

We'll fight to the end, says Odegaard

REUTERS, LONDON

Arsenal will battle until the end for the Premier League title, their captain Martin Odegaard said on Tuesday after scoring twice in a 3-1 defeat of Chelsea that put the north London side back on top of the table for 24 hours at least.

The manner of Arsenal's home win on Tuesday could sow some seeds of doubt into the heads of Pep Guardiola's City players and Odegaard remains confident the title race is not over.

"Especially the first half was brilliant. We came out and showed a different spirit to last time," the Norwegian, who produced two superb first-half finishes to take his league tally to 14 for the season, told Sky Sports. "We have to fight and keep going. We believe and will fight until the end."

Arsenal face third-placed Newcastle United away in their next league game, by which time they could be four points adrift if City beat West Ham and Leeds United at home.



Norwegian midfielder Martin Odegaard celebrates one of his two goals as Arsenal reclaimed the top spot of the Premier League with a 3-1 win over Chelsea at the Emirates Stadium in London on Tuesday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Salahuddin not above accountability

ANISUR RAHMAN

Football has been at the centre of every discussion in the sports fraternity in the country for the past month, but unfortunately the conversation has revolved around administrative shortcomings such as the Bangladesh Football Federation's (BFF's) failure to send the senior women's team to the Paris Olympic Qualifiers to more sordid off-field affairs like FIFA's sanctions against former BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag for financial irregularities.

The formation of the investigation committee made to look into Shohag's breaches and their modus operandi provided more topics before things took another unbecoming turn during an unpleasant and unacceptable chat between two BFF higher-ups.

Despite its status as the most popular sport in the country after liberation, the nation's football scene has regressed to a sorrowful state, with the decline especially stark during star footballer Kazi Salahuddin's tenure at the helm over the past 14 years.

An idea of how football has been run over the years can be seen from the FIFA Rankings, where Bangladesh are currently 192nd out of 211 nations.

The pleas of football lovers across the nation have fallen on the deaf ears of the decision-makers, who have failed to even develop and stick to a specific masterplan.

Demands are usually met with the catch-all term 'financial constraints', including for the BFF's inability to send the women's team to the Paris Olympic Qualifiers. However, such concerns were cast aside when the BFF suddenly unveiled a lavish 10-million-dollar plan to host

world champions Argentina for a friendly match against an undecided opponent.

After months of radio silence about the issue, the BFF president confirmed yesterday that the plan was being scrapped since "it would not be possible to prepare the venue before the game".

But FIFA's disclosure of financial irregularities -- specifically "for having used false and/or falsified documents to justify payments made by the BFF with

FIFA funds" -- raised more questions.

Despite demands for crucial answers and the formation of an independent investigation committee to look into those sanctions, the investigation committee was formed with 10 BFF officials, two of whom stepped down. Even more curiously, the remaining eight members of the investigation committee have not found the time to sit together yet despite being formed over two weeks ago, providing another glimpse into the psyche of the BFF.

Amidst the scandal at the BFF in the wake of FIFA's findings, Salahuddin could have taken steps to repair the damage to the country's footballing image. Instead, he launched himself into hot water with disrespectful comments about journalists and disparaging remarks about their parents.

Instead of focusing energy on such negativity, perhaps it would be better to focus on the facts, information and evidence. As BFF president, Salahuddin cannot shirk his responsibilities in terms of the role he has played behind the decline in the nation's football or the financial irregularities within his organisation.

As the caretaker of the sport in the nation, he should shift his focus to on-field issues and the revival of football.



'Nadal still the man to beat at Roland Garros'

REUTERS, Madrid

Carlos Alcaraz expects Rafa Nadal to perform at a "spectacular level" at the French Open if the 14-times champion can overcome his injury issues ahead of the year's second Grand Slam.

Nadal skipped the ongoing Madrid Open after a setback in his recovery from a hip injury sustained at the Australian Open in January. The 22-times major champion also missed tournaments at Indian Wells, Miami, Monte Carlo and Barcelona.

Alcaraz has emerged as favourite for Roland Garros after victories on clay at Buenos Aires and Barcelona but the world number two said Nadal cannot be written off and hopes his fellow Spaniard will return next week in Rome.

"Hopefully he will be in Rome and then at Roland Garros, where he will be a rival to beat," Alcaraz told reporters after beating Alexander Zverev 6-1, 6-2 on Tuesday to reach the Madrid quarter-finals.

"Although he hasn't played since Australia, a man who has won a tournament 14 times will always be difficult to beat in that tournament, even if he comes without match rhythm.

"It'll also be difficult for him, tennis requires that competitive rhythm, but Rafa is Rafa, even if he arrives without many matches, he'll surely show a spectacular level."



Liton Das joined the Bangladesh team in Chelmsford yesterday for the three-match ODI series against Ireland. The wicketkeeper-batter had returned home early from his Indian Premier League stint with Kolkata Knight Riders due to a family emergency. The Tigers began their training camp for the ODI series in Chelmsford yesterday. PHOTO: FACEBOOK

Messi's PSG future in doubt after Saudi trip

AFP, Paris

Lionel Messi's future at PSG was plunged into doubt on Wednesday after he was suspended by Paris Saint Germain after travelling to Saudi Arabia without the club's permission.

A source with knowledge of the disciplinary procedure told AFP that Argentina's 35-year-old World Cup winning captain, who is out of contract at the end of the season, would be sidelined for "several days", while various media in France reported that he would be suspended for two weeks.

"He cannot train, cannot play, and will not be paid while disciplinary measures are in place," the source added.

Another source, also speaking on condition they were not identified, indicated that the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner would "probably" be sidelined for a fortnight, noting that "nobody is more important than the club".

Messi played the whole game in PSG's 3-1 home defeat by Lorient in Ligue 1 on Sunday.

He then travelled to Saudi Arabia to fulfil commercial commitments in his role as a tourism ambassador for the Gulf state.

The Saudi Tourism Authority said in a press release on Wednesday that Messi had "returned to Saudi for a second time, this time with his family" and had been treated to a demonstration of palm weaving and had fed Arabian gazelles.

As a result of the trip, Messi missed a training session scheduled for Monday following the weekend defeat.

The PSG squad were given a day off on Tuesday and Messi did not take part in training on Wednesday either.



PSG are due to return to league action away at struggling Troyes on Sunday, a game that Messi may now miss.

If he were to be sidelined for two weeks he would also sit out a home match against Ajaccio on May 13.

The disciplinary measures make the prospect of Messi staying in the French capital after his two-year deal expires at the end of this season even more remote.

Having at one point looked set to extend his stay for another year, a source close to the club told AFP last month that he was now "much more likely" to depart.

Messi arrived from Barcelona, the club where he had spent the majority of his career, in 2021 but has struggled to reproduce his best form at Qatar-backed Paris.

Despite that, he has scored 31 goals in 71 appearances in all competitions.

He was recently jeered by a section of the PSG support, who see him as a symbol of all the club have done wrong in focusing on superstar signings while failing to build a genuinely competitive team.

Messi has scored 20 goals in all competitions this season and is the leading

assist provider in Ligue 1, with 15.

However, his form since leading Argentina to World Cup glory in Qatar has declined along with that of most of the PSG team.

Their insipid performance against Lorient was a sixth defeat in 17 Ligue 1 matches in 2023.

They remain five points clear of Marseille at the top of the table with five games left, and are therefore still on course for a record 11th French title.

However, they were knocked out of the Champions League in the last 16 by Bayern Munich and also went out of the French Cup at the same stage to Marseille.

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নিম্নলিখিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশের ব্যবহারের জন্য ২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থবছরে প্যাকেজ নং-০৪ (ক) কীটনাশক প্রব্যাদি এবং (খ) যোড়া ও ক্যানাইন স্কোয়াডের বিবিধ মালামাল ক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে প্রয়োজনীয় যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন দরদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন-২০০৬ এবং বিধিমালা-২০০৮ মোতাবেক উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে।	
০১।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ
০২।	সংস্থা
০৩।	দরপত্র ক্রয় কর্তৃপক্ষ
০৪।	দরপত্র আইটেমের নাম
০৫।	দরপত্রের আহ্বানের নম্বর
০৬।	দরপত্রের তারিখ
০৭।	দরপত্র জামানত
০৮।	দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য
০৯।	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি
১০।	দরপত্রের অর্থের উৎস
১১।	প্রি-টেন্ডার মিটিং
১২।	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়
১৩।	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়
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১৭।	দরপত্র শোবার স্থান
১৮।	কাজের সফলকৃত বিবরণ
১৯।	দরপত্র আহ্বান কর্তৃপক্ষের নাম
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২২।	দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা
২৩।	কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে অত্র দরপত্র গ্রহণ/প্রত্যাহ্বান করার ক্ষমতা অত্র সংস্থা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
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