

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

CHANNEL 9 & DSPORT

Nidahas Trophy

Bangladesh v Sri Lanka

Live from 7:30pm

SONY SIX

South Africa v Australia

Second Test, Day Two

Live from 2:00pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

New Zealand v England

5th ODI

Live from 4:00am

English Premier League

Man United v Liverpool

Live from 6:30pm

Chelsea v Crystal Palace

Live from 11:30pm

STAR SPORTS 2

ICC World Cup Qualifier

West Indies v Ireland

Live from 1:30pm

SONY ESPN

Ligue 1

PSG v Metz

Live from 10:00pm

TEN 1

La Liga

Eibar v Real Madrid

Live from 6:00pm

TEN 2

La Liga

Malaga v Barcelona

Live from 1:45am (Sunday)

Bangladesh Premier League

Time: 9:00am

Gazi Group v Prime Bank

Venue: BKSP-3

Prime Doleshwar v Abahani

Venue: SBNS

Mohammedan v Shinepukur

Venue: KSOAS

Youth Games set for colourful opening



The Bangabandhu National Stadium has taken a facelift ahead of today's opening ceremony of the final phase of Bangladesh Youth Games.

PHOTO: STAR

SPORTS REPORTER



The curtain on the inaugural Bangladesh Youth Games will lift today through a colourful ceremony at the Bangabandhu National Stadium as the budding athletes from across the country have lined up in the capital to demonstrate their ability after making it through to the grassroots level.

Country's premier venue has taken a new look ahead of today's opening ceremony as the sports regulatory body has taken initiatives to give a facelift to the multi-purpose venue, which had earlier hosted the opening ceremonies of 2010 South Asian Games, 2011 ICC World Cup and 2013 Bangladesh Games.

The galleries were painted after removing some useless chairs in a bid to making seating arrangements for general spectators, who can watch the ceremony without any entry fee as some gates of the stadium will open at 4:00pm. Though it is not clear how many general spectators will be allowed inside the big bowl, it is

believed that there will be very little opportunity as the main stage has been set up near the middle of the football pitch, which might see the galleries at the northern part vacant.

The ceremony will be telecast live by state-owned Bangladesh Television and private satellite channel MaasrangaTelevision.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will declare the seven-day games officially open at 7:10pm even though programmes will start in the afternoon through DJ show followed by citing of national anthem and hoisting of the national flag. There will be an audiovisual show of the youth games at district and divisional phases, march past of participating eight divisions, speech by guests and official declaration by the Prime Minister.

Afterwards, Manchester Commonwealth Games gold medalist Asif Hossain Khan will ignite the torch and the theme song of the games will be sung. Later, artists and singers will perform a stage show before a 25-minute display with participation of different artists will exhibit the past,

present and future of Bangladesh. Finally a laser show and fireworks will take place towards the end of the nearly two-hour programme.

Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) is spending one-fourth of the total budget of Tk 20 crore for the gala opening ceremony. However, such expenditure for a domestic multidiscipline sporting event is nothing new for the BOA, which had previously spent Tk 8 crore for the opening ceremony of the 8th Bangladesh Games in 2013.

"As the Youth Games is first of its kind, we want to inspire talented athletes by hosting a colourful opening ceremony in which participating athletes will stay inside the ground to remain involved with the event directly. Besides, we believe the ceremony will inspire other athletes to take part in the Youth Games in future," said BOA vice president and Youth Games' media committee chairman Sheikh Bashir Ahmed.

Some 2660 athletes from 21 disciplines will compete in 159 events during the final phase of the games.

Siddikur likely to miss cut

SPORTS REPORTER

Premier Bangladeshi golfer Siddikur Rahman's outing at the Hero Indian Open 2018 went from bad to worse in the second round as he carded a three-over-par for the round to fall to the 75th position with an aggregate five-over-par (149).

The 33-year-old will have to wait for others to finish their rounds at the DLF Golf and Country Club but looks unlikely to make the cut.

The two-time Asian Tour winner started brightly with a birdie on the first hole, but it all went downhill as he carded just one more birdie against five bogeys at the event in Gurgaon, which is co-sanctioned by the Asian Tour and European Tour.

Overnight leader Emiliano Grillo extended his lead to 11-under-par (133). He carded five birdies and a bogey in the US \$1,750,000 event.

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:

Axed for backing Kohli

Former India captain Dilip Vengsarkar claims that picking current India Captain Virat Kohli during an Emerging players tournament had caused him to lose his job as chairman of selectors.

Afghan wheelchair basketballers shoot to win

An explosion tore through Nilofar Bayat's leg when she was just two, but as she spins her wheelchair across a basketball court in Bangkok, the Afghan sports-woman is determined to turn her story from tragedy to triumph.

Jesus: 'Fighter' Neymar will be fine for WC

Manchester City striker Gabriel Jesus backed Brazilian international team-mate Neymar to make a full recovery in time to lead his country's bid to win a sixth World Cup.

PSG braced for fine

Paris St Germain are set to be punished by UEFA for their fans setting off flares and other offences in their 2-1 defeat at home to Real Madrid in the Champions League.

Keeping Salah quiet a priority for Mourinho

Manchester United face archrivals Liverpool today

AFP, Manchester



Manchester United boss Jose Mourinho has the tough task of keeping Liverpool's Mohamed Salah quiet as Jurgen Klopp's entertainers roll into town at the weekend -- with second place in the Premier League the prize on offer.

With Pep Guardiola's Manchester City virtually assured of the title, northwest rivals United and Liverpool -- the two most successful clubs in the English game -- are left fighting for the scraps.

United's impressive fightback from 2-0 down on Monday to beat Crystal Palace 3-2 maintained their slender two-point lead over Liverpool in the battle for the runners-up spot behind runaway leaders City.

Nemanja Matic bailed out Mourinho's men with a stunning stoppage-time strike in London but another three points papered over the cracks in the latest in a series of unconvincing performances from United.

"We have to be honest, we have to play better," Matic admitted once the euphoria of his first United goal died down.

"We have to do more if we want to win as Liverpool is a team with great quality."

The onus will be on Mourinho to take the game to the visitors at Old Trafford on Saturday but the Portuguese manager, criticised for keeping his array of attackers firmly on the leash, is unlikely to risk throwing caution to the wind.

Liverpool had scored 20 goals in their previous seven games before a much-changed side drew 0-0 with Porto in midweek, a result that sealed a place in the Champions League quarter-finals for the first time in nine years.

With January signing Virgil van Dijk settling in well at the back and Loris Karius impressing in goal, the pieces are falling into place for Klopp's team, who have lost just once in 20 Premier League games.

But it is their forwards, led by the

FIXTURES	
(1500 GMT unless stated)	
Saturday	Manchester United v Liverpool (1230 GMT), Newcastle v Southampton, West Brom v Leicester, West Ham v Burnley, Everton v Brighton, Huddersfield v Swansea, Chelsea v Crystal Palace (1730 GMT)
Sunday	Arsenal v Watford (1330 GMT), Bournemouth v Tottenham (1600 GMT)
Monday	Stoke v Manchester City (2000 GMT)

irrepressible Salah alongside Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mane, who have scored a combined 68 goals this season, that will give Mourinho sleepless nights.

There was a palpable sensation around Anfield on Tuesday that Liverpool minds were already focused on United, with the free-scoring front three all rested at different spells of the game.

The match against Liverpool is the

first of three games in eight days for United at Old Trafford that will define their season.

Sevilla visit in the last-16 of the Champions League on Tuesday with the tie delicately balanced at 0-0 after the first leg, before in-form Brighton head north for an FA Cup quarter-final.

Mourinho conceded recently "to play Liverpool has a special meaning" for United, so reserving his stars' energies for midweek is out of the question.

However, he does have a big decision to make over whether to persist with Alexis Sanchez on the left side of United's attack, with the likes of Anthony Martial and Marcus Rashford in his armoury.

The Chilean has scored just once since moving from Arsenal in January.

Elsewhere, Chelsea need to bounce back from four defeats in five league games if they are to retain any realistic hope of a top-four finish when they host struggling Palace and Tottenham must pick themselves up after being dumped out of the Champions League by Juventus at Bournemouth.

A heavily-rotated City side were also beaten for just the fourth time this season by Basel in Europe in midweek, but still progressed to the quarter-finals and can move to within three wins of mathematically sealing the title when they visit Stoke on Monday.

Arsenal, trailing fourth-placed Spurs by 13 points, look to have blown their hopes of qualifying for next season's Champions League but Arsene Wenger will be desperate to reverse an alarming slump when Watford visit the Emirates.

Malaysia draw level in friendly

SPORTS REPORTER

Visiting Malaysia tied the friendly tennis series 1-1 after beating hosts Bangladesh 3-0 in the second rubber at the Uttara Club Tennis ground yesterday.

Bangladesh Tennis Federation and Uttara Club Ltd, with financial assistance from Bangladesh Commerce Bank Ltd, organised the Bangladesh-Malaysia Friendship Tennis series. The hosts had won the opening rubber 2-1 at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna on Thursday.

On the second and final day, Dipu Lal lost against Muhammad Aiman Bin Hamdan 3-6, 4-6 while Mamun Bepari lost against Naufal Siddiq Bin Kamaruzzaman 5-7, 6-7 in singles before Amol Roy and Ranjan Ram pair suffered a 3-6, 6-4, 8-10 defeat against Aiman Bin Hamdan and Azrul Ekhsan Bin Azman pair of Malaysia.



Aaron Ramsey (L) walked the ball into AC Milan's goal as Arsenal banished their away woes in 2018 with a commanding 2-0 win in their Europa League last 16 first leg at the San Siro on Thursday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Wenger gets Milan respite

REUTERS, Milan



Arsenal turned the form book upside down and gave manager Arsene Wenger much-needed respite with a shock 2-0 win away to AC Milan in the Europa League on Thursday.

The London side, who had lost their last four games in all competitions and were facing a Milan team unbeaten in 13 matches, stunned the San Siro with first-half goals from Henrikh Mkhitaryan and Aaron Ramsey in the round of 16 first leg.

Lazio completed an unhappy night for Italian clubs when they were held 2-2 at home by Dynamo Kiev while Bundesliga side Borussia Dortmund suffered a shock 2-1 home defeat by Austrian champions Salzburg.

Twice former champions Atletico Madrid eased past Lokomotiv Moscow 3-0 as all three Russian clubs lost.

With Arsenal sixth in the Premier League and Milan seventh in Serie A, the match was played in very different circumstances to their last clash six years ago. On that occasion, both teams were Champions League regulars and met in the round of 16 of Europe's top club competition.

Arsenal went ahead after 15 minutes after Mesut Ozil found Mkhitaryan on the left side of the penalty area and the Armenian scored his first goal for the London club with a deflected shot.

Having refound their confidence, Arsenal played some flowing football as they repeatedly caught Milan on the break, leaving the Serie A side's coach Gennaro Gattuso red faced with anger on the touchline.

Mkhitaryan rifled a shot against the crossbar before Ozil produced another inspired pass to send Ramsey clear and he rounded goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma to add the second in the 45th minute.

Neymar reportedly wants Barca return

AFP, Madrid



Neymar already regrets moving to Paris Saint-Germain and is seeking a shock return to Barcelona, according to reports in the Spanish media

on Friday.

In the same week that PSG crashed out of the Champions League, and only seven months after he joined the club for a world record 222million euros (\$264 million, Neymar's future has become uncertain.

Spanish sports newspaper Mundo Deportivo claims the Brazilian, recovering from surgery on a broken foot in Brazil, has made contact with Barca to ask how he can engineer a return.

The article adds Neymar has explained he made a mistake in leaving the club, was wrong to want independence from Lionel Messi and has been disappointed by the standard of opposition in Ligue 1.

Barca, however, is not the only club Neymar is reportedly targeting as a potential way out of PSG.

Madrid-based newspaper AS reports

Neymar's father has met with Real Madrid, who are ready to pay 400million euros to sign the striker.

Asked about the speculation on Friday, Real coach Zinedine Zidane said: "Neymar could play in all the clubs because he is very good, like many players.

"I'm not going to talk about a player that is not mine. On the 400 million, they paid 220 million and when they bought me they paid 72.

"It seemed crazy to me and 10 years later they are paying 220 million. It can be that in the next 10 years someone will pay 400m, or sooner, I do not know."

Mundo Deportivo concedes Neymar's courting of Barcelona may even be a tactic to justify a move to Real, given the Catalan club are likely to reject any chance to re-sign the 26-year-old.

Barcelona are still embroiled in a financial dispute over a bonus due to Neymar last summer, which the club cancelled when they believe it became clear he was moving to PSG.

Neymar missed PSG's last 16 loss to Real on Tuesday after undergoing surgery on a broken foot in Brazil last week.