

TEN 1
UEFA Champions League
Leverkusen v Atletico Madrid
Live from 1:45am (Wednesday)

TEN 1HD
UEFA Champions League
Man City v Monaco
Live from 1:45am (Wednesday)

DAY'S EVENT

BANGLADESH CRICKET LEAGUE
Round-4, Day 3
 Walton Central Zone v Islami Bank East Zone
 Time: 9:30am

Venue: KSOAS, Fatullah
 Prime Bank South Zone v BCB North Zone
 Time: 9:30pm
 Venue: BKSP-3

LONG AN STAND STRONG

A Vietnamese football team face disciplinary action after allowing their opponents to walk three goals into an unguarded net in protest at the award of a disputed last-minute penalty. Players from Long An stood stock still and refused to tackle their Ho Chi Minh City rivals in a V-League game late Sunday. The extraordinary protest came after a spot kick was awarded against Long An for a foul with the game poised at 2-2 and minutes to play. After an argument with the referee, Long An's goalkeeper led the revolt, turning his back on the penalty-taker, who slotted the ball in to make it 3-2. It was the third disputed refereeing decision of the game which led to goals for Ho Chi Minh City. The visitors continued their protest, refusing to budge from the kick-off to allow their opponents to score two more goals. The game ended 5-2 and Long An have since faced anger from officials in the country. —AFP



QUICK SINGLES

The following are a few samples of stories that did not make the print edition. However, if they pique your interest, you can always read them online on The Daily Star website by simply scanning the QR codes listed below:

Batsman or batter?

An Australian cricket administrator calls for terms like "batsman" and "12th man" to be dropped in favour of gender-neutral versions like "batter" and "12th", to encourage women and girls to play the game.

Barca boos unhelpful - Luis Enrique

Barcelona boss Luis Enrique labels harsh treatment dished out to his players by Barca fans nonsensical as the Spanish champions squeeze past Leganes 2-1 on Sunday.

Saints, not Chelsea on Mourinho's mind

Jose Mourinho refuses to dwell on the prospect of facing his former club Chelsea in the FA Cup quarterfinals after Manchester United negotiates a difficult fifth-round visit to Blackburn Rovers in a 2-1 victory.

Nishikori suffers sixth successive final loss

Japanese top seed Kei Nishikori loses a sixth successive final when he is defeated by Ukraine's Alexandr Dolgoplov 7-6 (7/4), 6-4 in the Buenos Aires clay-court title match.

Wenger concerned by artificial pitch at minor league Sutton

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger believes Sutton United's artificial pitch could cause his side problems and warns against complacency when they visit the National League team in the fifth round of the FA Cup later on Monday.

Roma leapfrog Napoli to second

Edin Dzeko strikes his 19th Serie A goal and Francesco Totti comes off the bench with an assist as Roma keep their 'scudetto' hopes alive with a 4-1 win over Torino. Villa first player to be retroactively punished

Neymar to stand trial

Neymar, Barcelona and Santos will stand trial on fraud and corruption charges over the transfer of the Brazilian forward after their appeals were turned down by Spain's High Court on Monday. Neymar's mother Nadine Goncalves and the family company N&N also had appeals rejected. "Santos FC, Barcelona FC, Neymar, his mother Nadine Goncalves and N&N, the family company, have lost their appeals to have charges of fraud and corruption dropped," the High Court said in a statement. The case stems from a complaint by Brazilian investment group DIS, which owned part of Neymar's transfer rights.

Bangladesh women bid bye

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh women's roll ball team were eliminated from the pre-quarterfinal stage of the 4th Roll Ball World Cup yesterday after losing to Senegal by 3-6 goals.

The Bangladesh team, who made a flying start in Group D with an 8-2 win over Nepal, had gone through to the last 16 after they got a walk-over against Philippines in their second match.

So with one game's work, they came into the last 16 and found it difficult to play against the physically imposing yet nimble Senegalese women at the Shahid Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Captain Jannat Zebin Hiya, who had scored five goals against Nepal, scored one goal yesterday while Nusrat Jahan scored the other two goals for the hosts.

Bangladesh's stand-in goalkeeper Borsha, who took to court after the number one keeper had broke her leg on the previous day, got injured in the match against Senegal but played through the pain.

Meanwhile, there was no game for the Bangladesh men's team yesterday. After having qualified through the group stages with an all-win record, the men in red and green are scheduled to play their pre-quarterfinal match against Chinese Taipei this morning. If they win, they will play the quarterfinal as well today. The day is supposed to host 18 matches across three venues.



Bangladesh women's team players try to block a goal-bound attempt from a Senegalese player during their pre-quarterfinal match of the 4th Roll Ball World Cup at the Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

BHF lures Ghana for warm-ups

SPORTS REPORTER

After failing to bring China and Egypt, the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) has finally managed to lure Ghana to play three warm-up matches later this month as the national team's preparation for the World Hockey League, Round-2, which will be held in Dhaka next month.

The BHF initially looked to send the team for a preparatory tour in South Africa and Kenya, but those plans failed to materialise. And then after Egypt and China declined to come here early, the BHF invited the Ghana Hockey Association, which responded positively.

Bangladesh team will play the three warm-up matches against Ghana on February 25, February 27 and March 1, informed the federation's general secretary Khaza Rahmatullah.

Bangladesh have been drawn in Pool A of the Hockey World League along with Malaysia, Oman and Fiji while Ghana are in Pool B which also includes China, Egypt and Sri Lanka. The league will be held

Ancelotti must explain gesture

AFP, Berlin

Bayern Munich coach Carlo Ancelotti has been asked to explain how he lost his calm and stuck a finger up at a group of Hertha Berlin fans at the weekend.

The German Football Federation have asked the usually affable Ancelotti to explain his behaviour in an exchange with Hertha fans whilst going down the tunnel.

"Ancelotti has been asked to submit a statement on the events that transpired after FC Bayern's match at Hertha Berlin on Saturday," a Bayern Munich statement said Monday.

Man City face Monaco test

AFP, Manchester



A hotly anticipated staging post in Manchester City's Pep Guardiola era arrives on Tuesday when Monaco visit the Etihad Stadium in the first leg of the Champions League last 16.

Guardiola was appointed to take City to the next level on the European stage and he has already masterminded a stirring 3-1 win over his former club Barcelona in the group phase.

But Monaco have been rampant this season, powering to the Ligue 1 summit with a tally of 76 goals that is unsurpassed in Europe's five major leagues, and Guardiola is keenly aware of the danger they pose.

"My impression against PSG and from what I've seen is they're a really strong team," he said recently of Leonardo Jardim's side, puffing out his cheeks for effect.

"They score a lot of goals, they are physical. We have to go to the gym in

the next days!"

Guardiola and his assistant Mikel Arteta watched Monaco's game at Paris Saint-Germain last month, when a 92nd-minute equaliser from Bernardo Silva rescued a 1-1 draw.

Another Silva equaliser secured another 1-1 draw in Monaco's last outing, at Bastia on Friday, but in the main they have encountered scant resistance in the French top flight this season.

Monaco have averaged 2.92 goals per league game, scoring four or more on no fewer than 10 occasions, and have already prevailed on English soil, winning 2-1 at Tottenham Hotspur in the group stage.

Three successive wins have lifted City to second place in the Premier League table, eight points below leaders Chelsea, but they remain a work in progress.

It is just over a month since their scarring 4-0 defeat at Everton -- their fifth defeat of the campaign -- and Guardiola's selection decisions

continue to raise eyebrows.

Claudio Bravo, signed amid great fanfare to replace Joe Hart, has been axed after a string of weak displays, meaning Willy Caballero, City's nominal third-choice goalkeeper in August, is now the number one.

What City's defensive configuration will be against Monaco, meanwhile, is anyone's guess.

A rotating cast of full-backs has seen midfielder Ferdinandinho fill in on both flanks of the defence of late, while Aleksandar Kolarov continues to flit between left-back and centre-back.

Yaya Toure has been successfully reintegrated into midfield alongside Kevin De Bruyne and David Silva, having previously been frozen out by Guardiola.

But the complicity that was developing between the front three of Raheem Sterling, Leroy Sane and Gabriel Jesus has been scuppered by the broken foot sustained by the latter.

Jesus's absence has allowed Sergio Agnero to reclaim his place up front.

Alves slams Barca board

AGENCIES, Rome



Former Barcelona full-back Dani Alves has strongly criticised the Liga champions for treating him disrespectfully before his move to Juventus last year.

In an interview with Spanish newspaper ABC, Alves accused Barcelona's board of failing to discuss the prospect of a new contract with him until the club were hit by a player registration ban for breaking FIFA rules related to signing young players.

"I like being loved and if they do not want me, I'm leaving," the 33-year-old said.

"They were very false and ungrateful. They did not respect me. They only offered me a renewal because of the FIFA transfer ban.

"That's when I played their game and signed a renewal, which included a clause that allowed me to leave for free a year later. The people who run Barcelona have no idea how to treat their players."

Barcelona's board, led by president Josep Maria Bartomeu, have come in for increasing criticism with regards to their transfer policy. The sense that the likes of Portugal international Andre Gomes are not up to the club's standards was thrown into a harsher light by last week's 4-0 Champions League thrashing at Paris Saint-Germain.

Leverkusen brace for Atletico clash

REUTERS, Berlin



Bayer Leverkusen will hope to put their erratic Bundesliga form behind them and adopt their most determined European game face when they host Atletico Madrid in the Champions League round of 16 first leg on Tuesday.

The Germans have lost nine times in their domestic campaign while dropping to eighth in the table but can take comfort from an unbeaten 10-match streak at home in Europe as they seek to advance past this knock-out stage for the first time.

Leverkusen did reach the Champions League final in 2002 where they lost to Real Madrid.

They now hope their European form will carry them past the Spanish club that reached the final in two of the last three seasons.

"Why not win against them?" said Leverkusen goalkeeper Bernd Leno. "If we show our Champions League face, then everything is possible."

"You can see the team really wants it. We are fighting, we are fighting for each other and that was not necessarily the case a couple of weeks ago."

Leno has every right to feel confident with Leverkusen having won their last two league matches, including Friday's 3-1 victory at Augsburg, to boost their confidence and offer coach Roger Schmidt some respite.



Bayer Leverkusen forward Stefan Kiessling (L) and defender Oemer Toprak have fun during a training session in Leverkusen yesterday on the eve of their Champions League match against Atletico Madrid. PHOTO: AFP

Stokes sold for record \$2.16m

AFP, Bangalore



England players attracted megabucks bids in the Indian Premier League auction Monday, with all-rounder Ben Stokes setting a new record for a foreigner by joining the Rising Pune Supergiants for more than \$2 million. England pace bowler Tymal Mills was the big surprise as he went to the Royal Challengers Bangalore for \$1.8 million, even though he has only played four Twenty20 internationals.

The winning bids for Stokes and Mills dwarfed the \$300,000 shelled out by the Kings XI Punjab to secure the services of England's limited-overs captain Eoin Morgan for the T20 tournament, which begins in April.

Stokes attracted multiple bids from the rival franchises competing in the eight-team tournament before the gavel finally came down after Pune put in a bid of 145 million rupees (around 2.16 million US dollars).

The winning bid shattered the previous record paid for a foreign player, which was set in 2014 when the Delhi Daredevils shelled out 90 million rupees for former England captain Kevin Pietersen.

But it is still short of the 160 million rupees that the Royal Challengers Bangalore paid for the Indian batsman Yuvraj Singh in

2015. While a percentage of the auction fee goes to the player's national board, Stokes, England's newly anointed Test vice-captain, is now in line to make more in just seven weeks than he would in a whole year of cricket for the England team.

It was not immediately clear whether Stokes will play the whole tournament or leave towards the end, which would result in a reduced pay cheque, as England are due to play two ODI matches against Ireland in May.

Pune coach Stephen Fleming admitted it was something of a "gamble" to pay so much for a player with a history of injury problems, but that Stokes will add extra flair to a team that already has captain Steve Smith and ex-Indian skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni in its ranks.

"It's a risk but we are ready to take it. We have got all-round options and (it) gives us more options down the order," the former New Zealand captain told reporters.

"We are going to put youngsters under big players and keep our fingers crossed."

The auction also saw the first Afghan players to be signed up to the tournament, with Rashid Khan and Mohammad Nabi going to Sunrisers Hyderabad for 40 million and three million respectively.

All of the Bangladeshi players had a reserve price of 30 lakh rupees.

Two other Bangladeshis, Mustafizur Rahman and Shakib Al Hasan, have been retained by defending champions Sunrisers Hyderabad and former champions Kolkata Knight Riders respectively.

Six Tigers unsold at IPL auction

SPORTS REPORTER

Six Bangladeshi cricketers remained unsold in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2017 players' auction in Bangalore yesterday.

The names of off-spinner batsmen Mahmudullah Riyad, Anamul Haque, Sabbir Rahman and off-spinner Mehedi Hasan Miraz were called during the auction but remained unsold, while the names of opener Tamim Iqbal and pacer Taskin Ahmed were not called.

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Messi rescues Barcelona

REUTERS, Barcelona



Lionel Messi's late penalty saw bedraggled Barcelona scrape a 2-1 victory over Leganes on Sunday at a divided Nou Camp as the La Liga champions looked as if they had still not recovered from their harrowing midweek defeat to Paris St Germain.

Messi scored both Barca goals, slotting home the crucial 90th minute spot kick to earn an undistinguished victory that keeps their title hopes flickering -- but it was another tough night for coach Luis Enrique, who was booed by some of the home fans.

Messi, anonymous in the 4-0 Champions League defeat at PSG, put Barca ahead in the fourth minute but Leganes were rewarded for a bold approach which saw them create numerous chances when Unai Lopez levelled in the 71st minute after a huge error from Sergi Roberto.

Neymar won a penalty late on which Messi converted to steal the win for Barca, keeping them within reach of leaders Real Madrid and temporarily easing the pressure on Luis Enrique.

He was jeered by a large number of the home supporters but received roaring approval from the most vocal section.

Andre Gomes, who has failed to live up to his 35 million euros price tag since joining from Valencia in the summer, also came under fire and had to listen to a barrage of boos when hauled off for Andres Iniesta 10 minutes from time.

Luis Enrique urged the fans to stick by the team.

"I have nothing to say about criticism towards me because I can take decisions regardless of what the atmosphere is like, but players need to receive the backing and encouragement of the supporters," he told reporters.

"I regret the whistles towards Andre as we are much stronger when the fans are behind us. I don't understand why you would boo a player from your team."

Shrabon Prokashoni, Stall No. 255-257 at Ekushey Boi Mela, Suhrawardy Udyan

Two Books By Md. Mostafizur Rahman

Shrabon Prokashoni, Stall No. 255-257 at Ekushey Boi Mela, Suhrawardy Udyan