

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

STAR Sports 1

Australia v England

First Test, Day 3

Live from 6:00am (Saturday)

TEN Cricket

South Africa v Pakistan

Second T20I (D/N)

Live from 10:00pm

STAR Sports 4

Primera Liga

Real Valladolid v Osasuna

Live from 2:00am (Saturday)

NEO Prime

Bundesliga

VfB Stuttgart v Borussia M'gladbach

Dhaka Premier League

(Super League Round)

Gazi Tank v Prime Bank

Venue: SBNS

MSC v Kalabagan CA

Venue: Fatullah Stadium

Prime Doleshwar v Sk Jamal

Venue: BKSP-2

Federation Cup

Team BJMC v Police, Time: 3:45pm

Sk Russel v Ctg Abahani

Time: 6:00pm Venue: BNS

# Alves adds to Barca's injury woes

AFP, Madrid

Brazilian full-back Dani Alves has become the latest Barcelona star to be struck by injury as he has been ruled out for up to 10 days with a calf problem.

The 30-year-old suffered the injury whilst away on international duty with Brazil and will miss Saturday's league match at home to Granada and Barca's Champions League visit to Ajax next week.

"The tests carried out on Thursday morning have confirmed that Dani Alves has a small muscle tear in his right calf. The approximate time out will be seven to 10 days," said a statement on the club's website.

# Potential nightmare group scenarios

INTERNET

The next step is the World Cup draw on December 6th, where the teams will be divided into all-important groups.

The draw process is simple. There are four "pots" with eight teams each. The final groups consist of one team from each of the four pots, and they are randomly drawn from a hat. So teams from Pot 1 can't be in groups with teams from Pot and so on.

Pot 1 is the top-eight teams in the world according to FIFA's rankings.

Pot 2 is four teams from Asia and four teams from North America.

Pot 3 and is five teams from Africa, two teams from South America, and one team from Europe.

Pot 4 is eight teams from Europe.

Three unlucky teams will be placed in a group with hosts Brazil, fresh from winning the 2013 Confederations Cup and raring to get

going in front of a raucous home crowd. Three more unlucky teams will land with Argentina, three with Colombia, three with Uruguay, and even if you avoid those, Chile and Ecuador may be lying in wait later in the draw.

If you pick up a group containing Belgium, Chile and South Korea, it's still a tough draw considering you could have landed Ghana or Honduras (depending on the pots) instead of La Roja on their home continent.

With the pots (largely) predictable, you can begin to forecast a potential "Group of Death" scenario, which incorporates four of the strongest teams that can feasibly be drawn together.

Brazil, as hosts, could head a group that contains Italy, France and Mexico. Argentina could feasibly be paired up with the Netherlands, the Ivory Coast and Japan.

At the other end of the scale, Switzerland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso and Australia could all be drawn together, making for a nip-and-tuck scenario between all four sides.



# Messi hails Ronaldo

AFP, Madrid

Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi praised archrival Cristiano Ronaldo's goal-scoring prowess in an interview published Thursday as speculation mounted that the Portuguese international could be picked as World Player of the Year.

A day after picking up a Golden Boot award for scoring 46 league goals last season, more than any other player in Europe, the 26-year-old Messi paid respect to his Real Madrid rival.

"I don't know if Cristiano Ronaldo is at his peak but he is always there scoring goals in all the games and taking part in his club and national side," Messi told Spanish sports daily Marca and other European sports journalists.

"He has been doing that for many years and whether he is at his peak or a bit less makes no difference."

The 28-year-old Ronaldo is emerging as the favourite to pick up this year's Ballon d'Or for the world's best

player over four-time winner Messi.

Ronaldo scored a hat-trick on Tuesday as Portugal beat Sweden to qualify for their fourth straight World Cup finals and he tops the Spanish league scoreboard so far this season with 16 goals in 13 matches.

Messi has 11 goals from eight games in the league this season but has been sidelined for up to eight weeks with a muscle tear in his left hamstring muscle, his third leg injury this season.

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, a Real Madrid fan, told public radio he would back Ronaldo for the Ballon d'Or award if he had a vote.

"I think he is in impressive form. He is a player who gives everything, who makes an all-out effort. Yes, I would vote for him," Rajoy said.

The Portuguese's chances seemed to rise even further when FIFA announced this week a two-week extension to the voting deadline until November 29, citing a weak turnout, and allowing participants to change ballots already cast.

Catalan sports newspapers, which traditionally back Barcelona, cried foul

over the FIFA decision, which comes as Ronaldo hits top form and Messi is injured.

Messi brushed off comments in the media about the injuries he has picked up this season, following some criticism that he should have paced himself better.

"What they say about the injury did not worry me and does not worry me because I am used to people talking and saying many things not only about the injury but about pretty much everything," he said.

"I am sorry I cannot help my teammates now but it is an injury that heals normally and I will be back next year keen to get started."

The Argentine international said there was no chance of his leaving Barcelona despite suggestions that some clubs would be ready to write a blank cheque to sign him.

"My intention is to stay with Barcelona for good," Messi said.

"I am grateful if what they say is true and there are people interested. It makes you proud that they say such things. But my life is with Barcelona."

# Uruguay last to qualify

AFP, Montevideo

Uruguay became the final team to qualify for the 2014 World Cup on Wednesday after grinding out a 0-0 draw in a gritty battle with Asian minnows Jordan.

After Uruguay thrashed the Jordanians 5-0 in the first leg in Amman last week, a capacity crowd at Montevideo's famous Centenario Stadium had looked forward to seeing a full-strength Celeste side produce a high-scoring send-off.

However a fiercely committed Jordan frustrated the South Americans at every turn, defending in numbers and ruffling Oscar Tabarez's men with a physical approach.

It did not stop the Uruguayan players and their fans from erupting in wild celebrations at the final whistle as fireworks exploded above the stadium.

Earlier, three Jordanian players picked up bookings during a game that restored some pride for coach Hossam Hassan after his team were embarrassed on home soil last week.

Uruguay, the fifth ranked side in South America's qualifying campaign became the last of 32 teams to qualify for next year's

World Cup in Brazil.

Only a few months ago, 2010 World Cup semi-finalists Uruguay had been struggling to qualify, scraping into fifth place after mounting a late rally which saw them win four out of their five final qualifiers.

They join Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador and Chile as the South American representatives at the finals.

The tone for Wednesday's match was set early on with Mohammed Aldmeiri and Adnan Hasan both booked by referee Jonas Eriksson in the first half for some wild lunges.

Uruguay meanwhile struggled to penetrate a resolute Jordanian defence, restricted to only a handful of unsuccessful attacks on goal.

Defender Diego Godin had the best chance for Uruguay, hitting the bar with an instinctive close-range header on the stroke of half-time.

It was a similar story in the second half, with captain Diego Lugano going closest on 60 minutes, rising unmarked to meet a corner but steering a downward header just wide.

The introduction of Uruguay veteran Diego Forlan for Nicolas Lodeiro just after the hour mark was unable to change the complexion of the game as the Jordanians hung on for a famous draw.

# Adidas extends FIFA WC deal

AFP, Frankfurt

German sportswear giant Adidas said Thursday it will extend its long-standing sponsorship agreement with the FIFA World Cup tournament until 2030.

"Today, FIFA and Adidas formally announced an extension of their long-term partnership agreement granting Adidas the official partner, supplier and licensee rights for the FIFA World Cup and all FIFA events until 2030," the German company announced in a statement.

Financial details were not disclosed and, when contacted by AFP, an Adidas spokesman declined to divulge the sum of money involved.

"Football is very important for Adidas. We're the leading brand and we want to remain the leading brand," he said.

# Big win gives SL series

REUTERS, Palakkadu

Tillakaratne Dilshan and Kusal Perera slammed quick half-centuries to steer Sri Lanka to an eight-wicket win over New Zealand on Thursday and take the two-match Twenty20 series 1-0.

New Zealand were restricted to 142 for seven after being asked to bat and Sri Lanka knocked the runs off with 13 balls to spare scoring 143-2.

The first T20 on Tuesday was abandoned due to rain.

Dilshan and Perera led Sri Lanka's run chase with a second wicket stand of 96 off 71 balls after they had lost Mahela Jayawardene lbw for three in the second over.

Perera who got off the mark with a straight driven six off Mitchell McClenaghan raced to 57 off 37 balls.

He made New Zealand pay dearly for failing to catch him at six and 39 by hitting two sixes and six fours before miscuing a drive to give Rob Nicol a return catch.

Dilshan continued his good form against

New Zealand by completing his fourth consecutive half-century. He was unbeaten on 59 which included eight fours.

New Zealand had been kept pinned down by penetrative bowling from the Sri Lankan bowlers who made early inroads into their batting.

Nuwan Kulasekara made the initial breakthrough by having Hamish Rutherford caught behind by Kumar Sangakkara for three in the second over.

New Zealand lost half their side for 93 by the 15th over before Luke Ronchi (34 not out) and Nathan McCullum (26) put together a partnership of 45 off 29 balls to get them to a respectable total.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**

**NEW ZEALAND:** 142 for 7 in 20 overs (Ronchi 34 not out, Devcich 30, McCullum 26, Latham 20, Munro 17; T Perera 1-13, Mathews 1-17, Rambukwella 1-19, Mendis 1-20)

**SRI LANKA:** 143 for 2 in 17.5 overs (Dilshan 59 not out, K Perera 57, Sangakkara 20 not out; Nicol 1-18, McClenaghan 1-34)

**Result:** Sri Lanka won by eight wickets and clinched the 2-T20I series 1-0.

# Ribery out of Dortmund clash

AFP, Munich

Bayern Munich suffered a set back for Saturday's Bundesliga showdown against Borussia Dortmund after Franck Ribery was ruled out with fractured ribs.

The 30-year-old winger returned from France's World Cup qualifier victory against Ukraine in Paris with a rib fracture, a scan in Munich revealed on Thursday, and he misses the game at Dortmund's Westfalenstadion.

"It is, of course, a huge pity. I'd really wanted to play in this top game in Dortmund," said Ribery.

"But I am sure that the team can do it without me."



Uruguay players celebrate their qualification into the 2014 World Cup at the end of the intercontinental play-off against Jordan in Montevideo on Wednesday.



Rover Cup, a competition between expatriates from Europe and ROW (rest of the world) which has been taking place for 12 years in Dhaka, played under Ryder Cup format, took place at the Kurmitola Golf Course recently. ROW defeated Europe 20-16.

ADMISSION

ADMISSION TEST ON November 29, 2013

Spring 2014

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