

<h1>What to WATCH</h1>	CHANNEL 9 & TEN 1 HD Bangladesh v Sri Lanka First Test, Day-3 Live from 10:30am ATN BANGLA Hockey World League Rd-2 Egypt v Bangladesh Live from 4:05pm	TEN 1 HD West Indies v England Third ODI Live from 7:30pm TEN 1 UEFA Europa League Kobenhavn v Ajax Live from 12:00am (Friday)	Olympiacos v Besiktas Live from 2:00am (Friday) TEN 2 UEFA Europa League Rostov v Man United Live from 12:00am (Friday) Lyon v Roma Live from 2:00am (Friday)
	DAY'S EVENT		
	HOCKEY WORLD LEAGUE RD-2 Egypt v Bangladesh	Time: 4:00pm Venue: Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium	

NEW MARADONA MURAL IN NAPLES

Diego Maradona fans have another reason to make a pilgrimage to Naples: a new mural of the Argentine legend has gone up to mark 30 years since he led local club Napoli to its first Italian title. Painted by artist Jorit Agoch, the giant, head-and-shoulders depiction of a middle-aged Maradona with grey-flecked hair and beard adorns the side of a building in San Giovanni Teduccio, a tough neighbourhood known locally as "The Bronx". Maradona was already the subject of a famous mural in the city's Spanish Quarter, which portrays him dribbling with ball at his feet in a manner reminiscent of when he was in his prime. That one was restored last year and there are discussions underway about making Maradona an honorary citizen of Naples to mark the May anniversary of the clinching of the 1987 title - a groundbreaking triumph that was repeated, again under Maradona's leadership, in 1990.



Egypt test for hosts

SPORTS REPORTER



Hosts Bangladesh will be hoping to play out of their skin in a bid to extend their journey in the Hockey World League Round-2 when they face a strong Egypt side in the fourth quarterfinal at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium today.

The charges of Oliver Kurtz started the campaign with a target of reaching the semifinals of the eight-nation meet, but they hardly showed any inspiring performances in group stages. In all three matches, the hosts lacked cohesion in three departments and they were simply lacklustre and shorn of spirit.

A 2-3 defeat against Oman, following a defeat against Malaysia and a win against Fiji, has all but extinguished Bangladesh's hopes as they find themselves up against world's 20th ranked Egypt in the last eight.

In a bid to reducing workload on the players, Kurtz cancelled yesterday's training session on the eve of the match against Egypt, who beat Bangladesh 2-1 in their

lone previous meeting in 2001. Egypt, meanwhile, have drawn against China and Ghana in regulation time before beating both sides in penalty shootout during this competition.

Local coach Mahabub Harun admitted that Bangladesh's performance has not been even as good as it was during the AHF Cup in Hong Kong, but they would be taking inspiration from Ghana's 1-1 draw with Egypt.

"We have to play extra-ordinary hockey against Egypt. If the boys can implement the plan of the coach, then we have a good chance in the match. But if we continue to perform the way we played in the last three matches, we won't stand any chance," Harun said. "If Ghana could hold Egypt in a group match, so can we since we beat Ghana in a practice match recently."

Skipper Rasel Mahmud Jimmy will have to play an inspirational game if Bangladesh are to play 'extra-ordinary hockey', but as a big blow to the hosts, Jimmy has suffered a fracture on his toe and is likely to play with high a dose of medicine.

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:

'Having 3 spinners will help'

At the post-match press conference, Sri Lanka's wicketkeeper-batsman Niroshan Dickwella talked about Tamim Iqbal's dismissal, his side's lacklustre fielding and how valuable the hosts' bowling attack would prove to be in the second Test against Bangladesh.

Mou slams Rostov pitch for Europa tie

Coach Jose Mourinho slammed the state of the Rostov pitch on Wednesday ahead of Manchester United's Europa league tie, questioning whether the game should go ahead.

Smith smashes 31-ball century

Dwayne Smith smashed a whirlwind century off just 31 balls in Hong Kong's T20 Blitz on Wednesday, one of the fastest tons recorded in Twenty20 cricket.

Nike unveils sport hijab for Muslim athletes

Nike has unveiled a hijab for Muslim female athletes. The Nike Pro Hijab has been in development for a year, the company said. Athletes contributed input into the product, and figure skater Zahra Lari was among those who tested it.

Golden oldie Massa fastest in second test

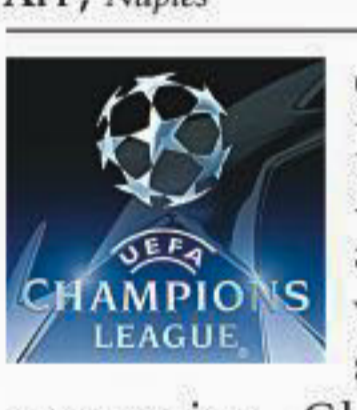
Williams ace Felipe Massa upstaged former world champions Lewis Hamilton and Sebastian Vettel on the first day of Formula One's second pre-season test in Barcelona on Tuesday.

Guardiola bemoans extortionate price of English players

The high premium that English players command in the transfer market represents a serious obstacle to Manchester City's plans to fill the team with domestic talent, manager Pep Guardiola has said.

Real crush Napoli hopes

AFP, Naples



Captain Sergio Ramos and Alvaro Morata struck one apiece as 11-time winners Real Madrid secured a seventh successive Champions League quarterfinal berth with a clinical 3-1 win over a spirited Napoli on Tuesday.

"We're happy to have won," said Real coach Zinedine Zidane. "We suffered a lot in the opening half when they had us under a lot of pressure. "But after a good talk about what we had to do in the second half, we were much better."

Real, who took a commanding 3-1 first leg lead at the Santiago Bernabeu last month, looked to be facing a tough night in Naples after Dries Mertens finished off a great attacking move to give the hosts a 24th minute lead.

But Napoli coach Maurizio Sarri had warned of the threat from the "world's richest club, with the best players" a day earlier.

And Zidane's 'Galacticos' emerged from the half-time interval in far more clinical fashion.

Ramos rose to head Real level six minutes after the restart and a second header which deflected off Mertens at

Pepe Reina's near post gave the Spaniards a 2-1 lead by the 57th minute.

Napoli saw late claims for a penalty waved away when Mertens tumbled in the box and suffered more woe in the first minute of added-on time when ex-Juventus striker Alvaro Morata came off the bench to hit their third for a 6-2 aggregate score.

"The second goal took away practically any chance we had of trying to qualify, we probably need a little bit more aggression at the corner to try and put him off," said Sarri.

"It leaves us with a bitter taste because for the opening 55 minutes we were far superior.

"But that's mostly because our fans had so much expectations on us. We're sorry for our public, because we feel they deserved a lot more.

"But this (Real) is a team with great talent that, physically, were superior to us."

Napoli required nothing short of a miracle if they were to reach the last eight for the first time -- although a bright opening reflected a growing belief in the football-mad southern city the Azzurri could cause an upset.

Maurizio Sarri's men had 11 shots in the opening period, the most Real had seen in a Champions League game since facing 15 against Juventus in 2013.

But neither Mertens, Lorenzo

Insigne or Hamsik got shots past Reina in a busy opening period that had most of the 56,695 crowd in full voice.

On Real's first real foray, Luka Modric outmanoeuvred Kalidou Koulibaly to deliver a back-post cross that Reina collected after a mix-up between Ronaldo and Karim Benzema.

Gareth Bale then escaped down the right to deliver a cross that Kroos, from the edge of the area, volleyed straight at Reina.

But Real were left ball-watching on 24 minutes after a slick passing move between Hamsik and Mertens that saw the Belgian run in to beat Keylor Navas at his bottom left corner.

The San Paolo erupted, but relief reigned moments later when Ronaldo rounded Reina to see his low drive come off the base of the post.

Napoli could have had a second but Hamsik fired high and wide before seeing a shot from the right byline blocked by Navas.

When Hamsik gave away possession minutes after the restart, Kroos's dangerous cross to the back post was cleared by the head of Mertens.

The danger of Hamsik's error became apparent when Ramos rose to meet Kroos's corner to stretch the back of the Napoli net.

PHOTO: AFP

Pressure mounts on Wenger

AFP, London



Arsene Wenger conceded he is in a "very difficult situation" after Arsenal's wretched campaign hit a new low with a humiliating Champions League exit against Bayern Munich.

Wenger's side suffered their heaviest home defeat for 19 years as Bayern romped to a 5-1 victory on Tuesday that sealed a 10-2 aggregate success in the last 16 tie.

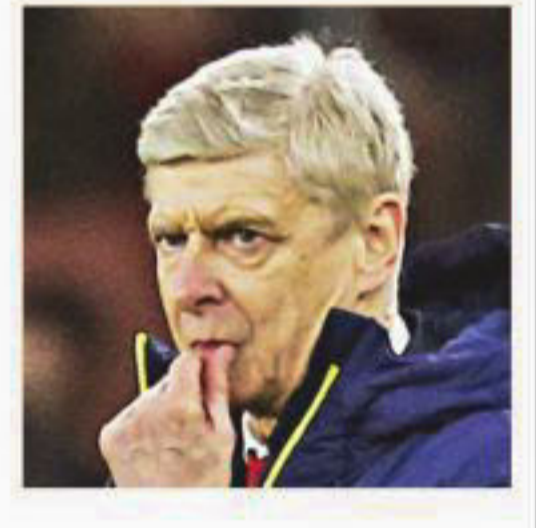
It was an evening of abject misery for Wenger, who was subjected to calls for his resignation from Arsenal fans before and after one of the most chastening losses of his 21-year reign.

Wenger angrily complained that refereeing decisions had denied his team the chance of an epic fightback after Theo Walcott's opener was cancelled out by a Robert Lewandowski penalty that led to the dismissal of Gunners defender Laurent Koscielny.

Asked if he would be managing Arsenal in Europe next season, Wenger, who has yet to reveal if he will extend his contract when it expires at the end of the campaign, gave a response that invited renewed speculation about his future.

"I don't know, you always want headlines. I'm here to speak about football not my future," he said.

"I don't feel there was any uncertainty from the players. We played very well. At the moment we are going through a very difficult situation, but I think this club is in great shape."



Dhaka Premier League to start in April

SPORTS REPORTER

The Dhaka Premier League, the country's premier 50-over competition, is expected to begin in the first week of April and the players' transfer is likely to take place by the end of this month.

The Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM), the governing body of this tournament, had a meeting yesterday and have almost confirmed the dates and the other issues of the competition. The number of foreign players per club may range from one to two this season.

Unlike the last season, the players will be able to negotiate with the clubs that they want to join directly as opposed to the players-by-choice system.

If the tournament begins next month, then the national players will be able to play in the first month only since they will have to leave for Ireland to play their tri-series scheduled to begin from May.

Bayern annihilate Arsenal

AFP, London



Bayern Munich condemned Arsene Wenger to more humiliation as 10-man Arsenal were eliminated from the Champions League with a crushing 5-1 defeat amid furious protests against the beleaguered Gunners boss on Tuesday.

Aiming to stage an incredible recovery from a 5-1 first leg deficit, Wenger's side briefly looked capable of a famous escape act when Theo Walcott opened the scoring in the first half at the Emirates Stadium.

But any hopes Wenger's recent problems would be erased in historic fashion were brutally dashed by Robert Lewandowski's second half penalty and Laurent Koscielny's dismissal for conceding that spot-kick.

Wenger cut a forlorn figure as Arjen Robben and Douglas Costa netted before Arturo Vidal's double fired Bayern into the quarter-finals with a 10-2 aggregate victory.

It was the first time Arsenal had conceded five at the Emirates and by the closing stages, there was a funeral atmosphere on an evening that started with Arsenal fans staging a protest march calling for Wenger to quit and ended with a chorus of boos and banners held up proclaiming: "Enough is enough - Wenger out".

It was yet another chastening experience in the Champions League for Wenger, who has now seen Arsenal eliminated in the last 16 for seven successive seasons.

With their Premier League title hopes in tatters and even a top four finish far from guaranteed, Wenger's 184th Champions League match as Arsenal boss may well prove to be his last as speculation grows that he will terminate his 21-year reign at the end of a wretched season.

Bayern boss Carlo Ancelotti said: "It was a strange game, honestly the result doesn't reflect what happened on the pitch. "The penalty took all the pressure out for us."

Arsenal would have to make history to go through as no team in the Champions League era had overturned a four-goal deficit and many Gunners fans gave them no chance judging by the swathes of empty red seats around the Emirates.

Even the stay-aways wouldn't have predicted such an embarrassing loss when Walcott struck in the 20th minute.

Taking possession wide on the right flank, Walcott advanced unchecked by the ponderous Bayern defence and, from an acute angle, he unloaded a powerful strike that flashed over Manuel Neuer's unconvincing attempted save and into the roof of the net.

But Giroud, unmarked eight yards out, wastefully headed over from Aaron Ramsey's cross early in the second half, and that would prove Arsenal's final chance.

Boards leap to captains' defence

AFP, Bangalore



Australia's and India's cricket boards sprang to the defence of their respective captains Wednesday amid a spiralling war of words that soured the aftermath of the dramatic second Test.

India's 75-run victory on Tuesday in Bangalore, after Australia crashed to 112 all out, has left the four-match series between the world's top two sides tantalisingly poised at 1-1.

But Wednesday's headlines were dominated by Indian skipper Virat Kohli's accusation that Steve Smith abused the decision review system (DRS), after he was seen looking to the Australian dressing-room while considering appealing against his dismissal for lbw.

The rules forbid players to consult with anyone off the pitch about whether to seek a review from the umpires, particularly as support staff have access to television replays in the dressing-room.

At the post-match press conference, Smith -- who was quickly waved off the field by the umpire -- admitted he had been at fault, but put it down to a one-off "brain-fade".

But an angry Kohli said that rather than being an isolated incident, "it's been happening for the last three days".

Although Kohli stopped short of accusing Smith of being a cheat, Indian newspapers were less diplomatic. "Smith Caught Cheating," said an Indian Express headline while The Times of India dubbed the episode "Cheatgate".

Cricket Australia's chief executive James Sutherland said any questioning of Smith's integrity was "outrageous".

"Steve is an outstanding cricketer and person, and role model to many aspiring cricketers and we have every faith that there was no ill-intent in his actions," said Sutherland, who was in Bangalore.

Coach Darren Lehmann also threw his weight behind Smith, saying the current crop of tourists was well aware of their responsibilities after previous

spats between the two teams.

"He [Kohli] has his opinion and we have ours, but at the end of the day we play the game the right way," Lehmann said on Cricket Australia's website.

Amid a clamour among former Indian players for Smith to be sanctioned, the Indian board (BCCI) said it had raised his behaviour with the International Cricket Council while launching its own defence of Kohli.

"Mr. Virat Kohli is a mature and seasoned cricketer and his conduct on the field has been exemplary," the

and Australia are using their support staff to help them decide on a DRS decision then that's not on, that's unacceptable," Clarke told the India Today network. "I think Steve Smith respects the game and will always uphold the integrity of the game and if it is just a one-off then it is a brain-fade and he's made a mistake.

"My concern, my worry is, that when you look at the footage at what happened, Peter Handscomb... actually suggests to Steve Smith to turn around and have a look to the support staff.

"Now if it is only a one-off, I don't

PHOTO: REUTERS FILE



India captain Virat Kohli (2nd from L) complains to umpire Nigel Long about his Australian counterpart Steve Smith (R) seeking 'dressing room advice' on the fourth day of the high-octane second Test in Bangalore.

BCCI said in a statement. "BCCI has requested the ICC to take cognizance of the fact that the Australian skipper Mr. Steve Smith in his press conference admitted to a 'brain fade'."

"BCCI sincerely hopes that the rest of the matches are played in the true spirit of cricket."

Smith's cause was not helped when his predecessor Michael Clarke voiced doubt over whether it was really a one-off, given that the non-striker Peter Handscomb seemed to suggest he consult the dressing-room.

"If what Virat Kohli is saying is true

think that would have happened."

Steve Waugh, another former Australian captain, said Smith would "probably be embarrassed" by what had happened.

"Obviously he can't do that, and it's not in the spirit of the game. I've just got to believe him when he says it was a one off and it was an honest mistake," Waugh told reporters in Delhi.

While there was no word from the ICC, record-breaking Indian batsman Sunil Gavaskar said Smith should be punished for a "quite blatant" breach of the rules.

Safwan made president of Sheikh Jamal

SPORTS REPORTER

Safwan Sobhan Tasvir, vice chairman of Bashundhara Group, has been made president of Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club at the club's eighth annual general meeting at the club headquarters yesterday.

"We want to promote football and promote youth in sports. That's the only reason for coming here," said Safwan after being named the president of the club, which has recently earned laurels in domestic and international circuit.

"We will do something new like the European clubs do and we will set our future plans through the executive committee. Apart from cricket and football, we want to turn this club into a full-fledged one with all sports. Our only focus is sports and youth development," said Safwan.

It may be mentioned here that Tasvir's brother Sayem Sobhan Anvir, the managing director of Bashundhara Group, is the president of rivals Sheikh Russel KC.

Outgoing president Manjur Kader, who had been at the helm for the last eight years, was made chairman of the governing body. The veteran organiser promised to support the newly elected committee for more success in future.