

**NEO PRIME**  
French Open  
Day 14  
Live from 5:00pm

**SONY ESPN**  
Germany v Hungary  
International Friendly  
Live from 11:00pm

France v Scotland  
International Friendly  
Live from 1:00am (Sunday)

**Copa America**  
Costa Rica v Paraguay  
Live from 3:00am (Sunday)  
Haiti v Peru

Live from 5:30am (Sunday)  
Brazil v Ecuador  
Live from 8:00am (Sunday)

**Dhaka Premier Cricket League**  
Time: 9:00am  
Venue: SBNS

Victoria SC v Brothers Union  
Venue: BKSP-3  
Legend of Rupganj v Sk Jamal

Venue: Fatullah  
Mohammedan v Kalabagan KC

**Green Delta Premier Div Hockey**  
Mohammedan v Bangladesh SC  
Time: 2:00pm

S Bima v Ajax SC  
Time: 4:00pm  
Venue: Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium

## Ronaldinho in all new role

AGENCIES

Ronaldinho's fancy foot-work has landed him another job - only this time in front of the cameras and not on the football pitch. The World Cup winner is set to make his on-screen debut, starring alongside Jean-Claude Van Damme in Kickboxer: Retaliation, in which he teaches the latter a lethal kick. As well as the former Barcelona forward, who will play an imprisoned martial artist called Ronaldo, Mike Tyson, UFC stars Fabricio Werdum and Paige VanZant, and Game of Thrones giant 'The Mountain' will also feature.

## Bolt could lose gold

BBC.COM

Usain Bolt could lose one of the three golds he won at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Reuters report that the 'A' sample of one of his teammates in the 4x100m, Nesta Carter, was found to contain the banned substance Methylhexanamine. The news comes after the retesting of 454 samples from the 2008 Games. Carter, who along with his agent has not replied to requests for comment, will face sanctions if his 'B' sample also tests positive for the substance. The 30-year-old ran the first leg for Jamaica's 4x100m relay team in Beijing, which also included Michael Frater, Asafa Powell and Bolt.

# Andy ends Stan's reign

### Meets Novak in Sunday's final

AFP, Paris

Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray will meet in a Grand Slam title clash for a seventh time on Sunday after comprehensive semi-final triumphs swept the world's top two players into the French Open final. Djokovic reached his fourth final in Paris with a 6-2, 6-1, 6-4 demolition of Austria's Dominic Thiem to move one match closer to a career Grand Slam. The world number one will now tackle second seed Murray who knocked out defending champion Stan Wawrinka 6-4, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2. Djokovic, playing in a 20th final at the majors, is seeking a first Roland Garros crown to become just the eighth man to complete the career Slam. Murray, also 29, can become the first British winner of the men's title since Fred Perry in 1935. Sunday will be Djokovic's sixth successive Grand Slam championship match as he looks to add to his collection of 11 majors. He already holds the Wimbledon, US and Australian Open trophies. Djokovic sprinted out to a 3-0 lead in the opener on the back of a break in the second game against 13th-seeded Thiem. A double fault by the young Austrian opened the door for Djokovic to take the first set in the eighth game. Djokovic was just as untouchable in the second set despite playing for a fourth successive day. Breaks for the Serb came in the fourth and sixth games and the set was wrapped up in just 25 minutes. Thiem, playing in his first Grand Slam semi-final, had taken just nine points off the Djokovic serve at that stage. However, Thiem broke and held for a 3-0 lead in the third set. But Djokovic roared back, sweeping the next five games for 5-3 and then fighting off a break point to serve out the match. Murray and Djokovic have already played each other in six Grand Slam finals with Djokovic winning four times in Australia and Murray emerging on top at the US Open and Wimbledon. Murray broke serve in the third game and that proved to be enough for him to pocket the first set in a hotly-disputed 10th game where Wawrinka had break points to level. The second set followed a similar pattern with Murray breaking in the third game, but this time the two-time major champion made it back-to-back breaks as he pulled 5-1 clear. Murray finally stumbled at 4-5 down in the third set with a couple of unforced errors that allowed Wawrinka to get the break he needed. The comeback was short-lived as Murray broke serve to open the fourth set and he quickly opened up a 2-0 lead. Wawrinka then played a dismal service game to allow Murray to pull 5-2 clear and it was all over shortly after that.



Brazil forwards Hulk (C) and Willian (R) take a breather during a training session at the University of California in Los Angeles on Thursday ahead of their Copa America match against Ecuador.

PHOTO: AFP

# Brazil suffer more woes

STAR SPORT DESK



Brazil's troubled build-up to football's Copa America hit another snag Thursday when midfielder Luiz Gustavo became the sixth player to withdraw from the squad, citing "personal problems." It comes a day after veteran striker Kaka pulled out with a hamstring injury before Brazil open their Copa America Centenario campaign against Ecuador at the Pasadena Rose Bowl in California on Saturday. Wallace of the Brazilian side Gremio has replaced Luiz Gustavo. "In a discussion with the technical staff of the Brazilian team, the Wolfsburg player has asked to be released from the squad due to personal problems," the Brazilian

Confederation said in a statement, without giving more details. Kaka had been an injury replacement for Bayern Munich's Douglas Costa. Other players ruled out because of injury include Ricardo Oliveira Santos, replaced by Jonas, goalkeeper Ederson and Barcelona midfielder Rafinha. Meanwhile, Brazil full-back Dani Alves has issued an emotional message of gratitude to Barcelona after the club confirmed he will be leaving. Juventus are set to sign the Brazil international, 33, ending a glittering Camp Nou career that saw him win six La Liga titles, four Copa del Rey crowns and three Champions Leagues as part of an astonishing 23 winners' medals since signing from Sevilla in 2008. Alves issued a statement on Instagram thanking those associated with Barca and insisting he would

always be part of the club. "In one month it will be eight years since my arrival at Barcelona," he wrote. "In July 2008, I came to this club for the first time and occupied the dressing room in which I have experienced the most important accomplishments of my career. "From day one, from the first training session under Pep Guardiola, until the last of this season, I have had the fortune to enjoy football passionately. "I have dozens, hundreds, of images recorded in my mind of moments shared with all of you in Camp Nou, from the pitches of the greatest stadiums in the world, in the streets of Barcelona. "Many goal celebrations, the happiness in the forms of titles. I am a privileged, honoured footballer, for whom life has allowed him to wear the shirt of the best club in the world in an incredible decade for the quality of its players and coaches.

## Mourinho to play the Pope?

AFP, London

Jose Mourinho always said he was a "special one" and now, after fulfilling his dream of becoming Manchester United manager, he is turning his hand to films. The Portuguese will lend his voice to the character of Pope Francis in an animated film due for release in 2017 for the centenary of the apparition of the Virgin Mary in Fatima, Portugal. Mourinho will be the voice of the Argentine pontiff in Portuguese, English, Spanish and Italian said the Portuguese production company Imaginew.

## FIFA HQ raided

AFP, Zurich

Swiss investigators have searched the FIFA headquarters as the world football governing body revealed that former president Sepp Blatter and two of his deputies awarded themselves more than \$80 million in often suspicious payments over the past five years. On a day that FIFA also had to deny media reports that new president Gianni Infantino was under investigation, it said Blatter, former secretary general Jerome Valcke and finance director Markus Kattner made a coordinated effort to "enrich themselves" and that Swiss and US authorities were being informed. Switzerland's Office of the Attorney (OAG) General said its investigators "carried out a search of FIFA's headquarters" on Thursday.

# EURO 2016 COUNTDOWN 6 DAYS TO GO

## RECORDS & TRIVIA

STAR SPORT DESK

**MOST TITLES**  
3 -- Germany (1972, 1980, 1996), Spain (1964, 2008, 2012)

**BEST FINISH BY A DEBUTING TEAM**  
Champion: Soviet Union (1960), Spain (1964), Italy (1968), West Germany (1972)

**MOST GOALS SCORED IN FINALS**  
9 -- Michel Platini (France, 1984)

**MOST GOALS SCORED, INCLUDING QUALIFYING**  
26 -- Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal: 2 in 2004, 9 in 2008, 10 in 2012, 5 in 2016)

**MOST CLEAN SHEETS**  
9 -- Edwin van der Sar (Netherlands), Iker Casillas (Spain)

There have nine different champions in the 14 iterations of the UEFA European Championships. Spain and Germany have each won thrice, France have two titles, while Italy, Greece, Netherlands, Denmark, Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia have one each.

To date, Spain are the only side in history to have won consecutive titles, doing so in 2008 and 2012.

Lillian Thuram and Edwin van der Sar have the most appearances at the Championships with 16 apiece, however Iker Casillas and Cristiano Ronaldo, who already have 14, may eclipse that mark in the upcoming tournament.

In 2004, Portugal became the first host nation to lose the final of the tournament as hosts.

Cristiano Ronaldo, at 19 years and 150 days, was the youngest player to make an appearance in the final of the Championships, doing so against Greece in the 2004 Euro final.

Yugoslavia hold the unenviable honour of finishing in the top two twice, but failing to win a single title.

Michel Platini holds the record for most hatricks (2), most consecutive hatricks (2) and the fastest hatrick (18 minutes) during France's conquest of Europe in 2004.

The Eiffel tower will change colour based on Internet activity during through Euros.

The English second tier, Sky Bet Championship, will provide more players to Euro 2016 (30) than French top flight, Ligue 1 (22).

Juventus and Liverpool FC are the most represented clubs at EURO 2016 with 12 players each.

Russia's Dmitri Kirichenko holds the record for the fastest goal scored in the Euros, netting just 68 seconds into their match against Greece in Euro 2004.

The most goals scored in a single tournament came in 2000, when 85 goals were struck.



The Olympic Day Rally was held in seven divisional cities of the country yesterday, marking the 122nd founding anniversary of International Olympic Committee. The one in Dhaka, led by the secretary general of Bangladesh Olympic Association Syed Shahed Reza, was a massive rally which started from Ramna National Tennis Complex and ended at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

PHOTO: STAR

## Muhammad Ali in hospital

REUTERS, Arizona



Former world heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali has been hospitalized for a respiratory issue, family spokesman Bob Gunnell said on Thursday. Gunnell said in a statement that Ali was in fair condition but that a brief hospital stay was expected. Ali, 74, has been suffering from Parkinson's disease for more than three decades and has kept a low profile in recent years. His last public appearance was in April at the 'Celebrity Fight Night' gala in Arizona, a charity that benefits the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center. At the height of his career, Ali was known for his dancing feet and quick fists and his ability, as he put it, to float like a butterfly and sting like a bee. Ali, who lives in Phoenix, Arizona, has suffered health problems in recent years and was admitted to hospital in December 2014 with what was believed to be a mild case of pneumonia. Doctors later determined he had suffered a severe urinary tract infection, for which he received further treatment in January 2015.

# RANGS

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