

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

SONY SIX & TEN 3

Sri Lanka v India

1st Test, Day-4

Live from 10:30am

STAR SPORTS SELECT HD1

England v South Africa

3rd Test, Day-3

Live from 4:00pm

Bangladesh Premier League

Brothers Union v Team BJMC

Time: 5:00pm

Sheikh Jamal v Mohammedan

Time: 7:15pm

Venue: BNS

'SICK' SANCHEZ SKIPS TRAINING

Alexis Sanchez has taken to social media to claim he is "sick", two days before he is scheduled to return to Arsenal training. The forward is enjoying a break after leading Chile to the Confederations Cup final against Germany on July 2, and is expected to link up with the rest of the squad at London Colney on Sunday. However, that is no longer certain following the player's post on Friday morning. Sanchez, who has been the subject of ongoing transfer speculation this summer, has one year remaining on his Arsenal contract, but manager Arsene Wenger is adamant the club will not sell him. Sky sources understand Paris Saint-Germain are prepared to pay more than £40m for the Chilean international, with wages in excess of £250,000 a week. Wenger denied reports on Monday suggesting the 28-year old has asked to leave the Emirates, confirming he will be part of the team next season.

—AGENCIES



Chelsea in transfer talks 'every day'

AFP, Singapore

Chelsea coach Antonio Conte said Friday that he holds talks "every day" with club bosses about transfer targets as the Premier League champions race to further bolster their squad.

The Italian is set to give big-money signing Alvaro Morata his first Chelsea start against Inter Milan in a pre-season friendly in Singapore on Saturday and has also splashed out this summer on the defender Antonio Rudiger from Roma and midfielder Tiemoue Bakayoko from Monaco.

But with most of Chelsea's Premier League rivals buying big in the close season, Conte is intent on adding to a squad that this season will also need to cope with Champions League football.

The London side have been linked in British media with England international midfielders Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain of Arsenal and Everton's wantaway Ross Barkley.

"With the club we speak every day about the way to strengthen this team and the squad," said Conte, talking in Singapore.

"The club knows very well which is my idea and where are the positions to strengthen and if this is possible, it is ok. If not, we continue this way."

Conte said he plans to play his best side against Inter, with Morata -- signed last week from Real Madrid in a deal reported to be worth up to 80 million euros (\$92m) -- likely to spearhead the attack from the start.

Morata came on as a second-half substitute against German champions Bayern Munich in a friendly on Tuesday in Singapore and supplied an assist in a 3-2 defeat.

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:

Amir dismisses retirement

Pakistan's top quick Mohammad Amir dismissed rumours that he will retire from Test cricket.

Tendulkar revisits 'desert storm' days

India's Sachin Tendulkar revisits the grueling 48 hours, where he took India home to tri-series title in two important knock out matches against Australia on April 1998 at Sharjah.

CR7 wants seven

Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo has announced that he would like to be the father to seven children.

Loss to Inter fails to dampen Ancelotti mood

Bayern Munich manager Carlo Ancelotti shrugged off a 2-0 defeat by Inter Milan in a Singapore friendly and declared the German champions' pre-season tour of Asia as a good test of the side's preparations for the upcoming campaign.





England all-rounder Ben Stokes celebrates his century on the second day of the third Test against South Africa at The Oval in London yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

SA 126/8 after Eng's 353

REUTERS, London



South Africa were 126 for eight in reply to England's first innings 353, a deficit of 227 runs, at stumps on the second day of the third Test at The Oval on Friday.

England debutant seamer Toby Roland-Jones removed all of South Africa's top four on his way to figures of four for 39 in 11 overs at the close.

Temba Bavuma was 34 not out and Morne Morkel unbeaten on two in what is the 100th Test staged at The Oval.

Earlier, Ben Stokes underlined his prowess as the rarest of all-round talents with his glorious century propelling England to a challenging total of 353.

Not for the first time, Stokes proved the scourge of the Proteas, smashing two consecutive sixes to take him to his fifth Test century. He also struck his next delivery over the ropes before being the last man out for 112 from 153 balls.

Alastair Cook had earlier missed out on a 31st Test hundred, falling for 88, but with a magnificent counter-attack combining watchfulness and remarkable power, Stokes delivered the performance The Oval merited in its 100th Test.

There was a moment when, with

Stokes on 91 and down to his last partner James Anderson, it appeared as if he was about to miss out on his richly-deserved ton.

Attempting to smash spinner Keshav Maharaj, he miscued, allowing Faf du Plessis to catch him on the long-on boundary. However, with momentum sending him tumbling backwards, the South African captain fell into the boundary markers and six was awarded much to the delight of a packed crowd.

Stokes celebrated by hoisting the next ball in the same direction, connecting perfectly as the ball sailed into the crowd to take him to three figures off 144 balls.

Stokes made it three sixes in a row over deep mid-wicket, the first time an England batsman had achieved the feat in a Test since Wally Hammond against New Zealand 84 years ago.

Stokes's assault had echoes of his incredible double hundred against the South Africans last year but, going for one blow too many off Morne Morkel, he was caught by Kagiso Rabada.

Earlier, Cook, who had batted throughout the rain-interrupted opening day to anchor his side's struggle to an overnight 171 for four, added six runs before being trapped by Morkel.

He looked dismayed by the lbw decision and called for a review but it showed the ball would have clipped the bails, thus ending his 200-ball vigil.

The dismissal brought together Stokes and Jonny Bairstow, no strangers to putting the Proteas to the sword after their epic stand of 399 in Cape Town, and the pair again combined sweetly in a partnership of 75.

After South Africa had taken the second new ball, Bairstow was quickly snaffled for 36 but Stokes, who went past 2,000 runs in Tests, found another willing partner in Roland-Jones, who enjoyed his six and four fours hugely.

The touring side were again hampered by the absence of key paceman Vernon Philander, who was taken to hospital for tests because of a stomach bug.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ENGLAND: First innings 353 (Cook 88, Westley 25, Root 29. Stokes 112, Bairstow 36, Roland-Jones 25; Morkel 3-70, Philander 2-32, Rabada 3-85)

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 126 for 8 (Bavuma 34 not out, Rabada 30, de Kock 17; Roland-Jones 4-39, Anderson 2-16, Stokes 1-26)

Rafa ready to battle Roger

AGENCIES, New York



Rafael Nadal says he is ready to battle Roger Federer in the race to end the year as world No 1.

While Andy Murray still currently holds the top spot in the latest ATP rankings, his lead over second-placed Nadal has shrunk to less than 300 points -- and the Scot still has 5,460 points to defend in the second half of the year.

Meanwhile, Federer's victory at Wimbledon shot him up to third, over 1,000 points behind the leader. After sitting out the entire clay-court season, the Swiss superstar could easily make that up if the two players continue to follow similar trajectories for the remainder of the year.

The Spaniard is determined to focus on his own results, however, and not get too caught up in the head-to-head battle in the Race to London and the ATP rankings.

"The truth is, I always follow my own path," Nadal said on Argentine talk show 'Con Amigos Asi'. "It's true that we [Roger and I] are better prepared to compete for nice things at the end of the year but it depends on what we're able to do from now until the end of the year. We'll have to wait and see."

"The person who will be able to keep his high level for a longer period of time will have more options to fight for the world No 1 ranking. But the same can be said of Murray... and many others who are up there. Maybe they haven't had the best six months this year but they are also candidates."

Neymar storms out after altercation

Cancels attending event due to 'transfer business'

REUTERS, Miami



Brazilian striker Neymar stormed out of a Barcelona training session on Thursday as speculation mounted about a world-record move to Paris St Germain.

A personal appearance in China next week was cancelled because he was said to be "busy with transfer business".

Pictures of Barca training in Miami for Saturday's game against arch-rivals Real Madrid in the International Champions Trophy showed Neymar having to be kept apart from team mate Nelson Semedo before removing his bib and stomping away from the session.

Suggestions that he might have weighty matters on his mind increased when Chinese travel agent Ctrip posted on its official Weibo account that it has had to cancel an event with Neymar because he is "busy with transfer business".

Ctrip said the event was scheduled for Shanghai next Monday and that anyone

who had bought tickets would be refunded.

PSG have reportedly held discussions with Barcelona about a transfer for the 25 year-old that would smash the world record 89 million pounds Manchester United paid for France midfielder Paul Pogba last year.

Neymar's buy-out clause was set at 222 million euros but that does not appear to have deterred PSG.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Barcelona superstar Neymar (C) is held back by Sergio Busquets after the former got into it with Nelson Semedo at practice.

Rooney basks in emotional homecoming

AFP, Liverpool



Wayne Rooney basked in a successful and emotional homecoming with Everton on Thursday but admitted that he is glad the occasion is now behind him.

The former England and Manchester United captain made his second debut for his boyhood club in their laboured 1-0 Europa League qualifying first leg tie against the Slovakian side MFK Ruzomberok.

It was a frustrating and testing night for an Everton side that has spent a lot of money following the near £90 million sale of Romelu Lukaku to Manchester United and it took a deflected goal from defender Leighton Baines to earn his team a lead ahead of next week's return leg.

And Rooney was pleased that he can now concentrate on football after the hype and pressure of his first game back with Everton in 13 years is behind him.

"I think I've said everything the last few weeks but obviously it was great to be out at Goodison in a blue shirt," said Rooney. "It was a great feeling."

"This was an important game for us and I had to put my emotions to one side and thankfully I've done that again."

"Now I can get down more to focusing on the football over the coming weeks."

"It's still very early in our pre-season, it was a first 90 minutes for a lot of us, but we got the win and the clean sheet."

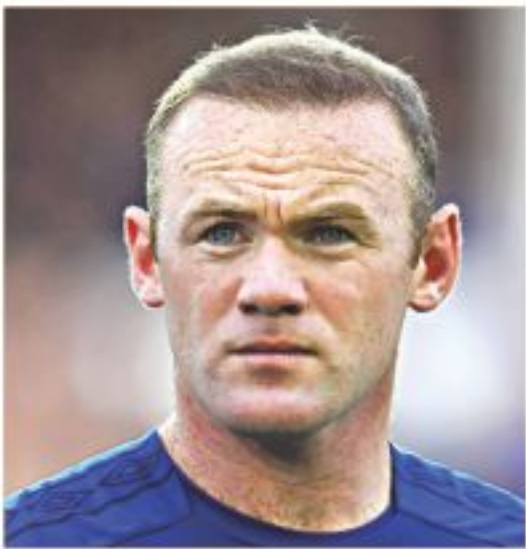
"We know we can play better than we did but we got the goal and the clean sheet."

The tie came after just four weeks of pre-season for the Premier League side and their goalscorer confessed that, while the rustiness was obvious in the first leg tie, her expects a better performance in the return game.

"We know that will be a tough game. It was a tough game tonight at home," said Baines.

"But we'll go there with a bit more idea of what to expect but we're in front and if we keep another clean sheet, which we're fully capable of doing, we will win the tie."

"We're treating the competition seriously but it's also part of our pre-season as well because of the way it's planned out."



El Clasico sold out in Miami

AFP, Miami



The new La Liga season is still weeks away, but try telling Miami that Saturday night's El Clasico at a sold-out Hard Rock Stadium is meaningless.

For the first time in over 35 years, Barcelona and Real Madrid will meet on foreign soil. It's also the first encounter between the two sides in the United States.

Back in 1982, the match staged post-season in Venezuela, coming just before that year's World Cup, was so nondescript it wasn't even shown on television in Europe.

Fast forward to 2017, however, and this encounter has morphed into a huge global event which has gripped a soccer-mad city and ensured the now annual International Champions Cup exhibition tournament will remain a permanent fixture on the sporting calendar for years to come.

TV network ESPN have transplanted a crew of 25 reporters and presenters to South Florida to help produce wall-to-wall coverage.

Their daily Sports Center news show will be on-site in Miami and, at a time of the year where the NFL, NBA and NHL are in hibernation, the timing couldn't have been better.

The game has long since sold out -- tickets on the black market are now costing upwards of \$900 (770 euros) each -- although only 30% were bought by fans in the South Florida region, with the remainder being snapped up by the rest of the United States as well as people in 50 countries.

Football supporters from Mexico, Canada, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica and Honduras will all descend on the recently renovated home of the NFL's Miami Dolphins while the city itself is basking in the glow of a fun filled festival of soccer.

A legends game at the 'Casa Clasico' event at Bayfront Park in downtown Miami on Friday sees legends such as Patrick Kluivert, Fernando Hierro and Carlos Puyol among others all dust down their boots once again and recreate the magic moments of yesterday. Live music and DJs will keep fans entertained and on Saturday watch parties on huge TV screens are planned for those unlucky enough to miss out



Men and women from all over gathered near the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday morning to participate in the Olympic Day Run, a global initiative of the IOC. The BOA also marked the occasion with other events throughout the day.

PHOTO: STAR

Galaxy sign Dos Santos

AFP, Los Angeles

The Los Angeles Galaxy, mired in a five-game Major League Soccer losing streak, Thursday announced the signing of Mexico international Jonathan Dos Santos.

Dos Santos' move from Spain's Villarreal had been rumoured for several days.

The official announcement came hours after the Galaxy announced they had sacked coach Curt Onalfo and replaced him with former Galaxy coach Sigi Schmid.

Olympic Day Run held

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) yesterday observed the Olympic Day Run, a global programme of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), in the capital, divisional and district headquarters amid a festive mood.

The run began early in the morning from in front of the Ramna National Tennis Complex and concluded at the torch gate of the Bangabandhu National Stadium. The run was participated by organisers, athletes, sponsors, students and journalists. State minister for youth and sports Biren Shikdar was present as chief guest while BOA secretary general Syed Shahed Reza attended the event as a special guest.

The day was also marked with blood donation, two hockey matches among former players and a painting competition among kids.