

**STAR SPORTS SELECT 2**  
England v West Indies  
1st Test, Day-2  
Live from 7:00pm

**STAR SPORTS SELECT 1**  
Bundesliga  
Bayern Munich v Leverkusen  
Live from 12:30am (Saturday)

**TEN 2**  
La Liga  
Leganes v Alaves  
Live from 12:15am (Saturday)  
Valencia v Las Palmas  
Live from 2:15am (Saturday)

**DAY'S EVENT**

**Bangladesh Premier League**  
Saif Sporting v Muktijoddha  
Time: 5:00pm

Arambagh v Brothers Union  
Time: 7:15pm Venue: BNS

## RONALDO FEELS 'PERSECUTED'

Cristiano Ronaldo reacted furiously to the Appeals Committee's decision to uphold his five-match ban. The Portuguese received a one-match ban for two yellow cards incurred during the first leg of the Spanish Super Cup on Sunday, when Madrid ran out 1-3 winners at Camp Nou. The first booking was for removing his shirt after celebrating a goal, and the second for simulation. In response to the second yellow card, Ronaldo shoved the referee, De Burgos Bengoetxea, for which he was given a further four-match ban. "Impossible to keep quiet in this situation. Five matches!" he wrote on his Instagram account. "It [the ban] seems exaggerated and ridiculous. This is called persecution!" He accompanied this message with a picture of the referee showing him a red card. However, Ronaldo was still present at the Bernebeu for the second leg and celebrated Real Madrid's 5-1 win over their arch-rivals with his son.



—AGENCIES



Real Madrid easily overcame Barcelona in their Spanish Super Cup second leg on Wednesday to walk away with the trophy, (INSET) Zinedine Zidane's seventh since being appointed as Los Blancos' manager. The Frenchman has never lost a final and has a trophy for each loss the side have suffered under him.

PHOTOS: REUTERS/ COLLECTED

## Paulinho full of confidence

AFP, Barcelona

Brazil midfielder Paulinho is confident he can make an impression at his new club Barcelona amid scepticism from supporters of the Spanish giants about his signing.

The 29-year-old was presented to media at the Camp Nou on Thursday following a 40 million-euro (\$47 million) transfer from the Chinese club Guangzhou Evergrande.

The robust Paulinho is the club's first signing since the sale of Neymar to Paris Saint-Germain for a world record 222 million euros.

He is not a technical player in the mould of club legends Xavi Hernandez and Andres Iniesta. He was a key element of the Brazil side humiliated on home soil in the 2014 World Cup and left for China two years ago after struggling in his last spell in Europe with Tottenham Hotspur.

All that explains why his arrival has not been warmly received by the Barca fanbase -- over 80 percent of supporters urged the club not to sign him for over 20 million euros in a survey conducted by Barcelona sports daily Mundo Deportivo.

But after passing a medical on Thursday he said: "This is a very special moment in my life, in my career. I thank all those for the effort they made to bring me here."

"I am going to try to make up for that by playing well on the field. I come here full of confidence and I will do a good job."

## Siddikur off to a howler

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's premier golfer Siddikur Rahman endured a horrible start at the Fiji International, which tee'd off at the Natadola Bay Championship Golf Course yesterday, as he failed to deal with the windy conditions and notched a five-over-par (77) to finish joint-108th after the first round.

The 32-year-old set the tone for the rest of the day on the first hole, where he hit a double-bogey. Immediately after, he returned a bogey on the second hole of the US 1.14 million dollar event.

Two birdies against four more bogeys meant that he found himself in a position with little hope of return.

New Zealand's Daniel Pearce, who had the opposite of Siddikur's start as he hit an eagle on his very first hole, was on top of the leaderboard with a six-under-par (66).

## 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:

### Hummels joins Mata's cause

Mats Hummels is the first Germany star to join 'Common Goal' - a global initiative for high-profile footballers to donate one percent of their wages to charity.

### Zizou leads nominees for FIFA coach prize

Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane heads the list of 12 nominees for the FIFA men's coach of the year award announced on Thursday.

### England helped dispel Aussies' fears

Australia team performance manager Pat Howard says that Australia cricketers heard firsthand accounts of Bangladesh's security measures from England players which helped dispel their doubts about touring the country.

## Real cruise to Zidane's 7th

### We're against the ropes, admits Valverde

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid shrugged off the absence of the suspended Cristiano Ronaldo to cruise past rivals Barcelona 2-0 in the second leg of the Spanish Super Cup to cap a 5-1 aggregate win.

Ronaldo's replacement, Marco Asensio enhanced his reputation as he smashed Madrid into the lead after just four minutes.

Karim Benzema then deservedly doubled Real's lead before half-time.

Barca responded with a more spirited second-half showing and were unfortunate not to at least pull a goal back as Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez hit the woodwork.

Victory continues Madrid's run of success under Zinedine Zidane with the European champions now having lifted seven trophies in the 20 months since the Frenchman took charge.

"We played a great match tonight," said Zidane. "Especially in the first half it was spectacular."

Zidane even had the luxury of leaving first-team regulars Gareth Bale, Isco and Casemiro on the bench as Real's strength in depth was demonstrated in a dominant first 45 minutes.

"This team has hunger and every time we play it shows," added Zidane. "We have to try to continue like this. To start the season like this is very good, but we know a long season is just starting."

In similar fashion to his strike in the first leg, 21-year-old Asensio sent an unstoppable left-footed shot past Marc-Andre ter Stegen into the top corner from outside the box.

"I think we were superior across the whole

tie," Asensio told Spanish TV station Telecinco.

Barcelona boss Ernesto Valverde has suffered the worst possible start to his reign with back-to-back defeats against the Catalans fiercest rivals and the visitors never threatened to mount a comeback after conceding.

"We have to recover quickly, the league is on the horizon," said Valverde, ahead of Barca's La Liga opener against Real Betis on Sunday.

Shorn of Neymar after his world record breaking transfer to Paris Saint-Germain and injured captain Andres Iniesta, Barca's lacked the service needed to make a meaningful impact.

"In three days we find ourselves against the ropes," added Valverde. "Things have happened in pre-season that have affected the balance of the team and our job is to refine that balance."

Barca defender Gerard Pique denied reports there is a growing feud between club's players and under-pressure board. However, he admitted his side have plenty of work to do if they are to close the gap on Madrid.

"We are not in the best moment. Not as a team or as a club," said Pique. "We have to stick together and move forward."

"The season is long and it has just begun. Madrid were superior so we have to live with defeat, congratulate them and improve."

Indeed, the scoreline could have been a lot more embarrassing for Barca as Marcelo dragged wide before Lucas Vazquez hit the post with a glorious chance.

And there could be even worse news to come for Barca as Suarez shot the game visibly suffering from a knee injury that Valverde said will be assessed on Thursday.

## Barca 'close' to Coutinho & Dembele

AGENCIES, Madrid



Barcelona could be handed a lift after losing 5-1 on aggregate to Real Madrid in the Spanish Super Cup as a senior official claimed the club are "close" to signing Philippe Coutinho and Ousmane Dembele.

Pep Segura, Barca's general manager, said negotiations with Liverpool for Brazilian playmaker Coutinho and Borussia Dortmund over a deal for promising French winger Dembele could be finalised within days.

"We have to help the team with reinforcements and they will be here in

the coming days," Segura told Catalan TV station Esport3 after Barca lost the second leg of the Super Cup 2-0 at Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu.

"We are discussing the conditions of Coutinho and Dembele...they are close. We hope they will be Barca players next season."

However, Dortmund CEO Hans-Joachim Watzke was categorical on the progress of Barca's pursuit of the Frenchman, for whom they had a bid rejected by Dortmund last week.

"Barcelona want to sign Dembele, but at the moment they are not even a millimetre closer," said Watzke in quotes published by Kicker on Thursday.

"Perhaps he saying these things because they have lost to Real Madrid in the [Spanish] Super Cup," Watzke bluntly added.

Liverpool coach Jurgen Klopp was also dismissive of Segura's statements, responding: "We have already said what we have to say. No news. Nobody has told me any different."

Barcelona have been chasing the duo ever since Neymar left the club in a record 222-million-euro move to Paris Saint-Germain.

However, they have had precious little success, with Dortmund putting a staggering price tag of 150 million euros on Dembele, while Liverpool maintain that Coutinho is not for sale.

## BUNDESLIGA'S TOP DEALS



### CORENTIN TOLISSO

Tolisso was virtually unknown to German football fans when Bayern Munich announced his transfer for a Bundesliga-record 41.5 million euros. He impressed with Lyon last season despite not playing in defensive midfield. The 23-year-old has a combative style allied to a fine range of passing and a keen eye for goal.

### JAMES RODRIGUEZ

Bayern secured a coup in signing Colombia star James Rodriguez from Real Madrid on a two-year loan for 10 million euros with the option to make the move permanent. The Bundesliga side hope that Carlo Ancelotti, who was in charge in Madrid when James joined the side, will again be able to bring out his best.



### HOLGER BADSTUBER

Defender Holger Badstuber is hoping for a change in fortune after returning to boyhood club Stuttgart following 15 years at Bayern Munich, when he missed more games than he played due to injury. Badstuber spent the second half of last season on loan at Schalke and Bayern faced a lot of flak for not renewing his deal.

### MAXIMILIAN PHILIPP

Dortmund spent 20 million euros to convince Freiburg to part with its top performer last season. The midfielder scored nine goals to help Freiburg qualify for the Europa League. The 23-year-old faces a tough fight to earn a starting spot at Dortmund but his importance will grow if Ousmane Dembele leaves.



### JOHN BROOKS

Much is expected of John Brooks since Wolfsburg made the United States defender the most expensive American player to transfer clubs -- signing him from Hertha for 20 million euros. The center-back helped Hertha to sixth place last season and the 24-year-old's performances have been improving each year.

## Bayern expected to win again

AFP, Berlin



Bayern Munich kick off the new Bundesliga season on Friday with the coaches of 13 of their 17 rivals expecting them to dominate again -- although Usain Bolt's recent shock defeat is being used as inspiration.

Bayern host Bayer Leverkusen at the Allianz Arena in the season opener, with the Bavarians the overwhelming favourites to win the title.

In a survey by AFP subsidiary SID of the 18 coaches in Germany's top flight, the overwhelming consensus is that Carlo Ancelotti's Bayern will claim a sixth straight league crown.

"I'm tipping Bayern, but nothing is set in stone," said Cologne coach Peter Stoeger. "If Usain Bolt can lose a 100m race, perhaps someone else can be champions in Germany."

In the last decade, Bayern have won the Bundesliga title seven times -- five of which have been on the spin since 2012. They finished 15 points ahead of second-placed RB Leipzig last term.

"Our required standard is to win the Bundesliga title," said Bayern president Uli Hoeness bluntly.

According to the SID survey, only Borussia Dortmund's new boss Peter Bosz, Hoffenheim's Julian Nagelsmann and Stuttgart's Hannes Wolf opted not to say which name they think will be engraved on the trophy for 2017/18.

Leverkusen's Heiko Herrlich was the only coach who tipped Dortmund, the last team to break Bayern's stranglehold in 2011/12, to be champions. But his was a lone voice.

"If everything goes normally, FC Bayern will be the champions again," said Leipzig coach Ralph Hasenhuettl. "We want to surprise again, even if this season will be a lot harder."

Bayern boss Ancelotti sees Dortmund as their main rivals. "Of course, we want to be champions again and I think we can do it," said the Italian. "From everyone else, Borussia Dortmund will be our challengers."

Ancelotti expects Leipzig to struggle to come to terms with their first season in the Champions League group stages.

# WALTON

আমাদের পণ্য

## উপহার আর ফ্রি 'র প্রলোভন দেখিয়ে বিক্রয় অযোগ্য ফ্রিজ গছিয়ে দিচ্ছে না তো?

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### ২০ বছরের গ্যারান্টি

নিশ্চিত নিভরতা...

ওয়ালটন এখন বিশ্বের প্রায় সকল দেশের জন্য ভিন্ন ভিন্ন আবহাওয়া উপযোগী ফ্রিজ তৈরি করছে।

পাত বছরের সুস্বাদু

## 30.29% বিক্রয় বৃদ্ধি

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Microbiological test এ প্রমাণিত

## ৬১ ঘন্টা লোডশেডিংয়েও

ওয়ালটন ফ্রিজে খাবারের পুষ্টিমান অটুট থাকে

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