

# What to WATCH

**STAR SPORTS SELECT 1**  
**English Premier League**  
 Burnley v Crystal Palace  
 Live from 6:30pm  
**US Open**  
 Men's Final  
 Live from 2:00am  
 (Monday)

**TEN 1**  
**Serie A**  
 Inter Milan v SPAL  
 Live from 4:30pm  
 Lazio v AC Milan  
 Live from 7:00pm  
 Benevento v Torino

Live from 10:00pm  
 Bologna v Napoli  
 Live from 12:45am (Monday)  
**TEN 2**  
**La Liga**  
 Deportivo v Real Sociedad  
 Live from 4:00pm

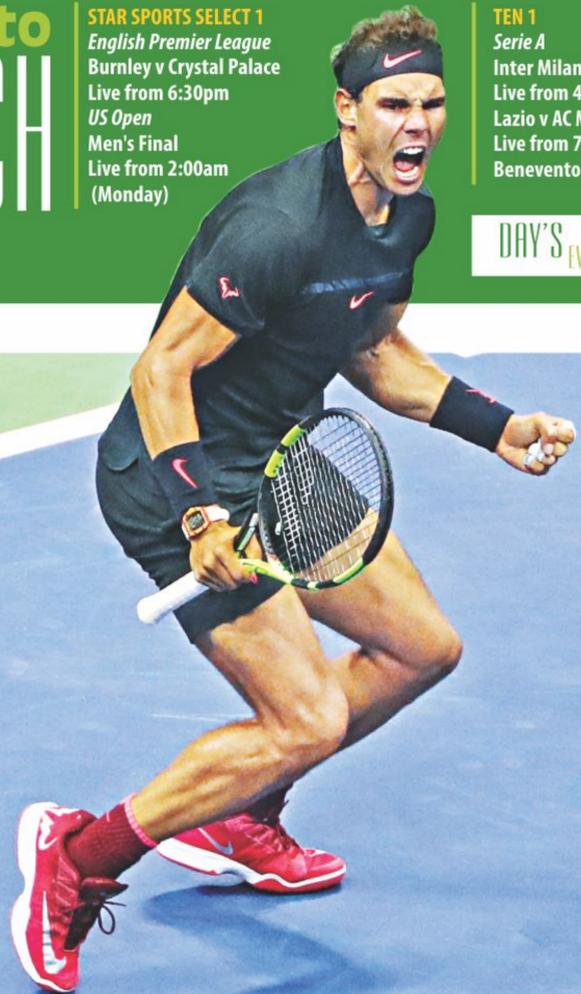
**Athletic Bilbao v Girona**  
 Live from 8:15pm  
**Villarreal v Real Betis**  
 Live from 12:45am (Monday)

## DAY'S EVENT

**Bangladesh Premier League**  
 Brothers Union v Ctg Abahani

Time: 5:00pm  
 Muktiyoddha v Abahani

Time: 7:15pm  
 Venue: BNS



**Rafael Nadal was at his awe-inspiring best as he recovered from a first-set wobble to crush Juan Martin del Potro 4-6, 6-0, 6-3, 6-2 in their US Open semifinal on Friday and move closer to a 16th Grand Slam title.**

PHOTO: REUTERS

# Anderson stands between Nadal and 16th

AFP, New York



Rafael Nadal moved one win away from a third US Open title and 16th Grand Slam crown Friday when he

defeated weary Juan Martin del Potro 4-6, 6-0, 6-3, 6-2.

The 31-year-old Spaniard, the 2010 and 2013 champion in New York, will be playing in his 23rd Slam final and third this year, looking to add the US title to his record 10th French Open.

In Sunday's final, the world number one will face 32nd-ranked Kevin Anderson, the first South

African in the championship match in 52 years.

Anderson reached his maiden final at the majors by beating 12th-seeded Pablo Carreno Busta of Spain 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-4.

For 2009 champion Del Potro, Friday's match was one too many as the physical and emotional toll of seeing off Roger Federer in four sets in the previous round left him spent.

"I have had an amazing season after some tough moments with injuries in recent years," said Nadal, who started 2017 by finishing runner-up to Federer in Australia.

"It's a very emotional year for me. I am in the final again and get

the chance to fight for another title which is very important." Nadal said the key to Friday's win was a change of tactics after the first set.

"I played too much to his backhand and I felt he was waiting for me there," said Nadal after his 15th successive Grand Slam semifinal win.

"I changed it and it worked very well. I made him move more and make it all more unpredictable."

Nadal finished with 45 winners and 20 unforced errors to Del Potro's 23 and 40.

Despite a 4-0 winning record over Anderson, Nadal said he will not underestimate his opponent on Sunday.

"He is a very dangerous player with a big serve and plays very well on this surface. I have known him since we were 12.

"He's had many injuries but the way he has come back is a great example to the kids."

Del Potro, who saved two match points in the eighth game but then retired with illness, gained the only break of the first set in the fifth game off a fortunate net cord.

However, few would begrudge Del Potro a little luck after he was pushed to the brink of retirement by four wrist surgeries that saw his ranking slip as low as 1,045 and forced him to miss 10 Grand Slam tournaments.

Nadal hit back with venom, gathering three breaks to take the second set in just 26 minutes as the Argentine suffered a power cut of



**19 years since this photo was taken at an under-12 tournament, Rafael Nadal (R) and Kevin Anderson face-off in their first Grand Slam final today.**

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## SABA U-16 C'SHIP

### Bangladesh runners-up

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh under-16 basketball team followed in their elders' footsteps by emerging runners-up in the South Asian Basketball Association (SABA) U-16 Championship, which concluded in Kathmandu yesterday.

The senior Bangladesh team had finished second in the regional competition four months ago by winning their matches against Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and Maldives before losing the deciding match against India.

This time too, Bangladesh finished behind eventual champions India.

Bangladesh had won their opening match against

Bhutan by 117-42 points before losing against India by 83-64 points. The boys in red and green then edged hosts Nepal by 68-56 points before thrashing Maldives by

107-52 points in their last match on Friday. India won all four of their matches to emerge unbeaten champions, thereby sealing the lone spot for the FIBA U-16 Asian Championship.

## SAFF U-18 CHAMPIONSHIP

### Format changed

SPORTS REPORTER

The South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) has decided to change the format of the upcoming SAFF U-18 Championship following Sri Lanka's decision to not participate in the competition.

The island nation's withdrawal reduced the competition to five teams – India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives – which forced the regional football body to alter the tournament's format, turning it into a round-robin one instead of the originally scheduled group format.

According to the new format, each team will face every other team once respectively and the team with the most number of points will win the title. However, the duration of the tournament (September 18-27) has been kept unchanged.

As per the new format, Bangladesh will take on India on the 18th before playing against Maldives on the 20th, against Nepal on the 25th and against hosts Bhutan on the 27th.

Nepal are the defending champions of the tournament, which was last held in 2015 as the SAFF U-19 Championship. At that time, hosts Nepal beat India on penalties in the final to claim the title. Bangladesh were eliminated from the semifinals after losing to India in.

# Wasteful Bale costs Real

AFP, Madrid



LFP

Real Madrid paid for the absence of Cristiano Ronaldo and a series of missed chances by Gareth Bale as they were held 1-1 at home by Levante on Saturday.

A slow start by a much-changed Real team was punished when Ivi Lopez fired newly-promoted Levante into a shock lead after just 12 minutes.

The European champions



**Real Madrid star Gareth Bale failed to step up in the absence of Cristiano Ronaldo, spurning numerous chances as Los Blancos were held to a draw by newly-promoted Levante yesterday.**

PHOTO: AFP

responded thanks to Lucas Vazquez's equaliser before half-time, but failed to break Levante's resistance despite incessant pressure in the second-half.

And their frustration boiled over when Marcelo was shown a straight red card for kicking out at Jefferson Lerma as the game entered stoppage time.

With an unusually early 1300 (1100GMT) kick-off time for Real on the back of an international break, Zinedine Zidane left many of those who had been away with their national teams in reserve.

Despite Ronaldo's continued absence through suspension, Bale and

Isco were left on the bench, whilst Luka Modric and goalkeeper Keylor Navas were left out of the squad completely.

And the European champions were caught cold by a sluggish start as Levante went in front thanks to some awful Real defending.

A Levante long-throw from the right was allowed to bounce inside Madrid's six-yard box before Ivi spun and fired across Kiko Casilla into the far corner.

The hosts were dealt another blow midway through the first-half as Karim Benzema limped off and with no other natural striker on the bench, Bale was forced to play as an auxiliary centre-forward.

Madrid ramped up the tempo as the half wore on, but had to rely on a set-piece to level nine minutes before half-time.

Sergio Ramos's towering header was parried by Raul Fernandez, but Vazquez bundled home the rebound into an empty net.

Bale then had a huge chance to turn the game around, but was denied by a smart stop from the Levante 'keeper as he tried to curl the ball home with the outside of his left foot.

The Welshman continued to be the focal point of the Madrid attack after the break, but, even after the introduction of Isco, Madrid missed Ronaldo's cutting edge in the final third.

A frantic finish saw Bale head inches wide from Isco's cross at the back post four minutes from time.

# Man City rout Reds

## Man United held by Stoke

AFP, London



Premier League

Manchester City capitalised on Sadio Mane's controversial red card to thrash title rivals Liverpool 5-0, while Manchester United lost their 100 percent record after a 2-2 draw at Stoke on Saturday.

City goalkeeper Ederson was stretched off in a neck brace after being caught in the face by Mane's boot as he raced out to head the ball away, with the Liverpool winger dismissed for the clash late in the first half at Eastlands.

City already led 1-0 through Sergio Aguero's opener at that point and braces from Gabriel Jesus and substitute Leroy Sane completed City's biggest win over Liverpool since 1937.

City are unbeaten in 12 Premier League games, their best run under Guardiola, while Argentine striker Aguero is now the outright leading non-European goalscorer in Premier League history with 124 goals.

After a blistering start to the season, United conceded for the first time in the league this term when Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting swept home from Mame Biram Diouf's 43rd minute cross to notch his first Stoke goal.

Jose Mourinho's side drew level at the bet365 Stadium as Henrikh Mkhitaryan's corner in first half stoppage-time was headed goalwards by Paul Pogba before deflecting into the net off Marcus Rashford.

The visitors moved ahead in the 57th minute when Mkhitaryan's defence-splitting pass was converted by Romelu Lukaku after the Belgian forward's initial effort was saved by Jack Butland.

But when United defender Phil Jones stumbled at a Stoke corner, Cameroon forward Choupo-Moting was unmarked to head the equaliser in the 63rd minute.

Despite dropping points for the first time in four matches, United remain top of the table, above neighbours City on goal difference.

At the Emirates Stadium, Arsenal eased the pressure on Arsene Wenger with a vital 3-0 win against Bournemouth.

Subjected to stinging criticism following Arsenal's damaging defeats against Stoke

and Liverpool, it took just six minutes for Danny Welbeck to lift Wenger's gloom as the Arsenal striker headed home from Sean Kolasinac's cross.

France forward Alexandre Lacazette doubled Arsenal's lead in the 27th minute, bagging his second goal since his pre-season move from Lyon with a curling strike from the edge of the area.

Welbeck's second goal, from Aaron Ramsey's 50th minute pass, secured Arsenal's first win since the opening weekend.

Alexis Sanchez came off the bench in the closing stages for his first Arsenal appearance this season following the collapse of his mooted move to Manchester City on transfer deadline day.

Harry Kane reached his Tottenham cen-

## RESULTS

**Arsenal 3** (Welbeck 6, 50, Lacazette 27) Bournemouth 0  
**Brighton 3** (Gross 45, 48, Hemed 63) West Brom 1 (Morrison 77)  
 Everton 0 **Tottenham 3** (Kane 28, 46, Eriksen 42)  
 Leicester 1 (Vardy 62-pen) **Chelsea 2** (Morata 41, Kante 50)  
**Manchester City 5** (Aguero 25, Jesus 45+6, 53, Sane 77, 90) Liverpool 0  
 Southampton 0 **Watford 2** (Doucoure 38, Janmaat 66)  
 Stoke 2 (Choupo-Moting 43, 63) Manchester United 2 (Rashford 45+1, Lukaku 57)

tury as the England striker's brace inspired an impressive 3-0 win at Everton.

Kane bagged his 100th Tottenham goal -- and first this season -- in the 28th minute, looping a long-range cross-shot over Everton goalkeeper Jordan Pickford.

Christian Eriksen increased Tottenham's advantage with a close-range strike in the 42nd minute after Pickford spilled a Ben Davies shot.

Kane bagged his second from Davies's 46th minute cross to kill off Everton.

Chelsea survived a tense finish as the champions made it three successive wins with a 2-1 success at Leicester.

Antonio Conte's side took the lead through Alvaro Morata's third goal for Chelsea as the Spain striker peeled away from Wes Morgan to meet Cesar Azpilicueta's cross with a bullet header in the 41st minute.



**Brazilian sensation Gabriel Jesus (L) struck a brace as Manchester City obliterated Liverpool at 5-0 the Etihad Stadium yesterday, handing Reds manager Jurgen Klopp his worst defeat.**

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:

### Mbappe nets debut strike as PSG thrash Metz

Kylian Mbappe scored on his debut as Paris Saint-Germain eased to a 5-1 away thumping of 10-man Metz in Ligue 1 on Friday.



### Benzema injury exposes Real striking options

Real Madrid striker Karim Benzema looks set to miss the holders' Champions League opener against APOEL Nicosia on Wednesday after limping off with a hamstring injury in Saturday's 1-1 draw at home to Levante.



### Pele delighted by Neymar's PSG switch

Brazilian legend Pele hailed Neymar's move from Barcelona to Paris Saint-Germain as an opportunity for his compatriot to "be the big star", in an interview on Friday.



### Cambiasso hangs up his boots

Former Argentine international midfielder Esteban Cambiasso has retired to focus on a possible coaching career, his final club Olympiakos confirmed on Friday.



### Man City priced out of Evans move: Guardiola

Manchester City failed in a move to sign centre-back Jonny Evans because they were simply unable to meet West Bromwich Albion's asking price, says manager Pep Guardiola.

