

SONY SIX
Caribbean Premier League
Guyana v St Lucia
Live from 4:00am (Wednesday)

TEN 1
UEFA Champions League
Sevilla v Istanbul
Live from 12:45am (Wednesday)

TEN 2
UEFA Champions League
Astana v Celtic
Live from 9:30pm
Nice v Napoli
Live from 12:45am (Wednesday)

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh Premier League
Brothers Union v MuktiJoddha
Time: 5:00pm

Mohammedan v Saif Sporting
Time: 7:15pm
Venue: BNS



Real Madrid's Casemiro (L) celebrates with teammates Sergio Ramos and Marcelo (R) after scoring an awe-inspiring goal against Deportivo La Coruna in their La Liga encounter on Sunday. The goal was preceded by 44 passes and propelled the defending champions towards a 3-0 victory.

PHOTO: AFP

Real 'enjoying themselves'

AGENCIES, Madrid



Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said he was especially happy as his team had enjoyed themselves in winning Sunday evening's La Liga opener 3-0 at Deportivo La Coruna, with the Frenchman playing down any controversy after captain Sergio Ramos was sent off late on.

After Depor striker Florin Andone was twice denied early by Madrid goalkeeper Keylor Navas, Gareth Bale took advantage of a mistake by home keeper Ruben to tap the opener into an empty net, and before the half hour mark Casemiro had made it 2-0 by knocking home Marcelo's cross from close range.

Madrid's third came just after an hour, with Karim Benzema, Isco and Bale combining excellently before Kroos found the net from 15 yards. There was late drama with Depor's Florin Andone missing a penalty, before Ramos was shown a second yellow card for catching opposition substitute Borja Valle with an arm

during an aerial challenge.

Madrid's second goal was preceded by a move of 44 passes, involving all 11 players, which lasted 107 seconds. At the postgame news conference, the former galactico said the goal was an example of what he and his squad worked hard to try and show on the pitch, and he was particularly satisfied when it came off.

Those 44 passes from Los Blancos players is the most by any team in LaLiga to end in a goal in a decade. Every single player in white played a part in the move which started with goalkeeper Keylor Navas before going through Casemiro, Nacho, Sergio Ramos, Kroos, Modric and Marcelo - all in Madrid's own half. After crossing into Deportivo's territory Bale, Benzema, Casemiro and Carvajal were all involved ahead of the pass out to Marcelo and then cross into the Brazilian midfielder to slot home.

"We always try and play, we know we have the players to do that," Zidane said. "We want to enjoy ourselves and try and play well. The second goal was what we work on, what we want to do.

"When a goal comes out like that, we must all be satisfied. In general we can be happy with what we have done. This not an easy ground to play at. They had their chances at the start of the game to score."

Ramos had appeared lucky to be just yellow carded after pushing a hand into the face of Depor defender Fabian Schar during a second half squabble. Later, referee Alejandro Hernandez showed the Spain international his 18th La Liga red, tying former Barcelona and Sevilla defender Pablo Alfaro and Real Zaragoza legend Xavi Aguado for the most in league history.

Zidane has more than once criticised the four game ban Cristiano Ronaldo is currently serving for pushing the referee in last weekend's Supercopa at Barcelona, but this time he declined to criticise the decision by Hernandez Hernandez.

This is the third year in a row in which Bale has scored Madrid's first goal of the campaign, and an improved all-round performance should lead to less speculation over his future.

Inter, Milan match Juve

AFP, Milan



Inter captain Mauro Icardi hit a brace and Ivorian Franck Kessie opened his AC Milan account as the northern giants matched Juventus's winning start to the Serie A season with respective 3-0 victories on Sunday.

Left in the shade by Juventus for the past six seasons, both Inter and Milan are hoping to turn the tables and challenge for the scudetto on their way to claiming one of four Champions League places.

And neither of the San Siro giants disappointed on their way to going joint top of the table with Juventus, Napoli, Chievo, Sampdoria and Roma also sitting on three points following opening day victories.

Icardi bore the brunt of the blame for much of Inter's disastrous campaign last season, which left them in seventh and out of Europe. But at a packed San Siro and under the watchful eyes of new Inter coach Luciano Spalletti, the Argentina international made amends with a confident first-half brace that included a sixth-minute penalty after he was caught by Fiorentina defender Davide Astori on the edge of the area.

Icardi doubled Inter's lead when he glanced a header past 'keeper Marco Sportiello on the quarter hour as the hosts took command.

AC Milan also enjoyed a 3-0 win over Crotone who maintained top flight survival by a hair's breadth last season.

Federico Ceccherini saw red for bringing down Milan youngster Patrick Cutrone and Kessie, who signed from Atalanta in the summer, stepped up to hit his maiden Rossoneri goal from the penalty spot on six minutes.

Teenager striker Cutrone, who has been linked with a loan move to Crotone, doubled the visitors' lead on 18 minutes with a glancing header from Suso's incisive cross that beat Alex Cordaz at his near post.

Pak doors open for int'l cricket

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan Monday announced the return of international cricket to its soil, with three separate sides scheduled to visit after years of isolation over security concerns.

A World XI tour kicks off in September followed by a short visit by Sri Lanka for a Twenty20 match in October, then a Twenty20 series against the West Indies a month later.

"We are getting positive signals and the doors of international cricket are opening on Pakistan," Najam Sethi, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman, told a press conference in Lahore.

The tours are seen as a big step towards Pakistan once again hosting major international outfits after militants targeted the Sri Lankan team bus in Lahore in 2009, killing eight people and wounding at least seven players.

Since the attacks Pakistan has only hosted a limited-over series against Zimbabwe in 2015.

Neymar slams Barca bosses

AFP, Paris



Paris Saint-Germain's world record signing Neymar launched a scathing attack on his former club's directors, saying "Barca deserve much better".

The people in charge at the Catalan giants "are not the people who should be there, for the direction of Barca," Neymar told reporters after scoring twice on his home debut as PSG thumped Toulouse 6-2 in Ligue 1 on Sunday.

"I want to speak the truth, I'm very sad with them," said the Brazilian star who cost the Paris club a world record 222 million euros (\$261 million) to prise from Barcelona.

"I spent four years there and I was very happy. At the start, I was happy. I spent four beautiful years there and I parted happy. But with them (the club's directors), no.

"For me, they are not the people who should be there, for the direction of Barca," said Neymar. "Barca deserve much better and the whole world knows it."

Despite securing the massive fee for

Neymar, Barcelona are struggling to replace him before the transfer window closes.

The club have had bids in excess of 100 million euros for Liverpool's Philippe Coutinho and Dortmund's Ousmane Dembele turned down.

And the club have been criticised for splashing out 40 million euros (\$47 million) for Brazil midfielder Paulinho, who has spent two years at Chinese Super League champions Guangzhou Evergrande.

But Neymar said he could not comment on what the club were doing before the transfer window closes at the end of the month.

"I cannot speak now I am in another team. I don't know what's going on there, but I see my old teammates sad, and it's that which makes me sad because I have a lot of friends there," he said.

"I hope that things will improve for Barca and that they will become a team that can rival others."

However, former Tottenham flop Paulinho's arrival has not been warmly received by Barca fanatical supporters at the Camp Nou.

Over 80 percent of fans urged the club not to pay more than 20 million euros for Paulinho in a survey conducted by Barcelona sports daily Mundo Deportivo.

Arambagh's kamikaze

SPORTS REPORTER



Surrendering an early lead and two suicidal strikes let a spirited Arambagh KS down in the Bangladesh Premier League as they suffered a 3-1 defeat at the hands of Sheikh Jamal DC at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Nigerian striker Alamu Bukola put Arambagh ahead early on before defender Jalal Mia and midfielder Shahriar Bappy struck their own net in the first half to give the edge to Sheikh Jamal. Gambian hitman Solomon King Kanform then scored a spectacular goal in the second half to wrap up victory for the three-time champions.

Fresh from a 2-1 win over Brothers Union, Arambagh looked confident to cause another upset and took a deserved lead in the 14th minute. Mohammad Jewel ran down the right flank to provide a low cross from outside the box for unmarked Bukola, who tapped it in.

On the muddy pitch, both sides struggled to control the ball and play was mostly confined in the midfield. The equalizer came in the 36th minute when a regular long ball from Sheikh Jamal midfielder Enamul Haque was put through his own net by Arambagh defender Jewel Mia after goalkeeper Akkas Sheikh failed to grip it.

Midfielder Shahriar added to Arambagh's misery as he headed the ball into his own net as well (the sixth own goal of the ongoing league) while trying to clear a corner-kick from Enamul one minute into stoppage time of the first half.

Arambagh looked dead and buried fol-

lowing those two own goals as Sheikh Jamal DC took control of the game in the second half, scoring one goal and coming close to another as they rattled the word-work.

Left-back Shamol Mia unsettled the Arambagh defence to enter the box and cut it back for Solomon, who took time to curl it into the far net in the 63rd minute before being denied by the post in stoppage time of the second half.

"I won't say it was an unfortunate result for us because the whole team lacked maturity. The boys are inexperienced, but Sheikh Jamal deserved the win," Arambagh coach Maruful Haque said. "The goalkeeper was in hesitation whether it was a back pass or clearance, and he conceded the equaliser."

Despite ridding on two suicidal goals, Sheikh Jamal coach Joseph Afusi said, "We were not lucky rather we put pressure on them and it was the outcome of that pressure. That is football."

"I am satisfied that the boys are mentally strong. We had one problem in the league that when we conceded goals, we went down psychologically but today we proved that we are strong," said Afusi, whose side closed the gap with leaders Chittagong Abahani (15 points) to two points. Sheikh Jamal have 13 points from five matches while Arambagh have only three points.

Meanwhile, Team BJMC tasted their first victory with a single-goal win over 10-man Farashganj SC, with Nigerian Kingsley Oshiocha scoring the all-important goal in the 19th minute after Pashban Molla played in a diagonal pass from the left flank.

The win took Team BJMC to seventh position while Farashganj, after three defeats in a row, stayed in 11th position with three points.

SK JAMAL (JALAL 36 OG, SHAHRIAR 45+1 OG, KANFORM 63)	3 - 1	ARAMBAGH (BUKOLA 14)
TEAM BJMC (KINGSLEY 19)	1 - 0	FARASHGANJ

Rafa's shock climb to number one

AFP, Paris

Rafael Nadal described as "unbelievable" his climb back to the world number one spot for the first time in three years and confirmed in the latest ATP rankings released on Monday.

The Spaniard, who learned he was going to reclaim the ATP summit a week ago, last topped the men's charts in July 2014.

The 31-year-old Spaniard, who won his 15th Grand Slam title this year at Roland Garros, deposes Britain's Andy Murray, who withdrew from the tournaments in Montreal and Cincinnati with a hip injury.

Nadal, who has spent 141 weeks in the top spot, has struggled with knee injuries since first becoming No. 1 in August 2008 after a Cincinnati semifinal run.

Dimitrov takes Cincinnati title

REUTERS, Cincinnati

Grigor Dimitrov clinched the biggest title of his career and enjoyed a huge confidence boost ahead of the U.S. Open by beating Nick Kyrgios 6-3 7-5 to win the Cincinnati Open on Sunday.

With three of the 'Big Four' players nursing injuries and Rafa Nadal knocked out in the quarter-finals by Kyrgios, Bulgarian Dimitrov grasped his chance with both hands, winning his first Masters 1000 series event under a broiling hot sun.

A break in each set was enough for the seventh seed to claim his third title of the year and seventh of his career.

"I'm just happy. There's nothing else I can say, honestly," the 26-year-old told reporters.

"I'm just happy and I'm humbled to have that trophy in my hands, and especially to win here, my first Masters 1000."

Dimitrov did not drop a set all tournament, the first player to do so at a Masters 1000 tournament since Novak Djokovic's 2007 win at Miami.



Paris Saint-Germain superstar Neymar (R) celebrates one of his two goals against Toulouse during their League One encounter at the Parc des Princes Stadium on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

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:

Thoughts are with the rain-affected people of Bangladesh

Australia coach Darren Lehmann says that his thoughts are with the people of Bangladesh who are suffering due to excessive rain.

City 'ready to pay Messi's release clause'

The summer has been tough on FC Barcelona. The team are reeling from the departure of Brazilian Neymar and no signings have been made to shore up attack and midfield properly.

Barca pay homage to victims

Barcelona got their La Liga season off to a winning start, beating Real Betis 2-0 at a emotional Camp Nou following a pair of terrorist attacks in Catalonia.

