

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
English Premier League
West Ham v Tottenham
Live from 5:30pm
Southampton v Man United
Live from 8:00pm
Leicester v Liverpool
Live from 10:30pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
Bundesliga
Dortmund v Monchengladbach
Live from 10:30pm
SONY ESPN
Ligue 1
Montpellier v PSG
Live from 9:00pm

TEN 1
Serie A
Juventus v Torino
Live from 12:45am (Sunday)
TEN 2
La Liga
Atletico Madrid v Sevilla
Live from 5:00pm

Alaves v Real Madrid
Live from 8:15pm
Malaga v Athletic Bilbao
Live from 10:30pm
Girona v Barcelona
Live from 12:45am (Sunday)

SION PRESIDENT ATTACKS COMMENTATOR

FC Sion president Christian Constantin physically attacked a television commentator following a league match on Thursday, then said he had "sorted out" a difference between the pair. Part of the attack was caught on camera and showed commentator Rolf Fringer, already on the ground, being slapped on the head by the 60-year-old Constantin, shortly after Sion's 2-1 win at Lugano. Soon afterwards, Constantin said that Fringer had criticised him and treated him badly earlier. "Now, I've sorted that out," Constantin said. "I grabbed him and I kicked him in the backside. When you are attacked, you have to defend yourself." —REUTERS



DAY'S EVENT

NATIONAL CRICKET LEAGUE
Four-Day Match, Day-2
Time: 9:30am

Khulna v Barisal
Venue: SANS, Khulna
Dhaka v Rangpur

Venue: SCS, Bogra
Dhaka Metro v Sylhet
Venue: SKICS Academy,

Cox's Bazaar
Rajshahi v Chittagong
Venue: SKS, Rajshahi

Paris Saint-Germain superstar Neymar (L) issued an apology to all his teammates over his confrontation with Edinson Cavani in their last match against Lyon.

PHOTO: AFP



Neymar issues apology to PSG

AGENCIES, Paris

Neymar has taken to apologising to his PSG team-mates for the dramatic and controversial start to his time in the French capital following his £198 million move from Barcelona over the summer.

According to a big report in French newspaper L'Equipe, the Brazilian has said sorry to all the players at the club, including Cavani, after two separate set-piece rows with him – and apparently a third in the dressing room following the 2-0 win over Lyon.

L'Equipe reports that Neymar issued a grovelling apology: "After the altercation that took place on Sunday between Neymar and Edinson Cavani, in the wake of the match against Lyon, the Brazilian apologised to the PSG players."

"Neymar wished to apologise, on Wednesday, to all his team-mates, after their training session."

"Thiago Silva served as an interpreter to his Brazilian compatriot, who regretted his attitude in the locker room."

Not only this, but the newspaper also reported that right-back Dani Alves, who was partially involved in the penalty row during the Lyon game, took the pair out for dinner.

"[Alves] invited his partners to dinner last night at the Victoria Paris, a trendy 16th century restaurant with a breathtaking view of the Arc de Triomphe."

"Edinson Cavani and Neymar found themselves in a calm atmosphere after their altercation on Sunday night against Lyon following of the penalty drama."

Neymar's apology and Alves's peace-seeking dinner come days after L'Equipe published a story on the dressing-room altercation.

FIFA BEST PLAYER AWARD Neymar joins CR7, Messi

AFP, London

Neymar was named alongside Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi on the three-man shortlist for the Best FIFA Men's Player Award, which was announced in London on Friday.

Brazil superstar Neymar, 25, won the Copa del Rey with Barcelona last season before joining Paris Saint-Germain in a blockbuster 222 million euros (\$266 million) move that smashed the world transfer record.

Ronaldo, 32, is the overwhelming favourite to win the award, having led Real Madrid to the La Liga title and a third Champions League success in four years last season.

He won last year's award after winning the Champions League with Madrid and the European Championship with Portugal.

Ronaldo previously won the FIFA World Player of the Year award in 2008 and is a four-time winner of the Ballon d'Or.

Long-term camp for U-16 women

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has decided to keep the under-16 women's team in continuous training with an eye on next year's AFC U-16 and U-19 Women's Championship Qualifiers as well as December's SAFF U-15 Women's Championship.

The players of the under-16 team were released on September 19, the day after they arrived in Dhaka following the AFC U-16 Women's Championship in Thailand where they played brilliant football against Japan and Australia despite a moral-shattering defeat in their opening game against holders North Korea.

The girls in red and green are supposed to report to the team management on September 27 and start training the following day for the SAFF U-15 Women's Championship, which will be held

in Dhaka in December.

"The aim of the training camp is to prepare the girls for December's SAFF U-15 Women's Championship with the participation of 37 players. Out of those 37, some 27 players including 13 from the AFC U-16 Championship squad are eligible to take part in the SAFF U-15 Championship. The rest of the players will continue training as part of their preparation for next year's AFC U-19 Women's Championship Qualifiers," coach Golam Rabbani Choton told The Daily Star.

Choton informed that they have already included 13 more players, who had a one-and-a-half month's training with the under-16 team that played in Thailand recently.

"Before leaving for Thailand, we had conducted training with 37 players with an addition of 13 new players, who were picked from trials. Those 13 players are already familiar

with the system of training due to having spent one-and-a-half month," said Choton.

"Among the 13 new players, some had represented Bangladesh in the AFC U-14 Girls' Regional Championship in Tajikistan. They may not be as good as the under-16 players but there are talented players among them and we expect to take part in both the SAFF U-15 Championship and AFC U-16 Women's Championship Qualifiers with the combination of experienced and new players," said the successful women's team coach.

Choton will definitely have an advantage having the 13 players -- Mahmuda Akter, Rupa Akter, Maria Manda, Marzia, Monika Chakma, Anuching Mogini, Shamsunnahar, Akhi Khatun, Nilufa Yasmin Nila, Anai Mogini, Nazma Akter, Sara Ban Tahura, and Mosammat Sultana -- who were part of the U-16 team in

Thailand. Six of whom were in the starting eleven.

When asked whether he needs to pick more players for the AFC U-19 Women's Championship Qualifiers, Choton said: "There are many players outside the existing under-16 squad but there is no one like those of the under-16 team. Besides, the majority of the players of the under-16 team have already represented the senior team in last year's SAFF Women's Championship."

BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag said that the training camp will continue till the next qualifiers but he is a bit worried about the accommodation facilities for the players.

"We have shortage of seats at the BFF dormitory. After the return of women's wing chairman Mahfuza Akter Kiran from Thailand, we will sit for a meeting to take a decision regarding how to accommodate all the players," said Shohag.

Ronaldo ahead of James and Federer

STAR SPORT DESK

With insight from the panel of trainers, strength and conditioning coaches and performance experts, Sports Illustrated identified the fittest athletes in the world and their findings reveal that Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo is the king of fitness.

LeBron James, indisputably the best basketball player in the world, was ranked second while Swiss Maestro Roger Federer surprisingly came in at third.

Weightlifter Mat Fraser came in at fourth while NFL linebacker James Harrison and receiver Odell Beckham Jr ranked fifth and sixth respectively.

Oklahoma City Thunder's explosive

point guard Russel Westbrook, sprint star Wayne van Niekerk and MMA fighter Conor McGregor rounded off the top 10.

Rafael Nadal came in 20 spots behind Federer, while WWE's John Cena was ranked 24th.

Other notable athletes on the list include cyclist Chris Froome (12th) and Chelsea midfielder N'Golo Kante (48th), while Indian cricketer Virat Kohli's exclusion raised many eyebrows.

Athletes were considered based on performances in the last 12 months, demands and risks of their respective sports, training regimens, longevity and physical benchmarks, including: speed, strength, endurance, agility, flexibility and power.



RONALDO

FEDERER

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:

Warner finds it funny how Ind-Aus games are advertised

Australia's David Warner says that he found it funny how the Ind-Aus rivalry is portrayed in the media.

Juventus, Napoli seek boost before European battle

Juventus and Napoli will be looking to make it six wins out of six in Serie A Saturday before must-win Champions League games next week.

'Real get anxious without early goal at Bernabeu'

Real Madrid have only taken two points from their three home games in front of their own fans in this La Liga season and playmaker Isco Alarcon feels troubled by the start that the Loo Blancos have made in the league.

'Bartomeu not telling the truth about Messi'

FC Barcelona are a club where the alarm bells can go off at any time and now Augusti Benedito has challenged the claims of the current president regarding Messi's contract renewal.

'I'll return to Real if needed'



AGENCIES, London

Brazil great Ronaldo is ready to return to fitness if struggling Real Madrid need him this season.

Zinedine Zidane's men slipped seven points adrift of rivals and LaLiga leaders Barcelona after a shock 1-0 loss to Real Betis on Wednesday.

Madrid have scored just nine league goals -- as many as Barcelona maestro Lionel Messi who has enjoyed his best start to the season in his already storied career -- this season, and former star Ronaldo said he could be ready if required.

"We have a lot of players who can score goals and I'm sure it won't be a problem," he said on Thursday, via AS. "And if something happens, I'll get back in shape myself if I'm needed."

But just like Zidane, Ronaldo -- who won two La Liga titles with Madrid -- said there was no reason to panic.

"I don't think Madrid have been lacking anything over the last few years, they've already shown what they are capable of," he said.

"Last season they went through something similar and went on to win the league and the UEFA Champions League. This season is only just starting.

"Even after winning everything we've won up to now, three poor games at home means the questions are starting but there is absolutely no doubt about the capabilities of the team."

Tottenham's appetite for success

AFP, London

Mauricio Pochettino took his Tottenham players and staff for a steak dinner this week in a bid to fuel his club's appetite for success.

Pochettino paid for a large group of Tottenham stars and his coaches, as well as the club's chairman Daniel Levy, to eat at the Beast restaurant on London's Oxford Street.

The menu boasts steaks from Finland, Spain and Nebraska and Pochettino chose the Spanish cut, which came in at £13 (\$17, 14 euros) per 100g, as well as wine from his native Argentina.

With a London derby against West Ham looming for Tottenham on Saturday, Pochettino believes his title-chasing team will benefit from bonding over the dinner table.

"You need time to create a good dynamic, not only tactics but outside too," Pochettino said on Friday.

"We had a dinner in a restaurant in London with all the staff and players that I invite of course. I paid the bill at the end! That is true, the one time that I was invited!

"That is important because you prefer to say, 'Shall we do tactics here in the morning or would you prefer to go last night and put all the staff, the players and the chairman too in a restaurant?' That is tactics too."

'So now I'm jinxed?'

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane joked Friday that he was "jinxed" as his team comes under attack for their misfiring start to this season's La Liga campaign.

"So now I'm jinxed, am I?" the Frenchman said two days after Real suffered a shock 1-0 defeat by Real Betis.

"Before I was the shining star... No, no, I've always been a shining star, don't worry."

"I'm at this club and I make the absolute most of being here."

"I don't think about bad luck, that's part of football and the good news is that we have a match tomorrow. We have the chance to be able to change that quickly and we'll do it."

In the space of just five games Real have gone from red hot La Liga title favourites to trailing rivals Barcelona by seven points ahead of Saturday's trip to Alaves.

When Madrid swept a crisis-ridden Barca aside 5-1 in the Spanish Super Cup last month, Zidane's men were expected to romp to the title.

Instead, disappointing home draws against Valencia and Levante were compounded as Real failed to score for the first time in 74 games when Real Betis became the first side other than Barca or Atletico Madrid to win at the Santiago Bernabeu in La Liga for six-and-a-half years on Wednesday.

But Zidane insisted that his team was not of the mindset that La Liga was already beyond their grip.

"You can have a 10 or 15-point deficit but in football there are highs and lows and you can experience bad moments and each team will experience them," the 1998 World Cup winner said.

"My character is that I won't scream for screaming's sake or do things that are out of keeping for me."

"Tomorrow, we have a match in which to prove ourselves and I have a match to show that I'm worthy of being in this job."

Zidane added that he was happy to be coming up against his eldest son Enzo, who



ZINEDINE ZIDANE

joined Alaves from Real's reserves over the summer.

"I hope he won't score because we're competitors, him from his side and me from mine."

Barca's impressive start to the season on the field has been overshadowed this week as the club condemned the escalating political tension in the region in the build-up to an October 1 referendum on independence organised by pro-separatist politicians.

A powerful symbol of Catalonia across the world, Barca called for respect for "democracy, to freedom of speech, and to self-determination."

Fourteen regional government officials were detained on Wednesday as part of the crackdown by the Spanish government on plans for the referendum.

With Barca expected to rack up a seventh straight win in all competitions against newly-promoted Girona, attention will be focused as much on demonstrations that could take place by both sets of fans at Montilivi.

The most enticing clash of the weekend comes at the Wanda Metropolitan on Saturday lunchtime as third hosts second when Atletico Madrid welcome Sevilla.

FIXTURES

(all times GMT)

Saturday: Atletico Madrid v Sevilla (1100), Alaves v Real Madrid (1415), Malaga v Athletic Bilbao (1630), Girona v Barcelona (1845)

Sunday: Espanyol v Deportivo La Coruna (1000), Getafe v Villarreal (1415), Eibar v Celta Vigo, Las Palmas v Leganes (both 1630), Real Sociedad v Valencia (1845)

Monday: Real Betis v Levante (1900)

River Plate's stunning comeback

REUTERS, Buenos Aires

River Plate cruelly ended Bolivian rank outsiders Wilstermann's dream Libertadores Cup run when the Argentine side overturned a three-goal deficit with an 8-0 second leg rout in their quarter-final clash.

Former AEK Athens and Sunderland forward Ignacio Scocco instigated one of the most remarkable comebacks in competition history by scoring a hat-trick between the ninth and 19th minutes of Thursday's match.

Midfielder Enzo Perez added a fourth in the 36th minute, then two more goals from Scocco and one from Ignacio Fernandez early in the second half made it 7-0 before the hour. Perez completed the rout with his second in the 67th minute.

"That will be one of our most remembered games, it will stay in the memory of all of us and our supporters," River coach Marcelo Gallardo told reporters.

The Libertadores Cup has never been won by a Bolivian team and the visitors had far exceeded expectations by reaching the quarterfinals.

The team play their home games at 2,500 metres above sea level, which gives them an advantage.

"I have nowhere to hide after conceding eight goals. I'm entirely to blame," coach Roberto Mosquera lamented.

Argentine side Lanus, Brazil's Gremio and Ecuador's Barcelona are the other semifinalists.