

What to WATCH

SONY SIX

Australia v England

5th Test, Day-5

Live from 5:30am (Monday)

TEN 1 & TEN 3

South Africa v India

1st Test, Day-3

Live from 2:30pm

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh Premier League

Saif Sporting v Ctg Abahani

Time: 4:30pm

Muktijoddha v Mohammedan

Time: 6:45pm

Venue: BNS, Dhaka

Celta Vigo v Real Madrid

Live from 1:45am (Monday)

SONY ESPN

FA Cup

Nottingham v Arsenal

Live from 10:00pm

TEVEZ JOINS BOCA FOR THIRD TIME

Former Manchester United and Juventus striker Carlos Tevez agreed a move back to boyhood club Boca Juniors on Friday after 12 months in Chinese football with Shanghai Shenhua, the Argentine team announced. "Tevez is coming home! He joined the team today and is already training with his teammates," Boca said on its various social media accounts alongside a photo of the player working out in a gym. It will be the 33-year-old's third spell at Boca Juniors. He was pictured in the gym wearing a Boca team shirt although the club did not reveal the value of the transfer. Argentine news agency Telam had said earlier that Tevez had already negotiated what jersey he will wear at the Buenos Aires club -- number 32. Tevez joined Shenhua in January last year on an estimated 730,000 euros a week salary, making him one of the world's highest-paid players.

- AFP

The Bangladesh Sports Press Association (BSPA) organised a colourful ceremony at a hotel in the capital yesterday to felicitate the best sportspeople of 2017. 13 personalities including athletes, organisers and a corporate house were honoured for their performances and contributions to their respective fields. Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed graced the occasion as chief guest.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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:

Federer recalls Hingis influence

Roger Federer paid tribute to the influence of countrywoman and former Hopman Cup team-mate Martina Hingis on his career after guiding Switzerland to their third success in the mixed teams tournament in Perth.

Lingard, Lukaku carry United to 4th round

Late goals by in-form Jesse Lingard and fit-again striker Romelu Lukaku helped Manchester United to reach the FA Cup fourth round as they ground out a 2-0 home win over Championship side Derby County.

Costa scores winner, gets sent off

AFP, Madrid

Atletico Madrid unleashed Diego Costa in La Liga on Saturday and the controversial centre-forward scored the winner before being sent off in a 2-0 home win over regional rivals Getafe.

Atletico's transfer ban ended last week and Costa was playing his first league game since rejoining the Spanish club from Chelsea.

The 2-0 win, in which France star Antoine Griezmann set up the opener for Angel Correa on 18 minutes, lifts Atletico into second, six points behind Barcelona who play Levante on Sunday.

It also took Atletico five points clear of third placed Valencia.

Costa had been lively the whole match and received a yellow card for a foul in the 62nd minute. Five minutes later he met a low cross to put his side 2-0 up and immediately earned a second yellow for leaping into the stands to celebrate with fans.

The brooding striker looked totally perplexed by the decision but his borderline style of play may inject some much needed bite to the Atletico forward line.

"His presence gives us speed and directness. And he frightens opponents too," said Atletico Coach Diego Simeone after the game.

"The referee was unable to consider the emotional aspect (of Costa's behaviour), the rules are the rules," he said.

Someone's side looked as hard to beat as ever -- with just eight goals conceded and one defeat in 18 league games -- but they have scored only 27 with Griezmann struggling to find the net, hitting just five league goals so far.

Atletico haven't won La Liga since Costa left for London.

Immobile hits four in rout

REUTERS, Milan

Lazio forward Ciro Immobile hit four goals in a 5-2 rout of SPAL on Saturday while a routine 2-0 win at home to Verona kept Napoli top of Serie A.

Torino's new coach Walter Mazzarri enjoyed a winning start with a 3-0 win over Bologna, who missed a penalty when the score was 1-1, and AC Milan scraped past Crotona 1-0 with the help of a goalkeeping mistake.

Meanwhile, bottom club Benevento, who failed to win in their first 18 games, made it two in a row by beating Sampdoria 3-2.

Napoli, aiming to stop Juventus' run of six successive titles, lead with 51 points from 20 games while Juve are second with 47 ahead of their visit to Cagliari later on in the day.

Maurizio Sarri's side needed 65 minutes to break down stubborn Verona before Kalidou Koulibaly

headed in from a corner and Jose Callejon volleyed home Lorenzo Insigne's cross.

Immobile took his tally to 20 in the league with his haul against SPAL, scoring a hat-trick between the 19th and 41st minutes and adding another five minutes into the second half.

Luis Alberto got Lazio off the mark in the fifth minute, wriggling through the defence to score a brilliant individual goal, before Mirko Aspinucci levelled with a penalty three minutes later.

Aspinucci also scored SPAL's other goal in the 31st minute.

Lorenzo De Silvestri headed Torino in front in the 38th minute, as Mazzarri took his place on the bench 48 hours after replacing the sacked Sinisa Mihajlovic, before a controversial start to the second half.

Bologna's Simone Verdi went down in the area and was booked for diving but the referee changed his mind and

awarded a penalty after consulting with the video assistant referee (VAR).

However, Erick Pulgar's spot kick was saved by Salvatore Sirigu and Torino went on to score further goals through M'Baye Niang and Iago Falque.

The VAR was also used at AC Milan who had a goal chalked off for a foul by Frank Kessie.

However, they were already in front by then after Crotona goalkeeper Alex Cordaz punched an attempted clearance straight at Leonardo Bonucci and the ball rebounded in.

Massimo Coda hit the woodwork twice before scoring a brace for Benevento against Sampdoria.

Gianluca Caprari gave the visitors a halftime lead but Coda curled in the equaliser in the 59th minute and scored with a free kick six minutes from time.

Enrico Rognola added a third and Dawid Kownacki pulled one back for Samp.

Coutinho set for Barcelona

AFP, Barcelona

Barcelona and Liverpool have agreed a deal in principle for Philippe Coutinho to move to the Spanish giants for 120 million euros (\$144 million) with add-ons worth another 40 million euros, a report said Saturday.

Barcelona-based Sport newspaper said Coutinho would join Barca this month on a deal for five seasons, although it said the details of the deal were still to be finalised.

"The club reached a deal in principle yesterday evening with Liverpool on the final amount of the deal," Sport reported.

Another newspaper, Mundo Deportivo, said Liverpool were demanding 160 million euros for 25-year-old Coutinho, but that the sum would be made up of the transfer fee and other "variables".

Coutinho's departure would be a blow to Liverpool as he is just rounding into top form, scoring six goals in the last seven games of 2017.

Crucially though, acquiring the playmaker would allow Barcelona to move on from the bitter experience of losing his Brazil teammate Neymar last summer to Qatar-backed Paris Saint-Germain for a world record 222 million euros.

Coutinho's age is also highly attractive to Barca, whose three main stars, Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Andres Iniesta are all in their thirties. Iniesta, at 33, has shown signs of fatigue this season.

Another report said Coutinho could arrive in Barcelona later Saturday and could be a spectator at Barcelona's game against Levante at the Camp Nou on Sunday.

French sport daily L'Equipe reported on Saturday that Liverpool were lining up Leicester's Riyad Mahrez to replace Coutinho, although other reports have indicated that the Merseyside club would prefer to sign Thomas Lemar from Monaco.

Coutinho played no role in Liverpool's 2-1 victory over city rivals Everton in the FA Cup on Friday. Liverpool's winner was scored by Virgil Van Dijk, the Dutch defender signed last week from Southampton for £75 million (\$101.7 million, 84.5 million euros).

War of words intensifies

AFP, Manchester

Jose Mourinho intensified his war of words with Chelsea manager Antonio Conte in bizarre fashion after his team's FA Cup victory over Derby on Friday, apparently referencing a match-fixing scandal in Italy.

The Manchester United manager was responding to comments made by Conte earlier in the day in which he appeared to make disparaging statements about Mourinho.

The Italian was even interpreted as suggesting that the United manager may be suffering from "dementia" after Mourinho had made a reference, 24 hours earlier, to his own behaviour and the fact that he no longer acts "like a clown".

Initially, Mourinho appeared to be backing Conte following the furore caused by his words on Thursday -- only then to make the reference to match-fixing.

"I was asked about my passion and, you know, I was speaking about myself and then the question to the Chelsea manager was that I said he behaved like a clown," said Mourinho.

"Probably the journalist wanted to say that but didn't have the courage so he said 'Mourinho said you behaved like a clown'.

"I don't blame the Chelsea manager at all and I understand his reaction. I was speaking about myself, saying I don't need to behave like a clown to show passion."

Mourinho referred to his managerial antics earlier in his career and said he had not lost his passion.

"I celebrated goals running 50 metres, I celebrated goals sliding on my knees, celebrations jumping in the crowd. I'm not free of that, especially if we score a winning goal in a specific

CONTE MOURINHO

moment I am not free to have an out-of-control reaction.

"What I was trying to say that I behave bad a few times and this moment I control myself better. It doesn't mean my passion is not the same. So wrong question and obviously a strong answer and I don't blame."

The United boss -- no stranger to controversy -- then changed tack and referenced match-fixing.

"What has never happened to me and will never happen is to be suspended for

match-fixing. That never happened to me and it will never happen."

The surprising reference to "match-fixing" drew a follow-up question as to whether it was directly aimed at Conte.

The Chelsea boss was acquitted of sporting fraud charges in 2016. Prosecutors had requested a six-month suspended sentence following accusations he failed to report episodes of match-fixing while in charge at Serie B side Siena in 2011.

The former Italy manager -- who has always denied any wrongdoing -- served a four-month ban in relation to the affair in 2012.

But when mention was made of the accusations against Conte, Mourinho said: "Did he? Not me."

Mourinho's reference to that controversy was just the latest twist in a verbal spat between the managers that seemed to have reached a climax earlier in the day when Conte was quizzed by reporters.

The most contentious of Conte's comments came when he used an Italian expression, "demenza senile" -- senile dementia.

"I think he (Mourinho) has to see himself in the past, maybe he was speaking about himself in the past, yeah?" said Conte.

"Maybe sometimes, someone forgets what they said or his behaviour and sometimes I think there is, I don't know the name, 'demenza senile', when you are a bit..."

Heynckes bins Vidal's Chelsea move

AFP, Doha

Jupp Heynckes said Saturday there had been no contact between Bayern Munich and Chelsea over Arturo Vidal and the Chilean international would not be sold during the January transfer window.

The veteran coach was responding to media reports over a possible transfer of the midfielder, which Heynckes dismissed as "pure speculation".

"Certainly, there's been no contact between the clubs," Heynckes said at a press conference at the Aspire Zone in Doha where the Bundesliga leaders are on a winter training camp.

"It's just speculation. Arturo Vidal is very motivated, he's a top player and we need him at his very best if Bayern is to play well."

Media reports in Britain and South America had linked the 30-year-old with a move to London in order to reunite with Chelsea coach Antonio Conte, who he played under at Juventus.

Players of Team 007 celebrate with the title of The Daily Star Intra-Office Cricket Tournament, held at the Jagannath Hall ground of Dhaka University yesterday, after beating Team 006 by seven runs in an exciting final.

PHOTO: STAR