**English Premiership** Man City v Swansea Live from 7:30pm Leicester v Man United Live from 10:00pm

BANGLADESH CRICKET LEAGUE

STAR SPORTS SELECT HD1

Walton Central Zone v BCB North Zone Venue: Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury

AC Milan v Sampdoria Live from 5:30pm Juventus v Inter Milan Live from 1:45am (Monday)

**SONY ESPN** 

Serie A

**SONY SIX** La Liga Sevilla v Villarreal Live from 5:00pm Real Sociedad v Osasuna Live from 11:30pm

Celta Vigo v Real Madrid Live from 1:45pm

DAY'S EVENT (Four-Day Match, Day-2) Time: 9:30am

Islami Bank East Zone v Prime Bank South Zone Venue: Sylhet Int'l Cricket Stadium Stadium, Chittagong

Augsburg v Werder Bremen

Live from 8:30pm

Live from 10:30pm

**Eintracht v Darmstadt** 

Jazz hits a winning note Playing as a professional for the last SPORTS REPORTER Jazz Janewattananond of Thailand ended his wait for Thitiphun. for a maiden Asian Tour "I have been waiting for this win for title with a four-stroke victory in the Bashundhara Bangladesh Open yesterday. The 21-year-old golfer, who started the campaign with a sparkling 64 in the opening round and led ever since, struck a calculated 67 in the final round at the Kurmitola Golf Club

> place. The youngster follows his compatriot Thitiphun Chuayprakong in becoming the second consecutive Thai winner in this 300,000 dollar event. Although Jazz could not match Thitiphun's feat of a course-record 21under-par, he did forge the biggest winning margin by tallying 17-underpar (267) against Siddikur's 13-underpar (271). Dodge Kemmer of USA ended up third, finishing two strokes behind Siddikur.

> yesterday to beat local hero Siddikur

Rahman, who finished in second

Jazz said he was happy to have finally gotten the monkey off his back.

seven years, Jazz hoped this victory would blaze a trail for him like it did

so long. I started playing on the Asian Tour when I was an amateur at 14. It's just a huge relief that I managed to get the job done," the calm Thai golfer, who spent two weeks at a monastery in Bangkok last December, said after celebrating with the 54,000-dollar winner's cheque and a trophy designed after the Royal Bengal Tiger.

After taking a share of the lead in the opening round, the mild-mannered Thai continued to consolidate his advantage as the chasing pack fell by the wayside. However, despite carding 67 and 69 in the following two rounds, and going into the final round with a four-stroke advantage, Jazz was not at before.

"I didn't get much sleep last night to be honest. Even though I had a fourshot lead, I still wasn't comfortable heading out today," Jazz said. "I think this is the longest 18 holes that I have played in my life. I knew Siddikur had

the home course advantage. I just tried to do my best out there."

Siddikur confessed that he needed to play exceptional golf to have a chance of winning his home title after trailing by five strokes at the end of the third round. And despite matching his best round score in this event, the 32year-old golfer eventually finished four shots behind. But he was more than happy with the second-place finish, the best ever by a Bangladeshi.

"It has been a long time since I last played so well. It was a great round and a superb week. Getting such a huge crowd following me on my home course, I am really thankful. I am happy with how I played too," the twotime Asian Tour winner said.

Kemmer of the USA carded 68 in the final round to finish third in the race while four more golfers -- two Thai and ease as he had blown chances like that two Indian -- finished tied for fourth with matching 10-under-par (274).

> Dulal Hossain of Bangladesh finished as the second best local with a score of five-under-par (279) while Akbar Hossain was adjudged the best amateur with a score of 10-over-par

## Chelsea thrash Arsenal



Eden Hazard scored a sublime solo Premier goal as Premier League leaders
Chelsea thrust a dagger into Arsenal's title aspirations with a 3-1 victory at Stamford Bridge on Saturday.

Jazz Janewattananond of Thailand kisses the winner's trophy after clinching the title

of the Bashundhara Bangladesh Open at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday.

The Belgian winger left a trail of defenders in his wake to double Chelsea's lead in the 53rd minute, in between a contentious header by Marcos Alonso and a late lob from Arsenal old boy Cesc Fabregas.

It was Chelsea's 11th home victory in succession and their 16th win in 18 league games, stretching their lead over third-place Arsenal to a huge 12 points with 14 games of the season remaining.

Chelsea have been close to unplayable since Antonio Conte changed their system during their 3-0 loss at Arsenal on September 24 and it seems only a matter of time until they are crowned champions.

For Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger, who watched from the stands as he served the third game of a four-match touchline ban, his side's season is following a wearily familiar pattern. Arsenal have lost their last five games at the Bridge and had conceded 13 unanswered goals prior to Olivier Giroud's stoppage-time consolation.

With a raft of midfielders unavailable, Wenger was obliged to start with Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain alongside Francis Coquelin in the middle, while Theo Walcott replaced Giroud in attack.

Arsenal had conceded two goals in the first 13 minutes of Tuesday's 2-1 loss at home to Watford.

They almost caught Chelsea cold here, Alex Iwobi curling wide after Thibaut Courtois overhit a pass towards David Luiz.

But after Gary Cahill had headed into the ground and over the bar at the other end, Chelsea went ahead in the 13th minute with a goal that left Arsenal fans fuming.

Pedro sent a cross into the box from the right that Diego Costa headed against the bar at the near post, sending the ball spinning into the air. As Hector Bellerin got himself in position to head it away,

and with Walcott watching on impassively, Alonso flew in, cleaning his fellow Spaniard out with his forearm and heading the ball home.

Referee Martin Atkinson allowed the goal to stand and Arsenal's disappointment was compounded by the sight of a dazed Bellerin being led down the tunnel, with Gabriel

#### SA restrict Sri Lanka

AFP, Johannesburg

Niroshan Dickwella survived a dropped catch, some hostile bowling and a swarm of bees to give Sri Lanka's innings some respectability in the third one-day international in Johannesburg on Saturday.

Dickwella scored 74 in a Sri Lankan total of 163 after they were sent in to bat at Wanderers Stadium.

The left-handed Dickwella was dropped on 25 when JP Duminy, running back from backward point, could not hold on to a high leading edge from Kagiso Rabada's bowling.

There was a delay of an hour after a swarm of bees drove the players from the field after 26.3 overs and Dickwella was tested several times by some shortpitched deliveries from South Africa's fast bowlers.

Dickwella's 80-ball innings was ended when he gloved an attempted pull against a short delivery from Dwaine Pretorius to present wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock with his 100th dismissal in 72 oneday internationals. Dickwella hit seven boundaries.

Seamer Pretorius, playing in his first match of the series, took three for 19. **SCORES IN BRIEF** 

SRI LANKA: 163 all out in 39.2 overs (Dickwella 74, Tharanga 31; Pretorius 3-19, Tahir 2-21)

# Siddikur reimagined

ATIQUE ANAM

SELECTED SCORES

Jazz Janewattananond (THA) -17 (267)

Rattanon Wannasrichan (THA) -10 (274)

Shubhankar Sharma (IND)

SCORE PRIZEMONEY (\$)

33,000

18,900

11,460

11,460

11,460

4,065

3,705

FIROZ AHMED

PHOTO:

-13 (271)

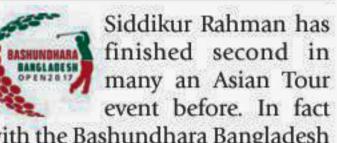
-11 (273)

-10 (274)

-4 (280)

+10(294)

POS NAME



event before. In fact with the Bashundhara Bangladesh Open 2017 included, the ace Bangladesh golfer has now nine second-place finishes on the circuit against a grand total of two victories, an unflattering statistic for any golfer. And in many of those eight previous occasions, Siddikur had thrown away advantageous positions and eventually came up with a dry smile.

But yesterday it was different; the 32-year-old golfer was beaming while being congratulated by all and sundry at the Kurmitola Golf Course. He was happy to have salvaged a dreadful start and take himself into contention for a third title. It proved to be a terrific effort from a man who had finished 38th and 35th in the previous two editions and started this one with an even-par, languishing at 29th at the end of the first round.

Siddikur said he was feeling more mentally mature than ever before.

"I think my mental game was not as strong in the last two years. I practiced a lot and I prepared myself well before coming home for this tournament," the ace golfer said at the end of the third round. "The game is better and more mature as well. I think that's the difference for me compared

to the last two years." There were definite signs of that mental maturity in his play. Since falling for a triple bogey on the fourth hole on the first morning, Siddikur racked up 21 birdies against only five

bogeys, hitting six birdies each in the second, third and fourth rounds. There was no massive mistake from him like on previous occasions where he had failed to hold his nerve as Siddikur moved himself up the leaderboard and into the top five. The two-time Asian Tour winner said he tried to recollect his fond memories during the course of play to keep himself calm.

that he has improved on, Siddikur claimed. Having worked with a new coach on his technique over the past couple of months, the golfer says he is impressed with the improvement achieved. "I worked on my technique for

the last two months and I think it has been pretty effective," Siddikur said. "In fact I was impressed with the improvement that I have



Siddikur Rahman's elder brother Rafiqul, who was caddying for him, couldn't contain his excitement as his brother makes a difficult putt during the final round of the Bashundhara Bangladesh Open at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

"I was recalling moments from when I won my first amateur title, when I won my first professional title and when I won my first Asian Tour title. Those memories helped me calm myself down," the 32year-old golfer, who had his family members cheering for him from the side of the course and one of his

brothers caddying for him, said. However, there is more than just the mental aspect of the game

achieved in my distance, my accuracy, my striking. Even my cogolfers have said they have noticed an improvement in my game."

With a very busy schedule over the next three months featuring a number of events of Asian Tour, PGTI and Japan Tour, Bangladesh golf's flagbearer will be hoping his improvement in technique and mental makeup helps him turn a corner in his career.

#### BKSP, DEB face off in final

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) and Dhaka Educational Board (DEB) have moved into the Agrani Bank 26th National Youth Hockey Championship final by beating their respective rivals at Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

BKSP notched up an easy 4-2 win over Dhaka district in the first semifinal as Sohanur Rahman struck a brace while Arshad Hossain and Rakibul Hasan netted one goal apiece. Belal Hossain and Tanjim each pulled one goal back after trailing 3-0 at one stage.

In the other semifinal, DEB routed Joypurhat 4-0, courtesy of three strikes by Zahid Hossain while Promod Dewan netted the other during the one-way affair.

The final between BKSP and DEB will be held on Monday.

#### Stallion confirm participation

SPORTS REPORTER

The lineup of participating teams for the 2nd Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup tournament was completed when the fifth and final foreign club from Philippines confirmed their participation on Friday.

Stallion Laguna FC, who have recently been promoted to the top-tier Philippine Football League from United Football League, were the last outfit remaining from the tournament as four of the five foreign clubs - Afghanistan league champions Shaheen Asmayee, Nepal National League champions Manang Marshyangdi Club, Korea's Challengers League champions Pocheon Citizens FC, Maldives Premier League runners-up Trust and Care Club had confirmed their participation earlier.

Three local clubs - Dhaka Abahani, Mohammedan SC and hosts Chittagong Abahani - will compete in the eight-team tournament as well which is scheduled to get underway from February 18 in Chittagong.

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Chelsea defender Marcos Alonso jumps for joy after scoring the opening goal against Arsenal during their Premier League encounter at Stamford Bridge yesterday.

### Barca close in on Real

AFP, Madrid



Lionel Messi struck another trademark freekick as Barcelona moved to within a one point of La Liga leaders Real Madrid with a 3-0 win over Athletic Bilbao on Saturday.

Madrid have two games in hand, the first of which was supposed to take place on Sunday at Celta Vigo. However, wind damage to Celta's Balaidos stadium has

left the ground unsafe to hold the game, according to the mayor of Vigo. Neither the club nor La Liga would say whether the match will go ahead however. Barca took their chance to apply pressure at the Camp

Nou, but needed some wasteful finishing by Athletic in a much tighter game than the scoreline suggests. Luis Enrique again made a raft of changes with the

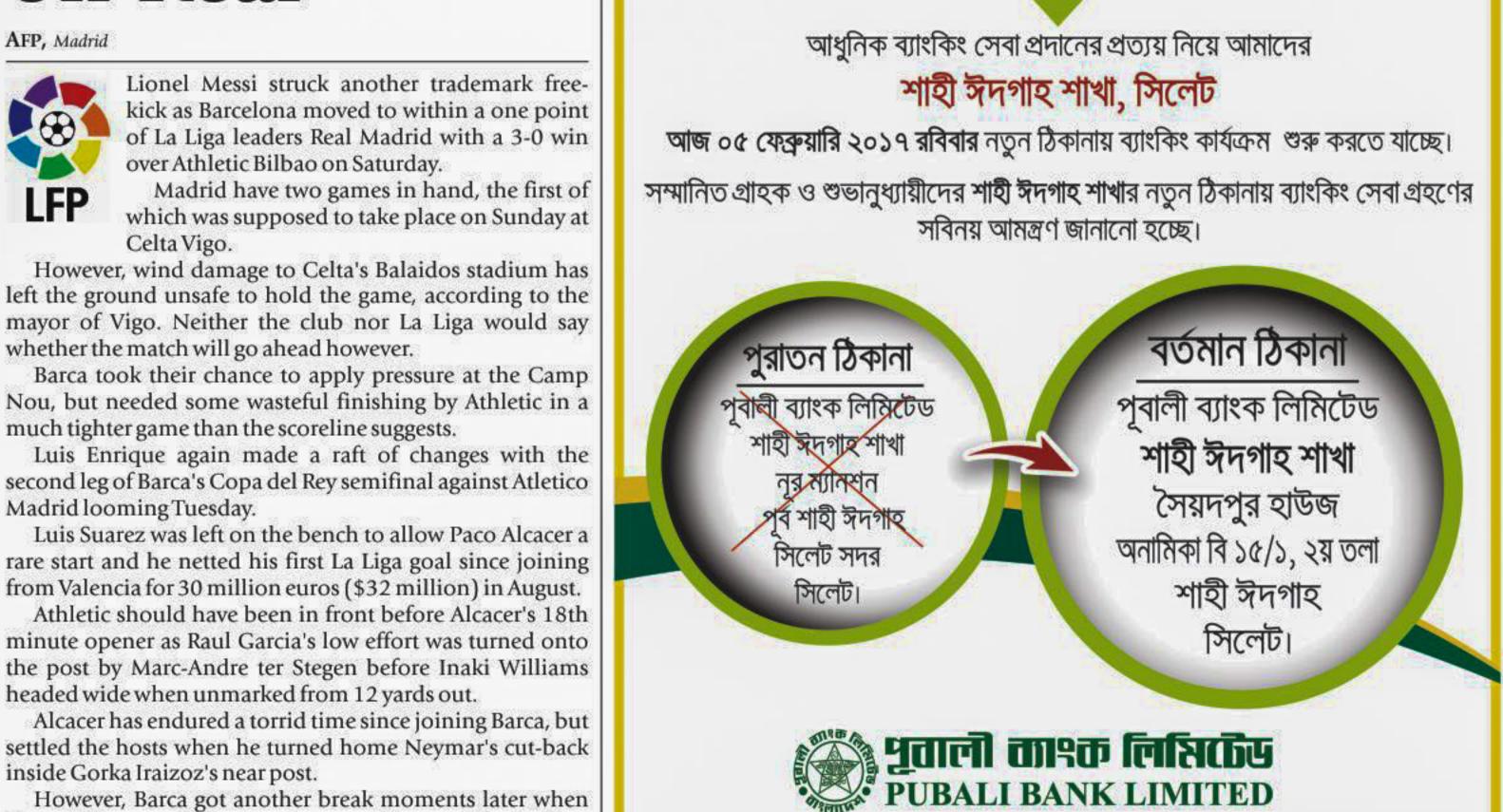
second leg of Barca's Copa del Rey semifinal against Atletico Madrid looming Tuesday. Luis Suarez was left on the bench to allow Paco Alcacer a

rare start and he netted his first La Liga goal since joining from Valencia for 30 million euros (\$32 million) in August. Athletic should have been in front before Alcacer's 18th

minute opener as Raul Garcia's low effort was turned onto the post by Marc-Andre ter Stegen before Inaki Williams headed wide when unmarked from 12 yards out. Alcacer has endured a torrid time since joining Barca, but

inside Gorka Iraizoz's near post.

However, Barca got another break moments later when Gerard Pique was lucky to only see a yellow card for hauling down Garcia on the edge of the box.



भाशा छाना छत