

GAZI TV & STAR SPORTS 2
 Bangladesh v England
 Second Test, Day 2
 Live from 9:30am
STAR SPORTS 1
 India v New Zealand

Fifth ODI
 Live from 2:00pm
TEN 2
 Zimbabwe v Sri Lanka
 First Test, Day 1
 Live from 2:00pm

STAR SPORTS 4
 English Premiership
 Sunderland v Arsenal
 Live from 5:30pm
 Man United v Burnley
 Live from 8:00pm

Crystal Palace v Liverpool
 Live from 10:30pm
SONY SIX
 Primera Liga
 Sporting Gijon v Sevilla
 Live from 5:00pm

Alaves v Real Madrid
 Live from 8:15pm
 Atletico Madrid v Malaga
 Live from 10:30pm
 Barcelona v Granada
 Live from 12:45am (Sunday)

SONY ESPN
 Serie A
 Juventus v Napoli
 Live from 1:00am (Sunday)

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh v England
 Second Test, Day 2

Time: 9:30am
 Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Mirpur



England's players came rushing to check up on Mushfiqur Rahim after the Bangladesh captain was struck on the helmet by a ferocious Ben Stokes bouncer.

PHOTO: STAR

Championship League promises competition

SPORTS REPORTER



Marcel 4th Bangladesh Championship League gets underway today at the Bangabandhu National Stadium with an expectation of fierce competition as most of the participating teams have set their sights on qualifying for the Bangladesh Premier League.

T&T Club will take on newcomers Saif Sporting Club in the league's opening match at 4:30pm after inauguration of the fourth edition of the second-tier professional league by deputy sports minister Arif Khan Joy.

At a pre-league media briefing at the BFF House yesterday, officials of the eight participating teams, except for Youngmen's Fakirpool Club, expressed their optimism about progressing to the top-flight by displaying good football on the pitch.

While a Fakirpool Club official promised to play beautiful and steady football to attract spectators, the other participating teams - T&T Club, Police AC, Agrani Bank,

Victory SC, Chittagong Mohammedan SC Saif SC and Karwan Bazar Pragoti Shingha are hoping to fight for the title race with their respective teams which have been formed with a mixture of experienced, talented and young footballers.

However, it is believed that the title race will mostly be confined within three teams - big-spending Saif SC, rejuvenated Victoria SC and newcomers Karwambazar PS - even though there is strong opinion that the rest of teams have the ability to win results in their favour.

As some controversies including match-fixing allegations arose in the last edition of the championship league, the professional football league committee was asked by the participating teams to conduct matches strictly and stick to the rules and regulation to avoid any controversies in the double-leg basis league where each team will play 14 matches.

"We will film all the matches in a bid to find out irregularities if any takes place," BFF senior vice president Abdus Salam Murshed said. "However, I will request those officials, who are involved in trading points, to refrain from this unfair play and allow the league on its own way."

Dzeko's home burgled

AGENCIES, Rome

Edin Dzeko had his home burgled while he was playing away with Roma on Wednesday.

The striker scored two goals in his side's 3-1 win over Sassuolo in Serie A while robbers allegedly targeted his home.

According to Italian newspaper Gazzetta dello Sport, Dzeko's wife and children were inside as burglars entered the property.

The report claims the robbers got away with around €500 and also a couple of lucrative designer bags as Dzeko's wife rang police after hearing a noise.

It is understood that police are still investigating the case.

Radja Nainggolan, Gervinho, Jeremy Menez, Juan and Seydou Doumbia are other Roma players understood to have fallen victim to robbers while on the Giallorossi's books.

FA charges Moyes with misconduct

AFP, London

Sunderland manager David Moyes was charged by England's governing Football Association with misconduct on Thursday after being ordered off the touchline during Wednesday's 1-0 League Cup fourth-round loss away to Southampton.

Former Everton and Manchester United manager Moyes was sent to the stands after complaining about a decision by referee Chris Kavanagh not to award a late penalty after Maya Yoshida appeared to trip Victor Anichebe in the box.

Scottish boss Moyes said afterwards he had had been dismissed for swearing at fourth official James Adcock.

"David Moyes has been charged with misconduct by the FA in relation to Sunderland's EFL Cup tie against Southampton," said an FA statement issued Thursday.

"It is alleged that in or around the 90th minute of the fixture Moyes used abusive and/or insulting words towards a match official. Moyes has until 6:00pm (1800 GMT) on 1 November 2016 to respond to the charge."

After Wednesday's match, Moyes said: "I was sent off for leaving my box and swearing at the fourth official."

Ronaldo deserves Ballon d'Or: Zidane

AFP, Madrid



Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane backed Cristiano Ronaldo's case for a fourth Ballon d'Or on Friday despite the Portuguese superstar's current struggles in front of goal.

Ronaldo won both the Champions League with Real and Portugal's first ever major tournament at Euro 2016 to make him the favourite to land the award for the world's best player on January 9 next year.

"He clearly deserves the Ballon d'Or," said Zidane ahead of Saturday's trip to Alaves in La Liga.

"Not just at an individual level, but above all on a collective level...he knows everything he is achieving is thanks to his hard work and the work of those around him."

Ronaldo is expected to face competition from five-time winner Lionel Messi, Madrid teammate Gareth Bale and Atletico Madrid and France forward Antoine Griezmann for the award.

However, his form has slumped since his return from a two-month injury layoff after suffering knee ligament damage in the Euro 2016 final.

"What Cristiano has done is raise the bar so high that every time he doesn't score it is a problem," added Zidane.

Ronaldo has netted just four times in nine appearances for Madrid so far this season, by a distance his worst return at this stage of the campaign in seven seasons with the European champions.

"He is angry (about not scoring), but there is no bigger worry than that," continued Zidane.



CRISTIANO RONALDO

"Every time he doesn't score there is a furor, but he has to live with these things. He is a phenom."

Ronaldo is expected to be partnered by Bale and Karim Benzema once more in the Madrid front line despite the fine form of Alvaro Morata.

The Spanish international came off the bench to score the winner against Athletic Bilbao last weekend and bagged a double in a 7-1 rout of Cultural Leonesa in the Copa del Rey on Wednesday.

However, captain Sergio Ramos, Luka Modric and Casemiro remain out injured.

Real wait for C'Ron to catch fire

AFP, Madrid



Real Madrid are hoping Cristiano Ronaldo can end a lean period in front of goal as they attempt to keep their noses in front of a tight five-way race atop La Liga at Alaves on Saturday.

Madrid bounced back from a four-game draw streak in style by scoring 20 goals in winning their last four outings to move back top of the table and take big strides towards progress in the Champions League and Copa del Rey.

However, Ronaldo has scored just one of those 20 and his return of four goals from nine appearances is by a distance his worst strike rate at this stage of the campaign since joining Madrid seven years ago.

Ronaldo was even whistled by Real's demanding fanbase at the Santiago Bernabeu during last weekend's 2-1 win over Athletic Bilbao.

"I would prefer him to score two or three goals in every match, but I am not worried because I know it will pass," said Real boss Zinedine Zidane.

Alvaro Morata came off the bench to grab a late winner against Athletic and also struck twice in a 7-1 mauling of Cultural Leonesa in the Copa del Rey on Wednesday to move ahead of Ronaldo with six goals this season.

Yet, despite still being frozen out Zidane's preferred starting line-up by Ronaldo, Gareth

Bale and Karim Benzema, Morata insists the Portuguese should be cut some slack.

"When one is used to scoring nearly 70 goals a season they are like goal addicts," said Morata.

"For us he is still the most important player in the team and we hope he scores lots of goals, but he is not a machine."

"He is human, although it seems like he comes from a different planet, and he has the right to miss."

Zidane is expected to resort to the side that started against Bilbao as Ronaldo, Bale, Benzema, Marcelo, Mateo Kovacic and Raphael Varane were all rested in midweek.

Alaves have only won twice in their first nine games on their return to the top flight for the first time in a decade.

Yet former Valencia and Liverpool defender Mauricio Pellegrino's men have already proved they are more than capable of causing an upset as they shocked Barcelona at the Camp Nou last month.

FIXTURES

Saturday
 Sporting Gijon v Sevilla (1100), Alaves v Real Madrid (1415), Atletico Madrid v Malaga (1630), Barcelona v Granada (1845)
Sunday
 Eibar v Villarreal (1100), Athletic Bilbao v Osasuna (1515), Real Betis v Espanyol (1730), Las Palmas v Celta Vigo (1945)
Monday
 Deportivo la Coruna v Valencia (1945)

City hope for resurgence

AFP, London



Pep Guardiola takes Manchester City to West Bromwich Albion in the Premier League this weekend still trying to figure out how to lift the club out of their autumn downturn.

Scintillating over the season's early weeks, which saw them win their first 10 games, they have now gone six matches without victory, culminating in Wednesday's 1-0 League Cup defeat at Manchester United.

While they remain top of the league table on goal difference, City's swash-buckling form has petered out and left-back Gael Clichy hopes their luck changes soon.

"We gave everything and at the moment we are not getting what we deserve," the France international told the City website.

"Lately, the results and the points are not on board. We have to keep working and we're sure we're going to get there."

'Even Messi couldn't save S-League'

AFP, Singapore

English footballer Jermaine Pennant fired a parting shot as he left his Singapore club, saying even Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi couldn't lift the moribund S-League.

The former Arsenal and Liverpool winger, 33, made the comment as he departs Tampines Rovers after just nine months in the nine-team Singapore league.

"No matter who you get, you could bring Messi here, yes, you'd attract fans but without money, and the government and the league helping out like they do with other sports, or what they do in other countries, it's not going to grow," he told the Straits Times newspaper.

Pennant was arguably the biggest signing in S-League history, but he was cut loose after Tampines Rovers finished second, one point behind Albirex Niigata.

The S-League struggles to attract spectators and sponsorship in an era when many Singaporean fans prefer to watch European football on television.

The Straits Times said Pennant was believed to be earning Sg\$20,000 (\$14,000) a month under his contract.

Club chairman Krishna Ramachandra told AFP on Thursday that "While the club could afford his wages, it would also send the wrong message to all the other players, who may have to take a pay cut, that one player is getting a super-scale salary."

"If we are a bit more clinical playing forward and more compact as a team, maybe we can do better."

West Brom manager Tony Pulis, famed for his pragmatism is often portrayed in England as the antithesis to the stylish, idealistic Guardiola.

Despite being 13th in the table, West Brom have a better defensive record than Manchester United and Liverpool, and have lost only once at home this season.

"Every game this season, we've been in," said Pulis. "There's not been a game we've not been in and that's testament to the players."

Buoyed by their derby victory over City, United will look to get their league campaign back on track at home to Burnley.

Jose Mourinho's side were battered 4-0 by his former club Chelsea last weekend, but Luke Shaw believes the victory over City, courtesy of Juan Mata's second-half goal, could prove a turning point.

"It was very important," said the England left-back. "We saw Guardiola

FIXTURES

Saturday
 (1400 GMT unless otherwise stated):
 Crystal Palace v Liverpool (1630), Manchester United v Burnley, Sunderland v Arsenal (1130), Tottenham v Leicester, West Brom v Manchester City, Middlesbrough v Bournemouth, Watford v Hull
Sunday
 Everton v West Ham (1330 GMT), Southampton v Chelsea (1600 GMT)
Monday
 Stoke v Swansea (2000 GMT)

said it was like a final and to us that is what it felt like. To get the win was massive.

"(It was) a big confidence boost after obviously the disappointing result that we bounced back, got a win and now we need to go on a winning streak."

United go into the weekend in seventh place, six points behind leaders City, Arsenal and Liverpool.

But they are better off than defending champions Leicester City, who sit three points below them in 12th place with just three wins from their opening nine games.

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