

SONY SIX & TEN 2
Sri Lanka v India
 Second Test, Day-1
 Live from 11:30am

TATAGLA
Faraz Challenge Cup Final
Green University v Forest University
 Live from 4:05pm

Bangladesh Premier League
 Team BJMC v Sk Jamal
 Time: 5:00pm
 Venue: G/Cg Abahani

Time: 7:15pm
 Venue: BNS

Live from 4:05pm
 Venue: Kamalapur Stadium

Faraz Challenge Cup Final
 Green University v Forest University

MY 'BRILLIANCE' BOTHERS PEOPLE

Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo said Tuesday his 'brilliance' annoys people, a day after he was quizzed by a Spanish judge investigating whether he evaded paying millions of euros in taxes. "What bothers people is my brilliance, insects only attack lamps that shine!" the Portuguese wrote in an Instagram message that received over a million likes within an hour of being posted. Ronaldo spent over 90 minutes on Monday answering the questions of investigating judge Monica Gomez at a closed-door hearing in Pezuela de Alarcón, the wealthy suburb of Madrid where he lives. Prosecutors accuse the four-time world player of the year of having evaded 14.7 million euros (\$17.3 million) in tax. Ronaldo, 33, has denied any wrongdoing. He told the judge he has always filed his tax returns and "never had the intention of evading taxes", according to a statement from his representatives. —AFP



TIMELINE

June-July: Neymar had just enjoyed what he called his "best season" at Barcelona, having signed a five-year contract in October, and was on his summer holidays.

July 9: Neymar tests ESPN Brazil: "It's going to be one of the most important seasons of my life. It will be the most important season of my life. So I'm really happy and really excited, and I'm going to start training and get prepared."

July 17: Spanish outlets report that PSG are ready to pay 222 million euros to sign Neymar if the player would agree to move to France. Meanwhile, Diario Sport reports Neymar is growing "uncomfortable" at getting second billing behind Lionel Messi at Barcelona. Barcelona spokesperson Josep Vives later adds that "Neymar's departure is not in the club's imagination."

July 18: Barcelona vice-president Jordi Mestre declares that Neymar will '200 per cent' remain at the club.

July 20: Barcelona president Josep Bartomeu tests the Associated Press: "The [Neymar] is not on the market."

July 21: Javier Mascherano and Sergio Busquets say that they believe Neymar can be Barcelona's future and ask the Brazilian to stay. On the same day, Neymar posts a picture of himself in deep thought alongside a similar emoji.

July 23: Neymar scores two stunning goals in Barcelona's 3-1 International Champions Cup win over Juventus. "Barca are going to go without Neymar," coach Ernesto Valverde stresses after winning his first game in charge.

July 24: Barcelona defender Gerard Pique posts a Twitter image of himself with Neymar, along with the message "Se queda," which translates as "he stays."



July 26: Neymar scores the winning goal against Manchester United in an international Champions Cup match.

July 28: Neymar gets into a training ground scuffle with new signing Nelson Semedo, after he cuts into the Brazilian in training.

July 29: Luis Suarez and Andres Iniesta fend off questions about Neymar ahead of the mini-Classico. PSG ask the Paris authorities for permission to stage a 'grand unveiling' for Neymar.

July 30: Valverde says after the game: "I try to talk about what is happening right now. Neymar is here with us, we count on him and we think that he should help us out this year." Sources indicate that Barcelona will report PSG for a breach of UEFA's financial fair play (FFP) rules if the French club end up paying Neymar's €222m buyout clause.

July 31 - Aug. 1: Neymar spends Monday in China on a promotional tour but the rumours really start to fly when he lands in Dubai on the way home. Various reports follow - some suggesting Neymar's next destination would be Brazil, others indicating Qatar or Paris - but he lands in Spain on Tuesday night.

Aug. 2: The bombshell drops. It's official: Neymar wants to leave Barcelona. The forward sends goodbye to his teammates and Barcelona release a statement saying Neymar has expressed his desire to leave.

AFP, Barcelona

Neymar informed his teammates he is leaving Barcelona, a club spokesperson confirmed on Wednesday, as his potential world record move to Paris Saint-Germain would a step closer.

"The player came to train as scheduled and announced to his teammates that he is leaving," said the source.

"The coach has given him permission to not train and to manage resolving his future." Speculation over the 25-year-old's future has dominated the first few weeks of new Barca boss Ernesto Valverde's reign with PSG reportedly willing to pay Neymar's €222 million euro buyout clause. Such a fee would smash the current record 105 million euros Manchester United paid for Paul Pogba last year.

Neymar arrived back in Barcelona on Tuesday from a fleeting promotional tour to China. He turned up for training at 9am local time on Wednesday, but left less than an hour later.

Presuming both clubs don't come to a late agreement, the buyout clause would have to be paid to Barcelona via Spain's La Liga free the player from the contract he signed last year and runs until 2021.

However, La Liga president Javier Tebas has threatened not to accept PSG's money over what he perceives as a failure on the French side's part to comply with UEFA's financial fair play rules (FFP). Clubs can be sanctioned by UEFA for making a loss of more than 30 million euros over a three-year period.

Barcelona have also threatened to report PSG to UEFA over any potential breach of FFP.

PSG have already been fined and saw their Champions League squad limited by UEFA for breaches of FFP in 2014.

Winning the Champions League for a first time is the dream driving PSG's owners Oryx, Qatar Sports Investments (QSI) to fund a deal that could herald the start of a new era at the elite-level European football.

Since QSI's takeover in 2011, PSG have failed to make it beyond the quarter-final stage in recent seasons - most notably by losing a 4-0 first leg to 6-1 to a Neymar-inspired



Neymar drives into the parking lot of Barcelona's training complex after arriving in Spain. It may be the last time the Brazilian drives into the Joan Gamper Training Complex as he informs the club of his wishes for a transfer and leaves without training. PHOTO: REUTERS

A spanner in the works?

President of La Liga Javier Tebas confirmed that he would personally present a complaint to UEFA in light of PSG's pursuit of Neymar, adding that La Liga would not accept the buy-out clause even if it was paid.

In an interview with Diario AS published yesterday, Tebas said: "The complaint is ready and will be presented to UEFA, the European Union, and the Swiss Courts, those are the tribunals that have power. Basically, La Liga will denounce the unfairness of competing against state-backed clubs; the teams that receive economic investment from countries that gift players to their fans at the cost of taking them from other clubs," Tebas said.

"In terms of PSG, it is a clear case of 'financial doping', with the club and the state. PSG's accounts show that they have a large commercial income from Real Madrid and Manchester United, which is to say that the value of their brand is greater than those clubs. Well, that is impossible."

Tebas added that it did not matter if PSG had balanced their books, but whether they had done so fairly.

"If UEFA don't react, we will present the claim immediately. We haven't done it yet because we thought that UEFA were going to take measures to ensure that Financial Fair Play (FFP) is respected, and this 'financial doping' is avoided."

"I am surprised that the individual responsible for FFP, Andrea Traverso, vouches for the checks that PSG's losses do not exceed €30m over the course of three years. Traverso knows that checking that data is not the problem. The problem is whether PSG have inflated their income, and checks in to the origins and economic bulk of their sponsors. If they come from Qatar and are difficult to explain, then we have a clear case of 'financial doping'," he continued.

Tebas was also asked how PSG would arrange the 222 million euros needed for Neymar's buyout clause. "If only that was the extent of it... where does the money come from to pay Neymar's salary in France where the income tax rate is 75 per cent? It is financial doping without a shadow of a doubt."

Barcelona in the last 16 of last season's competition in March.

Prising Neymar from the grip of Barca would truly announce PSG's presence as a contender for the likes of Barca, Real Madrid and Bayern Munich to fear.

THE MSN CONNECTION

Neymar has formed one of the deadliest strike partnerships in football history with Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez over the past three seasons.

Together they have won two La

Liga titles, a Champions League and three Spanish Cups, whilst Neymar has scored 105 goals and provided 80 assists in just 186 games.

Yes, one justification for Neymar to jump ship on top of the reported offer to triple his salary to 30 million

THE END OF MSN

Three seasons ago Barcelona formed the most fearsome trident in football as Luis Suarez linked up with Lionel Messi and Neymar at the Camp Nou. In the seasons since, the trio have ended up scoring a total of 364 goals. However, their dominance seems to be the very sign of extinction according to Barcelona according to Neymar's decision to leave. Here we look back at the contributions of the three superstars.

NEYMAR		
2016-17	Assists: 19	Goals: 20
2015-16	Assists: 20	Goals: 31
2014-15	Assists: 7	Goals: 39
2013-14	Assists: 6	Goals: 30
Total	Assists: 46	Goals: 99

LUIS SUAREZ		
2016-17	Assists: 16	Goals: 37
2015-16	Assists: 22	Goals: 59
2014-15	Assists: 21	Goals: 25
2013-14	Assists: 9	Goals: 121
Total	Assists: 68	Goals: 125

LIONEL MESSI		
2016-17	Assists: 16	Goals: 54
2015-16	Assists: 23	Goals: 41
2014-15	Assists: 27	Goals: 58
Total	Assists: 65	Goals: 153

MAMMOTH CONTRACT

Neymar will reportedly earn 30 million euros annually.

He will also receive a signing bonus of 40 million euros.

As a fringe benefit, Neymar will be offered the services of a private jet which will fly him home whenever he wants.

The Brazilian will also receive a percentage of the income from hotels owned by the PSG brand.

His father Neymar Sr will earn 15 per cent of his salary.

euros net a season, is a desire to move out of Messi's shadow if it is to end the Argentine and Cristiano Ronaldo's decade-long dominance to win the Ballon d'Or.

Neymar's four-year spell in Spain has also been overshadowed by the murky transfer deal which brought him to Barcelona from Santos in 2013. He and his parents as well as Barca president Josep Maria Bartomeu face charges of fraud and corruption in an ongoing case brought by DIS, a Brazilian investment company.

DIS owned 40 percent of the players' rights at the time of the deal and believe they were deliberately cheated out of their real share.

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.

Chandimal to lead Sri Lanka recovery bid

Dinesh Chandimal is expected to return to lead Sri Lanka as they bid to rebound from their thrashing against India in the second Test in Colombo, starting on Thursday.

Sabbir khali Dhoni 'world's legend'

Bangladesh cricketer Sabbir Khan shared a picture of him and former India captain MS Dhoni on Facebook with the caption "with world's legend MS7".

Ranatunga stops watching Sri Lanka

Former Sri Lanka skipper Arjuna Ranatunga lambasted the country's cricketers leaders and said he had stopped watching the ailing national team.

Afridi thanks Kohli for special gift

India captain Virat Kohli has gifted Pakistan cricketer Shahid Afridi with a signed bat.



Farshaganj players are ecstatic after inflicting the first big upset in the Bangladesh Premier League when they floored holders Abahani 1-0 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: FERDZ AHMED

Farshaganj stun Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER

Tawhiduzzaman Liton's 76th minute strike earned newly promoted Farshaganj Sporting Club a shock 1-0 victory against defending champions Abahani in their Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The unheralded forward scored with a simple tap-in at the far post as Abahani defence made heavy weather of a regulation clearance on a sluggish pitch at the big bowl.

The defeat - Abahani's first in domestic football after 32 matches - comes as an early setback for the five-time champions. On the other hand, Farshaganj will cherish the three points after having come into the league following a one-year suspension and having started their campaign with a 0-2 defeat against Chittagong Abahani.

Abahani had hardly looked like FARSHAGANJ 1-0 ABAHANI (LITON 76) winners during their labouring 3-2 win in their opening match against Saif Sporting Club. And yesterday's performance only reinforced the belief that they are yet to shag off the one-month lay-off since that tournament. The charges of Drago Mamic hardly made any impact in the first half, which had very few actions at either end.

"The heavy pitch due to downpour earlier in the day also played its part in teams not quite being able to showcasing their skill."

The Sky Blues, though, made a bright start to the second half and managed to keep the ball within the opposition half for most of the early part of that half. They came close to breaking the deadlock in the 54th minute when Nasiruddin Chowdhury's diagonal attempt from a scramble inside the box hit the far post.

Abahani coach Mamic made a tactical change early in the second half, bringing on striker Nabil Newaz Ibin in place of forward Saad Uddin. But all his attempts to alter the course of the game came to nothing as Farshaganj struck the crucial blow, much against the run of play, in the 76th minute.

It looked like a harmless through-pass from a Farshaganj player that took a deflection off Abahani defender Rayhan Hossain's head and fell in the middle of the box. As goalkeeper Shahidul Alam rushed to gather the ball, defender Tutul Hossain Badshah made an unnecessary clearance but could only manage to poke the ball towards the far post. Tawhiduzzaman was the first to race to the ball and the Farshaganj striker had ample time-stab it home. Abahani continued their goalbound forays, even got the ball at the back of the net in the stoppage time, only to be ruled due to off-side.

Totti's shirt Out of this world!

AFP, Rome

Roma legend Francesco Totti's iconic number 10 shirt, which he wore for the final time on May 28, has been launched into space, the Serie A club said Wednesday.

The 40-year-old played his final game after 24 years with the capital-city club in a 3-2 win against Genoa.

And as a tribute to 'immortalise' the forward a rocket carrying the number 10 shirt, from his final game, was successfully launched from French Guyana.

"Mission complete: on Tuesday night history was made as Francesco Totti's final shirt as a Roma player was successfully launched into space," the club said.

"The rocket was sent up by Asia's top workforce leader in the field of space travel" with those who helped the launch pictured wearing purple-red Totti shirts.

Totti played 786 matches for Roma in total after joining as a schoolboy in 1989, scoring a club-record 307 goals, and won the 2006 World Cup with Italy.

The former attacking midfielder will now become a director of the Italian club.

Sanchez back in training

AFP, London

Alexis Sanchez finally returned to training with Arsenal on Tuesday amid persistent speculation the Chile forward is set to leave the

Gunners. Sanchez missed Arsenal's pre-season tour of Australia and China, as well as last weekend's Emirates Cup tournament, as he rested following international duty at the Confederations Cup.

The 28-year-old was due to return training with his Arsenal team-mates on Sunday, but he was unable to fly back to London until Tuesday after going down with the flu.

Some cynical Arsenal fans feared Sanchez's illness was a ruse to further distance himself from the Premier League club as he weighs up whether to push for a transfer. Sanchez is in the final year of his Arsenal contract and his decision not to accept boss Arsene Wenger's offer of a

lucrative new deal has sparked interest from Manchester City, Chelsea, Paris Saint-Germain, Bayern Munich and Juventus.

With FA Cup holders Arsenal due to face champions Chelsea in the Community Shield at Wembley on Sunday, Sanchez has now rejoined his team-mates at their London Colney headquarters.

Just hours after posting a picture on social media of himself and his dogs next to a private jet, Sanchez added a photo of him running and wrote: "Back to training."

Speaking over the weekend, Wenger had said he would have to check on Sanchez's fitness before deciding whether to include the former Barcelona star against Chelsea.

Sanchez is scheduled to be at the Arsenal members open training session at the Emirates Stadium on Thursday. Arsenal start their Premier League campaign against Leicester City on August 11.

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