

NATIONAL CRICKET LEAGUE
Four-Day Match, Day-1
 Time: 9:30am
 Kholua vs Barisal

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2

Bundesliga
Bayern Munich vs Wolfsburg
 Live from 12:30am (Saturday)

Venue: SANS, Khulna
 Dhaka vs Rangpur
 Venue: SCIS, Bogra
 Dhaka Metro vs Sylhet
 Venue: SKS Academy,
 Cor's Bazaar
 Rajshahi vs Chittagong
 Venue: SKS, Rajshahi



Cristiano Ronaldo had a forgettable return to La Liga action, missing a gilt-edged opportunity in Real Madrid's 0-1 loss to Real Betis on Wednesday. Los Blancos have had a poor start to the season and are yet to win a game at the Santiago Bernabeu this season.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Real fall further behind

Antonio Sanabria struck deep into stoppage time to hand Real Betis a shock 1-0 win away to Real Madrid on Wednesday as the European champions failed to score for the first time in 74 matches.

LA LIGA									
TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS		
Barcelona	5	5	0	0	17	2	15		
Sevilla	5	4	1	0	7	1	13		
Athletic	5	3	2	0	10	4	11		
Valencia	5	2	3	0	9	3	9		
Sociedad	4	3	0	1	11	7	9		
Betis	5	3	0	2	6	7	9		
Real Madrid	5	2	2	1	9	5	8		

Defeat leaves Real already seven points adrift of leaders Barcelona just five games into their defence of La Liga having failed to win in all three home games so far this season.

Even the presence of Cristiano Ronaldo on his return from a five-match domestic ban couldn't break Betis' resistance as former Real goalkeeper Antonio Adan produced stunning saves from Isco, Toni Kroos and Gareth Bale.

And Betis snatched all three points in the 93rd minute when Sanabria powered home a header from Antonio Barragan's cross.

"Last year we won games we didn't deserve to and now it is the reverse," said Real coach Zinedine Zidane.

"The league is very long, in the end we'll see how it goes

but we need to be calm and we know we will have better days."

It is the first time Betis have won at the Bernabeu since 1998.

"It is impossible to win here without suffering," said Betis boss Quique Setien.

"To win against a team like this, your goalies have to have a spectacular game and you have to have luck."

Ronaldo was recalled among three changes to the Madrid side from Sunday's 3-1 win at Real Sociedad as

Zinedine Zidane named his strongest available side.

However, it was the visitors who made the stronger start and should have gone in front when Sanabria's goalbound effort was cleared off the line by Dani Carvajal.

Keylor Navas also produced a stunning save to tip Fabian Ruiz's rising drive over the bar.

At the other end, Adan made a smart stop to deny Isco just before half-time and Betis had to resist an onslaught after the break.

Phelps tired of Shark race critics

AGENCIES, Los Angeles

If you are one of the people still mad about Michael Phelps not actually racing a Great White Shark during Shark Week on the Discovery Channel, the Olympic king himself has a response for you.

Fans tuned in on July 23 to watch Phelps race one of the most dangerous creatures on the planet, but they were angered when it emerged that he was only racing a CGI shark.

Even today, people criticize Phelps for what they consider a stunt and the Olympian took time to respond to his critics.

"If you really have common sense, you'd understand I'm not going to get into the water and swim next to a great white shark," Phelps said in an interview. "It's just common sense." "I've said I'd like to swim out of a cage with a great white, but since I have a family and another child on the way, I don't think that's in the equation."

Luiz must play: Conte

APF, London

Chelsea manager Antonio Conte is pinning his hopes on David Luiz playing against Atletico Madrid in the Champions League next week even though the defender has a broken wrist.

Luiz sustained the injury in Sunday's goalless draw with Arsenal when he clattered into the advertising hoardings at the end of the first half.

The Brazil defender continued in the second half until he was dismissed after 87 minutes for a reckless tackle which resulted in a three-game suspension.

Luiz missed Wednesday's 5-1 League Cup win over Nottingham Forest and will also be ineligible for the fourth round clash with Stoke and

table-topping Manchester City.

But Conte expects Luiz to play at Atletico next Wednesday.

"He must be OK," Conte said. "David is an important player for us. For sure he will be ready for the game against Atletico Madrid."

In Luiz's absence, Chelsea's youngsters impressed against Championship side Forest. Michy Batshuayi scored a hat-trick while Kennedy and the impressive Charly Musonda were also on target for Chelsea. Tendayi Darikwa scored a late consolation.

Conte said he could field a similar squad in the next round against Everton.

"We are a great club, for this reason every competition is important to us," he said. "If we answer like this tonight, why not continue to give the opportunity to these players?"

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:

Zidane laments Madrid's home form
 Zinedine Zidane lamented Real Madrid's home woes as the Spanish and European champions slipped to a surprise 1-0 defeat to Real Betis.

United post record revenue
 Manchester United announced record revenues and operating profits despite missing out on the riches of the Champions League last season.

No crisis, says Klopp
 Jurgen Klopp claims criticism of Liverpool's recent struggles is unjustified because their poor run is just a temporary blip.

Manchester clubs thru'

APF, London

Marcus Rashford fired Manchester United into the League Cup fourth round as the holders crushed Burton 4-1, while Manchester City eased through with a 2-1 win at West Bromwich Albion on Wednesday.

City and United, currently first and second in the Premier League, took contrasting routes to the last 16, where they were joined by Chelsea, Arsenal and Everton as the big guns advanced despite fielding weakened teams.

United manager Jose Mourinho made nine changes from the side that thrashed Everton on Sunday, with Rashford and Juan Mata the only survivors.

Rashford took just five min-

utes to open the scoring with a deft finish and the England forward struck again in the 17th minute with a powerful effort.

Burton, 19th in the Championship, were killed off in the 36th minute when Jesse Lingard's shot deflected in off Ben Turner.

Injury-ravaged United left-back Luke Shaw came on for his first appearance since April before Anthony Martial scored the fourth from Rashford's pass on the hour.

Lloyd Dyer got one back for Burton in stoppage-time.

"If you ask me could English football survive or even be better without this competition? Maybe we would be fresher for European competition for example," Mourinho said.

"But we have this competition, we have to respect the sponsors, we have to respect the opponents and a lot of us are trying to do our best."

Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford bagged a brace as his side handed Burton a 4-1 loss in the English League Cup on Wednesday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

ALVAREZ BEATS CANCER AGAIN

Yeray Alvarez has beaten testicular cancer for the second time in as many years. The 22-year-old defender was initially treated for the disease in December of 2016 before undergoing a relapse in June of this year when 'abnormalities' were found during a routine medical test with the Spain Under-21 side. Having already had a testicle removed following his first diagnosis, Yeray then underwent chemotherapy immediately following the second while the rest of his teammates shaved their heads in solidarity. It would seem like the chemo was successful, with Bilbao today confirming that their man is now 2-0 up against cancer - "he treatment phase scheduled in June for the disease has ended. In the next few days [Yeray] will be discharged and will begin the phase of progressive incorporation to the team," Betis tweeted.



AGENCIES

Juve, Napoli pull clear

AFP, Milan

Champions Juventus and Napoli pulled clear at the summit of Serie A as they continued their faultless campaigns on Wednesday as Inter Milan fell behind.

Croatia forward Mario Mandzukic scored for Juventus in a 1-0 win over old Fiorentina in Turin as Napoli rallied from a goal down to beat Lazio 4-1 in Rome.

Juventus and Napoli have a maximum 15 points after five games, two ahead of Inter Milan who were held 1-1 at Bologna on Tuesday.

Stefan de Vrij had given Lazio a half-time lead over Napoli, but the hosts hit back in the second half with three goals in a four-minute spree including a stunning Dries Mertens strike.

After a tense first half Mandzukic found the opening for Juventus with a diving header after 53 minutes.

Fiorentina were reduced to ten men for the final half an hour after midfielder Milan Badelj saw red.

"These games teach that to win you have to suffer, 1-0 is a good result," said Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri ahead of this weekend's Turin derby. "Napoli, like Inter, Milan and Rome are our rivals. We have to advance calmly, step by step. The derby will be a nice match, we will have a few days to recover."

Napoli routed Lazio in the second half despite Simone Inzaghi's side having gotten off to a flying start with defender De Vrij opening the scoring after 29 minutes.

But injuries to defenders Bastos and then De Vrij turned the tide in favour of Napoli with three goals in the space of a frenetic four minutes.

Senegal's Kalidou Koulibaly got the equaliser after 54 minutes and then Jose Callejon added another two minutes later followed by a superb Mertens effort, before Inzaghi added a fourth from the spot as the clock ticked.

AC Milan are fourth after beating promoted SPAL 2-0 thanks to two penalties as Torino struggled to a 3-2 win over Udinese and are fifth.

AS Roma outclassed promoted Benevento 4-0 to move to seventh.



Costa going back to Atleti

APF, Madrid

Chelsea and Atletico Madrid announced Thursday that they had reached an initial agreement for the transfer of Diego Costa to return to the La Liga club.

"Atletico de Madrid and Chelsea have reached an initial agreement for the transfer of Diego Costa," the Spanish side said in a statement. "The agreement is pending the formalisation of the contract between our club and the Spanish international forward."

"The English club has authorised Diego Costa to travel to Madrid in the coming days to undergo medical tests and settle his contract with our club."

Chelsea said they had "agreed terms with Atletico Madrid for the transfer of Diego Costa."

"The transfer will be subject to the agreement of personal terms and a medical."

Costa, 28, has been frozen out by Chelsea manager Antonio Conte and spent the transfer window angling for a return to former club Atletico that never materialised.

The deal was worth 60 million euros according to AS, while Marca said Atletico will pay 55m euros with a further 10m euros in add-ons.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



Dries Mertens spun on a swivel and incredibly chipped the keeper from a crossing position on the side of the box in Napoli's 3-1 Serie A win over Lazio on Wednesday.

Neymar-Cavani tension 'normal'

APF, Paris

Paris Saint-Germain coach Luis Emery has admitted that tensions mounted in the dressing room at the Parc des Princes last weekend following the penalty dispute between Neymar and Edinson Cavani against Lyon.

"They are two very competitive players. They want the best for the team first of all, but then they also have individual objectives," said Emery at a press conference on Thursday.

"I think: There is a good atmosphere in the squad, just after the match it was very emotional, so you can have conversations. People might call them disputes but they are normal and happen after practically every match,

in one sense or another. "But it doesn't break the harmony or the good atmosphere in the team," insisted the Spaniard.

PSG beat Lyon 2-0 in the Ligue 1 game to make it six wins from six to start the season but the post-match debate was dominated by the penalty incident.

PSG were leading 1-0 when they won a spot-kick with 10 minutes remaining for a foul on Kylian Mbappe. Having already scored three times from the spot this season, Cavani assumed the responsibility would once again be his.

Neymar tried to get the ball from the Uruguayan but it was Cavani who eventually took it, only to see his effort saved.

Emery's inability to designate a

clear first-choice penalty taker has led to criticism in some quarters of weak management from the Spaniard.

"Last year, the penalty taker was Cavani. This year, with the arrival of Neymar, there are two. After that, who is number one and who is number two, that is a decision I'll have to take," he said on Thursday.

There has been talk of tensions in the PSG dressing room between Neymar and his fellow Brazilians on one side and the rest of the squad on the other.

Another incident in Sunday's game saw Cavani and Neymar disagree over who should take a free-kick with the match still goalless. Dani Alves intervened to give his compatriot the ball on that occasion, and Neymar's strike was saved.

Admission Notice

MPhil & PhD Programmes (Session: 2017-2018)

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 Website: www.bup.edu.bd

Admission Schedule

Application submission deadline	09 Nov 2017
Publication of list of eligible candidates for viva-voce on BUP website (www.bup.edu.bd)	After 1500 hours 23 Nov 2017
Viva-voce	29 Nov - 07 Dec 2017
Publication of list of finally selected candidates on BUP website (www.bup.edu.bd)	After 1500 hours 12 Dec 2017
Finally selected candidates must complete all admission formalities	13-21 Dec 2017
Course work class commences	05 Jan 2018

* For eligibility criteria, application procedure and other instructions, please visit "Admission > Apply for MPhil & PhD Programmes" link of BUP website (www.bup.edu.bd).

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