

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

BOISHAKHI TV

Bangladesh Premier League

Uttar Baridhara v Brothers Union

Live from 3:00pm

Rahamatgonj v Muktijoddha

Live from 5:45pm

STAR SPORTS 1

England v India

5th Test, Day 3

Live from 10:00am

Indian Super League Final

Kerala v Kolkata

Live from 7:30pm

STAR SPORTS 2

Pakistan v Australia

1st Test, Day 4

Live from 9:00am

STAR SPORTS SELECT HD 1

English Premiership

Bournemouth v Southampton

Live from 7:30pm

Man City v Arsenal

Live from 10:00pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT HD 2

Bundesliga

Darmstadt v Bayern Munich

Live from 8:30pm

SONY ESPN

Serie A

Sassuolo v Inter Milan

Live from 5:30pm

Lazio v Fiorentina

Live from 8:00pm

Napoli v Torino

Live from 1:30am (Monday)

SONY SIX

La Liga

Deportivo v Osasuna

Live from 11:30pm

Barcelona v Espanyol

Live from 1:30am

Bangladesh Premier League

Uttar Baridhara v Brothers Union

Time: 3:00pm

Rahamatgonj v Muktijoddha

Time: 5:45pm

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

# Victory Day hockey from tomorrow

**SPORTS REPORTER**

The 13th Victory Day Hockey Competition starts tomorrow at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium in Dhaka. Six teams, split into two groups, will vie for the title of the eight-day competition. The teams are: Bangladesh Navy, Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Police, Bangladesh Air Force, BKSP and Chandgaon Sporting Club of Chittagong.

Two teams from each group will move to the semifinals, with the final scheduled to take place on December 26. The champions are to be awarded Tk 50,000 while the runners-up will receive Tk 30,000. The opening match and the final match will be telecast live on ATB Bangla.

All this information was disclosed at a press conference held at the Bangladesh Hockey Federation headquarters yesterday where the federation's vice-president's Khaza Rahmatullah and Anvir Adil Khan and sponsor's company, Walton's head of sports and welfare department Iqbal Bin Anwar were among others present.

# Saif SC move 2 points clear

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Saif Sporting Club moved two points clear at the top of the Marcel Bangladesh Championship League table after a 3-1 win over Victoria Sporting Club at the Bishreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

With five matches left to play, the newcomers have 17 points from nine matches, and are the only side yet to be beaten in this second-tier professional league. They are two points ahead of Police FC while Victoria SC remain one place from the bottom with eight points in their bag.

Saif SC conceded the lead in yesterday's match when Atikuzzaman scored from the spot in the third minute, but levelled eight minutes later through Rahim. Shadhin put the league leader's noses in front during the 34th minute before Matin's 48th minute strike sealed the match's fate.

# MANCHESTER CITY V ARSENAL

# It's all about the style

**AFP, London**

Long portrayed as a lone idealist amid the cut-throat pragmatism of the Premier League, Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has found a new ally in his Manchester City counterpart Pep Guardiola.

They face off at the Etihad Stadium on Sunday at a time when Guardiola's attachment to attacking football has itself come under attack, following damaging losses to Chelsea and Leicester City.

Guardiola was derided after City's 4-2 defeat at Leicester for saying he was "not a coach for the tackles", but Wenger, often accused himself of prizing style over substance, rode to his defence.

"Pep Guardiola, like myself, we are for offensive football and when you don't win, people question that. And that's as simple as that," Wenger said.

"Overall, I think what he wanted to say is that he promotes a game that is positive and I agree with him on that. You respect him for that."

Guardiola makes no secret of his admiration for Wenger and spoke out in support of the Frenchman in 2014 after he was branded a "specialist in failure" by long-time nemesis Jose Mourinho.

"This life," Guardiola said at the time, "is not just about winning trophies."

Ahead of Sunday's encounter, the



Chelsea striker Diego Costa (R) celebrates his all-important goal with teammate Nemanja Matic during their Premier League encounter against Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

# Chelsea go nine clear

# Ibrahimovic lifts Man Utd

AFP, London



Diego Costa earned Chelsea a 1-0 victory at Crystal Palace on Saturday as the Premier League leaders claimed a club record-equalling 11th consecutive league victory.

Costa headed home Cesar Azpilicueta's cross in the 43rd minute at a foggy Selhurst Park to send Antonio Conte's men nine points clear.

"The run is fantastic," said Chelsea manager Conte. "Congratulations to my players, not me. I am pleased for them because they deserve this."

Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored twice as Manchester United won 2-0 at West Bromwich Albion, while champions Leicester City weathered the dismissal of Jamie Vardy to come from 2-0 down and draw 2-2 at Stoke City.

Chelsea have matched their record of 11 consecutive wins from April to September 2009, achieving the feat within the same season for the first time.

The only blemishes were yellow cards for Costa and N'Golo Kante that mean both players will be suspended for next weekend's home game against Bournemouth.

Narrowly beaten 2-1 by Manchester United in mid-week, Palace threatened to take the lead against Chelsea when Jason Puncheon scuffed wide from Martin Kelly's cross.

The visitors went in front shortly before half-time after Eden Hazard sprayed a pass wide to Azpilicueta, whose floated cross

allowed Costa to nod in his 13th goal of the campaign.

Marcos Alonso struck the bar with a late free-kick, but Costa's goal proved sufficient.

Chelsea are nine points clear of second-place Liverpool, who visit Everton on Monday, and Arsenal, who travel to fourth-place Manchester City on Sunday.

"We can improve though," Conte added. "You can always improve in different aspects. I am pleased with this level we have reached and with work we can improve."

"It is important to understand we are only at the 17th game in the season. We must not look at the table."

Jose Mourinho's United drew level on points with fifth-place Tottenham Hotspur, who host Burnley on Sunday, after winning at West Brom to record three successive league wins for the first time since August.

Ibrahimovic opened the scoring in the fifth minute with a header from Jesse Lingard's fine right-wing cross.

After Ben Foster had pushed a shot from Wayne Rooney onto the bar, Ibrahimovic added a second in the 56th minute.

The former Paris Saint-Germain striker squeezed between two defenders before scoring via a deflection off Craig Dawson, leaving him with nine goals from his last 10 appearances and 16 for the season.

Leicester avoided a ninth defeat of the campaign thanks to an impressive fightback at Stoke, which left Claudio Ranieri's men three points above the relegation zone in 15th place.

# Saul hands Atletico nervy win

AFP, Madrid

A stunning 25-yard strike from Saul Niguez snapped Atletico Madrid's three-game winless streak with a nervy 1-0 win over Las Palmas on Saturday to move up to fifth in La Liga.

Atletico started the day 12 points adrift of leaders Real Madrid after a run of four defeats in seven league games.

However, Niguez's brilliant hit just before the hour mark brought some blessed relief to the Vicente Calderon as Atletico ensured they will end the year just a point off the top four.

And coach Diego Simeone insisted Atletico have had another fantastic 12 months despite their inconsistent start to the league season and losing in the Champions League final to bitter rivals Real on penalties in May.

"Taking into account where we have come from, we have ended an extraordinary year," said Simeone.

"I think any fan of Atletico Madrid has to be proud of a fantastic year and we finished it off with a very solid performance."

# Happy Sanchez wants to stay

AFP, London

Alexis Sanchez has told Arsenal he is "very happy" at the Premier League club, but the Chile forward insists it is up to them to come up with the right contract to keep him.

Sanchez has 18 months remaining on his current deal and both he and Arsenal teammate Mesut Ozil are reportedly seeking parity with the Premier League's top earners before extending their deals.

Sanchez, who has 14 goals this term, had kept quiet about the situation, but he has now has put the ball firmly in Arsenal's court.

"It really doesn't depend on me," Sanchez told Sky Sports when asked about a new contract on Friday.

"If they want to show confidence in me. I'm very happy at the club. I love all the staff. I'm very grateful for everybody here."

"I'm focused more on winning football matches. I'm staying concentrated on that."

"It depends on Arsenal. I enjoy the relationship with the fans. I want to achieve more for them. I want to win the Premier League and the Champions League."

# Bored Real plot glory

AFP, Yokohama



Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane admitted on Saturday his players were suffering from cabin fever after spending almost a week cooped up in a Japanese hotel.

As the European champions prepare to plunder more silverware at the Club World Cup, Zidane has noticed his players becoming restless before the final against Japan's Kashima Antlers in Yokohama on Sunday.

"To be honest it is very boring having to spend a week in a hotel," the Frenchman told reporters.

"The players want to relax and do fun stuff but we understand that it's part of the job. We have to be professional and treat it as a training camp," added Zidane, whose side beat Mexico's Club America 2-0 on Thursday.

"We didn't start too well in our first game, which was partly down to the long journey and a lack of training but we came here to win the trophy and we will be ready tomorrow."



Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane smiles during a press conference in Yokohama yesterday on the eve of their Club World Cup final against Kashima Antlers. PHOTO: AFP

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