

# What to WATCH

**BOISHAKHI TV**  
**Bangladesh Premier League**  
**Feni Soccer v Rahmatganj**  
**Live from 3:30pm**  
**Mohammedan v Abahani**  
**Live from 6:30pm**

**SONY SIX**  
**Primera Liga**  
**Real Madrid v Villarreal**  
**Live from 12:00am (Thursday)**  
**Barcelona v Atletico Madrid**  
**Live from 2:00am (Thursday)**

**SONY ESPN**  
**Serie A**  
**Bologna v Sampdoria**  
**Live from 10:30pm**  
**Juventus v Cagliari**  
**Live from 12:45am (Thursday)**

**SONY ESPN**  
**Serie A**  
**Empoli v Inter Milan**  
**Live from 12:45am (Thursday)**  
**STAR SPORTS 1**  
**Bundesliga**

**Leipzig v Borussia M'gladbach**  
**Live from 12:00am (Thursday)**  
**STAR SPORTS 2**  
**Bundesliga**  
**Bayern v Hertha Berlin**  
**Live from 12:00am (Thursday)**

**TEN 2**  
**EFL Cup**  
**Northampton Town v Man Utd**  
**Live from 12:45am (Thursday)**

## DAY'S EVENT

**Bangladesh Premier League**  
**Feni Soccer v Rahmatganj**  
**Time: 3:30pm**

**Mohammedan v Abahani**  
**Time: 6:30pm**  
**Venue: BNS**

## Toure quits int'l football

AFP, Manchester

Four-time African footballer of the year Yaya Toure of the Ivory Coast announced his retirement from international football on Tuesday.

The 33-year-old Manchester City midfielder -- capped 113 times -- said it had been an incredibly difficult decision.

"Writing this note was probably 'the most difficult match of my life'," wrote Toure.

"After 14 years at the highest level, I'm sure this is the right time for me! The fact that I am 33 now, the intensity of training and the multitude of games are not the reasons why I am making this decision."

Toure, part of the golden generation of Ivory Coast players such as Didier Drogba, said for all his success at club level, including a Champions League with Barcelona in 2009, it was finally winning the Africa Cup of Nations in 2015 that remained his most precious memory.

## DC GOLD CUP Thakurgaon Sadar champs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Thakurgaon Sadar Upazila Krira Shagnstha clinched the sixth DC Gold Cup football title with a 3-0 win over Hariapur Upazila Krira Shagnstha in the final at Shaheed Mohammad Ali Stadium in Thakurgaon municipality yesterday.

Pashan netted two goals while Nigerian Dudu struck the other.

Ramesh Chandra Sen, a lawmaker of the district, witnessed the final and distributed prizes among the winners.

A total of eight teams of the district took part the tournament.

## Real move 'too easy'

AGENCIES, London

Paul Pogba's agent has discussed his client's move to Manchester United, claiming that a move to Real Madrid was "too easy", while he has also questioned whether Arsenal have the "balls" to make a world record signing.

Raiola insists the Gunners have money to spend and spoke of his respect for Arsene Wenger, though he feels the Frenchman's side lack confidence in their transfer business.



Brothers Union striker Augustine Walson (L) celebrates one of his two goals with a teammate during his side's Bangladesh Premier League fixture against Sheikh Russel at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## No respite for Sheikh Russel

SPORTS REPORTER



Despite drafting in Shafiqul Islam Manik in place of Maruful Haque at the dugout, Sheikh Russel KC continued their miserable run in the JB Bangladesh Premier League, suffering a 3-1 defeat to Brothers Union at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

While things remained as bleak as before at the Sheikh Russel tent, there was a shift of fortunes in the opposition dugout as veteran coach Syed Naemuddin guided Brothers to their first victory in the league after having replaced Bal Gopal Maharjan.

Although Sheikh Russel surrendered meekly in the end for a sixth defeat, it was Manik's side who had the game at their mercy in the opening passages. But Paul Emile

squandered two sitters within the first five minutes before Jean Jules Ikanga failed to score from the spot in 12th minute give the initiative back to Brothers.

The Oranges came back strongly, with Nkowncha Kingsley and Augustine Walson scoring in the 17th and 32nd minutes respectively before substitute Shakhawat Hossain Rony reduced the margin for Sheikh Russel in the 55th minute. Walson, however, sealed Brothers' victory with his second goal in the stoppage time of the second half.

Meanwhile, big-spenders Chittagong Abahani got another jolt as they were held to a goalless draw by Arambagh KS in the first match of the day.

The port-city side never looked convincing in the match where winger Zahid Hossain was fielded as a strike partner of Leonel Saint Preux. Zahid made no impact in his new position and there was no bite either from the two wingers -- Rubel Mia and Mohammad Ibrahim. The frontline of Chittagong Abahani struggled to expose the five-man defence of Arambagh, and midfielder Mamunul Islam, who remained anonymous, was justifiably replaced by defender Nasir Chowdhury.

Despite all that, Chittagong Abahani could have taken the lead on the half-hour mark had Ibrahim played on Zahid inside the box instead of going for goal himself. Arambagh goalkeeper Mitul Hasan played his part in keeping Chittagong Abahani at bay by keeping out a curling corner from Mamunul in the 37th minute.

Preux was presented with the easiest opportunity just three minutes before the break, but the Haitian headed over the crosspiece from inside the six-yard box.

Arambagh nearly snatched the lead from a counter attack twelve minutes after restart when Kester Akon raced into the box to drive an angular shot only to be denied by Chittagong Abahani goalkeeper Ashrafur Islam Rana.

Pavlik sent on Sohel Rana in place of Zahid, but the nature of the game remained the same and the title contenders had to be content with their third draw in seven matches and stay at third position with 12 points. Arambagh remained in seventh position with seven points.

CTG ABAHANI	0 - 0	ARAMBAGH
SK RUSSEL	1 - 3	BROTHERS

## New rules for Ballon d'Or

GOAL.COM

Football France has announced new rules for the Ballon d'Or after the publication resumed sole charge of the coveted football award.

On Friday, FIFA ended its six-year association with Football France over the FIFA Ballon d'Or, an award that celebrated the best footballer in the world annually and combined the original honour -- established in 1956 -- and the World Player of the Year given by global football's governing body from 1991 to 2009.

FIFA is yet to announce its next move, which could amount to a reprisal of its own award, while the Ballon d'Or will once again be voted for exclusively by a select group of international journalists.

This means the element of international team coaches and captains contributing to the vote, which was introduced for the merger with FIFA's prize, will be shelved.

A shortlist of 30 players will now be presented for voting, an increase on 23 from previous editions, and there will no longer be an announcement of three finalists ahead of the award being presented.

The winner and complete rankings of the shortlist will be revealed before the end of the calendar year.

## Nadal, Farah defend medical records

AFP, London

Rafael Nadal and British Olympic great Mo Farah said they have nothing to hide after their medical records were the latest to be leaked by a cyber-hacking group on Monday.

They are among more than 60 international athletes, including 17 from the British team at the Rio Olympics, who have had their medical files -- mostly therapeutic use exemptions (TUEs) -- published online by the so-called Fancy Bears, who have hacked into World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) records.

There is no suggestion that any of the named athletes -- among them some of the biggest names in sport -- have done anything wrong.

Spanish tennis ace Nadal and four-time Olympic champion distance runner Farah were shown to have used TUEs in the past to gain permission to take substances that figure on WADA's banned list.

TUEs can be issued to athletes who have an illness or condition that requires the use of normally prohibited medication.

"When you ask permission to take something for therapeutic reasons and they give it to you, you're not taking anything prohibited," Nadal, a 14-time Grand Slam winner, told Spanish media.

"It's not news, it's just inflammatory." Nadal, who has twice been granted a TUE, said he had never taken anything to improve his performance but took what doctors advised him was the best medication to care for his troublesome knee.

Far from complaining about the leak of his files -- believed to be the work of Russian hackers -- Nadal said he would support the publishing of all medical records.

"It would be much more beneficial for sportsmen and women, spectators and media that every time a drug test is taken the news is made public and two weeks later there are the results," he added.

"This would end the problem. Sport has to take a step forward and be totally transparent. I have been saying this for years."

There is no suggestion they are involved in any wrongdoing but the leaking of their records has reopened the debate about TUEs and in particular whether the system is open to abuse from competitors gaining an advantage by taking banned drugs.

The first of Farah's two TUEs was in 2008 for the same drug prescribed to fellow Olympic champion Wiggins -- triamcinolone, a type of steroid.

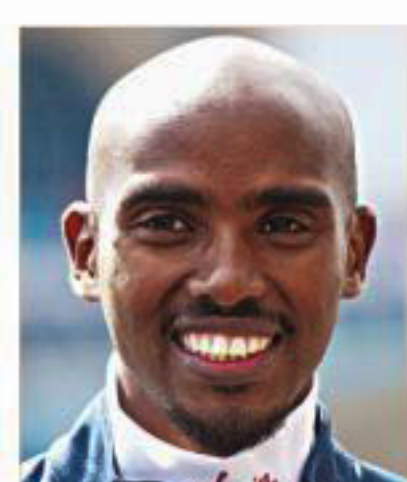
His other exemption was for a saline drip and two pain-killers that the 33-year-old was given after he collapsed in Park City, Utah, where he was training at altitude in 2014.

A spokesperson for Farah said: "As Mo has previously stated, he has got nothing to hide and doesn't have a problem with this or any of his (medical) information being released -- as evidenced by the fact that he voluntarily shared his blood data with the Sunday Times last year."

"Mo's medical care is overseen at all times by British Athletics and over the course of his long career he has only ever had two TUEs."



RAFAEL NADAL



MO FARAH

## Simeone eyes Barca win

AFP, Madrid



Diego Simeone has one of the few feats to elude his hugely successful spell in charge of Atletico Madrid in his sights on Wednesday by claiming a first win in nine attempts at Barcelona's Camp Nou.

Simeone's biggest achievement as Atletico boss came in winning La Liga at Camp Nou with a 1-1 draw in 2014, but despite also dumping Barca out of the Champions League in two of the last three seasons, the Argentine has yet to taste victory in the Catalan capital.

"In almost all the games that we haven't been able to win it has been due to the merit of Barcelona. We have drawn a few games, but possibly we have never deserved to win based on the 90 minutes."

Atletico went ahead in both meetings between the sides at the Camp Nou last season before their quest was undone by early red cards for Filipe Luis and Diego Godin in a 2-1 La Liga defeat in January and for Fernando Torres as Barca won by the same score in the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final in April.

Barca's deadly front three of Luis Suarez, Lionel Messi and Neymar have proved too hot even for Atletico's watertight defence to handle, and Simeone insisted Barca

remain the best team in Spain despite trailing early La Liga leaders Real Madrid by three points.

"The truth is yes (Barca are the best team). They continue to play brilliant football and have the players that most make the difference individually and collectively. Despite the fact they didn't win the Champions League last year, that puts them in an incredible place."

However, Atletico can call on an in-form, superstar forward of their own in Antoine Griezmann.

Euro 2016's top scorer has scored four times in his last two La Liga games as Atletico have bounced back from draws against Alaves and Leganes to open their league campaign to thrash Celta Vigo and Sporting Gijon.

And Simeone backed a campaign led by French sports daily L'Equipe on Tuesday for Griezmann to end Messi and Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo's dominance of the Ballon d'Or for the past eight years.

"Hopefully Antoine will be there because last year he had an enormous season. He has started strongly again this year," added Simeone.

"The other day he played as a second striker and ended up defending like a second defensive midfielder."

"He is a player that offers us that option and hopefully he maintains that ambition that allows him to aspire to more every day."



Barcelona stars Neymar (R) and Lionel Messi (C) play with the ball during a training session at the Sports Centre Joan Gamper in Sant Joan Despi yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## 'Me and Miss world'

AGENCIES, London

Former Manchester United defender Gary Neville is apparently not in favour of David Luiz's return to Chelsea, and used a rather curious metaphor to describe the new Odd Couple at Stamford Bridge.

The Brazil international was lured back to London by Antonio Conte on deadline day, after first leaving the Blues for Paris Saint-Germain two seasons previously.

And having worked with the likes of Leonardo Bonucci and Giorgio Chiellini at Juventus, Neville believes Conte will not see eye-to-eye with his new man.

"I would never have put those two together (Conte and Luiz). It feels a little bit strange," Neville told Sky Sports following Chelsea's defeat to Liverpool.

"If I was to thinking of an analogy to describe it, I'd say probably me and Miss World."