

TEN 1 HD
West Indies v Pakistan
Second T20I
Live from 10:30pm

DAY'S EVENT

EMERGING TEAMS ASIA CUP
Time: 9:00am
Bangladesh v Pakistan
Venue: Sk Kamal Int'l Cricket Stadium-1, Cox's Bazar

Hong Kong v Nepal
Venue: Sk Kamal Int'l Cricket Stadium-2, Cox's Bazar
India v Afghanistan
Venue: Zahur Ahmed

Chowdhury Stadium, Chittagong
Sri Lanka v Malaysia
Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chittagong



Dejected Argentina players leave the field after losing their 2018 World Cup qualifier against Bolivia in La Paz on Tuesday. The defeat leaves Argentina languishing just outside the automatic qualifying places.

PHOTO: AFP

WIFE RED CARDS ZHIPENG

The wife of a Chinese player gave her husband a red card Wednesday for playing away, claiming that spending too much time with his mistress led to his embarrassing gaffe in a crucial World Cup qualifier. Jiang Zhipeng, a Guangzhou R&F club left-back, had a disastrous performance in Tehran against Iran Tuesday, where his header sent the ball to the opposing team, setting them up for the only point of the game. Chinese newspapers called the 1-0 match, a FIFA World Cup Asian qualifier, a "nightmare" showing for the national side. Angry fans found a scapegoat, when Jiang's wife revealed on social media that he had recently filed for divorce. She posted photos of Jiang smuggling with his alleged mistress, and begged the Chinese football association and the sports bureau of Guangdong province to "expel" him from professional football.

—Afp



Indian duo take lead
Chittagong Open tees off in Bhatiary

Sports Reporter



India's Samarth Dwivedi and Honey Baisoya shared the first round lead at the City Bank American Express Chittagong Open with Bangladesh's Siddikur Rahman one stroke behind. The two Indian youngsters fired four-under-par (68) as Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) made its debut at the pristine Bhatiary Golf & Country Club in Chittagong.

Siddikur, the two-time Asian Tour winner and a five-time champion in the Indian circuit, was tied for third along with Sri Lanka's Anura Rohana and five Indian golfers at three-under-par (69).

Dwivedi, playing only his second season as a professional, exchanged six birdies for two bogeys while Honey traded four birdies against eight bogeys to take share the top spot.

"One needs to have confidence with the driver here since it's a tight course. The greens are smaller in size than usual and reading the lines will be tricky. Whoever puts the best will win here," Dwivedi said after the day's play.

Honey, the winner of the season's opening event in Noida and a three-time winner on the PGTI, said, "It's a good start considering we're all playing here for the first time. I'm now looking to carry forward the



Siddikur Rahman was one shot behind joint leaders with a first round 69.

PHOTO: STAR

momentum that was built after my win earlier this year. The aim is to be consistent this season."

Local favourite Siddikur produced four birdies and a bogey. Mohammad Ripon was the next best Bangladeshi golfer in tied 10th with a score of 70. His round featured an eagle-two on the 10th, three birdies and three bogeys.

Mohammad Nazim played one-under-par (71) while Shakhawat Hossain Soler settled for an even-par round. Jamal Hossain Mollah fired a 77 to be tied 65th.

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:

Pakistan ban Irfan for one year

Pakistan have suspended fast bowler Mohammad Irfan for one year and fined him \$1,000 after he admitted failing to report approaches by bookmakers linked to spot-fixing, cricket authorities said Wednesday.

Wawrinka crashes out; Nadal, Nishikori into quarters

Top seed Stan Wawrinka crashed out of the Miami Open, falling 4-6, 6-2, 6-1 to German young gun Alexander Zverev, while Rafael Nadal and Kei Nishikori moved into the quarterfinals.

Relieved Du Plessis bemoans poor Proteas batting in NZ

South Africa captain Faf du Plessis breathed a sigh of relief as rain bucketed down in Hamilton on Wednesday, washing out the final day of the third Test against New Zealand and ensuring his side sealed a 1-0 series victory.

Afghan women swimmers defy threats for Olympic dream

There are just 30 pools in Afghanistan, only one which welcomes girls -- and it is facing militant threats for doing so. Nevertheless a handful are diving in, pioneers racing to achieve Olympic glory in Tokyo. **Wozniacki, Pliskova book Miami Open semifinal showdown**
Czech second-seed Karolina Pliskova will face Caroline Wozniacki in the semifinals of the Miami Open after the pair triumphed on Tuesday at Key Biscayne.

Defiant Bauza laments Messi suspension

GOal.com



Edgardo Bauza bemoaned the timing of Lionel Messi's suspension after Argentina's woes were compounded in a stunning loss to Bolivia as the head coach remained defiant.

Named in Bauza's starting XI on Monday, captain and five-time Ballon d'Or winner Messi was banned by FIFA on the day of Argentina's 2-0 World Cup qualifying defeat in Bolivia.

Messi was forced to watch from the sidelines on Tuesday after insulting a match official in last week's win over Chile and Bauza was less than impressed.

"What surprised us was the little time we were given to release a legal response," Bauza said. "We had half an hour to send the first note. And after that, during the night hours, we stayed until four in the morning for the second note."

"It's strange because FIFA gives you the possibility to deliver an opinion to anyone who can be sanctioned. Not only he couldn't play, but we didn't have time to work with anyone else."

It was a match to forget for Argentina as Bolivia took advantage of Messi's absence to heap pressure on Bauza.

Juan Carlos Arce and Marcelo Martins struck against a depleted Argentina, who dropped outside the automatic qualifying spots in CONMEBOL, down to fifth following Chile's win at home to Venezuela.

However, Bauza insisted he will continue to fight as he looks ahead to Russia 2018. "We tried to get the lead in Bolivia, in the second half the team improved a bit," he said. "Bolivia won well. We have to think about what is coming, we are alive and desiring to qualify for the World Cup."

"We know this is going to be a fight and we will continue fighting. "I'm not bothered by anything, nobody, or what they say. The fight will continue."

National Weightlifting Underway Lifters unhappy with rewards

Sports Reporter

After a two-year hiatus, the 35th Men's and 12th Women's National Weightlifting Championships got underway yesterday at the National Sports Council (NSC) Gymnasium amid mixed reaction from the participating weightlifters.

The newly formed ad-hoc committee took the initiative to hold the national championship with participation of 282 weightlifters including 74 females from 75 teams. Despite that the senior players are seemingly not happy as the federation has scrapped prize-money for new national records.

"The weightlifters are disappointed to see cash-awards for new records scrapped. I will now only play for the gold medal rather than trying to create any national record," SA Games gold-medallist Mabiya Akter Simanta said.

BWF joint secretary Shah Jalal Mukul said that they could not arrange money for record setters because of financial constraint.

"We have scrapped prize money, but we are giving Tk 3000 each for winning gold medal and Tk 2000 and Tk 1000 for silver and bronze medals," Mukul said. "We wanted every participant to return home with happy faces."

Veteran weightlifter Mollah Sabira Sultana urged the authorities to provide proper facilities to groom up newcomers. "Today I lifted 63 kilos in snatch, 23 kilo more than a new player who lifted 40 kilos. She needs at least five-year's training to come to my stage," said Sabira.

NSC coach Kazal Datta also sees a big difference between the experienced and new players. "The new weightlifters are yet to achieve the minimum quality to compete against the seniors. It could have been better had the federation

Independence Day V'ball Army's third in a row

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Army clinched hattrick title of Independence Day Volleyball Tournament after beating Power Development Board (PDB) in straight sets in the final at the Volleyball Stadium in Paltan yesterday.

Though Army notched up a straight victory, they faced stiff competition, especially in the second and third sets after taking the first set by 25-19 points before taking the second and third sets by 25-22 and 25-23 points.

Bangladesh Navy were declared third as Titus Club failed to turn up for the place-deciding match. Champions and runners-up teams were awarded Tk 20,000 and Tk 12,000 respectively.

School h'ball from today

Sports Reporter

Polar Ice Cream 24th School Handball tournament will begin today at the Shaheed (captain) M Mansur Ali National Handball Stadium with 31 schools participating in boys' and girls' sections.

Eighteen schools, split into six groups, will be competing in boys' section while 13 schools, divided into two groups, will be playing in girls' section, informed organisers at a press conference yesterday.

BGB win wrestling title

Sports Reporter

Border Guard Bangladesh became champions in men's section while Bangladesh Ansar and Bangladesh Army emerged joint champions in women's section of the Walton Independence Day Wrestling Tournament at Sheikh Russel Roller Skating Complex in Paltan yesterday.

BGB won six gold and one silver medal to clinch the title while Bangladesh Ansar finished runners-up with one gold, five silver and two bronze medals.

In women's section, Bangladesh Ansar and Bangladesh Army bagged four gold, three silver and one bronze medal each to emerge joint champions.

USA held by Panama

Afp, Panama City

Clint Dempsey scored his fourth goal in two games as the United States were held to a 1-1 draw in a hard-fought CONCACAF World Cup qualifying battle with Panama on Tuesday.

Dempsey tucked away a 39th-minute goal, but American hopes of a precious away victory were dashed after they conceded a soft equaliser through Gabriel Gomez on 43 minutes.

Video referee makes its mark

Reuters, Paris

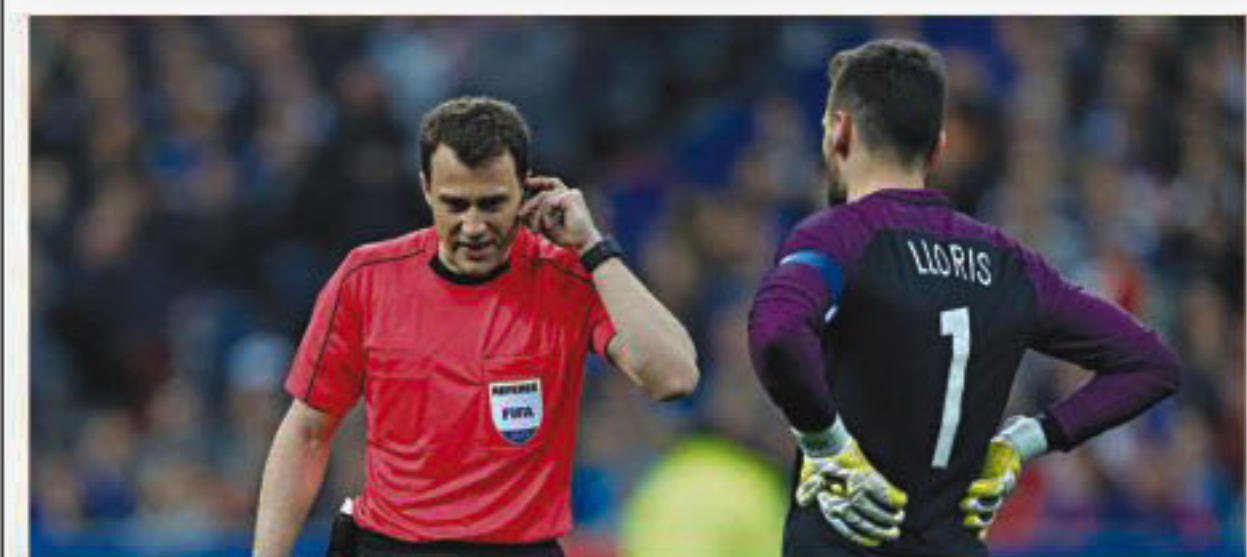


Spain's Gerard Deulofeu scored one and created another but had to share the limelight with the video assistant referee in a 2-0 friendly win over France in Paris on Tuesday.

David Silva put the visitors ahead from the penalty spot on 68 minutes after Deulofeu was fouled in the box by France defender Laurent Koscielny.

Deulofeu, who is currently on-loan at AC Milan, then converted a Silva cross nine minutes later, but his celebrations were briefly curtailed by an offside flag. The goal, however, was awarded after German referee Felix Zwayer asked the video assistant to check the decision.

Video technology had already played a key role in the match after France striker Antoine Griezmann, who plays in



Spain with Atletico Madrid, had hit the back of the net with a header early in the second half.

His effort, however, was disallowed after replays showed defender Layvin Kurzawa, who was involved in the move, was offside.

The game really came to life in the second half and will no doubt feed the debate on the use of video technology, which is currently being tested ahead of the 2018 World Cup in Russia. Tuesday's match was the first time it had featured in an international in France.

"If the final decisions are correct, then why not, but it does change football a bit," said France coach Didier Deschamps.

"It played against us tonight but I guess it will be the same for everybody. That's the way football is going and we need to adapt to it," he added.

National cycling returns

Sports Reporter

The 38th National Cycling Championship got underway at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday after a three-year gap with 220 cyclists from 18 teams vying in 22 events.

On the opening day, five out of the 10 scheduled events were decided as rain marred rest of the events, which will be held today.

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) bagged two gold medals while Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Ansar and Narail District Sports Association won gold medal each.

Messi 4-match ban unfair: Barcelona

Afp, Barcelona

Lionel Messi's four-match international ban for swearing at an assistant referee was "unfair and totally disproportionate", his Spanish club Barcelona said Wednesday.

"FC Barcelona expresses its surprise and indignation at the decision by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee to suspend Leo Messi following the FIFA World Cup qualifying fixture between Argentina and Chile," Barca said in a statement.



Did you know that, under the Consumer Rights Protection Act 2009 you can lodge a complaint if you buy a bottle of mineral water at a higher price than the MRP? Did you know that you could actually receive 25 percent of the fine if your consumer rights are violated? Read more in this week's spotlight in *The Star Weekend*. Look out, too, for a story on the travails of single women looking for a decent place to live in Dhaka in *In Search of Home*. There is also a satire on Donald Trump's electronics ban in airplanes in *RealTalk*. Don't forget to grab your copy of the *Star Weekend*, tomorrow, Friday!

STAR WEEKEND
LOSING SIGHT OF YOUR RIGHTS?
AMBIGUOUS LAW COUPLED WITH LOW PUBLIC AWARENESS THREATENS CONSUMER PROTECTION IN BANGLADESH

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ভাড়া হবে
৯৩, মতিঝিলে ৫ম তলায় ৪১৮০, ৮ম তলায় ২৫০-৭০০ এবং ১১তম তলায় ৮২৫ বর্গফুট ব্যাংক, ইন্স্যুরেন্স ও অফিসের জন্য ভাড়া দেওয়া হবে।
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