

What to WATCH	CHANNEL 9 & TEN 1 HD Bangladesh v Sri Lanka Third ODI Live from 10:00am TEN 1 HD West Indies v Pakistan Third T20I Live from 10:30pm	STAR SPORTS SELECT HD1 English Premiership Man United v West Brom Live from 8:00pm STAR SPORTS SELECT HD2 English Premiership Liverpool v Everton Live from 5:30pm	Chelsea v Crystal Palace Live from 8:00pm Southampton v Bournemouth Live from 10:30pm SONY ESPN Serie A Sassuolo v Lazio Live from 10:00pm	Roma v Espanyol Live from 12:45am (Sunday) SONY SIX La Liga Villarreal v Eibar Live from 5:00pm Osasuna v Athletic Bilbao Live from 8:15pm	Real Sociedad v Leganes Live from 10:30pm Malaga v Atletico Madrid Live from 12:45am (Sunday)
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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:

Fizz clears the air about IPL
Indian online media is currently agog with the news that Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman will likely not participate in the 2017 edition of the Indian Premier League.

'New T20 tourney won't harm county game'
The new Twenty20 tournament being planned by the England and Wales Cricket Board will not hurt the existing 18 counties, England's limited overs captain Eoin Morgan has said.

BCB turns down PCB's proposals for Pakistan tour
The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has turned down the Pakistan Cricket Board's proposal to send its national team to Pakistan for two T20 internationals after the ICC Champions Trophy in June.

Former UEFA chief Platini lashes out at Blatter
Ex-UEFA president Michel Platini has criticised former FIFA chief Sepp Blatter, saying the Swiss who led soccer's world body for 17 years was determined to make him "his last scalp".

NZ's World Cup hero Elliott quits internationals
Grant Elliott, who smashed a six off South Africa pacer Dale Steyn to put New Zealand into their maiden World Cup final in 2015, has confirmed his retirement from international cricket.

Maradona to sue PES

Diego Maradona will take legal action against Japanese video game developer Konami for using his likeness without permission in Pro Evolution Soccer 2017. The former Argentina, Barcelona and Napoli great confirmed the announcement via his official Facebook page on Friday, even going so far as to provide a screenshot of his 97-rated in-game player. Luke Plunkett of Kotaku recently reported this incarnation of Maradona is the best player on the game.

His report also touched upon Konami's previous attempts to avoid likeness licensing by giving players like Maradona a different name, such as "Malgani." However, it seems taking a more realistic approach with one of the most famous faces in football could have repercussions, particularly as Maradona has previously won in cases against gaming companies. That being said, Konami may have a lifeline after Game Rant's Bob Gordon reported a deal signed with Barcelona in 2016 also entitled the developer to use of the club's legends, one of whom is of course Maradona.

EMERGING TEAMS ASIA CUP Bangladesh v Sri Lanka	First Semifinal Time: 9:00am	Venue: Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, Chittagong	Pakistan v Afghanistan Second Semifinal	Time: 9:00am Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chittagong
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Mabia Akter Simanta lifts a national record weight in the 63kg weight category on the concluding day of the 35th Men's and 12th Women's National Weightlifting Championships at the National Sports Council Gymnasium yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

NATIONAL WEIGHTLIFTING CHAMPIONSHIPS Simanta sets records

SPORTS REPORTER
South Asian Games gold medallist Mabia Akter Simanta created national records in the 63kg weight category on the concluding day of the 35th Men's and 12th Women's National Weightlifting Championships at the National Sports Council Gymnasium yesterday. Simanta lifted a record total of 172 kilos -- 75 kilos in snatch and 97 kilos in clean & jerk -- in the 63kg category, eclipsing her previous best of 72 kilos in snatch and Shahria Sultana Suchi's best of 93 kilos in clean & jerk. Simanta's nearest competitor Monira Akter of Bangladesh Army lifted a total of 118 kilos -- 53 kilos in snatch and 65 kilos in clean & jerk. On way to winning the gold, Simanta eclipsed her SA Games performance where she had lifted a total of 149 kilos -- 67 kilos in snatch and 82 kilos in clean & jerk. Simanta's event was the main attraction of the championship and the weightlifter from Bangladesh Ansar delighted all with a consummate effort. In snatch, she succeeded in all three attempts to lift 68 kilos, 73 kilos and 75 kilos before completing all three attempts in clean and jerk to lift 90 kilos, 94 kilos and 97 kilos. After succeeding in her final attempt, Simanta punched the air and burst into tears amid huge cheers from everyone.

"I changed my mind last night and decided to go there for the record in a bid to prove that I am the best weightlifter. If I came here only to win the gold medal, it would not have been possible to break the record. I didn't care about the fact that the federation scrapped prize money for new records," said Simanta. "I feel really happy to break my coach's record but I don't want to be satisfied here because I'd love to see myself in the Olympics. As I could not go to Rio, I want to participate in the 2020 Tokyo Games," said Simanta. Meanwhile, Bangladesh Ansar became champions in the women's section with five gold, one silver and two bronze medals while Bangladesh Army emerged champions in the men's section with five gold and three silver medals.

Casillas 'kept mouth shut'

AFP, Madrid
Former Real Madrid favourite Iker Casillas claimed in an interview published on Friday he kept quiet for the good of the club during tough times leading to his 2015 departure for Porto. Towards the end of his Real career Casillas, now 35, suffered many difficulties -- he fell out of favour with coach Jose Mourinho during 2012/13, struggled for form and was even jeered by sections of the Santiago Bernabeu crowd. "I kept my mouth shut about what was going on for the good of the club," said Casillas, whose popularity peaked after Spain's World Cup win in 2010. "You don't want to turn things into a circus at the first sign of difficulty," Casillas told Marca.

Siddikur closer to title

SPORTS REPORTER
AMERICAN EXPRESS CHITTAGONG OPEN 2017
Siddikur Rahman took another assured step towards winning his sixth PGTI title after forging a seven-stroke lead in the City Bank American Express Chittagong Open yesterday. The two-time Asian Tour winner struck a masterful five-under-67 -- the lowest score for the second consecutive round -- at the scenic Bhatiary Golf & Country Club to take his tally to 14-under-202. Sri Lanka's Anura Rohana (68) occupied second place at seven-under-209 while the Indian trio of Khalin Joshi (69), Sanjeev Kumar (69) and Shamim Khan (69) were in joint third place at six-under-210. Local favourite Siddikur, leading by six at the halfway stage, began the day with a bogey on the first hole but soon came roaring back with a terrific tee shot on the par-3 second where he landed it within a foot for a tap-in birdie. The 32-year-old golfer added three more birdies on the front-nine thanks to some exquisite chipping. He chipped-in on the sixth and made up and down from the bunker on the fifth and eighth for his three birdies. Siddikur went on to make his second

birdie chip-in of the day on the 10th before adding three more birdies on the next eight holes at the expense of two bogeys. "I was really pleased with my ball striking and chipping today. I've made three chip-in birdies so far this week including two in the third round. I also made some top-class chip-putts today. However, the highlight of my round was the tee shot on the second that stopped just a foot from the pin," Siddikur said at the end of day's play. "The BGCC course is playing tough due to the windy conditions and I don't feel that I have the advantage of local knowledge here since I'm playing at this magnificent venue after almost 16 years. The aim in the final round will be to play according to the situation by not getting too ahead of myself. I'll follow my usual routine and not think too much about the scores," added the ace Bangladeshi golfer. Anura Rohana, who was overnight tied second, made an eagle, three birdies and a bogey en route to his second round of 68, to end the day in sole second position at seven-under-209. Jamal Hossain Mollah was the second Bangladeshi player in the top-10. He was placed tied at 10th at one-over-217 at the end of the penultimate round.

Federer in semis

AFP, Miami
Roger Federer dramatically fought his way into the Miami Open semifinals with a 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 (8/6) victory over Czech 10th seed Tomas Berdych on Thursday. The 35-year-old Swiss, who has already won the Australian Open and Indian Wells so far this year, extended his win streak over Berdych to seven matches. There was plenty of tension in the match-deciding tie-breaker, where Federer saved match point and then Berdych lost on a double-fault. "I definitely got very lucky at the end, but I think I showed great heart today," Federer said. Federer will face Nick Kyrgios in the semifinals after the Australian came through an entertaining 6-4, 6-7 (9/11), 6-3 victory over 19-year-old German Alexander Zverev. Federer next will play the winner of Thursday's later quarter-final between two of the ATP's up and coming stars, Australia's Nick Kyrgios and Germany's Alexander Zverev. Should Federer win Friday, there is a chance he will play Sunday's final against long-standing rival Rafael Nadal, who faces Italy's Fabio Fognini in the other semifinal. But Thursday could very easily have been the end of the tournament for the 18-time Grand Slam champion, who entered the match having not dropped a set over eight consecutive matches at Indian Wells and Miami.

Bayern open second school in China

AFP, Berlin
Bayern Munich strengthened their Chinese ties on Thursday with the opening of a second football academy in Shenzhen. "We want to reinforce and increase the visibility of our values in China," club spokesman Jörg Wacker said, adding the German champions had more training centres for China in the pipeline. Last week Bayern inaugurated a new office in Shanghai as part of their quest to widen their Far East fan base. One of the Shanghai bureau's main tasks will be to organise Bayern's tour of China at the end of this season. The Bavarian club claims to have 136 million fans in China.

'Wrinkles aside, Ronaldo liked it'



AFP, Lisbon

The man behind the grinning and now-infamous bronze bust of Cristiano Ronaldo said Thursday the Real Madrid superstar liked the sculpture -- but did ask him to remove the wrinkles. Emanuel Santos defended his work following less-than-flattering reviews on social media after the bust was unveiled on Wednesday at Madeira's international airport, as it was renamed in honour of Ronaldo, the Portuguese island's most famous son. But aside from the hair, which looked suitably similar, social media ridiculed the bust as nothing like Ronaldo and even called it horrifying. Sculptor Santos, a former job centre employee, went on the offensive, saying he had received no negative feedback -- and notably almost none from the man himself. "I had the chance to talk to Cristiano Ronaldo to find out what he thought and he told me he liked it," the Madeira-born Santos, 40, told Portuguese radio station Renascenca. But Santos did admit that the image-conscious Portuguese talisman had asked him to make some subtle changes before the big unveiling. "Cristiano only asked me to change some prominent wrinkles which made him appear older, to remove them so as to make it look smoother and happier," said Santos. Santos said he had to work from photographs, rendering his task that much harder. "Making a likeness of a public person is a challenge, especially if they are not on hand to take measurements," he added. "Every work is subject to critics, you can't please the Greeks and the Trojans, a sculpture is a sculpture, a photocopy is a photocopy." Ronaldo, five thousand fans and Portugal's prime minister and the president were all in attendance at the airport of Madeira, where Ronaldo was born, as it was renamed.

Everton's new stadium plan gets boost

AFP, London

Everton's bid to build a new £300 million (\$373 million, 349 million euros) stadium received a boost on Friday as Liverpool City Council approved the establishment of a funding scheme. The Premier League club want to leave their historic Goodison Park home and will be allowed to borrow the necessary money, guaranteed by the council, to finance a new arena at Bramley-Moore Dock. Everton can now begin the planning process which will potentially lead to the submission of a formal planning application by the end of the year. The cabinet report claims a new stadium will bring a forecasted £9 million in economic benefits to the city annually and could play a part in its Commonwealth Games bid for either 2022 or 2026. There will be no financial outlay towards the project by the council but its involvement in supporting the funding model will bring in up to £5 million in an annual security fee. "This deal is a great step forward for Everton and it's a great deal for the city of Liverpool," said Mayor of Liverpool Joe Anderson. "This new stadium has the potential to kick-start the regeneration of the area and will provide a massive boost to the city's economy. "The ball is now in Everton's court to sort the finance package and design a stadium that will make the world sit up and take notice."

Shila rides into the sunset

SPORTS REPORTER

Cyclist Farhana Sultana Shila hung up her racing wheels in an emotional environment on the concluding day of the 38th National Cycling Championships at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Shila's team -- Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation -- became champions with eight gold, nine silver and four bronze medals but for the first time, she had to return without winning any gold medal in her 21-year career in cycling. The 41-year-old from Kushtia participated in four events and returned with a silver medal in the 100m sprint and a bronze medal in the 4km team time trial event to bring an end to an illustrious career in which she won over 80 medals in domestic and international competitions. "For the first time, I finished the championships without winning any gold medal, but I am happy to announce my retirement officially. I am also happy that my Shimul Mollah of Bangladesh Army followed my path to come to cycling and participated with me at the national level for the first time," said Shila, who had to struggle to continue her sports career as her family was dead set against women participating in sports. "I remained in sports due to my will power after being driven away by my conservative family. I was also captain of the women's kabaddi team. I played athletics and volleyball but I love cycling the most," said Shila, who lamented not having a velodrome in Bangladesh. Shila's coach Abdul Kuddus and NSC coach Saidul Islam also praised her highly for her distinguished career and dedication to cycling. "If Shila was born in Europe, she could have been a famous cyclist," said Saidul. Kuddus said, "If Bangladesh had a velodrome, Shila would have won medals at the Asian level. "I am really proud of my mother, who inspired me to come to cycling and I will also try to be cyclist like her," said Shila's son Shimul Mollah.



Farhana Sultana Shila takes one last ride in competitive cycling, bringing an end to a 21-year-career, at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

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