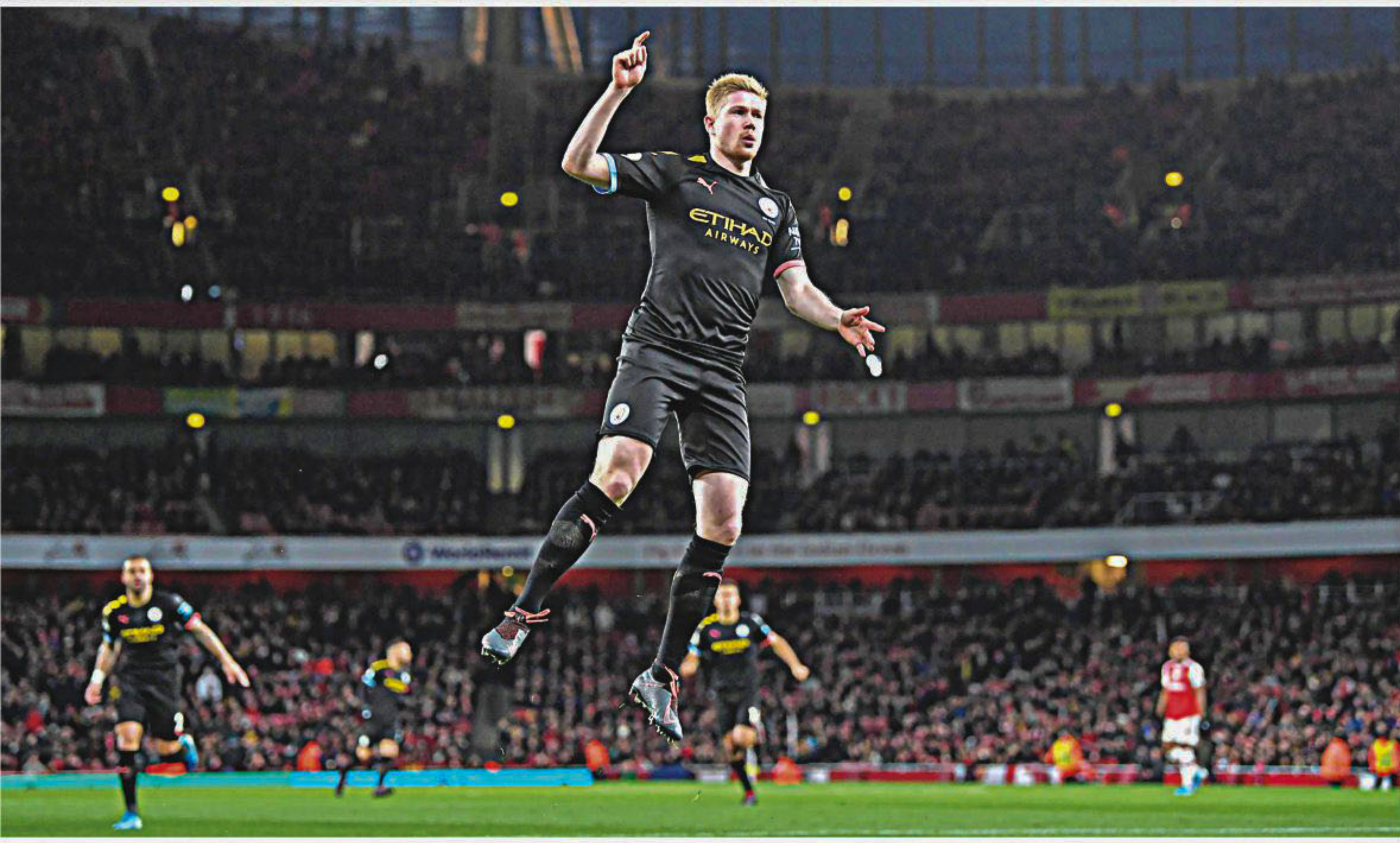


SONY SIX
Australia v New Zealand
First Test, Day Five
Live from 11:00am
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
English Premier League
Crystal Palace v Brighton

Live from 1:45am (Tuesday)
TEN 2
Serie A
Cagliari v Lazio
Live from 1:45am (Tuesday)

CRUYFF LEAVES CHONGQING LIFAN

Coach Jordi Cruyff has left China's Chongqing Lifan after failing to agree a new contract for next season, the club said yesterday. The 45-year-old enjoyed a successful 16 months at the Chinese Super League club, taking them from relegation candidates last year to a 10th-place finish this season. The former Manchester United and Barcelona midfielder, son of late Dutch great Johan Cruyff, paid tribute to Chongqing's supporters. "Without their backing it would have been impossible to achieve the targets we set ourselves as a team," Cruyff, who previous coaching job was at Maccabi Tel Aviv in Israel, said in a statement. "As I call time on my spell at Chongqing, I wanted my first words of thanks to go to the club's fans for their constant shows of affection, which really touched me, despite the language barrier."



Manchester City midfielder Kevin de Bruyne saved his first Premier League brace for the big stage, getting reigning champions Manchester City back on track with two strikes in a 3-0 Premier League win against Arsenal at the Emirates Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: TWITTER

City crush Arsenal

Spurs get late win; Greenwood earns a point

AFP, London



Manchester City got back on track as the Premier League champions swept to a 3-0 win against woeful Arsenal, while Tottenham maintained their revival under Jose Mourinho with a dramatic 2-1 victory at Wolves on Sunday.

City's masterclass and Jan Vertonghen's last-gasp winner for Tottenham shared the spotlight on a day when Manchester United's teenage striker Mason Greenwood rescued a 1-1 draw against Everton.

Kevin De Bruyne scored twice and teed up Raheem Sterling for City's other goal as Arsenal crumbled to another home defeat.

Victory sees City close the gap on leaders Liverpool back to 14 points and edge to within four of second-placed Leicester.

Arsenal remain ninth on the back of just one win in their last 12 games.

"We made an incredible result but the way we played against Manchester United was better in many, many things," Guardiola said.

"We sometimes played much better than today and lost. I know we are judged on the result but I have a duty to judge the performance, not just the result."

At Molineux, Mourinho's men had to

dig deep against in-form Wolves to inflict the hosts' first league defeat in 12 games.

Adama Traore's spectacular strike had cancelled out Lucas Moura's early opener before Vertonghen stooped to guide home Christian Eriksen's corner in stoppage-time.

Spurs can now move into the top four before Christmas if they beat Chelsea at home and Mourinho has his sights on qualifying for the Champions League.

United are one point behind Tottenham after the momentum from their impressive recent run stalled in the Everton draw.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side fell behind to Victor Lindelof's controversial first half own-goal after United's appeals for a foul on David de Gea were ignored by VAR.

"It was a clear foul but there's no point complaining. VAR will be better next year. They'll have to look at it," Solskjaer said.

But Greenwood, introduced in the second half, underlined his vast potential with a clinical strike 13 minutes from full-time.

It was fitting that Greenwood, a product of United's youth academy, scored in the 4,000th senior match in succession in which at least one youth graduate was represented in United's first-team or matchday squad, an extraordinary record stretching back over nine decades.

Police beat Saif to take solo lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Police, yesterday, took solo lead with maximum 18 points after the ninth round of the Walton Refrigerator Premier Division Chess League, which is being held at the NSC Tower Auditorium.

In the ninth round, Bangladesh Police beat reigning champions and overnight joint-leaders Saif Sporting Club by 2.5-1.5 game points. GM Jobava Baadu and GM Mikheil Mehedlishvili of Bangladesh Police won against GM Kovalev Vladislav and GM Ziaur Rahman of Saif Sporting Club respectively. GM Niaz Murshed of Bangladesh Police drew with GM Eltaj Sarali of Saif Sporting Club while IM Fahad Rahman of Bangladesh Police lost against GM Enamul Hossain Razib of Saif Sporting Club, who are in second position with 16 points. Uttara Central Chess Club are in third position with 14 points while Bangladesh Navy are in fourth position with 13 points.

The 10th round of the 11-round championship, comprising of 12 teams, will be played today.

CR7 puts Juve on top

AFP, Milan



Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice as Juventus bounced back from their first defeat of the season to beat Udinese 3-1 and move top of Serie A on Sunday.

Ronaldo struck twice in the first half to make it five goals in four games as champions Juve move one point ahead of leaders Inter Milan ahead of their trip to off-form Fiorentina later on Sunday.

"That's how we have to play, with confidence. Let's see what happens now," said Ronaldo.

Maurizio Sarri's side had taken just one point from their last two league games but Portuguese star Ronaldo finished off a Paulo Dybala rebound after nine minutes at the Allianz Stadium, and burst through to finish off a Gonzalo Higuain cross on 36 minutes.

Leonardo Bonucci sealed the three points just before the break when he

headed in from close range.

Ignacio Pussetto pulled a goal back for 17th-placed Udinese four minutes into injury time.

Juventus play their final Serie A game before the winter break at Sampdoria on Wednesday, before a rematch against Lazio in the Italian Super Cup in Saudi Arabia next weekend.

"It is the first time after a Champions League match that we managed to attack the game well," said Sarri. "We played very well for 60 minutes."

NO PARTY FOR MILAN'S 120TH Meanwhile, AC Milan were held to a goalless draw against Sassuolo at the San Siro as they marked their 120th anniversary in tepid style.

Theo Hernandez had a goal ruled out following a Franck Kessie handball in the buildup, with Rafael Leao hitting the crossbar and the post. Stefano Pioli's side failed to make it three wins in a row and sit 10th with Sassuolo four places and five points below.



Juventus talisman Cristiano Ronaldo (R) celebrates one of his two goals against Udinese in a Serie A encounter at the Allianz Stadium yesterday. Leonardo Bonucci scored the third as Juventus walked away 3-1 victors. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Women's football league deferred again

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has once again deferred women's football league, which will be held in January next year after the game's local governing body has failed to confirm participating clubs for the league, which was last held in 2013.

Bangladesh have had reasonable success at age-group women's football but the senior women's team, which mostly comprise of junior players, have failed to replicate that success at international level. Hence there has been a demand for a long time to resume women's league so as to give the age-group players a platform to mature by playing domestic league, which will also help them financially and prolong their football career.

Having boldly announced its plan

of restarting women's league from October-November, the BFF in March this year had prepared a set of rules under club licensing regulations for clubs, organisations and corporate houses willing to take part. The BFF also invited its affiliated bodies and corporate houses to be part of the league.

But the game's local governing body failed to meet the deadline, deferring it to December. BFF also did not send the women's football team in the just-concluded South Asian Games citing the start of women's league, but it has now rescheduled the start of the league to January, a month when Bangabandhu Gold Cup international football tournament is scheduled to take place.

"Some five to seven teams are ready to take part in women's football league and we are expecting to start it in the third week of January even though the final decision will be taken at the meeting of women's committee

within a week," BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag told The Daily Star. "Earlier, no teams were willing to participate in women's league but this time around, we have some teams who want to play."

According to Shohag, Bashundhara Kings, Sheikh Russel KC, Sheikh Jamal DC and one team each from Rangpur and Old Dhaka have confirmed their participation while Team BJMC will inform of their decision by Tuesday.

"We have sent invitation to all affiliated bodies. Former women's league champions Abahani and two-time women's league runners-up Mohammedan informed us in written that they would participate in women's league if we hold it in April but we don't want to make any further delay as we also have a plan of holding another women's league in the latter part of next year," said Shohag, adding that they will hold the league in double-leg format if they have six teams in the league.

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Summit Pro, Summit Cup underway

SPORTS REPORTER

The 10th Summit Professional and 24th Summit Cup Golf Tournament got underway at the Kurmitola Golf Club in Dhaka yesterday. More than 700 amateur and professional golfers are participating in the two tournaments, scheduled to conclude on December 20.

The professional tournament has a prize purse of Tk 15 lakh.

Verona fight to 3-3 draw

AFP, Milan

Hellas Verona battled back from three goals down in a 15-minute second-half spell to hold Torino 3-3 in Serie A yesterday.

Torino took a comfortable lead after Christian Ansaldi scored a double with Alex Berenguer also on target for the visitors.

But the hosts hit back with three goals after 69 minutes from players who all came off the bench.

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