

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS 1

India v Australia

1st Test, Day-4

Live from 10:00am

STAR SPORTS SELECT HD1

English Premiership

Tottenham v Stoke

STAR SPORTS SELECT HD2

Bundesliga

Ingolstadt v Monchengladbach

Live from 8:30pm

Schalke v Hoffenheim

Live from 10:30pm

SONY ESPN

Serie A

Palermo v Sampdoria

Live from 5:30pm

La Liga

Atletico Madrid v Barcelona

Live from 9:15pm

Inter Milan v Roma

Live from 1:45am (Monday)

SONY SIX

La Liga

Espanyol v Osasuna

Live from 5:00pm

Athletic Bilbao v Granada

Live from 11:30pm

Villarreal v Real Madrid

Live from 1:45am (Monday)

SONY SIX HD

La Liga

Sporting Gijon v Celta Vigo

Live from 11:30pm

TEN 1 HD

EFL Cup

Southampton v Man United

Live from 9:30pm

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh Cricket League

Day-1

North Zone v Central Zone

Time: 9:30am

Venue: Sylhet Int. Cricket Stadium

South Zone v East Zone

Time: 9:30am

Venue: ZACS, 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:

Bugatti invites CR7 to drive Chiron

The first few units of the Bugatti Chiron are about to hit the streets, but before they roll out, the French auto-manufacturing company has allowed soccer superstar Cristiano Ronaldo to get behind the wheel first hand. Koeman rooting for Man U

Everton manager Ronald Koeman is hoping Manchester United beat his former club Southampton in Sunday's League Cup final because victory for Jose Mourinho's team would boost his own side's chances of qualifying for the Europa League.

Scholes wants Guardiola for England job

Former England midfielder Paul Scholes expresses his wishes to see Manchester City coach Pep Guardiola take charge of the England team one day. Rostov delight in Man Utd draw

Favourites Manchester United are drawn to face faraway Russian outfit Rostov, who unlike Jose Mourinho are delighted with the Europa League last-16 tie. AB record sets up thumping SA win

A record-setting innings by AB de Villiers set South Africa up for a resounding 159-run win in the third one-day international against New Zealand in Wellington on Saturday. Raonic, del Potro set up Delray Beach clash

Former US Open winner Juan Martin del Potro defeated defending champ Sam Querrey in straight sets to reach his second straight Delray Beach Open semifinal.



Chelsea midfielder Cesc Fabregas (R) is ecstatic after scoring the opening goal against Swansea during their Premier League encounter at Stamford Bridge yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Why Abahani failed again?

ANISUR RAHMAN From Chittagong



Dhaka Abahani are the pioneers of modern football in Bangladesh and have dominated the domestic circuit since its inception, but the Dhanmondi giants still lag behind when it comes to transforming that domestic form into international success.

The Sky Blues have a trophy cabinet full of all kinds of domestic silverware, but their foreign trophy collection features only the 1989 Nagjee Trophy, 1994 Charms Cup, 2010 Bordoloi trophy, etc.

Their recent elimination from the group stages of Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup and five failures in qualifying for the finals of the now defunct AFC President's Cup only refer to their international failure.

On the other hand, new powerhouses like Sheikh Jamal DC, Sheikh Russel KC and Chittagong Abahani have already got better international recognition as Sheikh Jamal won two international trophies – the Pokhra Cup in Nepal, King's Cup in Bhutan before and a runners-up trophy of the prestigious IFA Shield. They have also shone in AFC Cup play-off Qualifiers.

Sheikh Russel reached the finals of

AFC President's Cup in their debut participation while Chittagong Abahani kept the inaugural trophy of Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup.

So why can't Abahani do the same at an international level? Abahani manager Satyajit Das Rupu said, "I think, we play against unknown opponents and we need to play very carefully. The first match is always important but if you lose the first match, then things go out of control.

"There may be lack of concentration. It is not only the responsibility of the players, all are responsible. The management can motivate the players, but they can't perform on the ground," said the former national midfielder.

In the ongoing tournament, Abahani lost 2-0 against TC Sports Club, played out a goalless draw against Korea's third-tier club Pocheon Citizen FC and posted a win against FC Alga, but had to be content with a third-place finish among four teams.

Sheikh Jamal DC's former manager Anwarul Karim Helal believes success at the international level depends on how the team management plays their role to realise the performance of the players.

"It is all about management, if the management is all right, then you can get

the success," Helal said. "The management of Sheikh Jamal made the players perform hundred percent."

"We had 15-16 national players, who performed well for the club side but not perform when they played for the national team. What was the reason? The reason was management," said Helal, who was the manager during Sheikh Jamal's spree of domestic and international success.

Veteran coach Shafiqul Islam Manik believes performing at international level also depends on how the players to settle down before participation.

"As most of the clubs participate in international tournaments in post-season period, the players remain uncertain of their next season signing. So the players need to be assured about their future to get the maximum service from them," Manik said. "Furthermore, the players must be united and disciplined to get the success, which needs to be ensured by the team management."

Now five-time professional football league champions Abahani are all set to get another opportunity to erase their infamous tag of an international failure as they prepare for next month's AFC Cup.



The players and officials of Digital Knights are over the moon after winning the inaugural Transcom Premier League title, defeating Durjoy Prothom Alo by 12 runs in the final at the Residential Model School and College ground yesterday. Here the winning captain receives the silverware from Transcom Group chairman Latifur Rahman.

PHOTO: STAR

Chelsea march past Swansea

AFP, London



Cesc Fabregas marked his 300th Premier League appearance with the opening goal in Chelsea's 3-1 victory over Swansea as the runaway leaders moved 11 points clear at the top on Saturday.

Fabregas's first half goal was cancelled out by an equaliser from Fernando Llorente on the stroke of half time at Stamford Bridge, but second half goals from Pedro and Diego Costa sealed a comfortable win.

The outcome meant Swansea manager Paul Clement and coach Claude Makelele endured a painful return to the club they had served as assistant manager and player respectively.

But for Chelsea boss Antonio Conte, the win moved the Blues one step closer towards a second title in three years and further tested the Italian's determination to play down his side's prospects of becoming champions.

Swansea arrived in west London as a team in form having won three of their last four games, a run that has moved them clear of the relegation places.

But the Welsh side were simply overwhelmed right from the opening moments of the game when Pedro immediately unpicked the visitors defence to create a good chance for Costa. And the breakthrough quickly came in the 19th minute when Clement's side finally succumbed to Chelsea's relentless power.

Once again Conte's side drove at the heart of the visitors defence, this time through Eden Hazard, before a quick exchange of passes capped a thrilling move.

Hazard laid the ball off to Pedro on the right and continued his forward run, creating a space for Fabregas to run into and collect the first time return before placing his shot beyond Lukasz Fabianski.

However, the balance of the game changed dramatically in the second minute of first half stoppage-time when the visitors equalised from their first meaningful attack of the game.

And while Llorente deserved credit for the way he directed a powerful header past Thibaut Courtois from Gylfi Sigurdsson's free-kick, Chelsea's decision to assign wing-back Victor Moses to the task of marking the tall striker looked questionable.

WARM-UPS FOR HOCKEY WORLD LEAGUE

Hockey team lose to Ghana

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh national hockey team received a wake-up call just one week ahead of the Hockey World League (Round-2) as they were beaten 2-0 by Ghana in the first of a three-match warm-up series yesterday.

The league is scheduled to be held from March 4 to 12 in Dhaka, with Bangladesh in Pool A alongside Malaysia, Fiji and Oman.

Bangladesh conceded a goal in the very first minute of the match when Ghana, who are six positions below Bangladesh in world rankings, saw forward Baah Shadrack find the back the net with a brilliant hit from an acute angle. Shadrack later scored in the third quarter to seal the victory for the visitors, who arrived here on Thursday night.

Even though Bangladesh dominated ball possession they struggled in receiving and passing and also in man-to-man marking.

Bangladesh head coach Oliver Kurtz was clearly unhappy with the lacklustre performance of the side, however, the German claimed that it was due to lack of match experience.

"Everybody can see why I was asking for an international camp," Kurtz told reporters after the defeat. "Today everybody could see

our boys were confused. Now we have only three warm-up matches but we need at least 8 to 10 matches to make our players flexible with different tactics."

Bangladesh had won five penalty corners, but the two penalty corner specialists -- Mamunur Rahman Chayan and Ashraful Islam -- failed to convert any of those chances.

"Missing penalty corners is not a problem right now for me because we need match experience for that," Kurtz said. "Only practising is not enough and they are also tired in the body from the preparation."

The German head coach, who wanted to see the side go for a camp in his native South Africa but eventually failed in that attempt, expressed his displeasure with the way the players performed.

"I am not so much happy with man-to-man marking. There were many easy mistakes in receiving and passing. This is not because they are bad, they are good and fit, but they were nervous."

Kurtz hoped that his team can bounce back from this defeat and play better in the next two matches, with the second warm-up match scheduled for tomorrow.

The German also said that the target for the team in the Hockey World League would be to finish second, behind Malaysia.

WATCH THE INTERNATIONAL PROS IN ACTION

Ajeetesh Sandhu

Sujjan Singh

Shamim Khan

Md Zamal Hossain

Dulal Hossain

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