

STAR SPORTS 1
England v South Africa
Second ODI
Live from 4:00pm

SONY ESPN & TEN 1
FA Cup Final
Arsenal v Chelsea
Live from 10:30pm

TEN 2
Serie A
Bologna v Juventus
Live from 10:00pm

TEN 3
Serie A
Atalanta v Chievo Verona
Live from 10:00pm

DAY'S EVENT

BANGLADESH V PAKISTAN
Warm-up Match
Time: 3:30pm
Venue: Edgbaston

DHAKA PREMIER SUPER LEAGUE
Time: 9:00am
Gazi Group v Sheikh Jamal
Venue: KSOAS

Abahani v Mohammedan
Venue: BKSP-3
Prime Doleshwar v Prime Bank
Venue: BKSP-4

FEDERATION CUP QUARTERFINAL
Rahamatganj v Muktiyoddha Sangsad
Time: 6:00pm
Venue: BNS

FIRST MESSI, NOW RONALDO DOPPELGANGER

Football fans could not believe it when pictures emerged of a ridiculous Lionel Messi doppelganger in Tehran recently. But the Middle East country has now churned out a similarly bizarre lookalike for Cristiano Ronaldo. It seems their Barcelona-Real Madrid rivalry knows no bounds, even in the impersonator stakes. Reza Alireza Lou turned heads during the Iranian presidential election recently as hysterical onlookers flocked thinking they were getting a glimpse of the Portuguese icon. And if there were any doubts it was a doppelganger - he was spotted on the eve of Real Madrid's title deciding clash with Malaga.



—AGENCIES



Abahani striker Nabib Newaj Jibon shoots to score the opening goal against Brothers Union in their Federation Cup quarterfinals at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Abahani ease into semis

SPORTS REPORTER



Holders Abahani advanced to the semifinal of the Walton Federation Cup with a 2-1 win over Brothers Union in the third quarterfinal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Striker Nabib Newaj Jibon gave Abahani a lead two minutes from the break, before Rubel Mia doubled the margin in the 80th minute. Congolese striker Siyo Zunapio reduced the margin in stoppage time, but it was too little too late for Brothers.

The defending champions will now face Sheikh Jamal DC in the second semifinal on June 3.

Fresh off a 1-0 win over Muktiyoddha Sangsad in their previous game, Abahani continued their brilliant performances and dominated possession. While Brothers Union showed their character with a spirited display, the Sky Blues did not face much resistance against the side they had beaten by the same margin in the last edition's quarterfinal.

As in the previous game, Abahani played with a five-man backline and Jibon up front as the lone striker. The tall marksman did not frustrate coach Drago Mamic, breaking the deadlock in the 43rd minute.

Winger Sohel Rana had a vital role behind the goal as the former Chittagong Abahani winger danced past two defenders outside the box before releasing a neat pass to Jibon, who drove the ball to the near post, giving Brothers goalkeeper Kamrul Hossain Titu no time to react.

Abahani did not let their foot off the gas and pressed for a second after resumption, coming close to scoring in the 56th minute. Jibon was presented with a chance from Nasir Chowdhury on the edge of the six-yard box, but he frustratingly failed to keep his header on target.

However, Abahani did grab the second from a fortunate goal in the 80th minute. Wali Faisal fed Rubel Mia the ball inside the box and the diminutive winger drove a low shot between goalkeeper Kamrul's legs towards target, before it was bundled home by defender Akramuzzaman Khan as he attempted to clear. The referee however awarded the goal to Rubel.

In the dying moments of the game, Brothers were awarded a free-kick on the edge of Abahani's box and Zunapio beat goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Sohel with a curving low shot, although in the end it proved to only be a consolation goal for the All Orange outfit.

ABAHANI 2 - 1 BROTHERS UNION
(JIBON 43', RUBEL 80') (ZUNAPIO 90+3')

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:

Monaco's Silva to join Man City

Manchester City begin their campaign to snatch the Premier League title from Chelsea next season by signing Portuguese playmaker Bernardo Silva from Monaco.

High excitement for Tendulkar movie

Critics called the new Sachin Tendulkar biopic "hagiographic" but fans of the Indian cricket legend loved the work that hit screens amid nationwide fanfare.

Chance phone call behind Agassi-Djokovic

Novak Djokovic revealed that a chance telephone call sparked his decision to hire US legend Andre Agassi.

Kvitova to play French Open

Petra Kvitova will play the French Open in what will be her first tournament since being attacked by a burglar.

Novak, Rafa on collision course

AFP, Paris



Defending champion Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal were drawn to face each other in a blockbuster French Open semifinal on Friday.

Nadal is chasing a 10th title at Roland Garros while second seed Djokovic, working with new coach Andre Agassi, is looking to defend the only major he still holds.

"Rafa is the number one favourite," said Djokovic.

World number one Andy Murray is seeded to face 2015 champion Stan Wawrinka in the last four.

Murray starts against Russia's world number 85 Andrey Kuznetsov, Djokovic tackles Spanish clay courter Marcel Granollers while Nadal meets combustible Frenchman Benoit Paire.

Murray could face dangerous Juan Martin del Potro in the third round.

Injury-plagued del Potro, who lost to Murray in the 2016 Olympics final, is playing Roland Garros for the first time since 2012.

If the seedings work out, 2016 runner-up Murray, who is reportedly suffering from an illness, would face Japan's Kei Nishikori in the last eight.

The other quarterfinals would see Wawrinka meet 2014 US Open champion Marin Cilic, Nadal would meet Canada's Milos Raonic while Djokovic could take on Dominic Thiem.

Djokovic demolished highly-regarded Austrian Thiem for the loss of just one game in the Rome Masters semifinals last week.

The 30-year-old Nadal has already reached the magical 10 titles number this year at the claycourt events in Monte Carlo and Barcelona.

For good measure, he also won Madrid for a fifth time, ending a seven-

match losing streak, stretching back over two years against Djokovic in the process.

Nadal boasts a sensational career record at Roland Garros - 72 wins and just two defeats, to Djokovic in 2015 and an injury-affected shock loss to Robin Soderling in 2009.

On clay this year, Djokovic has been on an upward curve - quarterfinals in Monte Carlo, semifinals in Madrid and a runners-up spot in Rome where he was comprehensively demolished by

season by his standards with an elbow injury not helping his cause.

He lost in the third round in Monte Carlo, made the semis in Barcelona, was a third-round loser in Madrid before an opening defeat in Rome to Fabio Fognini.

Zverev faces Spanish veteran Fernando Verdasco first up, Thiem tackles Bernard Tomic of Australia while fellow 'NextGen' star Nick Kyrgios faces Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany.

Nishikori, yet to get past the



Defending champions Novak Djokovic (L) and Garbine Muguruza pose for a photograph during the official draw for the French Open at Roland Garros in Paris yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Alexander Zverev.

"It was one of my last dreams in terms of tournaments that I wanted to win here," said Djokovic at the draw on Friday.

"It was missing from my list so I ticked it off and got the full set of Grand Slams."

Murray has endured a wretched

quarterfinals in Paris, begins against 21-year-old Australian Thanasi Kokkinakis.

In the women's draw, top seed Angelique Kerber starts against experienced Russian Ekaterina Makarova in the first round.

Kerber is due to face defending champion Garbine Muguruza of Spain in the semifinals.

Wenger seeks Cup solace

AFP, London



Bruised but unbowed, Arsene Wenger hopes to end the most painful season of his long tenure as Arsenal manager with a record-breaking FA Cup final victory over Double-chasing Chelsea.

Though he has been barracked by his own fans and failed to secure Champions League qualification for the first time in 20 years, Wenger can make history by becoming the first manager to win seven FA Cups.

With his contract due to expire and no news forthcoming about his future, Saturday's game could provide an opportunity for a golden send-off - not that Wenger will be disclosing his plans in advance.

"Would it be a nice farewell? No, what I want is to win the next game," he said this week.

"I love to win and I love to do well for my club. I want to win the cup for my club. It's not about me, it's about us winning the trophy and giving everything to achieve it."

It is not the first time Wenger finds himself looking to the world's oldest cup competition for solace, with the FA Cup having enabled him to apply silver finishes to the season in both 2014 and 2015.

But he has never before gone into a final knowing it is his last hope of salvaging anything from the season, after Arsenal missed out on the top four and fell by the wayside in the League Cup and Champions League.

While the Frenchman continues to be targeted by the vociferous 'Wenger Out' brigade, Arsenal's recent form means they approach the game with something of a spring in their step.

They won seven of their last eight league matches, winning all of the last five, and lost out to Liverpool in the race for fourth place by only a point.

Their most recent Wembley outing will also stand them in good stead, with Arsenal having seen off Pep Guardiola's Manchester City 2-1 in the semifinals courtesy of an extra-time winner by Alexis Sanchez.

Wenger's switch to a back three has helped Arsenal find a second wind, but the defence he aligns beneath the Wembley arch will be far from a first-choice triumvirate.

Laurent Koscielny is banned following his dismissal in last Sunday's 3-1 win over Everton and Gabriel has been ruled out with knee ligament damage sustained in the same game.

Sevilla, AFA reach deal for Sampaoli

AFP, Madrid

Jorge Sampaoli moved a step closer to taking over the vacant position as Argentina coach on Friday as the Argentine Football Association (AFA) reached a deal with his club side Sevilla.

"Sevilla and AFA have reached an agreement in principle to release coach Jorge Sampaoli... so he can take charge as Argentina national team coach," Sevilla said in a statement.

The Spanish side had been holding out for AFA to pay a 1.5 million euro (\$1.7 million) release clause in Sampaoli's contract which still had one more year to run.

Sampaoli enjoyed a largely successful solo season in charge at the Sanchez Pizjuan as he led Sevilla to fourth in La Liga behind the might of Real Madrid, Barcelona and Atletico Madrid.

However, a tail off in form towards the end of the campaign was blamed on Sampaoli's desire to leave the club as rumours linked him with Barcelona and Argentina.

"There's a clear intention from my country to have me as coach and, since I was young, it's something that has appealed to me," Sampaoli said ahead of Sevilla's final La Liga game of the season last weekend.

4 personalities felicitated

SPORTS REPORTER

The Dhaka Cycling Sporting Club yesterday accorded a reception to four individuals - a cyclist, two organizers and one journalist - for contributions to their respective fields at the Bangladesh Olympic Association auditorium.

The individuals who were accorded are Bangladesh Handball Federation general secretary and Bangladesh Olympic Association deputy secretary Asaduzzaman

Kohinoor, Bangladesh Cycling Federation general secretary and former cyclist Parvez Hasan, sports writer Ikramuzzaman and former national cyclist Farhana Sultana Shila.

Barca aiming to salvage pride

AFP, Madrid



Only victory in Saturday's Copa del Rey final against Alaves will salvage some pride from Barcelona's season and give coach Luis Enrique a successful send-off, whilst the Basques dream of lifting the trophy for a first time.

On a night of goodbyes as Atletico Madrid's Vicente Calderon hosts its final competitive fixture, Enrique will take charge of Barca for the last time.

A win would complete a clean sweep of the Copa del Rey in his three seasons in charge.

However, in contrast to the previous two years when Cup success was the icing on a successful season having won the treble in 2015 and a league and Cup double last season, Barca this time head into the end-of-season showpiece without a major trophy.

"Although it can be called the lesser of all

the trophies, for us another trophy is at stake," said Barca captain Andres Iniesta.

"It will allow us to end the season on a high."

Enrique faces a selection headache with both Luis Suarez and Sergi Roberto suspended after being sent-off in a tempestuous semifinal win over Atletico back in February.

Paco Alcacer is expected to be handed a rare big game start in Suarez's absence up front, whilst the Catalans are hopeful that Javier Mascherano will shrug off a hamstring problem to fill in at right-back.

Even without Suarez, Barca still have plenty of firepower to call upon with Lionel Messi set to start his 700th match for club and country, whilst Neymar has netted in the final in the past two seasons.

Manuel Pellegrino could also be taking charge of Alaves for the final time after a terrific campaign in which they have reached their first Cup final and finished ninth on their first season in a decade back in the top flight.



Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi (L) chats with Neymar during a training session at the Joan Gamper Sports Center in Sant Joan Despi yesterday on the eve their Copa Del Rey final against Deportivo Alaves.

PHOTO: AFP