

What to WATCH

GAZI TV & TEN CRICKET  
WEST INDIES V BANGLADESH  
Second Test, Day 1  
Live from 8:00pm  
STAR SPORTS 4  
English Premiership  
Arsenal v Man City

Live from 5:45pm  
Chelsea v Swansea City  
Live from 8:00pm  
Liverpool v Aston Villa  
Live from 10:30pm  
Serie A  
Juventus v Udinese

Live from 12:45am (Sunday)  
STAR Sports2  
Primera Liga  
Barcelona v Bilbao  
Live from 8:00pm  
Malaga v Levante  
Live from 10:00pm

Real Madrid v Atletico Madrid  
Live from 12:00am (Sunday)  
Celta de Vigo v Real Sociedad  
Live from 2:00am (Sunday)

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# Debutants take centrestage

AFP, London

Radamel Falcao, Danny Welbeck and Toby Alderweireld are among the players in line to make their debuts as the Premier League resumes this weekend following the international break.

Falcao's move to Manchester United on a season-long loan from Monaco was the headline story when the transfer window closed on September 1.

The 28-year-old Colombia striker, who reportedly cost United a £6 million (\$9.7 million, 7.5 million euros) loan fee, is expected to don the red shirt for the first time on Sunday when Queens Park Rangers visit Old Trafford.

Daley Blind, Marcos Rojo and Luke Shaw, who has recovered from a hamstring injury, could also make their debuts for Louis van Gaal's side, while record signing Angel di Maria is due to make his first home appearance.

United are without a win after three games of the campaign, but Falcao is confident that he and his fellow new arrivals can help restore the club to former glories.

"This is a new process, a new team," he said during his official presentation to the media on Thursday.

"This year some players have come in and I think that Manchester United will build a big team this season and in the future, and I would like to be here and to be part of the project."

QPR, meanwhile, could hand debuts to Brazilian midfielder Sandro and Chile forward Eduardo Vargas, who was granted a work permit earlier this week after joining on loan from Napoli.

Falcao's arrival at United saw Danny Welbeck forced out and the England forward is set to make his debut for Arsenal on Saturday when champions Manchester City visit the Emirates Stadium.

The £16 million striker scored twice as England won 2-0 against Switzerland in their opening Euro 2016 qualifier on Monday and Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger believes he can make Welbeck even more effective.

"He can first of all make himself a better player, because I can help him," said Wenger.

"Danny is a young boy, not 24 yet, and let's not forget that some players who arrived here at the age of 23 made huge careers here, so I hope we can contribute and help him."

Neither Chelsea nor Swansea City made any additions to their senior squads on deadline day, but having each won their first three matches, there appeared little need for last-minute additions anyway.

The two teams meet at Stamford Bridge, with Swansea coach Garry Monk declaring he has no problems with opposite number Jose Mourinho, who snubbed his offer of a handshake

## FIXTURES

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| <b>Saturday</b><br>(1400 GMT unless stated)<br>Arsenal v Manchester City (1145 GMT), Chelsea v Swansea City, Crystal Palace v Burnley, Liverpool v Aston Villa (1630 GMT), Southampton v Newcastle United, Stoke City v Leicester City, Sunderland v Tottenham Hotspur, West Bromwich Albion v Everton<br><b>Sunday</b><br>(1500 GMT)<br>Manchester United v Queens Park Rangers<br><b>Monday</b><br>(1900 GMT)<br>Hull City v West Ham United |
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when the teams last met in April.

"I'm probably not the only one who he hasn't shaken hands with," Monk said.

"I like to shake hands and finish well, but I respect him highly. He's a top manager, a very respected person in football and in that bracket of the very elite."

Last season's runners-up Liverpool signed off for the international break with an impressive 3-0 win at Tottenham Hotspur, but they will be without Daniel Sturridge for Saturday's visit of Aston Villa.

The 25-year-old striker has been ruled out for up to three weeks after sustaining a thigh strain on England duty, meaning Mario Balotelli will be under even greater scrutiny as he makes his home debut.

Tottenham could have new French midfielder Benjamin Stambouli in their starting XI when they visit Sunderland, who have brought in Inter Milan forward Ricardo Alvarez and Liverpool defender Sebastian Coates on loan.

Belgium defender Alderweireld, a loan signing from Atletico Madrid, is poised to make his Southampton debut at home to Newcastle United, but Sadio Mane is unlikely to start after work permit issues delayed his return from international duty with Senegal.

"I hope he can still be involved," said Southampton manager Ronald Koeman. "He played on Wednesday night and then he had to travel to Ghana to get his passport stamp before coming to England."

Uruguay striker Abel Hernandez will be the focus of attention when Hull City host West Ham United on Monday, having moved to the KC Stadium from Palermo in a club-record £9.5 million transfer on deadline day.

Manchester United manager Louis van Gaal (C) poses with the club's latest signings Colombian striker Radamel Falcao (L) and Dutch midfielder Daley Blind during their unveiling at Old Trafford on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Asian U-14 Tennis starts today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Asian U-14 Series Tennis Tournament gets underway at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna today, informed speakers at a press conference at the Bangladesh Tennis Federation (BTF) headquarters yesterday.

28 boys and 12 girls from Bahrain, India, Hong Kong, Philippines, Sri Lanka, South Korea, USA, UK and hosts Bangladesh will take part in week-long tournament, which is being organised by the BTF and authorised by the Asian Tennis Federation (ATF).

Ali Dawani of Bahrain, who is fifth in the Asian U-14 boys' ranking, is the top seed for the boys' event tournament while Adithiya Karunarathne, who is ranked number one in the Asian U-14 girls' ranking, is the top seed in the girls' event.

# Madrid derby tops bill

AFP, Madrid

A seventh Madrid derby of the year tops the bill as Spain's four Champions League representatives face off on Saturday ahead of the kick-off of their group stage campaigns in midweek.

Real Madrid and La Liga champions Atletico meet again at the Santiago Bernabeu for the third time already this season with Atletico having emerged victorious over two legs in the Spanish Super Cup last month.

Los Blancos' victory over Atletico in the Champions League final in Lisbon meant both teams from the capital ended the season happy.

But Atletico boss Diego Simeone claimed his side's triumph in breaking Real and Barca's hegemony of the Spanish title was the greater achievement.

"For me to win the league is as good as it gets because it is what the fans live day-by-day," Simeone told Argentine newspaper Clarin.

"A league is 38 games competing against two enormously powerful teams. To maintain their rhythm is almost impossible and we managed to do it."

Atletico's 1-0 win at the Bernabeu 12 months ago proved the launching pad to their title run and they could move four points clear of Real should they repeat the feat this weekend.

Carlo Ancelotti's men endured a horror show in San Sebastian just before the international break as they let a 2-0 lead slip to lose 4-2 to Real Sociedad.

Madrid were without the injured Cristiano Ronaldo due to his ongoing knee problems for that defeat, but he is hopeful of returning to face Atletico

## FIXTURES

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| (all times GMT)<br><b>Saturday</b><br>Barcelona v Athletic Bilbao (1400), Malaga v Levante (1600), Real Madrid v Atletico Madrid (1800), Celta Vigo v Real Sociedad (2000)<br><b>Sunday</b><br>Rayo Vallecano v Elche (1000), Valencia v Espanyol (1500), Sevilla v Getafe (1700), Granada v Villarreal (1900)<br><b>Monday</b><br>Eibar v Deportivo (1845) |
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having also sat out Portugal's shock 1-0 reverse to Albania.

Real's other injury concern surrounds right-back Dani Carvajal, who had to pull out of Spain's 5-1 thrashing of Macedonia due to a hamstring problem.

The 22-year-old is not expected to recover in time and, according to Spanish press reports, Ancelotti will switch one of centre-backs Raphael Varane or Sergio Ramos out to the flank to help combat Atletico's height advantage at set-pieces.

Earlier on Saturday, Barcelona will look to continue their 100 percent start to the new season when they host Athletic Bilbao at the Camp Nou.

Much of the build-up to the game has been surrounded by off-field political issues as Barca will unusually wear their red and gold striped away shirt, the same colours as the Catalan flag, to commemorate the region's loss of sovereignty 300 years ago.

However, Luis Enrique's men should be raring to go on the field as Gerard Pique, Andres Iniesta and Leo Messi all pulled out of their international commitments due to minor injuries and are expected to return.

## Snr Division football underway

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka United Sporting Club made a winning start as the Bengal Group Dhaka Senior First Division Football League got underway yesterday.

Dhaka United SC beat Bangladesh Boys Club 1-0, thanks to a 38th minute strike from Mohammad Asha, at the Birshirsha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

Earlier, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed inaugurated the league where Bangladesh Football Federation's senior vice-president Abdus Salam Murshedy was present, among others.

The champions and runners-up teams, out of the ten teams, will get promotion to the Bangladesh Championship League, the second tier of the professional football league next season.

## Ronaldinho caught in red tape

AFP, Mexico City

Brazilian star Ronaldinho may have to wait before making his debut for Mexican club Queretaro after receiving his work permit at the last minute.

The former two-time world footballer of the year had hoped to make his first appearance in the Mexican league against Puebla on Friday evening but Queretaro coach Ignacio Ambriz admitted he will have to make a late call on his fitness.

"I need to talk to him to know whether he is ready to play or not," Ambriz told a news conference ahead of the game.

# Bento pays the price of failure

REUTERS, Lisbon

Portugal coach Paulo Bento lost his job on Thursday after a calamitous start to the Euro 2016 qualifying campaign following a dismal World Cup.

The Portuguese Football Federation confirmed his departure, which had looked inevitable after the shock 1-0 home defeat by rank outsiders Albania on Sunday, in a statement and said the decision had been mutual.

Portugal fans booed the team after the defeat to Albania, heaping pressure on the coach, and the 45-year-old admitted the performance had not been good enough.

"I'm not making excuses," Bento said. "It wasn't a lack of commitment on the part of my players but we weren't efficient enough, while Albania were very efficient."

"We are all frustrated because of the result. We could have done better, even though I think we were not that bad."

After a solid spell in charge of Sporting, where his side qualified for the Champions League for four consecutive seasons, Bento replaced Carlos Queiroz as manager of the Portuguese national team in 2010.

Under the guidance of the former Benfica midfielder, Portugal qualified for the 2012 European Championships via the playoffs but were knocked out of the tournament on penalties by eventual winners Spain in the semifinals.

Portugal required the playoffs once again to qualify for this year's World Cup in Brazil but, despite boasting Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo among their ranks, struggled throughout the tournament.

Bento's side began their campaign with a 4-0 loss against Germany and although they drew 2-2 with the United States and beat Ghana 2-1, they failed to reach the knockout stages.

Portugal's next Euro 2016 qualifier is against Denmark on October 14.

The federation said it would announce its next move shortly.

# Juve can wait: Lopez

AFP, Milan

New AC Milan goalkeeper Diego Lopez insists thoughts of a much anticipated clash with champions Juventus are on the back burner as the Rossoneri prepare to face Parma on Sunday.

After two hugely disappointing campaigns, Milan are not the powerhouse they once were at home and abroad, but they began the new season with an encouraging 3-1 win over Lazio last weekend.

Former Real Madrid 'keeper Lopez believes a measured approach to talk of a revival under new coach Filippo Inzaghi is key as they build up to Juve's visit to the San Siro on September 20.

"We need to keep doing well, step by step. We are working well with the coach, we are training in a humble manner and steadily we'll get better if we only think about one game at a time," Lopez told Milan Channel.

"I'm not thinking about Milan-Juventus for now, the only thing I have on my mind is today's training, that is the only way to be."

Inzaghi had a dream start to his top-flight coaching career when the 3-1 win over Lazio, during which Lopez stopped an injury-time penalty from Antonio Candreva, left his side top after the opening round of games.

Lopez believes former Juve striker Inzaghi "will become a great coach".

"The people are behind him both from a professional point of view as well as a personal point of view because he is calm and

gives you confidence," added the Spaniard, who could see compatriot Fernando Torres make his Milan bow against Parma.

Juventus are now coached by Massimiliano Allegri, who was sacked by Milan last season.

He has a lot to live up to in replacing Antonio Conte, who left the Turin giants in the summer after winning three consecutive Scudetti, although his side started the season with a 1-0 win away to Chievo last weekend.

Juve host unpredictable Udinese on Saturday without the creative midfield talents of Chilean Arturo Vidal. Ahead of further tests on Friday, reports in Italy claimed Vidal would be out for at least 10 days, meaning he will also miss Tuesday's Champions League Group A opener against Swedish side Malmo.

Allegri was given some good news on Thursday, however, when Carlos Tevez played down reports he too could join the casualty list after pulling up with a thigh injury during training.

"Thanks everyone for being worried about me," wrote Tevez on Twitter. "I have no injury and I am ready for Saturday's game."

## FIXTURES

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| (all kick-offs GMT)<br><b>Saturday</b><br>Empoli v Roma (1600), Juventus v Udinese (1845)<br><b>Sunday</b><br>Sampdoria v Torino (1030), Cagliari v Atalanta, Fiorentina v Genoa, Inter v Sassuolo, Lazio v Cesena, Napoli v Chievo (all 1300), Parma v Milan, Verona v Palermo (both 1845) |
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# Materazzi joins Chennai

REUTERS, New Delhi

Former Italy defender Marco Materazzi has joined Chennai in the new Indian Super League (ISL) following in the footsteps of former national teammate Alessandro Del Piero.

The 41-year-old Materazzi will be player-manager of the team co-owned by Bollywood actor Abhishek Bachchan, a league spokesman told Reuters on Friday.

Materazzi is expected to reach India by Thursday to join a training camp in Bangalore, he added.

The former Inter Milan defender was involved in what is now the lasting impression of the 2006 World Cup which culminated in an eventful final.

Materazzi gave away the penalty which Zinedine Zidane converted to put France ahead before the Italian made amends with the equaliser in the contest in Berlin.

In extra time, Zidane was sent off for headbutting Materazzi, with the France talisman subsequently claiming he was provoked, and Italy went on to win 5-3 on penalties.

Del Piero, Materazzi's teammate in that 2006 squad, has already joined the Delhi franchise in the eight-team league scheduled to run from October 12 to December 20.

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