

**DAY'S EVENT**

**BANGLADESH CRICKET LEAGUE**  
Four-day match, Day-4  
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

**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:

**Malaga sack Romero, appoint Michel**  
La Liga strugglers Malaga sacked coach Marcelo "Gato" Romero and replaced him with former Marseille boss Michel.

**Ex-head of SFF given 8 years in prison**  
The former president of El Salvador's football federation, who is wanted in the United States for corruption, was sentenced to eight years in Salvadoran prison for labor fraud.

**Pakistan plan to host World XI in September**  
The ICC plans to send a team to Pakistan as part of efforts to revive home fixtures.

**Fizz looking good on return**  
Mustafizur seems well on the way to recovery. Midway through the second session on the first day of the first Test against Sri Lanka, the young pacer had bowled the most overs for Bangladesh and most encouragingly, his pace was around the 130 kmph mark and at times crossed 135.

**Wenger focuses on 'bigger picture'**  
Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger, whose contract expires at the end of the season, will make a decision about his future based on the "bigger picture" and not a recent slump in form.

**Big bats dismissed, send-offs introduced**  
Big bats are set to be consigned to the wood-heap and umpires will be given the power to send off players from October as part of cricket's new Code of Laws.

**Chelsea ease past West Ham**  
Chelsea brushed aside London rivals West Ham United with a 2-1 away win that restored their 10-point lead at the top of the Premier League.



Barcelona superstars Lionel Messi (L) and Neymar take part in a training session at the Sports Center Joan Gamper in Sant Joan Despi yesterday on the eve of their Champions League match against Paris Saint-Germain. Barca will be hoping that their famed strikeforce can overturn a 4-0 deficit.

**'Barca can score six'**

AFP, Barcelona

Outgoing Barcelona boss Luis Enrique claimed his side have the firepower to stick six goals past Paris Saint-Germain as they attempt to make Champions League history by overturning a 4-0 first leg deficit on Wednesday.

"If they can score four goals against us, we can score six," said Enrique on Tuesday.

"We have nothing to lose and a lot to win." The fierce criticism that came Enrique's way after their humiliation in Paris three weeks ago has eased after he announced last week that he will step down after three seasons as coach at the end of the campaign.

Rather than show any ill-effects from Enrique's decision, optimism in the Catalan capital of a stunning fightback has soared after thrashing Sporting Gijon and Celta Vigo 6-1 and 5-0 respectively in their last two outings.

"Despite the fact that the result from the first leg is very one-sided, we are only halfway through the tie," added an uncharacteristically buoyant Enrique.

"In 95 minutes, an infinite amount of things can happen. I am convinced that at some point we will be close to qualifying.

"That isn't to say we will do it, but that we will be close. And, when you are close, our confidence will soar and theirs could start to diminish."

No team in the history of the Champions League has ever turned around a four-goal deficit.

However, the statistics back up Enrique's confidence.

The results from more than a third of his home games as Barca coach would be good enough to at least force the game to extra time.

That record includes all three of Barca's Champions League games this season as they dismantled Celtic (7-0), Manchester City (4-0) and Borussia Moenchengladbach (4-0) by a combined score of 15-0.

Luis Suarez was also bullish as he claimed if there is one team capable of mounting a historic comeback it is Barcelona.

"We are aware that it is a difficult situation to turn the tie around, but in football nothing is impossible," said Suarez.

**Ibra banned for 3 games**

AFP, London

Manchester United striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic will miss the FA Cup quarterfinal at Chelsea after accepting a charge of violent conduct and an immediate three-match ban, England's Football Association said Tuesday.

Both Ibrahimovic and Bournemouth defender Tyrone Mings were charged on Monday following two incidents in Saturday's bad-tempered 1-1 Premier League draw.

Mings appeared to deliberately stamp on Ibrahimovic's head as he jumped over him late in the first half at Old Trafford and the Swedish striker seemed to retaliate moments later by elbowing the defender in the head.

**Olympiakos sack Bento**

AFP, Piraeus

Portugal's Paulo Bento on Monday became the third coach to be sacked this season by Greek champions Olympiakos despite being top of the league.

Coming off their third straight Super League defeat just 24 hours earlier, the club said that under-20 coach Vasilis Vouzas will take over on an interim basis.

**Oman defeat hurts Bangladesh hopes**  
Hosts to face Egypt in quarterfinal

Sports Reporter



Bangladesh's primary target of reaching the semifinals of the Hockey World League Round-2 received a big blow when the hosts surrendered the lead twice to suffer a 2-3 defeat against Oman in their last match of Pool A at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

This, their second defeat from three matches, means Bangladesh finished third in Pool A to set up a quarterfinal clash against Egypt, who are ranked 20th in the FIH rankings. A victory against Oman would have seen Bangladesh face 38th ranked Ghana in the last eight.

It was Bangladesh's the third consecutive defeat to Oman after losing against the same opposition in the 2014 Incheon Asian Games [2-3] and the 2015 Hockey World League [3-4 in shootout].

Bangladesh played relatively well in the first two quarters and struck twice but they had to give up the lead on both occasions due to poor defending and marking.

Though Bangladesh launched attacks from both flanks, the absence of two veteran strikers - Pushkor Khisha Mimo and Hasan Jubair Nilloy - was dearly felt as inexperienced Arshad Hossain and Milon Hossain could hardly connect the ball in front of goal.

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Mamunur Rahman Chayan put Bangladesh ahead in the eighth minute by converting a penalty corner but the lead lasted only six minutes as Bait Jandal equalised through a penalty stroke. The hosts restored the lead in the 17th minute through a field goal from Ruman Hossain but Oman's Muhana Al Husain beat substitute goalkeeper Zahid Hossain from close-range in the 24th minute to restore parity. Oman grabbed the winning goal from another counter attack in the 26th minute when Younis Al Nofly hit the board with a fierce hit.

Bangladesh went all out and created huge pressure in the last two quarters, but failed to expose Oman's backline and had to leave the field with a defeat.

"We got a few chances to score but we wasted those chances which was the main reason behind the defeat," said Zahid who believed that they were half-hearted in the second quarter to concede two goals.

"Though we won the match, it was an equal battle," Oman coach Ponacha KK said. "The boys successfully foiled opponents' attacks from the two flanks, and executed the plan well."

**'Football gave me wings'**

SUmaia Z Aman

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S DAY



"It's Messi! Messi is the one I follow in football. I follow his delivery and his skills, and whenever I am on the field, I try to play like him," she said. Her eyes were beaming with excitement as she spoke about her idol.

Mossamat Shirat Jahan Shopna, a striker of the Bangladesh under-16 women's football team as well as the senior team, was an ordinary teenager until football changed her life. The girl from Rangpur narrated her story of becoming a footballer, on the occasion of international women's day.

"My father is a farmer and my mother is a housewife. My parents did not support me then, but now they are proud of me. Everyone should support girls in sports; girls can do wonders," she said while reminiscing her early football days.

"I started playing at the age of 10, and of course the villagers back then, were not supportive. My parents wanted me to study and take up a job when I grew up. My neighbors said it was a sin for girls to play such sports wearing men's clothes. But I never paid any heed. Football is my passion."

The 10th grader then recalled her first achievement as a footballer. "It was at the 2012 Bangamata Gold Cup Primary School Football Tournament that I first tasted victory. Then the story went on and on. The win in Nepal two years ago was very thrilling because from there we established that girls can play football, and they can win too," she said adding that her passion had started gathering support after the 2012 tournament.

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She recalled memories of going against everyone for football, barefooted, and sometimes playing with a tennis ball as nobody supported the girls. But later on, the upazila nirbahi officer of Rangpur Sadar, Harun-ur-Rashid came forward to promote them. "He arranged for us to play different matches, where people paid for a ticket to come and see us, and with that money, he bought us jerseys and boots," the girl said.

The Bangladesh Football Federation picked the girl from the Plan International under-14 talent hunt in 2013. When contacted, the federation's women's committee chairman Mahfuza Akter Kiron said, "Shopna is among the most promising players of the national under-16 squad, and we are doing everything in our power to maximise her potential in football".

Now preparing for the 2017 AFC U-16 Women's Championship in Thailand, Shopna says, "My dreams got wings to fly with since I joined the national team. I dream to take Bangladesh women's football to the next level and I urge every girl to

**Neto, Ruschel included for Libertadores**

AGencies, Brasilia

Chapecoense have named Neto and Alan Ruschel, two of the survivors of the tragic plane crash which decimated the club, in their Copa Libertadores squad.

In November 2016, a total of 71 people lost their lives while travelling to Colombia for the Copa Sudamerica final.

The trophy was awarded to the Brazilian club without contesting a meeting with Atletico Nacional.

Chape rebuilt in the wake of a tragedy which saw them lose the vast majority of their playing, coaching and support staff.

Of the six people who survived were three players - goalkeeper Jackson Follmann, defender Neto and winger Ruschel.

Two of those have been included on a 30-man list presented to CONMEBOL ahead of the 2017 Copa Libertadores.

Neto and Ruschel are not part of the travelling party, on their first international commercial flight since the plane crash in November, due to face Zulia FC in Venezuela on Tuesday, as they continue with their respective recoveries, with it yet to be decided whether they will return to profes-

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