

**STAR Sports**  
**Asia Cup Hockey**  
 Bangladesh v Japan  
 Live from 1:00pm  
**TEN Sports**  
**US Open**  
 Men's 2nd Rd & Women's 3rd Rd  
 Live from 9:00pm

**TEN Action**  
**UEFA Super Cup**  
 Bayern Munich v Chelsea  
 Live from 12:00am (Saturday)  
**STAR Sports**  
**Primera Liga**  
 Rayo Vallecano v Levante

Live from 3:00am (Saturday)

## Bayern, City in same group

AFP, Paris

Reigning European champions Bayern Munich were paired with Manchester City for this season's Champions League group stage, while the draw was particularly unkind for Arsenal and Celtic.

The draw, made in Monaco on Thursday evening, threw up several mouthwatering ties as well as bringing together plenty familiar foes.

Under Pep Guardiola, Bayern are looking to become the first club to retain the European Cup in the Champions League era. They were drawn in Group D along with Manchester City, the Premier League giants who previously faced the Bavarians in the 2011-12 competition.

On that occasion, City finished bottom of their section while Bayern went all the way to the final, and

Roberto Mancini's side also failed to progress from their group last season.

This time, though, City are expected to pose a greater threat under Chilean coach Manuel Pellegrini, who has taken Villarreal and Malaga to the latter stages in the past and came up against Guardiola's Barcelona when in charge of Real Madrid in 2009-10.

Those two clubs are likely to fight it out for first place in a group that also contains Russian champions CSKA Moscow and Czech club Viktoria Plzen.

The draw was even kinder to 2012 European champions Chelsea. The Blues will face Bundesliga club Schalke, 1986 European Cup winners Steaua Bucharest and FC Basel, who lost to Chelsea in the Europa League semifinals last season, in Group E.

David Moyes, though, will not be taking the opposition lightly in what will be his first Champions League campaign at the helm of Manchester

United.

The English champions will be favourites to qualify for the last 16 from Group A but they must still face Ukraine's Shakhtar Donetsk, Spanish outfit Real Sociedad and Bayer Leverkusen.

The German side beat United in the 2002 semifinals and are now coached by former Liverpool defender Sami Hyypia.

Arsenal came off the worst of all, the English contenders in a Group F that contains last season's runners-up Borussia Dortmund, Marseille and Napoli.

The Gunners faced Dortmund and Marseille in the group stage two seasons ago, but will be especially wary of Napoli, whose coach Rafael Benitez is a specialist at this level and who, in Gonzalo Higuain, boast a striker that might have joined Arsenal earlier this summer.

The opening round of group games will be played on September 17 and 18.



French star Franck Ribery shows off his UEFA Best Player in Europe 2012-13 Award after the Champions League draw in Monaco yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D	GROUP E	GROUP F	GROUP G	GROUP H
Manchester United (ENG) Shakhtar Donetsk (UKR) Bayer Leverkusen (GER) Real Sociedad (ESP)	Real Madrid (ESP) Juventus (ITA) Galatasaray (TUR) FC Copenhagen (DEN)	Benfica (POR) Paris Saint-Germain (FRA) Olympique Lyonnais (FRA) Anderlecht (BEL)	Bayern Munich (GER) CSKA Moscow (RUS) Manchester City (ENG) Viktoria Plzen (CZE)	Chelsea (ENG) Schalke 04 (GER) FC Basel (SUI) Steaua Bucharest (ROM)	Arsenal (ENG) Marseille (FRA) Borussia Dortmund (GER) Napoli (ITA)	FC Porto (POR) Atletico Madrid (ESP) Zenit St Petersburg (RUS) Austria Vienna (AUT)	Barcelona (ESP) AC Milan (ITA) Ajax (NED) Celtic (SCO)

## Super Cup Barcelona's

AFP, Barcelona

Barcelona lifted the first silverware of the Spanish season on away goals after a 0-0 draw with Atletico Madrid in the second-leg of the Spanish Super Cup on Wednesday night.

Following the 1-1 draw in the first-leg, the Catalans were left to thank goalkeeper Victor Valdes for preserving their advantage as he pulled off incredible saves from Arda Turan and David Villa either side of half-time.

Barca should have then sealed victory on the night themselves as after Filipe Luis was sent off for Atletico, Lionel Messi fired a late penalty off the bar.

Barca boss Gerardo Martino had handed a first start to Neymar as the Brazilian and Lionel Messi lined up for the first time in a competitive match since the former's switch from Santos.

And with the South American duo in attack, Barca started brightly as Messi was just denied by a last ditch challenge by Luis and Alexis Sanchez fired wide from Jordi Alba's dangerous cross.

Having weathered the early storm though, Atletico then started to gain a foothold and had the two best openings of the opening period.

Firstly Koke failed to connect properly when he was teed up at the edge of the box allowing Valdes to save easily before the Barca keeper made a stunning save to turn behind Arda's sweetly struck volley.

Valdes was called upon again after the break as he parried Villa's curling effort from the edge of the area as Atletico went in search of the away goal they needed to stay alive in the tie.

The more the visitors pushed forward though, the more they were susceptible to the Barca counter-attack and the Catalans passed up a host of opportunities to put the tie to bed.

Neymar was the biggest culprit as he squared when he ought to have gone for goal himself at the back post from Dani Alves' cross midway through the second-half.

Atletico were then reduced to 10 men when Luis saw a straight red card after he clashed with Alves off the ball on 80 minutes.

## Pep, Jose's grudge final

AFP, Prague

Champions League winners Bayern Munich and Europa League holders Chelsea meet in the European Super Cup on Friday with the usually relaxed atmosphere surrounding the match spiced up as there are several scores to be settled.

Bayern still feel they should have won the Champions League a year earlier only to be beaten by Chelsea on penalties -- even worse for the Germans as it came at their stadium, the Allianz Arena.

Chelsea's manager at the time Roberto di Matteo is no longer there - he was sacked only a few months later and his replacement Rafael Benitez salvaged something from the season in landing the Europa League.

The present incumbent Jose Mourinho -- Benitez' spell as caretaker manager ended at the end of last season -- will be eager to put one over Bayern's coach Pep Guardiola, his nemesis from his days in Spain.

Barcelona under Guardiola outshone Mourinho's Real Madrid, and the latter's largely unhappy reign there came to an end at the end of last season.

That left the self-anointed 'Special One' needing to prove he has not lost his touch at delivering trophies, and where better to start than by beating his old rival in the process.

Guardiola for his part took a year out -- stepping aside after Real ended Barcelona's reign as champions in 2012 -- and returned refreshed to take over a Bayern side that last season won the domestic double and the Champions League.

## Finch smashes record score

REUTERS, Southampton

Australia opener Aaron Finch smashed the highest score in a Twenty20 International on Thursday when he reached 156 in his team's 248 for six in the first of two matches against England.

The burly Australian struck 11 fours and 14 sixes off 63 balls to better the previous best of 123 scored by New Zealander Brendon McCullum.

"Lucky today was my day, any one of them could have gone straight up in the air," Finch told Sky Sports.



Barcelona players celebrate with the Spanish Super Cup after overcoming Atletico Madrid at the Nou Camp on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Hafeez propels Pak victory

AFP, Harare

A commanding century by Mohammad Hafeez and a four-wicket haul from left-arm seamer Junaid Khan led Pakistan to a series-levelling victory over Zimbabwe in the second one-day international on Thursday.

After Hafeez had carried Pakistan to an imposing total of 299 for four with an unbeaten 136, Junaid stubbed out a promising run chase by the Zimbabweans to secure a 90-run win and set up a series decider on Saturday.

Captain Brendan Taylor led Zimbabwe's reply from the front with an assured 79, but his dismissal saw the hosts collapse from 200 for four in the 39th over to 209 all out in the 43rd as Junaid finished with figures of 4 for 15.

Taylor had shared partnerships with Hamilton Masakadza, Sean Williams and Malcolm Waller as Zimbabwe laid a platform for what would have been the highest successful run chase at Harare Sports Club, only for Junaid and Saeed Aijmal to snuff it out.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: 299 for 4 in 50 overs (Jamshed 32, Hafeez 136 not out, Amin 59, Afridi 39 not out; Vitori 2-68)

ZIMBABWE: 209 all out in 42.4 overs (Masakadza 24, Taylor 79, Williams 37, Waller 40; Junaid 4-15, Rehman 2-36, Aijmal 2-40)

Result: Pakistan won by 90 runs.  
 Player-of-the-match: Mohammad Hafeez.

## Tigers to play 3-day warm-up in Khulna

SPORTS REPORTER

The national cricketers will play a three-day practice match at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna, starting from September 3.

The team management has arranged this match as part of their preparation for the home series against New Zealand in October. The Kiwis will arrive in Dhaka on October 2 to play two Tests, three ODIs and a T20I.

The national team's head coach Shane Jurgensen wants to give his players some longer-version match practice ahead of the series as the players are going to get limited-over match practice during the coming Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League.

It was learnt that the coach also has plans to arrange another longer-version practice match before the series start but it will depend on clubs.

## Flamini returns, Poldi sidelined

AFP, London

French midfielder Mathieu Flamini has returned to Arsenal after being released by AC Milan, the Premier League club announced on Thursday.

The 29-year-old central midfielder made 153 appearances for Arsenal between 2004 and 2008 before leaving for Milan, where he spent five seasons.

He has been training with the Arsenal squad for the past month and Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said he was delighted to have Flamini back on board.

"We are very pleased Mathieu has agreed to rejoin us," Wenger told the Arsenal website, www.arsenal.com.

"He is a player of real quality, with a fantastic work rate and great mentality.

"As we know, Mathieu is a strong midfielder, but is also comfortable playing in defence too. He is a very good addition to our squad."

Wenger also revealed on Thursday that the club will be without Lukas Podolski for up to 10 weeks after the German forward damaged his hamstring in Tuesday's 2-0 win over Fenerbahce.

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