What to WATCH

T SPORTS
Victory Day Kabaddi Final
Live from 04:00 pm
Independence Cup
Sheikh Russel vs Bangladesh Police

Live from 05:15 pm
Lankan Premier League
Colombo Stars vs Galle Gladiators
Live from 08:00 pm
La Liga
Real Betis vs Real Sociedad

Live from 11:30 pm
Real Madrid vs Atletico Madrid
Live from 02:00 am (Monday)
STAR SPORTS HD 1
EPL
Crystal Palace vs Everton

Live from 10:30 pm
STAR SPORTS HD 2
EPL
Leicester City vs Newcastle United
Live from 08:00 pm

DAY'S EVENT
BCL
South Zone vs East Zone, SKS
Central Zone vs North Zone, ZACS

'It is a lovely achievement'

Reuters, Manchester

England forward Raheem Sterling's 100th Premier League goal was enough to earn leaders Manchester City a 1-0 win over 10-man Wolverhampton Wanderers on Saturday.

Wolves were doing a fine job of frustrating City in the opening period before striker Raul Jimenez's dismissal for two yellow cards in quick succession in first-half stoppage time changed the complexion of the game.

City dominated the second half as a result, edging in front through Sterling's penalty - a decision that required a lengthy VAR check - in the 66th minute.

Sterling slotted the penalty down the middle, becoming the 32nd player to reach 100 Premier League goals.

"(It) is a lovely achievement," Sterling told BT Sport. "There are some fantastic players in that list. I'm really honoured to be in it now. "We knew we (City) had to keep patient. They kept it really tight, but we knew if we kept playing we'd get an opportunity -and we did."

The home side had plenty of chances to make the result more comfortable, with Jack Grealish's struggles since becoming the British record transfer in the close season continuing as he missed from close range.

However, one goal proved enough for City who picked up their sixth successive league win to move four points clear of Liverpool, who host Aston Villa later on Saturday, at the top of the standings.

Wolves, who battled hard as decisions went against them at the Etihad Stadium, stay eighth on 21 from 16 games.

The game hinged on one moment of madness. Wolves looked comfortable going into the interval before Jimenez's needless dismissal gave City the lift they needed.

The Mexico international received his first yellow card for a foul on midfielder Rodri and 31 seconds later got another for blocking Rodri's free-kick having not retreated enough.

Nepal skipper Anjana Rana Magar takes a selfie with the crowd at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur after the visitors held Bangladesh to a goalless draw in their SAFF U-19 Women's Championship fixture.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Bangladesh denied by resolute Nepal

Sports Reporter

In a rematch of last edition's final, hosts Bangladesh were held to a goalless draw by a resolute Nepal side in their SAFF U-19 Women's Championship fixture at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

While Bangladesh won that match 1-0 following a 2-1 win against the same opposition in the group stages three years ago in Bhutan, at home soil, the girls in red and green failed to break the team from the Himalayan nation to share the spoils of a goalless draw.

The home side, champions from the inaugural edition in 2018 when the event was an under-18 affair, started brightly as centre-back Akhi Khatun rattled the post from the top of the box 90 seconds into the match.

Playing in a 4-3-3 formation, the hosts completely dominated possession and looked like the only side worth scoring a goal, but the Nepalese defence held firm and reduced Bangladesh attacks mostly to shots from distance.

Shamsunnahar Jr tried a bicycle kick on skipper Maria Manda's cross on 15 minutes, but her effort was too tame to test Anjana Rana Magar at Nepal goal.

Magar, also the captain of the Nepal team, was solid between the sticks as she dealt comfortably with a number of set-pieces from Manda.

Shamsunnahar Jr, playing as a second striker behind Tohura Khatun, was through on goal on a long-ball from Akhi Khatun three minutes later, but Magar was quickly on to the ball.

The Nepal goalie was called into action again on 32 minutes when she was forced to palm away Shamsunnahar Jr's curling effort for a corner.

Bangladesh's best chance of the game came nine minutes after restart when Rituporna Chakma had a shot on target from inside the box, only to be cleared off the line by Nepal defender Bimala BK.

Magar produced a brilliant fingertip save on a superb Monika Chakma effort from outside the box three minutes before the end of regulation time as the hosts' hopes of a winning start evaporated.

BHUTAN THRASH SRI LANKA

In the first match of the tournament earlier, Bhutan thrashed Sri Lanka 5-0 after having led by four goals in the first half.

Pema Yangzom scored the first two goals in the 21st and 23rd minutes before Tshering Choden got the third for Bhutan in the 28th minute.

Sonam Lhamo added a fourth at the stroke of half-time before an own goal from T Sivaneshwaran in the 85th minute wrapped up a convincing win for the fourth-placed team from the last edition.

Rangnick has no plan to persuade Pogba

Reuters

Manchester United interim manager Ralf Rangnick said he did not have to convince players to remain at the Premier League club as media speculation grows over the future of French World Cup winner Paul Pogba. The 28-year-old is returning to Manchester from Dubai, where he spent time rehabilitating after a thigh injury in November and could yet feature in Rangnick's plans, despite being out of contract at the end of this season.

United have been in talks with Pogba over a new deal, but the midfielder has frequently been linked with a move away from Old

Trafford since rejoining from Juventus in 2016 for a then-world record 89 million pounds ($118.09 million). "I wouldn't say he's not worth keeping but, of course, players have to want to play and stay for a club and a big club like United," Rangnick said ahead of Saturday's league trip to Norwich City.

"If a player doesn't want to play for a club like United medium or long-term, I don't think it makes sense to convince him to change his mind. "He can be an important player but this is true for all the others ... I'm not just the coach of Pogba, I'm also the coach of all the others and my ambition is to ... improve each individual, this is possible by improving the performance of the team."

Xavi insists on creating a new Barca

Reuters

Xavi Hernandez is worried about the performances of the team he once graced as a player and said on Saturday that they must reset to create a new Barcelona.

Barca's 3-0 defeat at Bayern Munich on Wednesday saw them exit the Champions League at the group stage for the first time in almost two decades and they are 16 points adrift of leaders Real Madrid in LaLiga.

Xavi told a news conference he was surprised when he arrived to find a "discouraged" dressing room and believes the problem is "more psychological than soccer."

"There is more quality here than it appears," he said. "We need a general reset. I have the feeling that defeat is installed and it can't be like that. We need to ask for more commitment, be more demanding, more courageous, work more. We must create a new Barca."

Barcelona are preparing to visit mid-table Osasuna on Sunday as their former midfield great tries to get the Catalan club's season back on track.

"I'm worried," added Xavi. "We have no option but to keep working hard, licking our wounds and getting back on track.

"Against Bayern I saw a Barcelona that is small (in stature) and we have to accept that. We are working to get Barca back to where we need to be."

After losing 1-0 at home to Real Betis last weekend, Barca are seventh in LaLiga, six points off the Champions League places.

CARLSEN CLAIMS *fifth world title*

Reuters

Norway's Magnus Carlsen claimed his fifth world chess crown in Dubai on Friday with a crushing 7.5-3.5 victory against Ian Nepomniachtchi, who faded badly after going toe-to-toe with the Norwegian defending champion in the early games.

The 31-year-old Carlsen benefited from a blunder by his Russian challenger to win his fourth game of the match, with the black pieces, to take an unassailable lead in the best-of-14 contest.

"I didn't expect it go quite like this. I think it was just a very good professional performance overall. No regrets at all, just very satisfied," said Carlsen.

His large margin of victory made it the most one-sided world championship since Jose Raul Capablanca of Cuba defeated German Emmanuel Lasker 9-5 in 1921 - an outcome that few would have bet on during the contest's initial stages.

"After five games there were five draws and I'd had very, very few chances to play for anything more," Carlsen added.

"Then everything kind of clicked and after that it all went my way. You don't expect to necessarily run away with it in a world championship."

The contest sprang to life in game 6, won by Carlsen with the white pieces after seven hours 45 minutes and 136 moves - the longest game in world championship history.

A dull 41-move draw followed before Carlsen won again with white as Nepomniachtchi, winner of the Candidates tournament in April, blundered a pawn move in the middle game.

Nepomniachtchi made another error in game 9, letting his light-square bishop get trapped after just 27 moves and leaving Carlsen on the brink of a fourth successful title defence.

After another draw, Friday's game 11 showed that Nepomniachtchi, the world number five, had not recovered from his earlier defeats as he lost focus again.

"These things which happened here, they have never happened to me at basically any events," a disconsolate Nepomniachtchi said of his blunders.

"In my career I lost quite some stupid games but not as many in such a (short) time."

Haaland's agent lists four big clubs as options

AFP, *Berlin*

Mino Raiola, the agent of Erling Haaland, has named Manchester City, Real Madrid, Barcelona and Bayern Munich as clubs the Norwegian star striker could join in 2022.

The 21-year-old has a contract with Dortmund until 2024, but his tally of 23 goals in 20 Champions League games for Dortmund and ex-club Salzburg has attracted Europe's top teams.

There is a release clause, reportedly for 80 million euros ($90 million), in Haaland's contract which becomes active in 2022.

Raiola has told broadcaster Sport1 there is "a great chance that Erling will leave" at the end of this season.

"Maybe this summer, maybe the summer after," Raiola added.

"He can - and will - take the next step. Bayern, Real, Barcelona, (Man) City - these are the big clubs he can go to.

"We all knew when we moved to Dortmund that this step would come."

The Italy-born football agent plans to sit down with club bosses at Dortmund in the coming months, adding: "We will say what our idea is and they will tell us theirs".

Haaland has sent goal records tumbling since joining Dortmund in January 2020.

He became the first player in Bundesliga history to score a hat-trick on his debut as a replacement and has since netted 51 goals in as many German league games.

Dortmund, who currently sit second in Germany's top flight, were knocked out of the Champions League during the five weeks Haaland was recently sidelined by a hip problem.

The injury also proved costly for Norway, who missed out on qualifying for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar when they lost 2-0 to the Netherlands last month when Haaland was sidelined.

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