

# What to WATCH

**GTV & STAR SPORTS SELECT 2**  
**T20I tri-series**  
 Bangladesh Zimbabwe  
 Live from 6:30pm  
**STAR SPORTS SELECT 1**  
 India v South Africa

**Second T20I**  
 Live from 7:30pm  
**SONY ESPN**  
 UEFA Champions League  
 Club Brugge v Galatasaray  
 Live from 10:55pm

**Bayern Munich v Crvena**  
 Live from 1:00am (Thursday)  
**SONY SIX**  
 UEFA Champions League  
 Shakhtar Donetsk v Man City  
 Live from 1:00am (Thursday)

**TEN 1**  
 UEFA Champions League  
 PSG v Real Madrid  
 Live from 1:00am (Thursday)  
**TEN 2**  
 UEFA Champions League

**Atletico Madrid v Juventus**  
 Live from 1:00am (Thursday)

## DAY'S EVENT

**T20I tri-series**  
 Bangladesh Zimbabwe  
 Time: 6:30pm

Venue: ZACS, Chattogram  
**Walton U-18 Football Tournament**

Mohammedan v Abahani  
 Time: 4:00pm  
 Arambagh v Sheikh Jamal

Time: 6:30pm  
 Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium, Dhaka



Juventus superstar Cristiano Ronaldo will be hoping to add to his many heroics against Atletico Madrid in the Champions League tonight, but will be up against his heir apparent, Joao Felix, who will be looking to make a splash of his own. PHOTO: AFP/REUTERS



# Ronaldo-Felix clash outshines duel of depleted Real-PSG

AGENCIES, Paris



Real Madrid and Paris Saint-Germain's Champions League clash tonight would usually be the biggest headline-maker on any other night, but with a tantalising rematch of last year's round of 16 clash between Juventus and Atletico Madrid and the injuries in both Real and PSG's camps, the clash at the Parc des Princes has been relegated to the sidelines.

Real Madrid confirmed yesterday that defender Marcelo would miss the clash after sustaining a back injury, adding to the woes of the 13-time champions who will also be missing Isco, Luka Modric, Marco Asensio and Fede Valverde through injury. Captain Sergio Ramos will also miss out alongside Nacho Fernandez, the duo serving out suspensions.

Los Blancos have replacements such as Ferland Mendy for Marcelo, and they will still have plenty of starpower up front, with Eden Hazard set to make his Champions League bow for the side, alongside Gareth Bale and the in-form Karim Benzema.

On the other hand, the hosts will be left with a mountain to climb with all of their preferred front three out of action. Forwards Kylian Mbappe and Edinson Cavani were ruled out yesterday, the French champions said in a

statement. Mbappe picked up a hamstring injury and was forced off against Toulouse last month and has not featured since for PSG, while Cavani is out of action with a hip problem.

Meanwhile, Brazilian superstar Neymar -- who announced his return to the side with a spectacular overhead kick winner -- will be serving out a ban for insulting match officials following PSG's defeat by Manchester United in the round of 16 last season. Neymar's ban has also been reduced from three-matches to two, the Court of Arbitration for Sport said yesterday.

Mbappe, Neymar and Cavani netted 11 of PSG's 20 goals in their Champions League campaign last season, showing just how much the team depend on them.

That does not mean they do not have the capacity to plug holes however. Mauro Icardi, loaned in at the summer from Inter Milan, is likely to take Cavani's place but the other replacements are not nearly as promising.

That match will fade further into the background given the other big clash of the day and its compelling storylines.

Last season, Cristiano Ronaldo hit a hat-trick to inspire Juventus to a second leg comeback against Atletico. They had gone into the game down 2-0 before the five-time Ballon d'Or winner's heroics resuscitated them.

Ronaldo, is as usual in a rich vein of form, with six goals in five matches this season for club and country, as he hunts a sixth Champions League title and aims to extend his record total of 126 goals in the competition.

This time around, a rematch of that eventful game will be further spiced by Ronaldo's heir apparent in opposition colours.

Atletico Madrid's quest for vengeance will be led by young gun Joao Felix, who will make his debut in Europe's top competition.

The 19-year-old has been hailed as the new 'CR7' after his breakout season at Benfica last year, scoring 20 times as the two-time European champions won the Primeira Liga and reached the Europa League quarter finals.

Ronaldo's former manager at Madrid Jose Mourinho is convinced that Atletico bagged a "an incredible player" for a club record fee of 126 million euros.

The noise surrounding Felix was amplified after a sublime pre-season that included a brace in a 2-1 win over Juve, but Felix has shied away from the comparisons.

On Wednesday, Felix has a chance to redeem himself and add to the one goal he has scored so far in Atletico colours, even if Ronaldo's achievements seem a long way off.

"I am here to write my own story," Felix said. "Cristiano is Cristiano and I want to be myself".

# U-18s eye maiden SAFF title

SPORTS REPORTER



Last edition's runners-up Bangladesh will leave for Nepal today to take part in the SAFF U-18 Championship with the hope of winning the regional youth title for the first time since its introduction in 2015.

Bangladesh had to be satisfied with a second-place finish two years ago in the last edition, which was held in round-robin format among five teams despite getting off to a brilliant start with a come-from-behind 4-3 win over India. However, they lost to Nepal 2-1 in their fourth and final match to finish second behind eventual champions Nepal despite having equal nine points.

The boys in red and green, who were eliminated from the semifinals of the inaugural edition in 2015 following a 4-3 defeat in tiebreaker against India, have been pitted against India and Sri Lanka in Group B this time. Group A features two-time champions Nepal alongside Maldives, Bhutan and Pakistan.

The tournament will get underway

from September 20 at the APF Stadium in Kathmandu.

The current Bangladesh team features players mostly from the Bangladesh Premier League team, including recently-drafted national team player named Yeasin Arafat, who will captain the squad.

"This is different tournament. This is a different time; this is now and this is the future. Every team wants to win the championship and I also want to win it," Bangladesh team's coach Andrew Peter Turner said at a press briefing at the BFF house yesterday.

Captain Yeasin Arafat is confident of playing good football and producing good results.

"A lot of work has been done in all three departments. If we can give our best effort in respective positions, we can expect good results," said Arafat, who was part of the national team squad for the World Cup qualifying fixture against Afghanistan.

Bangladesh will play their first match against Sri Lanka on September 21 before playing against India four days later.



The dapper-looking Real Madrid squad jetted out of Madrid on the eve of their Champions League clash against PSG in Paris tonight. PHOTO: REAL MADRID



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina treats archer Ruman Sana with sweetmeats with State Minister for Youth and Sports Zahid Ahsan Russel at her side at the archer's reception at the PMO yesterday. Speaking to The Daily Star last night, Sana said that the Prime Minister had wished him the best for the upcoming Olympics [Tokyo in 2020] and said that she would assist the Bangladesh Archery Federation in future endeavours and also take responsibility for treatment of the archer's mother. PHOTO: PID

# CR7 'embarrassed' by allegations

AFP, London



Juventus star Cristiano Ronaldo has admitted he felt "embarrassed" as he tried to shield his family from allegations he raped a woman in the United States.

Ronaldo was accused of sexually assaulting Kathryn Mayorga in a Las Vegas hotel in June 2009.

The Portugal forward, a five-time Champions League winner, strongly denied the claims and the investigation was originally closed 10 years ago.

It reopened in August 2018, shortly before Mayorga filed a civil lawsuit in September and offered details she initially withheld.

Prosecutors announced in July this year that they would not be prosecuting the case because the allegations could not "be

proven beyond a reasonable doubt".

He revealed the allegations had taken a mental toll on him as he sought to protect his children from the reports.

"They play with your dignity," Ronaldo told 'Good Morning Britain' in an interview with Piers Morgan that will air on Tuesday. "It's hard. You have a girlfriend, you have a family, you have kids. When they play with your honesty, it's bad, it's hard."

"I remember one day I was at home in the living room with my girlfriend watching the television to see the news and they speak about 'Cristiano Ronaldo this and that.' "I listened to my kids coming down the stairs and I changed the channel because I was embarrassed.

"I just changed the channel for Cristiano Jr not to see that they speak bad about his father about a very bad case."

# Losing here is a disaster, says Hazard

AGENCIES, Madrid

Real Madrid forward Eden Hazard has said the club's supporters are more invested and fanatical about the team than Chelsea fans.

Hazard joined the La Liga side in the summer for a fee that could reach £130 million after a seven-year spell at Stamford Bridge.

"I think that here the fans are really fans," Hazard said. "In England there are not so many fans, people there like football and everyone, young people, adults, teenagers, are really interested in their football, but they are not so fanatical about their teams."

"At the time I was in Chelsea and we lost, we were disappointed as were the fans, but I never felt it was a disaster.

"When you are at Real Madrid, even if it is my first year, talking to the fans, they always expect you to win the Champions League."

Hazard made his first appearance for the club in Madrid's 3-2 victory against Levante over the weekend.

The forward is set to feature when Madrid face Paris Saint-Germain in their Champions League opener on Wednesday. Madrid head coach Zinedine Zidane faces an injury crisis ahead of the game in Paris with seven first-team players set to miss out through injury or suspension.

# U-16s up against Japan today

SPORTS REPORTER



Smarting from a disappointing 1-0 defeat against Thailand, Bangladesh under-16 women's team will hope to avail goal-scoring opportunities when they take on favourites Japan in their second Group A fixture of the AFC U-16 Women's Championship at the Chonburi Stadium today.

The match will get underway at 3:00pm (Bangladesh time).

The charges of Golam Rabbani Choton had to pay a heavy price for their profligacy in the first half as they never came back into the match after conceding the lead in the 59th minute despite creating a couple of scoring chances in the dying moments.

Now the team is up against three-time champions Japan, who had beaten the

girls in red and green 3-0 in their first-ever meeting between in the last edition in Thailand. They need to produce a piece of history by beating Japan if they want to stay in the race for the semi-finals.

Injuries to captain Maria Manda and striker Tahura Khatun, however, is also a concern for Bangladesh, who are mainly focusing on availing opportunities and not making the same mistakes.

"In the next game, we will try not to repeat the same mistakes we made against Thailand," coach Golam Rabbani Choton was quoted as saying by the AFC website.

"Two years ago, the team had less experience because we didn't play a lot of international matches. But this time around, the team has experience of playing in AFC and SAFF tournaments. This is a big tournament and our girls are improving a lot," Choton said.



Captain Maria Manda (R) and striker Tahura Khatun enjoy their time at the hotel pool in Chonburi yesterday ahead of today's AFC U-16 Women's Championship match against Japan. PHOTO: BFF

# First Division cricket from October 30

SPORTS REPORTER

The Dhaka First Division Cricket League 2019-20 is set to get underway on October 30, announced a meeting of the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM), yesterday.

The players' transfer will be held on October 1 and 2.

It was also mentioned that the first division T20 tournament, where 20 teams divided into four groups will participate, is scheduled to start from October 12.

The third division league will start from October 20 after the players' transfer event on October 5 and 6.

# U-18 Football Last eight confirmed

SPORTS REPORTER

The quarterfinal line-up of the Walton U-18 Football Tournament was completed yesterday after Saif SC booked the last berth with a 3-0 win over Sheikh Russel at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Sujon, Emon Molla and Mohammad Emon scored for Saif SC, who emerged champions in Group D, with NoFeL SC going through as group runners-up.

Meanwhile, Brothers Union went through as champions of Group A following their 2-1 win over Chittagong Abahani, who went into the last eight as runners-up from the group.