

CHANNEL 9 & TEN 1 HD
 Bangladesh v Sri Lanka
 First Test, Day-5
 Live from 10:15am
SONY ESPN
 FA Cup Quarterfinal
 Middlesbrough v Man City

Live from 6:15pm
 Arsenal v Lincoln City
 Live from 11:30pm
 Serie A
 Genoa v Sampdoria
 Live from 1:45am (Sunday)

SONY SIX
 La Liga
 Valencia v Sporting Gijon
 Live from 6:00pm
 Sevilla v Leganes
 Live from 9:15pm
 Malaga v Alaves

Live from 11:30pm
 Granada v Atletico Madrid
 Live from 1:45am (Sunday)
STAR SPORTS SELECT HD1
 Bundesliga
 Bayern Munich v Eintracht
 Live from 8:30pm

Ingolstadt v Koln
 Live from 11:30pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT HD2
 English Premiership
 Everton v West Brom
 Live from 9:00pm

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:

Hohns named Australia chief cricket selector

Trevor Hohns is named the chairman of Australia's cricket selectors after steadying the ship as caretaker chief following a string of defeats last year. He joins Greg Chappell, Mark Waugh and coach Darren Lehmann on the four-man panel.



Hales, Root tons take Eng to record ODI win

England's Alex Hales and Joe Root struck centuries as the tourists cruised to a series sweep with a massive 186-run victory over West Indies in the third and final one-day international at the Kensington Oval.



Novak Djokovic seeks to turn up the heat in California

Five-time champion Novak Djokovic will be out to reassert his dominance on the hard courts of Indian Wells this week, seeking to shake off the slump that has dogged him into 2017.



India withdraw Smith protest as boards make peace

India have withdrawn an official protest about the actions of Australia captain Steve Smith in the second Test as the governing bodies of both countries moved to bring an end to the acrimony surrounding the ongoing four-match series.



Manchester United earn draw at Rostov

Europa League favourites Manchester United secured a 1-1 draw on a threadbare pitch at Rostov, while Olympique Lyonnais beat AS Roma 4-2 helped by a fine individual goal from Nabil Fekir in their last 16, first leg ties.



Manchester United star Zlatan Ibrahimovic (C) tussles with Rostov midfielder Aleksandr Gatskan (L) and defender Miha Mevlja during their Europa League round of 16 encounter at the Olimp-2 Arena on Thursday.

Jose eyes progress

AFP, Rostov-on-Don



Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho is hopeful the obstacle of a trip to Chelsea in the FA Cup does not hinder his side's prospects of completing a Europa League last-16 win over Rostov.

United drew 1-1 in Russia in the first leg of their tie on Thursday after Henrikh Mkhitaryan's first-half opener was cancelled out by an Aleksandr Bukharov strike shortly after the break.

It was a good result after a long trip for a match played on a shocking surface at the Olimp 2 stadium -- so bad that Mourinho had questioned whether the match should have gone ahead at all.

United host Rostov in the return at Old Trafford next Thursday but before that they go to Chelsea in the FA Cup quarter-finals on Monday evening, meaning the Portuguese manager will have to adequately manage his squad to avoid fatigue.

And he acknowledged the importance of the Europa League as a potential route into next season's Champions League for a team currently sitting sixth in the Premier League.

"We want to keep the two goals open. In the Europa League, if you manage to go to the quarter finals, then in the quarter finals, you feel it so we have to try by every means," said Mourinho, whose side have already won the English League Cup this season.

"We have a trophy in our pocket which is always a good thing, a good feeling for everyone. But now we have the Premier league to try to be in the top four, we have the Europa League to try to beat Rostov, and on Monday we cannot go with a bad team."

"Manchester United is too big. It's not Chelsea's fault that we'll play on Monday. So we have to make changes, for sure, but we cannot go to Stamford Bridge with a bad team."

Of the game in Rostov, the former

Chelsea manager admitted disappointment at his side's inability to hold their lead but hinted that the outcome still suited him.

"You know, an away goal is always positive. It's better 1-1 than 0-0 but the game is open," said Mourinho, who won the UEFA Cup with Porto in 2003.

"The result is open and this Rostov team, they have experience at playing big matches, big opponents and big stadiums. I don't think it's a problem for them to compete against us."

"They play Sunday against Terek Grozny, we play Monday against Chelsea. For us, it's difficult but we are one step from being in the quarter-finals."

Rostov will travel to England without Timofei Kalachev and captain Aleksandr Gatskan, who will be suspended after picking up bookings. They also lost Vladimir Granat to a broken collarbone.

"Probably if this was a point, they would be happy with the point," Mourinho added.

The United manager also spoke of his relief that the evening went off without trouble after the build-up to the match was overshadowed by fears of violence between travelling English supporters and Russian hooligans.

"I think everything was magnificent. People have been nice to us since we landed," said Mourinho, whose side were backed by just under 250 of their fans on the long trip.

"During the game, they supported their team but they did it like it should be done. I think our supporters also were nice guests and they behaved properly."

"On the pitch, everything was an example because the players fought hard, they fought very hard for every ball but in a positive way."

"Everything was a good example and hopefully the Rostov fans that will go (to Manchester) next week, they have great conditions now to be welcome and for everything to be a good example."

U-18 National Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Joy Chandra Barman struck four goals to power Tangail to an emphatic 6-0 win over Jamalpur in the U-18 National Football Championship at the Netrokona venue yesterday.

At the Feni venue, Razibul Shanto slotted a hattrick to help the hosts beat Laxmipur 4-0 while Rangamati blanked Khagrachari 3-0 at the same venue.

Jhenaidha beat Gopalganj 3-1 while Jessore and Bagerhat played out a goalless draw at the Gopalganj venue.

Sylhet and Habiganj beat Moulvibazar and Chandpur by identical 1-0 margin at the Sunamganj venue while Gaibandha and Rangpur beat Panchagarh and Thakurgaon 2-0 and 1-0 respectively at the Dinajpur venue.

At the Rajshahi venue, Pabna beat Chapainawabganj 1-0 while Joypurhat drew goalless against Bogra while Rajbari handed a 4-1 defeat to Sariatpur at the Shariatpur venue.

Wins for Dhumketu, Gladiators

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhumketu Club and Dhaka Gladiators notched victories on the opening day of the Unimed Unihealth Premier Division Basketball League at the Dhanmondi Indoor Basketball Stadium yesterday.

Dhumketu beat Old DOHS by 62-32 points, with Sajid and Niaz scoring 20 and 11 points respectively. In the other match, Gladiators outplayed Eagles by 96-51 points as Shoyeb and Sajib netted 33 and 14 points respectively.

IAAF suspends fund for BAF

SPORTS REPORTER



The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) suspended its annual allocation to the Bangladesh Athletics Federation (BAF) due to non-submission of BAF's annual reports to the sport's world governing body, confirmed BAF president Ali Kabir.

"We last received the IAAF allocation in 2015 but they did not release fund for 2016 as our federation did not submit its annual reports on the activities of the federation last year," Ali Kabir said. "BAF general secretary Ibrahim Chengis was supposed to send it to the IAAF but he did not do so; he did not even let the executive committee know of the matter."

"I came to know about it on March 6 after communicating with an IAAF official. The IAAF also sent the papers on it the following day," Kabir said. "As all members resigned from the executive committee ahead of the BAF polls, I am now trying to prepare the report for 2015 and 2016 with the help of some former BAF officials. I don't know whether I will be able to lift the suspension."

Kabir, a former secretary of the National Sports Council, blamed Chengis for the IAAF suspension and the country's poor state of athletics. He also urged the authority concerned to form an ad-hoc committee immediately in order to save athletics.

Hockey World League Hosts take on Sri Lanka today

SPORTS REPORTER

After being eliminated from the quarterfinals of Hockey World League Round-2, hosts Bangladesh will take on Sri Lanka in a 5th-to-8th position deciding match today at Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium with a hope of finishing fifth in the eight-team meet.

If Bangladesh, whose only defeat to Sri Lanka came in the 2006 SA Games, win today's match, they will play the fifth-sixth position deciding match against the winners of Ghana versus Fiji match.

In the semifinals, top-seeded Malaysia will play against Egypt while second-seed China will face Oman today.

Neymar fuels treble talk

AFP, Barcelona



For a victory "defined by faith" according to Barcelona boss Luis Enrique, the Catalans rose from the dead inspired by the man who never stopped believing.

"As long as there's a one percent chance, we'll have 99 percent faith," said Neymar before a ball had been kicked in Barca's stunning revival from a 4-0 first leg deficit to beat Paris Saint-Germain 6-1.

A few hours, two goals and a vital 95th minute assist for Sergi Roberto to cap the biggest comeback in the history of the Champions League later, Neymar hailed his display as the "best game" of his career.

"This is the best game I have ever played. For what it meant, for what we experienced," said the 25-year-old.

Neymar hasn't always had the easiest time since swapping Santos for Spain three-and-a-half years ago.

The murky series of contracts that sealed his transfer have seen Neymar, his father and Barcelona dragged through the courts on corruption and tax evasion charges.

Yet, it is for nights like Wednesday that Barca paid millions to recruit and then renew Neymar's contract till 2021 in October.

Pre-match focus had framed the seemingly impossible comeback only realistic if Lionel Messi made it happen.

Instead, three times in a frantic final seven minutes, it was Neymar, not Messi, that took responsibility and dragged Barca back from the brink into a record 10th consecutive quarterfinal.

Firstly, he curled home a brilliant free-kick and then took over penalty duty, despite Messi having earlier converted from the spot, to leave Barca needing just one more.

Amid the bedlam of nearly 100,000 voices at the Camp Nou, Neymar then calmly cut inside with Barca's last chance as the seconds ticked down to tease in the perfect cross on his weaker left foot for Sergi Roberto to apply the finishing touch.

"Not even in our wildest dreams could we dreamed the way it happened," Neymar posted on Instagram alongside a celebratory photo of he and Messi.

"The impossible is just a matter of opinion."

FIXTURES

(all times GMT)
Saturday
Valencia v Sporting Gijon (1200), Sevilla v Leganes (1515), Malaga v Alaves (1730), Granada v Atletico Madrid (1945)
Sunday
Real Sociedad v Athletic Bilbao, Deportivo la Coruna v Barcelona (1515), Celta Vigo v Villarreal (1730), Real Madrid v Real Betis (1945)
Monday
Osasuna v Eibar (1945)

Messi and Real Madrid rival Cristiano Ronaldo have ruled the roost as the world's two best players since 2008 - sharing nine straight Ballon d'Or wins.

However, Neymar's display on the biggest stage left many in little doubt he is the heir to their crown in the future.

"A night worthy of the Ballon d'Or," said Spanish sports daily Marca.

"With his speed, skill and powerful strike, PSG folded up against the best version of the Brazilian."

Neymar is used to carrying the biggest burdens.

He took Brazil to the semi-finals of the World Cup on home soil in 2014 before his back was broken towards the end of a bruising quarterfinal clash with Colombia.

Some measure of revenge for that blow was taken by scoring the winning penalty as the hosts claimed a first Olympic gold at the Rio Games in August.

Rather than be cowed, Neymar is inspired by the biggest moments when his side need him most.

And he could be the key with a suddenly revitalised Barcelona eyeing a second treble of Champions League, La Liga and Copa del Rey in three seasons.

"We believed before and now even more (so)," added Neymar.

After partying into the early hours of Thursday morning with three-time Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton, Barca and Neymar travel to Deportivo la Coruna on Sunday looking to avoid a hangover.

"It wouldn't be a bad thing if Barca went out partying," hopeful Deportivo boss Pepe Mel told radio station Onda Cero with his side sitting just five points above the relegation zone.

Siddikur hanging

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's Siddikur Rahman was hanging by a thread in his bid to avoid cut half-way through the Hero Indian Open in New Delhi yesterday. The 32-year-old golfer was one stroke above the cut-mark when play was called off prematurely due to bad light.

Having carded three-over-par (75) in the opening round, the two-time Asian Tour winner went two-over-par up to the eighth hole of the second round at the DLF Golf and Country Club yesterday when play was called off for the day.

Siddikur was tied for 63rd position in the 1.75-million-dollar event, which is co-sanctioned by the Asian Tour, the European Tour and PGTI. Siddikur, along with a number of other golfers, will return to the course early this morning to end their second rounds.

Guardiola faces selection headache

AFP, Middlesbrough



Pep Guardiola faces a selection headache in Saturday's FA Cup quarterfinal at Middlesbrough as the Manchester City manager juggles the demands of competing for silverware on two fronts.

Guardiola must decide how many of City's best players to risk for at the Riverside Stadium as they have a crucial Champions League last 16 second leg clash with Monaco four days later.

The FA Cup offers the more realistic prospect of Guardiola's first trophy with City, but the Spaniard's success in Europe was a key factor in the decision to bring him to Manchester last year.

The former Barcelona and Bayern Munich boss will find his skills tested to the limit in what is a defining week for City's season.

His most recent attempt at squad rotation failed when Guardiola decided to start Wednesday's Premier League home game against Stoke without his two best creative players.

David Silva was named as a substitute and Raheem Sterling was rested altogether as City drew 0-0, leaving them 10 points behind leaders Chelsea.

Guardiola has rested players for each of City's FA Cup games so far, but there are signs that he is taking the competition more seriously the further he progresses.

Germany set Spain, Brazil dates

AFP, Berlin

World champions Germany will host both Spain and Brazil in international friendlies next year ahead of the 2018 World Cup in Russia, the German FA (DFB) announced on Friday.

Joachim Loew's side will play 2010 world champions Spain in Dusseldorf on March 23, 2018 before facing record five-time World Cup winners Brazil four days later in Berlin.

Germany have yet to qualify for next year's tournament but are well positioned at the top of their group with four wins from four matches, leading Northern Ireland and Azerbaijan by five points.

"These matches against Spain and Brazil will certainly give us a small taster of the World Cup in Russia, where the team will give everything a few months later to defend its title," said DFB president Reinhard Grindel.



The winners of the 21st Transcom Cup Golf Tournament pose with the chief guest, Lieutenant General Aziz Ahmed, General Officer Commanding, Army Training and Doctrine Command, at the Banquet Hall of the Kurmitola Golf Club (KGC) yesterday. Chairman and CEO of Transcom Group, Latifur Rahman, was also present alongside high-ranking Army officers and KGC officials.

PHOTO: STAR