

**CHANNEL 9 & TEN 1 HD**  
 Bangladesh v Sri Lanka  
 First ODI (D/N)  
 Live from 3:00pm  
**STAR SPORTS 1**  
 India v Australia  
 Fourth Test, Day-1  
 Live from 10:00am

**SONY ESPN**  
 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers  
 Sweden v Belarus  
 Live from 11:00pm  
 Luxembourg v France  
 Live from 1:45am (Sunday)  
**SONY SIX**  
 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers

Switzerland v Latvia  
 Live from 11:00pm  
 Portugal v Hungary  
 Live from 1:45am (Sunday)

## SMITH MEETS DALAI LAMA

Australian skipper Steve Smith revealed Friday his team held a relaxing session with the Dalai Lama where they learnt about keeping their cool, just a day ahead of the high-pressure series decider against India. "I asked him a question about sleeping and how he could help me and he gave me his blessings," Smith said at a news conference. "We rubbed our noses together. Hopefully it will help me with my sleep over the next five days!" On a more serious note, Smith said the team learnt all about kindness and compassion. "It probably relaxes us a little bit. He [Dalai Lama] is all about compassion and oneness for each and every human being. One thing that we can learn from it is that sometimes we get over the top when we are out there playing cricket. It's a tough game but at the end of the day it's just a game."



—AFP

# Kohli participation still not certain

India's deciding Test against Aus begins today

**AFP, Dharamsala**  
 Injured Indian skipper Virat Kohli said Friday he would play the fourth Test against Australia only if he was 100 per cent fit, keeping up the suspense over his participation in the series decider.  
 Kohli, who injured his shoulder during the drawn third Test in Ranchi, said he would undergo fitness tests before taking a final call on whether to take the field in the fourth and final Test which begins Saturday.  
 "Obviously if I am 100 per cent fit for the game [that] is the only condition on which I will take the field," Kohli, 28, said at the pre-match press conference in Dharamsala.  
 "The physio can explain better [the risks of playing despite carrying an injury]. I don't know the magnitude of the risk but all I know is the fitness tests, if I go through them I will take the field."  
 On Thursday the Indian team management rushed in uncapped batsman Shreyas Iyer as a cover for Kohli, who has led India to victory in nine of their last 12 Tests at home.  
 Kohli has had a disappointing series against Australia, managing just 46 runs in

the first three Tests of a series between the world's top two sides which is tantalisingly poised at 1-1 as it reaches its climax.  
 Kohli, who batted in the nets Friday, said the full extent of an injury could only be known in match conditions and that he would strictly follow the advice of the physiotherapist.  
 "Those are the things you need to keep in mind, the physio wants to give it a bit more time till I test myself," said the right-hander.  
 "And probably we will take a call on it later tonight or tomorrow [Saturday] so I think we will have to give that much time more for me to make that call with the physiotherapist."  
 Rival captain Steve Smith said India would still be in very good hands if Kohli was forced out of action, with Ajinkya Rahane having proved his credentials as a stand-in during the Ranchi Test.  
 Kohli was off the field during most of Australia's first innings in Ranchi but he did come out to bat at his usual number four position and took the field during Australia's second innings.  
 "He [Rahane] is probably a bit more chilled out on the field, probably not as emotional but I think he understands the game really well," said Smith.



Brazil midfielder Paulinho (C) is the toast of his teammates after scoring a hatrick against Uruguay during their 2018 World Cup qualifier at the Centenario Stadium in Montevideo yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## 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:

**'Spanish football's dominance depends on Ronaldo and Messi'**

Spanish football's dominance of Europe will come to an end when Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi are no longer the best on the planet, according to Sir Alex Ferguson.

**BD female hockey champs epitomize Special Olympics ideal**

Families back home will have to wait to hear the biggest news of their children's lives though it is possible the shrieks and cries of pure joy and utter exhaustion may have reached all the way from Austria.

**Mclroy eliminated by Kjeldsen**

Second-ranked Rory Mclroy was eliminated from title contention at the World Golf Championships-Dell Match Play after group rival Gary Woodland withdrew and Soren Kjeldsen won his second consecutive match.

**Faf says SA 'not good enough'**

Faf du Plessis criticised South Africa's performances against New Zealand as "not good enough" despite going into the final Test in Hamilton with an unbeatable 1-0 lead in the series.

**Pliskova eases through at WTA Miami Open**

Second seed Karolina Pliskova cruised into the third round of the Miami Open, the Czech beat American qualifier Madison Brengle 6-1, 6-3.

**Hamilton bosses F1 season's first practice**

Lewis Hamilton laid down a marker as he led a Mercedes one-two in the new Formula One season's first free practice at the Australian Grand Prix.

# Paulinho destroys Uruguay

Messi revives Argentina

AFP, Montevideo



BRASILIA

Brazil thrashed Uruguay to move to the brink of the World Cup finals on Thursday as Lionel Messi got Argentina's faltering qualification campaign back on track with the only goal to sink Chile.  
 A superb hatrick from China-based midfielder Paulinho powered Brazil to a 4-1 drubbing of the Uruguayans in Montevideo to leave the five-time world champions all-but-certain of a place at next year's finals in Russia.  
 The Brazilians now lead the 10-team round-robin competition by seven points after their latest win.  
 The top four teams in the standings qualify automatically and with only five rounds remaining, it would take a freakish set of results to deny Brazil.  
 Uruguay had taken the lead after only nine minutes when Brazil goalkeeper Alisson brought down Paris Saint-Germain striker Edinson Cavani

for a penalty.  
 Cavani got to his feet and drilled the spot-kick beyond the Brazilian goalkeeper to put Uruguay 1-0 up.  
 But Paulinho produced a thunderbolt 10 minutes later, uncorking a screamer into the top corner from 25 yards to level at 1-1.  
 The midfielder then stabbed home Philippe Coutinho's shot in the 51st minute to make it 2-1.  
 Barcelona superstar Neymar added a third with a sublime chip in the 75th minute to effectively settle the contest.  
 Paulinho completed his hatrick in injury time, turning in a low cross with his chest to cap a fine display.  
 Uruguay, who were missing the suspended Luis Suarez, remain in second place in the standings.  
 "To come here and win by any score is a great result," Brazil coach Tite said afterwards. "Playing in this stadium and beating Uruguay is difficult for anyone."  
 In Buenos Aires, Argentina had entered their clash with Chile desperately needing to take all three points to

# Benzema won't give up on France recall

AFP, Paris



PARIS

Frozen-out star forward Karim Benzema wants showdown talks with France coach Didier Deschamps about his international future and said Thursday he hasn't given up hope of a recall.  
 The 29-year-old Real Madrid striker has not been picked by Deschamps since October 2015 after being embroiled in a sextape blackmail scandal involving former international teammate Mathieu Valbuena.  
 It cost him a place in France's Euro 2016 squad and with Atletico Madrid's Antoine Griezmann now the undisputed first-choice forward for France, Benzema remains out in the cold.  
 But with the World Cup in Russia next year, he hasn't given up hope.  
 "For now I haven't ended my international career, I don't want to give up," Benzema told RMC radio station.  
 "It's tough (to be left out) when you play in a big club. Me, I love football, the big matches. The national team is top-

class matches."  
 Benzema was booted out of the squad, along with Valbuena -- the victim of alleged attempted blackmail -- due to the scandal.  
 In December, a French court rejected Benzema's request to have the investigation into his alleged involvement dropped and the case is likely to go to trial later this year.  
 Investigators suspect Benzema of acting as an intermediary between the presumed blackmailers, including one of his childhood friends, and Lyon midfielder Valbuena.  
 "It's a year and a half since I played for France, it hurts. I find it unfair because I haven't had an explanation," said the 81-time capped player, who again said he was not guilty.  
 "What I'd like is to have a discussion with the coach, if it's for that (the ongoing investigation) or something else."  
 Benzema said he last spoke to Deschamps towards the end of last season.  
 "He told me he wouldn't pick me. At the time I didn't need any more explanation than that."

# Alli gets 3-match ban

AFP, London



BRISBANE

Tottenham midfielder Dele Alli was banned for three European club matches by UEFA on Friday for his sending off against Gent last month.  
 Alli received a straight red card in the 2-2 draw at Wembley for his horror tackle on Gent's Brecht Dejaegere, which saw the Premier League club knocked out of the Europa League with a 3-2 aggregate loss.  
 The 20-year-old speared his right foot high into Dejaegere's shin. The Belgian midfielder was able to continue but had to be later substituted, limping off with a bloodied shin.  
 "Tottenham Hotspur FC player Dele Alli has been suspended for three (3) UEFA competition matches for which he would otherwise be eligible," a UEFA

# ASIA CUP ARCHERY Shyamoli bags a bronze

SPORTS REPORTER

Archer Shyamoli Roy bagged a bronze medal in women's individual recurve bow event of the Asia Cup World Ranking Tournament after beating her Filipino compatriot in a medal-deciding match in Bangkok yesterday.  
 The Olympian archer, who had to play the bronze-medal deciding match after losing by 1-7 points to eventual gold medal winner Lin Shih Chia of Chinese Taipei in the semifinal, fought neck to neck with Philippines' Nicole Marie Tagle and went on to win by 6-4 points.  
 Shyamoli got off to a fine start to take a 4-0 point lead after winning the first two sets 27-26 and 28-24. The 22-year-old archer, who failed to shine in ISSF Islamic Solidarity Archery Championship in Dhaka, then needed to win the third set to ensure the medal. But Tagle staged a strong comeback to win the next two sets narrowly by 28-27 and 27-26 points to take the tie to a deciding fifth set.  
 Shyamoli kept her nerve to score 29 out of 30 putting behind Tagle, who could score 28 out of 30 in the deciding set.  
 Meanwhile, Bangladesh men's and women's compound teams will play their elimination round matches against Chinese Taipei and Vietnam respectively today.



The Bangladesh unified female floor hockey team celebrate becoming joint champions after a goalless draw against Iran in the Special Olympics on Thursday night in Graz, Austria. The Bangladesh unified male team, however, had to be content with a runners-up trophy after losing their final 2-1 against Uganda earlier in the day. PHOTO: COLLECTED



Bando Design Ltd won the title of the BGMEA Cup 2017 beating Comfit Composite Knit Ltd 1-0 in the final at the Army Stadium yesterday. In this picture, the winning team receive the trophy from Commerce Minister Tofael Ahmed in presence of BGMEA president Siddiqur Rahman and the board of directors. PHOTO: COLLECTED

## INDEPENDENCE DAY SPORTS

Bangladesh Police posted a 33-17 goal win over Bangladesh Red in the men's section of the Walton Independence Cup Handball Tournament at the Shaheed (Captain) M Mansur Ali Handball Stadium yesterday.

In the women's section, BJMC handed a 28-11 goal defeat to Bangladesh Red after dominating the first half 18-0.

**VOLLEYBALL**  
 Bangladesh Air Force, Power Development Board (PDB), Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Navy won their respective matches of the Walton Independence Day Volleyball Tournament at Paltan yesterday.

Air Force beat Bangladesh Police, PDB beat Boarder Guard Bangladesh, Army beat Bangladesh Jail and Navy beat Fire Service and Civil Defence, each in straight sets.

**CRICKET IN MYMENSINGH**  
 The Print Media Eleven handed a narrow five-run defeat to Electronic Media Eleven in a friendly cricket match, which was organised to mark the Independence Day, at Mymensingh Circuit House Ground yesterday.

Electronic Media Eleven were all out for 106 runs in reply to Print Media Eleven's 111 for eight.

Minister for Religious Affairs principal Md Motiur Rahman inaugurated the match where deputy inspector general of Mymensingh Range Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun, deputy commissioner Md Khalilur Rahman and Mymensingh superintendent of police Syed Nurul Islam were among others present.

## PREMIER DIV B'BALL LEAGUE

# Gregarious win title

SPORTS REPORTER

The Gregarious Club became unbeaten champions of the UniMed UniHealth Premier Division Basketball League by beating Dhaka Gladiators in the final at the Dhanmondi Indoor Basketball Gymnasium on Thursday.

The Gregarious won the final by 77-61 points after leading the first half by 46-32 points.

The champions received prize money worth Tk30,000 while the runners-up team got Tk20,000. The chief guest of the final, managing director of UniMed UniHealth Manufacturing Limited, M Mosaddek Hossain distributed prizes among the teams.