

What to WATCH

TEN 2
FIFA Confederations Cup
Russia v New Zealand
Live from 9:00pm

GRIEZMANN WEDS IN SECRET

France striker Antoine Griezmann tied the knot with his long-term partner Erla Chopenra in a secret ceremony at a beauty spot in Toledo, Spanish media revealed on Friday. The 26-year-old, who last week extended his Atletico Madrid contract until 2022, met Chopenra in San Sebastian when she was studying and he played at Real Sociedad. The pair, who have a one-year-old daughter, were married Thursday afternoon at the Palacio de Galiana, a celebrated 11th-century edifice in the old Spanish capital. Several of Griezmann's Atletico teammates attended the ceremony including Juanfran, Koke and fellow Frenchman Kevin Gameiro. In a short video on Griezmann's Instagram account the player is also seen popping a champagne cork at a celebration around a pool. "The celebration of this wedding took the media by surprise," said Spanish daily El Mundo.

—Afp



Siddikur steady in Thailand

SPTS Reporter

Siddikur Rahman played a three-under-par (68) in the second round of the Queen's Cup in Thailand yesterday to lift himself to joint ninth position. The 32-year-old, who had started the day in 12th position having carded a 68 in the opening round as well, was more consistent than the previous round. While he did not set himself on a birdie spree like the first round, three birdies against no bogeys made sure he remained in contention for a top finish in the 500,000 dollar event at the Santiburi Samui Country Club. Siddikur was still three shots off the pace, with Thailand's veteran star Thaworn Wiratchant snatching the halfway lead with an eight-under-par (63).

Turin stampede victim dies

Afp Rome

A woman left in a coma after a crowd stampeded in Turin at a screening of the Champions League final on June 3 died overnight, the hospital where she was being treated said Friday. The patient, identified as Erika, a 38-year-old local woman who had come to watch the match with her boyfriend, was among more than 1,500 people injured in the panic. There were around 30,000 people in San Carlo square at the time, who had gathered to watch home favourites Juventus play Real Madrid in the Welsh derby. The stampede was apparently triggered by fireworks which were detonated as the match drew to a close. Two other people were seriously injured, including a seven-year-old boy, who was also left in a coma but is now recovering. Some of the injuries occurred after a railing around the entrance to an underground car park beneath the square gave way.

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.

Harrison contemplated suicide
Former leading England pace bowler Steve Harrison has revealed his battle with depression got so bad at the peak of his career he contemplated suicide. **Rickie Fowler sets the pace at US Open**
Rickie Fowler produced a record-equalling low-scoring round to take a one-shot lead in the US Open as the big-hitters failed to fire. **Erasmus, Kiekabourough to umpire Led-Z**
South Africa's Marais Erasmus and England's Richard Kiekabourough will be the on-field umpires for the Champions Trophy final between arch-rivals India and Pakistan, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced.



Mexico goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa dives for the ball during a training session in Kazan yesterday ahead of their Confederation Cup encounter against Portugal on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

Donnarumma makes Milan angry

Afp Rome

AC Milan were left fuming Thursday when their highly-rated 18-year-old goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma said he would not sign an extended contract with the Italian giants. Considered the heir to Italy and Juventus goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon, Donnarumma is a target for a number of top clubs and making him the pillar of the club's future with an extended contract had been Milan's number one priority. Mino Raiola (the player's agent) has just told me there will be no extension with Donnarumma and that the decision is definitely the club's general manager Marco Fassone told reporters after a 40-minute meeting with Raiola. "We are bitterly disappointed about the decision, but we move on, Milan move on." Italian media have speculated the 'keeper will be sold this summer with Raiola citing interest from Real Madrid and Paris Saint Germain.

Russia, NZ kick it off tonight

Afp Adelaide

Hosts Russia kick off the Confederations Cup against New Zealand in Saint Petersburg on Saturday, targeting victory in their opening match to set the tone for a successful tournament. "We've worked hard and I believe now we're well-prepared for the opening game," Zenit midfielder Igor Smolnikov told Russian TV. "But we will be able to check whether we've done everything right only once we play in official matches. "We're all feeling brave and will take things on full of optimism. Hopefully, the arena in Saint Petersburg will be a lucky venue for our team." Russian President Vladimir Putin will attend the opener along with FIFA boss Gianni Infantino at Saint Petersburg's purpose-built World Cup 68,000-seater stadium. It will be the first meeting between Russia and New Zealand, the champions of Oceania, in the post-Soviet era. The USSR beat New Zealand 3-0 at the

1982 World Cup in Spain. Organisers have laid fresh turf at the Krestovsky Stadium to allay fears over the condition of the pitch that prompted Zenit to shift their final league match to their former ground. Russia manager Stanislav Cherchesov takes charge of his first competitive match with the national team, having stepped in to the role after the country's disastrous Euro 2016 campaign. The former Russian international goalkeeper has set his squad the ambitious task of winning the Confed Cup, a dress rehearsal for next year's World Cup. But Russia have achieved mixed results since his appointment with three wins, three draws and three defeats. Russia salvaged an impressive 3-3 draw with Belgium, but that followed a 2-0 home defeat to Ivory Coast – Russia's first loss to an African team – and a humiliating 2-1 defeat to Qatar. However results in recent friendlies – a 3-0 win in Hungary and 1-1 draw with Copa America holders Chile –

have given the country's football fans some hope. New Zealand are appearing at the Confed Cup for the fourth time, although the All Whites are still hunting for a first victory in the eight-team competition. Anthony Hudson's side are through to the final round of regional World Cup qualifying and will play Solomon Islands in a two-legged play-off, but New Zealand suffered 1-0 defeats to Northern Ireland and Belarus in recent friendlies. Hudson though insists his players are raring to go in Russia. "We're 100 percent ready. We have a very, very good team, we have some good players in our team and the objective for us is to do something significant," he told reporters on Friday. "We're very optimistic coming into this tournament. "There is no point in us being here if we're not trying to win. The first game for us is Russia and we want to win that game. And we will go into the next game with the same mindset. We know they are strong but we have no fear of them."

Double swoop for Everton

Afp London

Everton made Jordan Pickford Britain's most expensive goalkeeper on Thursday as they signed the Sunderland star in a deal worth up to £30 million (\$38 million, 34 million euros). England Under-21 international Pickford will cost Everton an initial £25 million, surpassing the £10 million Southampton paid to sign his international colleague Fraser Forster from Celtic in 2014. The 23-year-old is the third most expensive goalkeeper in the world behind Manchester City's recent 40 million euro signing of Benfica goalkeeper Ederson and Gianluigi Buffon's \$3 million euros switch from Parma to Juventus in 2001. Everton weren't finished spending yet and they completed a busy 24 hours by landing Ajax midfielder Davy Klaassen for £23.5 million. The 24-year-old Netherlands international player in Ajax's Europa League final defeat to Manchester United last season. He made 163 appearances for the Dutch club, scoring 49 goals and winning three Eredivisie titles. "It is difficult to leave Ajax but I think this

is a good step for me now," Klaassen said. Pickford, who has signed a five-year contract with Everton, was manager Ronald Koeman's top target to take over from Maarten Stekelenburg and Joel Robles, who both endured inconsistent spells at Goodison Park last season. "Last season was my first in the Premier League so to get this opportunity with Everton now, to be able to go forward with my career and show everyone what I can do with Everton is unbelievable. "Pickford told Everton's website. "It's a great club, a massive club and I think it's a great opportunity and the right time for me to come to Everton. "This is an exciting time for the club and for me, too, with the ambition being shown. He earned a call-up to England's senior ranks in October and has represented the country at each of the six youth levels from Under-16 upwards. Should the terms of each of the add-ons be met, Pickford would become Everton's record signing, eclipsing the £28 million he paid Chelsea for Belgium striker Romelu Lukaku in 2014.

Ronaldo wants to leave Spain?

Rfactors, Lisbon

Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo wants to leave the club and Spain after being accused of committing tax fraud in the country, a report in Portuguese sports daily A Bola said yesterday. The newspaper said its story was based on a reliable source and that the 32-year-old four-times world player of the year had already made up his mind to ask the club for a transfer. It said that Ronaldo was "deeply disenchanted" with the allegations against him. Spanish prosecutors have filed a lawsuit against the player accusing him of defrauding tax authorities of 14.7 million euros (\$16.5 million) by hiding his image rights income between 2011 and 2014. Ronaldo has denied any wrong doing. Real Madrid said on Thursday that they were confident the Portuguese forward had acted legally. They could not immediately be reached on Friday to comment on the report. Ronaldo led Real Madrid to their 12th European Cup earlier this month after scoring two goals in a 4-1 victory over Juventus in the Champions League final, becoming the tournament's top scorer. Ronaldo, Portugal's all-time leading scorer, is the latest in a long line of soccer players in Spain – among them Barcelona's Lionel Messi and Neymar – to be caught up in cases over tax or transfers. Ronaldo has completed eight seasons at Real Madrid since joining them from Manchester United in 2009 for a then world record fee of 36 million euros. During that time, they have won the Champions League three times and La Liga twice. In November, he agreed to extend his contract until 2021. He is currently at the Confederations Cup in Russia with the Portuguese national team.

Japan coach in car trouble

Afp Tokyo

Japan's under-fire football coach Vahid Halilhodzic has picked up a caution from his employers after he was involved in a minor traffic accident, local media reported Friday. The 65-year-old's car collided with another vehicle in Tokyo on Thursday afternoon, his second fender-bender in two years after running into a taxi in August 2015. "We deeply apologise for the trouble this incident caused," Japan Football Association chief Kozo Tashima told reporters. "We are relieved it wasn't serious and no one sustained injuries. We have warned the coach once again to take care when driving." Halilhodzic is already facing a humiliating performance review after Japan drew 1-1 with Iraq in an Asian World Cup qualifier earlier this week. The Franco-Bosnian's previous prang also followed a series of poor results, coming after Japan finished last at the 2015 East Asian Cup. The Franco-Bosnian's previous prang also followed a series of poor results, coming after Japan finished last at the 2015 East Asian Cup. Halilhodzic has split opinions since taking charge following Japan's quarter-final exit at the 2015 Asian Cup.

Loew to blood rising stars

Afp Sochi

World champions Germany head to the Confederations Cup with coach Joachim Loew looking to nurture his next generation of stars after leaving his top names at home. With a year to go before the World Cup, Loew has given a host of key players the summer off and picked seven newcomers in his squad for Russia, which has a combined total of just 104 international appearances. Missing the likes of Thomas Mueller, Manuel Neuer, Mario Gomez and Jerome Boateng, Germany face Australia in Sochi on Monday, with Chile and Cameroon to follow in Group B. The tournament kicks off on Saturday when hosts Russia host New Zealand on June 17 with Mexico and Portugal also in Group A. Rather than targeting a place in the St Petersburg final on July 2, Loew is thinking 12 months ahead. "The 2018 World Cup, and winning the title again, that is the vision," said the 57-year-old, who has been Germany's head coach since 2006 and steered his country to the 2014 World Cup title. "A mission on the way is participating at the Confed Cup with the goal that three or four players will be able to put pressure on our established stars, when it comes to 2018. "We want to lift players to a new level – achieving that is what matters to me. "I already know I have 12, 13 World Cup winners with a lot of experience



Confederations Cup and next year's World Cup. "I probably wouldn't be sad if (the Confederations Cup) didn't take place in 2021. "It's a dangerous game – we mustn't pull too hard on the rope," he warned. "One has the impression that things are already bloated and the fixture list looks anything but happy." With no Mueller or Gomez around, RB Leipzig's Timo Werner, the Bundesliga's top-scoring German forward last season with 21 goals, and Hoffenheim's bulky striker Sandro Wagner will have their chance to shine. Likewise, with no Mesut Ozil or Toni Kroos, the pressure to run Germany's attack falls on Julian Draxler. The attacking midfielder has had a good six months with Paris Saint Germain, but this will be a big test for the 23-year-old. Without Mats Hummels and Jerome Boateng, Arsenal's Shkodran Mustafi and Bayern Munich-bound Niklas Sule could forge a few partnership at centre-back. Loew is aware of the challenges of playing in Russia, given the political situation. "I think it's important to use the opportunity to look behind the scenes and to form an opinion," he said. "Just as we did before Brazil and South Africa, we'll brief the squad, but we must not forget we are guests in Russia and football should not be expected to overcome problems and grievances. "But we certainly won't close our eyes."