

What to WATCH

CHANNEL 9 & TEN 1 HD
 Bangladesh v Sri Lanka
 First T20I (D/N)
 Live from 7:30pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT HD1
 Bundesliga
 Hoffenheim v Bayern Munich
 Live from 12:00am (Wednesday)

STAR SPORTS SELECT HD2
 English Premiership
 Man United v Everton
 Live from 1:00am (Wednesday)
SONY SIX
 La Liga
 Athletic Bilbao v Espanyol
 Live from 11:30pm

Atletico Madrid v Real Sociedad
 Live from 1:30am (Wednesday)
TEN 2
 La Liga
 Real Betis v Villarreal
 Live from 1:30am (Wednesday)

MOYES REGRETS SLAP REMARK

Sunderland boss David Moyes says he "deeply regrets" telling a BBC reporter she might "get a slap". After a draw with Burnley on 18 March, Moyes was asked by Vicki Sparks if the presence of owner Ellis Short put extra pressure on him. He said "no" but, after the interview, added Sparks "might get a slap even though you're a woman" and told her to be "careful" next time she visited. "It was in the heat of the moment," said Moyes. Both Moyes and Sparks were laughing during the exchange and the former Everton and Manchester United manager later apologised to Sparks, who did not make a complaint. Speaking in a news conference on Monday, he added: "I deeply regret the comments I made. That's certainly not the person I am. I've accepted the mistake. I spoke to the BBC reporter, who accepted my apology." The BBC confirmed that Moyes and Sparks had spoken about the exchange and the issue had been resolved. —AGENCIES



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:

Man United may focus on Europa League

Manchester United may field weakened teams in the league if a top-four finish seems beyond them in order to boost their chances of winning the Europa League.

Tendulkar makes singing debut with Sonu Nigam

India's legendary batsman Sachin Tendulkar made his singing debut with singer Sonu Nigam and unveiled his maiden song, Cricket Wali Beat, on the sets of Indian Idol Grand Finale.

Wenger praises Arsenal fans as end of an era looms

Arsene Wenger lives to fight another day after a draw with Manchester City but his side are in danger of missing out on the top four for the first time since 1996.

Mathews out of rest of BD series

Sri Lanka skipper Angelo Mathews will miss the remaining fixtures of Bangladesh's tour after being ruled out of the Twenty20 matches starting in Colombo.

North Korea free to take part in 2018 Games

North Korea will be allowed to travel to South Korea for the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics if it wishes to take part, Seoul's Unification Ministry said.

N Srinivasan's return to ICC might leave BCCI without BD, SRL's support

Indian Cricket Board's (BCCI) move to stall the proposed constitutional and financial reforms in the ICC may suffer a roadblock if BCCI tries to send N Srinivasan as its representative.



Barcelona forward Neymar (C) takes a shot during their La Liga match against Granada at the Nuevo Los Carmenes Stadium on Sunday. Neymar scored the fourth goal to reach a milestone of 100 goals for the club.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Neymar hits 100

ESP/NEFC



Luis Enrique celebrated Neymar's 100th goal for Barcelona by saying he hopes the Brazilian striker scores 900 more.

Neymar fired home Barcelona's fourth in their 4-1 win at Granada on Sunday and it earned him a personal milestone, becoming the third Brazilian to hit a century for the club.

Rivaldo scored 130 and Evaristo 105 but if the coach has his way, Neymar will soon overtake them.

"He has numbers [which show he is] a beast of a footballer. He's one of the most unbalancing players in the world [for opposition defences] and his signing by this club was a great decision," said Luis Enrique in his post game news conference.

"I hope he scores another 900 goals, so we can keep seeing him at Barcelona for many more years."

This was Neymar's 177th game since signing for the club in the summer of 2013 and he reached his century in 11 fewer games than it took Lionel Messi, who was suspended for the clash in Andalusia.

"I am happy to reach goal 100 and I dedicate it to my colleagues who always help me," Neymar told Barca TV.

"I am happy with the victory that is the important thing. I stay with everyone because everyone has been important, but the best of all was the first in the Super Cup."

Luis Enrique was pleased with the team's performance without the Argentine, as well as Gerard Pique who was rested.

"The weeks after international games are always special, we have a lot of players who have had trips and are tired, and above all a game away from home always adds to the difficulty level, but I think we did very well," he added.

"We started well, dealing with the opponent's high press, creating chances and perhaps we lacked a little precision in the final metres, but the 1-0 score at half-time reflected our dominance."

"It was trickier for us at the start of the second half with the goal, but we soon improved

GOALS BY COMPETITION

LA LIGA	64
CHAMPIONS LEAGUE	21
COPA DEL REY	14
SUPER COPA	1

92 of his goals were scored from inside the box and of those 12 were from the penalty spot. 8 goals were scored from outside the box and 5 of those were from free-kicks.

Neymar scored 6 of his 100 goals from headers. 70 goals were scored with his right foot and 24 were scored with his left foot.

STATS

Neymar reached the 100-goal milestone for Barcelona on Sunday with a stoppage time tap-in against Granada that continued a hot streak of form. The Barcelona forward took 177 games, 11 games less than teammate Lionel Messi, to bring up his century.

With the addition of Neymar, Barcelona now have 18 players that have reached or surpassed 100 goals across all official competitions including Messi, Luis Suarez, Rivaldo, Eulogio, Martinez and Evaristo. Suarez managed to make the mark after just 120 games for the La Liga giants while Mariano Martin is the club record holder with 100 goals in 99 games.

and were able to earn a result like this."

While Neymar and Suarez both scored and led the team in Messi's absence, substitute Paco Alcacer also played an important role after coming on for Rafinha, who injured his knee.

The ex-Valencia striker has had few chances this season but was brought on to play on the right wing and ended up scoring to send Barcelona ahead, after Chelsea loanee Jeremie Boga cancelled out Suarez's opening goal, and creating Neymar's with a low cross.

"Paco is always ready to help the team," explained Luis Enrique. "Even when he doesn't have a chance to start. He scored a goal, he got an assist, he played a very complete game."

Federer to skip clay season

AFP, Miami

Roger Federer, fresh from winning his third title of the year in Miami, said Sunday he will take a nearly two-month break from the sport before returning for the French Open in late May.

Federer has won the Australian Open, Indian Wells and Miami since coming back from a six-month injury lay-off and he said he'll skip some clay court tournaments, including Masters series events in Monte Carlo, Madrid and Rome.

"I'm not 24 any more so things have changed in a big way and I probably won't play any clay court event except the French. That is what it is going to look like, I need rest, my body needs healing, I need time as well to prepare, you will probably see me at the French again," he told ESPN in an on-court interview.

"I want to stay healthy and enjoy myself. Because when I am healthy and feeling good, I can produce tennis like this, when I am not feeling this good there is no chance I will be in the finals competing with Rafa."

"That is why this break coming now in the clay court season and focusing everything now on the French, the grass and then the hard courts after that is going to be the key for me," he added.

Abahani play Mohun Bagan after 28 years

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Premier League champions Abahani will take on neighbouring rivals Mohun Bagan AC in their first away match of AFC Cup at the Rabindra Sarobar Stadium in Kolkata today.

This will be the first meeting of the two sides since 1989 when Abahani beat the cross-border rivals in the final of a tournament called Azmeri Gold Cup which was held in Noakhali.

However, after suffering a 2-0 home defeat at the hands of Maziya Sports and Recreation Club of Maldives, the five-time professional league champions will try to restore some pride by putting up a spirited performance against the Indian outfit, who had suffered a 1-2 defeat to I-League champions Bengaluru FC in their opening match.

Abahani, however, are hamstrung by the absence of Ghanaian defender Samad Yussif, leaving the Sky Blues with only two foreign players against Mohun Bagan's four

foreign recruits. Moreover, midfielder Emot Babu is also suffering from injury.

Despite that coach Drago Mamic is optimistic about notching up a victory.

"It has been tough for me to build the team but we have made some signing and are looking to add some more. We have to play well because we have the opportunity to come out top of the group," Mamic was quoted as saying by goal.com.

"As Samad Yussif will be replaced by Nasir Chowdhury, we have to be careful in defence and avail the opportunities we get. If the boys can play according to the plan, a win is possible," Abahani manager Satyajit Das Rupu told this reporter over phone.

Hosts Mohun Bagan will have the home advantage as well as a boost from a 3-0 win over holders Bengaluru FC in I-League match on Saturday. Japanese midfielder Katsumi Yusa, who struck a brace in that match, and Haitian striker Sony Norde, who played in Bangladesh for three seasons, will be the key players for the charges of Sanjoy Sen.

DI MARIA defends Messi

AGENCIES, Paris



Angel Di Maria, who plays for Ligue 1 club Paris Saint-Germain and the Argentina national team, has jumped to the defence of Lionel Messi, claiming it was not only the Barcelona star hurling abuse at the match officials in Argentina's World Cup qualifier win against Chile.

Messi was handed a four game international ban and a fine of 10,000 Swiss francs by FIFA's disciplinary panel for swearing at the officials - after being found guilty of shouting "your mother's ****" to Brazilian linesman Emerson Augusto do Carvalho.

But fellow countryman Di Maria, who also featured in the Chile win has revealed Messi was not the only player dishing out verbal abuse to the officials as the winger admitted he got in on the act as well.

Di Maria said: "I also shouted abuse at the referee and so did other players, but all they cared about was Messi"

Messi earlier made clear that he is adamant that the ban is unfair as he did not direct his frustrations towards the officials when he told La Nacion: "My sayings were never addressed to the assistant, but they were said to the air."

Di Maria was not the only one to give Messi his backing however as Barcelona coach Luis Enrique chimed in after Messi was suspended for Barca's La Liga game at Granada on Sunday, saying: "Those numbers are incredible, he is super respectful towards referees and he never causes controversy," Luis Enrique told reporters. The numbers Enrique referred to was the fact that the Argentine super star has collected five yellow cards in the league season, although he has committed seven fouls in the campaign, receiving the majority of bookings for dissent.



Napoli slow Juve title drive

AFP, Rome

Napoli slowed Juventus's drive for a sixth straight Italian title by coming from behind to share the spoils in a high-stakes Serie A showdown on Sunday.

The 1-1 draw on the night Gonzalo Higuain went back to his former club leaves Massimiliano Allegri's squad six points clear of second-placed Roma, the only team with a realistic chance of catching the Turin giants with eight rounds of matches left to play.

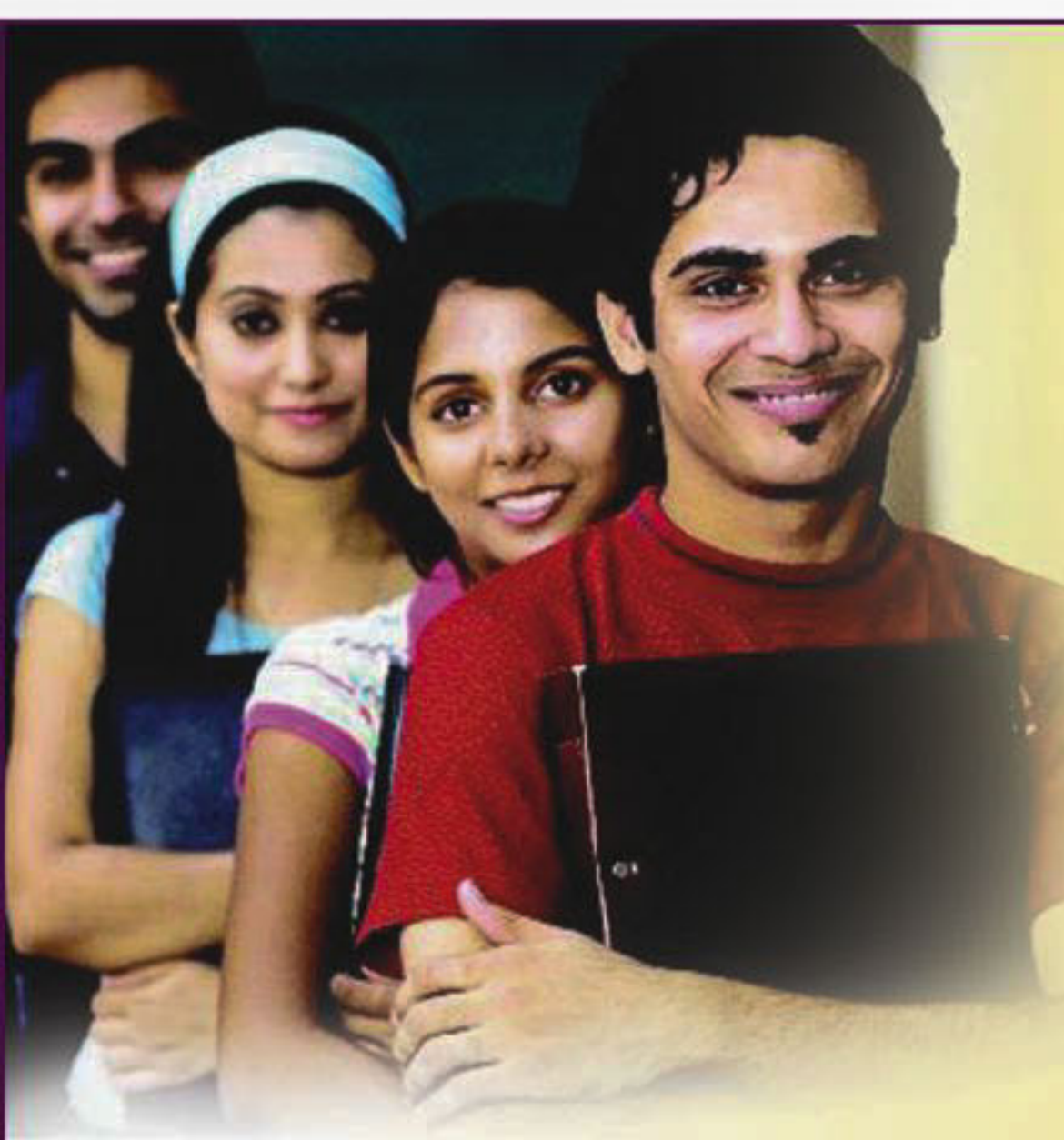
It was not a vintage performance from Juve, but with another meeting with Napoli looming in the semi-final of the Italian Cup, and an upcoming Champions League clash with Barcelona to think about, Allegri shrugged that off.

"A great squad also needs to know how to suffer and to be humble. We have to be first in May and then nobody will remember we didn't play well in Napoli," he said.

Napoli are ten points adrift in third - with Lazio hot on their heels in the fight for Italy's third Champions League place.

Coach Maurizio Sarri said he felt his side could have taken all three points. "It is a shame we didn't win. We had the chances to. But when a team plays like that, the coach can go home with every type of emotion except disappointment."

With Higuain making his first return to his former club in a Juventus shirt, it was always going to be a highly-charged affair.



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