

DAY'S EVENT

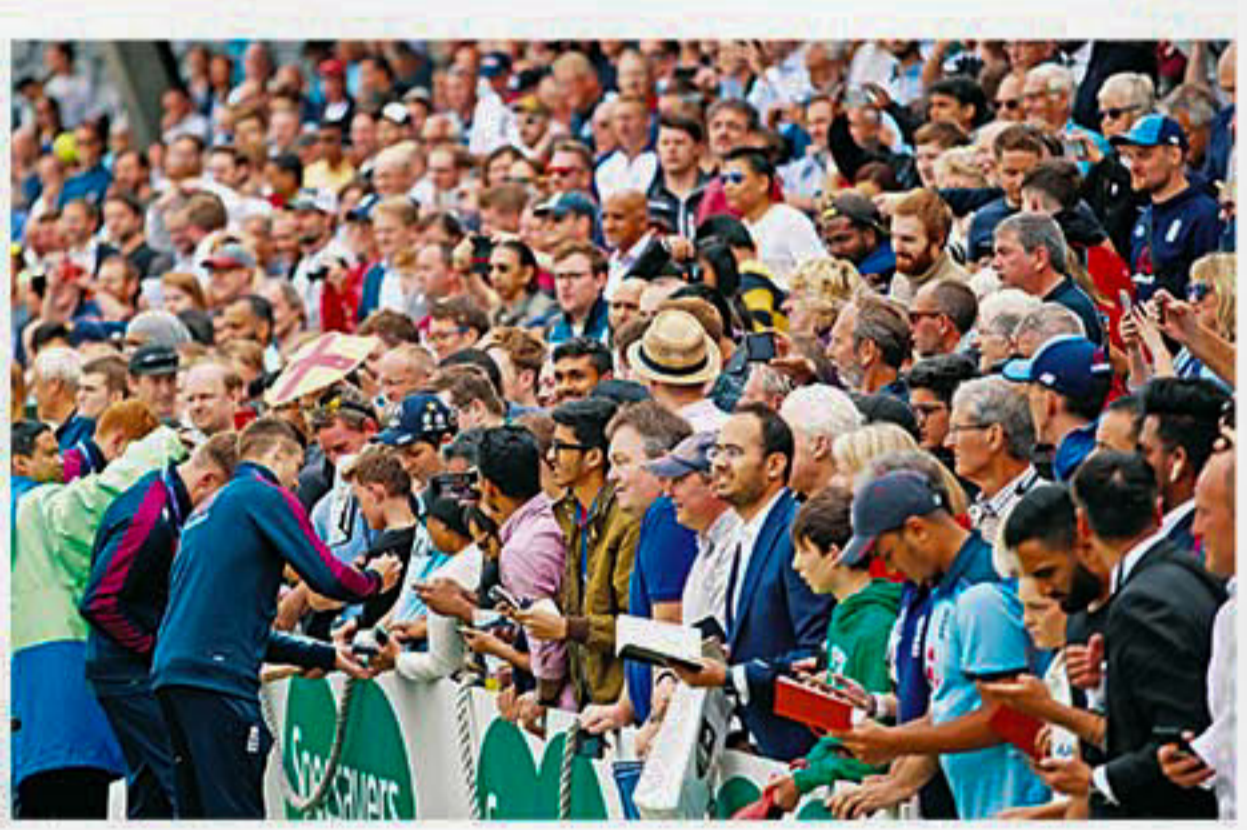
Bangladesh Premier League Time: 4:00pm Rahamatganj v Team BJMC	Venue: BNS, Dhaka NoFeL SC v Sheikh Russel Venue: SBS, Noakhali Bashundhara v Brothers	Venue: SKS, Nilphamari Muktijoddha v Arambagh Venue: SFHMS, Gopalganj	Mohammedan v Abahani Venue: BNS, Dhaka
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GRIEZMANN STARTS BARCA TRAINING

French striker Antoine Griezmann trained with his new Barcelona teammates for the first time on Monday following his controversial move from Atletico Madrid last week. "The first of two sessions scheduled for the day was completed by all available first team players, including the newest incorporations, Frenkie de Jong, Neto, and Antoine Griezmann," the Catalan club reported on its website. There was no sign of Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez, Philippe Coutinho, Arthur and Arturo Vidal who are all still on vacation after taking part in the Copa America. Griezmann was presented as a Barcelona player on Sunday night, after the Catalans paid the 28-year-old's 120-million-euro (\$135 million) release clause. --App



MOMENTS OF JUBILATION



(Clockwise from top L) Following England's thrilling victory in the final of the World Cup against New Zealand on Sunday, which got the English women cricketers, like everyone else in the country, off their chairs in euphoria, there was a large turnout in a victory celebration event at the Oval on Monday, with England captain Eoin Morgan and his teammates parading with the coveted trophy. Three of the heroes on the night for England – pacer Jofra Archer, all-rounders Ben Stokes and Chris Woakes were happily obliging the adoring fans with their autographs and selfies.

PHOTO: AFP/REUTERS/ICC

'It will inspire a new generation'

England captain Eoin Morgan hopes his side's "incredible journey" to World Cup glory will inspire a new generation of fans in the sport's birthplace. There have long been concerns about declining player numbers in English cricket, with the sport hidden behind a television paywall in Britain since England's iconic 2005 Ashes series triumph. But Sunday's match at Lord's -- the first of the 12 World Cup finals to end in a tie and to be settled by a Super Over contest -- was on free-to-air television. "I certainly hope participation levels go up or continue to rise," said Morgan, who has overseen England's climb from the depths of a miserable first-round exit at the 2015 World Cup. Morgan, asked if the final would have resonated far beyond cricket's core audience, replied: "I hope so. Obviously today is a big day of sport with Wimbledon and the Silverstone GP going on."

"But with Sunday evening, people normally settle in for a bit of (naturalist) David Attenborough or some random film that's on, so I hope they were tuned into the cricket." England, set 242 to win, were dismissed for 241, with Ben Stokes stranded on 84 not out after Mark Wood was run out off the last ball of regulation play. They then made 15 in their additional Super Over, bowled by Trent Boult, before New Zealand matched that in their own Super Over, bowled by Jofra Archer. But with Martin Guptill run out off the last ball of the match going for the winning run, England triumphed on boundary count during the match -- 26 to 17. England had a moment of astonishing good fortune with a bonus four runs during their main innings when a Guptill throw deflected off the bat of Stokes, who was diving to make his ground. 'ALLAH WITH US' But the Dublin-born Morgan, asked if England had enjoyed the famed luck of the Irish, said: "I spoke to Adil (England leg-spinner Adil Rashid), he said Allah was definitely with us."

"It actually epitomises our team, quite diverse backgrounds and cultures." The 32-year-old added: "It was the most incredible game of cricket, with nothing between the sides. "I commend the Black Caps and Kane (Williamson, New Zealand captain), they've been absolutely incredible." England have consciously tried to emulate New Zealand's aggressive one-day style since the Black Caps thrashed them in a 2015 group match, with Australian coach Trevor Bayliss appointed after that World Cup. "The biggest risk for us throughout the tournament was not playing a positive brand of cricket," said Morgan after England's World Cup win, which following defeats in the 1979, 1987 and 1992 finals. Williamson, for whom this was a second straight World Cup final reverse after Australia overwhelmed New Zealand four years ago, said he felt "just gutted". "I think throughout this whole campaign I have spoken about 'uncontrollables' and there were a couple today that were pretty hard to swallow," added star batsman Williamson,

named man of the tournament for his 578 runs. Barbados-born fast bowler Archer only made his England debut in May but Morgan still entrusted the 24-year-old with the Super Over. "Jofra was pretty easy, he's an unbelievably talented player," Morgan explained. Archer said his nerves had been settled by Stokes, who three years ago had four straight sixes hit off him by Carlos Brathwaite during a last-over loss to the West Indies in the 2016 World Twenty20 final in Kolkata. "Stokesy came over and told me, win or lose, today will not define me as a player," said Archer. The success meant England's cricketers matched the nation's 1966 football team and the 2003 rugby union team in becoming world champions. But Morgan, asked if he had joined fellow captains Bobby Moore and Martin Johnson on the English sporting equivalent of Mount Rushmore, said: "Not at all. There's no Mount Rushmore. "Primrose Hill (a northwest London suburb near Lord's), that's about it."

'Who said cricket was boring?'

England ended a 44-year drought when they clinched their maiden World Cup title by defeating New Zealand in an enthralling final, where the boundary count separated the sides after both the 50-over game and the Super Over ended in ties, at Lord's in London on Sunday. Following the pulsating match, news of England's triumph dominated the front and back pages of various newspapers across the United Kingdom. "Who said cricket was boring?" read the front page of Monday's The Daily Telegraph with a picture of the England team celebrating with the trophy. The newspaper went on to say 'Who knows? There may be a future Ben Stokes or Jofra Archer ready to keep the game healthy into another generation.' News of England's triumph was headlined as 'Howzat for a game of cricket!' on the cover of The Independent. The Sun, however, went with a short headline that reflected how the game had kept fans on the edge of their seats till the very last minute. 'WOWZAT!' read the UK based daily's headline. The paper also called it 'the most sensational climax the sport has ever seen!' Perhaps the Daily Express had run out of words to express such a scintillating victory though as their headline read 'OUT OF THIS WORLD!' London based newspaper 'I' just went for a simple story with a plain headline, 'World champions', with a picture of the England team lifting the trophy in the background. However, the newspaper mentioned that this incredible day of UK sporting drama will be cherished for years.

STAR SPORT DESK



Serbia's Novak Djokovic (L) and Romania's Simona Halep (R) pose with their respective Wimbledon trophies at the champions' dinner in London on Sunday.

Djokovic 'king of tennis'

The Serbian press on Monday proclaimed Novak Djokovic "king of tennis" with the "heart of a hero" after he claimed his fifth Wimbledon title beating eight-time champion Roger Federer. The 32-year-old Serbian saved two match points as he took his Grand Slam tally to 16, four off Federer's overall record in the longest final in the tournament's history on Sunday. "Novak, King of Tennis," read the Blic daily paper front page headline. "The fifth Crown for the King," echoed the Vecernje Novosti paper. "He certainly did not play his best tennis but he knew how to handle the key moments due to his main weapon, his mental strength," Blic commented.

Djokovic, contrary to his habits, "did not show any emotion during the whole match" which lasted 4 hours and 57 minutes, it said. The Danas daily paper said the match offered the public "all that can be seen in a perfect tennis match... suspense, drama and a happy ending... for Djokovic". "One has to be honest and note that Federer played impeccably. Most of the time he was the better player on the court. Two missed match points are unbelievable. But, here, he missed them," the paper said. For the Informer tabloid Djokovic won "against Federer and the public" cheering for the Swiss. The Politika daily paper said that "all was against Djokovic" during Sunday's match. "It is with the heart of a hero that Djokovic won this final, one of the most dramatic," in the tournament's history, Politika concluded.

Abahani, MSC face off today

Archivals Abahani and Mohammedan will square off in one of the five matches of Bangladesh Premier League at Bangabandhu National Stadium today. Country's traditional rivals have different objectives today. While Abahani are looking for the title, Mohammedan are seeking to avoid relegation. Abahani have won the last five meetings against Mohammedan in the professional league since 2016. In 22 meetings overall, Abahani hold a massive edge with 10 wins, eight draws and only four defeats. The last time Abahani lost against Mohammedan was a 1-0 defeat during the ninth edition in May, 2015. The Black and Whites will have only 17 points from 19 matches against Abahani's 51 from 20 matches.

Cordoba stars in Saif's thrilling win

A tremendous performance by Colombian midfielder Deiner Cordoba helped Saif Sporting Club to a 3-2 win over Sheikh Jamal DC in their Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Rafique Uddin Bhuiyan Stadium in Mymensingh yesterday. The 27-year-old midfielder first set up Alessandro Celin and then scored the team's second goal before helping substitute Rahim Uddin to net the winning goal, helping his side come out of a spate of draws. With 12th win in 20 matches, Saif SC leapfrogged to third position in the 13-team table with 41 points while Sheikh Jamal remained at sixth position with 24 points from 21 matches. Saif SC, who never lost to three-time champions Sheikh Jamal since their admission into the professional football league last edition, went ahead in the third minute through a strike from Celin. Cordoba then snatched the ball from a Sheikh Jamal defender and played one-two with Celin before doubling the lead on the half-hour mark. Sheikh Jamal scored twice within three second-half minutes, with national discard Shakhawat Hossain Rony scoring both goals. Availing a long ball, Rony raced into the box and finished off the move with a left-footer in the 56th minute before finishing with an angular shot in the 58th minute for the second goal. But Cordoba ensured Saif's victory, setting up Rahim for the third goal in the 73rd minute.

INDOOR ASIA CUP BD start with 6-0 defeat

Bangladesh began their Indoor Hockey Asia Cup campaign on a losing note as the debutants suffered a 6-0 defeat against three-time runners-up Malaysia in Chonburi, Thailand yesterday. Bangladesh, playing the six-a-side indoor hockey for first time, conceded two goals within the first five minutes before settling down a bit on the rubber surface. The Bangladesh team, featuring players of the national team with experience of playing only on traditional turf, went to the lemon break trailing by four goals before conceding two more goals in the second half of the 40-minute game. Bangladesh will play their second match against seven-time defending champions Iran today.

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