

**BLA**  
 BANGLADESH CRICKET LEAGUE  
 Four-day match, Day-3  
 South Zone v Central Zone  
 Time: 9:30am

Venue: BKSP-3  
 North Zone v East Zone  
 Time: 9:30am  
 Venue: Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium, Fatullah

**HOCKEY WORLD LEAGUE RD-2**  
 Bangladesh v Oman  
 Time: 4:00pm  
 Venue: Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium

**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:

**Conway replaced as Bangladesh physio**  
 The Bangladesh Cricket Board has ended its contract with physio Dean Conway and appointed Thihan Chandramohan to fill the vacancy on the ongoing tour of Sri Lanka.  
 'We're ready to face a hard time'  
 The heat in Galle is the first thing that hits Bangladeshis going there. But it is only one of the aspects of the examination that Bangladesh will face when they take on the home team.  
**Guardiola tells Man City it's 'must-win' time**  
 Pep Guardiola has told his Manchester City side they are now into "must-win" territory in their three-pronged bid for silverware this season.  
**Root hits unbeaten 90 as Eng clinch series**  
 Joe Root struck an unbeaten 90 as he and Chris Woakes steered England to a four-wicket victory over West Indies in their second one-day international.  
**'Fiery Kohli losing my respect'**  
 Former Test wicketkeeper Ian Healy says he's "losing respect" for India captain Virat Kohli, and believes his confrontational attitude is heaping pressure on his teammates.  
**Tigers look to catch Sri Lanka off guard**  
 With an eye on improving their less than impressive away record, Bangladesh will look to catch an under-strength Sri Lanka off guard when the two-Test series gets underway in Galle.  
**A rise in rankings beckons Bangladesh**  
 Bangladesh will have a chance to overtake the West Indies in the points table if they are able to pull off a victory in a two-Test series against Sri Lanka.

# The man behind Tepurgari's fairytale

**S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat**

They don't have a playground in their school. They don't have fans or lights in their classroom. They live in extreme poverty and their fathers temporarily migrate to big cities including Dhaka to pull rickshaws when they are done with the seasonal harvesting. But those underprivileged girls, enrolled in a non-descript primary school in the northern frontier of the country, scripted an amazing success story last week when they crowned themselves champions in the Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Gold Cup – a football competition for girls of all the primary schools in the country that along with the Bangabandhu Gold Cup (a competition for the boy's) has created an enormous ripple in every nook and cranny of the country.

And when the girls from Tepurgari BK Govt Primary School of Patgram took the winners' trophy from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Thursday, where they beat Borabari Govt Primary High School of Rajshahi 1-0 in the final, it completed a fulfilling journey for those malnourished yet steely-committed girls and a

dream come true for their mentor Abdur Rashid.

Tepurgari have not only won the title but have done so in style, conceding not a single goal against the 50 they have scored in the 15 games they played all the way to the finals from union, upazila, district and divisional levels.

The success story of Tepurgari may not be as spectacular as Kalsindur, another non-descript primary school from Mymensingh that gave the underprivileged girls a new meaning of life and many of the students of that school are now playing for the pride of the nation at the international level.

But the context and effort put in by a selfless man behind this latest success story deserves plaudits.

Rashid is not only the headmaster of the school but also the mentor, financier and visionary behind that spectacular journey of a school, which in a mere 34 decimal land accommodates a dilapidated tinneled structure where 224 girls are enrolled.

"I wanted to be a chairman of my locality. But my father was against it. So, when the government nationalized all the primary schools in 2011 it became easier for me to think differently because my position did not allow me to pursue my political ambition. I was always a sport



The Tepurgari BK Govt Primary School of Patgram, the champion team of the Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Gold Cup Football Tournament, was accorded a reception by the Lalmonirhat district administration at the circuit house on Sunday. In the mix is their headmaster and mentor, Abdur Rashid (Extreme right).

players normally trained in a high school 1.5 km away from our school. Normally they trained there three days a week. But from October onward they trained six days a week for the competition, Rashid said adding that he could only provide bread and bananas during the early stages of training.

"This was what I could provide from my earnings. But I have also instructed our local doctor that any player of my team visiting his place would be treated at my expense," said Rashid.

During the district and divisional rounds Rashid made his Lalmonirhat home a residential camp and his wife, who is also a teacher, was the custodian cum cook of his players. He also hired Alim Al Sayed Khokon as coach for the divisional and final rounds.

"I hired Alim so that our girls can learn new things which we lacked last year. After all you need to know new things if you want to grow. I had to accommodate him in a rest house and arranged a hotel so that he could eat whatever he feels like," said the architect of Tepurgari's victory.

He also mentioned that he has got a little 'Messi' (Usha Akhter) in his team and he cannot wait any longer to return to Patgram and celebrate the little success with those little girls.

## Crucial tie for hosts against Oman today

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Hosts Bangladesh will try to execute penalty corners better in the Hockey World League Round-2 when they take on Oman in a crucial Pool A encounter at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium today.

Though Bangladesh notched up a comfortable 5-1 win over minnows Fiji after having lost against favourites Malaysia in the opening match, their execution of penalty corners was poor. The hosts could only convert three out of 13 penalty corners against Fiji while the forwards were not fast enough to connect to the fierce hits in front of goal, which resulted in a lot of squandered opportunities.

The charges Oliver Kurtz need to improve their performance as well as enhance their scoring ability against Oman, who beat Bangladesh in shootout in the 2015 Hockey World League in Singapore and also in the 2014 Asian Games.

"Oman improved a lot over the last few years and they played a very good match against Fiji but I think it will be a tough game. Our team is ready as we want to win against Fiji to finish second in the pool," said Kurtz believing that his two penalty corner specialists would come out with their true colours against Oman.

However, Bangladesh, who have a good overall record against Oman, will be playing at their homeground and under a coach who was the head coach of Oman for a long time.

"As I was the coach of Oman, I know all of their players and it may give us a little advantage because we can analyse the players. If our players can play with self-confidence and same spirit, then I am sure we have a good chance," said Kurtz.

## BGB chief distributes sports awards

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) director general Major General Abul Hossain, ndc, psc, handed over prizes to winners of the inter-house annual sports competition of Birshreshtha Munshi Abdur Rouf Public College at its school playground yesterday.

Flaked with other officials and members of BGB, Maj Gen Abul Hossain, who is also chairman of the governing body of the college, observed a parade which involved 19 groups and colourful displays by students as well, stated a press release from the college.

## Arsenal face mission impossible

**REUTERS, London**

Arsenal will have to produce the biggest second leg comeback in a Champions League knockout tie to avoid a seventh successive exit at the last 16 stage when they host Bayern Munich on Tuesday.

A 5-1 trouncing in Bavaria left the Gunners facing mission impossible for the return leg and confidence is hardly soaring after a 3-1 defeat by Liverpool on Saturday left Arsene Wenger's team outside the Premier League's top four.

Stranger things have happened, if not in the Champions League where no team has ever recovered from a four-goal deficit in the second leg of a knockout tie.

To progress Arsenal will have to better the feat of Spaniards Deportivo La Coruna who recovered from a 4-1 loss away to AC Milan in 2004, winning 4-0 at home to reach the semis.

The last time a team overcame a four-goal deficit in European competition was Real Madrid in the 1985-86 UEFA Cup – beating Borussia Moenchengladbach 4-0 at home after suffering, like Arsenal, a 5-1 defeat in Germany.

Few Arsenal fans will travel to the Emirates with much hope though and, rather than provide one of the greatest comebacks ever witnessed, the fixture is likely to provide another soapbox for the growing band who feel Wenger's era is close to the end.

## Tevez scores on Chinese debut

**AFP, Shanghai**

Carlos Tevez scored on his Chinese Super League debut for Shanghai Shenhua as he started repaying wages that have reportedly made him the world's best-paid player.

The former Manchester United, Manchester City and Juventus striker struck from the penalty spot and had a hand in two others as Gus Poyet's team beat Jiangsu Suning 4-0 on Sunday.

Jiangsu finished second behind Guangzhou Evergrande last year but their horror start to the season was compounded when 50-million-euro signing Alex Teixeira was sent off in second-half injury time.

According to Argentine media, 33-year-old Tevez commands a salary of 38 million euros (\$40 million) a year at Shenhua, a figure that would lift him above Cristiano Ronaldo as the world's highest-paid footballer.

Tevez's signing in January came just before Chinese football authorities announced a crackdown on "irrational" spending including a cap on transfer fees, wages and the number of foreign players per team.

## Napoli need focus against Real

**REUTERS, Rome**

Napoli will need to stay focussed and avoid distractions if they are to have any chance of clawing back their two-goal deficit against Real Madrid in the Champions League round of 16, second leg on Tuesday.

Bidding to reach the quarter-finals for the first time, Serie A's highest scoring side certainly have enough talent to cause an upset against the titleholders, who are looking to reach the last eight for the seventh season running.

Napoli coach Maurizio Sarri, a former bank employee who did not play professionally himself, has moulded the likes of Marek Hamsik, Dries Mertens, Jose Callejon and Lorenzo Insigne into the most entertaining side in Italy's top flight.

Too often, though, Napoli seem to get distracted – both on and off the field.

The latest episode began when their flamboyant club president Aurelio De Laurentiis publicly criticised the team after their 3-1 defeat in the first leg at the Bernabeu three weeks ago.

Not for the first time, he imposed a media blackout on both the coach and players, who have refused to give interviews since.

Italian media reported that Sarri had already clashed with De Laurentiis after a 1-1 draw against Palermo at the end of January.

There was more drama when Napoli reacted furiously after losing 3-1 away to Juventus in the Italian Cup last Tuesday, angrily criticising the referee for awarding two penalties to their opponents.

Juventus defender Giorgio Chiellini was among those who suggested that Napoli needed to calm down.

"At the end of the day, all this controversy just drains their energy," he said. "As a good Italian, I hope that Napoli don't waste too much energy, as I'd love them to beat Real Madrid."

Napoli are also prone to losses of concentration on the pitch.

They dominated Saturday's Serie A match at second-placed Roma but still had to cling on at the end for a 2-1 win after letting up in the final few minutes.



Arsenal playmaker Mesut Ozil (C) will miss the Champions League round of 16 second leg match against Bayern Munich tonight, dealing a blow to his team's hopes of reversing a 5-1 deficit.