

GTV & MAASRANGA
Bangladesh Premier League
Eliminator
 Khulna Titans v Rangpur Riders
 Live from 2:00pm

Qualifier-1
 Comilla Victorians v Dhaka Dynamites
 Live from 7:00pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
 New Zealand v West Indies
 2nd Test, Day-1
 Live from 4:00am (Saturday)

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
 Bundesliga
 Stuttgart v Leverkusen
 Live from 1:30am (Saturday)

TEN 2
 La Liga
 Alaves v Las Palmas
 Live from 2:00am (Saturday)

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh Premier League
 Eliminator
 Khulna Titans v Rangpur Riders
 Time: 2:00pm

Qualifier-1
 Comilla Victorians v Dhaka Dynamites
 Time: 6:00pm
 Venue: SBNS, Dhaka



Portugal and Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo picked up a record-equaling fifth Ballon d'Or atop the Eiffel Tower in Paris yesterday, matching rival Lionel Messi's tally.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Ronaldo makes it 5

AFP, Paris



For much of Cristiano Ronaldo's career he has been in direct competition with Barcelona talisman Lionel Messi, both for club and individual honours, so it's fitting that the Real Madrid superstar has the same number of Ballon d'Or awards.

Ronaldo beat Messi and seven of his Champions League-winning Real teammates on Thursday to claim the award for the second straight year and fifth time overall, drawing level with Messi and reaffirming his place as equal partner in the greatest player rivalry the game has ever seen.

However Ronaldo, who will travel to Russia in 2018 in search of World Cup triumph after winning the European Championships in 2016, is not content with his record-equaling haul.

"I want seven. Five is good but seven is my lucky number so seven would be great," he said to French sports newspaper L'Equipe. "I want seven children (he has four) and seven Ballons d'Or."

Ronaldo winning the award is as historic as it is expected. He was 10-1 with British bookmakers before the announcement, who stopped taking bets once it became clear he was going to be rewarded for his role in Real's phenomenal 2016-17 season, in which they pipped Barcelona to the La Liga title and became the first ever European champions to defend their crown in the Champions League. Ronaldo scored 12 goals in the Champions

League last season, including knockout stage hat-tricks against Bayern Munich and Atletico Madrid and two in the 4-1 win over Juventus in the final, and 25 in La Liga.

The 32-year-old has got off to a slow start in La Liga this season but has scored a barely believable nine goals in the Champions League group stage.

After a career filled with club success, Ronaldo finally got an international monkey off his back in 2016, winning the European Championship with Portugal after a lifetime of near misses. In winning the competition, beating the heavily-favoured hosts France in the final, he broke yet another record -- his three goals made him the first player to ever score in four European Championships.

The personal and team success has convinced one man that he belongs among the best to ever play the game.

"When I finish my career, I will look at the statistics to see if I'm among the best," Ronaldo added. "Surely I will be."

TOP 10

1. Cristiano Ronaldo	(Portugal/Real Madrid)
2. Lionel Messi	(Argentina/Barcelona)
3. Neymar	(Brazil/Paris Saint Germain)
4. Gianluigi Buffon	(Italy/Juventus)
5. Luka Modric	(Croatia/Real Madrid)
6. Sergio Ramos	(Spain/Real Madrid)
7. Kylian Mbappe	(France/Paris Saint Germain)
8. N'Golo Kante	(France/Chelsea)
9. Robert Lewandowski	(Poland/Bayern Munich)
10. Harry Kane	(England/Tottenham Hotspur)

Coutinho refuses to rule out January move

AFP, London



Liverpool playmaker Philippe Coutinho has refused to commit his future to the Premier League club, saying he does not know whether he will be the subject of a transfer bid in January.

Barcelona made repeated efforts during the summer window to land the Brazil international but were rebuffed each time, leaving him frustrated.

Since then speculation has continued to swirl over the future of the 25-year-old, who scored a hat-trick in Liverpool's 7-0 demolition of Spartak Moscow on Wednesday, with his Catalan suitors reportedly ready to make another approach.

"I am at Liverpool and I always do my best when I have the opportunity to play, respecting the jersey and the supporters," said Coutinho, who has scored nine goals in 13 appearances this season.

"I do not know how the future is going to be. What will happen in January, we will know it in January. I do not know if there will be an offer."

"Last summer there was a job offer in the same way that happens with any employee and I was interested in it. Since I stayed I have played with will and desire."

Coutinho's hat-trick was his first for the

club and he hailed the achievement of making the latter stages of the Champions League as a significant moment.

"It was a special night due to the result and because I had the armband in such an important game playing for a club like Liverpool," added the player, who captained the side at Anfield.

"For sure this is my most important hat-trick. In the Champions League it was my first one. I scored one for Brazil but this was more important."

Defender Joe Gomez said Europe's top clubs have every reason to fear Liverpool.

They finished the group stage with 23 goals -- second-highest in the all-time list behind Paris Saint-Germain's 25 from the current campaign -- and although they avoided the likes of PSG and Barcelona, potential last-16 opponents include Bayern Munich, Juventus and Real Madrid.

"We believe we can beat anyone and we have to have that mentality," said Gomez.

"We have great quality and they can be scared of us the same way we can be wary of them so that's good."

In Wednesday's match Jurgen Klopp's side were 3-0 up inside 19 minutes on a night that saw their 'Fab Four' run riot -- Coutinho got his first hat-trick for the club, Sadio Mane scored twice and there was one each for Roberto Firmino and Mohamed Salah.



Liverpool fans were delighted with Philippe Coutinho (C) as the midfielder scored a sublime hat-trick in his side's 7-0 demolition of Spartak Moscow on Wednesday night, but his comments after the game have soured their mood.

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:

Kohli-Anushka set to tie the knot next week?

Rumours of a December wedding between India captain Virat Kohli and his girlfriend Anushka Sharma has gained momentum after India's Test series with Sri Lanka.



FIFA trial hears of dancing, private jet, massages

A Brazilian businessman told a US Federal Court that he helped set up a huge bribe to South American football officials to secure the rights for a new tournament.



'We have to disappear if Argentina don't do well'

Lionel Messi talked about the Argentina national team and their quest for World Cup glory in the Russia World Cup.



Fonseca overjoyed after Shakhtar stun Manchester City

An overjoyed Shakhtar Donetsk manager Paulo Fonseca fulfilled his promise to dress up as fictional character Zorro after leading his side into the Champions League knockout stages with a 2-1 win over Premier League club Manchester City.



CR7 sets another record

AFP, Madrid



Cristiano Ronaldo became the first player to ever score in all six Champions League group games in one season as

Real Madrid edged out a dispirited Borussia Dortmund 3-2 on Wednesday.

Lucas Vazquez grabbed the winner nine minutes from time for the European champions, who were already guaranteed to go through to the last 16 as runners-up in Group H to Tottenham Hotspur.

Ronaldo took his tally to nine goals in six European appearances this season with a spectacular long-range effort into the top corner after Borja Mayoral's opener to give Real a 2-0 lead inside 12 minutes.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang continued his excellent record against Madrid with a quickfire double either side of half-time to bring Dortmund level.

But after Vazquez's late strike, the Germans drop into the Europa League with a record low two points thanks to their better goal difference over APOEL Nicosia, who were defeated 3-0 at Spurs.

"The Champions League is a competition that I love to play and score in, as you can see," Ronaldo told UEFA.com. "We wanted to end the group phase well with a win. I scored a great goal and got the record as well which is important, so I'm very happy."

Madrid could face the likes of Paris Saint-Germain, Manchester City, Manchester United or Liverpool in Monday's last-16 draw.

However, Ronaldo believes the 12-



As he promised he would if his side advanced, Shakhtar Donetsk manager Paulo Fonseca put on a Zorro outfit at the press briefing following his side's Champions League win over Manchester City on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP

time winners are capable of an upturn in form in the new year to carry them to a third straight Champions League title.

"It is obvious that I like playing in this competition a lot, but the most important thing is to be able to get into the next round once more," he said. "Hopefully Real Madrid can win it for a third straight year."

PEP UNFAZED BY FIRST DEFEAT

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola showed no disappointment after a 2-1 Champions League defeat by Shakhtar Donetsk ended his team's unbeaten run in all competitions this season. The result also spoiled Guardiola's milestone 100th appearance as manager in Europe's premier

club competition but the Spaniard.

"We came here to win. We couldn't but we were trying until the end to do so. I'm happy for the performance," Guardiola said after the match.

Shifting his attention to the game against archrivals Manchester United on Sunday, Guardiola refused to be drawn into billing City as Champions League favourites heading into Monday's last-16 draw in Nyon, Switzerland.

"Now we are going to rest, come back tomorrow and prepare for the game [against Manchester United]," he said. "I always happens when the draw [is made] -- they talk about it but it depends how the team arrives at that moment."

PROBABILITIES OF EACH ROUND OF 16 MATCH UP

As the final round of the Champions League's group stage matches have been completed, all eyes now turn to the Round of 16 of Europe's elite competition, the draw for which will be held on Monday. Ahead of that, we present the probabilities of which teams may face off.

	Real Madrid	Bayern	Juventus	Sevilla	Chelsea	Porto	Shaktar	Basel
Barcelona	0.00%	13.54%	0.00%	0.00%	43.75%	13.54%	14.58%	14.58%
PSG	12.81%	0.00%	12.81%	12.81%	28.13%	10.83%	11.30%	11.30%
Man City	18.33%	14.84%	18.33%	18.33%	0.00%	14.84%	0.00%	15.31%
Man United	18.33%	14.84%	18.33%	18.33%	0.00%	14.84%	15.31%	0.00%
Tottenham	0.00%	15.31%	18.85%	18.85%	0.00%	15.31%	15.83%	15.83%
Liverpool	18.85%	15.31%	18.85%	0.00%	0.00%	15.31%	15.83%	15.83%
AS Roma	18.85%	15.31%	0.00%	18.85%	0.00%	15.31%	15.83%	15.83%
Besiktas	12.81%	10.83%	12.81%	12.81%	28.13%	0.00%	11.30%	11.30%

Saif SC return to winning ways

SPORTS REPORTER



Newcomers Saif Sporting Club returned to winning ways in the Bangladesh Premier League with a 2-0 victory over Muktiyoddha Sangsad at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

English striker Charles Edward Sheringham and substitute Matin Mia scored one each in the second half to give Saif SC a win after two successive draws against lightweights Farshganj and Arambagh.

An eighth win from 15 matches helped Saif SC to 30 points, six points behind leaders Chittagong Abahani while Muktiyoddha, with 11 defeats, remain 11th with eight points from 15 matches.

Saif SC began ordinarily and that saw the ball in the back of their net in the 32nd minute but they

were bailed out by the referee, who cancelled Maglan Awala's strike due to a foul on the goalkeeper.

However, Saif started the second half impressively and took the lead just two minutes in. Sheringham controlled a clearance from the goalkeeper, shrugged off two markers and darted into

SAIF SC	2 - 0	MUKTIJODDHA
(SHERINGHAM 47, MATIN MIA 90+)		
ARAMBAGH	1 - 1	BROTHERS
(RAJON 49)		(ZUNAPIO 83)

the box before firing a low shot past Azad Hossain.

Muktiyoddha Sangsad mounted two late attacks in the dying moments but fit-again Towhidur Rahman squandered both chances before substitute Matin Mia wrapped up Saif SC's

victory in stoppage time with a solo effort.

He received the ball in his own half and ran straight down the middle through the defence before dancing past the goalkeeper and coolly slotting home to ensure the three points.

In the day's second match, Arambagh and Brothers Union shared honours after playing out an exciting 1-1 draw under floodlights. The result saw Arambagh and Brothers at eighth and ninth with 15 and 14 points from 15 games respectively.

Both teams came into the match after having secured seven points from their past three fixtures, and they fought neck-and-neck till the final whistle.

Arambagh took the lead in the 49th minute through Rajon Mia, before Brothers equalised seven minutes from time with Congolese Zunapio side-volleying home from a corner.

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ADMISSION FAIR

Date : 9th December, 2017
 Time : 10am to 1pm & 3pm to 5pm
 Venue :
THAMES SQUARE
 754 Satmasjid Road (3rd Floor)
 (Star Kabab/Pizza Hut Building)
 Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209.
 exeducun@gmail.com

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