

**BOISHAKHI TV**  
Bangladesh Premier League  
Muktijoddha v Ctg Abahani  
Live from 3:00pm  
Abahani v Uttar Baridhara  
Live from 5:45pm

**STAR SPORTS 2**  
Australia v Pakistan  
Second Test, Day 2  
Live from 5:30am (Tuesday)  
**TEN 1 HD**  
South Africa v Sri Lanka  
First Test, Day 1

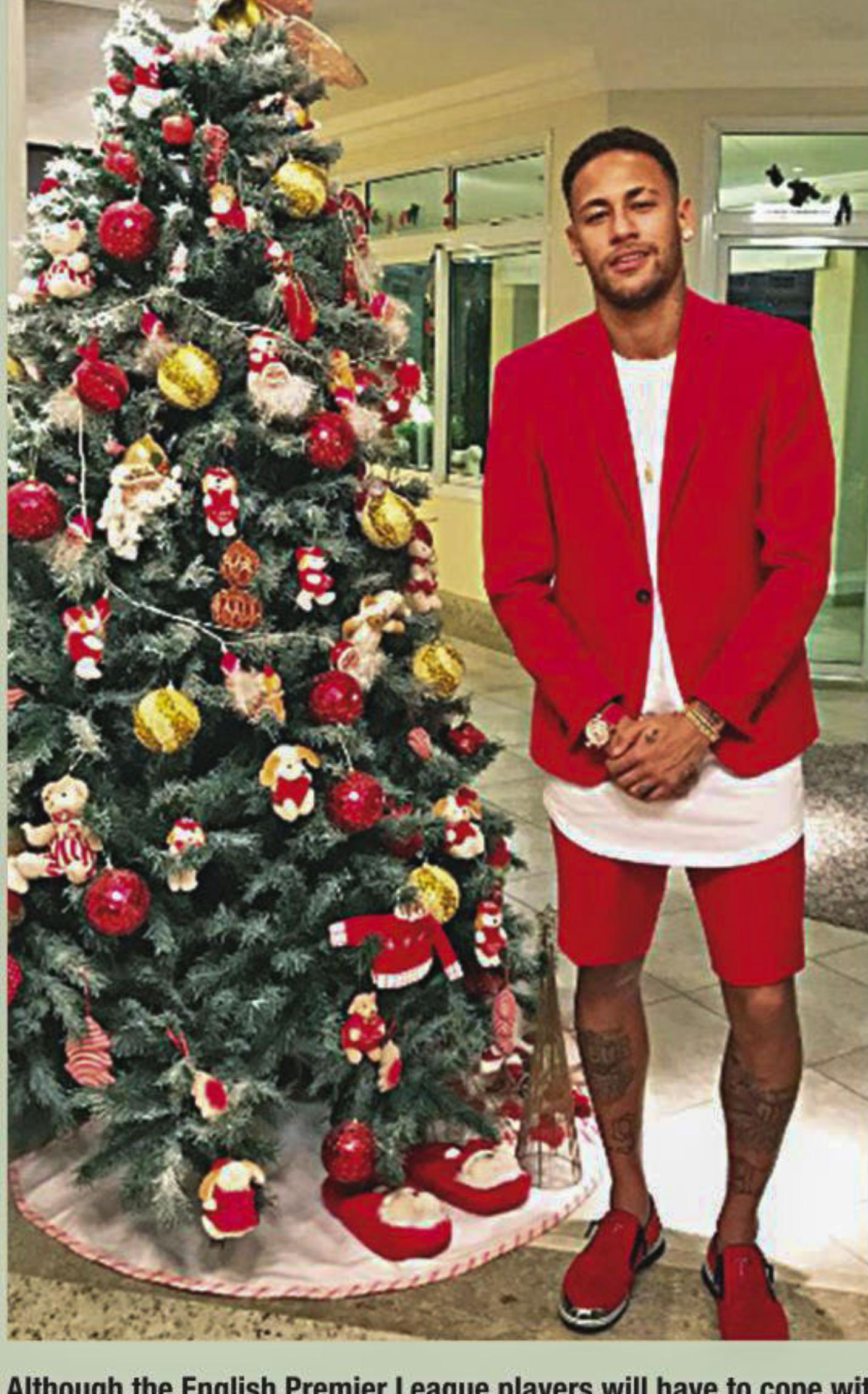
Live from 2:00pm  
**STAR SPORTS SELECT HD 1**  
English Premiership  
Wartford v Crystal Palace  
Live from 6:30pm  
Man United v Sunderland  
Live from 9:00pm

Hull City v Man City  
Live from 11:30pm  
**STAR SPORTS SELECT HD 2**  
English Premiership  
Arsenal v West Brom  
Live from 9:00pm

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh Premier League  
Muktijoddha v Ctg Abahani  
Time: 3:00pm

Abahani v Uttar Baridhara  
Time: 5:45pm  
Venue: BNS



Although the English Premier League players will have to cope with a packed Christmas schedule, Chelsea midfielder Cesc Fabregas (Bottom R) and Mathieu Flamini, who dressed up as Santa Claus, enjoyed their day on Christmas eve. Away on holiday, Cristiano Ronaldo returned to Portugal and visited his museum, where he posed alongside his wax likeness while his Barcelona rival Neymar (L) was decked in all red alongside his Christmas tree.

PHOTOS: COLLECTED

## Hosts lose to Kyrgyzstan in five-set thriller

SPORTS REPORTER

**BANGABANDHU**  
Asian Senior Men's Central Zone  
International Volleyball  
Championship 2016

Bangladesh conceded a 3-2 sets defeat against pre-tournament favourites Kyrgyzstan at the Shaheed Suhrawardi National Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday as the equation for the final of the Senior Asian Men's Central Zone International Volleyball Championship got even more intriguing.

The hosts had come into the match against the Central Asian nation with two convincing wins against Afghanistan (3-1) and Nepal (3-0), and a win in yesterday's match would have seen them through to Tuesday's final. But despite putting up a brilliant show against a side that had comprehensively beaten them earlier this year, Bangladesh conceded defeat and will wait for the final group day's action to seal their fate.

The match between the top two sides proved to be a topsy-turvy affair in front of a packed audience as the hosts levelled the margin by winning the second set 25-23 after conceding the first by the same scoreline. Kyrgyzstan took the third set by the same scoreline before Bangladesh hit back yet again, winning by the same margin. But the visitors had the last laugh as they took the fifth set 15-13 and confirmed their final berth, leaving the other spot as a two-way fight between Bangladesh and Nepal.

Bangladesh will take on Maldives today while Nepal will take on Kyrgyzstan, with both Bangladesh and Nepal on six points from three matches each.

Earlier in the day, Maldives notched their first win of the championship with a 3-0 sets victory over winless Afghanistan, with the match disrupted due to a fire which broke out from a short circuit. The unwanted incident halted the game for more than half an hour and players were taken outside to safety while the fire was doused.

### Evra offers Syrians help

IAN, Paris

Veteran French footballer Patrice Evra has offered help to the struggling people of war-torn Syria, asking them to contact him via Instagram if they need help.

"Instead of wishing you all a merry Christmas to all, I am really sad today because I have been receiving lot of videos about Syria. Kids are dying, as did men and women. I hate war and I am not a politician. I am a football player and I am connected to the earth. I love life," the Juventus defender said in a video. We are all the same and one on this earth irrespective of all. We need to help those kids. If serious people in Syria want to help their families, they can contact me on Instagram."

Evra also urged the people around the world to help the struggling Syrian people.

Recently, Portuguese football star Cristiano Ronaldo, a Save the Children ambassador, said Syrian children affected by the war were "real heroes" and called for them not to lose hope.

### Conte, Pep brace for Boxing Day

AFP, London



Chelsea's Antonio Conte and his Manchester City counterpart Pep Guardiola are among the Premier League managers who will sample

England's Boxing Day for the first time on Monday.

While the rest of the population gorges on Christmas turkey dinners, 16 teams will be gearing up for matches as part of a custom that stretches back over 150 years.

With Chelsea six points clear at the summit and chasing a club record 12th consecutive win, Conte is approaching the visit of Bournemouth with a spring in his step.

"This is the first experience for me and my family, to work, to play football [at this time of year]," said the Italian.

"It can be, and I hope it will be, a fantastic experience. The atmosphere we find in this period is very difficult to find."

Guardiola, too, is full of festive cheer following his side's 2-1 comeback win over Arsenal last weekend, which left City seven points below Chelsea in third place and he is preparing the match against Hull City as he does for a regular fixture.

"This is my first year here and people say that at Christmas you have to be focused, because at home you celebrate with dinner and lunch" Guardiola said. "We are going to train on the 25th in the afternoon and travel to Hull to play on the 26th. We will prepare for the game as if it was not Christmas time or Boxing Day."

#### FIXTURES

Monday (1500GMT unless stated otherwise)

Arsenal v West Brom, Chelsea v Bournemouth, Hull v Man City (1715 GMT), Leicester v Everton, Man Utd v Sunderland, Burnley v Middlesbrough, Swansea v West Ham, Watford v Crystal Palace (1230 GMT)

## MSC snatch a point from Sheikh Jamal

SPORTS REPORTER



Mohammedan Sporting Club earned a crucial point in their bid to avoid relegation from the top tier by holding defending champions Sheikh Jamal DC to a 1-1 draw at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The Black and Whites, who have hovered just above the drop zone for the entire league this season, are two points above second-from-bottom Uttar Baridhara and four clear of table-sweepers Feni Soccer Club. Mohammedan have one game remaining while the two sides below them have two games in hand each, with two teams set to be demoted to the second tier at the end of the season.

The Black and Whites were the ones to break the deadlock when Tawhidul Alam Sabuj brilliantly placed the ball past diving Sheikh Jamal goalie Mazharul Islam Himel on 19 minutes after receiving a through-pass from skipper Ismail Bangoura. This was the eighth goal of the campaign for the former national striker, who had spent a considerable amount of time on the sidelines due to injury.

The lead lasted only six minutes as Sheikh Jamal's Gambian forward Landing Darboe found the top left corner of the net with a curling free-kick, leaving Mohammedan goalkeeper Mohammad Nehal rooted to his spot. Both sides had their fair share of chances to grab the lead, but eventually no more goals meant both had to leave the field with a share of the spoils.

The draw left Mohammedan with 19

points while Sheikh Jamal remained third with 31 points.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Russel KC's eight-match unbeaten streak came to an end as they were beaten 1-0 by fellow mid-table side Arambagh KS in the first match of the day.

The big-spenders from Bashundhara Residential Area, who had strung together a series of positive results after losing eight out of their first 12 matches, conceded the only goal of the match in the 69th minute after midfielder Jamal Bhuiyan had wasted a glorious opportunity to give his side a first-half lead by fluffing his lines from the spot.

The former national team midfielder blasted the ball way over the crossbar on 21 minutes after the referee deemed Monsur Amin's clean tackle on Nasirul Islam as worthy of a penalty.

There was hardly any more notable chance for either side in the first half before Arambagh took control of the match with Sajidur's superb strike in the 69th minute. The young forward, who saw his curling free-kick tipped away by Sheikh Russel goalkeeper Biplob Bhattacharjee on 66 minutes, managed to beat the veteran goalkeeper from an acute angle three minutes later after Thiago Tyson delivered a low-cut back.

The Brazilian then went close to doubling the lead 10 minutes later when he cleverly flicked Sajidur's corner, only to see Biplob sticking out his leg in acrobatic fashion to block the attempt.

The win took Arambagh to 26 points and seventh position, dispossessing Sheikh Russel, who are on 24 points from 21 matches.



Sheikh Jamal's Gambian forward Landing Darboe celebrates after scoring the equaliser against Mohammedan during the side's JB Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: BFF



Three Bangladesh players jump to block a smashed shot from a Kyrgyzstan player during their Senior Asian Men's Central Zone International Volleyball Championship in Mirpur yesterday.

### Lampard to stay 'in touch' with Chelsea

REUTERS, London

Former England midfielder Frank Lampard says he will be "in close contact" with his old club Chelsea as he decides on his next career move.

The 38-year-old left New York City in November and speculation has mounted that he could return to the London team in a coaching role or some other capacity.

"I'm still waiting for the five-year contract to come through from Chelsea, they haven't called yet," Lampard joked on Saturday.

"Whatever happens, in some capacity I will be at Chelsea, whether that's with my season ticket watching them...I don't know. I will be in very close contact."

"Whether I have a role is not all in my hands so I can't go any further than that. I am very relaxed about it which is a nice place to be."

## ADMISSION OPEN

### MBA & MBM

Application Deadline

Admission Test

Spring '17

January 11, 2017

January 13, 2017

Master of Business Administration (MBA), Regular & Executive  
 Master of Bank Management (MBM)

Admission Requirement

GPA 2.50 in each exam of SSC, HSC & Degree/Honors (total GPA 7.50) or Combined GPA 8.00 (in case of total GPA 6.00 in SSC & HSC, but not less than 2.00 in any exam of SSC and HSC or Equivalent Examination)

25% waiver on admission fee for all and 50% waiver on admission fee for IIUC graduates.  
 All academic activities & classes shall be held at Permanent Campus, Kumira.  
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Classes for both Male & Female students shall be held at Permanent Campus with Transport facility

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