

What to WATCH

T SPORTS & GTV

BANGLADESH VS PAKISTAN 2nd T20I

Live from 02:00 pm

T SPORTS

ABU DHABI T10

Chennai Braves vs Deccan Gladiators

Live from 07:30 pm

Northern Warriors vs Team Abu Dhabi

Live from 09:30 pm

Bangla Tigers vs Delhi Bulls

Live from 11:30 pm

La Liga

Barcelona vs Espanyol

Live from 02:00 am (Sunday)

STAR SPORTS HD 1 (EPL)

Leicester City vs Chelsea

Live from 06:30 pm

Watford vs Manchester United

Live from 09:00 pm

Liverpool vs Arsenal

Live from 11:30 pm

STAR SPORTS HD 2 (EPL)

Wolves vs West Ham

Live from 09:00 pm

TEN 2 (BUNDESLIGA)

Borussia Dortmund vs Stuttgart

Live from 10:30 pm

Union Berlin vs Hertha Berlin

# Can Gunners fire at Anfield?

AFP, London

**Premier League**

Liverpool will pose a stern test of Arsenal's revival when the Premier League title chasers host Mikel Arteta's resurgent side on Saturday.

The international break offered a welcome respite for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, but Manchester United's beleaguered manager is in the firing line again as his troubled team head to Watford.

Liverpool legend Steven Gerrard is back in the Premier League and takes charge of his first match as Aston Villa boss against Brighton.

Arsenal ready for Liverpool exam. Since a dismal 5-0 thrashing at Manchester City in August, Arsenal have surprisingly emerged as the Premier League's form team.

That chastening defeat sparked calls for Gunners boss Mikel Arteta to be sacked, but the critics have been silenced by an eight-game unbeaten run in the league.

Not even leaders Chelsea took as many points over that period as Arsenal, who have won six and drawn two to climb to fifth in the table.Fuelled by the emergence of young England midfielder Emile Smith Rowe and Arteta's successful overhaul of his previously leaky defence, Arsenal are dreaming of a return to the Champions League via a top four finish.

Arsenal skipper Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang has been back among the goals and his bubbly mood reflects the team's current confidence.

"I'm the coolest captain in the league, maybe in the world!" Aubameyang said. "To tell the truth I try to be an example. I think that is the most important part of being a captain."

After a relatively benign run of fixtures, Liverpool are the first serious threat to Arsenal's

renaissance, with the Reds desperate to bounce back from their surprise 3-2 defeat at West Ham before the international hiatus.

Sitting four points behind Chelsea -- and two ahead of Arsenal -- fourth placed Liverpool can ill afford another setback after two league games without a win.

Solskjaer fights for survival

defeats including Liverpool's 5-0 ransacking of Old Trafford and Manchester City's 2-0 stroll at the same venue.

With United languishing nine points adrift of first place, Solskjaer had to endure fresh reports this week that the club's owners the Glazer family have started making plans to replace the Norwegian.

Another embarrassing loss

But proving himself in the Premier League is essential for Gerrard as he eyes an eventual move to his dream job at Liverpool.

Gerrard claims Villa are not a stepping stone to Anfield and he knows he will only be considered as a future successor to Reds boss Jurgen Klopp if he make a positive impact on his new team.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is locked in a desperate fight to save his job as Manchester United try to get their chaotic campaign back on track at Watford.

Solskjaer was expected to oversee a sustained challenge for United's first English title since 2013 after the high-profile signings of Cristiano Ronaldo, Jadon Sancho and Raphael Varane.

But the United boss has struggled to turn his star-studded squad into a coherent team, leading to a serious of damaging

against lowly Watford would push Solskjaer closer to the exit.

Gerrard needs fast start at Villa Steven Gerrard is one of the Premier League's iconic figures after his glittering playing career with Liverpool, but his reputation as a manager is still a work in progress -- making his decision to take charge of struggling Aston Villa a major gamble.

In his first managerial role, Gerrard spent three and a half years restoring Rangers to their current status as Scottish champions.

That won't be easy as Villa have been listless since talisman Jack Grealish joined Manchester City in the close-season.

Villa host Brighton on Saturday in Gerrard's first game since replacing Dean Smith, who was sacked after five consecutive defeats left the club just two points above the relegation zone.

"It is about focusing on the short-term, which is Brighton at the weekend. We need to start winning football matches again," Gerrard said.

# Rubel, Diya looking to improve further

SPORTS REPORTER

Hakim Ahmed Rubel and Diya Siddique are looking forward to performing better in future after the pair finished the 22nd Asian Archery Championships campaign with a silver medal, settling for second position behind South Korea in recurve

mixed team event on the concluding day at the Army Stadium in Banani yesterday.

The silver medal means Bangladesh bagged a total of three medals in the Asian Championships for the first time, finishing joint-third along with Kazakhstan in the medals team table. South Korea, as expected, dominated the table with nine gold, three silver and nine bronze medals while India finished second with one gold, four silver and two bronze medals.

Beating Lee Seungyun and Royoo Su Sung in the final of recurve mixed team event would have been a big upset for Rubel and Diya, but it was not to be as the South Korean archers won comfortably by 5-1 set points even though the Bangladeshi pair managed to draw the last set at 38-38 points. Despite the defeat, Rubel and Diya were

satisfied but believed they could have fought harder had they been able to adjust playing against the wind.

"We could not understand the movement of the wind in the final even though we had hardly faced any problem with the wind during our practice sessions. Actually, we lost the match for not understanding the wind movement. I think we have learnt a lot from the championships and it will help us in future competitions," said Rubel. Echoing the same sentiment, Diya said, "I was confident of shooting well but we could not understand the movement of wind. However, I am happy with the silver medal and I am looking forward to doing better in my next attempts."

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DIYA SIDDIQUE

Bangladesh team's coach Martin Frederick was happy to see his charges put up some courageous performances in the qualification round which set some new national records.

"We set several national records in the qualification rounds (compound men's and recurve women's), which means we are in the right direction. Mixed team's performance not enough to win gold but we won silver, which is really nice," Frederick said.

# Napoli test for Inter

AFP, Milan

Inter Milan's defence of their Serie A title will be tested again on Sunday as they await league leaders Napoli hoping to close the seven-point gap between themselves and top spot. Simone Inzaghi's side trail both Napoli and city rivals AC Milan, both unbeaten and cheek by jowl at the summit, after a series of big matches marked by missed chances and gutting refereeing decisions.Inter drew their derby with Milan before the international break after missing a penalty and wasting several opportunities to secure a win before a late rally from their rivals almost cost them the match.

Now they host Napoli in front of a sold out San Siro with a chance to claw back some of the ground they lost with their controversial draw with Juventus and collapse at Lazio last month. Inter come into the clash at the San Siro with an apparent mini injury crisis coming to an end, with Edin Dzeko among those who looked to be out but who should be available for Simone Inzaghi.

They will be missing starting centre-back Stefan de Vrij but Alessandro Bastoni appears to have recovered from the muscle injury which kept him out of Italy's dismal goalless draw with Northern Ireland on Monday.

Napoli meanwhile have an almost full squad available for their trip north, with Kalidou Koulibaly back following his suspension for a red card late last month. Having Koulibaly back for such a huge match is great news for Luciano Spalletti, who returns to the San Siro for the first time since being replaced by Antonio Conte at Inter in 2019.

Waiting to pounce on either side dropping points are Milan, who travel to Florence on Saturday night to take on a Fiorentina side which have most of their backline unavailable. Former domestic behemoth Juventus meanwhile sit some 14 points off the pace ahead of their trip to Lazio, who have lost the league's top scorer Ciro Immobile to a calf injury. Juve also have injury problems as key players again return from their national sides with niggles, with Paulo Dybala, Giorgio Chiellini and Federico Bernadeschi all doubts as they try to stay in touch with the Champions League spots.

# WTA threatens to pull out of China

AFP, Beijing

The head of the Women's Tennis Association says that he is willing to pull tournaments out of China if tennis star Peng Shuai remains unaccounted for and her sexual assault allegations not investigated.

Peng, a former Wimbledon and French Open doubles champion, alleged on Chinese social media earlier this month that former vice-premier Zhang Gaoli had "forced" her into sex during a long-term on-off relationship.

The claims were quickly scrubbed from the Twitter-like Weibo platform and the 35-year-old has not been seen since, drawing mounting concern over her wellbeing. Since then the WTA, the top world body for women's tennis, has called for proof that she is safe and a growing number of tennis stars have

been drawing attention to Peng's case, including Naomi Osaka, Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams.

WTA boss Steve Simon told CNN that he is willing to lose hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of business in the lucrative China market to ensure Peng's safety.

"We're definitely willing to pull our business and deal with all the complications that come with it," Simon said.

# 'Managing PSG players' moods and entourages not easy'

REUTERS

Paris St Germain manager Mauricio Pochettino said coaching the Ligue 1 side with "the best players in the world"

was not easy as he had to manage their emotions as well as their entourages.

Pochettino was appointed by PSG at the start of the year in the hope the Argentine would guide the club to an elusive Champions League crown.

PSG enjoy an embarrassment of riches in attack with Lionel Messi joining forces with Neymar and Kylian Mbappe while Angel Di Maria, Mauro Icardi and

Julian Draxler are also options, leaving Pochettino with selection headaches every week.

"We manage people with emotions, everyone's behaviour is not a flat line. It's a succession of ups and downs -- one is happy, another is hurt, one is performing well, another not," Pochettino told L'Equipe. "I think the most important thing for the staff is to try to balance the moods."

"We must not forget that we have in our hands the best players in the world, but also their families, their media entourages, their followers. It's not easy."

PSG, who are 10 points clear at the top of Ligue 1 and play Nantes at home on Saturday, failed to defend the league title last season

while they fell at the semi-final stage in the Champions League.

Pochettino, who was previously manager at Tottenham Hotspur and guided them to a Champions League final, said the requirements at the French side were vastly different, with an expectation of immediate success.

"PSG wants to win. To win the Champions League, the Championship, the Cup - all the matches. They didn't come looking for us to build a project, asking us what we needed to develop our ideas, or what we like," he added.

"We came here to adapt and to win, with the structure and characteristics of the players who are here."

# Sheikh Jamal complete transfers

SPORTS REPORTER

Three-time premier league champions Sheikh Jamal DC became the first team to complete their players' registration formalities on Thursday for the upcoming season, which is scheduled to get underway on November 27 through Independence Cup.

Sheikh Jamal, runners-up of last edition, signed up some national and former national players like Yeasin Khan, Mohammad Atiquzzaman, Rahbar Wahed Khan, Mitul Marma and Raihan Hasan while they retained the services of three foreign players - Otabek Valijonov, Solomon King and Sulayman Sillah and roped in Dominican striker Jose Alexander Hernandez in place of Gambian Pa Omar Jobe.

The transfer window is scheduled to close on November 25.

# Cagers finish third

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh finished third in the Bangabandhu 6th South Asian Basketball Championship despite suffering a 106-41 points defeat against India at the Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Bangladesh trailed by 59-26 points in the first half against eventual champions India. Sri Lanka became runners-up in the four-nation tournament.