

What to WATCH

SONY ESPN
Indian Premier League
 Hyderabad v Pune
 Live from 4:30pm
 Delhi v Mumbai
 Live from 8:30pm

SONY SIX
La Liga
 Granada v Real Madrid
 Live from 12:45am (Sunday)
TEN 1
La Liga
 Atletico Madrid v Eibar

Live from 8:15pm
 Barcelona v Villarreal
 Live from 10:30pm
TEN 1HD
Serie A
 Juventus v Torino
 Live from 12:45am (Sunday)

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1HD
English Premiership
 Man City v Crystal Palace
 Live from 5:30pm
 Leicester v Watford
 Live from 8:00pm
 Swansea v Everton

Live from 10:30pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT HD2
Bundesliga
 Bayern Munich v Darmstadt
 Live from 7:30pm
 Hertha Berlin v Leipzig
 Live from 10:30pm

DRY'S EVENT

DHAKA PREMIER LEAGUE
 Time: 9:00am
 Kalabagan KC v Partex SC

Venue: KSOAS
 Gazi Group v Brothers Union
 Venue: BKSP-3

Sheikh Jamal v Khelaghar SKS
 Venue: BKSP-4

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:

Neymar cleared of fraud but corruption trial awaits

Brazilian forward Neymar has been cleared of fraud but still faces a corruption trial in Spain in connection with the value of his 2013 transfer from Santos to Barcelona, the Spanish National High Court said.

Women's World Cup sees 10-fold jump in prize money

The 2017 Women's World Cup will see a 10 times increase in prize money to \$2 million with every ball of the tournament broadcast live, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has said.

China's Tianjin denies Costa transfer report

China Super League club Tianjin Quanjian have denied reports they signed Chelsea striker Diego Costa for a record-breaking 90 million euros.

Yunis usurped by Azhar in ICC rankings

Pakistan legend Younis Khan has been usurped as his country's number one Test batsmen heading into his farewell Test, after Azhar Ali overtook him on the International Cricket Council's batting rankings.

Overpaid English youngsters losing edge: Southgate

Young English footballers have lost the motivation to succeed after getting paid too much money too early in their playing careers, national team manager Gareth Southgate has said.

Johnson makes tidy return from back injury

World number one Dustin Johnson declared himself ready to challenge for victory after a tidy return to competition left him four strokes behind first-round leader Francesco Molinari at the Wells Fargo Championship.

Faridpur suffer shocking defeat

Holders Faridpur suffered a 2-0 defeat against Dhaka Educational Board in their opening match of the ATN Bangla National Hockey Championship at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Parimal Mardi and Rohan Sabbir struck either side of the break to stun Faridpur

In the day's other matches, Kurigram handed a 4-0 defeat to Satkhira, Chittagong thrashed Narayanganj 6-1 and Mymensingh defeated Thakurgaon 4-1.



Argentina and Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi (R) shares a joke with club-mates Luis Suarez (C) and Neymar during a training session at the Sports Center Joan Gamper in Sant Joan Despi yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

FIFA overturns Messi ban

AFP, Zurich



Argentina's hopes of reaching next year's World Cup were given a huge boost of Friday after FIFA overturned Lionel Messi's four-game ban for swearing at an assistant referee.

FIFA said there was not enough evidence to support the stiff punishment meted out in March to the 29-year-old Barcelona striker, who is central to Argentina's faltering bid to get to Russia 2018.

Football's governing body said its appeal committee sided with a challenge filed on Messi's behalf by the Argentine Football Association (AFA) and lifted "the sanctions imposed on him as a result".

"Despite the fact that the FIFA Appeal Committee considered Lionel Messi's behaviour as reproachable" it concluded "the evidence available was not sufficient" to justify a four-game international ban. The ruling also means Messi will be spared the 10,000 Swiss francs (\$10,000, 9,200 euros) fine.

The superstar was originally found guilty of "having directed insulting words at an assistant referee" in a World Cup qualifier against Chile which Argentina won 1-0 thanks to a penalty from the Barcelona hitman.

Argentina desperately need their star because they risk failing to qualify for the World Cup for the first time since 1970.

They have won only one of eight World Cup 2018 qualifiers played without Messi, compared to five out of six won with him on the pitch.

They are fifth in World Cup qualifying in South America, with only the top four earning automatic places in Russia.

The fifth place finisher can still qualify by winning a playoff against the winners of the Oceania region.

'Sunderland still want me'

AFP, London



David Moyes has revealed Sunderland owner Ellis Short wants him to remain in charge at the Stadium of Light despite his club's relegation from the Premier League.

Moyes criticised Short's failure to back him in the transfer market in January and it was suggested Sunderland's slide into the Championship would trigger the Scot's dismissal.

But Moyes, who is also unpopular with Sunderland supporters due to his cautious tactics, has spoken to American businessman Short and Sunderland chief executive Martin Bain and the Black Cats boss insists he has his full support.

"Ellis and the board want me to stay," Moyes said when asked if there had been a decision on his future on Friday.

"I don't know what you mean by 'decision'. I've got a four-year contract so I don't know what you're talking about 'a decision'."

While he has been backed by Short, former Manchester United boss Moyes hinted he wants to hear more about the club's ambitions for next season before committing to the battle to win promotion.

"I'll know more come the end of the season, once we see exactly what we're able to deal with, what we can work with, then we'll know exactly what we can do," he said.

"Right from the start we said it looked like there was a rebuilding job to be done. Hopefully we can get that going."

"I know what needs to be done to get back in the Premier League, I know the requirements, but we've only had initial talks."

"We plan to meet again in the next couple of weeks. We were deflated, I wouldn't say it was an uplifting kind of meeting."

Bangalore's misery continues

STAR SPORT DESK

Royal Challengers Bangalore's nightmare IPL season continued as they succumbed to their ninth loss from 12 matches after suffering a 19-run defeat to Kings XI Punjab in Bengaluru yesterday.

Skipper Virat Kohli may have thought that it would be a different result after his bowlers restricted Punjab to 138 for seven, but Bangalore's star-studded line-up imploded to be all out for 119 in 19 overs. Axar Patel and Sandeep Sharma took three wickets each and Mohit Sharma and Glenn Maxwell picked up two apiece. Sharma picked up the wickets of Bangalore's big three, with Chris Gayle going for a duck while Kohli scored six and AB de Villiers 10. Only Mandeep Singh offered any resistance with 46.

Earlier, Patel hit an unbeaten 38 to rescue Punjab from 78 for five after they were asked to bat first.

Mourinho hails Rashford

AFP, Vigo



Manchester United boss Jose Mourinho heaped praise on Marcus Rashford's desire to improve after the 19-year-old's brilliant free-kick handed the English giants a 1-0 Europa League semi-final, first leg win at Celta Vigo on Thursday.

One moment of magic from the England international settled a tight encounter as he pulled his strike across Celta Vigo goalkeeper Sergio Alvarez into the far corner 23 minutes from time.

"The free-kick is work. He works every day. Sometimes the training session finished and he keeps working with my assistant," said Mourinho.

"The free-kick is fantastic and I don't think the goalkeeper has any chance because the shot is very fast."

Rashford and United could have had more of an advantage to take back to Old Trafford for the second leg on May 11.

Alvarez made a string of first-half saves to deny Rashford, Henrikh Mkhitaryan and Jese Lingard.

However, Mourinho praised Rashford's ability to handle the pressure since Zlatan Ibrahimovic's season

was ended by a cruciate ligament injury.

"He worked really hard and created them problems. He had a fantastic shot in the first half that (produced) a beautiful save," added Mourinho.

"He is training a lot, he trains, he practices, he enjoys that extra work."

"Zlatan is not here, that position is not Paul (Pogba's) favourite position and it is a great free-kick."

"The ball is very fast, the keeper made a movement and I think it is impossible to stop."

Mourinho hailed a solid overall performance from United that takes them closer to a return to the Champions League next season should they go onto win the competition for the first time.

However, he lamented not having killed the tie off given Celta's excellent record away from home in Europe this season.

"It is a good result, but it is short," he added.

"It could have been better, 0-1 is a short result and seeing Celta's trajectory in the Europa League they definitely deserve respect."

Celta's frustration spilled over in the closing stages as United ran the clock down efficiently.

And Celta striker John Guidetti said

the Spaniards should learn from Mourinho's streetwise tactics.

"At the end of the day it's a set-piece that gets us," said the Swedish international.

"After that Mourinho has got a lot of experience and he just tells his players: 'Game's over, game's finished, 1-0, we're not gonna play anymore football tonight'."

"You could see they made 15, 20 minutes (at the end) be three minutes of football."

"That's what he does best and it is something we have to learn from."

Guidetti, though, believes Celta can take heart from not just their results on the road in the Europa League this season, but also eliminating European champions Real Madrid from the Copa del Rey by winning at the Santiago Bernabeu back in January.

"The Man Utd fans expect more than sitting back and taking a 0-0 draw, so I think we are going to have even more space," he added.

"Last year we scored three goals away against Atletico Madrid to go through (in the Copa del Rey) and their defence is very strong, and this year we won 2-1 at the Bernabeu and they are almost in the Champions League final."

"We know we can do it."

Bravo out for the season

AFP, Manchester



Pep Guardiola has revealed Manchester City goalkeeper Claudio Bravo will miss the rest of the season with a calf injury.

Bravo, who has endured an inconsistent season since arriving from Barcelona last August, was taken off on a stretcher after sustaining the injury against Manchester United on April 27.

City manager Guardiola has confirmed the problem will keep the Chilean out of his side's remaining four Premier League matches, with Willy Caballero set to continue against Crystal Palace on Saturday, while third-choice Angus Gunn sits on the bench.

However, Sergio Aguero, David Silva and John Stones are all likely to play some part during the run-in as fourth placed City chase a spot in the Champions League.

Aguero, who has a calf injury, and Stones, struggling with a muscle problem, are likely to return against Leicester next weekend, as is playmaker Silva, who has returned to full training after two weeks out with knee trouble.

"Bravo isn't coming back until next season, John may be in the last games," Guardiola told reporters on Friday.

"Sergio is not fit. Hopefully he will be for the next one but for this game, no. He is not fit."

"Yesterday was David's first training session. I don't know if he will be ready for tomorrow. No, after the reaction in the semi-final of the FA Cup, he's still

not perfect."

Three of City's final four matches are at home, and they may need to win all four games to ensure a place in next season's Champions League.

Since winning their first 10 games under Guardiola, City have won four successive matches just once, although that run started with an FA Cup win at Saturday's opponents Palace in late January.

City have won only eight of their 16 home league games this season, and Guardiola has suggested that their record at Eastlands must improve in order to secure a top four finish.

"It's still in our hands if we are able to win the four games. But that's so complicated," he said.

"Since the beginning of the season, when we won 10 games, we have been able to win four games in a row only once."

"I know how tough Crystal Palace are. They beat Arsenal, Chelsea and Liverpool."

"We have Leicester, the last champions. Then we have West Brom and

Tony Pulis, who are always complicated but it is in our hands."

"We will see if we are able to make our step forward to qualify. If we win all four games we will definitely be in the Champions League and maybe in the third position. It depends on us."

"Our home games have not been perfect this season. We have to change it in three home games if we want to play in the Champions League next season."

With Arsenal and United guaranteed to take points from each other, Liverpool and Manchester City have opportunities to consolidate their places in the top four.

Third-place Liverpool host Southampton on Sunday, with fourth-place City -- who sit a point above United -- hosting Crystal Palace on Saturday.

Playmaker Philippe Coutinho hobbled off with a dead leg during Liverpool's 1-0 win at Watford on Monday, but he is hopeful about his chances of facing Southampton.

"The injury is much better," the Brazilian told the Liverpool website.

"It was a hard tackle and what happened was a dead leg. It caused a lot of pain in the area I was hit, but the pain has reduced now."

Sunderland succumbed to relegation last weekend and Middlesbrough will join them in the Championship if Hull City win at home to Sunderland and they fail to win at Chelsea.

Two points clear of third-bottom Swansea City, Hull can take a big step towards safety if they prevail at home to Sunderland.



Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford celebrates his all-important goal against Celta Vigo during their Europa League semifinal first leg tie at the Balaídos Stadium on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP