

**STARSPORTS SELECT 1**  
 England v South Africa  
 4th Test, Day-2  
 Live from 4:00pm  
**SONY ESPN**  
 Caribbean Premier League  
 Lucia Stars v Trinbago

Live from 7:00am  
**SONY SIX & TEN 3**  
 Sri Lanka v India  
 2nd Test, Day-3  
 Live from 10:30am  
 Caribbean Premier League  
 St Kitts & Nevis v Guyana

Live from 9:00pm  
**STAR SPORTS SELECT HD2**  
 IAAF World Championships  
 Morning Session  
 Live from 3:00pm  
 Evening Session  
 Live from 12:00am (Sunday)

**DAY'S EVENT**

**Bangladesh Premier League**  
 Saif Sporting v Arambagh  
 Time: 6:00pm  
 Venue: BNS



## NO BONUS FOR NEYMAR

Barcelona won't pay a 26 million euro bonus to Neymar for renewing his contract with the Catalan giants in 2016, a club spokesman said on Friday after his decision to join Paris Saint-Germain for a world record transfer fee. Josep Vives admitted Barca had been left irritated by the Brazilian's decision to leave despite signing a new five-year deal last year as PSG paid his 222 million euro buyout clause to leave Barca powerless to prevent Neymar moving on. "Any separation causes annoyance, especially when it is one not wished for by the club due to a unilateral decision on the part of the player," Vives told a press conference at the Camp Nou. "The player hasn't fulfilled his contract with the club...given that breach the club will not pay this renewal bonus."

—AFP

# Muktijoddha down Rahmatganj

SPORTS REPORTER



Muktijoddha Sangsad staged a strong comeback in the Bangladesh Premier League yesterday with a 3-2 win over Rahmatganj MFS following their 0-3 opening-game defeat against Sheikh Russel KC.

Egyptian forward Zaki Sarhan struck either side of the break for the All Reds at the Bangabandhu National Stadium after Amzad Ali had cancelled out Rahmatganj's lead provided by Ismael Bangoura. The Guinean later struck another goal, but could not help the Old Dhaka outfit avert their first defeat in two matches.

Rahmatganj, who came into the match on the back of a 3-2 win over Arambagh KS, started the match strongly as Bangoura came close to breaking the deadlock in the 11th minute. However, he was denied by a good save from Muktijoddha goalkeeper Uttam Kumar.

The tall marksman, however, did not frustrate the Rahmatganj faithful four minutes later when he headed a Saddam Hossain cross into the far corner of the net from inside the six-yard box.

Rahmatganj kept playing attacking football to double the lead but they had to concede the equaliser in the 22nd minute, thanks to a fumble from goalkeeper Mohammad Razib, who failed to gather a regulation cross from Tanvir Rana, with

Amaz Ali volleying home from the edge of the six-yard box.

Four minutes later, the All Reds took the lead with Zaki heading a Tanvir Rana cross home while at the other end, Rahmatganj's Nigerian defender Monday Osagie rattled the crossbar with a free-kick in the 35th minute.

Muktijoddha took the match away from Rahmatganj in stoppage time of the first half when Zaki darted into the box and struck at the near post, with little challenge coming from Rahmatganj defender Shariful Islam Sajib.

Rahmatganj coach Kamal Babu brought two changes to strengthen his attack with the inclusion of Jatta Mustafa, who paired up with Bangoura to create huge pressure throughout the second half.

Muktijoddha were forced to play counter-attacking football and they twice came close to extending the lead, but Amaz Ali squandered both opportunities before Bangoura reduced the margin to make it 3-2 with a header in the 63rd minute. Rahmatganj found another nice opportunity to level the margin but Jatta narrowly missed the target from a free-kick as the Old Dhaka spirit faded.

The second match of the day between Sheikh Russel KC and Brothers Union ended in a 0-0 draw. This was the second draw in two games for the Gopibagh outfit but Sheikh Russel's first draw following their victory against Muktijoddha Sangsad.

<b>RAHMATGANJ</b> (BANGOURA-15, 64)	<b>2 - 3</b>	<b>MUKTIJODDHA</b> (AMZAD-22, ZAKI-22, 45+4)
<b>SK RUSSEL</b>	<b>0 - 0</b>	<b>BROTHERS</b>



Egyptian forward Zaki Sarhan (2nd from R) is the toast of his teammates as his two goals powered Muktijoddha Sangsad to a 3-2 win over Rahmatganj MFS in their Bangladesh Premier League fixture at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

## Mbappe on way out?

AGENCIES, Monaco

After growing tired of waiting for a new contract from Monaco, French starlet Kylian Mbappe has decided to leave the Principality, reports French newspaper L'Equipe.

Monaco coach Leonardo Jardim admitted that the club's policy of developing talented youngsters and selling them on for a hefty profit means that if a club came calling with an astronomical fee, it would be difficult to persuade Mbappe to stay.

"It's important to keep all of the players who were important last season at the club, but down the years it has been shown that it is not always possible to keep hold of your players and you know how our project works," Jardim said on Thursday.

Monaco have set a price of 180 million euros on their striker, but that was before he showed any intention of leaving. Should the Frenchman force his way out and head towards a bigger team -- Real Madrid, Barcelona and Manchester City are monitoring the situation -- it is likely that the fee will be drastically reduced.

Mbappe scored 26 goals and had 14 assists in 44 games across all competitions last year, but has been quiet during pre-season and was hauled off by Jardim in the Trophée des Champions defeat against PSG.



PSG president and the mastermind behind Neymar's move Nasser Al-Khelaifi poses alongside Neymar as the Brazilian was officially unveiled at the Parc de Princes in Paris after completing his world record move from Barcelona yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

# 'I wanted a bigger challenge'

AFP, Paris



Brazilian superstar Neymar said he came to Paris Saint-Germain from Spanish giants Barcelona for a "bigger challenge" in his first public comments since arriving in the French capital on Friday.

The 25-year-old, who signed the biggest transfer deal in world history to join PSG from Barcelona for 222 million euros said it had been a tough call.

"It was one of the toughest decisions of my life," he told a press conference at PSG's Parc des Princes headquarters. "I wanted a new challenge. I wanted something bigger. To do my best. And to do even better."

Neymar's wages will reportedly triple to 30 million euros a year after tax at PSG but the Brazil captain said he was fired up by ambition for more success, not by money.

And PSG president Nasser Al-Khelaifi said Neymar shared the club's hunger for titles and trophies rather than financial rewards.

"He did not come here for the money. If he was motivated by money he could have got more somewhere else," he said.

Neymar has signed a five-year deal with the fee -- which corresponded to the player's buyout clause at Barcelona -- more than double the previous world record transfer.

## HIGHEST EARNERS

PLAYER	CLUB	NET SALARY
Carlos Tevez (ARG)	Shanghai Shenhua (CHN)	€38 million
Neymar (BRA)	Paris Saint-Germain (FRA)	€30 million
Ezequiel Lavezzi (ARG)	Hebei China Fortune (CHN)	€26.5 million
Oscar (BRA)	Shanghai SIPG	€25 million
Lionel Messi (ARG)	Barcelona	€25 million
Cristiano Ronaldo	Real Madrid	€23.6 million
Gareth Bale	Real Madrid	€20.2 million

Manchester United held the previous record when they bought Paul Pogba from Juventus last year for 105 million euros.

Neymar won the Champions League in 2015 with Barcelona and collected two Spanish league titles and three Copas del Rey in his four seasons at the Camp Nou. He has also scored 52 goals in 77 appearances for his country.

Fans swarmed a PSG outlet on the Champs Elysees to buy shirts with Neymar's name and number on the back as the 25-year-old forward headed for the city centre in a motorcade after arriving in a private jet shortly before 11 am at Le Bourget airport north-east of Paris.

More than 1,000 fans showed up at the PSG store when shirts bearing his name went on sale Friday as the club wasted no time in cashing in

on Neymar's commercial value.

Football legend Pele congratulated Neymar on his move, telling his successor in the famed Brazilian number 10 shirt: "Good luck for your new challenge Paris is a beautiful city and one of my favourites in the world," three-time World Cup-winner Pele wrote on Twitter.

Leading coaches such as Arsenal's Arsene Wenger lamented that the move could cause even greater inflation in transfer fees and player wages.

However, in the French capital there is huge excitement at PSG having landed a star name to finally make them feared among European football's elite with even French president Emmanuel Macron enthused.

"It adds attractiveness. Yes, it's good news," said Macron.

"Paris at his feet", splashed Le Parisien as Neymar dominated the French front pages Friday.

"A king comes to Paris," crowed sports daily L'Equipe.

The mood is understandably more sombre in Barcelona where attention has turned to who the Catalans can sign to replace Neymar in the month before the transfer window closes.

Neymar's international teammate Philippe Coutinho of Liverpool and Borussia Dortmund's Ousmane Dembele have both been linked.

Spanish newspaper El Mundo described the move as a "state signing."

# Becoming El Phenomenon

Brazilian World Cup winner Ronaldo wrote an article for 'The Players' Tribune' -- a media platform that publishes first-person stories directly from athletes, presents direct reflections, thoughts and experiences of professional athletes. Here the great striker talks about how he ended up at the World Cup, his biggest inspiration and what happened in the 2002 World Cup final. The excerpts are below:

When I think about the World Cup, the first thing that comes to my mind is paint. Little tin cans of paint in blues and greens and yellows. The brightest colours you could imagine.

In Brazil, there's this tradition every year before the tournament starts. You go out and you paint the streets of your town. So, for the 1982 World Cup, just like every other kid in my country, I went out and painted my street.

I grew up in Bento Ribeiro, which is a northern suburb of Rio de Janeiro. And there wasn't a day where football wasn't the topic on everyone's mind.

And by the time I was five years old, I already saw my life around football. I don't know how to explain it, but I just connected with the sport right away. It was just there... inside me. It feels so easy to say that when you're young, "I want to be a footballer". But as a kid, you don't really know what that means. You don't really grasp the hugeness of that. Reality is not something you could comprehend when you're little and just dreaming.

Maybe, looking back, that's what made me different from all the other kids in Brazil who wanted to be footballers. I wasn't just dreaming of being the greatest, but actually, truly believing it. That I really could be one of the best who ever played.

I looked at every opportunity as a step toward becoming a professional football player. It was like a menace in my head. And as much as I wanted all of it, every moment still felt like a surprise, in a way, I didn't know what a timeline for becoming a professional was supposed to be like. Sometimes it felt like I went from one day playing at school and in our backyard, to practicing with Bebeto.

Then the World Cup came. How can I describe that team? Let me put it this way. Playing with that team in that tournament was like going to the Ivy League of football. It was a first-class, front-row education on how to not just play football, but how to be a footballer, how to be a World Cup champion. I didn't play a minute, but I watched and absorbed everything that I could.

That summer changed my life. Because that's when I first met Romario. When I got

it was only a matter of time.

At World Cup '98, I was 21 years old and football was just fun to me. I scored four goals on the way to the final against France. And then, on the day of the final, something happened that I cannot explain. I became very, very sick and I had a seizure in my bed. But when the doctors did their tests and cleared me to play, I played. Of course, I did not play well and we lost the match 3-0.

It was a devastating time. But, in my



to camp that summer, he was always so attentive to the younger players, especially me. It was weird, but I felt like he saw the sport like I did: That it could be an evolution, a series of steps that you'd take until you could make the next one. And the next one. Until you were the best of the best.

And the next step, he told me, had to be Europe. But even after winning the Ballon d'Or at PSV, the one thing that I still did not do was to play in a World Cup. In my mind,

mind, I was still young, and there would be many more World Cups. Of course, this is not how life really works, is it?

The following year, I had a very bad knee injury. It was so bad that some people said I would never play football again. Some said that I would never be able to walk again. Life, for me, felt like it started and ended on a pitch. So when my knee was destroyed, it was like my life had been taken away.

Three years after my worst injury, I had

the ball at my feet in South Korea World Cup. And right before the final against Germany, something amazing happened.

When we got in the changing room before the match, our manager, Luiz Felipe Scolari, had something to show us on the television. We kind of looked around at each other, not sure what was going to happen. He turned on the TV and it was a recording from Globo. In the show, they went to each of our hometowns, to show how the neighborhoods and states were celebrating.

Eventually they got to Bento Ribeiro and right there in front of me I saw the streets I grew up playing on, I saw little kids standing by the colourful murals that they had painted for us, just like I used to do.

So when I scored twice to put us ahead of Germany, I thought, this is it. Everything was right there; a World Cup trophy, minutes away from being ours I had never felt anything like that on a pitch.

And then at the 90th minute, I was subbed off. It was the most incredible thing because I could take in the moment. As I walked off the pitch, I thought about the people who'd said I'd never be back. That I might never even be able to walk again.

And then, when I got to the sideline, I saw Rodrigo Paiva, the press secretary for the national team. This man had been with me at every point in my recovery. He used to walk slowly beside me when all I could do was walk. I just lost it and started crying. All of this emotion, I had never felt anything like it before. That moment it was a gift.

You know, I thought a lot about how to finish this. I am good at starting stories, but I never want to finish them. I will finish by saying this: I lived my dreams. How many people can say that about their lives?

## 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:

### Bird hopes for BD call

Australia cricketer Jackson Bird is hoping for a spot in Australia squad for their tour of Bangladesh.



### Goetze relaunches career

World Cup winner Mario Goetze admits the metabolism disorder which sidelined him for five months is 'now part of his life', with the Germany star poised to resume playing.



### Qatar hits back

With the transfer of football phenomenon Neymar to Paris Saint-Germain, Qatar is hitting back at its Gulf rivals with a high-profile soft power play.



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