

What to WATCH

CHANNEL 9 & TEN 1 HD

Bangladesh v Sri Lanka

Second Test, Day-3

Live from 10:30am

STAR SPORTS 1

India v Australia

Third Test, Day-2

Live from 10:00am

STAR SPORTS SELECT HD2

Bundesliga

Dortmund v Ingolstadt

Live from 1:30am (Saturday)

SONY SIX


La Liga

Las Palmas v Villarreal

Live from 1:45am (Saturday)

VOLLEYBALL PLAYER TOO TALL TO FLY

People on a plane in Russia were surprised when police boarded their flight and ordered, VC Dynamo Moscow volleyball player Alexander Kimerov, to get off the aircraft. Police were called by the flight crew of Pobeda Airlines and then the officers informed Kimerov, who is a 7 feet tall, that he will have to leave the plane because he placed his long legs in the aisle, which is considered a safety hazard. Kimerov asked the flight attends for another seat, but they refused. An argument ensued as Kimerov and his friends did not want him to get off the plane. In the end, Kimerov agreed to leave. His Teammate Alexander Volkov was shocked at the treatment and posted the video of the debacle on his social media where he wrote: "What's going on with this world, friends? A man is being taken off a plane because of his height. He is not just an ordinary man, but a prominent sportsman who plays for Russia. I am astounded by incompetence of police officers who took part in the incident." —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:

Kohli to undergo scans

India skipper Virat Kohli will undergo scans on his injured shoulder after leaving the field in the afternoon session of the opening day's play in the third Test against Australia.

Kyrgios stuns Djokovic; Federer beats Nadal

Nick Kyrgios overpowers Novak Djokovic for the second time in as many weeks to book an Indian Wells quarter-final against Roger Federer, who swatted aside old foe Rafael Nadal.

'Too many rule changes will slow the game'

Arsene Wenger says that while the introduction of technology and other rule changes may benefit the sport in certain cases there is a real danger that football could become a "stop-and-go game".

Nicholls answers critics

Henry Nicholls answers his critics with a maiden century to rescue New Zealand on a torrid first day for batsmen in the second Test against South Africa.

Nasri brands Vardy 'a cheat'

Sevilla midfielder Samir Nasri has accused Jamie Vardy of cheating after the Frenchman was sent off for squaring up to the Leicester forward and bumping foreheads in their Champions League clash.

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (R) returned to bowling during a practice match between Team Green and Team Red at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Bangabandhu Gold Cup pushed back

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangabandhu Gold Cup will get underway from the third week of April with the participation of six nations, the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) confirmed yesterday. The tournament, an annual event in the BFF fixture, was scheduled to start on March 11 but the game's governing body have pushed back the tournament till the next month while also reducing the number of teams from eight to six. "We need some time to bring the foreign teams. Besides that the schedule of the Bangabandhu Gold Cup did not match the schedules of other participating countries. That's why we have taken the tournament to next month," said BFF senior vice president Abdus Salam Murshedy after a long five-hour meeting of the executive committee at the BFF House yesterday. Without mentioning the names of the participating counties, Murshedy said that they had already started to send out invites to prospective teams but the response was not good. He also avoided questions about

whether the BFF has yet to clear the last edition's prize money of US \$50,000 to champions Nepal. Murshedy further informed that the National Teams Committee was looking at the matter of appointing a head coach for the national team, adding that some good news might be coming within a week. Another decision taken in the meeting was that each of the Bangladesh Premier League clubs could field two foreign players after registering three foreigners. In the last season teams could field three foreign players after registering four. A decision was also taken to uphold the BFF appeal committee's decision to relegate both Feni Soccer Club and Uttar Baridhara Club to the Bangladesh Championship League (BCL) following their failure to turn up to the relegation-deciding play-off matches. Besides, Bashundhara Kings' appeal to play in the BCL from the second division league was also approved. The transfer windows of both Bangladesh Premier League and Championship League will remain open from April 1-30 and the season is scheduled to get underway through the Federation Cup from May 5.

Bilbao keeper hospitalised

AFP, Madrid

Athletic Bilbao goalkeeper Alejandro Remiro was rushed to hospital on Wednesday after suffering a head injury when he was struck by a ball in training. "The tests carried out (radiography, scans) have not revealed any significant injury", Bilbao said in a statement. "It is expected the player will remain under observation in the coming hours." Remiro, 21, has yet to make his first team debut with Athletic, but has been capped at under-19 level by Spain. "Thank you to everyone for your messages of support. I will soon be fighting back on the pitch," Remiro tweeted. Remiro's teammate Bent Etxebarria described the incident as a "big scare". "The truth is that is was a big scare because it was powerful strike," said Etxebarria.

Mash satisfied with bowling

SPORTS REPORTER

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza expressed satisfaction after his first competitive game at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday since recovering from a thumb injury. The right-arm paceman -- who had sustained an injury on his thumb during the New Zealand tour -- was initially struggling to find his rhythm after coming in to bowl for the first time in over two months, but he gradually improved during a practice match between Team Green and Team Red. He bowled eight overs without any success but said: "Initially I struggled with my run-up and I also bowled no balls. I just started bowling few days back, so this practice match helped me lot. I still have one week in hand and I hope everything will be okay," said the Team Green skipper, whose team lost the match to the Nasir Hossain-led Team Red by four wickets. Mashrafe will fly for Colombo tomorrow to lead the Tigers in the three-match ODI and two-match T20I series against Sri Lanka. He added that the Tigers would have to play their best cricket to beat a young Sri Lankan side, but he was not willing to make any comments on the current controversy surrounding Mahmudullah Riyad's omission from the second Test and inclusion in the ODI team. Selector Habibul Bashar also expressed his satisfaction over Mashrafe's bowling fitness, saying: "His bowling looked fine to me. Mashrafe bowled with a full run-up and everything was okay."

DHAKA PREMIER DIVISION CRICKET Players' transfer begins today

SPORTS REPORTER

It was once a major event in the domestic cricket scene, but the attraction of the players' transfer for the Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League has gradually diminished, with the focus shifting to international cricket. That scenario is expected to prevail when the two-day transfer formalities begin at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today, ahead of the start of the country's most coveted 50-over domestic competition from April 7. The bourse will continue from 4pm to 7pm on both days and the main attraction will be players bracketed in the national pool, although most of them are now caught up with the Sri Lanka series. "If any national player who is now is Sri Lanka has authorised someone, then his registration will be confirmed in the two-day procedure. Otherwise they will have to take part in the transfer after returning," informed league coordinator Amin Khan. A team is permitted to include a maximum three players from the 19-member national pool. Interestingly, despite being the main attraction, teams will only be getting the services of the national pool players for a few matches as the Tigers will be busy with international commitments. Each club is allowed to field one foreign player in a match but there will be no quota on the number of foreign players' registration during the league.

Odurate Oblak takes Atletico to last eight

AFP, Madrid

Atletico Madrid booked their place in the Champions League quarterfinals for a fourth consecutive season but had goalkeeper Jan Oblak to thank for avoiding defeat in a 0-0 draw with Bayer Leverkusen on Wednesday. Oblak produced a remarkable triple save midway through the second half as Atletico held on to their 4-2 first-leg advantage to take their place in Friday's draw for the last eight. "It is not easy to be in the quarterfinals four years in a row," Oblak told BeIN Sports Spain. "I hope Atletico will continue like this, keep growing like in the last few years and I am sure we can achieve great things." On a night of few Atletico chances, the home fans didn't even get to cheer the return of hero Fernando Torres. Two weeks on from being knocked unconscious in a sickening head clash Atletico boss Diego Simeone left Torres on the bench for the full 90 minutes. New Leverkusen boss Tayfun Korkut was taking charge of his first Champions League game after Roger Schmidt was sacked when Leverkusen's first-leg defeat was followed by a 6-2 thrashing at Borussia Dortmund. Korkut summoned a much-improved performance from the Germans as they forced Atletico onto the back foot for long spells. However, the damage had already been done as the hosts registered their 17th clean sheet in their last 21 Champions League home games. Leverkusen had the chance to bring the tie back to life after just four minutes but Kevin Volland pulled his shot across Oblak and beyond the far post. Atletico took until seven minutes before the break to threaten but then forced Bernd Leno into two fine saves in 60 seconds. Firstly, Angel Correa was denied before Koke's low driven shot was turned behind by the German.

Monaco KO Man City

AFP, Monaco

Tiemoue Bakayoko's superb header fired Monaco into the Champions League quarterfinals as Wednesday's 3-1 victory condemned Pep Guardiola's Manchester City to a painful exit on away goals. Trailing 5-3 from the first leg in England, teenage starlet Kylian Mbappe put Monaco ahead on the night after just eight minutes at the Stade Louis II and Brazilian midfielder Fabinho converted the home side's second just before the half hour. Leroy Sane's 71st-minute goal handed City a 6-5 advantage on aggregate, but Bakayoko turned home Thomas Lemar's free-kick 13 minutes from time as Monaco claimed a famous win. Monaco go through to Friday's draw for the last eight in Nyon carrying French hopes following Paris Saint-Germain's shock elimination, while Guardiola suffered his earliest Champions League exit as a manager. "We played an exceptional second half, but the first one we forgot to be there," Guardiola told BT Sport. "In the second half we were much, much better but it was not enough. It happens and we'll learn, we have a team with not a lot of experience in this competition." Monaco hero Bakayoko will miss the first leg of the quarterfinal through suspension but was delighted to advance. "It's an immense joy to score in the Champions League. I didn't expect this," he said. "Over two games we deserved to qualify. Now we want to keep going."

TIEMOUE BAKAYOKO

The French league leaders suffered a blow before kick-off as Radamel Falcao, who scored twice in the first leg, failed to recover from a hip injury in time and was replaced by the versatile Valere Germain. Jemerson returned in place of the suspended Kamil Glik in defence, while Guardiola, who took charge of his 100th game in Europe, made two changes with Gael Clichy and Aleksandar Kolarov given the nod ahead of Nicolas Otamendi and Yaya Toure. Coach Leonardo Jardim had challenged Monaco to draw inspiration from the side which dumped out Real Madrid en route to the 2004 final, recovering from a 4-2 defeat in the first leg of that year's quarterfinals before knocking the Spanish giants out on away goals. And the hosts were inspired by 18-year-old Mbappe, who has emerged as one of Europe's most promising talents amid Monaco's thrilling pursuit of the French title this season. Willy Caballero stood tall to repel Mbappe's crisp early strike as he knifed through the City defence, but the Argentine goalkeeper was helpless as the teenager poked home Bernardo Silva's driven low cross just a minute later. City recovered from twice falling behind in the first leg, but the opening goal emboldened Monaco as Germain unleashed a searing strike from distance that zipped not too far over. Guardiola had emphasised the best form of defence would be attack for City, yet the visitors struggled to settle and Monaco grabbed their second goal in not dissimilar fashion on 29 minutes. Lemar fed the ball into the overlapping run of Benjamin Mendy and the left-back picked out Fabinho to side-foot beyond Caballero.

NSC forms ad-hoc body in athletics

SPORTS REPORTER

The National Sports Council (NSC) formed an ad-hoc committee of the Bangladesh Athletic Federation on Wednesday after dissolving the previous committee which expired on February 6. ASM Ali Kabir was renamed the president of the federation while advocate Abdur Rakib was made the general secretary. The 31-member committee has also been asked to hold the elections as soon as possible.

Rostov's ground shut

AFP, Moscow

Russia's Premier League has closed Rostov's stadium because of the poor condition of the pitch, a week after Manchester United boss Jose Mourinho slammed the surface as unplayable. The league said Wednesday that it was banning matches at the Olimp-2 arena -- as well as the Central Stadium in Kazan -- until the pitches meet its standards. Mourinho had decried the state of the pitch -- which was dry and devoid of grass in areas -- ahead of the 1-1 draw with Rostov in their Europa League match last Thursday.

Smith, Maxwell dictate

AFP, Ranchi

Australian skipper Steve Smith silenced his critics with a gritty century on Thursday's opening day of the third Test against India, before declaring he had moved on from his war of words with Virat Kohli. The visitors were 299 for four at stumps after electing to bat first in their 800th Test at a venue which is hosting its first ever five-day international, with Smith unbeaten on 117 and Glenn Maxwell on 82. Smith, at the centre of a major row after being accused by Kohli of systematically abusing the decision review system (DRS) in the last Test in Bangalore, put on 159 runs with Maxwell to lift Australia from 140 for 4. The 27-year-old Smith brought up his 19th Test century with a boundary off Murali Vijay, raising his bat to the acknowledge the generous applause of the home crowd. "You cannot control the past. I came out and said I made a mistake and moved on from there," said Smith, who had admitted to a "brain fade" in Bangalore after looking up for guidance while mulling a review for lbw. "And 4 for 300, we will take that, but tomorrow is going to be a crucial day for us," he added. Smith, who crossed the 5,000-run mark in his 52nd Test, became the first Australian captain to score two hundreds in a series in India. He hit 109 in the opener in Pune. West Indies' Clive Lloyd (1974-75 and 1983-84) and England's Alastair Cook (2012-13) are the only other international captains to have scored two or more centuries during a series in

Australia captain Steve Smith raises his bat after scoring a century against India during the first day of the third Test in Ranchi yesterday. Smith remained unbeaten on 117.

PHOTO: AFP

India. At the other end Maxwell, who was drafted into the XI in place of injured Mitchell Marsh, changed gears after reaching his fifty with a six off Ravindra Jadeja. Maxwell, playing his fourth Test, smashed 5 fours and 2 sixes as he took the attack to the opposition in the final session of play. The stand between Smith and Maxwell is Australia's best for the fifth wicket in India, surpassing the 145-run partnership between Michael Clarke and Matthew Wade during the second Test of the 2013 series. "Maxi played beautifully. Stuck to his plans and struck the bad balls. It is a good pitch so we will need all the runs we can get," said Smith of India's

newest Test venue. While Smith was enjoying a satisfying day at the office, his opposite number Kohli injured his right shoulder while fielding in the 40th over and stayed in the pavilion for the rest of the day. Kohli fell awkwardly while trying to save a boundary at long-on and instantly left the field while clutching his shoulder. He was later seen putting on ice packs in the dressing room and is to undergo a scan. SCORES IN BRIEF AUSTRALIA: First innings 299 for 4 (Renshaw 44, Smith 117 not out, Maxwell 82 not out; Yadav 2-63) INDIA: Rahane, Vijay, Pujara, Kohli (capt), Rahul, Nair, Saha, Ashwin, Jadeja, Sharma, Yadav.