

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

TEN 2

UEFA Champions League

Qarabag v Chelsea

Live from 11:00pm

Juventus v Barcelona

Live from 1:45am (Thursday)

TEN 3

UEFA Champions League

Atletico Madrid v Roma

Live from 1:45am (Thursday)

SONY ESPN

UEFA Champions League

PSG v Celtic

Live from 1:45am (Thursday)

SONY SIX

UEFA Champions League

Anderlecht v Bayern

Live from 1:45am (Thursday)

Australia v England

1st Test, Day-1

Live from 6:00am (Thursday)

Bangladesh Premier League

Team BJMC v Ctg Abahani

Time: 4:30pm

Mohammedan v Abahani

Time: 6:45pm

Venue: BNS, Dhaka



Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi (C) trains ahead of his side's clash with Juventus tonight. Although the Argentine scored twice in the first fixture at the Nou Camp, the challenge this time around is sure to be tougher away from home.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Dybala peaking for Messi clash

AFP, Turin



Juventus star Paulo Dybala has rediscovered his scoring form just in time as he renews his rivalry with fellow Argentina Lionel Messi in Wednesday's Champions League clash with Barcelona.

The 30-year-old Messi scored two goals to help Barcelona to a comfortable 3-0 win over Juventus, last season's finalists, at the Nou Camp in September.

Messi then scored a hatrick in Ecuador to carry Argentina through to the 2018 World Cup. Dybala was on the substitute's bench in Quito but the 24-year-old will be on the field in Turin where a win will ensure Juventus reaches the knockout rounds.

Barcelona lead Group D by three points with two rounds to go, and Ernesto Valverde's side need only a draw to advance as group winners.

Dybala made a record-setting start to the Serie A season with 10 goals in six games before suffering a dip in form.

He got back on the scoresheet in the final seconds of Sunday's 3-2 loss at Sampdoria, to bring his tally to 12 goals in 13 games.

Since arriving in Turin from Palermo in 2015, the player dubbed "The Jewel" has scored 56 goals in 112 games. But he has yet to open his tally in Europe this term.

Messi has hit three in the Champions League this season to join Ronaldo in the exclusive club of players who have scored 100 goals in European competition.

Diminutive, dynamic and with a deadly left foot like his idol, Dybala names Messi as a source of inspiration, although he has also spoken about how difficult it is to play alongside the superstar in the Argentine national team.

Dybala said he had been misinterpreted,

adding that Messi had laughed off the comments when he tried to explain.

"Leo is like Maradona for those of our generation," Dybala told France Football. "For me it's an honour to play with him in the national team."

"He dragged us to the World Cup with the hatrick in Ecuador. He is a born leader."

Dybala has said that he would like one day play alongside Messi's former Barcelona teammate Neymar Jr. The pair have long been tipped as heirs to Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, who have dominated world soccer's annual awards in

recent years.

"I have to work to improve and win trophies. Once, in front of a bonfire with friends we all made a wish - my own was to win the Ballon d'Or."

As for his future at six-time defending Serie A champions, he added: "In football you never know, but I'm not thinking of going away."

Barca are in top form having won 11 and drawn one of 12 domestic matches this season to sit four points ahead of Valencia in La Liga.

Juventus, after their setback at Sampdoria, are third in Serie A.



A year after eliminating Barcelona from the Champions League with a sublime brace, Juventus forward Paulo Dybala (L) is hitting form at just the right time to repeat his heroics before their Champions League encounter at the Juventus Stadium tonight.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

All set for archery bonanza

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Archery Federation (BAF) is spending busy time to host Asia's biggest show of arrows and bows as the 20th edition of Asian Archery Championships gets underway from November 25 in Dhaka.

Some 35 nations including world beaters South Korea, Chinese Taipei, Japan, China and India are expected to take part in the six-day competition which will also be the second biggest sports show in Bangladesh in terms of participating teams after the Roll Ball World Cup where some 39 countries took part earlier this year.

This will be the fifth international tournament hosted by the BAF, after hosting one South Asian Archery Championship, two Asian Grand Prix events and one Islamic Solidarity Archery Championship after starting its journey in 2001.

The Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium, the lone practice venue for the event, will be opened for practice from tomorrow while the competition venue – the Bangabandhu National Stadium, will be handed over to the BAF after football matches of the Bangladesh Premier League on Friday night.

Mohammedan face Abahani today

SPORTS REPORTER

The fourteenth round of the Bangladesh Premier League gets underway today with archrivals Abahani and Mohammedan renewing their rivalry following the day's first match between leaders Chittagong Abahani and Team BJMC at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Abahani are in third position of the 12-team table with 27 points from 13 matches, five less than leaders Chittagong Abahani. The Sky Blues need a win in this match to stay in the title race while a win for Mohammedan will only raise them from sixth position and move them up from 17 points.

In the previous 20 meetings of the professional football league between the two sides, Abahani enjoy a record of eight wins, eight draws and four defeats against their arch rivals. Abahani also beat the Black and Whites in their last three meetings including 1-0 win in the first leg.

Sharapova in fraud probe

AFP, New Dehli



Five-time Grand Slam champion Maria Sharapova is under investigation in India for cheating and criminal conspiracy after the collapse of a luxury housing project that she endorsed, police and a lawyer said Tuesday.

The firm behind the development is alleged to have taken millions of dollars from homebuyers before the project folded.

"We have registered a case of cheating on directions from the court," local police officer Arvind Sharma told AFP.

He said Sharapova and the firm behind the development, Homestead Infrastructure Development, were named in a case.

The 30-year-old tennis star travelled to India in 2012 to launch the luxury high-rise apartment complex -- later named Ballet by Sharapova -- which prospective buyers were told would house a tennis academy, a clubhouse and a helipad.

The website of the project quotes Sharapova as saying her goal was to "make the owners feel like they own something special and different".

"Any celebrity who endorses any product technically becomes an agent for that company. No one would have invested in the project if Sharapova's name was not there," said Piyush Singh, a lawyer representing the complainant.

The project in Gurgaon -- a satellite city of the capital New Delhi -- was supposed to be ready in 2016 but, Singh said, construction work was abandoned after builders collected millions from homebuyers.

Calls to the developers went unanswered. Sharapova has not yet commented on the case.



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:

Ireland pick Malahide to host inaugural Test

Ireland cricket bosses have chosen Malahide near Dublin to host the country's inaugural Test match against Pakistan next year.

Warner hurts neck but confident of playing in Gabba

David Warner gave the Australian camp a scare ahead the opening Ashes Test by hurting his neck during a fielding drill but the opening batsman is confident he will be fit to face England at the Gabba.

Guardiola plays down Man City CL favourites tag

Pep Guardiola says Manchester City are still not among the favourites to win the Champions League despite their eye-catching form in domestic and European competition.

Benz, CR7 second worst striking duo

AGENCIES, Madrid



Real Madrid's forward line is renowned for its prowess in front of goal all across Europe, but with Cristiano Ronaldo and Karim Benzema having hit the back of the net only once this season, they are the second-worst attacking pair in Europe's top five leagues this season.

Of the 98 clubs that make up Spain's La Liga, England's Premier League, Germany's Bundesliga and Italy's Serie A, only Italian strugglers Benevento -- who have the worst start to a top-flight season in history -- have more profligate strikers.

Although the blame cannot solely lie with the strikers -- the entire Real side, including its battle-hardened midfield - has been struggling through the season, Benzema and Ronaldo have previously not shared less than 10 goals after 12 match days. Last season the pair had 12 at this point.

Presently, Benzema has not scored in 283 minutes of league football while Ronaldo has been starving for an incomprehensible 365 minutes.

However, although the stats in the league are bad, Ronaldo can take solace from the fact that he has netted six times in the Champions League, where he is the top scorer.

But a stroll around Europe shows that the problem is a cause for concern. Paris Saint-Germain's Edinson Cavani and Neymar have shared 22 goals, Nabil Fekir and Mariano have 20 at Lyon, Messi and Suarez at Barcelona have 17, and Lewandowski and Muller have 14 at Bayern Munich.

Alvaro Morata, who Real let go of this summer, has eight goals for Chelsea while the duo of Sergio Agüero and Gabriel Jesus have 16 at Manchester City. There are also players that are not expected to score many goals who are currently ahead of the duo such as Barcelona's summer signing Paulinho, who has four goals so far while even a defender like Chelsea's Marcos Alonso has three.

This side is not so far removed from the historic side of last season when they became the first side to win back-to-back Champions League trophies. And if they are to even remotely challenge for a third this time around, they will need a cure for whatever is ailing their strikers sooner rather than later.

NATIONAL CHESS

Razib held by Rakib

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champion GM Enamul Hossain Razib was held to a draw by last edition's runners-up GM Abdullah Al Rakib as the Omicon Group 43rd National A Chess Championship got underway at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room yesterday.

Former champion IM Mohammad Minhaz Uddin Ahmed followed the footsteps of Razib by playing out a draw against FM Mehdi Hasan Parag while FM Aminul Islam drew against FM Sheikh Nassir Ahmed.

Niasse charged with 'deception'

REUTERS, London

Everton striker Oumar Niasse became the first Premier League player to be charged with "successful deception of a match official" on Tuesday after diving to win a penalty against Crystal Palace on Saturday, and could be banned for two games.

Niasse fell after minimal contact from Scott Dann, allowing Leighton Baines to equalise from the spot.

When Kane met Beckham

AGENCIES, London

Harry Kane's curriculum vitae speaks for itself: he's just behind Cristiano Ronaldo in the scorers' chart in this edition of the Champions League with five goals, one behind the Portuguese, and the last two Premier League Golden Boot awards sit on his mantelpiece at home. In 2015-16, he contributed 25 goals to the cause for Spurs and last season he improved on that figure, ending on 29.

But Kane means much more to Tottenham fans than just his goal scoring figures -- he's also a reference for the team. They've forgiven him for the very brief spell he spent playing for local rivals Arsenal as an eight-year-old in the Gunners academy. His parents Pat and Kim are fervent Spurs fans and once they introduced the young Harry to the old White Hart Lane stadium, that was it -- he was hooked for life.

It was at White Hart Lane where his football idols, Teddy Sheringham and David Beckham played. In 2005, when Beckham opened his football academy in Greenwich, a 12-year-old Harry Kane was one of his pupils.

"He [Beckham] was a big role model of mine growing up as he's from the same area and he was right in the era when I loved playing football," revealed Kane. "He was a role model on and off the pitch and he still is now, he's always got time for fans. He was a great



PHOTO: COLLECTED

In a photo from 2005, David Beckham stands between a 12-year-old Harry Kane (R) and the latter's now-fiancé, Katie Goodland.

professional, so looking at people like him can only make you a better person and player."

Kane and Beckham's lives have a lot in common -- they grew up close to each other in north east London and both attended Chingford Foundation School. Today, shirts signed by both players adorn the walls at the school. They also turned out for the same youth team - Ridgeway Rovers.

"I first met him in year seven, as

he went to the same secondary school as me and we got to launch his Academy at the O2 and there's been some pictures flying about. I got his autograph then and he came to train at Spurs under Harry Redknapp for a couple of months, so I got to meet him then and talk to him about that and my career. He's very down to earth and a top bloke. I got to know David better when he came to train with Tottenham for a few months in 2011," Kane added.