



**What to WATCH**

T Sports and GTV  
Bangladesh vs Australia  
Live from 11:00 am  
Star Sports 3  
England vs Pakistan

Live from 2:30 pm  
Star Sports Select  
HD1  
EPL  
Wolves vs Tottenham  
Live from 6:30 pm

Man Utd vs Luton  
Live from 9:00 pm  
Star Sports Select  
HD2  
Arsenal vs Burnley  
Live from 9:00 pm

## Rangpur's Tanbir smashes 169

SPORTS REPORTER

Rangpur Division skipper Akbar Ali's 179-run knock was followed by fellow batter Tanbir Hayder's 169 as they were bundled out for 435 against Dhaka Metro on Day 2 of their National Cricket League fixture at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

Tanbir added 90 runs to his overnight tally of 79 to help Rangpur past 400. Two wickets from Rangpur's Mahmudul Hasan reduced Metro to three down for 105 later in the day and they still trail by 330 runs.

Khulna Division skipper Nurul Hasan Sohan scored an unbeaten 110-ball 106, laced with 14 fours and two sixes, to help his side take a 187-run lead against Chattogram Division at the Shaheed AHM Kamaruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi.

Chattogram, who started the day on 51 for the loss of two, lost eight wickets on the day and were bundled out for 189 before Khulna raced off to 221 for four, with Sohan and Afif Hossain -- unbeaten on 57 runs -- at the crease.

At the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogura, Barishal Division took a 130-run lead, finishing the day on 125 for the loss of six after bundling out Rajshahi Division for 191.

Barishal's Fazole Mahmud remained unbeaten on 42 and will be the key to extending his side's lead but will have to be wary of Rajshahi's Taijul Islam, who scalped a fifer and will be hungry for more in a low-scoring affair.

Things look bleak for Sylhet Division as they slumped to 172 for the loss of six in reply to Dhaka Division's 266, meaning they still trail by 94 runs.

Earlier, Mahidul Islam's 106-run knock helped Dhaka to 266.



**Bangladesh captain Nigar Sultana Joty raises her arm as fellow batter Sobhana Mostary approaches her to celebrate their seven-wicket victory over Pakistan in the third Women's ODI at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.**

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Booters off to Australia

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh coach Jaiver Cabrera pinned hopes on old guns that played the pre-qualifiers against Maldives, with only Sheikh Morsalin added to the final 23-member squad of the national football team for the World Cup Qualifiers tie against Australia.

A 32-member contingent was scheduled to fly out for Melbourne last night for the game against the Socceroos on November 16.

Cabrera dropped seven members -- Mahfuz Hasan Pritom, Raidul Hasan, Alamgir Molla, Chandon Roy, Rahimuddin, Dipok Roy and Arman Faisal Akash - from the 30-member preliminary squad that began their preparation for Australia and Lebanon ties on November 6.

**Squad:** Mehdi Hasan, Mitul Marma, Pappu Hossain, Tariq Kazi, Bishwanath Ghosh, Sakil Hossain, Rahmat Mia, Saad Uddin, Isa Faisal, Murad Hasan, Jamal Bhuiyan, Sohel Rana, Md Sohel Rana, Md Ridoy, Rabiul Hasan, Jayed Ahmed, Faisal Ahmed Fahim, Mohammad Ibrahim, Suman Reza, Rakib Hossain, Rafiqul Islam, Mojibur Rahman Jony, Sheikh Morsalin.

## Azam blasts critics, Malan unsure of England future

AGENCIES, Kolkata

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam blasted his critics on Friday, telling them "it's easy to give advice on TV" as he refused to surrender his World Cup dreams.

Pakistan have to defeat defending champions England by at least 287 runs on Saturday to oust New Zealand as the fourth and last semi-finalist on net run rate.

Failure to do so will spark more questions over Azam's captaincy, a position he has held for three years.

"I have not performed the way I should have in the World Cup, that's why people are saying that I am under pressure. I am under no pressure," insisted the 29-year-old.

"Everyone has their own point of view, their own way of thinking. Everyone is saying something different. He should be like this, or like that.

"If someone has to give me advice, everyone has my number. It is easy to give advice on TV. If you want to give me some advice, you can message me."

Azam has made 282 runs at the tournament with an average of just over 40 and four fifties.

However, as captain, he has overseen four defeats in eight games including a shock loss to Afghanistan and a shattering one-wicket defeat to South Africa.

Azam insisted his team has not given up hope of pulling off victory over England despite the huge margin required.

"It's not like this matter is not in the back of the mind. It's in our mind and we will try to do it," said Azam.



"But we can't just go in and start firing blindly - we want that but with proper planning, how we want to play the first 10 overs, then the next 20 - how we have to achieve that target.

"There are a lot of things in this, like partnerships, which player will stay in the pitch for how long. I would say if Fakhar is in the match for 20 or 30 overs, we can achieve that. We can do this and we have planned for this."

Meanwhile, Dawid Malan will not be surprised if Saturday's match proves to be his last for England, who might opt for a 50-overs reset following their dismal World Cup title defence in India, the opening batter said on Friday.

"I guess I'm in a unique situation being the second oldest in this team," the 36-year-old told reporters at Eden Gardens.

"I don't know what my future holds, whether that will be my choice or the team's choice."

"Tomorrow could be the last game of cricket for England for me and it could still be the start of another journey. Who knows? We'll only find out when the dust settles."

Malan is one two English batters along with Ben Stokes who managed a century in the tournament.

"Playing for England means everything for me. I've made no secret of that," Malan said. "I've always wanted to be part of this team and play for England for as long as I can but ultimately you get to a stage where you have to look a little bit further ahead and see what's best for the team..."

"I guess there are decisions to be made over the next couple of days when the dust

has settled and we'll see where we end up."

Malan said he still had the skills to score runs.

"If they want experience around, someone who's played quite a bit and played in the way that the team wants to play, I'd love to still be around and do it," he said.

"But when you get to this stage of being the second oldest, it's usually them that go first regardless of results and that's part and parcel of the game."

### STATS

To make it to the semifinals, Pakistan will have to win against England by at least 287 runs, or, assuming England are restricted to 150, the 1992 champions will have to chase down the target in 3.4 overs.

England have won seven of the last 10 meetings between these two sides, with Pakistan winning two and the other yielding a no-result.

England also hold a better head-to-head record against Pakistan, having won 56 times against 32 won by Pakistan.

Pakistan have won five against England's four in their World Cup meetings, including in the last World Cup.

## 'Liverpool deserved to lose'

REUTERS

Liverpool were second best in virtually all the decisive moments against Toulouse on Thursday and fully deserved their 3-2 Europa League defeat, manager Jurgen Klopp said.

Liverpool remain top of Group E with nine points from four matches, leading Toulouse by two points with two games to go.

"It was well deserved to lose because they won pretty much all the decisive challenges, battles," he told reporters.

"We have too many situations where we should have won the ball but we didn't."

"No, I am not concerned. In the end, we were intense - we threw everything in," he added.

"But the problem is in a football game you have to make the decisive things in the right moment to do them right. We cannot concede the goals we conceded again."



Liverpool's Jarell Quansah looks dejected as Toulouse's Frank Magri celebrates scoring his side's third goal during their 3-2 win over in the UEFA Europa League fixture at the Stadium Municipal de Toulouse yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Injury concerns for Belgium ahead of qualifiers

REUTERS, Brussels

Belgium have injury concerns over defender Jan Vertonghen and midfielder Amadou Onana but recalled Leonardo Trossard ahead of their friendly with Serbia and Euro 2024 qualifier against Azerbaijan this month, coach Domenico Tedesco said on Friday.

He named 26 players rather than 24 for the two matches in Brussels to ensure cover for the recovering pair, who will likely miss Wednesday's clash versus Serbia but be back for the qualifier against second-bottom Azerbaijan on Nov. 19.

A win would ensure already-qualified Belgium finish top of Group F ahead of second-placed Austria, who they lead by a point, something Tedesco insisted he wanted to ensure.

"Jan Vertonghen is a question mark but his situation is improving day by day. We hope to have him during the week. Onana had a calf issue and even if he doesn't get picked for his club (Everton) this weekend, he is ready to play," Tedesco told a press conference.

Forward Trossard was injured for last month's qualifiers with Austria and Sweden but returns along with defenders Alexis Saelemaekers and Zinho Vanheusden plus midfielder Aster Vranckx.

Tedesco said Belgium were aware of the workload on winger Jeremy Doku, who has started for Manchester City in recent weeks, and would take care not to load him with too much game time.

"We are looking at everything closely. They are taking good care of him at Manchester City. He is not playing all the games and we are happy with that," the coach added.

"The priority is next week's match against Azerbaijan. We would also like to win against Serbia, but that is incidental."

## Germany recall Kimmich for friendlies

AFP, Munich

Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann on Friday recalled Bayern Munich midfielder Joshua Kimmich for friendlies against Turkey and Austria as he builds towards Euro 2024.

Kimmich travelled with the squad for matches against the United States and Mexico in October but played no role in either game due to illness.

Serge Gnabry also returns after recovering from a broken arm.

Gnabry made a brief appearance as a substitute for Bayern in the victory against Galatasaray in the Champions League on Wednesday in his first game back.

Nagelsmann has also called up two uncapped players as he tests options for Euro 2024, taking place in Germany -- Leipzig's experienced goalkeeper Janis Blaswich and Werder Bremen forward Marvin Ducksch.

Manuel Neuer, Germany's 'keeper when they won the 2014 World Cup, has said the games have come "too soon" as the 37-year-old works his way back to full fitness after a year out with injury.

His Bayern teammate, Jamal Musiala, is missing with a hamstring problem, so his place goes to Borussia Dortmund midfielder Felix Nmecha.

Germany play Turkey on November 18 in Berlin, where the capital's large Turkish population is expected to create a boisterous atmosphere, before travelling to Vienna to face Austria three days later.