

What to WATCH

SONY ESPN
Madrid Open
 Live from 4:00pm
 Indian Premier League
 Hyderabad v Gujarat
 Live from 8:30pm

TOURE REVEALS MANCHESTER MIX-UP

Yaya Toure revealed he thought he was signing for Manchester United and not Manchester City when he left Barcelona in 2010. The Ivorian moved to the Etihad Stadium outfit for £24 million and went on to become one of the driving forces during the club's most successful period. However, Toure admitted that he only realised that it was City he was joining, rather than their local rivals United, when his agent revealed that they played in a blue strip. "My agent had to tell me it was the team in the blue shirts," Toure confessed. "At the time Manchester United were putting Manchester City in the shadows. It was unbelievable. Manchester United is a big club and I respect that club a lot."

-AGENCIES

DAY'S EVENT

Dhaka Premier Cricket League
 Time: 9:00am
 Venue: Fatullah
 Kalabagan KC v Cricket Coaching

Venue: SBNS
 Mohammedan v Gazi Group
 Venue: BKSP-3
 Kalabagan CA v Legends of Rugganj

Club Cup Hockey
 Mohammedan v Usha KC
 First Semifinal
 Time: 4:00pm
 Venue: Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium

Ronaldo hails Zidane

AFP, Madrid

Cristiano Ronaldo lauded the impact made by Real Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane as the Frenchman led the Spanish giants into the Champions League final with a 1-0 win over Manchester City on Wednesday.

Brazilian midfielder Fernando's first-half own goal was the only difference between the sides over two legs as Real set up a repeat of the 2014 final against local rivals Atletico Madrid in Milan on May 28.

Zidane replaced the sacked Rafael Benitez with Madrid in crisis in January, but has sparked just Real's second run to the final in the 14 years since he scored the winning goal against Bayer Leverkusen for Real in 2002.

"Zidane is doing a great job," said Ronaldo.

"I admire him as a coach and a person, I hope he continues in the job.

"We've always been behind Zidane because he is a humble person who likes to listen, and that always makes things easier."

Ronaldo made his return after a three-game absence due to a thigh injury, but was unable to match his own record of 17 Champions League goals in a single season in a tight game short on clear-cut chances.

"It was a complete game, the team played really well and we could have finished them off with a second goal -- 1-0 is a tight scoreline but it's enough," added Ronaldo.

Zidane admitted he could bask in some of the glory for Real's resurgence of 19 wins in his 24 games in charge, but reserved his praise for the players.

"I am the coach, so I am doing something right for sure, but it is not just me," said the Frenchman.

"It is a question of all the people working with me and the most important people are the players. It is them that allow you to win in football."

By contrast, City coach Manuel

Pellegrini will give way to Pep Guardiola at the end of the season having failed to get them to a final in his three seasons in charge.

The Chilean lamented his side's luck as Gareth Bale's intended cross deflected off Fernando and looped over the helpless Joe Hart for the only goal of the tie.

However, Pellegrini admitted City hadn't created nearly enough to merit a place in the final.

"Neither of the two teams deserved to win the game," said Pellegrini.

"I don't think we saw a superior Madrid, we pressed them, but with the ball we lacked the creativity to do damage."

"There was lot of work in the 180 minutes, but very little football."

However, Pellegrini defended his record having taken City to the last four for the first time and believes they will have the potential to go all the way under Guardiola.

"I think it is a special season because we have reached the semis," he added.



After his team's win against Manchester City at the Bernabeu on Wednesday, Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane became the first French manager since 2006 to reach the tournament's final.

PHOTO: AFP

Ibra could return to Milan

AFP, Milan

Paris Saint-Germain's Zlatan Ibrahimovic could consider a return to AC Milan in Serie A, according to the Sweden striker's agent in a report on Thursday.

Ibrahimovic is set to leave the French champions at the end of the season, with reports claiming the 34-goal striker could be headed for England's Premier League.

Ibrahimovic's agent Mino Raiola told men's magazine GQ that the Swede could return to Italy where he also starred for Juventus and Inter Milan.

Extracts appear on gazzetta.it, which quoted Raiola as saying: "Ibra could return to Italy, to Milan."

Totti given cameo role

REUTERS, Rome

AS Roma appear to have solved the dilemma surrounding Francesco Totti by giving the 39-year-old stalwart a cameo role.

Both Totti, in his 24th season at his only professional club, and coach Luciano Spalletti are delighted with the new setup, so much so that Totti is expected to sign a new contract in the next few days.

"I'll be delighted if Francesco carries on playing. If he does what he wants to do, I'm right behind him. If he wants to keep on playing, I'm with him," said Spalletti.

City seeking Pep tonic

AFP, London

Manchester City's meek exit from the Champions League following Wednesday's 1-0 semi-final second leg defeat by Real Madrid suggested that incoming head coach Pep Guardiola cannot arrive quickly enough.

While Fernando's first-half own goal at the Bernabeu was all that separated the teams, City barely laid a glove on Zinedine Zidane's men, registering just two shots on target over the 180 minutes of the tie.

Manuel Pellegrini, who Guardiola will replace, argued that there had been nothing between the sides, but players, fans and pundits were united in expressing their frustration.

City went "out with a whimper", according to the back-page headline in The Times, while the Daily Mail's Martin Samuel said that the team were "sleepwalking" under Pellegrini.

Analysing the match for BT Sport, the former Manchester United defender Rio Ferdinand said: "If you're going to go out, you want to go out all guns blazing, fighting."

"You want to think, 'We've given it everything we've got, we've thrown the kitchen sink at it.' I don't think they'll be able to go home or go into the changing room and say that. And that's the disappointing thing."

City goalkeeper Joe Hart chose his words more carefully, but the annoyance was visible on his face during a televised post-match interview.

"We just didn't have that little bit more," said the England goalkeeper. "Did we do enough to win the game? I don't know."

Frustration manifested itself on the pitch, too, as lone striker Sergio Aguero, starved of any kind of service, dropped deeper and deeper in search of the ball.

City's top scorer this season with 28 goals, the Argentina international mustered just two shots -- both off-target -- during the tie and has now gone five Champions League games without registering an effort on target.

Record signing Kevin De Bruyne, inspiration behind the quarter-final victory over Paris Saint-Germain, struggled to influence proceedings after being moved to the left

flank to accommodate Yaya Toure, whose lumbering performance was described as "woeful" by The Daily Telegraph.

Having fallen foul of Guardiola during his time at Barcelona, the hulking Ivorian is expected to form part of a close-season clear out at the Etihad Stadium.

Raheem Sterling, City's other big-money attacking signing for this season, along with De Bruyne, was given only half an hour to make a difference and when he won a free-kick in a promising position wide on the left, De Bruyne wasted it by going for goal.

But at least in Aguerro, De Bruyne, Guardiola and the injured David Silva, Guardiola possesses the nimbleness of thought and foot in attack upon which he has built success with Barcelona and Bayern Munich.

City have been the top-scoring Premier League team in all three of Pellegrini's seasons at the helm, but although he loudly espouses attacking football, victories often owe more to flashes of individual brilliance than a cohesive, identifiable attacking strategy.

There is also work for Guardiola to do in defence, particularly as captain Vincent Kompany's physical vulnerability -- he succumbed to the 33rd injury of his eight-year City tenure in Madrid -- is becoming a serious concern.

Neither Nicolas Otamendi nor Eliaquim Mangala, both acquired at lavish expense, have convinced, but Guardiola's work with Javi Martinez -- a holding midfielder turned centre-back -- at Bayern shows that he has the patience for defensive grunt work on the training ground.

"Pep Guardiola has a huge job on his hands," said Ferdinand.

"It's not a confident team, like the one he got at Bayern. This is a totally different proposition."

In the immediate short-term, City face a battle to hold onto the fourth and final Champions League qualifying spot, beginning with Sunday's high-stakes home game with third-place Arsenal.

With Manchester United and West Ham United poised to exploit any missteps, Guardiola's chances of being able to show what he can do in the Champions League next season are in Pellegrini's hands.

All-Madrid final again

AFP, Madrid

Madrid's sports papers hailed their city's dominant football teams the day after Real Madrid set up a second Champions League final in the three years against Atletico Madrid on Thursday.

Real edged a thrilling final in 2014 for their 10th European Cup in Lisbon as Sergio Ramos's injury-time header denied Atletico their first European Cup by sending the game to extra-time before Los Blancos ran out 4-1 winners.

"Madrid, capital of the Champions League," said sports daily Marca in their digital edition.

"The second part of what was lived in Lisbon, will be celebrated in Milan."

"Real Madrid and Atletico will go face-to-face once more in the San Siro with the memory of Sergio Ramos's goal."

Rival sports daily AS splashed "Long live Madrid" across its front page.

"Until 2014 in Lisbon no Champions League final had seen two teams from the same city face off," said AS editor Alfredo Relano.

"Madrid has improved its record, duplicating its success in case another city - Milan, Manchester or London - tries to equal it."

There was praise for Real coach and former legendary player Zinedine Zidane, who has led his side to the final after just four months in the job since replacing the sacked Rafael Benitez.

Zidane can now win the Champions League in a third different role at Madrid having scored a stunning winning goal in the 2002 final and been coach Carlo Ancelotti's assistant two years ago.

"The miracle of Zidane," said the online version of El Pais.

There was also some mischief from the Barcelona-based press, forced to watch on as their two great La Liga rivals prepare for another final.

Just as two years ago, Atletico dumped Barca out at the quarter-final stage.

However, despite repeated criticism of Atletico's rough and defensive style, Barcelona daily Sport showed which side they are on with a front cover carrying a picture of Atletico coach Diego "El Cholo" Simeone celebrating his side's semi-final win over Bayern Munich.

Fellaini, Huth banned for 3 matches

REUTERS, London

Manchester United midfielder Marouane Fellaini and Leicester City defender Robert Huth have been banned for three matches by the Football Association (FA) for their violent conduct during Sunday's 1-1 Premier League draw.

Fellaini appeared to elbow Huth in the 21st minute of the game at Old Trafford after having his hair pulled by the German defender.

The ban means Huth will miss Leicester's final two fixtures and their first league game of next season.

Fellaini was ruled out of United's final three league games of the season but he will be eligible to play in the FA Cup final against Crystal Palace on May 21.

Leicester have already won the Premier League title ahead of their final two games of the season.

Djokovic, Murray reach last 8

AFP, Madrid

World number one Novak Djokovic racked up his 30th win of a dominant season with a 6-2, 6-1 destruction of Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut to reach the Madrid Masters quarter-finals on Thursday.

Defending champion Andy Murray also sealed his place in the last eight in straight sets with 6-4, 6-2 win over 16th seed Gilles Simon.

Djokovic is playing in Madrid for the first time in three years, but hasn't taken long to adjust to the different conditions in the altitude of the Spanish capital as he has reached the quarters for the lose of just nine games.

The Serb will continue his quest for a fifth title of the season against Milos Raonic or Jo-Wilfried Tsonga on Friday.

Murray extended his impressive record over Simon to 14-2, but wasn't pushed as hard as he often has been in the past by the Frenchman as he didn't even face a break point in just over an hour-and-a-half on court.

The two-time Grand Slam champion will face Thomas Berdych in the last eight after the Czech got the better of David Ferrer 7-6 (10/8), 7-5.

"After the first six or seven games I really started to hit the ball well," said Murray.

"I served well throughout the match. It was a good performance."

Murray pounced on a series of Simon errors to seal the only break of the first set in the final game.

EXIM BANK
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JOB OPPORTUNITIES
Export Import Bank of Bangladesh Limited

Export Import Bank of Bangladesh Limited (EXIM Bank), one of the leading private commercial banks in the country with an excellent work environment and corporate culture, is looking for young, energetic and self-motivated individuals among Bangladeshi citizens for the posts of **Management Trainee Officer, Trainee Officer, and Trainee Officer (Cash)** to meet its expansion needs. Attractive remuneration with continuous training facilities and fast track career growth awaits the really deserving candidates who would proudly be a part of the EXIM Bank family.

Management Trainee Officer

Finally selected candidates will have to experience one year of probation period with a monthly consolidated salary of Tk.40,000/-. After the successful completion of the probation period, they will be confirmed as "Executive Officer" and entitled to a monthly gross salary of Tk. 57,700/- (as per the regular scale of pay).

Academic Profile

- Master's degree with a 4-year Bachelor's degree in any discipline from any reputed university.
- A minimum of CGPA 3.0 or First Class in both Graduation and Post-Graduation levels.
- A minimum of GPA 5.0 in both Secondary and Higher Secondary levels, or at least 3 A's with 2 B's in O level and 1 A with 1 B in A level.

Trainee Officer

Finally selected candidates will have to experience one year of probation period with a monthly consolidated salary of Tk. 22,000/-. After the successful completion of the probation period, they will be confirmed as "Officer" and entitled to a monthly gross salary of Tk. 33,550/- (as per the regular scale of pay).

Academic Profile

- 4-year Bachelor's degree in any discipline from any reputed university.
- A minimum of CGPA 2.25 or Second Class in Graduation level.
- A minimum of GPA 4.50 in both Secondary and Higher Secondary levels, or at least 2 A's with 3 B's in O level and 2 B's in A level.

Trainee Officer (Cash)

Finally selected candidates will have to experience one year of probation period with a monthly consolidated salary of Tk. 22,000/-. After the successful completion of the probation period, they will be confirmed as "Officer (Cash)" and entitled to a monthly gross salary of Tk. 33,550/- (as per the regular scale of pay).

Academic Profile

- 4-year Bachelor's degree in any discipline from any reputed university.
- A minimum of CGPA 2.25 or Second Class in Graduation level.
- A minimum of GPA 4.0 in both Secondary and Higher Secondary levels, or at least 5 B's in O level and 2 B's in A level.

Eligibility for Application

In addition to the required academic qualification, applicants for all of the posts must meet the following criteria-

- Age not over 30 years in case of regular applicants and 32 years in case of applicants who are freedom fighters' children (as on 06 May 2016).
- Willingness to serve the bank for a minimum period of 5 years.
- Willingness to serve anywhere in Bangladesh.
- Advanced level of Computer Literacy.

Application Procedure

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- You cannot apply for more than one post.
- Only short-listed candidates will be called for written examination.
- EXIM Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any application without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Senior Executive Vice President
Human Resources Division