

STAR SPORTS 1

Sri Lanka v England
Third Test, Day 4
Live from 4:00pm

SONY ESPN

Copa America
Ecuador v Haiti
Live from 5:00am (Monday)

Brazil v Peru

Live from 7:00am (Monday)

SONY SIX

Euro 2016
Turkey v Croatia
Live from 7:00pm

Poland v North Ireland

Live from 10:00pm
Germany v Ukraine
Live from 1:00am (Monday)

DAY'S EVENT

Walton Federation Cup
Venue: BNS
Rahmatganj v Team BJMC

Time: 4:00pm
Arambagh v Feni SC
Time: 7:30pm

Green Delta Premier Div Hockey
MSC v Wari Club
Time: 2:00pm

Bangladesh SC v Railway SC
Time: 4:00pm
Venue: Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium



A boy raises his arms in the air in front of a memorial at the Muhammad Ali Centre in Louisville, Kentucky on Friday. After the funeral and the eulogy, people reconvened there to celebrate the life of the iconic sports figure. PHOTO: AFP

ALI DEPARTS

with poignant service

Thousands of people from the worlds of sports, entertainment, politics and Muhammad Ali's native Louisville bid farewell to the boxing legend on Friday. A touching memorial service, which began with a Quranic chant, capped two days of tributes honoring the three-time heavyweight world champion known as "The Greatest," who died last week at 74 after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. Here are some of the quotes from the memorial service:

"Besides being a lot of fun to be around and basically a universal soldier for our common humanity, I will always think of Muhammad as a truly free man of faith."

— former US president Bill Clinton
"The greatness of this man for the ages was that he was, in fact, a man for all ages.... He fought not just the biggest and baddest inside the ropes but, outside, went toe-to-toe with critics."

— sports journalist Bryant Gumbel
"If Muhammad did not like the rules, he would rewrite them. His religion, his name, his beliefs, were his to fashion, no matter what the cost."

— Ali's wife Lonnie

"Muhammad Ali was America. Muhammad Ali will always be America."

— Senior presidential aide Valerie Jarrett, reading a tribute from President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle

"He dared to love black people at a time when black people had a problem loving themselves."

— Senior Pastor Kevin Cosby, St Stephen's Baptist Church
"He had charm and charisma and swagger, before we knew what that was."

— Long-time friend John Ramsey
"Muhammad Ali was the heart of this city -- the living, breathing embodiment of the greatest that we can be."

"Having Muhammad Ali in my life somehow sustained my dad's breath for me just a little while longer -- 51 years longer until now."

— Attallah Shabazz, daughter of slain Nation of Islam leader Malcolm X
"At the key moment when he had that recognition, he used it to stand up to an immoral war and say, 'No, I won't go!'"

— Rabbi Michael Lerner, speaking about Ali's refusal to serve in Vietnam
"I was clean-shaven when this started."

— Comedian Billy Crystal, sporting a full beard, joking about length of the service

AFP, LOUISVILLE

Poland face test of patience

REUTERS, Nice

Poland face a test of patience and their nerves when they open their Euro 2016 campaign against a Northern Ireland side who want to make themselves "horrible" to play against.

Sunday's group C match will pit one of the most attack-minded of the 24 teams at Euro 2016 against a team who have made no bones about their intentions.

Spearheaded by the attacking duo of Robert Lewandowski and Arkadiusz Milik, Poland were the highest-scoring team in the qualifying competition with 33 goals, 13 of them coming from Bayern Munich's Lewandowski.

Coach Adam Nawalka has turned them from a counter-attacking side into one that keeps possession and build attacks carefully.

He has also bucked the trend of teams playing with a single, or no, striker, expressly to give Lewandowski more support, a tactic which has worked wonders so far.

Thiem stuns Federer

AFP, Stuttgart

Roger Federer uncharacteristically failed to nail two match points as Dominic Thiem stunned the top seed on the grass in the rain-disrupted Stuttgart semifinals on Saturday.

The Swiss legend, who is returning from a back injury that ruled him out of the French Open, saw his preparations for Wimbledon unravel as Thiem battled through 3-6, 7-6 (9/7), 6-4.

The third seed Thiem, a Roland Garros semifinalist, will play for his fourth title of the season on Sunday against Juan Martin del Potro or Philipp Kohlschreiber.

Falcao returns to Monaco

AFP, Paris

Colombian striker Radamel Falcao confirmed Friday that he was returning to Monaco, where he played in 2013 and 2014, after two mediocre seasons on loan at Manchester United and Chelsea.

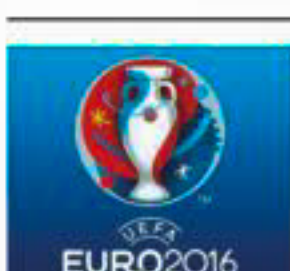
Falcao's time in England was compromised by serious injury in 2014 and his career never recovered.

"On June 24, I will start pre-season with Monaco," the 30-year-old wrote on his Instagram account alongside a photograph of him sporting a Monaco shirt.

"I am excited and enthusiastic to return to training with the club."

'Historic' victory for Wales

AGENCIES



Real Madrid star Gareth Bale hailed Wales' 2-1 victory over Slovakia in their first ever European Championship finals match in Bordeaux on Saturday as "a historic moment" for the country.

Bale, who opened the scoring with a free kick in the 10th minute, said the win was "just a memorable moment, a historic moment for our country".

Asked about his opening strike, Bale said: "It doesn't matter about the goals, we got the three points and we gave our fans something to cheer."

Wales substitute Hal Robson-Kanu, who currently has no club, slid home the winner in the 81st minute after Aaron Ramsey had battled through the Slovak defence.

"For Hal to get the winner was amazing," Bale said. "When subs come on they need to have an impact and he was amazing."

Bale said Welsh thoughts were already turning to their clash with neighbours England on Thursday.

"We're not thinking about this game any more, it's on to England. We've done the first part, now two more to go."

Playing their first game at a major championship since the 1958 World Cup, Wales took a 10th-minute lead courtesy of Gareth Bale's fine free-kick, only for Slovakia substitute Ondrej Duda to equalise.

But with nine minutes remaining, Robson-Kanu, released by Reading at the end of the season, scuffed a shot past Matus Kozacik to send Chris Coleman's side striding towards the last 16.

His strike ended Wales's four-game winless run and tees the European Championship debutants up perfectly for Thursday's hotly anticipated second Group B fixture against neighbours England in Lens.

Jan Kozak's Slovakia, previously unbeaten in eight games, tackle Russia in Lille on Wednesday knowing that a second defeat could be fatal.

Earlier, Fabien Schaefer's powerful header gave Switzerland a narrow 1-0 win over 10-man Albania.

The Group A match, in the spotlight

with brothers Granit and Taulant Xhaka playing for opposing sides, was decided by the sending-off of Albania captain Lorik Cana.

The Albanian underdogs were continually scrambling to get back into the game while Switzerland, who now occupy top two spots with France, never took firm control.

After just five minutes, Hoffenheim centre back Schaefer rose above the Albanian defence to head in from a corner by Stoke City's Xherdan Shaqiri.

The 1.86 metre (6ft 2in) defender makes a habit of scoring for the national side, with five goals in 19 appearances now.

"It hasn't been always easy for me recently," Schaefer said after.

"I've come in for a lot of criticism and am of course happy that I could help the team in such a way."

Schaefer was also a rock in defence and was booked in the 12th minute for chopping down Emir Lenjani.

"I think we made it difficult for ourselves," said Schaefer. "We could have made it easier for ourselves if we had taken our opportunities earlier."



Wales star Gareth Bale (R) celebrates his opening goal against Slovakia during their Euro 2016 Group B match in Bordeaux yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Magical Messi

REUTERS, California



Lionel Messi came off the bench to score a hat-trick in just 18 minutes on Friday as Argentina hammered Panama 5-0 and eased into the quarter-finals of the Copa America.

Argentina were 1-0 up at half-time thanks to a Nicolas Otamendi goal after just six minutes.

Panama lost Anibal Godoy to a red card after half an hour but the Central Americans held on until Messi, who missed Argentina's opening win against Chile with a sore back, replaced Augusto Fernandez after 61 minutes.

The Barcelona forward started gingerly but grabbed Argentina's second in the 68th minute by steering home a left foot shot after a rebound fell to him in the Panama box.

He scored a gorgeous second with a 25-yard free kick just nine minutes later and then with some fancy footwork in the box gave himself enough space to slot home his third and Argentina's fourth in the 86th minute.

Sergio Aguero, another substitute, made it 5-0 with a header in the final moments.

"My back was a bit painful at the start but it went away," said Messi, who was cheered every time he touched the ball by the 53,000 crowd in Chicago.

"I think we are where we want to be, which is getting better," he told TV cameras after the game.

The result came after Chile had beaten Bolivia in the other Group D game. Argentina have six points from two games, while Bolivia have none and are out.

Chile and Panama both have three and will face off on Tuesday to decide who join Argentina in the quarter-finals.

Goals in the first and last minutes of the second half from Bayern Munich midfielder Arturo Vidal were enough to help the reigning champions overcome Bolivia in Boston.

Chile had 75 per cent of the possession and 18 shots at goal to Bolivia's three and were far superior against the lowest-ranked team in the tournament.

Vidal put the Chileans ahead in the 46th minute but substitute Jhasmani Campos got an equaliser for Bolivia on the hour mark with a superb free kick.

Vidal then took advantage of a controversial penalty decision for handball to score the winner in the dying seconds.

Hazard limps out of training

REUTERS, Bordeaux

Eden Hazard has suffered a knock and is expected to return to training for Belgium after limping out of their behind-closed-doors session on Friday, coach Marc Wilmots said.

Hazard, who will captain Belgium at the European Championship, left the pitch after 50 minutes after having his foot stood on during a practice match.

"I don't think it is serious, just a knock," Wilmots told reporters after the match between the expected starting XI and the reserves ahead of Belgium's opening match at the tournament against Italy in Lyon on Monday.

Wilmots said all players were fit including defender Thomas Vermaelen.

Payet's tears of joy

AFP, Paris



Dimitri Payet left the field in tears of joy after scoring the sensational last-gasp goal in France's 2-1 win over Romania to launch their European Championship campaign in style on Friday.

"It was a lot of stress, a lot of pressure, if someone had told me it would have gone like that I don't think I would have believed them," said Payet.

"It was that emotion that came out in the goal," added the 29-year-old who has broken into the France team this year after a stunning season with West Ham United in the English Premier League.

Payet was France's standout performer throughout as he also set up Olivier Giroud's opening goal.

After Romania had equalised and seemed to be holding on for a draw, Payet struck in the 89th minute with a curling 25 metre shot to take the tournament opener.

Payet left the field in tears in stoppage time as he was substituted to a standing ovation at an emotional Stade de France, just seven months after the stadium was

targeted in the attacks that killed 130 people in Paris in November.

After the final whistle, Payet embraced his small son on the field.

Payet said he had been overcome by the way he has fought his way into the French team.

"At the start of the season, a lot of people would have found it hard to believe I would be here," said the attacking midfielder.

"I have got here by working hard," added the hero of the night, who is determined to "soak up the experience."

"It is quite easy when you can bang it into the top corner, it solves a lot of problems," said a relieved French coach Didier Deschamps.

"It is the result that matters above all. We know not everything was perfect, far from it."

After the match, West Ham warned off rival clubs who could be tempted to make an offer. "The whole of Europe understands #WeveGotPayet," the London club said on its Twitter account.

Deschamps was thoroughly vindicated in his decision to select the former Marseille playmaker over Manchester United's Anthony Martial.

"I have no doubts over Dimitri and the influence he can have on the game. He can make the difference."

Germany battling injuries

AFP, Lille



Missing inspirational World Cup-winning captain Philipp Lahm, Germany begin Euro 2016 against Ukraine on Sunday with major doubts over whether they can reach the heights of Brazil two years ago.

The versatile Lahm retired from international football after the World Cup leaving a gap that coach Joachim Loew has found difficult to fill, whilst a series of injuries have further disrupted Germany's preparation.

Moreover, erratic form in qualifying and in the build-up to the Euros has eroded confidence in the world champions.

Germany suffered away defeats to

both Ireland and Poland in qualifying and threw away a two-goal lead to lose 3-2 at home to England in March.

An inexperienced side including several debutants lost to Slovakia last month before a full-strength side struggled to see off Hungary last Saturday.

"We saw that we've needed to turn one or two screws to make improvements," Loew said on Friday.

"In a few situations (in the warm-up games) we weren't particularly dynamic or fresh."

Indeed, Loew has picked the youngest squad present in France with Borussia Dortmund star Marco Reus and Roma defender Antonio Ruediger missing out through injury.

Ruediger's absence may mean

Bayern Munich's latest recruit from rivals Dortmund, Mats Hummels, may be rushed back to face Ukraine despite not featuring since tearing a calf muscle in his last game for his old club in the German Cup final on May 21.

Captain Bastian Schweinsteiger is set to only start on the bench in Lille on Sunday, having played just 23 minutes of football since the end of March after tearing a knee ligament.

The Manchester United star came off the bench at the end of Germany's warm-up friendly win over Hungary last Saturday.

However, German assistant boss Thomas Schneider insisted Schweinsteiger is fit and highlighted the importance of his leadership to such a young squad.



Argentina superstar Lionel Messi celebrates his second goal against Panama during their Copa America clash in Chicago yesterday. PHOTO: AFP