

What to WATCH

CHANNEL 9 & TEN 1 HD
Bangladesh v Sri Lanka
First Test, Day-4
Live from 10:00am
SONY ESPN
Serie A
Juventus v AC Milan
Live from 1:45am (Saturday)

SONY SIX
La Liga
Espanyol v Las Palmas
Live from 1:45am (Saturday)

MESSI MOBbed, NEYMAR PARTIES

Lionel Messi's car couldn't move for adoring fans bowing to the Argentine maestro, whilst two-goal hero Neymar partied with three-time Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton as Barcelona celebrated a historic 6-1 thrashing of Paris Saint-Germain. Messi scored Barca's third goal from the penalty spot and his partner Antonella Rocuzzo posted a video of the pair attempting to leave the Camp Nou only to be held up by fans banging on the windows to chants of "Messi, Messi, Messi." Neymar, though, was the star of the show as he led Barca off the canvas in stunning style in the final few minutes. "Today is a day for a party!" The Brazilian posted on social media site Snapchat. Hamilton, who is in the Catalan capital for F1's pre-season testing this week, was pictured with Neymar. "Big man like @neymarjr - 2 goals, 2 assists! Congratulations bro & to the Barcelona team," Hamilton posted on his Instagram account. -AFP



WHAT THEY SAID

"Hospitals need to hire more nurses in the next 9 months because tonight a lot of lovemaking will be happening."

-- Gerard Pique

Neymar Neymar Neymaaar!
 Game changer

-- Michael Ballack

Congratulations to Barcelona! They punished the fear of Paris.

-- Ronald Koeman

The best turnaround ever in football bar none #Barca

-- Rio Ferdinand

Siuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuu Proud of this team.

-- Carlos Puyol

Incredible stat from Barca v PSG. From 85th minute to the end PSG apparently completed just four passes. Three were re-starts after goals.

-- Jason Burt



BARCELONA 6

SUAREZ 3,
 KURZAWA 40-OG,
 MESSI 50-PEN,
 NEYMAR 88, 90+1-PEN,
 SERGI ROBERTO 90+5

PSG 1

CAVANI 62

THE HISTORIC HEAP: Barcelona players create a small man-mountain moments after Sergi Roberto scored the 95th minute winner against Paris Saint-Germain at the Camp Nou on Wednesday night.

PHOTO: REUTERS

PSG supporter hurt in Motta car incident

AFP, Paris

After the humiliation of letting in six goals against Barcelona, Paris Saint-Germain defender Thiago Motta's night went from bad to worse after he hit a supporter with his sports car after flying back home early Thursday.

Around 30 supporters, furious about the team's defeat, were waiting for the Paris players as they emerged from Le Bourget airport outside the French capital in the early hours of Thursday morning.

In chaotic scenes, Italian international Motta's car accelerated as supporters and photographers obstructed the road. One man banged on his vehicle and was struck by the car.

He was taken to hospital but his injuries were minor, a police source told AFP.

An investigation has been opened by French border police but Motta has not yet been questioned.

QUICK SINGLES

The following are a few samples of stories that did not make the print edition. However, if they pique your interest, you can always read them online on The Daily Star website by simply scanning the QR codes listed below:

Wenger will weigh fans' feelings

Arsene Wenger will take into consideration the views of angry Arsenal supporters when he decides whether to remain at the club beyond the end of this season.



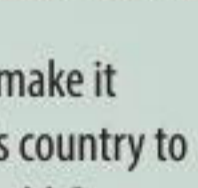
Alonso confirms retirement

Spanish World Cup winner and double European champion Xabi Alonso, 35, confirmed that he will retire at the end of the season when his Bayern Munich contract expires.



Trump ban could hurt WC bid

American President Donald Trump's controversial travel ban could make it impossible for his country to host the 2026 World Cup, FIFA president Gianni Infantino warns.



Cricketer Sunny gets bail

A Dhaka court grants one-month bail to cricketer Ararat Sunny in a case filed for torturing a 23-year-old woman, who claimed to be his wife.



Mourinho out for revenge

Jose Mourinho takes his Manchester United side back



to former club Chelsea with a place in the FA Cup semi-finals at Wembley up for grabs.

Kane leads fightback

South Africa made Kane Williamson their number one



target as the battling New Zealander ensured his side prospered despite a crippling injury to Ross Taylor.

Man City frustrated in goalless draw

Manchester City failed to fire in a frustrating 0-0 home draw with Stoke City that dealt a damaging blow to their Premier League title hopes



and left them 10 points adrift of leaders Chelsea.

Mourning turns into miracle *Thongs, underpants and midnight dips*

AFP, Barcelona



First came the "mourning" then the opportunity for revenge, claimed vindicated outgoing Barcelona coach Luis Enrique

after overseeing the greatest comeback in Champions League history by thrashing Paris Saint Germain 6-1.

Despite Barca's galaxy of stars, it was the boss who was first in the firing line when the Catalans were torn apart 4-0 in the first leg in Paris three weeks ago.

"Firstly we had to go through the mourning," said Enrique.

"It was hard, especially on one person. I don't read it, but I am aware of it all."

In the aftermath, Enrique confirmed the long held suspicion that he won't remain as coach next season after three highly successful years in charge.

The timing of the decision -- made public in his post-match press conference following another 6-1 win just seven days previously against Sporting Gijon -- took most by surprise.

However, in removing the tension around his future, Enrique changed the narrative and gave his team the freedom from which they made the

seemingly impossible, possible.

"This victory is dedicated especially to the Barca fans that had faith even after one day in which the team was outplayed as was the case in Paris," added Enrique.

"This team has shown they know how to win because they have won a lot, but, when we have lost, we have

also shown we know how to lose, especially me."

Enrique also played a vital role in recognising his team's shortcomings and changing his formation.

Barcelona have played 4-3-3 since the days of Johan Cruyff's reign in the eighties.

Yet, in the past four games, a change to 3-4-3 has resulted in a crucial La Liga win at Atletico Madrid and thrashings of Sporting, Celta

players and their desire to keep on winning."

Ironically, midfielder turned right-back Sergi Roberto had been one of those sacrificed for Enrique's new plan.

Yet, Roberto still proved to be the hero as he came off the bench to prod home Neymar's cross in the 95th minute to spark wild scenes of celebration amongst the near 100,000 fans at the Camp Nou.

Vigo and PSG by a combined score of 17-2.

"This system gives us more options, more situations that pin back the opponents, more players that can participate," Enrique continued.

"They are resources we have, but what makes systems good are the

Enrique himself raced from the bench onto the field. However, he didn't quite allow himself a joyful tear of celebration.

"I'm not one to get emotional," he added. "But I enjoyed it as much as those who cried."

In stepping down last week, Enrique cited the relentless rigours of the Barca job for his need for a rest.

Never have those demands arguably been so evident than the fact Enrique ended his post-match press conference by highlighting the need for Barca to raise the energy to win at Deportivo la Coruna on Sunday to keep themselves top of La Liga.

"The problem is this all starts again tomorrow and a return to training."

"I would have liked to rest, to let the players celebrate with their families and loved ones, who suffered most what the team went through, but we have to get up tomorrow and calm ourselves down."

Europe beware, though, having won a treble and a double in his first two seasons, Enrique wants to win it all again before departing in June.

"I imagine among our rivals our qualification hasn't gone down well. "We have never been cautious and we want the three titles."

AFP, Barcelona



Few believed Barcelona could achieve the impossible against Paris Saint-Germain, including former German international and ex-Barcelona star Bernd Schuster.

The former midfielder turned pundit said the team were a dying force after their first leg 0-4 rout in Paris and promised to appear at his regular Spanish radio show in a thong if they won the return leg.

Schuster, who appears as a pundit on "El Transistor" (The Radio) programme on the Onda Cero Spanish radio station was true to his word after the Spanish giants won the return leg 6-1 for an aggregate 6-5 triumph.

"Like a man you said you would come in (to the show) in a thong and you have come into the show in a thong," said the programme's presenter Jose Ramon de la Morena, who promised "don't worry, there will be no photos."

"It's a bit cold in here," replied Schuster on the show late Wednesday.

The former player and manager, aged 57, was not the only man who found himself out in the cold after Barcelona's miracle win.

Barcelona's former president Joan Gaspart, 72, went for a midnight dip off Barcelona's main beach after the game, fulfilling his promise to take an icy swim if his team did the impossible.

"Well done dad, you kept your word," said son Guillermo on Twitter with a photo of the event.

Others who had the temerity to bet against Barca were also left to pay the price.

Former Inter Milan and AS Roma midfielder Herbert Prohaska, a commentator on Austrian TV network ORF, dropped his trousers when Barcelona scored the winning goal and finished his live commentary in his underpants.

Barca hailed as living legends

AFP, Barcelona



Barcelona were hailed as living legends Thursday after Neymar helped the Spanish giants pull off a Nou Camp miracle with a dying minutes Champions League win over stunned Paris Saint-Germain.

The Brazilian forward played the game of his life as Barcelona made up a 0-4 first leg deficit by winning 6-1 in front of nearly 100,000 ecstatic fans at the Camp Nou stadium for an astonishing 6-5 aggregate triumph.

"You have become legends," headlined the Barcelona Sport daily while El Munda spoke of the 'miracle of a lifetime.'

Neymar presided over a final seven minutes that plunged PSG into a waking nightmare. He scored an 88th-minute free kick and a penalty in the 91st before setting up Sergi Roberto's clincher in the fifth minute of injury time, sealing the 6-1 win.

The result sent the Spanish giants storming into the quarterfinals and left PSG in tatters.

"I know that we have made history. A team like this can do anything," Neymar told BeIN Sports.

Germany's football bible, Kicker, spoke of a "night of magic" while Bild said simply "Barcelona move mountains..."

The French press scrambled to find words harsh enough to describe PSG's shame.

"Crushed, trampled on, humiliated," said Le Figaro newspaper while L'Equipe sports daily said "Indescribable."

"It is a difficult night to explain with words," said Barca boss Luis Enrique, who will leave the club at the end of the season.

"It was a horror movie, not a drama, with a Camp Nou that I have seen very few times as a player or coach.

"What defines this victory is the faith that the players and fans had."

The defeat raised questions over the future of PSG coach Unai Emery, as club president Nasser Al-Khelaifi ominously called it "very hard to accept."

"This is a nightmare for everybody. Is Unai Emery still credible? This is not the moment to talk of this. After the game, we are all upset," said the Qatar.

And PSG defender Thiago Motta's night went from bad to worse after he hit a supporter with his sports car after flying back home early Thursday.

Around 30 supporters were waiting for the players as they emerged from Le Bourget airport outside Paris.

L'EQUIPE INQUALIFIABLE



L'Equipe went with the headline 'Unspeakable' - a nod to a previous front page from 1993 after the French national team failed to reach the 1994 World Cup.

AFC Cup Abahani aiming to top group

SPORTS REPORTER



Five-time Bangladesh Premier League champions Abahani will look to put behind their dismal performances at the international level as they get set to begin another international campaign in the AFC Cup this month.

The Dhanmondi-based outfit are not as successful on the international stage as they are in the domestic circuit. They recently returned with a wooden spoon from the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup and their five unproductive campaigns in the now-defunct AFC President's Cup are evidence of their failures.

However, this time around the Sky Blues are aiming to produce their best and finish on top in the four-team Group E, where they will be pitted against Indian Clubs JWS Bengaluru and Mohun Bagan and Maldives' Maziya SRC.

Abahani will play their first match against Maziya on March 14 in the home-and-away basis group matches.

"As all the clubs are from South Asia, Abahani have received an opportunity to prove themselves as the best. Considering that the strength of all the participating clubs are equal, we think we have the ability to emerge as group champions and qualify for the next

round," said Abahani football manager Satyajit Das Rupu at an official press conference at the club premises yesterday.

Under the guidance of George Kottan, Abahani became champions in both the Federation Cup and Bangladesh Premier League, but they failed to shine in the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup last month under new coach Drago Mamic following the absence of two key foreign recruits -- Sunday Chizoba and Lee Tuck.

Abahani will be missing the services of those players again, while five players -- defender Ariful Islam, Tapu Barman and Shakil Ahmed, winger Jewel Rana and midfielder Hemanta Vincent Biswas -- are also likely to be unavailable for the AFC Cup.

However, Abahani have hired players like Yeasin Khan, Raihan Hasan, Sohel Rana, Nasir Chowdhury, Rubel Mia, Yeamin Ahmed Munna and Intiaz Sultan Jitu as replacements while also roping in Samad Youssif, Emeka Darlington and David Jonathan.

"As we had allowed our players to play for other clubs at the international level, I hope other clubs will also come forward and help us and that the players we assembled for the AFC Cup will give their best to lift the image of the country," said Abahani director Kazi Inam Ahmed.

U-18 NAT'L FOOTBALL BKSP

pummel Sirajganj

SPORTS REPORTER

The U-18 National Football Championship involving 63 districts and the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Pratisthan (BKSP) got underway at eight separate venues across the country yesterday.

Satkhira beat Magura 1-0 and Narail played out a 2-2 draw with Khulna at Gopalganj while Barisal beat Barguna 2-0 and Jhalokathi drew 2-2 with Madaripur at Madaripur.

At Netrokona, Sherpur defeated Mymensingh 3-1 and Dhaka beat hosts Netrokona 1-0 while Comilla and Sunamganj beat Brahmanbaria and Narsingdi 1-0 and 3-2 respectively at Sunamganj.

Nilphamari blanked Lalmonirhat 3-0 and hosts Dinajpur thrashed Kurigram 3-1 while Bandarban beat Noakhali 2-0 and Cox's Bazar played out a 1-1 draw with Chittagong at Feni.

At Rajshahi, Kushtia beat Naogaon 2-1 and Rajshahi defeated Natore 3-2 while BKSP thrashed Sirajganj 8-0 and Munshiganj outplayed Chudanga 3-0 at Shariatpur venue.