

# What to WATCH

## STAR SPORTS SELECT 2

England v West Indies

1st ODI

Live from 5:30pm

## STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

Bundesliga

Schalke v Bayern Munich

Live from 12:30am (Wednesday)

## TEN 2

La Liga

Valencia v Malaga

Live from 12:00am (Wednesday)

Barcelona v Eibar

Live from 2:00am (Wednesday)

## TEN 3

Serie A

Bologna v Inter Milan

Live from 12:45am (Wednesday)

## SANCHEZ'S PLAQUE UNCOVERED

Atletico Madrid inaugurated their new home, the Estadio Wanda Metropolitano, before going on to get victory over Malaga thanks to a Griezmann goal, and in spite of all the positivity of the day there was still room for a small detail to tarnish the occasion. As part of the stadium build, plaques commemorating legendary players of the club were laid around the area. But some of those – namely Sergio Aguero and Hugo Sanchez – were unpopular and a number of fans made it clear that they were not happy with their inclusion. Hugo Sanchez, who played for Atletico Madrid and Real Madrid is still considered a traitor by many for crossing the city to their rivals at the Bernabeu. And his plaque in the walk of legends was trampled on and covered in stickers and spit by angered fans, who have also threatened to remove the plaques themselves.



—AGENCIES



Paris Saint-Germain's 2-0 Ligue 1 win over Lyon at the Parc des Princes on Sunday was overshadowed by Neymar and Edinson Cavani as the pair twice argued over who would take a set-piece.

# Bale answers Zizou's call

AFP, Madrid



Zinedine Zidane asked Gareth Bale to step up his game ahead of Real Madrid's clash with Real Sociedad on Sunday and the Welshman responded with a goal in the champions' 3-1 win at Anoeta.

With Cristiano Ronaldo suspended and Karim Benzema injured, the onus was on Bale to deliver as Madrid ended a blip which saw them draw two league games in a row and slip seven points behind rivals and league leaders Barcelona.

Zidane's side were excellent against Sociedad, with 20-year-old forward Borja Mayoral scoring one and prompting Fermin Rodriguez to score an own goal, while Bale's strike was the icing on the cake.

Asked about the midweek jeers and whistles from Madrid fans at the Santiago Bernabeu which prompted Zidane to say Bale had more to give, the winger said he would try to ignore them.

"It's normal, it happens in football. For me obviously I just have to try to keep my head down and keep working hard, and that's all I can do," Bale told Movistar.

"I can't control what goes on. I can only control how hard I work on the pitch. You go through ups and downs in your career, and it's show you bounce back."

Bale's 61st-minute goal helped Madrid

to kill the game against dangerous opponents who had been unbeaten this season.

He raced on to Inco's long lofted ball, charged through on Geromino Rull's goal and dinked the ball over him for his sixth goal in five matches at Anoeta.

"It's always great to score but the most important thing was to get the three points for the team, to get back to winning ways," said Bale.

"It was a great goal but the most important thing was to get the goal for the team, to get the win and close the gap at the top."

Bale helped Madrid to move up to fourth place, four points behind Barcelona, ahead of a run of league games which on paper look comfortable for the champions until they visit local rivals Atletico Madrid on Nov. 19.

Zidane was pleased with how Bale, who has been plagued by injury for much of the year, responded to the criticism made of him by supporters and the Spanish media.

"I'm very happy for him. They talk a lot about him but he showed the player he is, you have to have patience with him," said the French coach.

"I'm glad he scored because he needed it. It's not easy, after running 70 metres, he finished very well technically and I'm happy for him."

"For me he's not at his best yet. I know that we will find that bit by bit, but you have to have patience."

# Dysfunctional PSG stay perfect

STAR SPORTS DESK



Paris Saint-Germain kept their perfect streak in the French Ligue intact as two own goals saw them notch their sixth win from six as many games against Lyon at the Parc des Princes on Sunday night. However, although Lyon hit the self-destruct button in that game, the multi-millionaires from Paris had tensions of their own as world reconfiguring Neymar and Uruguayan striker Edinson Cavani bumped heads not once, but twice on the night, squabbling over the right to take set-pieces.

After a Lyon own goal had given PSG the lead in the 75th minute, the home side were given the opportunity to double their lead from the penalty spot and Cavani stood over the ball. However, Neymar walked over insistent on killing off the game, and after a brief argument, walked away and watched the Uruguayan's penalty spectacularly saved by Anthony Lopes.

Tensions had already flared between the duo after Neymar was fouled just outside the box in the 48th minute. Dani Alves ran over and swooped over the ball while his countryman was on the ground and comically kept it away from a

flailing Cavani before handing it off to Neymar.

The Brazilian unleashed a powerful shot at the keeper's near-post, which was punched out for a corner as a befuddled Cavani looked on, still unsure of what had transpired moments earlier.

Alves, who is touted as one of the main factors behind Neymar's move away from the Nou Camp, offered a half-hearted explanation after the match, saying "I was going to take it. I got the ball to take the free-kick, because I've scored some stunning goals. It was confident. But that's not important. What's important is that the team is more important than any individual. At that point I wanted to take responsibility, but then Ney took the ball and ended up shooting. I took the ball with the aim of shooting, but unfortunately I couldn't".

It was reported in the French media that Cavani had been so incensed by the incidents that he did not even stop by the mixed media zone after the game, instead heading straight to the parking lot and leaving of his own accord.

From the moment he arrived it was clear that Neymar would be the main man at Paris for years to come and he has backed up his credentials with four goals and as many assists in the five league games he has played thus far. However, Cavani himself is no slouch and has netted seven times while assisting once.

And those two, alongside French teenager Kylian Mbappe, are key to the hopes of European glory that PSG yearn for. Perhaps with that in mind and knowing that his contract in the changing room would leave his squad split into two cliques, manager Unai Emery sounded off an ultimatum for his feuding forwards, telling them that either they would resolve the issue or he would step in and do it.

"I have told them to sort it out between themselves," Emery told the press after the match. "The penalties are to be struck by a few players, one is Cavani and the other is Neymar."

It takes a gentleman's agreement on the pitch to take the penalties. Afterwards, we will arrange internally for the penalties, because I think both are able to score them, and I want the two to alternate in this exercise. If there is no agreement, I will decide. I do not want it to be a problem for us."

The incidents may have been blown out of proportion, but regardless of that it is clear that someone else will have to step in and address the issues before it begins ego gets in the way of things and derails the wonderful start to the season that PSG have enjoyed.

PHOTO: AFP



Real Madrid superstar Gareth Bale (L) provided a rousing response to his critics on Sunday night, scoring a fantastic solo goal to seal Los Blancos' 3-1 win over Real Sociedad.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## 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 searching the QR codes listed below.

**Smith warns India have weapons other than spin**  
Australia were undone by spin in the first one-day international but spinner Steve Smith has warned his side need to be ready for India's other bowling weapons.

**King of swing? Anderson is meek away from home?**  
England's James Anderson dismissed Kraigg Brathwaite in the final Test in Lord's to become the 500-wicket club but how good has he been away from home?

**Mourinho calls Pogba injury rumours 'nonsense'**  
Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho has dismissed suggestions that midfielder Paul Pogba faces a lengthy lay-off because of a hamstring injury sustained in the Champions League defeat of Basel.

**Zidane's Real elite Pele's Santos**  
A depleted Real Madrid side, who were without Cristiano Ronaldo and Karim Benzema, ran out comfortable winners against Real Sociedad to equal a goal-scoring record set by Pele's Santos. Both teams have now scored in 73 consecutive matches.

# City can still get better: Pep

AFP, London



Pep Guardiola says his free-scoring Manchester City side can still improve – in a chilling message to Premier League rivals – but is refusing to get carried away by their electrifying early-season form.

City hammered Watford 6-0 at Vicarage Road on Saturday to complete three wins in seven days, scoring 15 goals without reply.

Hailing full-back recruits Kyle Walker, Danilo and Benjamin Mendy for transforming City's blueprint, Guardiola, whose side are top of the Premier League, alongside Manchester United, said his team are nowhere near their peak.

"Even if it looks like we cannot improve, of course we can improve," said Guardiola.

"We've still movement there are still actions we can improve."

"The full-backs are so important. They offer energy to go up and down so that means we can put more players in the middle, to play, to pass the sort passes."

"I like it when we play short passes through the middle, five, six metres, that gives us continuity," he added. "We create the spaces behind the press."

"To do that you need more players in one position. And Kyle (Walker) and Danilo and Mendy helps us a lot to be able to do that. Without that it would be even more complicated."

Sergio Aguer's sixth Premier League hat-trick on Saturday leaves the 29-year-old three goals shy of breaking City's all-time scoring record, held by Eric Brook with 177 strikes.

But Guardiola, in comments reported by the British press on Monday, remains cautious.

Asked if he considers City now ready to go toe-to-toe with the likes of reigning champions Chelsea, Guardiola replied: "We will see. But I think we've made a step forward in terms of last season."

"My feeling now is that everybody knows what we have to do, the players know what they have to do, without the ball in transition. And that's so important."

"We've been good enough last season, Chelsea and Tottenham were better," Guardiola added. "You have to accept it."

"You have to accept sometimes the opposition is better. Then you analyse why to improve for the future."



# Neuer breaks foot again

AGENCIES, Munich

Bayern Munich goalkeeper Manuel Neuer had to leave training on Monday morning with a broken foot, reports German outlet Bild.

He had sustained the same injury in April 2017 in a Champions League tie against Real Madrid.

It is feared that the injury will take a much higher toll this time around and may require surgery. Whatever the scenario, Neuer is expected to be out for another months-long rehabilitation.

A final examination and diagnosis will be done today.

# Kurzawa victim of blackmail

AFP, Paris

PSG left-back Layvin Kurzawa was the victim of a 200,000 euro blackmail plot involving a video of the France international criticising national coach Didier Deschamps, judicial sources revealed on Monday.

Four men were arrested and charged with the attempt during the summer.

Kurzawa was filmed in a shisha bar in Paris with the footage falling into the hands of the blackmail gang, sources related confirming a report on Europe 1 radio.

"In this tape the player makes critical comments at the France national manager," a source disclosed.

When the plotters approached Kurzawa he contacted the police, who set up a sting operation.

# Dembele to go under the knife today

AFP, Barcelona



Barcelona's record 105 million-euro signing Ousmane Dembele will undergo surgery on the torn hamstring that has ruled him out of action for up to four months in Helsinki on Tuesday.

"Dembele travelled on Monday morning to Helsinki, Finland, where he will undergo surgery to repair a rupture of the biceps femoris tendon in his left thigh," Barcelona said in a statement on Monday. "Dembele was accompanied by team physician, Dr. Ricard Pruna. Dembele will be operated on Tuesday by Dr. Sakari Orava."

In pictures published by Spanish sports daily Marca, Dembele needed the aid of a wheelchair as he left Barcelona airport for the Finnish capital.

The French international has made just three appearances for Barca since sealing his move from Borussia Dortmund last month for a fee that could rise to as much as 145 million euros based on performance-related bonuses.

However, he looks set to miss the rest of the year after pulling his hamstring just 29 minutes into Saturday's 2-1 win at Getafe.

The 23-year-old may have paid a heavy price for missing most of his pre-season preparation as he went on strike from training at Dortmund to try and force through his dream move to the Camp Nou.

He will be sidelined for the rest of Barca's Champions League group campaign and faces a race against time to take part in the first El Clasico of the season against Real Madrid on December 23.

At international level, Dembele will also be absent for France's final two World Cup qualifiers away to Bulgaria and at home to Belarus next month.

# Rooney gets 2-year ban on driving

AFP, Stockport

Former England captain Wayne Rooney was Monday banned from driving for two years and ordered to perform 100 hours of unpaid work after pleading guilty to drink driving.

The Everton forward was stopped by police while driving a woman's black Volkswagen Beetle at 2:00 am (0100 GMT) on September 1, while his pregnant wife and their three sons were on holiday.

Stockport Magistrates' Court in the northwest of England heard Rooney was almost three times over the legal drink-drive limit. A breathalyser test showed his alcohol level was 104 microgrammes in 100 millilitres of breath.

The drink-drive limit in England and Wales is 85 microgrammes per 100 millilitres of breath.

Rooney apologised for his "unforgivable lack of judgement" after his guilty plea.

Following today's court hearing I want to publicly apologise for my unforgivable lack of judgement in driving while over the legal limit. It was completely wrong," he said in a statement.

"I have already said sorry to my family, my manager and chairman and everyone at Everton FC. Now I want to apologise to all the fans and everyone else who has followed and supported me throughout my career."



Barcelona's record-signing Ousmane Dembele was confined to a wheelchair as he arrived at the Barcelona airport for his flight to Finland, where he will undergo surgery.

PHOTO: COLLECTED