

MASRANGA TV
Sheikh Kamal Int'l Club Cup
Pocheon Citizen v TC Sports
Live from 4:00pm
Abahani v FC Alga
Live from 7:00pm

STAR SPORTS 1
India v Australia
1st Test, Day-1
Live from 10:00am
TEN 1
UEFA Europa League

Zenit v Anderlecht
Live from 12:00am (Friday)
Fiorentina v Monchengladbach
Live from 2:00am (Friday)
TEN 1HD
UEFA Europa League

Osmanlispor v Olympiacos
Live from 10:00pm
Ajax v Legia Warsaw
Live from 12:00am (Friday)
Shakhtar Donetsk v Celta
Live from 2:00am (Friday)

TEN 2
UEFA Europa League
Roma v Villarreal
Live from 12:00am (Friday)
Tottenham v Gent
Live from 2:00am (Friday)

TEN 3
UEFA Europa League
Besiktas v Beer-sheva
Live from 12:00am (Friday)

DAY'S EVENT

SHEIKH KAMAL INTERNATIONAL CLUB CUP
Pocheon Citizen v TC Sports
Time: 4:00pm

Abahani v FC Alga
Time: 7:00pm
Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chittagong

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:

Zampa three-for averts series sweep

Leg-spinner Adam Zampa claimed three wickets, bowling Australia to victory and avoiding a Twenty20 series wipeout against Sri Lanka in Adelaide.

Sussex congratulate Fizz on Test return

Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman may have only played two matches for Sussex Country cricket Club in last season's Natwest T20 blast, but the effervescent youngster's effect seems to have been a lasting one.

Del Porto's 2017 ATP campaign off on high note

Former US Open Champion Juan Martin Del Porto gets his season off to another successful start at the Delray Beach Open, defeating Kevin Anderson in straight sets.

'Afridi unveils 2017 Champions Trophy

With 100 days remaining till the eighth edition of the ICC Champions Trophy, the ICC Champions Trophy 2017 Nissan Trophy Tour was launched in the ICC Academy.

Smog may force U-17 football WC out of Delhi

FIFA could pull the Under-17 World Cup matches out of New Delhi because of concerns over air quality in the world's most polluted capital city, the tournament director said.

'Too many foreigners managing EPL teams'

There are too many foreign managers in the Premier League and little opportunity for local talents, according to former Manchester United winger and assistant manager Ryan Giggs.

Scuffles mar final day

India scoop men's and women's titles

SPORTS REPORTER



India won both the men's and women's titles while Bangladesh men became fourth on the final day of the 4th Roll Ball World Cup, but the day's proceedings were overshadowed by ugly scuffles during two of the matches.

The Indian men's team, who came into this event as two-time champions, edged Iran by 8-7 goals in a keenly-contested final at the Shaheed Suhrawardi National Indoor Stadium yesterday. The Indian women's team won the title for the second time by beating Iran women's team by 6-4 goals in the final.

Hosts Bangladesh finished fourth in the men's event, but after an unruly incident which took some of the gloss off of their best performance in this competition's history. The hosts lost the third-place deciding match against Kenya by 7-1 goals after having lost the semifinal against Iran 11-3 in a high-octane affair.

Bangladesh managed to keep the scoreline to 3-1 in the first half, but the hosts' resistance fell apart after the break as the physically imposing and skilful Iranians dominated the game. Deen Islam Hridoy scored all the three goals for Bangladesh and ended the campaign

with 29 goals.

However, the unfortunate incident occurred towards the end of the match when Hridoy made a rude gesture towards the Iranian goalkeeper, only for the Iranian coach-cum-captain Mohammad Reza Shah Zafri to retaliate by shoving Hridoy. While Hridoy got away with a yellow card, Reza received a red, which got the Iranians outraged. Things got out of hand when Bangladesh's assistant coach Sunil Dhaghe suddenly got into the action and slapped Reza. The referee banished Sunil and police had to intervene to appease the Indian coach.

Sunil, however, later apologised to everyone. "It happened on the heat of the moment and I apologise for what I did," Sunil said at a press conference in presence of the Iranian team. "However, the man I got in trouble with is the coach of the Iran team. So he should have behaved in a matured manner as well."

However, that incident seemed only to spark more violence. At the end of the following match, the women's third place deciding match where Kenya beat Senegal by 7-1 points, the two sets of players broke out in a fight while shaking hands. Once again police were called into action, but not before a few of the players suffered injuries.

Rubaiyat goes on a rampage

SPORTS REPORTER

Wills Little Flowers' Rubaiyat Redwan bludgeoned Motijheel Government Boy's High School as his side won by a massive 263 runs in their in their Prime Bank Young Tigers National School Cricket match yesterday.

Batting first in the 50-over-a-side affair, Rubaiyat played a destructive innings to score an unbeaten 188 off just 110 balls in a devastating innings that was punctuated by 18 fours and 13 sixes in the Dhaka Metro region match of the tournament.

In doing so, he broke Mehran Hossain Opi's school-record 88-ball 179.

After the exchange, Motijheel Government Boy's High School were bundled out for just 85 runs.

Advantage Atletico

AFP, Leverkusen



Antoine Griezmann was among the scorers for Atletico Madrid as they weathered a late storm against Bayer Leverkusen on Tuesday to claim a 4-2 victory in the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie.

Saul Niguez and Griezmann put the Spanish side two goals up at the interval, but Leverkusen pulled one back through Karim Bellarabi at the start of the second half.

A Kevin Gameiro penalty then restored Atletico's two-goal advantage just before the hour mark, and while a Stefan Savic own goal gave Leverkusen hope again, Fernando Torres came off the bench to make it 4-2 late on.

"It was a brilliant game for us, and the result could have been even better," said Atletico coach Diego Simeone. "We were almost perfect in the first half."

The home side put in a brave performance and came close to equalising in the last 10 minutes, but Torres's late goal sealed a deserved victory for the visitors ahead of the return in Spain next month.

Leverkusen started brightly, while Atletico looked to hit them on the break.

In the 17th minute, the away side pounced. Cutting in from the right, Saul Niguez curled a fine shot into the far corner from the edge of the penalty area.

Atletico then grasped the game by the scruff of the neck and in the 25th minute a mistake by Aleksandar Dragovic allowed Gameiro to run at goal before squaring the ball to Griezmann, who rifled a shot past Bernd Lenno.

Ministry to groom young booters

SPORTS REPORTER

After successfully organising the Bangabandhu Gold Cup and Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Gold Cup primary school football tournaments since 2010, the Ministry for Primary and Mass Education is about to take over the added responsibility of grooming these budding footballers.

The information was disclosed by Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president Kazi Salahuddin at a press conference at the BFF House yesterday held on the occasion of the final round of the 2016 edition tournaments, which kicked off in Dhaka yesterday.

"The ministry has agreed to organise the grooming program of these budding footballers. This is an excellent decision and the ministry officials are taking steps to include the programme in the budget," Salahuddin said in presence of chief guest and Minister for Primary and Mass Education Mostafizur Rahman Fizar.

Seven divisional champions in each of the boys' and girls' tournament are competing in the final round, which will be played till 27 February.

The finals of the two events will be held on March 2 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium where Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to distribute prizes among the winners.

PRAN school basketball from today

SPORTS REPORTER

PRAN Bubble Gum Inter-School Basketball Tournament gets underway today at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium with a total of 20 schools from Dhaka taking part.

Sponsored by PRAN Group and organised by the Bangladesh Basketball Federation (BBF), the tournament will be held over three days. The boys' category features 12 teams while the girls' category involves eight teams.

The details of the tournament were disclosed at a press conference at the Bangladesh Olympic Association yesterday. BBF president Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin will inaugurate the tournament this morning.



(L) India's men's and women's teams celebrate their 4th Roll Ball World Cup triumph together at the Shaheed Suhrawardi National Indoor Stadium yesterday. (R) The Senegalese and Kenyan women's team members get into an ugly scuffle after the end of their third-place deciding match.

PHOTOS: FIROZ AHMED



Long An players punished

AFP, Hanoi



A Vietnamese goalkeeper has been banned for two years for leading an extraordinary mannequin-style protest when his team stood still and let in three late goals to complain about a disputed penalty.

Long An goalkeeper Nguyen Minh Nhut and Huynh Quang Thanh both received two-year playing bans, while the team's coach and chairman were barred for three years, the Vietnam Football Federation said on its website.

In footage which has gone viral, Nguyen Minh Nhut turned his back to let in the penalty, which was given in the dying moments with the scores at 2-2, and then somersaulted over the ball to concede again from the restart.

Pep vows more of the same

AFP, Manchester



Pep Guardiola pledged that Manchester City will continue to fight fire with fire when they take a 5-3 lead to Monaco in their Champions League last 16 tie.

City procured a two-goal advantage after a remarkable first-leg match at the Etihad Stadium on Tuesday in which they fought back from 2-1 and 3-2 down to put themselves in the driving seat.

Monaco's goals exposed serious failings in the City rearguard, but although Guardiola acknowledged his

side must tighten up at the back, he said they would go to Stade Louis II intending to attack.

"They will attack more and more and we will have to defend better. But we will have our chances," said the City manager.

"We are going to fly to Monaco to score as many goals as possible. We are not going to defend that result."

"We now know each other better. We will adjust some things, they will adjust some things, but we have to score goals."

"If we don't score a goal in Monaco, we will be eliminated."

Raheem Sterling gave City a 26th-minute lead following a brilliant run from Leroy Sane, but a loose kick by

home goalkeeper Willy Caballero enabled Monaco to level through Radamel Falcao's header.

A dawdling Nicolas Otamendi was at fault for Monaco's second goal, scored by Kylian Mbappe, and then conceded a penalty, only for Caballero to save Falcao's effort.

Sergio Aguero and Falcao swapped goals, the former benefiting from a huge error by Monaco goalkeeper Danijel Subasic, the latter scoring with a sublime chip, before City found an extra gear.

Aguero volleyed in David Silva's corner to make it 3-3 in the 71st minute and further goals from John Stones and Sane carried Guardiola's men to a breathless victory.

Smith rejects whitewash talk

India-Australia first Test starts today

AFP, Pune



Steve Smith dismissed predictions Wednesday that Australia face another series whitewash against India but admitted they had to show more fight to have any chance of stopping the world's number one Test team.

Former Indian skipper Sourav Ganguly and veteran spinner Harbhajan Singh have both forecast a clean sweep for the hosts when the arch rivals begin their four-Test series on Thursday in Pune.

India, who are on a record-breaking 19-match unbeaten run, toppled Australia from the top of the Test rankings back in August when Smith's side were beaten 3-0 in Sri Lanka.

That was the third time in a row that the Australians had lost all of their Tests in away series against teams from the sub-continent, a sequence which began with a 4-0 reverse in India in 2013.

But speaking to reporters on the eve of the first Test, Australia skipper Smith said the tourists knew they were in for a

difficult series but rejected the idea that another whitewash was on the cards.

"I don't believe that's the case. I'm confident in the squad we've got here to compete against India," he said.

"India have played some very good cricket off late, particularly at home, so we're under no illusions there, it's going to be tough. But we've got the squad here that can compete in these conditions."

Smith said Australia were determined not to dwell too much on their most recent performances on the sub-continent but admitted that a repeat would spell disaster.

"Obviously some of the away performances of late haven't been up to standard from my point of view and the Australian cricket team's point of view," he said.

"We want to change the way we play away from home. We want to be more adaptable to conditions and show some fight."

"For me it's starting things fresh. We have come here with a positive mindset. The more we think about the last time we came here or Sri Lanka, we

start to lose."

One of the main sub-plots of the series will be the battle between Smith and his opposite number Virat Kohli who are respectively ranked number one and two in the Test batting rankings.

Both men have continued to score heavily since being made skipper and Kohli -- who has scored four double centuries since July -- heaped praise on Smith.

"Captain's responsibility has helped him to focus a bit more in certain situations and push that much extra for his team," said Kohli.

"That has shown in his performances. He is the number one Test player in the world and there's a reason for that."

Kohli also had warm words for the Australian paceman Mitchell Starc who is seen as the tourists' main bowling threat despite India's reputation for having spin-friendly pitches.

"He is a world class bowler, we all know that. He has been hampered by injuries quite often, but the way he has evolved as a bowler, it's been outstanding," said Kohli.

STAR WEEKEND

in other news...

This week's spotlight talks about the question paper leaking phenomenon and how it is destructive to our generation and our society as a whole. We also have a piece that discusses the common misconceptions of feminism and the need to know the history before we claim to be or not be one. Don't forget to grab your copy of the Star Weekend, tomorrow, Friday!

CORRUPTING A GENERATION

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN
PHOTO: PRADEEP DAS