wednesday's Clasico at Camp Nou as they were held to a 2-2 draw by high-flying Real Sociedad on Saturday.

A mistake by Barca goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen gifted la Real an equaliser in a thrilling contest at Anoeta between two of the division's most attacking teams.

Antoine Griezmann and Luis Suarez looked to have turned the game around after Mikel Oyarzabal scored an early penalty but Sociedad claimed a point as Ter Stegen parried into the path of Alexander Isak.

Madrid will pull two points clear at the top if they win away at Valencia on Sunday, which could prove a significant psychological boost ahead of their crunch meeting with Barcelona in midweek. Real

Sociedad move to within three points of Sevilla in third.

Barca may have had one eye on their next encounter, particularly given renewed fears of unrest around the Clasico.

Yet Real Sociedad were excellent value for their point, with Martin Odegaard, on loan from Real Madrid, delivering a majestic display.

Barcelona were on the ropes for much of the first half an hour as Real Sociedad moved the ball quickly through the lines, with Odegaard the orchestrator.

The home goal though came from a corner as Busquets was spotted tugging Diego Llorente's shirt. Oyarzabal made no mistake from the spot.

Barcelona were yet to create a genuine chance but in the 38th minute they were level as Suarez freed Griezmann, who scooped home.

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.

মহান বিজয় দিবস

CROWN CEMENT



বিনয় শ্রদ্ধা জানাই সেই সকল মহান কীর্তিমানদের  
যাঁরা ১৯৭১-এ মুক্তিযুদ্ধে বিজয় অর্জনের মাধ্যমে  
প্রথম পদক্ষেপ নিয়েছিলেন দেশটাকে পাল্টে দেওয়ার