

# What to WATCH

MAASRANGA TV  
Sheikh Kamal Int'l Club Cup  
SECOND SEMIFINAL  
Ctg Abahani v Pocheon Citizen  
Live from 6:30pm

SONY ESPN  
La Liga  
Valencia v Leganes  
Live from 2:30am (Wednesday)

SONY SIX  
La Liga  
Real Sociedad v Eibar  
Live from 12:30am (Wednesday)  
Malaga v Real Betis  
Live from 2:30am (Wednesday)

## DAY'S EVENT

SHEIKH KAMAL INT'L CLUB CUP  
SECOND SEMIFINAL  
Ctg Abahani v Pocheon Citizen  
Time: 6:30pm  
Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chittagong

BANGLADESH CRICKET LEAGUE  
(FOUR-DAY MATCH, DAY-3)  
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

## PALACE FANS TRASH OWN COACH

Crystal Palace supporters inadvertently vandalised their own team's bus thinking it belonged to Middlesbrough prior to the Premier League clash between the relegation rivals. The coach, which was parked at a hotel nearby Selhurst Park, was daubed with the club's name 'Crystal Palace FC' in red, white and blue paint across the sides and rear of the vehicle. Palace, who still used the vehicle despite the damage, confirmed on Sunday that the team's coach was vandalised and that police had been notified. Various reports also highlighted that Palace's assistant head groundsman Dean Waters had condemned the vandals and revealed their error. "40,000 pounds worth of damage on our coach thinking it was the Boro coach. Nice one! #cpfc," Waters tweeted.

-AGENCIES



## 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:

### Ben Stokes brought down to earth after IPL boon

Less than a week after earning the most lucrative overseas contract in IPL history, Ben Stokes was brought back down to earth somewhat in the opening match of England's tour of the West Indies.

O'Keefe like a Hyundai i30: Panesar

"When I first saw him, he asked me: 'what do you think of my spin bowling?' I said to him, 'you're like a Hyundai i30,'" said Panesar of O'Keefe.

\_sock takes Delray Beach Open

Jack Sock claims his second ATP title of 2017 as top-seeded Milos Raonic withdraws before the Delray Beach Open final with a torn hamstring.

Thiem wins Rio Open in straight sets

Austrian Dominic Thiem secures his eighth ATP title with a 7-5 6-4 win over Pablo Carreno Busta in the final of the Rio Open.

Klopp believes board not players decided Ranieri fate

The Leicester City squad have found an unlikely ally in Juergen Klopp after the Liverpool manager said that the club's board were likely responsible for Claudio Ranieri's sacking.

Kane growing into a Tottenham legend

Mauricio Pochettino believes Harry Kane is on course to becoming a Tottenham Hotspur great after the striker scored the 100th club goal of his career.



Maldives' TC Sports players hail their coach at the end of their 1-0 victory over Manang Marshyangdi Club of Nepal in the first semifinal of the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

## TC Sports Club in final

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong



A fortunate strike from Nafiu Ali took TC Sports Club to the final of the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup tournament in their maiden international appearance when the Maldivian club handed a single goal defeat to Nepal's Manang Marshyangdi Club at MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

TC Sports Club, the runners-up of Maldivian Premier Football League, will play the final on March 3 against the winners of today's second semifinal between Chittagong Abahani and Pocheon Citizen FC.

The South Asian outfits presented an entertaining game, fighting neck to neck and creating a few scoring chances before TC Sports Club, thanks to a mistake by Nepalese goalkeeper Dinesh Thapa, rode on their luck to victory.

The way the match progressed it was tough to predict the outcome, with both sides creating chances while squandering them at the same time and so it would be no surprise if Manang Marshyangdi had progressed instead. The performances of the two South Asian outfits actually reflect the improvement of

Maldives and Nepal football in the sub-continent.

During the first half, TC Sports Club came close twice but forwards Olgabemino Olasemini Samson and Nafiu Ali wasted both opportunities while Manang Marshyangdi also produced two good scoring opportunities but failed to cash in on those chances as well.

After resumption, both teams kept up their tempo, playing attacking football. At one point, Manang was denied by Nepalese goalkeeper Nimbu Kumar Kiran who stood tall under the post. Later, Kiran brilliantly saved a close-range header from Rohit Chand while Nigerian striker Oladipo drove wide, much to the relief of Kiran.

TC Sports Club got better as match progressed as they started to control the pitch with better movement. Winger Azzam Mohammed found the breakthrough when he whipped in a cross from the right for Nafiu Ali with hesitating Manang goalkeeper Dinesh Thapa trying to fist it away but all for nought as the ball embraced the back of the net after bouncing off Nafiu's chest in the 83rd minute.

Manang Marshyangdi Club had a great opportunity to level the margin during stoppage time but Oladipo drove wide on the edge of the six-yard box, foiling any chance to take the game to extra time.

## 'Subs changed the game'

AFP, Madrid



Real Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane hailed the impact of Isco and Alvaro Morata off the bench as the European champions came from 2-0 down at Villarreal on Sunday to win 3-2.

Morata completed the comeback after Gareth Bale and Cristiano Ronaldo had hauled Madrid level to ensure Zidane's men move back ahead of Barcelona at the top of La Liga.

Real hold a one-point lead over their title rivals, who won 2-1 at Atletico Madrid on Sunday, but also have a game in hand.

"They deserve (to play) more for sure," Zidane said of the Spanish international duo.

"They did very well, they changed the game. In any case we will need every player between now and the end of the season."

"They are all up for it. It is a long season, but this shows that everyone is ready when they are called upon."

"With everything that happened today it was vitally important to get the three points."

Real had suffered just their second league defeat of the season at Valencia in midweek.

And Zidane's men looked well on course to suffer another reversal when Villarreal struck twice in six minutes early in the second-half through Manu Trigueros and Cedric Bakambu.

However, Zidane reacted immediately by introducing Isco for the more defensively minded Casemiro.

Having been outplayed for the opening hour, Madrid forced Villarreal onto the back foot and were rewarded when Bale's header halved the arrears 25 minutes from time.

Ronaldo then smashed home a controversial penalty after Villarreal captain Bruno Soriano was harshly adjudged to have handled inside his own box.

And the comeback was complete when Morata, who only replaced Karim Benzema 13 minutes from time, powered home Marcelo's cross six minutes later.

"At 2-0 down you have to change something," added Zidane.

"It worked out well for us. It allowed us to camp much more in their half."

Bale was making his first start for three months and was forced to play almost the full 90 minutes given the circumstances before hobbling off to be replaced by Lucas Vazquez a minute from time.

## Jose demands trophy charge

AFP, London

Jose Mourinho has challenged his Manchester United stars to use their dramatic League Cup final win against Southampton as a springboard to bigger prizes.

Mourinho lifted the first major trophy of his United reign on Sunday after Zlatan Ibrahimovic's late header clinched a 3-2 victory at Wembley.

The 54-year-old is the first United manager to win a major competition in his maiden season at Old Trafford and the 19th trophy of his glittering career made him only the third boss, after Alex Ferguson and Brian Clough, to enjoy four League Cup triumphs. Now

Mourinho wants his players to learn from the winning feeling as they chase FA Cup and Europa League titles this term, and ideally Premier League and Champions League glory next season.

"The reality is that we want more: my contract is long, I have two more years with this one, so hopefully I can win more," Mourinho said.

"This season I know it's difficult, but the reality is we have to try to fight for more."

Despite the landmark occasion Mourinho wore a stern expression during the trophy presentation.

But he insisted he was merely hiding his pride because he wanted his players to soak up the adulation.

## Sanju leads at 5-under

SPORTS REPORTER



Rabin Miah, Dulal Hossain and Jamal Hossain Mollah were the best performing Bangladeshis to find ninth place as India's Mohammad Sanju took the lead at the end of the first round of the BTI Open that got underway at the Kurmitola Golf Club in Dhaka yesterday.

Rabin, Dulal and Jamal played matching one-under-par (71) to get inside the top ten on a day of low scores, but Sanju was alone on top with a five-under while the rest of the top ten was dominated mostly by Indians. Jibir Singh of Bangalore was a shot adrift while Rashid Khan, Khalin Joshi and Sri Lanka's Mithun Perera were in joint third



Mohammad Sanju of India leads with five-under (67) after the first round of the BTI Open.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## SELECTED SCORES

1	Mohammad Sanju (IND)	-5 (67)
2	Jaibir Singh (IND)	-4 (68)
T3	Khalin Joshi (IND)	-3 (69)
T3	Mithun Perera (SRI)	-3 (69)
T3	Rashid Khan (IND)	-3 (69)
T6	Udayan Mane (IND)	-2 (70)
T6	Naman Dawar (IND)	-2 (70)
T9	Jamal Mollah (BAN)	-1 (71)
T9	Rabin Miah (BAN)	-1 (71)
T9	Dulal Hossain (BAN)	-1 (71)

position at three-under.

PGT Order of Merit leader Ajeetesh Sandhu of Chandigarh, also the winner of the last event in Hyderabad, was tied for 17th place at even-par-72.

34-year-old Sanju from Kolkata, who has never won a PGTI event before and had missed cut in the first two events this season, was obviously very happy to have made a good start in Dhaka.

"I'm quite excited about the week after this solid start. A couple of outstanding approach shots on the 10th and 11th were the highlight of my round as they set up two easy birdie putts. My score could've been even better had I not missed three short putts from a range of three feet," said Sanju, who carded six birdies and a bogey on the day.

"I didn't have a great season last year despite finishing inside the top-60. I also missed the cuts in the first two events of the 2017 season. So this round, my best in the last two years, is a huge morale-booster," said the golfer from Kolkata.

Jamal rued missing quite a few close putts as he ended the day with one-under, thanks to four birdies and three bogeys. "I didn't play well today," the two-time PGTI winner said at the end of day's play. "My swing and putting was awry. I missed four-yard putts in at least seven holes which eventually cost me. However, I can still become champion if I can play my best golf in the remaining three days."

## FIFA backs St. Petersburg pitch

AFP, Saint Petersburg

FIFA on Monday said it was confident problems plaguing the pitch at the new Saint Petersburg stadium will be fixed in time for the Confederations Cup in June.

Last year inspectors said the retractable pitch at the 68,000-seater Saint Petersburg Arena -- which is set to hold the opening and final games of the Confederations Cup -- was unstable and not fit for matches.

"There's a clear plan, engineering plan of the works to be put in and that should be completed within the next two weeks," Colin Smith, the head of FIFA's operational commission, said following a visit to the stadium.

"We're confident that the measures that have been planned should resolve the situation."

The pitch issue is the latest headache to hit the venue in Russia's second city -- which is also meant to host games during the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

The construction of the arena, which serves as a home ground for Zenit St Petersburg, began in 2007 but was only finished in December after spiralling bills and missed deadlines.

"There's still a lot of work to be done and completed but we all feel that we're on the right track," Smith said.

## Kurtz unhappy with media criticism

SPORTS REPORTER



Having lost to Ghana by 2-0 goals in their first warm-up match, the Bangladesh national hockey team managed to hold the West African nation to a 2-2 draw in their second match in Dhaka yesterday.

Like the first match, the Russel Mahmud

team failed to gel as a unit as there were too many missed passes, receives and a lack of cohesion among the players.

Coach Oliver Kurtz, however, was not prepared to read much into the results of the preparatory matches as he felt these are opportunities to experiment. "There was improvement in today's match," Kurtz said after the match. "The result is not important for me. I am trying to fine-tune everything in the side through these matches."

The German was visibly irritated with the team's criticism in media as he felt it is having an adverse impact on their performance.

"I cannot be happy with what is being written in media. The negative reports are hampering the mentality of the players. These are only warm-up matches. We could be criticised if these were competitive matches in a tournament."

Bangladesh will play their third and final warm-up match against the same opposition tomorrow before starting their Hockey World League (Round-2) campaign on March 4. Bangladesh are in Pool A of the league, with Fiji, Malaysia and Oman being the other three teams. Two teams from this pool will advance into the following round.

# WALTON

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