

# What to WATCH

**SONY ESPN & TEN 2**  
*Asian Games*  
**Live from 7:45am**  
**SONY SIX**  
**England v India**  
**Fourth Test, Day-2**  
**Live from 4:00pm**

**STAR SPORTS SELECT 1**  
*US Open*  
**Men's Singles**  
**Round-2**  
**Live from 9:00pm**  
**STAR SPORTS SELECT 2**  
*US Open*

**Women's Singles**  
**Round-2**  
**Live from 9:00pm**  
**TEN 1**  
**Serie A**  
**AC Milan v Roma**  
**Live from 12:30am (Saturday)**

## EMERY BANS JUICE

Unai Emery has banned Arsenal's players from drinking fruit juice at the club's training ground, according to reports. During Arsene Wenger's reign, Arsenal stars were occasionally allowed treats which are high in carbohydrates and were able to drink fruit juice with their meals at training. But according to the Daily Mirror, Emery has ordered canteen staff at the club's training base to replace fruit juice, which is high in sugar, with water. The Arsenal manager is also closely monitoring the players' body fat measurements and has set up a marquee next to the training pitches which houses several pieces of gym equipment. Emery's training programme is understood to be far more intense than those under Wenger.

— AGENCIES



## Modric pips Ronaldo, Salah

AFP, Monaco

Real Madrid and Croatia star Luka Modric on Thursday received the accolade of UEFA Player of the Year in Monaco, beating his former teammate Cristiano Ronaldo and Liverpool's Mohamed Salah to the prize.

"I'm very happy to receive this great prize. I have worked hard for this, to get to the highest point possible," said Modric, who starred in the Real side that won the Champions League for the third year running before also leading Croatia to the World Cup final.

"I can say for sure that this has been the best year of my career, collectively and individually, and I am enjoying the moment," added the 32-year-old, who was announced as the winner of the prize after Thursday's draw in Monaco for this season's Champions League group stage.

Modric started out at Dinamo Zagreb and then had four years with Tottenham Hotspur before Real prized him away six years ago.

His success here, after he was named the best player at the World Cup, confirms that he should be among the favourites to win the Ballon d'Or, a prize dominated by Ronaldo and Lionel Messi over the last decade.

Salah was in attendance at the Grimaldi Forum on Thursday, but Ronaldo, now with Juventus, was not there.



**After winning the golden ball in this year's World Cup in Russia, Croatia and Real Madrid midfielder Luka Modric added another feather to his crown yesterday when he won the UEFA player of the year award in Monaco for his Champions League exploits.**

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Tough draw for Liverpool

AFP, Monaco



Cristiano Ronaldo can look forward to a return to Old Trafford in the Champions League this season after his new team Juventus came out in the same group as Manchester United in Thursday's draw in Monaco.

Ronaldo spent six years at United, winning the Champions League in 2008, before moving to Real Madrid in 2009. He will come up against his compatriot Jose Mourinho, under whom he played during his time at Real, while United midfielder Paul Pogba can also look forward to facing his old team.

While those sides will be favourites to progress to the last 16 from Group H, they will have to be wary of Valencia, with the

GROUP A
Atletico Madrid (ESP)
Borussia Dortmund (GER)
Monaco (FRA)
Club Brugge (BEL)

GROUP E
Bayern Munich (GER)
Benfica (POR)
Ajax (NED)
AEK Athens (GRE)

GROUP B
Barcelona (ESP)]
Tottenham Hotspur (ENG)
PSV Eindhoven (NED)
Inter (ITA)

GROUP F
Manchester City (ENG)
Shakhtar Donetsk (UKR)
Lyon (FRA)
Hoffenheim (GER)

GROUP C
Paris Saint-Germain (FRA)
Napoli (ITA)
Liverpool (ENG)
Red Star Belgrade (SRB)

GROUP G
Real Madrid (ESP)
Roma (ITA)
CSKA Moscow (RUS)
Viktoria Plzen (CZE)

GROUP D
Lokomotiv Moscow (RUS)
FC Porto (POR)
Schalke 04 (GER)
Galatasaray (TUR)

GROUP H
Juventus (ITA)
Manchester United (ENG)
Valencia (ESP)
Young Boys (SUI)

## Day may still turn to seniors

SPORTS REPORTER



Despite the poor showing by the senior players against Sri Lanka in Wednesday's FIFA friendly in Nilphamari, Bangladesh's English coach Jamie Day wants to keep his faith on the senior players ahead of the SAFF Championship, beginning from September 4 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

"You always have to look at the positives. We had lots of possession but didn't do enough with it. I think the older players we know can play much better," Day told The Daily Star. It was certainly a slight shift of stance from the Englishman, who was very upset with the performance of the seniors in that 1-0 defeat.

"I think the boys who played in the Olympics [Asian Games] have put themselves in a strong position to start, the issue will be whether they have enough experience," the coach said with an air of uncertainty.

Day's boys in the Asian Games defended well and attacked on the break against comparatively stron-

ger opponents. He is very much aware that the roles will be reversed in the SAFF Championship, where his team would have to assume the role of the attackers, leaving the strikers with the uphill task of breaking the opponent's backline; something that the forward line of the senior team failed to do against Sri Lanka.

"Well, that's been an issue long before I arrived and won't change it in the next week. So, we will have to look at ways in the next few days on how we can try and combat that if it happens," Day opined.

While Day has only a few days to make up his mind about whether his side for the SAFF Championship will be a mix of senior and junior players, a few members of his Olympic team felt that the defeat against Sri Lanka should not be considered a shattering blow ahead of the next week's event.

"I watched the match at home. Actually I felt sorry after watching the team going down. The players from defence to attack tried from their respective positions but they conceded an unfortunate goal. I

think Bangladesh should have scored although there was misunderstanding in the attacking third," said U-23 striker Saad Uddin, who struck against North Korea in the Asian Games.

"I believe we will bounce back despite the defeat against Sri Lanka. We played really well in the Asian Games, so there is nothing to be disappointed about before the start of the SAFF Championship," the 20-year-old marksman said.

He also advocated the need for senior players in the team.

"The SAFF Championship is a big stage where experience matters and the team needs senior players to inject inspiration and courage to the younger players."

Centre-pack Tapu Barman, one of three senior players in the Asian Games, where Bangladesh made it to the round of 16 for the first time, echoed Saad's sentiments and urged everyone to keep faith on them, saying they would not disappoint the nation in the SAFF Championship.

"Overall we played a good match but the finishing was poor," was

Tapu's explanation about the friendly match.

"I firmly believe that we should not give up hope because yesterday's match was only a friendly. Our main target is the SAFF Championship. The squad that played yesterday was also not our full strength side, so you all can still keep faith on us," said the 25-year-old, who formed a solid defence with Tutul Hossain Badsha during the Asian Games.

"I think the players were bit nervous against Sri Lanka. They didn't play any matches for a long period and they didn't have match fitness. They took some extra pressure because they knew they had to perform to get a place in the final SAFF squad," said Jamal Bhuiyan, who captained the U-23 team and also scored an injury-time winner against Qatar in the Asian Games group stages.

"I believe we have a bright chance to perform well in the SAFF [Championship] if you compare the Asian Games team with the team that played yesterday [Wednesday]," said Jamal.

## Down 2-0, coach comes on and scores hattrick

AGENCIES, Zagreb

A player-manager put himself on the pitch at half-time when his team were losing 2-0 then scored a hattrick to win the match 3-2.

Goran Uzelac, coach of Croatian third-tier outfit NK Slavenija, led by example as he inspired a heroic comeback against NK Tomislav.

He gave his players a dressing down at half-time and encouraged them not to surrender the match. And Goran Uzelac subbed off one of his players and put himself on the pitch to give his players an extra boost.

The NK Slavenija boss heroically bagged a hattrick to win his team the match in sublime style.

Speaking after the match, the coach remained modest, saying: "If someone offered us a point we would take it without thinking, what can I tell you after winning against Tomislava?"

"When we were promoted I announced that we would be competitive in this league and here we showed that. We also showed a character. After going down to 2-0, in the dressing room we agreed not to surrender, to try and reverse it and here we have succeeded. I congratulate my boys on a great game, a fight and a win that means a lot for us to continue this season."

## India, Pakistan stunned

ATIQUE ANAM from Jakarta



The mouthwatering prospect of an India-Pakistan final in men's hockey at the Asian Games was put to bed as both the subcontinent giants were handed surprise defeats in their respective semifinals at the Gelora Bung Karno Stadium hockey field yesterday.

They will meet though, in the bronze medal match while Malaysia will take on Japan in the final, which will see a new champion.

Defending champions and pre-tournament favourites India lost to Malaysia 7-6 in a penalty shootout

while Pakistan, the record eight-time champions, were handed a 1-0 defeat by Japan.

Malaysia will play only their second Asian Games final, having lost to Pakistan in their maiden appearance in 2010 while Japan will be appearing in the gold medal match for the very first time.

Hockey is a traditional sport in the Olympics as well as the Asian Games, and an India-Pakistan match always draws a crowd wherever in the world it takes place. The hockey final is the penultimate gold-deciding event of this year's Asian Games and everyone was expecting a grandstand finish to it. But Malaysia and Japan had other ideas.

It looked like India, the highest

ranked side of the competition, sitting fifth in world rankings, would make it in normal time when they took a 2-1 lead over the 12th-ranked side going into the final quarter, thanks to goals in the third quarter from Harmanpreet Singh and Varun Kumar. However, with barely two minutes of play remaining, Muhammad Rahim Razie converted a penalty corner to take the game to shootouts, where Malaysia prevailed 7-6.

Japan meanwhile, took the lead against Pakistan through a 17th minute penalty corner conversion from Yamada Shota and held on to the lead, despite coming under heavy pressure from Pakistan for the rest of the match.



**The Malaysia players are ecstatic after defeating regional powerhouses and defending champions India in a thrilling penalty shootout in the Asian Games hockey semifinals yesterday.**

PHOTO: AFP

## THE GREAT SCOUSE BAKE OFF



**After losing a challenge in training, Andy Robertson (R) and Virgil van Dijk (L) were forced to bake a cake at Liverpool's training facility in Melwood. They, along with Naby Keita, were tasked with making batch of carrot cakes for the rest of the squad and it's fair to say teammates, including Mohamed Salah, enjoyed watching the lads don their aprons and get to work.**

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Murray sent packing

AFP, New York



Andy Murray's first Grand Slam in more than a year ended with a second-round exit at the US Open, where he fell in four sets to Spain's Fernando Verdasco on Wednesday.

Verdasco, seeded 31st, had lost 13 of 14 prior matches with the Scot, who claimed the first of his three Grand Slam titles at the 2012 US Open.

But on another scorching day in New York, Verdasco triumphed 7-5, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 to book a third-round meeting with another former champion, third-seeded Argentine Juan Martin del Potro.

The Scot, playing his first Grand Slam since Wimbledon of last year and just his fifth tournament since hip surgery in June, gave himself a mixed report card.

"I think some of the tennis I played today was some of the best I've played since I had the surgery or since I came back," Murray said. "There were also periods in the match, especially in the first set, where I really didn't play particularly well. I hit a lot of mistakes when I was up in that set. I feel like I should have won the first set and didn't."

Later, World No. 1 and defending champion Rafael Nadal steamed into the third round on another scorching day with a straight-sets win over Vasek Pospisil.

Nadal, spared the worst of the heat thanks to his late-night start on Arthur Ashe Stadium, sped past Pospisil 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

Meanwhile, former champions Stan Wawrinka and Juan Martin del Potro also advanced, while 2012 winner Andy Murray, like Wawrinka back at Flushing Meadows after missing last year through injury, was bounced by Fernando Verdasco.

### WILLIAMS SISTERS TO CLASH FOR 30TH TIME

Serena and Venus Williams set up a 30th career meeting. Six-time champion Serena eased into Friday's third round encounter against her sister with a 6-2, 6-2 win over German world number 101 Carina Witthoeft on the back of 30 winners and 13 aces.

Venus, the 2000 and 2001 champion, made the third round for the 17th time with a 6-4, 7-5 victory over Camila Giorgi of Italy.

### 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:

#### 'Odd to see footballer meddle in tennis'

Roger Federer questioned Gerard Pique's involvement in the controversial Davis Cup rebrand, opining that it was 'odd' to see a football player involved in the tennis competition's revamp.

#### 'I only felt happy when drinking'

Former Inter striker Adriano confessed that he 'arrived drunk in the morning for training', explaining that the death of his father left 'a void' in his life that he attempted to fill with alcohol. However, he added that, after getting rid of the bad influences in his life, he is doing better.



### ERRATUM

In our report filed yesterday headlined 'We're at 8, seniors at 20', it was inadvertently written that Soumya Sarkar had said '8'. He had actually said that they were at 18. We regret the slip.

- SPORTS EDITOR