

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
English Premier League
Liverpool v Leicester City
Live from 9:00pm
Man United v Southampton
Live from 11:30pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
English Premier League
Chelsea v Stoke City
Live from 9:00pm
TEN 1
Serie A
Fiorentina v AC Milan

Live from 5:30pm
Roma v Sassuolo
Live from 8:00pm
Inter Milan v Lazio
Live from 11:00pm
Verona v Juventus
Live from 1:45am (Sunday)

KOMPANY COMPLETES MBA

Manchester City captain Vincent Kompany's plans for life after football are well underway as he graduated with a Master's in Business Administration. The 31-year-old has spent the last four years juggling playing for City and studying part time at Alliance Manchester Business School as he plans for life after he hangs up his boots. Despite picking up another injury in the 1-0 win against Newcastle United, the Blues skipper isn't planning on retiring any time soon. He said: "Although I want to continue playing football as long as possible, I may look to use this combination of academic learning and years of playing experience in the future." Not content with just winning titles with Manchester City, Kompany was determined to further his education. The son of a Congolese political activist and a Belgian trades unionist, Kompany had always been told by his parents of the importance of education, regardless of how promising he was as a footballer.

—AGENCIES



Arsenal striker Alexis Sanchez (R) celebrates his second goal with teammate Hector Bellerin during their Premier League 3-2 win over Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park on Thursday.

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:

'Room for more' as Ronaldo wins another Globe award

Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo was Thursday named Globe Soccer's Best Player for the second year in a row and the fourth time overall although he wasn't present in person to receive his trophy.

Messi is the best but doesn't let Ronaldo: 'Totti

Cristiano Ronaldo's statement: 'Ballon d'Or victory pulled him level with Barcelona playmaker Lionel

Messi on five awards apiece but

Francesco Totti believes that

Messi is the best.

Football celebrates Weah's victory

AFP, Paris

Former Chelsea star Didier Drogba led plaudits on Friday from the world of football to George Weah after the only African to win the Ballon d'Or was elected President of Liberia.

"Congratulations Mr. George" the Ivory Coast legend posted on Twitter.

"Didier, Didier for our support, we are both concerned and aware of the destiny of our peoples. Let's follow the same path," replied Weah.

Drogba's compatriot, Manchester City midfielder Yaya Toure wrote: "Congratulations president Weah!!"

Marseille's former Cameroon midfielder Stephane Mbia applauded Weah on his "superb career".

"First African Ballon d'Or in 1995, first retired player to be elected president of the Republic! Respect!"

Weah, idolised in Liberia as "Mister George", will be sworn in on January 22 after Thursday's run-off against vice president Joseph Boakai.

His election success was noted with pride by former clubs Monaco, Paris Saint-Germain and AC Milan.

Weah played at Monaco from 1988 to 1992 and the Ligue 1 side noted in a statement: "The entire club congratulates George Weah on his election to the presidency of Liberia and presents him with all its best wishes for success as head of his country!"

From Monaco Weah moved to PSG where he picked up two Cup titles in 1993 and 1995, a league title in 1994 and was crowned President of the French Footballer of the Year.

"We knew George Weah well before he became elected president of Liberia. Congratulations to the legend of PSG and world football on this new chapter

in his brilliant career," PSG wrote in English on Twitter.

AC Milan offered their congratulations "to the Red and Black legend" who starred for the club over four seasons, picking up two Serie A titles in 1996 and 1999.

Despite numerous examples of the game's former stars entering politics Weah is the first former player to succeed in being elected head of his country.

Others have launched political careers, most recently AC Milan's star Georgian defender Kakha Kaladze who was elected mayor of Georgia capital



Bilisi after serving as the Georgian government's Energy Minister.

In Brazil ex star striker Romario has served as a senator since 2015.

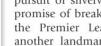
But until Weah being elected head of state was confined to powerful club directors like ex AC Milan boss Silvio Berlusconi in Italy, or the current Argentine President, Mauricio Macri, a former Boca Juniors president.

By winning this week's election Weah has created another precedent just as he did back in 1995 when he became the first African to win the Ballon d'Or.

"We knew George Weah well before he became elected president of Liberia. Congratulations to the legend of PSG and world football on this new chapter

'City want trophies not records'

AFP, London



Raheem Sterling says Manchester City are motivated by the pursuit of silverware rather than the promise of breaking more records as the Premier League leaders chase another landmark at Crystal Palace this weekend.

Pop Guardiola's side have already turned the title race into a lengthy coronation party after winning 18th successive league matches to open up a 15-point lead over second placed Manchester United.

A slew of statistical milestones have littered red-hot City's incredible run and they can finish 2017 by claiming another notable feat.

Just hours before the New Year's Eve

FIXTURES

(1500 GMT unless stated)

Saturday

Bournemouth v Everton, Huddersfield v Burnley,

Chelsea v Stoke, Liverpool v Leicester, Manchester

United v Southampton (1730 GMT), Newcastle v Brighton, Watford v Swansea

Sunday

Crystal Palace v Manchester City (1200 GMT), West

Brom v Arsenal (1630 GMT)

fireworks begin to light up the night sky on Sunday, unbeaten City will be at Selhurst Park looking for a record-equaling 19th consecutive league victory.

The only club in Europe's five big leagues to have had a winning run that long is Bayern Munich under Guardiola in 2013-14.

But, while the historic sub-plots are a welcome bonus, City winger Sterling insists it is the thought of moving another step closer to the Premier League title that inspires him.

"I don't think we are really too focused on records. The most important thing is the three points," said Sterling, who scored City's winner at Newcastle on Wednesday.

"Once you win the game and the stats come up, that's all well and good, but you can't be thinking about that."

"We've just got to have a single focus. At the end of the day, if it happens, it happens, but we need to go there with the mentality to get the job done."

United's failure to keep pace with City has sent Jose Mourinho into a grumpy mood, with the Old Trafford chief blasting his players after their recent draw at Leicester.



Keraniganj Red team and Nawabganj Green team players tussle for possession during their quarterfinal match of the Women's Football Competition at the Sultanate Kamal Women's Sports Complex yesterday. Keraniganj Red team won the match 7-2 and set up a semifinal clash against Keraniganj Green team.

PHOTO: STAR

UEFA 'don't care' about racism

AFP, London

Rhian Brewster, the leading scorer in England's Under-17 World Cup victory earlier this year, claimed Thursday that UEFA "don't care" about racism.

The 17-year-old, who is yet to feature for England, says he has witnessed racial abuse seven times this year.

"I don't think UEFA take this thing seriously. They don't really care. That is how it feels anyway, like it has been brushed under the carpet," the teenager told *The Guardian*.



"Unfortunately, in the past few days I started to feel pain in the elbow and after several tests, my medical team has advised me not to risk anything, to withdraw from the tournament and to immediately continue with the therapy."

plan, but the decision will be made in the following days."

The organisers have now put together a match between another former world No 1, Britain's Andy Murray, and Bautista-Agut at the same time.

Murray also hasn't played a match since his loss at Wimbledon to Sam Querrey.

He had been suffering from a hip injury and was spotted in Abu Dhabi on Thursday practicing with his coaching team.

The second semifinal of the tournament is between world No 5 Dominic Thiem of Austria and world No 14 Kei Nishikori of South Africa.

On Saturday, the tournament's final, former women's No 1 and 23-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams will make her return to court with an exhibition match against the reigning French Open champion, Jelena Ostapenko.

Williams has not played since winning the Australian Open because of pregnancy and the birth of her first child in September.

Sevilla appoint Montella

AFP, Madrid

Sevilla on Thursday said they had reached an agreement in principle with experienced Italian coach Vincenzo Montella to replace Julen Lopetegui, who was sacked just a month after it was announced he was suffering from prostate cancer.

Montella was sacked by AC Milan in November after just 17 months in charge with the Italian giants marooned in mid-table.

"Sevilla and Italian coach Vincenzo Montella have reached an agreement in principle so that he will be the permanent coach of the Sevilla first team until June 2019," the La Liga club announced on Wednesday.

The deal will be completed once Montella's lawyers have reached an agreement with AC Milan for the terms of departure of the coach from the Rossoneri."

Novak out of Abu Dhabi

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Former world number one and 12-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic withdrew from the Mubadala World Tennis Championship on Friday with elbow pain.

The 30-year-old Serbian star had targeted Abu Dhabi for his first match since his recent finals loss at Wimbledon in July this year.

Djokovic was scheduled to play Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut in the semi-finals of the exhibition tournament at 1900 local time. But four hours before that, Djokovic released a statement on his website announcing his intention. It is not clear still if he will play the Qatar Open where he is top seed next week.

"I am terribly disappointed that I am forced to withdraw from the Mubadala World Tennis Championship," Djokovic said in the statement.

He added: "Now I need to accept this situation, and to wait for the results of the therapies, in order to start playing tennis again and getting back to full rhythm. This might affect the start of the season and the tournament

but the decision will be made in the following days."

The organisers have now put together a match between another former world No 1, Britain's Andy Murray, and Bautista-Agut at the same time.