

What to WATCH DAY'S EVENT	MAASRANGA TV Sheikh Kamal Int'l Club Cup FIRST SEMIFINAL TC Sports v Manang Live from 6:30pm	STAR SPORTS SELECT HD 1 English Premiership Leicester City v Liverpool Live from 1:45am (Tuesday)	SONY ESPN Serie A Fiorentina v Torino Live from 1:45am (Tuesday)
	SHEIKH KAMAL INT'L CLUB CUP FIRST SEMIFINAL TC Sports v Manang Marshyangdi Time: 6:30pm Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chittagong	BANGLADESH CRICKET LEAGUE (Four-Day Match, Day-2) Time: 9:30am BCB North Zone v Walton Central Zone Venue: Sylhet Int'l Cricket Stadium	Prime Bank South Zone v Islami Bank East Zone Venue: Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury 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:

Tendulkar backs India for comeback

Batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar backs the Indian team to bounce back after their catastrophic 333-run defeat to Australia in the first of the four-match Test series in Pune.

Pacquiao to fight Britain's Khan

Philippine boxing hero Manny Pacquiao and British fighter Amir Khan confirmed separately that they would face each other on April 23 after weeks of conflicting reports.

Raonic downs del Potro to book title clash with Sock

Top-seeded Canadian Milos Raonic held off Juan Martin del Potro 6-3, 7-6 (8/6) to book a title clash with Jack Sock at the ATP Delray Beach Open.

Vardy denies role in Ranieri sacking

Leicester City forward Jamie Vardy denies he was involved in the sacking of manager Claudio Ranieri nine months after the Italian led his team to the Premier League title.

Irrepressible Lukaku reaches Everton landmark

Romelu Lukaku became Everton's joint highest Premier League scorer and the powerful striker is showing no signs of slowing down as he leads his team's bid to qualify for European competition.

Bayern destroy Hamburg

Robert Lewandowski scored a hat-trick as Bayern Munich obliterated Hamburg 8-0 during Carlo Ancelotti's 1,000th game as manager.

Sandhu eyes BTI Open title

Rs 40-lac PGTI event gets underway at Kurmitola today

SPORTS REPORTER



Ajeetesh Sandhu of India will try to continue his winning run and consolidate his position at the top of the Order of Merit of the Professional Golf Tour of India as the BTI Open 2017 gets underway today at the Kurmitola Golf Club.

The 28-year-old golfer from Chandigarh finished third in Noida earlier this month before winning the Golconda Masters in Hyderabad last week, and he is looking forward to the title of the BTI Open, which has a 40-lac rupee prize purse on offer.

"I believe you start every tournament with the target of winning. So my target will be the same this week," Sandhu said during a pre-tournament press conference in Kurmitola yesterday. "The course is in beautiful condition and its challenging. It was quite windy today. It will be challenging and let's see what happens at the end of the week."

The rising star of Indian golf, who has already earned a card to play the Asian Tour this season, will be challenged by some of the best golfers of the sub-continent. The 54-man Indian contingent will feature stars like Rahid Khan, Udayan Mane, Kahlil Joshi and Shamim Khan. Sri Lanka will be represented by Mithun Perera while the 59-man local professional contingent will feature the likes of Shakhawat Hossain Sohel, Jamal Hossain Mollah, Sajib Ali and Dulal Hossain. There will be six local amateur golfers from Bangladesh taking part too.

Even though last year's champion Siddikur Rahman will not be defending his title due to his



Organisers and players pose next to the trophies of the BTI Open, scheduled to get underway today, at a pre-event press meet at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

busy schedule in other Asian circuits, Sohel feels the local field is good enough to keep the trophy at home. "I missed the cut in the Bashundhara Bangladesh Open because my swing was on and off. I played too many bogeys alongside birdies which is not expected from a pro," Sohel said. "However, this is my home course and I have had a good preparation. So it won't be surprising if I win the title."

Arshi Haider, chairman of BTI Holdings Ltd and ex-president of Bangladesh Professional Golf Association (BPGA) said, "We are delighted to once again be the sponsor of this international golfing event. We warmly welcome the players and

officials of PGTI to Bangladesh. Last year the title challenge went down to the wire and eventually local hero Siddikur Rahman won the title. Even though he's not playing this year, we hope the tournament will be as exciting."

Uttam Singh Mundy, director of PGTI and Asif Ibrahim, president of BPGA hoped that the collaboration between the two golf bodies will strengthen further in coming years. Brigadier General Kamrul Islam, general secretary of BPGA, gave an elaborate presentation detailing out the activities of the organisation and its future plans.

Mo rubbishes doping claims

REUTERS, London



Alberto Salazar, the coach of Britain's Olympic champion Mo Farah, has been accused of using prohibited infusions of supplements to improve the performance of his runners, the Sunday Times reported citing a leaked United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) report.

The British newspaper said the 2016 report also accused Salazar of abusing prescription medicines for his athletes at the Nike training centre in Oregon.

Attempts by Reuters to reach Salazar for comment were unsuccessful. Salazar issued a lengthy and detailed denial of similar allegations in 2015.

Farah said in a statement on Sunday that he was "a clean athlete who has never broken the rules in regards to substances, methods or dosages."

Farah, who last year became only the second man to retain the Olympic 5,000 and 10,000-metre titles, accused the newspaper of using his profile to make "the story more interesting".

"If USADA or any other anti-doping body has evidence of wrongdoing they should publish it and take action rather than allow the media to be judge and jury," he added.

The Sunday Times said the USADA report had been leaked by the 'Fancy Bears' hacking group which has previously leaked medical and doping-related documents.

The newspaper said that Farah and other athletes coached by Salazar were given infusions of a research supplement based on the chemical L-carnitine and that one who was given a high dosage said that it was as effective as illegal blood doping.

L-carnitine is not a banned substance but infusions of more than 50ml in the space of six hours are prohibited.

Farah was exonerated by UK Athletics who found no impropriety on his part after receiving the initial findings of a review into his relationship with Salazar.

Ibra brings Man Utd glory

AFP, London



Zlatan Ibrahimovic sealed the first major silverware of Jose Mourinho's Manchester United reign and broke Southampton's hearts as the Swedish star's late goal clinched a dramatic 3-2 victory in Sunday's League Cup final.

Ibrahimovic was one of Mourinho's marquee signings in the close-season and he repaid his manager's faith with a typically dominant display on the big occasion at Wembley.

The 35-year-old opened the scoring with a blistering free-kick before Jesse Lingard doubled United's lead.

Manolo Gabbiadini sparked a thrilling Southampton fightback, scoring just before half-time and again early in the second half.

But Ibrahimovic had the last word as his 87th minute header -- his 26th goal of the campaign -- ensured Mourinho joined United legend Alex Ferguson and Nottingham Forest great Brian Clough as the only managers to win the League Cup four times.

Mourinho is the first United manager to win a top prize in his maiden season at Old Trafford, a feat not even Ferguson or Matt

Busby achieved. It was also the 54-year-old's 19th major trophy of his glittering career.

With United trailing well behind Premier League leaders Chelsea, Mourinho needed this success to guarantee players, fans and the club's hierarchy remain in his corner.

But the serial winner will hope the victory acts as a catalyst to claim bigger prizes in the near future, just as it did when the League Cup was the first silverware of his maiden spell with Chelsea.

It is 41 years since Southampton shocked United in the FA Cup final to lift the only major trophy in the club's history and Claude Puel's team deserve credit for an enterprising display that took them agonisingly close to another huge upset.

In the absence of injured playmaker Henrikh Mkhitaryan and with Wayne Rooney again on the bench, the stage was set for Ibrahimovic to cement his status as United's talisman and he wasted little time stamping his authority on his first showpiece occasion in England.

Demanding the ball right from the start, Ibrahimovic's astute pass set up France midfielder Paul Pogba for a fierce long-range effort that stung the palms of Saints goalkeeper Fraser Forster.



Bengali daily Prothom Alo felicitated sport stars for their contribution at a programme in the capital yesterday. (From L) Footballer Krishna Rani Sarkar, weightlifter Mabia Akter Simanta, cricketer Mehedi Hasan Miraz, organiser Raisuddin Ahmed and swimmer Mahfuza Khatun Shila pose with their awards. PHOTO: STAR



Jamaican superstar Usain Bolt lived up to his party animal reputation as he joined a street party in Trinidad, titled the A.M. Bush TT Pirates of the Caribbean. Bolt and friends splashed paint and danced the day away to the music of 'the Caribbean Michael Jackson' Machel Montano. PHOTO: SPLASH NEWS

ISSF WORLD CUP BD shooters lag behind in Delhi

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladeshi shooters endured another frustrating day in the ISSF World Cup in New Delhi on Sunday as none of them got even close to the qualifying marks for the final rounds of their respective events.

Bangladesh's Armin Asha finished 27th out of 37 competitors with a score of 371 points in the women's 10m air pistol event, while Arдина Ferdous finished 34th with a score of 368 points in the same event.

Yuemei Lin of China grabbed the gold medal after beating her compatriot Mengxue Zhang in the final shoot-off, while Shun Xie Tro of Singapore managed to take the bronze medal in this event.

Bangladesh's Shovon Chowdhury finished 28th among 29 participants in the 50m rifles 3 position event with a score of 1129 points.

Zicheng Hui of China won the gold medal while his compatriot Jian Sun had to remain content with the silver medal.

Messi haunts Atletico again

AFP, Madrid



Lionel Messi struck the winner four minutes from time as Barcelona moved top of La Liga on Sunday with a crucial 2-1 win at Atletico Madrid.

All the goals came in the final half hour as Rafinha put Barcelona in front before Diego Godin's header quickly restored parity.

However, so often the thorn in Atletico's side, Messi registered his 27th career goal against Los Rojiblancos to ease the pressure on under fire Barca coach Luis Enrique.

Barcelona now lead Real Madrid and Sevilla by two points. Real, though, have two games in hand on their title rivals, the first of which comes later on Sunday at Villarreal.

Defeat leaves fourth-placed Atletico one point clear of Real Sociedad in the battle for the final Champions League slot.

Following their Champions League thrashing at the hands of Paris Saint-Germain and struggles at home to Leganes last weekend, Luis Enrique switched a 4-3-3 to a 3-4-3 with Messi forced into an advanced midfield role.

However, the change in tactics did little to stem Barca's slump in form early on as Atletico dominated the opening half hour.

Yannick Carrasco and Godin blasted wildly off target when well placed inside the area early on.

Antoine Griezmann then saw a goalbound effort blocked by French international teammate Samuel Umtiti.

Atletico's best effort of the opening half came from long range, though, as Griezmann's driven effort on his weaker

right foot forced a brilliant flying save from Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

Barcelona thought they had gone in front against the run of play on the half hour mark when Luis Suarez headed in from close range after a goalmouth scramble.

However, the Uruguayan was penalised for a handball after Jan Oblak had parried Messi's initial effort.

Oblak was making his first appearance since December 12, but the Slovenian showed no signs of rustiness to once again prove his credentials as one of the finest 'keepers in the world.

Firstly, Oblak produced a sensational stop to tip Messi's dipping free-kick over and then clutched Gerard Pique's header from point-blank range.

Both sides passed up huge chances at the start of the second-half. Firstly, Suarez screwed his shot horribly wide

after being played in by Messi.

Then at the other end, Ter Stegen made another excellent stop to deny Griezmann from a narrow angle.

The deadlock was eventually broken in scrappy fashion on 63 minutes as Rafinha profited from a loose ball inside the area to fire low into the far corner.

However, the lead lasted only seven minutes as Godin rose higher than a host of Barca defenders to flick home Koke's free-kick for the equaliser.

Yet, when Barca needed a potential season defining goal, Messi again came up trumps with his 35th in as many games this season.

The five-time World Player of the Year's first effort from Suarez's cut-back was blocked, but he followed up to prod past the helpless Oblak and move Barca top of the table.

Kane treble sinks Stoke

AFP, London



Harry Kane hit a first-half hat-trick as Tottenham stormed up to second in the Premier League with a 4-0 home demolition of Stoke on Sunday.

Kane's treble took his tally to 17 league goals this season, while his first of the day at White Hart Lane was his 100th club goal.

The England forward, 23, who also scored three against Fulham in the FA Cup a week ago, capped an outstanding all-round display by setting up Dele Alli

for the fourth.

That helped Alli to draw a line under his dismissal against Gent that contributed to Spurs' Europa League exit on Thursday.

Tottenham's victory took them above Manchester City and closed the gap on runaway leaders Chelsea to 10 points.

"It's true that today Kane was fantastic, a hat-trick and a fantastic performance. He's one of the best strikers in Europe and I'm very pleased for him because he deserves it," Tottenham boss Mauricio Pochettino said.

"He has big potential to improve, he's still very young. He works hard every day, he's professional."



Lionel Messi (C) scored his 27th goal against Atletico Madrid with a 70th minute winner in their La Liga match at the Vicente Calderon yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS