

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
 England v West Indies
 2nd Test, Day-2
 Live from 4:00pm
SONY SIX
 Caribbean Premier League
 Tallawahs v Trinbago
 Live from 6:00am (Sunday)

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
 English Premier League
 Bournemouth v Man City
 Live from 5:30pm
 New Castle v West Ham
 Live from 8:00pm
 Man United v Leicester
 Live from 10:30pm

TEN 1
 Serie A
 Genoa v Juventus
 Live from 10:00pm
 Roma v Inter Milan
 Live from 12:45am (Sunday)

TEN 2
 La Liga
 Alaves v Barcelona
 Live from 10:15pm
 Levante v Deportivo
 Live from 12:15am (Sunday)
 Las Palmas v Atletico Madrid
 Live from 2:15am (Sunday)

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh Premier League
 Saif Sporting v Brothers Union
 Time: 5:00pm
 Muktijoddha v SK Jamal
 Time: 7:15pm
 Venue: BNS

Bangladesh booted out by Nepal

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh's bid to defend SAFF U-15 Championship title came to an end in Nepal when they suffered a shocking 4-2 defeat to the hosts in the semi-final at the ANFA Complex ground in Lalitpur yesterday.

The boys in Red and Green could only muster a shadow of the performances that brought them to the semifinal stage, and Parvez Babu's charges will certainly remember the defeat for a long time, mainly because of the way they conceded the first three goals -- especially after not having conceded a single goal in any of their previous matches in the tournament.

The goals came courtesy of horrible fumbles from the defenders, who seemed to have forgotten how to play football, and were gifts to the Nepalese.

Randip Paudel played a low ball from the left side and a Bangladeshi defender's miscued clearance fell in front of unmarked Aakash Budha Magar, who had the simple task of tapping into an open net

in the fifth minute.

He doubled the lead on the half-hour mark, cashing in on almost the same fumble by a Bangladeshi defender.

The third came as defender Nazmul Biswas found the back of his own net while clearing a regulation cross from the right flank in the 64th minute.

Faisal Ahmed Fahim, who scored four goals in the previous two matches, struck two goals in two minutes in the 72nd and 73rd minutes to make the margin 3-2 and give Bangladesh a ray of hope going into the final minutes.

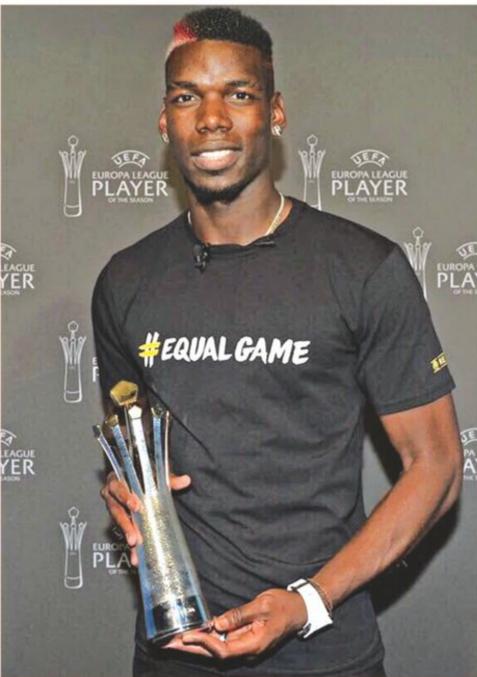
However, although the visitors were pressing hard for the equaliser and created a couple of good chances, they could not find the back of Nepal's net. Instead, as Bangladesh piled bodies forward, they conceded the fourth goal six minutes into stoppage time of the second time from a counter attack.

Bangladesh will now play Sunday's third-place deciding match against Bhutan, who suffered a 3-0 defeat to favourites India in their semifinal at the Halchowk Stadium.



The Chittagong Abahani juggernaut came to a grinding halt after five successive wins as a gritty Arambagh side held the league leaders to a goalless draw at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



PAUL POGBA

Pogba wins EL award

REUTERS, Monaco

Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba was named UEFA Europa League Player of the Season 2016-17, beating teammates Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Henrikh Mkhitaryan to the prize, UEFA announced in Monaco on Friday.

Pogba started all 15 games and scored three times to help United lift the trophy for the first time in May.

"I am very happy to be the first one to win the UEFA Europa League Player of the Season award," the 24-year-old said in a statement. "Hopefully, the new season will be as successful as the last one for both me and my club. Thank you so much."

He was chosen by a panel of 48 coaches and 55 journalists selected by the European Sports Media.

Barren day for Abahanis

SPORTS REPORTER



Leaders Chittagong Abahani dropped points for the first time in this season's

Bangladesh Premier League yesterday, playing out a goalless draw against lightweights Arambagh KS at the Bangabandhu National Stadium with marksman Towhidul Alam Sabuz failing to score for the first time in six matches.

In the second match of the day, holders Abahani emulated their Chittagong namesake in a goalless draw against Rahmatganj MFS. With the stalemate, Abahani missed an opportunity to close the gap with the leaders, who are five points ahead of Abahani (11 points from six outings). Rahmatganj have eight points from six matches.

Earlier, Chittagong Abahani had come into the match on the back of five successive wins with Sabuz scoring in each and every match as last edition's runners-up were forced kept scoreless by a spirited show from minnows Arambagh KS.

Despite dropping points, Chittagong Abahani held their lead in the 12-team

table with 16 points from six matches, three points ahead of Sheikh Jamal DC, who have played a match less than the current leaders. Arambagh raised their tally to four from six matches.

The entertaining affair could have gone either way as Chittagong Abahani rattled the crossbar twice against Arambagh's once, while Arambagh wasted an opportunity with only the goalkeeper left to beat.

Chittagong Abahani's inspirational

CTG ABAHANI	0	-	0	ARAMBAGH
ABAHANI	0	-	0	RAHMATGANJ

winger Zahid Hossain rattled the crossbar on the edge of the box and then Mamunul Islam sent the follow-up wide to disappoint the port-city outfit in the 24th minute.

After resumption, Arambagh KS came close to breaking the deadlock in the 53rd minute but Chittagong Abahani goalkeeper Ashraful Islam fisted away a dipping free-kick from Habibur Rahman.

Arambagh KS were on the verge of taking a lead in the 76th minute when

Mohammad Jewel whipped a well-judged cross from the left for Nigerian striker Alamu Bukola, who saw his close-range header blocked unbelievably by Chittagong goalkeeper Ashraful.

With both teams pressing for the lead, Chittagong Abahani were deprived again in the dying minutes when Zahid saw his drive inside the box come off the crossbar and both teams had to be content with sharing the points.

In the second game, Federation Cup champions Abahani played relatively better to create a couple of scoring chances either side of the break but Rubel Mia saw his drive to the near post go wide in the 27th minute while Nabib Newaj Jibon headed a Rubel cross over the crosspiece from the edge of the six-yard box in the 60th minute.

Rahmatganj came close to breaking the deadlock in the 78th minute but Mohammad Jewel drove wide of the open net after Abahani goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Sohail managed to stop an angular shoot from Ismael Bangoura, while substitute Faisal Ahmed Shitol was denied by the woodwork in stoppage time and Abahani were deprived of their fourth victory.

Arsenal get tricky draw

AFP, Monaco

Arsenal face a tricky Europa League group stage with ties against Cologne and Red Star Belgrade as Arsene Wenger's side play in Europe's second-tier competition for the first time since 1997.

The Gunners were also paired with Belarus club Bate Borisov in Friday's draw that was kinder to another European giant, AC Milan who face Austria Vienna, AEK Athens and Rijeka of Croatia.

Wayne Rooney's Everton have a stern test in a group containing French club Lyon, whose Groupama Stadium will host the final on May 16.

Italian side Atalanta and Cypriot minnows Apollon round out Everton's group.

French club Nice drew Lazio, Vitesse Arnhem and Zulte Waregem of Belgium.

Paul Pogba of last season's winners Manchester United was voted the best player of the 2016-2017 competition and received the trophy in a pre-recorded video message shown at the draw in Monaco.

Ibra boost for MU juggernaut

AFP, Manchester



Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho will hope to cap a successful week, on and off the field, by making it three wins in as many games when Leicester visit Old Trafford on Saturday.

United have won their opening two league games, each by 4-0 scorelines, at home to West Ham and at Swansea, while Mourinho has been boosted by seeing key squad members return from long-term injuries.

As if that wasn't encouraging enough for Mourinho, Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic has rejoined on a one-year contract and should be available before the end of the year after recovering from knee surgery.

Ibrahimovic believes that, despite losing club captain Wayne Rooney this summer, United's attacking corps is far stronger thanks to the development of Marcus Rashford and the arrival of Lukaku.

"Yeah, I'm happy he came. I think the team is much stronger this season, although we lost Rooney, a legend," said Ibrahimovic on ESPN FC. "Signing Lukaku makes us even stronger because he has different qualities from me as a striker and from Rashford as a striker. He is a powerful guy and he brings extra qualities in a game."

The addition of Lukaku has convinced Ibrahimovic that Mourinho's side can win the Premier League title this season.

"In the Premier League there are many rivals, which are the top six let's say, they will give a hard time for everybody," he said. "Like last season Chelsea was the best team, they won. You'll still have Chelsea, you have Liverpool, I think Everton are not to be underestimated because they have a great coach and they are investing a lot to win. And obviously you have Arsenal, Manchester City. So I think it will look like last year but this year the Red Devils will be on top."

Leicester head for Old Trafford hoping defender Harry Maguire recovers from a knee injury in time to continue his impressive start to life with the club. The close-season signing from Hull has performed well and manager Craig Shakespeare believes the centre-back could be a future England captain.



Villa recalled by Spain for qualifiers

AFP, Madrid

Veteran striker David Villa is set for an international recall after being named Friday in Spain's squad for key 2018 World Cup qualifiers.

Villa, aged 35, is Spain's all-time top scorer with 59 goals from 97 international games. He last played for his country in the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

Villa, who won the Champions League with Barcelona in 2011, plays for New York City and is top scorer in the MLS with 19 goals from 24 games this season.

He has been recalled to the squad to play Italy and Liechtenstein on September 2 and 5 respectively.

"It is necessary that he rejoins us and he will help us," said manager Julen Lopetegui.

Part of Spain's 2010 World Cup-winning team, Villa last represented his country in a 3-0 win against Australia in the 2014 edition.

The ex-Valencia player left Barcelona for the United States in 2015 and was the MLS MVP last season.

Barca seal Dembele deal

AFP, Barcelona



Ousmane Dembele brought an end to protracted transfer talks by agreeing a five-year deal with Barcelona worth 105 million euros plus add-ons, the Spanish giants announced Friday.

Dembele, 20, moves from Borussia Dortmund, where he has been suspended since he boycotted training on August 10 in protest after the German club rejected Barca's first bid.

The add-ons amount to a maximum of 42 million euros, according to Dortmund, which would make it the second biggest transfer in history after Neymar's move from Barca to Paris Saint-Germain earlier this month.

"FC Barcelona and Borussia Dortmund have reached an agreement for the transfer of Ousmane Dembele for 105 million euros plus add-ons,"



Barca said in a statement.

"The player will sign a five-year contract and his buy-out clause is set at 400 million euros."

The winger, capped seven times by France, will arrive in Barcelona on Sunday and undergo a medical on Monday.

Barca were in desperate need for reinforcements since being caught

cold by Neymar's decision to join PSG for a world record 222 million euros.

Dembele, who cost Dortmund just 15 million euros from Rennes last year, has paid the price for the ongoing saga over his future, with France coach Didier Deschamps opting to omit him from the national squad for upcoming World Cup qualifiers against the Netherlands and Luxembourg on Thursday.



World No. 1 Rafael Nadal had a tough time as he took on Venus Williams in a badminton match in New York yesterday, failing to negotiate her smashes and finding himself on the floor on multiple occasions.

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:

Federer could face Nadal in semis

World number one Rafael Nadal could face third-ranked Roger Federer in the semi-finals of the US Open under the draw unveiled Friday.

'Spin isn't the only point of focus'

Bangladesh star batsman Tamim Iqbal says that while everybody has been eager to focus on spin, the Tigers however, are not only focused on spinners.

Pakistan players celebrate arrival of World XI

Pakistan players are overjoyed by the return of international cricket to Pakistan after PCB announced the September World series tour.

Farah ends track career in style, Gatlin slumps

Four-time Olympic champion Mo Farah ended his track career in thrilling fashion with victory in the 5,000m at the Diamond League final in Zurich.