

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

TEN Action  
UEFA Champions League  
Zenit v Atletico Madrid  
Live from 11:00pm  
Arsenal v Marseille  
Live from 1:45am (Wednesday)

TEN Sports  
UEFA Champions League  
Ajax v Barcelona  
Live from 1:45am (Wednesday)

TEN HD  
UEFA Champions League  
FC Basel v Chelsea  
Live from 1:45am (Wednesday)

Federation Cup  
Muktijoddha v Sk Russel, Time: 3:45pm

Brothers Union v Team BJMC  
Time: 6:00pm , Venue: BNS

## Kalle rules out Messi bid

AFP, Berlin

Bayern Munich chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge has ruled out bidding for superstar Lionel Messi, who has a buyout clause worth 250 million euros (\$338.5 million) in his Barcelona contract.

"We are talking about simply absurd figures, a transfer fee that is even higher than what we spent on Javi Martinez. We won't go there," Rummenigge told German Sky Sports.

"Barcelona's president Sandro Rosell is an old friend and I know they would never sell Messi. He is a saint at Barcelona.

"And I think it would be in Messi's best interest to stay at Barcelona. He fits in perfectly there."

## Pep threatens Bayern's mole

AFP, Berlin

European champions Bayern Munich are again dominating this season but behind the scenes coach Pep Guardiola has threatened the mole who is leaking details of tactics to the German press.

"No matter who it is, heads will roll. I will throw him out and he'll never play for me again," Guardiola fumed to German daily Bild.

Guardiola is furious after details of Bayern's tactical plan appeared in Bild, hours before Saturday's 3-0 league win at rivals Borussia Dortmund in a replay of May's Champions League final.

Chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge confirmed the "mole affair" to German Sky on Sunday with a tongue-in-cheek reference to America's National Security Agency, which is currently under fire for covertly collecting data on European leaders.

"We won't be turning to the NSA to find out who it is, but I would advise the person concerned to immediately stop this performance," said Rummenigge.

# Chelsea eyeing last sixteen

AFP, Paris



Chelsea travel to Switzerland to face FC Basel in the Champions League on Tuesday knowing that a point will be enough to seal their place in the last 16.

Last year, as reigning European champions, the Blues were eliminated in the group stage, but while they have not always convinced since the return to the dugout of Jose Mourinho, they have seized control of Group E since a shock home defeat to Basel in September.

That 2-1 loss at Stamford Bridge has been followed by comprehensive victories away to Steaua Bucharest and twice against Schalke, Mourinho's men rattling in 10 goals and conceding none in those games to sit three points clear of the Germans at the top of the section.

As they return to the St Jakob-Park, scene of a 2-1 win in the first leg of last season's Europa League semi-final in April, Chelsea will be looking to extend a run of just one defeat in 13 matches in all competitions.

They were convincing 3-0 winners away to West Ham United on Saturday, a result that left them in third place in the Premier League and eased concerns about their away form, which had previously been patchy.

Veteran midfielder Frank Lampard scored twice against his former club at the weekend and now he is looking forward to gaining revenge on Basel following that September shocker.

"The great thing about that game is it's a bit of a distant memory now, because of

results since then," Lampard told Chelsea TV.

"It wasn't easy to go and win three on the bounce and we still have a bit more to do. We can put the record straight on Tuesday.

"We lost at home (to Basel), but we won there last year in the Europa League. Let's try to get that win. Then you can relax in that last game a little bit. We need to go and do the job."

Against West Ham, Chelsea were without left-back Ashley Cole, who has not started any of the team's last three games, with Cesar Azpilicueta again deputising on the left of the defence. Fernando Torres has also been on the sidelines due to an adductor injury, although Mourinho has indicated that he is "almost ready" to return.

The margins are fine for Chelsea, as a defeat in Switzerland would leave them just a point clear of Basel while also giving Schalke the chance to move level on points at the top if they can win away in Bucharest.

Basel are fresh from celebrating their 120th birthday with a 4-1 win against Thun at the weekend which kept them clear at the top of their domestic Super League and have been beaten just once in 19 outings since early August.

However, they have taken just one point from two home outings so far in this season's group stage and a defeat here, coupled with a win for Schalke, will end their prospects of reaching the last 16.

Coach Murat Yakin will look for his side to flourish in the role of underdog again, but must do without midfielder Marcelo Diaz after he suffered a broken rib while on international duty with Chile.

## Rooney lashes out

AFP, London



Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney hit out at two television commentators for saying he deserved to be sent off during his side's 2-2 draw at Cardiff City on Sunday.

Sky Sports commentator Martin Tyler and pundit Graeme Souness, the former Liverpool manager, said Rooney was fortunate not to be shown a red card for kicking Jordon Mutch during the early stages of the Premier League game.

Rooney was instead shown a yellow card by referee Neil Swarbrick and went on to score the opening goal for United and set up their second goal, which was scored by Patrice Evra.

Rooney, who deliberately referred to Souness as 'Souness', said more attention should have been paid to an incident in the second half in which Cardiff midfielder Gary Medel appeared to slap United's Marouane Fellaini.

"Just watched game back. I agree mine

was bad tackle and ref dealt with it. And Martin Tyler didn't shut up about it all game," Rooney wrote on his official Twitter account.

"Then someone slaps someone in face and he doesn't speak a word about it. I like Martin but that's poor from him.

"Souness (says) the rules are u kick out u should be off. Souness (says) medel gives left hook he's done his job. Haha brilliant."

Responding to tweets from people querying his spelling of Souness's name, Rooney added: " 'Souness' was sarcastic, for everyone biting."

Speaking on Sky Sports 1, Souness had said: "He (Rooney) should be off, there's no argument. Why the ref has given him a yellow card is beyond me.

"I don't know what Wayne is thinking of. He's got an exploding head, we know that. That's just borne out of frustration."

However, Cardiff manager Malky Mackay said he had no qualms with Swarbrick's handling of the incident and United manager David Moyes said: "I didn't think it deserved any more than a yellow card."



PHOTO: REUTERS  
Brazil midfielder Luiz Gustavo displays the new jersey for the 2014 World Cup at a function in Rio de Janeiro on Sunday.

## Brazil unveil WC kit

REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro



Nike launched a key battle in its war for shirt supremacy on Sunday when they unveiled the kit Brazil will wear to host the 2014 World Cup.

VfL Wolfsburg midfielder Luiz Gustavo appeared in Copacabana wearing the famous yellow shirt and coach Luiz Felipe Scolari warned Brazil's rivals the five-times champions aim to make an important alteration by winning the competition for a record sixth time.

"The shirt looks great, the only thing missing is a sixth star," Scolari said.

"We aim to have that on there after the World Cup."

The Brazil shirt is Nike's top selling international jersey and the company will do one billion dollars worth of business in the South American country this year, said their vice president of communications Charlie Brooks.

Nike expects Brazil to be its third largest market in the world by 2017, behind only

the United States and China.

Sportswear rivals Nike and Adidas are battling over supremacy in the 5 billion-euros soccer kit market.

The two firms are virtually neck and neck in a market which the American company entered around 20 years ago.

The German company recently announced that it had extended its sponsorship agreement with FIFA to 2030, building on a partnership that dates back to 1970. The deal allows Adidas to supply match balls, kit for officials and volunteers and to advertise at World Cup venues.

Nike has a long-term deal with the Brazilian Football Confederation that has run since 1997. It also sponsors Neymar, the young Barcelona striker who will shoulder much of Brazil's expectation next year.

Nike is already celebrating an early victory in the kit war, as the supplier to 10 of the tournament finalists. Adidas and smaller German rival Puma each have deals with eight teams.

Yet the top four teams in the FIFA rankings - Spain, Germany, Argentina and Colombia - all wear Adidas.

## Vettel ends season on record high

AFP, Sao Paulo

Sebastian Vettel ended the 2013 Formula One season in typically record-breaking style on Sunday when he claimed a commanding victory in the Brazilian Grand Prix ahead of his retirement-bound Red Bull teammate Mark Webber.

It was Vettel's ninth successive victory since the Hungarian Grand Prix at the end of July, his 13th of the season and the 39th of his career.

This meant he extended his own record of consecutive wins in a season, equalled Italian Alberto Ascari's historic record of nine straight wins stretched across two seasons from 1952-1953 and also equalled fellow-German Michael Schumacher's total for one season, set with Ferrari in 2004.

Webber came home second, 10.452 seconds behind the 26-year-old four time champion, with in third two-time champion Fernando Alonso of Ferrari.

Jenson Button finished fourth for McLaren ahead of Nico Rosberg of Mercedes, Sergio Perez in the second McLaren and Felipe Massa, who marked his final race with Ferrari by finishing seventh.

## Zaheer recalled, Gambhir ignored

AFP, New Delhi



India on Monday picked veteran seamer Zaheer Khan for next month's Test series in South Africa, but again ignored opener Gautam Gambhir for the first tour in the post-Sachin Tendulkar era.

Zaheer, an 88-Test veteran who needs five wickets to reach the 300 mark, had not been considered since the third Test against England in Kolkata a year ago due to form and fitness issues.

The 35-year-old was not handed a central contract this season, but found favour with the selectors after he claimed 13 wickets in three Ranji Trophy first-class matches for Mumbai, including a five-wicket haul.

Zaheer will spearhead a five-man seam attack in South Africa where he claimed 10 wickets in two Tests on the previous tour in 2010-2011.

Gambhir, who was also sidelined after the home series against England, failed to impress the selectors despite making 153 on a green-top on Saturday to fashion Delhi's Ranji Trophy win over Haryana.

The tour opens with the first one-day international at the Wanderers in Johannesburg on December 5. The remaining two one-dayers will be held in Durban (December 8) and Centurion (December 11).

India will play a two-day warm-up match in Benoni on December 14-15 ahead of two back-to-back Tests in Johannesburg (December 18-22) and Durban (December 26-30).

### SQUADS

**TEST:** Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Murali Vijay, Shikhar Dhawan, Cheteshwar Pujara, Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Ajinkya Rahane, Ravichandran Ashwin, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Umesh Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Ravindra Jadeja, Zaheer Khan, Ambati Rayudu, Wriddhiman Saha, Ishant Sharma, Pragyan Ojha.

**ODI:** Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Suresh Raina, Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Ajinkya Rahane, Yuvraj Singh, Ravichandran Ashwin, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mohammed Shami, Ambati Rayudu, Umesh Yadav, Ishant Sharma, Mohit Sharma, Ravindra Jadeja, Amit Mishra.

## The coveted Cup is near!

SPORTS REPORTER

The World's Cup started its journey from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil – a country where football inspires happiness.

Under the sun-drenched sky and Christ the Redeemer towering over, the sound of Gaby Amarantos, Monobloco and David Correy performing the song "The World is Ours" reverberated in the sky. It was the third edition of the FIFA World Cup™ Trophy Tour by Coca-Cola, marking the start of the 267-day journey of the solid-gold trophy across 89 countries before returning to Brazil in 2014.

Five former winners of the FIFA World Cup Zagallo, Amarildo, Rivelino, Beбето and Marcos took part in the ceremony and emotions were running high as they remembered the glorious days with the trophy in their hand.

Because football is everyone's sport, Brazil is everyone's country and Coke is everyone's drink, Coca-Cola is bringing the trophy to Bangladesh on 17th December. Get ready to cheer her arrival. Ashol trophy Bangladesh-e, khushir Joar Shara desh-e.

## Four clubs stage sit-in

SPORTS REPORTER

Four clubs including Mohammedan SC staged a sit-in programme in front of the National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday demanding the dissolution of the current executive committee of the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) and ensuring the participation of all 11 clubs in the inter-club players' transfer.

The players' transfer was completed on November 21, where seven clubs took part while four others -- Mohammedan, Mariner Youngs Club, Wari Club and Bangladesh Sporting Club -- did not turn up as per their previous announcement that they would not participate in any hockey activities under the current committee.

The officials, fans and a few players stayed there for nearly an hour and urged the concerned authority to form an ad-hoc committee by dissolving the existing committee so that all 11 clubs can participate in the upcoming season.

Officials of the four clubs are likely to meet State Minister For Youth and Sports Mujibul Haque Chunnun today to press home their demands.

## Brazilian federation under pressure

INTERNET

Brazilian players launched another wave of protest against the national federation over the weekend, sitting on the field and crossing their arms before league matches to demand changes to the country's packed football calendar.

The 22 players in matches Saturday and Sunday went to the ground for about 30 seconds before kickoff to attract more attention to the movement "Common Sense FC," which is seeking a more organized calendar to benefit players, teams and fans. In one of the matches, players just put a knee down instead of sitting, and in another fans joined in the protest with chants against the federation.



PHOTO: AFP  
Manchester United star Wayne Rooney (L) reacts next to Cardiff City midfielder Jordon Mutch (on the ground) after receiving a yellow card for an early challenge during their Premier League encounter in Cardiff on Sunday.