



# What to WATCH

**GTV & STARS SPORTS 1**  
**Asia Cup**  
 India v Pakistan  
 Live from 5:30pm  
**SONY ESPN**  
**UEFA Champions League**  
 Young Boys v Man Utd  
 Live from 1:00am (Thursday)

**TEN 1**  
**UEFA Champions League**  
 Shakhtar Donetsk v Hoffenheim  
 Live from 10:55pm  
 Valencia v Juventus  
 Live from 1:00am (Thursday)  
**TEN 2**  
**UEFA Champions League**

Ajax v AEK Athens  
 Live from 10:55pm  
 Real Madrid v Roma  
 Live from 1:00am (Thursday)

## Messi sinks PSV

Late strikes condemn Inter

REUTERS, Barcelona



Lionel Messi scored a sensational hat-trick as Barcelona kickstarted their Champions League campaign with a 4-0 win at home to Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven on Tuesday although they had defender Samuel Umtiti sent off in the second half.

Barca's all-time top scorer Messi broke the deadlock in the 32nd minute at the Nou Camp with an immaculately struck free kick, curling the ball over the wall and right into the top near corner.

Coached by former Barca and Netherlands midfielder Mark van Bommel, PSV had produced an admirable performance in their first visit to the Nou Camp in 21 years until they began to tire late in the second half.

The Spanish champions doubled their lead in the 75th minute through a lovely curling strike from in-form French forward Ousmane Dembele. Messi got his second two minutes later, turning Ivan Rakitic's dinked pass into the near corner with one flick of his boot and completed his treble in the 87th by ruthlessly smashing home.

The mood was briefly dampened when France defender Umtiti was dismissed in the 79th minute for a second yellow card, ruling him out of Barca's next Champions League game away to Tottenham Hotspur on Oct. 3.

Barca lead Champions League Group B on goal difference after Inter Milan beat Tottenham 2-1.

### INTER STUN TOTTENHAM

Inter Milan struck twice late on to secure a stunning 2-1 victory over a crestfallen Tottenham Hotspur in their Group B opener at the San Siro in Milan.

Mauro Icardi's superb volley levelled the scores in the 86th minute and Matias Vecino headed a stoppage-time winner to give Inter a victory that for most of the night looked unlikely.

Spurs had taken the lead in the 53rd minute with Christian Eriksen's deflected effort off Inter's Miranda and looked comfortable as the full-time whistle approached.

The match was turned on its head though in dramatic fashion as Tottenham suffered a third straight loss in all competitions.

Inter are level on three points with Barcelona, who cruised to a 4-0 victory over PSV Eindhoven to move top of the group.



Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi got his Champions League campaign off to the perfect start, scoring a hat-trick in a 4-0 demolition of PSV yesterday night.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Evans takes charge of Mohammedan

SPORTS REPORTER



Despite failing to form strong squads in recent years, popular outfit Mohammedan Sporting Club have been appointing foreign coaches. It will be no different this time around as the Black and Whites have appointed English coach Christopher Evans for the upcoming season, which is supposed to get underway from October 22.

The Motijheel outfit, who are yet to win the professional football league title, are set to form a mediocre squad like the previous seasons. However, but they have roped a foreign coach like the last season when they had hired Indian coach Syed Nayeemuddin, who however did not continue till the end of the season.

The Black and Whites have retained the services of some experienced players such as Zahid Hasan Emily, Mithun Chowdhry, Mohammad Linkon, Mintu Sheikh, Enamul Haq Sharif, Toklish Ahmed and Habibur Rahman Sohag, who played for the club last season. They have also signed up Kesto Kumar, Atiqur Rahman Meshu, Anik, Kaiser Rabbi, Manik and others.

"Mohammedan is one of the oldest clubs in Bangladesh. I know the history of the club; people are talking about it and the structure of the club is very high. So, for me, it is a great opportunity to come here and work with them," said UEFA A licensed coach Evans during his introduction at the club premises yesterday.

Evans previously worked with youth and development squads of clubs such as Norwich City FC, Chelsea FC and Fakenham Town, and he came to Bangladesh through Bangladesh Football Federation's technical director Paul Smalley.

"It is very difficult to set a target, given last season's respectable fifth position and if you can improve on it, it will be good," Evans said. "If the coaching staff have the knowledge, good players can be improved upon."

Evans will be introduced with the players today and he will start the team's training at BUET ground soon.



## BANGABANDHU GOLD CUP

### Sohel gets the axe

SPORTS REPORTER

Goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Sohel has not been included in the 31-member preliminary squad of the Bangladesh football team for the Bangabandhu Gold Cup, which is scheduled to get underway from October 1 in Sylhet.

Sohel made a silly mistake to concede the opening goal against Nepal in their last group match of the SAFF Championship earlier this month, and that mistake literally knocked the hosts out of the competition. The veteran, who came under heavy criticism from all quarters, paid the price by being axed from the national team.

English coach Jamie Day, who defended Sohel despite the mistake, said the goalkeeper needed rest to recover from the trauma of that defeat against Nepal.

"I think Sohel probably needs a break mentally from what has gone on since the SAFF [Championship] and he will come back stronger," Day said explaining the exclusion of Sohel.

The 31-member squad features four goalkeepers including Ashraf Islam Rana, Anisur Rahman Ziko, Mahfuz Hasan Priton and Rasel Mahmud Liton, the latter being called up after a long gap. The coach also recalled veteran defenders Yeasin Khan and Ariful Islam and promising forward Javed Khan apart from the players who had been in training over the last three months.

"The other additions are for me to have a look at over the next few days and see if they fit into what we are trying to do," Day said. "The squad will be narrowed down, so with 31 keeps everyone on their toes and fighting for the final squad selection."

## Choton looks for more harmony

SPORTS REPORTER



Hosts Bangladesh will look for a more synchronised performance when they take on Lebanon in their second Group F encounter of the AFC U-16 Women's Championship Qualifiers at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur today.

The match will start at 11:30am before Vietnam play against Bahrain in the day's second match at 3:30pm.

The match against Lebanon is being considered as a tough test for the girls in red and green, who notched a massive 10-0 win over Bahrain despite looking a bit disorganised in the first half before settling down after the break.

Lebanon have already showed their intention of getting out the qualification round by handing an 8-0 defeat to Bahrain and 6-3 defeat to UAE and they can pose a threat to the charges of Golam Rabbani Choton.

"I believe the girls will show good performance tomorrow compared to the match against Bahrain. I think Monica Chakma was not up to the mark as she played hurriedly and made mistakes. If she can play better, there will be more rhythm in team's performance," Choton said. "We are looking forward to rectifying the mistakes we made in the first match. One important thing is that we got more goals in the first match, but at the same time wasted a lot of chances. I think such scoring opportunities will not come against Lebanon and the girls will have to cash in on the chances to ensure victory."

Choton admitted that Lebanon are a good side and they have some good players like Nathalie Alabed, Zahraa Assaf and Syntia Salha, but the coach believes Bangladeshi girls are ahead in terms of pace, strength and experience.

"The girls will have to give their full effort if we want to win the match. We have to beat all teams if we want to become group champions to go to the next round and we will definitely go there for full points," said Choton.



After having finished as the top scorer in the Champions League for the past six seasons, which led his then club Real Madrid to four titles, Cristiano Ronaldo will embark on a new campaign with Juventus as they take on Valencia tonight. PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Juventus's quest beings anew

Ronaldo and Co take on Valencia today

AFP, Valencia



No player owns as many Champions League titles as Cristiano Ronaldo but a sixth with Juventus would surely be his best of the lot.

Ronaldo played the lead role in all of those five previous triumphs, from his towering header for Manchester United against Chelsea in 2008 to the tie-clinching, 97th-minute penalty against Juventus last season in the quarters.

In between, there were the 17 goals he scored in every game but one en route to the trophy in 2014, the title-winning penalty against Atletico Madrid in 2016 and the hat-trick against the same opposition, this time in the last four, a year later. He would also score twice against Juventus in the final.

It was to become the beneficiaries, rather than victims, of these match-winning moments, that Juve seemingly decided last summer the only way to win the

Champions League before Ronaldo retires is to have Ronaldo on your team.

They begin that assault on Wednesday, when the 33-year-old will kick a ball competitively in Spain for the first time since his dizzying 100 million-euro move from Madrid.

Valencia are the obstacle at the Mestalla, where he scored twice, both penalties, for his former team last term.

Many were shocked when Ronaldo drew a line under his time in the Spanish capital. More trophies and records would inevitably have followed at Madrid but instead he started again, risking his reputation for somewhere new.

The club's pursuit of a first Champions League success since 1996 has become an obsession and Ronaldo is supposed to be the last piece in the puzzle.

Real Madrid may claim to be more of a team without him but so, perhaps, were Juve and it was only enough to reach two finals in four years, and lose them both.

### 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:

#### Stokes charged with bringing cricket into disrepute

Ben Stokes and Alex Hales have been charged with bringing the game into disrepute by the England and Wales Cricket Board following a late-night street brawl last year.

#### Media calls Sri Lanka 'flop of Asia'

Sri Lankan newspapers and fans lambasted the national cricket team Tuesday after the former champions were dumped out of the Asia Cup by up-and-coming Afghanistan. Sri Lanka, who now have lost 30 of their 40 matches since January 2017, had lost to Bangladesh by 137 runs in Dubai on Saturday at the opening match of the tournament.

#### Shakib not returning home, wife responds to rumours

Rumours surfaced that Shakib Al Hasan was returning to Dhaka in the middle of the Asia Cup tournament due to his daughter falling sick. Shakib's wife Ummey Al Hasan responded to such rumours today via her verified Facebook profile, criticizing the news as 'yellow journalism' to get 'bumper views'.



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