

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
England v West Indies
2nd Test, Day-1
Live from 4:00pm

TEN 1
Ligue 1
PSG v Saint Etienne
Live from 12:30am
(Saturday)

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh Premier League
Arambagh v Ctg Abahani
Time: 5:00pm

Rahmatganj v Abahani
Time: 7:15pm
Venue: BNS

MICK TO MARK 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SPA WIN

Michael Schumacher's teenage son Mick will mark the 25th anniversary of the German's first Formula One victory by driving demonstration laps in a 1994 Benetton at this weekend's Belgian Grand Prix. Sabine Kehm, a manager for both father and son and spokeswoman for the family, told Reuters on Wednesday that the 18-year-old would be at the wheel before Sunday's race at Spa-Francorchamps. Schumacher, the seven times world champion who suffered severe head injuries in a skiing accident in France in 2013, took his breakthrough win - the first of a record 91 career victories - at the circuit on Aug. 30, 1992. Spa was a special place for the German, who won the 1994 and 1995 crowns with Benetton before five titles in a row with Ferrari from 2000-04. Mick Schumacher is working his way through the junior motor racing series and is currently competing in European Formula Three after a debut in Formula Four.

—REUTERS



Bangladesh face hosts in semis

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh will be looking forward to carrying their group-stage performance onto the knockout-stage when they take on hosts Nepal in one of two semifinals of the SAFF U-15 Championship to be played at ANFA Complex ground today.

Bangladesh, the defending champions, stormed into the semifinals with convincing wins over Sri Lanka and Bhutan respectively and have not conceded a goal so far in the tournament. So the boys in Red and Green will definitely be hoping to put on another good show against the hosts to ensure their place in the final.

The team will most likely count on the dazzling performances of striking duo Faisal Ahmed Fahim and Miraj Hossain Mollah, who collectively struck six goals from two matches. In addition, coach Parvez Babu also wants the midfielders to step up and take more responsibility when it comes to scoring in order to help the side cross the Nepal hurdle.

It is obvious that Bangladesh have a difficult task ahead as Nepal, the team that gave tournament favourites India a run for

their money in the group stage, will not let the holders off so easily given that they will be playing in familiar conditions and in front of a home crowd.

"We watched them in the match against India and identified their strengths and weaknesses. We will play in line with our game plan. If we can continue our performance, what we put up in group stage to the semifinals and avail the opportunities then we can beat Nepal," said Parvez.

Parvez believes Nepal play very fast on astro-turf since they grew up training on it, and that would be another home-team advantage.

On the other hand, Manager Amit Khan Shuvro said that it is okay to dream big against Nepal because he believes Bangladesh are better physically and are more skilled dribblers.

Meanwhile, Parvez's counterpart Sunil Shrestha wanted to rely on the advantages playing at home to dispatch the title holders.

"We are playing at home and the boys are really confident of making it to the final," said Sunil. "Bangladesh are a good side and we need to give it our best to win the match."



Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo (L) poses with the glittering piece of glory alongside Barcelona's Lieke Martens after they won the UEFA Men's and Women's Player of the Year awards in Monaco yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Tough draw for Real, Barca

AFP, Monaco



Holders Real Madrid will face Borussia Dortmund and Tottenham Hotspur in the Champions League group stage while five-time winners Barcelona were drawn with last season's runners-up Juventus on Thursday.

Zinedine Zidane's side are chasing a third successive European title and fourth in five seasons after demolishing Italian champions Juventus 4-1 in Cardiff in June.

The record 12-time European champions will also take on APOEL of Cyprus in a testing Group H.

Real's rival Barcelona did not get any easy pass either. They will however have the chance to get revenge for last season's Champions league defeat to Juventus as the pair were drawn together in the group phase alongside Olympiakos and Sporting in Group D.

World record signing Neymar and Paris Saint-Germain were paired alongside Bayern Munich, with Scottish champions Celtic and Belgian outfit Anderlecht completing the line-up in Group B.

Chelsea, one of a record five English teams to qualify for the group phase, will meet Atletico Madrid in Group C as well as Roma and Qarabag, the first side from Azerbaijan to reach this stage of the competition.

Jose Mourinho will return home with Manchester United after his team drew Benfica in Group A along with CSKA Moscow and Basel.

Pep Guardiola's Manchester City are in Group F along-

Champions League 2017 / 2018			
Group stage			
Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
Benfica	Bayern Munich	Chelsea	Juventus
Man United	PSG	Atletico Madrid	Barcelona
Basel	Anderlecht	Roma	Olympiakos
CSKA Moscow	Celtic	Qarabag	Sporting Lisbon
Group E	Group F	Group G	Group H
Spartak Moscow	Shakhtar Donetsk	Monaco	Real Madrid
Sevilla	Man City	Porto	B. Dortmund
Liverpool	Napoli	Besiktas	Tottenham
Maribor	Feyenoord	RB Leipzig	APOL

side Ukrainian champions Shakhtar Donetsk, Napoli and Feyenoord while Liverpool will play Spartak Moscow, Sevilla and Maribor in Group E.

French champions Monaco, who reached last season's semifinals, face Porto, Besiktas and debutants RB Leipzig in Group G.

Greek champions Olympiakos and Sporting Lisbon are also in the group alongside the two giants, after the draw was held in Monaco.

Aside from Spurs, English teams received slightly easier draws, with Chelsea's matchup with Atletico Madrid among the more challenging matchups, while Liverpool will face Sevilla.

Teams were drawn into eight groups of four. Clubs from the same national association -- as well as Russian and Ukrainian clubs -- could not be drawn together. The first group games will be played on September 12-13.

Trophy motivate Ronaldo

AFP, Monaco

Cristiano Ronaldo was named UEFA Player of the Season for 2016-2017 on Thursday after a campaign which saw the Portuguese superstar help Real Madrid to the La Liga and Champions League double.

It was the third time that Ronaldo had won the award which was presented on the sidelines of the Champions League group stage draw.

His great rival Lionel Messi, who finished third behind Juventus goalkeeper and captain Gianluigi Buffon in the voting, has won the prize on two occasions.

"There are the same goals every year, to meet the same challenges, win everything if possible, qualify for the World Cup with my national team," said Ronaldo who scored 12 goals in the Champions League last season including a brace in the final against Juventus.

"This trophy will give me the motivation to keep working hard, never to give up. I am blessed and delighted to be with Real Madrid."

Dembele most expensive after Neymar?

REUTERS, Berlin

Barcelona have agreed a fee for the transfer of Borussia Dortmund's Ousmane Dembele to Spain, ending a saga that led to the talented 20-year-old winger being suspended by the Bundesliga club, Germany's Bild newspaper said on Thursday.

Citing unnamed sources the newspaper said Barcelona had agreed to pay Dortmund 120 million euros (\$141.66 million) and up to 150 million euros depending on performance bonuses, making it the second most expensive signing ever.

The paper reported the deal was struck in Monaco where both teams' representatives are present for the Champions League draw. It was unclear if contracts had been signed.

Brazilian Neymar joined Paris St Germain from Barcelona in a world record move worth 222 million euros earlier this month. France international Dembele, who joined Dortmund last year from Stade Rennes in a 15-million euro deal running to 2021, had been forcing his move to Spain and had missed training earlier this month, leading to his suspension.



Floyd Mayweather (L) and Conor McGregor exchanged plenty of words before squaring up. The boxing icon and the MMA fighter will take on each other in a money-spinning fight on Saturday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Conor, Floyd get down to business

AFP, Las Vegas



A stony-faced Floyd Mayweather issued a warning to Conor McGregor on Wednesday as the two fighters faced off just three days ahead of their money-spinning boxing duel.

In stark contrast to their lurid, trash-talking global press tour last month, a subdued McGregor and a stern-looking Mayweather spoke respectfully as they prepared for Saturday's 12-round boxing contest at the T-Mobile Arena.

Mayweather, who bombarded McGregor with expletives and homophobic slurs during last month's frenzied publicity blitz, did not swear once during Wednesday's news conference.

McGregor, the massive underdog for this weekend's bout, restricted himself to verbally abusing a heckler in the audience who predicted he would be knocked out.

McGregor faces his first ever professional boxing contest against Mayweather, the undefeated former welterweight king who has come out of a two-year retirement to take on the Irish mixed martial arts star.

However McGregor, the 29-year-old two-time UFC world champion from Dublin, insisted he was ready to stun the world of combat sports by upsetting Mayweather.

"Been to a lot of these crazy press conferences," said McGregor. "This is a lot more subdued. More business-like, the way I like it."

"We are prepared for 12 three-minute rounds of non-stop pace. We are prepared, I will put pressure on him and break this old man. Trust me on that. I don't see him lasting two rounds. I feel I have the decision to end it inside one."

Mayweather, 40, looked relaxed throughout, even taking time to quietly admonish members of his entourage who had shouted at McGregor. And rather than the abuse of last month, Mayweather praised McGregor as a "helluva fighter, a stand-up guy and a tough competitor."

"It's not going to be an easy fight," Mayweather said. "It's going to be blood sweat and tears. He's the best at what he do, I'm the best at what I do. It comes down to the two competitors going out there and displaying our skills."

But Mayweather also sounded off a warning.

"After 21 years I've been hit with everything and I'm still right here," Mayweather said. And if you give it, you must be able to take it. There have been plenty of guys who talked a lot of trash, but when it's all said and done, I came out victorious."

Agrani top the table

SPORTS REPORTER

Agrani Bank topped the table of the Marcel Bangladesh Championship League with a 2-1 win over Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club at Birshrestha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

Tofael and Hanif struck one goal each for Agrani before Dalim reduced the margin for last edition's champions, who suffered their second defeat in five matches and remained sixth with five points.

Agrani Bank are now alone at the top, with 11 points from five matches.

JFA U-14 WOMEN'S C'SHIP

Kalpna gets 10 in two

SPORTS REPORTER

Thakurgaon notched up a massive 8-0 win over Dinajpur in the JFA U-14 Women's Championship at Gaibandha Stadium yesterday.

Kalpna, who struck six goals in the first match, slotted four goals while Sohagi and Hanna struck a brace each to set their final clash against Gaibandha, who also handed a massive 8-0 defeat to Panchagarh with Bristy and Rekha scoring a hat-trick each.

At the Jessore Police Line ground, Narail beat Jessore 6-1 while Satkhira beat Khulna 4-3 on penalties after regulation time produced a 1-1 draw.

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:

Windies revive memories of two-day

Headingley horror
Curly Ambrose was scathing about the West Indies' "totally embarrassing" defeat by England at Edgbaston.

'BD follow cricket more intensely than India'

Bangladesh's premium all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan says that cricket is now followed more closely and intensely in Bangladesh than in India.

Lukaku trolls Cristiano?
Manchester United striker Romelu Lukaku trolls Cristiano Ronaldo by commenting 'Messi is better mate' on the Real Madrid player's Instagram post.

Barca players mutiny against board
Things are taking a turn towards the worst in Barcelona as the players are distancing itself from the management of the board.

Zlatan back at Man Utd

AFP, London



Zlatan Ibrahimovic has rejoined Manchester United on a one-year contract after the Swedish star's spell with the Premier League side was curtailed by a serious knee injury last season.

Ibrahimovic missed the final weeks of United's campaign after suffering ligament damage in a Europa League clash against Anderlecht in April.

But United manager Jose Mourinho remained in contact with the 35-year-old while he underwent his rehabilitation and the former Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain forward has now agreed to return to Old Trafford.

"I am back to finish what I started. It was always mine and the club's intention for me to stay," Ibrahimovic told United's website.

"I cannot wait to get back out on that Old

Trafford pitch, but I also know that I have to take my time to make sure that I am ready.

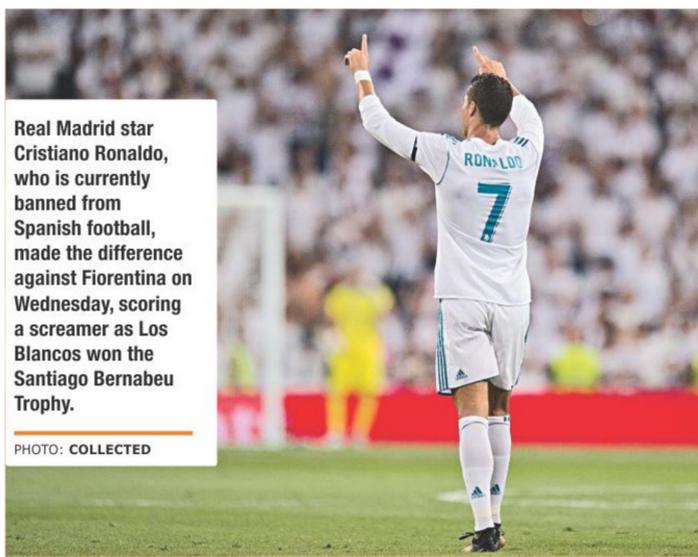
"I have been working hard and will continue to do so to make sure I am in the best possible condition for my return to the pitch."

Ibrahimovic scored 28 times in 46 appearances in his first season with United, with his eye for goal and leadership skills helping Mourinho's men win the League Cup and march towards the Europa League title.

Ibrahimovic has been working with United's medical staff at the club's Carrington training base and his regime has been so successful that reports suggest he could be back on the pitch by late October.

Despite Ibrahimovic's encouraging recovery, the United boss won't rush his return.

"We are delighted Zlatan is on the road to recovery and we are equally delighted to have his ambition and experience back with us," Mourinho said. "I have no doubt that he will be important in the second part of the season."



Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo, who is currently banned from Spanish football, made the difference against Fiorentina on Wednesday, scoring a screamer as Los Blancos won the Santiago Bernabeu Trophy.

PHOTO: COLLECTED