

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2

US Open
Round of 32
Live from 9:00pm
SATURDAY
US Open
Round of 32
Live from 9:00pm
SUNDAY
US Open
Round of 16
Live from 9:00pm

MONDAY

US Open
Round of 16
Live from 9:00pm
SONY ESPN
FIFA WC Qualifiers
Denmark v Poland
Live from 12:45am (Saturday)
SUNDAY
FIFA WC Qualifiers
Belarus v Sweden
Live from 10:00pm

Greece v Belgium
Live from 12:45am (Monday)
SONY SIX
SUNDAY
Sri Lanka v India
Fifth ODI
Live from 3:00pm
TEN 1
FIFA WC Qualifiers
Malta v England
Live from 2:00am (Saturday)

SATURDAY
FIFA WC Qualifiers
Georgia v Ireland
Wales v Austria
Live from 2:00am (Sunday)
SUNDAY
FIFA WC Qualifiers
France v Luxembourg
Live from 2:00am (Monday)

TEN 2
FIFA WC Qualifiers
Kazakhstan v Montenegro
Live from 10:00pm
Czech Republic v Germany
Live from 1:00am (Saturday)
SATURDAY
FIFA WC Qualifiers
Finland v Iceland
Live from 10:00pm
Spain v Italy
Live from 1:00am (Sunday)

SUNDAY
FIFA WC Qualifiers
Netherlands v Bulgaria
Live from 10:00pm
Hungary v Portugal
Live from 1:00am (Monday)
MONDAY
GTV & STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
Bangladesh v Australia
Second Test, Day-1
Live from 10:00am

Ord finally gets hands on U-18s

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh coach Andrew Ord yesterday got back to business, after having guided the U-23 national football team in the AFC U-23 Championship Qualifiers, as he began preparing the U-18 national team for this month's SAFF U-18 Championship and October's AFC U-19 Championship Qualifiers.

All 32 members of preliminary squad, barring Farashganj midfielder Mohammad Sujan, reported on the opening day of the five-day training camp and had their first training session under the British-born Australian coach's supervision at the BKSP.

Although 40 players were initially selected from open trials for the formation of the squad, the 37-year-old coach picked players from the Bangladesh Premier League. And now a majority -- 27 of the 32 members of the squad -- are from clubs participating in the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League. Three others are from the Bangladesh Championship League clubs and one another each from BKSP and Jessore.

As the players have been busy with their commitments to their clubs, there were no opportunities to train together, but Ord has finally gotten five days to work with the boys owing to the domestic break for Eid-ul-Adha.

"These five days are just an introduction to our playing style for the players. We will look to work on our basic shape and try to build up some team spirit and prepare for the challenges ahead," Ord explained.



After the five-day programme, the footballers will return to their clubs, before restarting training from September 11 and then taking part in the SAFF U-18 Championship, which is scheduled to begin on September 18 in Bhutan.

Although Ord believed that playing in the BPL would keep the players match fit, he added that international tournaments were vastly different to domestic competitions.

"It is incorrect to say most players are playing in the [Bangladesh Premier League]. Only 50 per cent are starting games and playing regularly. This is great for their physical condition.

"But the way we approach an international tournament is vastly different to the way BPL football is played. India and Nepal have been in training camps full-time for weeks and even Bhutan have a full time U-19 programme. We need to spend time together to get everyone comfortable with our tactics," said Ord.

Bangladesh were eliminated from the semifinals last time around in 2015 after suffering a 4-3 defeat to India on penalties. However, they defeated Bhutan 2-0 and a handed a 1-2 defeat to ultimate champions Nepal in group-stage matches.

This time, Bangladesh have been pitted against hosts Bhutan and last edition's runners-up India in Group A, while Group B includes Nepal, Maldives and Sri Lanka.

"We want to be successful but to do that we need proper time for preparation. I'm hopeful that everyone can find a compromise moving forward," hoped Ord.

Maruful's legal notice to BFF

SPORTS REPORTER

Coach Maruful Hoque served a legal notice to the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) demanding his unpaid wages from the game's governing body.

The legal notice signed by advocate Mohammad Belayet Hossain stated that Maruful, who served as Bangladesh National team coach for two months before resigning in January last year, was yet to receive a part of the contracted amount worth Tk 45,000. The BFF hired him for a monthly salary of Tk 500,000 and paid only Tk 550,000 so far.

Maruful, now the head coach of Arambagh KS, also served another legal notice to the BFF, demanding that a fine of Tk 50,000, imposed on him by the disciplinary committee for violating the code of conduct during a Bangladesh Premier League game against Saif SC, be withdrawn. The notice stated that the article 50 of the disciplinary code used to punish Maruful for demanding an explanation from a foul-mouth fan after the game was 'misconstrued'.

"We have received legal notices from Maruful Hoque today [Thursday]. We will clear his unpaid wages within seven working days while our legal department will answer him under which articles and laws he was fined," said BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag.

Transfer market not so crazy

SAMAMA RAHMAN

When Paris Saint-Germain paid 222 million euros to lure Neymar away from Barcelona, it shook the footballing world and gave voice to many -- be they former footballers, pundits or even club officials -- who admonished the 'crazy market' with renewed vigour.

But is it really a crazy market now that what it was a decade ago or beyond? Are the clubs spending to that extent that they could possibly be considered bankrupt? Has the revenue-spending ratio widened substantially than before?

A carefully constructed study will provide us with an interesting insight.

Real Madrid spent 54 per cent of their 138.8 million euros of revenue -- which has now increased to 620 million euros -- when they lured Zinedine Zidane to the Bernabeu. Neymar, on the other hand, cost PSG about 35 per cent of their revenue.

Paul Pogba cost (105 million euros) Manchester United the same percentage of their revenue as they had dished out in



Although Neymar (L) may have set the world record for the highest transfer fee this year, Zinedine Zidane's record fee from 2001 is still the most expensive as a percentage of the club's revenue.

PHOTOS: COLLECTED

MOST EXPENSIVE SIGNINGS (as a percentage of income)

Year	Player	Team	Fee (€m)	Income (€m)	% of Income
2001	Zinedine Zidane	Real Madrid	75	138	54.03
2009	Carlos Tevez	Man City	53	101	52.37
2000	Hernán Crespo	Lazio	56.5	125	45.06
2000	Luis Figo	Real Madrid	62	138	44.67
1999	Christian Vieri	Inter	49	112	43.44
2008	Robinho	Man City	43	104	41.35
2001	Gaizka Mendietta	Lazio	48	125	38.28
2017	Neymar	PSG	222	638	34.8
2001	Gianluigi Buffon	Juventus	53	173	30.55
2002	Ronaldo	Real Madrid	46	152	30.22
OTHERS					
2009	Cristiano Ronaldo	Real Madrid	94.4	0	1
2002	Rio Ferdinand	Man United	45	229	19.74
2013	Gareth Bale	Real Madrid	100	518	19.43
2013	Edinson Cavani	PSG	64	398	16.05
2016	Paul Pogba	Man Utd	105	689	15.23
2014	James Rodríguez	Real Madrid	79	549	14.52
2014	Alexis Sánchez	Arsenal	44	359	12.25

2004-05 to sign Wayne Rooney (35 million euros), and less than what they paid for Rio Ferdinand in 2002. Barcelona paid a significantly higher percentage in 2009 when they signed Zlatan Ibrahimovic from Inter Milan for 75 million euros than they did this time around for Demebele (105 million euros).

True, the transfer fees have seen a meteoric rise but after taking into account the overall picture of the transfer market and its many influences, it can be best described as a steady rise over the past 50 years and more.

The Premier League has signed their latest TV rights deal for 5.59 billion euros, 71 per cent higher than what they negotiated in 2012. Spain's La Liga has a three-year-deal worth 2.65 billion, the lion's share of which will go to Real Madrid and Barcelona. Most of Europe's Leagues have deals approaching a billion, at least.

It is not just TV rights pumping money into football clubs; sponsorship deals have also seen clubs easily pocket north of 100 million euros a year. There are kit sponsors which make and brand each team's jersey, car sponsors which provide each player with a car, some clubs sell the naming rights to

their stadiums at high fees while Manchester United even have sponsorship deals with a ramen noodles company and a tractor manufacturer.

There was a boom when foreign owners started buying clubs and pumping money into them, the best-known such instance being Roman Abramovich buying Chelsea in 2003.

Looking at the top 10 transfer fees in the world at the moment, eight of them were negotiated since 2010. The world record prior to Neymar's was the 94 million euros paid by Real Madrid for Cristiano Ronaldo -- a figure that far surpassed the previous record of 75 million euros paid by the same club for Zidane in 2001.

But despite Neymar's fee being almost three times as high as the fee paid for Zidane, the Frenchman still remains the most expensive outlay when compared to the club's revenue -- something people fail to take into account when they speak about the increasing transfer fees. Interestingly, looking at it from that perspective, only two of the top 10 transfers have occurred since 2010.

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:

Dhaka century Warner's 'best'

Australia might have slumped to their first-ever defeat against Bangladesh in the opening Test of the two-match series but opener David Warner's drought-breaking century in Dhaka was the shining light for the visitors.



Swansea get Renato on loan
Euro 2016 winner Renato Sanches has joined Swansea City on a season-long loan move from Bayern Munich, the English Premier League club announced.



Liverpool agree deal for Oxlade-Chamberlain, reports say

Liverpool have agreed a £35 million (\$46 million, 38 million euros) deal with Arsenal to sign England midfielder Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, according to reports. Liverpool did not disclose the transfer fee, but they are believed to have paid £35 million (\$45.1 million, 37.9 million euros) for the midfielder's services.



Messi's beautiful gesture to a young fan

Barcelona and Argentina star Lionel Messi's gesture brightened up the day for a young fan, who was initially barred from approaching the Argentine by the security men. Messi is currently with the Argentina squad as the team prepares for a crucial World Cup qualifier against Uruguay.



BLOCKBUSTER DEALS

NEYMAR

Paris Saint Germain sent shockwaves through the world as they lured Brazilian superstar Neymar away from the Nou Camp after matching his 222-million-euro release clause. Although the deal is the most expensive in the world, it may prove to be a steal for Le Parisiens if they can find glory in the Champions League.



PAULINHO

Barcelona reinforced their midfield in the strangest fashion as they brought in Brazilian holding midfielder Paulinho from Guangzhou Evergrande for 40 million euros. The Brazilian midfielder failed to cut it at Spurs, but his recent renaissance for the national team may see his fortunes change at the Nou Camp.



OUSMANE DEMBELE

Barcelona needed to find a Neymar replacement, something which they had never envisaged, and they need to do so fast. Perhaps that is why the club bent to the will of Borussia Dortmund and splurged 105 million euros plus add-ons on the promising, if mercurial, Demebele.



ROMELU LUKAKU

Manchester United recognised their lack of firepower in front of goal, especially in the absence of Zlatan Ibrahimovic -- who has since returned. They spent 85 million euros on Lukaku, one of Paul Pogba's good friends and a striker who narrowly missed out on finishing as the Premier League's leading goalscorer the previous season.



VALVARO MORATA

Chelsea were also in for Lukaku, but after he chose the Manchester club the Blues wasted no time in approaching Real Madrid for the want-away Alvaro Morata. They paid a premium of 80 million euros for the striker who shone at Juventus in his loan spell. With Diego Costa frozen out, he will be paramount to Antonio Conte's title hopes.



NABY KEITA

Liverpool shattered the record fee paid for an African player as they signed Keita for 70 million euros from Leipzig. The Guinean scored eight goals in 31 league appearances last term to help Leipzig finish runners-up in the title race, but the Anfield faithful will have to wait for one more season to see their latest acquisition in action.



BENJAMIN MENDY

Manchester City splurged on wing-backs this window, first signing Benjamin Mendy from AS Monaco for 58 million euros, before swooping up Kyle Walker from Tottenham. Pep Guardiola stated that the defence was vital to his game plan and it is likely that Mendy will be able to give the manager exactly what he wants.



ALEXANDRE LACAZETTE

Arsenal fans clamouring for a marquee striker to link up with Alexis Sanchez and Mesut Ozil had their prayers answered as Arsene Wenger spent 53 million euros to bring in Lacazette from Lyon. The striker struck 28 times in Ligue 1 last season, but it is his movement and clever play that has the Gunners excited.



Sharapova battles on

AFP, New York

Former world number one Maria Sharapova battled back Wednesday to reach the third round of the US Open while next-generation rising stars Alexander Zverev and Nick Kyrgios crashed out.

Sharapova, who downed second-ranked Simona Halep in her first Grand Slam match after a 15-month doping ban, defeated Hungary's 59th-ranked Timea Babos 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 6-1 at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Fourth seed Zverev, whose five ATP titles this year include a win over Roger Federer in this month's Montreal final, fell to 61st-ranked Croatian Borna Coric 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7/1), 7-6 (7/4).

The 20-year-old German had been the highest-ranked player in his half of an injury-hit Open draw.

Zverev's ouster left US 10th seed John Isner the top-ranked player in his draw quarter and Croatian fifth seed Marin Cilic the best in his half of the draw.

Rakib's WC campaign begins

SPORTS REPORTER

GM Abdullah Al Rakib departed last night for Georgia to take part in the World Cup Chess, which is scheduled to take place in Tbilisi between September 2 and 28.

Rakib, who qualified for the event as a Asian Zonal 3.2 champion, will play two games in the first round against World Number 7, GM Nakamura Hikaru of USA. Some 128 players from across the world will be taking part in the knockout style tournament.

Meanwhile, GM Enamul Hossain Razib will accompany Rakib as a coach.

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