

SONY ESPN
Indian Premier League
Kolkata v Punjab
Live from 8:30pm

TEN 1
UEFA Europa League
Quarterfinal
Ajax v Schalke
Live from 12:00am (Friday)

TEN 1 HD
UEFA Europa League
Quarterfinal
Anderlecht v Man United
Live from 12:00am (Friday)

TEN 3
UEFA Europa League
Quarterfinal
Lyon v Besiktas
Live from 12:00am (Friday)

DHAKA PREMIER LEAGUE
Time: 9:00am
Victoria v Sheikh Jamal
Venue: Fatullah

Mohammedan v Gazi Group
Venue: BKSP-3
Prime Bank v Kalabagan KC
Venue: BKSP-4

Bale a fan of Alli

REUTERS, Madrid

England international and Tottenham Hotspur midfielder Dele Alli is good enough to play for any club in the world, according to Real Madrid forward Gareth Bale.

Alli has emerged as a key part of the Tottenham team over the past two seasons and his 16 goals and five assists in the Premier League this season have helped propel Spurs to second in the table, seven points behind leaders Chelsea.

Alli celebrated his 21st birthday only this week.

"In terms of his ability, he could play wherever he wants. He has achieved so much in a short time that he must have great confidence in his ability to affect games at a high level," Bale told British media.



THE DAY IT ALL TURNED AROUND

20 years ago to the day, Bangladesh cricket graduated to a level from which followed all that we see and celebrate now. On 13 April, 1997, in Kuala Lumpur, a Martin Suji yorker ricocheted off number 10 batsman Hasibul Hossain's pads and he ran through gleefully to seal the ICC Trophy for Bangladesh by winning the final off the last ball against Kenya in a chase reduced to 25 overs and a match stretched to two days because of rain. Bangladesh had already qualified for the 1999 World Cup by winning the semifinal against Scotland, which signalled the first of many cricket-related celebrations all across Bangladesh. But the win in the final, delivered by Bangladesh's then core of Mohammad Rafique (15-ball 26), Minhajul Abedin (33-ball 27), Aminul Islam (run-a-ball 37) and skipper Akram Khan (27-ball 22), established Bangladesh as the leader of the Associates, from where they have not looked back since.

PHOTO: STAR FILE

Park complains against Hamid

SPORTS REPORTER



South Korean swimming coach Park Tae Gun yesterday brought allegations of non-cooperation against local coach Abdul Hamid regarding preparation for next month's 4th Islamic Solidarity Games which will be held in Azerbaijan from May 12 to 22.

Six swimmers -- SA Games gold medallist Mahfuza Khatun Shila, Nazma Khatun, Romana Akter, Naima Akter, Jewel Ahmed and Ariful Islam -- have been training under Park and Hamid since January 10 after the South Korean convinced Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) to increase the number of swimmers from two to six.

"It is not possible for me to do everything alone and I can't develop swimmers on my own," Park told reporters yesterday. "Hamid is an Olympic coach like me but he is not helping me in training."

Park also complained that the federation

is not responding regarding re-arrangement of accommodation of the swimmers, who have to spend their nights at the dormitory of the swimming pool amid scorching heat.

It has been learnt that Hamid, who is a joint secretary of Bangladesh Swimming Federation, spends whole day reading newspapers and doing other things instead of maintaining schedules of the swimmers.

Besides, Hamid, who once termed gold medal winner Shila as 'a Muktiyoddha quota player,' is allegedly demoralising the swimmers saying 'It is impossible to win medals' in the Islamic Solidarity Games.

Having denied the allegation, Hamid said, "I don't have any work other than training. My job is to train the swimmers. And I did not say anything that can demoralise them."

"However, he [Park] may have complaints regarding accommodation but I don't have any hand in that matter. The federation will take a decision on it on Saturday," Hamid defended himself.

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:

Sevilla warn Argentina over Sampaoli interest

Sevilla have warned the Argentine Football Association (AFA) they will not tolerate any attempts to lure Jorge Sampaoli away from the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan.

Williamson gets the better of Warner

When rain washed out a training session, Sunrisers Hyderabad teammates David Warner and Kane Williamson took to the dartboard, with the Black Caps skipper taking out a big win against his Indian Premier League captain.

Argentina will reach World Cup: Bauza

Lionel Messi's faltering Argentina team will reach the 2018 World Cup finals in Russia despite their precarious position in the qualifiers, sacked coach Edgardo Bauza said on Tuesday.

Umpires can eject players, tethered bails approved

Cricket umpires have been given the power to eject disobedient players while tethered bails will be permitted to protect wicketkeepers from eye injuries as part of a series of law changes coming into effect from Oct. 1.

Garcia eyes British Open after 'better late than never' Masters win

After burying the majors demon that had haunted his golfing career for nearly 20 years at the U.S. Masters, Sergio Garcia is now setting his sights on the British Open at Southport in July.

China badminton head coach to retire after 24 years

Li Yongbo, who led the Chinese national badminton team to gold medal victory at six Olympic games, will step down as head coach, media reports said on Wednesday.

'It was a disaster'

AFP, Barcelona



Outgoing Barcelona coach Luis Enrique turned on his misfiring stars after "reliving a nightmare" with his side's 3-0 humbling by Juventus in the first leg of their Champions League quarterfinal.

Barca produced the biggest Champions League comeback of all time in the last 16, overturning a 4-0 first leg deficit by scoring three times in a crazy final 10 minutes to beat the French champions 6-1.

However, a downcast and visibly angry Enrique said he found it "harder to believe in a comeback" than even the night in Paris that precipitated his decision to step down at the end of the season eight weeks ago.

"The first-half was a disaster, like it was the third half of the PSG game," said Enrique, who then took an out of character shot at the Barca players' attitude.

"I haven't been able to transmit my ideas well to my players because that was nothing like what I asked for. I feel very sad and impotent. What we saw was very serious.

"The positioning with the ball is my responsibility, but without it the intensity has to be different."

Enrique was filmed banging a table in his dugout in anger after watching a replay of Pablo Dybala's second goal in the first 22 minutes.

In a recurring theme of Barca's season Giorgio Chiellini then exposed a weakness from set-pieces to add Juventus' third just after half-time.

"Crucified," ran the headline of Barca daily Sport alongside a picture of Enrique.

"Very sad. Very serious," said the front

cover of its rival Mundo Deportivo.

Enrique's announcement that he would not be renewing his contract a week after defeat in Paris appeared to have released the bubbling tension between players and coach as Barca's improved form provoked dreams of the possibility of a second treble in three seasons under the Asturian coach.

Indeed, after Saturday's 1-1 draw between Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid, Barca had the La Liga title race back in their own hands.

However, they kicked off a disastrous three days with a shock 2-0 defeat at Malaga to once again hand Real the initiative in the title race in which Neymar saw his first red card for the club.

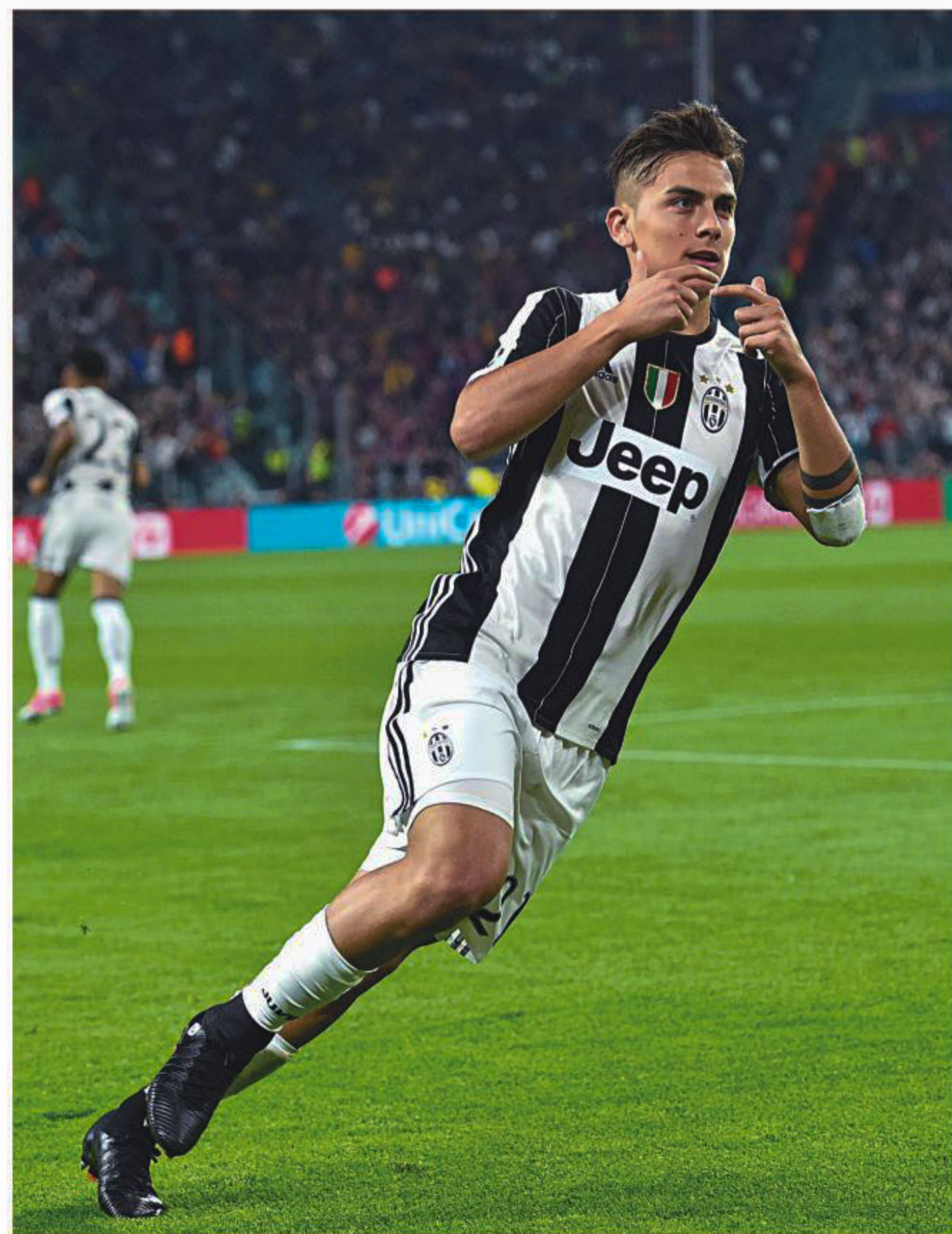
And the Brazilian's sarcastic applause of the officials as he left the field has seen him hit with a three-match ban, meaning he will miss next weekend's potential title decider with Real at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Barca's hopes of a third straight Spanish title depend on winning that match, but defeat in Turin was just a continuation of the Catalans' poor away form this season.

They have now been beaten five times on the road in 2017 and have conceded at least three goals in three of their last four Champions League games away from home.

Producing another remarkable comeback against a Juventus defence that has conceded just twice in seven Champions League games this season seems even more unlikely than Barca's historic feat against PSG.

Yet, as bad as they have been away from the Camp Nou, the force of nearly 100,000 fans and a front three of Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Neymar means Juventus will not relish their trip to Catalonia in a weeks' time.



Juventus starlet Paulo Dybala celebrates one of his two goals against Barcelona during their Champions League quarterfinal first leg encounter in Turin on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

Stranded Monaco fans shown solidarity

AFP, Dortmund



Dortmund fans opened their doors to stranded Monaco rivals in a heart-warming show of solidarity after the Borussia Dortmund team bus attack.

But many Monaco supporters still ended up sleeping in their cars after the attack which forced the postponement of the Champions League quarterfinal between the two sides.

The game was held up for 24 hours as a precaution after three explosions hit the Dortmund team bus, injuring defender Marc Bartra.

Many Monaco supporters, who had planned to travel back to France after the game, found they had nowhere to sleep when the game was postponed.

The Monaco contingent of about 3,000 were praised for their gesture in chanting "Dortmund, Dortmund" after the attack was announced in the stadium.

And a heart-warming spontaneous initiative from Dortmund fans meant many found a place to sleep for the night under the Twitter hashtag #bedforawayfans.

"We have received solidarity across a wide range of society," Dortmund

president Reinhard Rauball told broadcaster ZDF.

"Dortmund fans were ready to go to the Monaco fans to offer help," he added, revealing a friend of his had spontaneously offered to accommodate ten away fans.

Borussia Dortmund's official account promoted the initiative to "Dear supporters of AS Monaco". Several Dortmund fans posted pictures of themselves at home with relieved Monaco supporters.

"It is self-evident, if we were stranded somewhere abroad, we would have also wanted to have some accommodation made possible," Dortmund fan Renke Reichler told Munich-based paper Sueddeutsche Zeitung.

Reichler and his wife took in five Monaco fans for the night.

"We wanted to offer them a classic German beer, but they are Muslims and don't drink anything," he said, before adding the ice was quickly broken.

The couple have been invited to Lille as a thank you.

The Monaco chants of support and the free beds received a lot of praise.

"I was proud of the solidarity shown by the red and white fans," Pascal Pedro, a Monaco fan "for more than 40 years", told AFP.

Former Arsenal and England striker

Ian Wright said on Twitter "I love this football club (Dortmund)" in a reference to #bedforawayfans

British Labour MP David Lammy, whose London constituency includes the Tottenham Hotspur ground, called on his Twitter followers to check the Dortmund initiative "if you need cheering up this morning! Wonderful solidarity."

Not all travelling Monaco fans found somewhere comfortable to sleep however.

"I will remember it again in ten years, even if it is also unfortunate," said Arthur Glapa, 22, having spent the night in a car with a friend after driving from Douai.

"We were a little cold, but we restarted the heating every two hours and we also laughed," he said, adding the Monaco fans were offered breakfast by a couple camping nearby.

As a sign of solidarity with the injured Dortmund player, Glapa had the name 'Bartra' printed on the back of his replica Monaco shirt.

"At first they did not want to print (Bartra) on a Monaco jersey, but the store manager intervened," he explained.

Many French fans have already travelled home, but some stayed to make a statement.

Bartra has wrist surgery

AFP, Dortmund

Spain international Marc Bartra underwent wrist surgery on Tuesday after being injured when the Borussia Dortmund team bus was rocked by a series of explosions that forced the postponement of their Champions League match against Monaco.

Dortmund's press spokesman confirmed the 26-year-old Bartra needed an operation on his right wrist.

"Marc Bartra will be operated on, he has broken the radius (bone) in his right wrist and there are foreign bodies in the arm," said Sascha Fligge.

"The Borussia family has shown that we close ranks in difficult times and that's what we also want to do for Marc."

A police spokesman confirmed that Bartra's status had been changed from 'lightly' to 'badly injured'.

Fligge said that with Dortmund scheduled to play Bayer Leverkusen in the Bundesliga on Saturday, before next Wednesday's return leg at Monaco, there was no alternative but to reschedule the first leg for Wednesday.

The Dortmund spokesman also confirmed the team bus had strengthened glass in its windows, but the force of the blasts still shattered several panes.

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