

What to WATCH

T SPORTS & GTV
ICC Men's T20I World Cup
Ireland vs Netherlands
Live from 04:00 pm
Sri Lanka vs Namibia
Live from 08:00 PM

T SPORTS
La Liga
Espanyol VS Cadix
Live from 01:00 am (Tuesday)
STAR SPORTS HD 1
EPL

Arsenal vs Crystal Palace
Live from 01:00 am (Tuesday)
MTV INDIA
La Liga
Alaves vs Real Betis
Live from 11:00 pm

DAY'S EVENT

NCL (DAY-2)
DHAKA v SYLHET, SICS Academy (Sylhet)
KHULNA v RANGPUR, SICS

CHATTOGRAM v RAJSHAHI, ZACS
DHAKA METRO v BARISHAL, SICS Academy
(Cox's Bazar)

'United need to find the mentality and tactics to win'

AFP, Manchester



Paul Pogba delivered a withering assessment of the state of Manchester United's form after a 4-2 defeat to Leicester left the Red Devils already five points adrift in the Premier League title race.

United have not won an English top-flight title since 2013, but were expected to challenge this season after splashing out to sign Cristiano Ronaldo, Jadon Sancho and Raphael Varane in the transfer window.

However, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men have taken just one point from a possible nine against Aston Villa, Everton and Leicester in their last three league games.

United also crashed out of the League Cup last month and are under pressure for Wednesday's Champions League clash with



Atalanta after losing their opening group game to Swiss side Young Boys. "If we want to win the title, these are the games we need to win, even if they are very hard," Pogba told Sky Sports.

"We know that the fans were going to push and put pressure on us and we need to be more mature, play with more experience and arrogance - in a good way - by taking the ball and playing our football," added Pogba. "We

need to find the key for this change because we deserved to lose.

"I don't know if it is the mindset of the players. We need to change something. We need to find the mentality and tactics to win. We have to look as individuals and as a team to fix this.

Former Manchester United captain Gary Neville said Solskjaer's forward players were not working hard enough defensively. "I love them as players those five, but having them all in the same team there's not enough work horses," said Neville.

"We needed work horses alongside the great players. Manchester United at this moment in time are imbalanced. The pressure is rising on Solskjaer to turn things around quickly ahead of a demanding run of fixtures."

Solskjaer's men face Liverpool, Tottenham, Manchester City, Chelsea and Arsenal in their next six Premier League games.



Trent Boult throws one down during an unofficial warm-up match against Netherlands at the ICC Academy Ground in Dubai yesterday. The Kiwis will play their first official practice match against Australia today before playing their first Super 12 match against Pakistan on October 26.

PHOTO: NZC



Biggest ever GM Chess starts tomorrow

32 GMs to vie for \$55,000 in Sheikh Russel International GM Chess Tournament

SPORTS REPORTER



Around 100 chess players including 32 Grandmasters and one Women Grandmaster from will vie for the top awards in the Sheikh Russel International Grandmasters Chess Tournament which starts tomorrow in Dhaka, with 55,000 dollars on offer.

According to the organisers, the Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF), this is the biggest ever GM chess tournament in the country - both in terms of number of participants and prize money.

The top seed being Sergei Tiviakov of Netherlands - a familiar face in Bangladesh chess, the nine-round Swiss League tournament will feature GMs, IMs, FMs, CMs alongside WFMs, WIMs and a WGM from Asia, Europe and South America.

Three of the five GMs of the country - Niaz Murshed, Ziaur Rahman and Enamul Hossain Razeed are expected to spearhead the local players with 10,000 dollars of prize money stipulated for the locals, apart from anything they get from the overall

standing, informed organisers at a press briefing at a hotel in the capital yesterday.

"The lowest rating point requirement for participation is 2000, however, we have allowed to be lenient on that requirement

in case of some promising local players," Shahab Uddin Shamim, the general secretary of BCF, said at the event.

While the biggest chess event in the country will not feature all five of the GMs of the country, the BCF official hopes tournament, especially the separate prize money for the locals, will encourage them to play well and compete with the rest.

"Even if the locals miss out on the prize money from the overall standing, we are making sure the best finishers from Bangladesh get some amount. We are also providing appearance money to the local GMs to ensure their participation," Shamim said.

Sponsored by Saif Powertec Limited, the mega event will offer opportunities for local players to earn requisite norms even though the locals failed to grab norms in the three recent GM chess tournaments held in the last one month.

The tournament's highest-rated player, Tiviakov, said he was impressed to see such a big event being during this pandemic.

"I am glad to be back here. I think the competition level will be high. I must congratulate Bangladesh Chess Federation for arranging this event despite the pandemic," the Dutch GM, who first played in domestic chess in 1998 before coming back a couple of times as a player and later as a coach of the national team, told media.

Klopp hails Salah as world's best

AFP, Watford

Jürgen Klopp hailed Mohamed Salah as the best player in the world after the Liverpool forward scored another sublime goal in Saturday's 5-0 demolition of Watford.

Salah underlined why Liverpool are so desperate to get the Egypt forward to sign a new

contract with his audacious second-half strike at Vicarage Road.

Dancing through the Watford defence, Salah's magical moment topped even his eye-catching goal against Manchester City before the international break.

Liverpool's habit of avoiding big contracts for players over 30 has fuelled fears the 29-year-old will leave when his present deal expires in 2023. But with 10 goals in 10 games this season, Salah has proved his huge value to Liverpool, who will surely bow to his wish to be paid alongside the Premier League's highest earners.

For the first time in his career, Salah has scored in eight successive top-flight matches and Liverpool boss Klopp has no doubts he is now better than even Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo.

"We don't have to talk about what Ronaldo and Messi did for world football and how they were really dominant," Klopp said.

"But in this moment it is clear that there is no one better than him. It was a super pass for the first goal and his goal was absolutely exceptional. He's in the mood to try things in the box and long may it continue."

Salah's breathtaking goal stole the spotlight on a day when Roberto Firmino claimed his first Liverpool hat-trick since 2018 in his first start for five league games.



The Bangladesh national football team returned from Maldives yesterday following their SAFF Championship campaign, where they finished fourth on points among five teams. While a number of players from this squad will join the under-23 team's ongoing camp for this month's U-23 Asian Cup Qualifiers in Kuwait, the senior team's next assignment will be next month in Sri Lanka where they will play in a four-nation invitational tournament, also featuring hosts Sri Lanka, Maldives and Seychelles.

PHOTO: BFF

Spinners shine on opening day

SPORTS REPORTER



Spinners reigned supreme on the opening day of the Tier-1 match between Dhaka and Sylhet, scalping 14 of the 21 wickets as Dhaka took a 74-run lead in their National Cricket League encounter at the Sylhet Academy Ground yesterday.

Dhaka's left-arm Nazmul Islam Apu picked up six wickets in his eight-over spell for just 23 runs while right-arm spinner Shuvagata Hom Chowdhury picked up three wickets. Meanwhile, Sylhet's batters collapsed woefully, being bundled out for 67 in just 22 overs in their first innings.

Sylhet spinner Enamul Haque Jr rose to the occasion as well, picking up four wickets in his 13-over spell, as Dhaka put 176 runs on the board before being bowled out.



Nazmul Islam...6 for 23

Sylhet came down to bat again in the second innings and managed to score 35 runs for the loss of one wicket, another scalp claimed by Shuvagata Hom

Chowdhury.

In the other Tier-1 match between Rangpur and Khulna, Rangpur were at 226 runs for eight wickets at the Sylhet International

Stadium. Khulna's right-arm spinner Mehidi Hasan Miraz picked four wickets in his 33-over spell with 10 maidens.

In contrast to Tier-1, Tier-2 saw lethal fast-bowling displays along with some decent batting performances.

Barishal's right-arm pacer Tanvir Islam claimed six wickets while Dhaka Metro skipper Shadman Islam scored 75 runs off 145 balls, hitting seven fours and a maximum, as Dhaka Metro were bowled out for 239. Barishal were trailing by 233 runs, ending the first day at six for no loss.

In the other Tier-2 match, Rajshahi were bundled out for 166 runs by Chattogram. Towhid Hridoy, coming in at number five, scored a 79-ball 68 with eight fours and a couple of maximums before falling prey to Chattogram spinner Nayeem Hasan, who picked up four wickets.