

# What to WATCH

**SONY ESPN**  
Indian Premier League  
Mumbai v Hyderabad  
Live from 8:30pm

**TEN 1**  
UEFA Champions League  
Quarterfinal  
Atletico Madrid v Leicester  
Live from 12:45am (Thursday)

**Ten 1HD**  
UEFA Champions League  
Quarterfinal  
Bayern Munich v Real Madrid  
Live from 12:45am (Thursday)

**DHAKA PREMIER LEAGUE**  
Time: 9:00am  
Abahani v Khelaghar  
Venue: Fatullah

Prime Doleshwar v Partex  
Venue: BKSP-3  
Legends of Rugganj v Brothers Union  
Venue: BKSP-4

## DAY'S EVENT

### RASHFORD GOT HIS GOAL

Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford has revealed on twitter that he is living a dream outlined by his 11-year-old self. Even as a schoolboy, the jet-heeled frontman had just one ambition in life – to be a professional footballer at Old Trafford. Joining the Red Devils's academy ranks at the age of seven offered him a first step down that path, with a steely dedication from that point carrying him towards his ultimate target. In February 2016, Rashford's dreams came true as he was named as a surprise starter by Louis van Gaal for a Europa League clash with Midtjylland. He netted twice in that contest, before bagging a brace on his Premier League bow a few days later against Arsenal, and the rest is history. Rashford has shown what can be achieved when hard work complements natural ability, with the teenager having come a long way in a short space of time.

—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:

#### 'Wanted to see why I wasn't picked'

Imran Tahir doesn't believe in hiding his emotions. The world No. 1 T20 bowler has no qualms in admitting that he was hurt when he went unsold at the IPL auction this year.

#### Gabriel Jesus doubtful for FA Cup semifinal

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola believes Gabriel Jesus will not recover from a broken bone in his foot in time for the FA Cup semifinal against Arsenal on April 23 but hopes the striker can feature in the final, should the club progress.

#### Maxi captaincy

'surprising but exciting' Ricky Ponting didn't expect Glenn Maxwell to be an IPL captain soon but thinks it could be the start of something much bigger.

#### Ranieri says Leicester players not behind his sacking

Claudio Ranieri does not believe Leicester City's players conspired to get him the sack as manager, he said, reflecting publicly for the first time on his controversial dismissal in February.

#### Arsenal's top-four hopes suffer major blow

Arsenal's hopes of finishing in the Premier League's top four suffered a potentially fatal blow as they suffered a humiliating 3-0 defeat at relegation-threatened Crystal Palace.

#### FIFA changes means no rival yet for North American World Cup bid

The bidding process has yet to begin but the joint proposal from the United States, Canada and Mexico to host the 2026 World Cup is already the heavy favourite to win.

### Confed Cup ticket sales worry Russia

Only a fraction of the tickets for the Confederations Cup in Russia have been snapped up, Moscow said on Tuesday, admitting the lack of interest in the World Cup dress rehearsal was a worry.

The Confederations Cup takes place in June-July this year, a year before Russia hosts the World Cup for the first time. "We are concerned about the ticket sales for the tournament," R-Sport agency quoted deputy prime minister Vitaly Mutko as saying. "There are 200,000 tickets sold so far, while we wanted 700,000. We will open ticket offices around the country on April 19."



Bayern Munich players do warm-up exercises prior to a training session at the team's training ground in Munich yesterday on the eve of their Champions League quarterfinal against Real Madrid.

PHOTO: AFP

## A mouthwatering clash

AFP, Munich



Bayern Munich host Real Madrid in Wednesday's mouthwatering Champions League quarterfinal, first-leg, with Carlo Ancelotti's Bavarians looking once again to be the Spaniards' 'bete noire'. And the subplots to the Allianz Arena clash are fascinating. Bayern boss Carlo Ancelotti coached Real to the 2014 Champions League crown and is up against his former assistant from that triumph, Madrid's current head coach Zinedine Zidane. World Cup 2010 winner Xabi Alonso, who also won the 2014 Champions League before joining Bayern, will face his ex-club for the last time before retiring in June. And Real's Germany midfielder Toni Kroos is another to be coming up against his former employers. Ancelotti says "little things will make the difference" between the star-studded squads that will see two goal-scoring giants go head-to-head.

Bayern's top-scorer Robert Lewandowski, with 38 goals in all competitions this season, is up against Portuguese superstar Cristiano Ronaldo, with 26 goals from 36 games. That may be modest by his standards, but Ronaldo has tormented Bayern in the past with four goals in as many games and the Bavarians will be wary, especially with backup from Wales star Gareth Bale and France's Karim Benzema. Lewandowski suffered a bruised shoulder in scoring twice in Saturday's 4-1 hammering of Borussia Dortmund, but expects to be "100 percent" fit. Bayern are on a Champions League record of 16 straight European wins at the Allianz Arena and that's a record Dutch winger Arjen Robben is keen to maintain. "We have to up the ante, we have to signal (to Real) from the first minute that there is nothing to take in Munich and we want to win the game," he said. Bayern are looking to recover their 'bete noire' nickname, given to them by Real fans after Munich won eight of 14 matches against Real between 2000 and 2012.

All that changed in the 2014 Champions League's semi-final when the team coached by Pep Guardiola was thrashed 4-0 in Munich, crashing out 5-0 on aggregate as Ronaldo and Sergio Ramos netted twice each. That defeat remains Bayern's record home European loss, yet there is no talk of revenge ahead of Wednesday's clash. "This is the quarterfinals, but it sounds like a final," said Bayern captain Philipp Lahm. "We're playing against an absolute top team, who have top players in every position. We will have to play to our potential." Both sides are missing key defenders, though. Germany's Mats Hummels was ruled out after damaging ankle ligaments on Sunday so Jerome Boateng and Javi Martinez will form the centre-back partnership. Hummels faces a race against time to be back for the return at the Santiago Bernabeu on April 18, while Real have defenders Pepe and Raphael Varane ruled out of both legs.

## Blast on Dortmund bus CL tie against Monaco postponed

AGENCIES, Berlin



At least one person has been injured by an explosion on the bus taking the Borussia Dortmund soccer team to their Champions League quarter-final first-leg match against Monaco on Tuesday, the German club said. BBC reported that defender and Spanish international Marc Bartra was injured in the explosion. "Shortly after the departure of the Borussia Dortmund team bus from the hotel to the stadium there was an incident. The bus has been damaged in two places," Dortmund said in a statement. "One person has been injured and is in the hospital. At this point we will inform as soon as we know more." The German side's Champions League quarterfinal first-leg against Monaco was postponed in the aftermath of the incident. A statement from local police said: "In the run-up to the Champions League match of BVB against AS Monaco, there was an explosion near the BVB team teambus shortly after 7pm. The location of the event is Wittbrauckerstraße/Schirmannweg in Dortmund-Höchstent. "According to current knowledge the windows of the bus (whole or partial) were shattered and one person was injured. It is not yet possible to say exactly what the explosion was or exactly where something exploded." A tweet from the German club's official Twitter account an hour before kick-off at the Westfalenstadion had first alerted news of an incident. "At our bus departure, an incident has occurred. One person was injured. More information to follow," it read. A later tweet read: "A bomb exploded at the team bus next to the hotel. The players are safe. There is no danger at the stadium." Fortunately, it appears that the injuries sustained by Bartra were not serious, with reports in Germany saying that the 26-year-old was taken to a local hospital with superficial cuts to his arm. According to German outlet Bild, three explosive devices were deposited on the street in front of the bus although police have yet to give any more details.

## Wenger, Arsenal slammed

AFP, London



Newspapers, pundits and former players poured fresh scorn on Arsenal and their besieged manager Arsene Wenger on Tuesday following Monday's dismal 3-0 defeat at Crystal Palace. "They bottle it, they're cowards, they duck out of challenges," was the scathing verdict of former Liverpool defender Jamie Carragher on Sky Sports. "The best description of the players was two years ago from Graeme Souness, who said they are a team of son-in-laws. But what father would want his daughter to bring one of them home?" It was Arsenal's fourth successive away defeat in the Premier League and left them seven points off the Champions League places with a game in hand. Furious away fans taunted Arsenal's misfiring players with chants of "You're not fit to wear the shirt!" and barracked Wenger and his squad as they boarded the team bus after the match. The back-page headline in The Times, a riff on Palace's nickname, read: "Eagles 3 Butterflies 0." The Daily Telegraph said the result at Selhurst Park represented "humiliation", while The Sun asked of Wenger: "How can he stay after Selhurst shambles?"

## Fahad holds Tania Sachdev

SPORTS REPORTER

FIDE Master Fahad Rahman earned four points after the eighth round of the 19th Dubai Open Chess Tournament, which is currently taking place in Dubai, UAE. Fahad drew his eighth round game with Women's Grand Master and International Master Tania Sachdev of India. Fahad, the youngest FM of the country, played with black pieces against the leading Indian female chess player, said a press release from the Bangladesh Chess Federation.

## Oscar misses penalty

AFP, Saitama

Megabucks midfielder Oscar missed a second-half penalty as Andre Villas-Boas's Shanghai SIPG lost 1-0 to Urawa Red Diamonds in their first defeat of this year's AFC Champions League on Tuesday. After SIPG went behind to Rafael Silva's 44th-minute strike, 60-million-euro signing Oscar looked set to maintain SIPG's unbeaten record in Group F when he won a penalty in the 64th minute. But the Brazil international, after a stutter run-up, saw his spot-kick palmed onto the bar by Urawa goalkeeper Shusaku Nishikawa, prompting loud celebrations by the home fans.

## Argentina sack Bauza Line up Sampaoli as replacement

REUTERS, Buenos Aires



Twice World Cup winners Argentina sacked coach Edgardo Bauza on Monday after a string of poor results in South American qualifying left them struggling to reach the 2018 finals in Russia. Media reports suggest Sevilla's Argentine coach Jorge Sampaoli, who has never disguised his ambition to take charge of the national team and steered neighbouring Chile to the Copa America title in 2015, will step into the vacancy. "We've reached an agreement, we've told Bauza he's ceased to be the national team coach," the Argentine FA's recently elected president Claudio Tapia told reporters after a meeting at the organisation's Buenos Aires headquarters. Argentina, whose captain Lionel Messi has been banned for four matches for insulting a match official, are fifth in the South American group with four qualifiers remaining. The top four in the 10-nation group go through to the 2018 finals in Russia, while

the fifth-placed country qualifies for a playoff against a team from Oceania. Bauza presided over eight matches, all 2018 World Cup qualifiers, with three wins, two draws and three defeats. If the AFA can successfully prize Sampaoli away from Sevilla at the end of the season, he would have until August 31 to prepare for Argentina's next qualifier, a tricky trip to play Uruguay in Montevideo. Tapia has announced a news conference for Tuesday to give details of Bauza's departure and his possible successor. The new AFA leadership made the decision to dispense with Bauza after Argentina were lucky to beat Chile 1-0 at home with a Messi penalty then lost 2-0 away to Bolivia at high altitude in La Paz last month. Argentina, who had Messi suspended before the Bolivia game, could be without their talisman in Uruguay and at home to Peru and Venezuela later this year unless they manage to get the ban reduced on appeal. If the appeal fails, Messi would only come back for the final, potentially decisive qualifier away to Ecuador at high altitude in Quito in October.



## Neymar banned for 3 matches

AFP, Madrid



Barcelona's Brazilian superstar Neymar will miss a huge La Liga clash at Real Madrid on April 23 after being handed a three-game suspension, the Spanish federation said on Tuesday. The 25-year-old forward was shown the first red card of his Barcelona career for two bookable offences as Barca's title defence suffered a big blow in a 2-0 defeat at Malaga on Saturday. However, he was handed an extra two-match suspension on top of the automatic one-game ban for sarcastically applauding the officials as he left the pitch. Barcelona are expected to appeal the decision. As well as missing a potential La Liga title decider at the Bernabeu, Neymar will be absent for home games against Real Sociedad and Osasuna. Madrid lead Barca by three points at the top of the table but also have a game in hand as they close on a first league title in five years. Neymar was booked in the first half at La Rosaleda for delaying a Malaga free-kick by tying his shoelaces in front of the ball and then charged into Roberto Rosales 25 minutes from time to see his second yellow card. "I think the interpretation of the yellow cards is special," said Barcelona boss Luis Enrique after the game. "We have to be very careful in some games because there were some ugly challenges from behind that went unpunished and tying boots was." It is not the first time in recent weeks Neymar's attention to detail with his boots caught the eye. He changed his footwear whilst play was ongoing in Barca's two previous games against Granada and Sevilla, leaving his side temporarily down to 10 men. Neymar has a highly lucrative long-term sponsorship deal with Nike with suggestions his antics may be to ensure his boots get extra time on camera.

## ASIAN TABLE TENNIS Women finish 24th

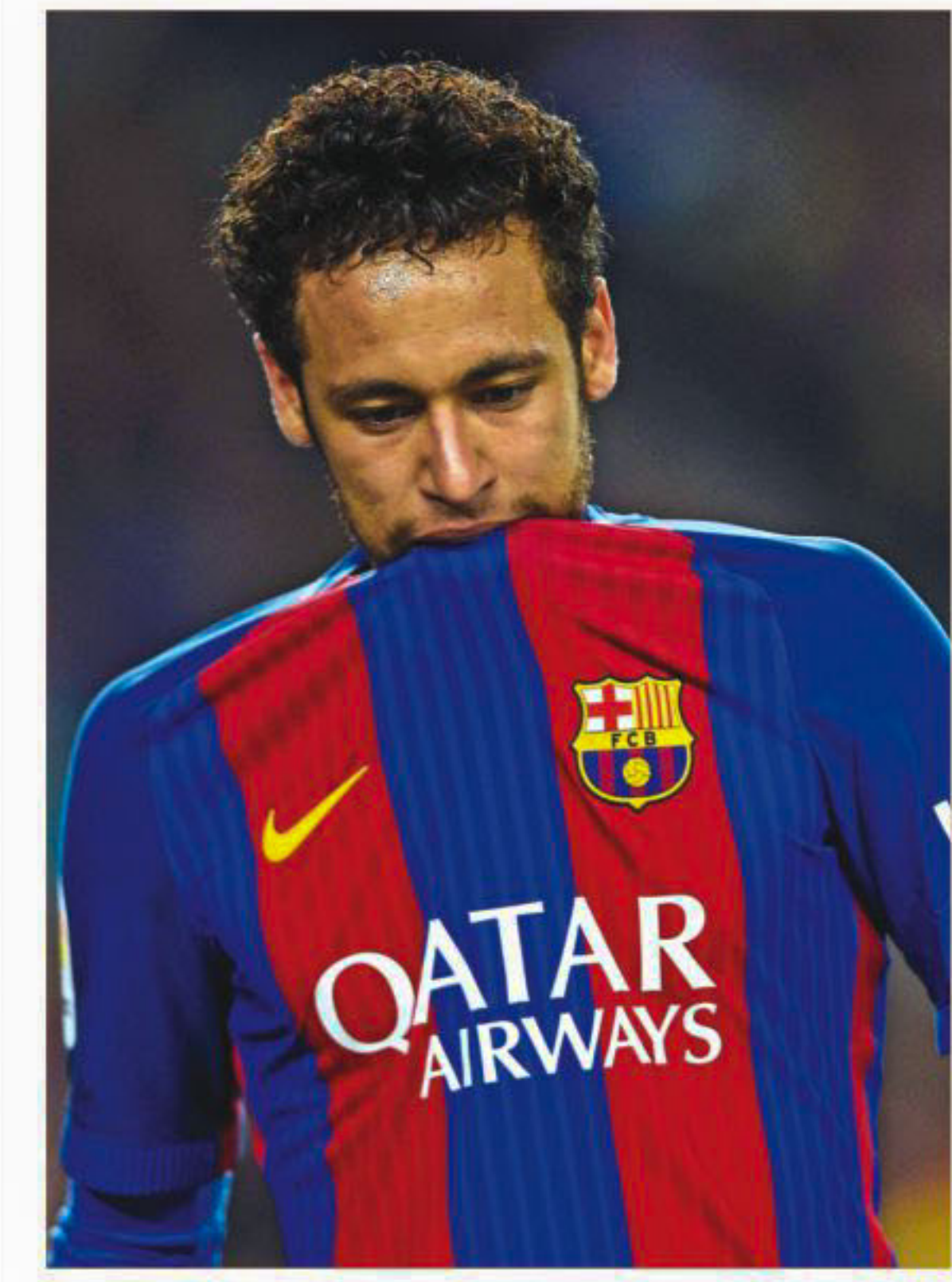
SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh women's table tennis team finished 24th in the Asian Table Tennis Championship in China yesterday. The Bangladesh team, comprising Rahima Akter, Moumita Alam Rumi and Sadia Rahman Mou, lost against Qatar 1-3 in their final match yesterday, said a press release from the Bangladesh Table Tennis federation. Mou won her singles rubber but Rahima and Rumi lost theirs. Meanwhile in the mixed doubles event, Bangladesh's Mahbub and Rumi pair beat Pakistan in 3-0 sets while the Masud Rana Porag and Rahima pair lost against Kazakhstan by the same margin.

## USA, Mexico, Canada in joint WC bid

AFP, New York

The United States, Mexico and Canada on Monday announced a joint bid to stage the 2026 World Cup, aiming to become the first three-way co-hosts in the history of FIFA's showpiece tournament. US Soccer Federation chief Sunil Gulati, who announced the bid in New York with his Canadian and Mexican counterparts, insisted they had the full backing of President Donald Trump. Gulati said 60 of the tournament's matches would be staged in the United States, with Canada and Mexico hosting 10 games each. The United States would host all knockout games from the quarterfinals onwards, he added. He played down the possibility that politics could hamper the bid, emphasising that Trump was "especially pleased" with Mexico's involvement. "The president of the US is fully supportive... We are not at all concerned at some of the concerns that some people may raise," Gulati said.



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