

**STAR SPORTS 1**  
India v Bangladesh  
First Test, Day 3  
Live from 10:00am  
**STAR SPORTS SELECT HD1**  
English Premiership

Arsenal v Hull City  
Live from 6:30pm  
Man United v Watford  
Live from 9:00pm  
Liverpool v Tottenham  
Live from 11:30pm

**STAR SPORTS SELECT HD2**  
Bundesliga  
Ingolstadt v Bayern Munich  
Live from 8:30pm  
Schalke v Hertha Berlin  
Live from 11:30pm

**SONY ESPN**  
*Serie A*  
Fiorentina v Udinese  
Live from 1:45am (Sunday)  
**SONY SIX**  
*La Liga*

Alaves v Barcelona  
Live from 9:15pm  
Athletic Bilbao v Deportivo  
Live from 11:30pm  
Osasuna v Real Madrid  
Live from 1:45am (Sunday)

**BANGLADESH CRICKET LEAGUE**  
(Four-Day Match, Day-1)  
Time: 9:30am

Walton Central Zone v Prime Bank  
South Zone  
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium

Islami Bank East Zone v BCB North Zone  
Venue: Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury  
Stadium, Chittagong

## Siddikur steady in Malaysia

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman continued his excellent form in Malaysia to move into the third round of the Maybank Championship tied for 14th. The 32-year-old golfer, who finished runner-up last week in his home event, the Bashundhara Bangladesh Open, played consecutive 65s in the first two rounds for an aggregate of six-under-par (138).

Having made three birdies and an eagle against two bogeys in round one, the two-time Asian Tour winner traded five birdies for two bogeys at the Saujana Golf and Country Club in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Siddikur was six shots off the pace though, with Bernd Wiesberger of Austria grabbing the lead at 12-under-par (132) followed by Danny Willett of England a stroke behind. A total of 70 golfers made the cut in the 3-million-dollar event co-sanctioned by the Asian Tour and the European Tour.

## Hernanes signs for Hebei

AFP, Rome

Brazilian midfielder Hernanes has joined Chinese Super League club Hebei Fortune after just 18 months with Juventus, the Serie A giants announced Friday.

"Juventus Football Club announces the completion of an agreement with Hebei China Fortune Football Club for the permanent transfer of Anderson Hernanes for 8m euros (\$8.5m)," a statement by Juventus said Friday.

Juventus said the fee could "increase by two million euros" if certain conditions are met.



Bangladesh off-spinner Khadija Tul Kubra (L) put in a tremendous performance against Scotland, taking three wickets for 31 runs during their ICC Women's World Cup Qualifier at the Colombo Cricket Club Ground yesterday.

PHOTO: ICC

## GM Chess returns after nine years

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) is all set to revive the Grand Master Chess Tournament after eight years by holding the biggest-ever tournament in terms of participation of Grand Masters from March 2 to 10 in Dhaka. The tournament, likely to be named after Sheikh Kamal, the eldest son of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, will be held in Swiss League format.

The newly-elected committee of the game's governing body has already started preparation by asking for entries for foreign players. The committee has Bangabandhu International Conference Centre as the tentative venue and it is waiting for a final approval for the name of the tournament from the Bangabandhu Memorial Trust.

"Preparation is going on in full swing. The sponsors have been all but confirmed. We are just waiting for an approval from Bangabandhu Memorial Trust as we want to name the tournament after Sheikh Kamal," BCF joint secretary Moniruzzaman Palash informed. "Though it is too early to say, but some 20 to 25 Grand Masters are expected

to participate in the tournament."

It has been learnt that Grand Masters from Russia, India, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Egypt, Uzbekistan, Mongolia and Bangladesh are expected to take part in the tournament, which is expected to offer 25,000 dollars of prize money apart from participation money for players over rating of 2400.

The last time a GM tournament was organised by the BCF was the United Insurance and Leasing GM Chess Tournament in 2009. However, three more GM tournaments were held by other organisations - two by Six Seasons and once by Chittagong Jilla Krira Sangsha in 2015.

And due to the lack of GM tournaments, Bangladesh haven't seen a new GM since Enamul Hossain Razib became the fifth and last one during the 2009 national championship. No chess players have even managed to win a GM norm since.

So this upcoming tournament is expected to be the platform for IM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar, IM Abu Sufian Shakil, FM Mohammad Fahad Rahman, FM Taibur Rahman, FM Mehdi Hasan, FM Sk Nasir Ahmed and others to impress and win norms.

No further details were released but the pair were thought to be linked to spot-fixing, an illegal betting practice rife in Pakistan cricket in recent years.

Sharjeel and Latif have been suspended and the rigorous and wide-ranging investigation by the PCB supported by the International Cricket Council will continue as part of collective efforts to protect the integrity of the sport," the board said in a statement.

Sharjeel, 27, was part of the Pakistan team which toured Australia and featured in a Test and all five one-day internationals.

Latif, 31, was part of Pakistan's World Twenty20 squad in India last year.

## Pak suspend Sharjeel, Latif

APP, Dubai

The Pakistan Cricket Board Friday provisionally suspended Sharjeel Khan and Khalid Latif under its Anti-Corruption Code and dumped the pair out of the Pakistan Super League.

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## Fizz will play third round

SPORTS REPORTER



Left-arm pacer Mustafizur Rahman will play the third round of the Bangladesh Cricket League starting from today.

"Initially the plan was to play only one round [the second-round match against East Zone] but I think that it will be better for me to play another round to get back full confidence in my bowling. In the previous round I bowled with some comfort and I hope things will be better in the third round," Mustafizur told The Daily Star over phone yesterday.

While Mustafizur was deemed medically fit, there were concerns about his match fitness and so the national selectors decided to feature him in the four-day Bangladesh Cricket League so that he can fully recover from his shoulder surgery before the Tigers' next assignment in Sri Lanka.

Mustafizur will play for South Zone against Central Zone - who are still to get a point -- in Fatullah and captain Abdur Razzak said that match practice will help Mustafizur regain confidence. "It's good that he has decided to play the third round. He looked okay in the previous round and I believe there is no alternative to playing competitive cricket to get back confidence after any injury."

South Zone has eight points from the last two games.

North Zone, who are leading the table with 10 points, will meet East Zone in Chittagong.

## Wrestlers to be trained in India

SPORTS REPORTER

The Wrestling Federation of India has agreed to provide a year-long training to Bangladeshi wrestlers after the Bangladesh Amateur Wrestling Federation sought help in a bid to improve the standard of Bangladeshi wrestlers.

Some 17 wrestlers are supposed to leave for India on February 27 to start the year-long training, which will begin on March 1 in Uttar Pradesh.

"During the South Asian Games and the election of the South Asian Wrestling Federation last year in Guwahati, I requested the WFI president to do something for the Bangladeshi wrestlers after noticing the fast improvement of Indian wrestlers. I received an e-mail from WFI three days ago confirming the acceptance of our proposal," BAWF general secretary Tabiur Raham Palwan informed yesterday.

## Murray's friendly warning to Federer

AFP, London

Andy Murray warned Roger Federer to avoid sampling the questionable delights of a "horrific" deep-fried Mars bar after the tennis great accepted an invitation to play in Scotland for the first time.

Scottish star Murray will face Federer in a charity exhibition match in Glasgow on November 7.

Scotland is notorious for having one of the worst average diets in Europe, with the deep fried Mars bar -- where the chocolate bar is shoved into hot oil and coated with the kind of batter more commonly seen covering fried fish -- one of its most infamous dishes.

Murray and Federer may be rivals most of the time but that didn't stop the 29-year-old from offering his Swiss visitor some advice about the local 'cuisine'.

"Don't try the fried Mars bars," Murray joked. "I tried one of them for the first time last year and it was horrific. Stay away from them."

Federer won his 18th Grand Slam singles title at last month's Australian Open, beating old foe Rafael Nadal in a Melbourne final few pundits had foreseen.

Murray, by contrast, suffered a shock fourth round defeat at the hands of the unheralded Mischa Zverev.

Federer's success in Australia, at the relatively advanced age, in tennis terms, of 35 came following a long spell out with injury and a self-imposed break.

And double Olympic champion Murray, 29, said he might now reduce his schedule in a bid to prolong his career.

"It's incredible what he did in Australia after such a long break," Murray, a three-time Grand Slam-winner, said. "We play so much, a lot of the year. Sometimes coming to events fresh can have some huge advantage."

"Him and Rafa were both coming back from a pretty significant period of time out and they both played extremely well. Maybe

that's something we can all learn from moving forwards."

Federer decided to take up Murray's invitation after the Scot took part in the Swiss ace's charity event in April.

Such is Federer's global popularity that sell-out-crowds at Glasgow's 10,800-capacity SSE Hydro are expected.

"I saw a little video where he was wearing a kilt when he was announcing that I was going to play in his event over in Switzerland," said Murray. "He's returning the favour in November. It's really good he's



doing it.

"He's just extremely popular. He's one of the best players that's ever played the game."

"It's not just how much he's won, but the way he plays and how he carries himself."

Federer will be helping raise funds that will be shared equally between UNICEF, the United Nations' children's fund and an as yet unnamed local Scottish charity.

"Last year was such a fantastic night and to raise over £300,000 for UNICEF and Young People's Futures (a Glasgow-based children's charity) in our first year was amazing," said Murray, a UK ambassador for UNICEF.

"This year is going to be even bigger and better and I am so pleased to be able to bring Roger to play in Scotland for the first time."

## ECB interviews Root, Stokes and Broad

BBC ONLINE

Joe Root, Ben Stokes and Stuart Broad have met with Andrew Strauss to discuss the England Test captaincy.

Alastair Cook, England's highest Test run scorer, stepped down on Monday after a record 59 Tests in charge.

Root, vice-captain to Cook, is the favourite to take over but director of cricket Strauss previously refused to "rule anyone in or out" of the role.

A new captain will be appointed before England's limited-overs tour of the Caribbean in March.

The trio met Strauss and his team on Thursday, although it is understood that the discussions were not considered as interviews for the position.

Strauss previously stated that he would be speaking to senior squad members in leadership roles about who should succeed Cook.

Bowler Broad previously captained the Twenty20 side between 2011 and 2014 and all-rounder Stokes was vice-captain on the recent limited-overs tour of Bangladesh.

Batsman Root was described as the "obvious candidate" for the captaincy by England's leading Test wicket-taker James Anderson on Tuesday.

Wicketkeeper Jos Buttler, who is the limited-overs vice-captain but not a Test regular, was also spoken to over the phone by Strauss and his team.



The 11th Mobil Cup Golf Tournament came to a close yesterday at the Kurmitola Golf club. Former Chief of Army staff Mohammad Abdul Mubeen inaugurated the event on February 8 as chief guest where Azam J Chowdhury, Chairman of East Coast Group and managing director of MJL Bangladesh Limited, was also present among other dignitaries.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## 'Superclasico' heads to MCG

AFP, Sydney

Lionel Messi's Argentina will take on Neymar's Brazil in a 'Superclasico' friendly in Melbourne in June, Australian officials said Friday.

The top two teams in the FIFA rankings will clash in the 100,000-capacity Melbourne Cricket Ground, the world's biggest cricket stadium, on June 9.

"There's no bigger occasion in football than when Brazil takes on Argentina, and it's coming to Melbourne," said Victoria's state tourism minister, John Eren.

"The match is set to feature current FIFA World Player of the Year, Lionel Messi, and Brazilian star Neymar Jr," a state government statement added.

Messi, 29, last played at the MCG a decade ago when Argentina beat Australia 1-0.

## COPA DEL REY Suarez ban upheld

AFP, Madrid

Barcelona striker Luis Suarez will miss the Spanish Cup final after picking up a two-match tournament ban for his sending off and subsequent refusal to go to the dressing rooms in a tense semi-final with Atletico Madrid in midweek.

The Uruguayan picked up a second yellow card for elbowing in a heated semi-final second leg.

The defending champions now play Alaves on May 27 in their fourth straight final.

Barcelona have the chance to go top of La Liga for the first time since October 22.

Barca boss Luis Enrique has almost a fully-fit squad to choose from as Sergio Busquets and Andres Iniesta made their return from injury as second-half substitutes in midweek, whilst Neymar returns from suspension.

"We are delighted that Busquets and Iniesta have recovered," said Barca midfielder Ivan Rakitic.

## FIXTURES

### Saturday

Real Betis v Valencia (1200), Alaves v Barcelona (1515), Athletic Bilbao v Deportivo La Coruna (1730), Osasuna v Real Madrid (1945)

### Sunday

Villarreal v Malaga (1100), Leganes v Sporting Gijon (1515), Las Palmas v Sevilla (1730), Atletico Madrid v Celta Vigo (1945)

### Monday

Eibar v Granada (1945)