

**What to WATCH**

**STAR SPORTS2**  
England v New Zealand  
First Test, Day 3  
Live from 4:00pm

**STAR SPORTS4**  
Primera Liga  
Real Madrid v Getafe  
Live from 12:30am  
(Sunday)

**DAY'S EVENT**  
Asian Men's V'ball C'ship  
Venue: Mirpur Indoor Stadium  
Bangladesh v Maldives

**MALDINI BEATS BECKS**

Former Italy defender Paolo Maldini has beaten England icon David Beckham to the punch in launching a professional football club in Miami. As Beckham's plans for a Major League Soccer franchise in Miami remain in limbo, Maldini announced Thursday he was joining entrepreneur Riccardo Silva in launching Miami FC to begin play in the North American Soccer League in 2016. "I strongly believe in the growth of soccer in the USA, and this is the perfect project to develop a top-class soccer team in one of the most important cities in the world," Maldini said.

— AFP



# Enamul brace lifts Muktis

SPORTS REPORTER

Enamul Haque struck a brace as Muktijoddha Sangsad ended the first leg of the Manyavar Bangladesh Premier League with an emphatic 3-0 victory over Farashganj SC at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The veteran striker, who made a return to the national fold after five years in wilderness, scored twice in the second half, either side of a Zahed Parvez strike, to take his goal tally to nine for the league as Muktijoddha moved up to fifth position. With 19 points from 10 matches, the Federation Cup runners-up are well in running for the title as they trail league leaders Sheikh Jamal DC by only four points.

## TOP FIVE SCORERS

PLAYER	CLUB	GOALS
AUGUSTINE WALSON	BROTHERS	11
ENAMUL HAQUE	MUKTIJODDHA	9
ISMAIL BANGOURA	MOHAMMEDAN	8
WEDSON ANSELMINE	SK JAMAL DC	6
EMEKA DARLINGTON	SK JAMAL DC	6

Farashganj, meanwhile, stayed at the foot of the table with only four points.

The match resumed at the big bow from the 41st minute as it was postponed after the 40th minute on the previous day when thunderstorm put an end to proceedings. The scoreline remained goalless in the first half before the All Reds survived a scare from Farashganj's Nigerian striker Uche Felix.

Winger Faisal Mahmud wasted a glorious opportunity when he failed to beat Farashganj goalkeeper Sujun Chowdhury in a one-on-one situation, but Enamul made no mistake to give the All Reds the lead with a well-struck grounder in the 57th minute.

Zahed doubled the lead with a placing shot in the 65th minute before Enamul struck got his second of the game from the spot one minute before time to complete a much-needed win to end the first leg.



Midfield general Mamunul Islam (C) leads teammates as they jog around the Dhanmondi Club ground during Bangladesh national team's practice session yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Hazard's moment of tooth

AFP, London

Chelsea star Eden Hazard was unable to collect his Football Writers' Association Footballer of the Year award on Thursday after having emergency dental surgery to remove three wisdom teeth.

Hazard topped the poll of journalists with 53 per cent of the vote, ahead of second placed Tottenham striker Harry Kane, and was set to collect the prestigious accolade at a gala dinner in London.

However, the 24-year-old Belgium midfielder, who played a key role in Chelsea's Premier League title triumph this season, was unable to attend in person as he is recovering from the dental procedure.

A statement from the FWA read: "2015 Footballer of the Year Eden Hazard has had emergency dental surgery and will be unable to collect his award in person. "Hazard tried to delay the surgery but had to have three wisdom teeth removed on Wednesday and is still in considerable pain."

However, they both face tough tasks this weekend as Depor travel to champions Barcelona, whilst in-form Granada host Athletic.

"It is difficult to get anything at the Camp Nou. We are facing the best team in the world, but we need to show that we are playing for our lives," said Deportivo striker Oriol Riera.

"For us there is no other game. This is the one that will decide where we will play next season."

Barca, though, may not be in a forgiving mood despite having the title sewn up as the Camp Nou is expected to pay homage to Xavi Hernandez on his final league game for the club after a 17-year playing career.

# Fight for survival, Europe

AFP, Madrid



Almeria, Deportivo la Coruna, Eibar and Granada will fight it out to avoid the two remaining relegation places when the Spanish league season comes to a close on Saturday.

The makeup of Spain's representatives in next season's Champions League will also be decided with Valencia and Sevilla still vying for fourth place, whilst Atletico Madrid need a point to secure third and avoid a tricky qualifier in August.

Deportivo and Granada hold the advantage in the battle to avoid the drop as they lead Eibar and Almeria by two points.

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Having previously won just twice in the league since September, Granada have won their last three games since Jose Ramon Sandoval took charge earlier this month to keep their survival hopes alive.

"A month ago it was almost impossible to survive and now we are just one game away from achieving it. A draw could do us and everyone believes we will do it," said midfielder Ruben Perez, who looks set to feature against his parent club.

Atletico will definitely achieve their objective of qualification for the Champions League group stages with a point, but could still be usurped should they lose and Valencia win at Almeria.

"It is difficult to think that one game could define a season, but it is true that for us this point is very important," added Atletico midfielder Tiago.

Almeria's chances of staying up could be decided both on the pitch and in the court room in the coming days.

Even should they beat Los Che to avoid the drop, a final decision on

whether they are to be docked three points for unpaid sums to Danish club Aalborg for the transfer of Michael Jakobsen in 2010 will be made by the Court of Arbitration for Sport on Tuesday.

A Valencia slip-up in Almeria would also have consequences at the top as Sevilla could move into fourth with victory at Malaga.

However, Sevilla also have a second chance at Champions League qualification as they will go straight into next season's group stages even if they finish fifth should they retain the Europa League against Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk on Wednesday.

On paper, Eibar have by far the easiest task on Saturday when they host the already relegated Cordoba.

The Basque minnows have won just one of their last 19 La Liga games, but remain confident of surviving in their first ever season in the top flight with a little help from Barcelona and Athletic.

"Barcelona are in good form and will want a good goodbye for Xavi and Atletico Madrid are playing for third place," said goalkeeper Xabier Irueta.

"We need to do our job and wait and see. If things go as normal then we have a great chance of staying up."

Athletic Bilbao can also seal the final Europa League place with victory at home to Villarreal.

The Basques are currently seventh, which would yield a European place if Barca beat them in the Copa del Rey final next weekend.

# Messi likely for Mexico friendly

AFP, New York

Barcelona star Lionel Messi is expected to join Argentina for a friendly against Mexico in suburban Dallas on September 8, organizers Soccer United Marketing said Thursday.

The match, set for a FIFA fixture date, will be the fifth for the Mexican squad in its US tour this year, "El Tricolor" having already dispatched Ecuador and Paraguay by 1-0 counts in March.

Mexico will face Costa Rica on June 27 at Orlando and Honduras on July 1 at Houston ahead of the CONCACAF Gold Cup tournament for North American supremacy in July.

The September match at Texas Stadium, the 100,000-seat home of American football's Dallas Cowboys, is likely to be the sixth Mexico sellout at the venue since its 2009 debut.

Argentina and Mexico have not met since the 2010 World Cup, when "La Albiceleste" beat Mexico 3-1 in the round of 16 at South Africa.

# NATIONAL JNR ATHLETICS C'SHIPS Four records set on opening day

SPORTS REPORTER

Four national records were set on the opening day of the AKM Shamsuzzoha Smriti 31st National Junior Athletics Championships at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Uzzal Chandra Sutradhar and Saiful Islam Khan produced two new records in long jump and 200m sprint respectively while BKSP boys' and girls' teams set new records in 4X100metre relay.

Uzzal, from Narayanganj, cleared 7.09 metres to beat his previous best by 0.02 metres while his nearest competitor Helal Mia of Narail cleared 6.79 metres to win the silver medal. Meanwhile, Saiful clocked 21.60 seconds in the 200m sprint to set up the new record, beating the previous mark by 0.20 seconds.

BKSP boys' team, comprising Ashrafuzzaman, Saiful, Hasan and Kajal, grabbed the gold medal in 4X100m relay after a record time of 44.10 seconds. The previous best was 44.80 seconds.

The girls' team of BKSP also produced a new record in 4X100m relay at a time of 51.70 seconds, beating the record by 1.64 seconds. All timings were recorded manually instead of electronic device which has been inactive for years.

Ashrafuzzaman, who was part of the BKSP relay team, beat his teammate Hasan to become the fastest sprinter in the 15-17 yr category, clocking 10.90 seconds. Hasan took 10.95 seconds to win the silver medal.

Ayesha Siddique of BKSP became the fastest girl (15-17 yr) with a timing of 12.75 seconds while her teammate Disha Sultana took 13.10 seconds to finish second.

BKSP dominated the medals tally with seven gold followed by Khulna DSA who won two gold medals. Shariatpur, Natore, Chittagong, Jhenaidah, Tangail and Narayanganj won one gold medal each.

# Ancelotti to discuss future

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti has admitted he still doesn't know if he will be retained by the club for next season.

Los Blancos end their campaign at home to Getafe on Saturday, but will do so without a major trophy to their name after Barcelona sealed the La Liga title last weekend.

Ancelotti led Madrid to their 10th European Cup last season, but widespread reports in the Spanish media have claimed he is to be replaced by Napoli boss Rafael Benitez next week.

"We have still not spoken. I haven't spoken to the club, nor have they spoken with me," Ancelotti told a press conference on Friday. "I continue to believe I am the coach of Real Madrid until the club tell me something different."

# Figo pulls out of race

AFP, Paris



Luis Figo and Michael van Praag pulled out of the race for the FIFA presidency Thursday, leaving controversial incumbent Sepp Blatter in a straight fight with Jordan's Prince Ali bin al Hussein.

Former Portugal captain Figo withdrew with a bitter broadside at the contentious election campaign which will culminate in a vote on May 29 where Blatter is widely expected to hang on to a post he has held since 1998.

"I do not fear the ballot box, but I will not go along with nor will I give my consent to a process which will end on May 29 and from which soccer will not emerge the winner," Figo wrote on his Facebook page.

"My decision is made, I will not stand in what is being called an election for the FIFA presidency."

Dutch FIFA presidential candidate van Praag also announced he was dropping his bid, saying he will back Prince Ali instead.

Van Praag, a former Ajax chairman announced his candidacy in January, saying he wanted to modernise the world governing body "which has lost all credibility." FIFA had become ridden with suspicion,



conflicts of interest and allegations of nepotism and corruption, he said at the time.

Observers say Prince Ali stands the best chance to unseat Blatter because the Jordanian had a better campaign budget and contacts within FIFA, having served on its executive committee since 2011.

Figo used his Facebook announcement to also condemn what he believes are double-standards in football's global ruling bodies.

"I have seen with my own eyes federation presidents who, after one day comparing FIFA leaders to the devil, then go on stage and compare those same people with Jesus Christ. Nobody told me about this. I saw it with my own eyes," he wrote.

# Neymar tax case moved to Barcelona

AFP, Madrid

The trial in which Barcelona are accused of concealing how much they paid for the transfer of Brazilian star Neymar will take place in the Catalan capital after an appeal for the case to be moved from Madrid was upheld.

A judge ordered last week that the club, Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu and former president Sandro Rosell stand trial for tax fraud.

However, a court filing released on Friday accepted their appeal that the trial should take place in Barcelona because it is in the club's accounts where the alleged fraud took place.

Previously it had been concluded that given the money was deposited in Brazil the National Court in Madrid had competence over the case.

# Klopp set for farewell

AFP, Berlin



Jurgen Klopp admits he may not be able to contain his emotions for his last home league game as Borussia Dortmund coach when he hosts Werder Bremen on Saturday.

"There will be a special atmosphere and I don't know what will be going on inside me after the final if we win," admitted the 47-year-old.

Klopp's final game in charge is the German Cup final on May 30 against VfL Wolfsburg at Berlin's Olympic Stadium having announced in April that he will leave at the end of the season.

But emotions promise to run high at Dortmund's Westfalenstadion when the vast majority of the sold-out 80,667-strong crowd farewell their hero.

Dortmund can finish in the top six with three points, providing Borussia Moechengladbach beat Augsburg, which would give them a Europa League berth under Klopp's replacement Thomas Tuchel.

But likewise, a win for Bremen could put them in the Europa League next season, providing Wolfsburg beat Dortmund in the cup final the week after.



"Both teams have a huge chance and for us, the Europa League has been the most we could achieve for months," said Klopp.

"We don't feel any pressure, we just see a great opportunity."

It is also the last home game of ex-Germany international and former Dortmund captain Sebastian Kehl before retiring.

"It's the last league game of the season and the last home match of Sebastian Kehl, who has played an incredibly important role for the club in recent years," said Klopp. "The question is: what role will nostalgia play compared to the here and now?"