

SONY ESPN & SONY SIX
Indian Premier League
QUALIFIER-1
Mumbai v Pune
Live from 8:30pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT HD1
English Premiership

Man City v West Brom
Live from 1:00am (Wednesday)
STAR SPORTS SELECT HD2
English Premiership
Arsenal v Sunderland
Live from 12:45am (Wednesday)

DAY'S EVENT

FEDERATION CUP
 Farashganj SC v Sheikh Russel

Time: 4:30pm
 Mohammedan v Arambagh KS

Time: 6:45pm
 Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

LEGENDS BID A FOND FAREWELL

Tottenham Hotspur legends including Glenn Hoddle and Ossie Ardiles took part in an on-pitch ceremony as the club said goodbye to their White Hart Lane stadium on Sunday. Club greats were welcomed onto the pitch after Tottenham had won their last game at the Lane, Spurs' home of 118 years, which is being demolished and rebuilt. Hoddle and Ardiles were joined by other greats including Martin Chivers, Gary Mabbutt and David Ginola, who received a huge ovation. Beneath steadily descending rain, Spurs' manager Mauricio Pochettino and players joined them on the pitch as fans chanted: "We love you Tottenham, we do!" Hundreds of fans poured onto the pitch at the end of Sunday's game before being ushered back into their seats for the ceremony. Ginola tweeted: "Farewell, goodbye White Hart Lane. Even the heavens are shedding a tear. There will always be a White Hart Lane." As the ceremony ended, the sun belatedly broke through the clouds and a rainbow appeared over the stadium. —AFP



Muktijoddha, Rahmatganj into quarterfinals

SPORTS REPORTER

WALTON Federation Cup 2017 Premier Bank

Giant killers Muktijoddha Sangsad and Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society became the first two clubs to book quarterfinal berths after they won their respective opening matches of the Walton Federation Cup yesterday.

Muktijoddha beat Saif Sporting Club 1-0 in yesterday's second match to confirm their qualification from Group D after Rahmatganj confirmed their berth from the same group with a 3-0 victory over Team BJMC.

Muktijoddha, who had finished fifth in the Bangladesh Premier League last season, settled the fate of the match and their qualification with a solitary goal from Egyptian striker Zaki Sahran in the 40th minute of the match.

The Egyptian turned in a low volley on a cross from Matur Rahman from inside the middle of the box, giving little opportunity for Saif Sporting Club goalkeeper Anisur Rahman Zico to react.

Earlier, young forward Rohit Sarkar had tested Zico with a powerful shot from outside the box while Saif Sporting Club's Mohammad Ibrahim failed to beat the keeper from an advantageous position in the stoppage time of the first half.

While this victory saw Muktijoddh through, Saif Sporting Club are still not out of the qualification race,

TEAM BJMC	0 - 3	RAHMATGANJ OSAGIE 19', FAYSAL31', SHUVO 85'
SAIF SC	0 - 1	MUKTIJODDHA ZAKI 40'

thanks to a point they earned from a 1-1 draw against Abahani in the opening fixture.

Hence, Abahani will take on Muktijoddha to decide whether they or Saif Sporting Club will join Mukti in the last eight.

Earlier, last year's surprise package Rahmatganj sealed their qualification for the quarterfinal stage with a commanding 3-0 victory over Team BJMC

in their Group D encounter.

Kamal Babu's charges, who had held on to the top position at one stage in the premier league last season before eventually finishing seventh, surged to a 2-0 lead in the first half before adding the third late in the second half.

Nigerian defender Monday Osagie gave the Old Dhaka outfit the lead in the 19th minute by heading in Naimur Rahman's corner before Faysal Ahmed doubled the margin twelve minutes later with a perfectly placed shot.

Team BJMC, who had held Brothers Union to a 1-1 draw in their opening match, failed to make much of an impression in the second half either. Rather it was Rahmatganj who continued their onslaught, with Rashedul Islam Shuvo wrapping up the victory with a powerful volley in the 85th minute, confirming their last eight passage with a game in hand.

Team BJMC will hope Rahmatganj win the group's last match against Brothers Union by a bigger margin so that they could sneak through as the second team from this group.

No good news from Baku

SPORTS REPORTER



After two consecutive days of success, the Bangladeshi athletes failed to get into contention for any medals on the third day of action at the 4th Islamic Solidarity Games in Baku, Azerbaijan yesterday.

Bangladesh's campaign in Baku had started with Rabbi Hasan Munna's silver medal in the 10m air rifle event on Saturday before Abdullahel Baki and Syeda Atkiya Hasan Disha brought gold from the 10m air rifle team event on Sunday – Bangladesh's first ever gold medal in these games – to heighten their expectations from fellow countrymen.

However, two of the other medal hopefuls failed miserably as Bangladesh's chances of winning any more medals became bleak. Two gold medalists of the South Asian Games – shooter Shakil Ahmed and weightlifter Mabia Akter Simanta – failed to even get close to winning any medals in their respective events.

Shakil, who had won a gold medal in the SA Games 50m air pistol event in India last year, finished 10th out of 21 starters

with 535 points in his pet event. The eighth and final qualifier for the final round secured 537 points. The other Bangladeshi shooter in this event, Anwar Hossain, did not start. Yusuf Dikec of Turkmenistan eventually won the gold medal in this event.

Weightlifter Simanta, who had won a gold medal in the women's 63kg weight category from the SA Games, finished sixth among six participants in the same event in Baku yesterday. The country's best female weightlifter lifted a total weight of 178 kilos (77 kilos in snatch, 101 kilos in clean & jerk).

However, this performance is a lot better than her gold medal winning exploit in the SA Games, where she had lifted a total of 149 kilos (67 kilos in snatch and 82 kilos in clean & jerk). Guryeva Polina of Turkmenistan won the gold medal in that event, lifting a total of 193 kilos.

Meanwhile, swimmer Jewel Ahmed failed to qualify for the final of the 100m backstroke event. The 21-year-old swimmer finished 12th out of 14 competitors in semifinals, completing the dash at 1min 3:60sec.

Razib wins, Rakib loses

SPORTS REPORTER

Grandmaster Enamul Hossain Razib shared third position with 18 other players after the fourth round of the Asian Continental Chess Championships in Chengdu, China ended yesterday.

The national champion earned 2.5 points after drawing his fourth round board against 2619-rated GM Lu Shanglei of China.

GM Abdullah Al Rakib earned two points from four games after losing against GM Vidit Santosh Gujrathi of India yesterday.

In the women's section, WIM Liza drew against WGM Frayna Janelle Mae of Philippines while WFM Eva lost against Song Yuxin of China.

This meet is a qualifying event for the Men's Chess World Cup 2017 and Women's Chess World Championship 2018.

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:

Ashes strike warning over Australia pay row

Australia's cricketers union urged a swift resolution to a damaging pay dispute to avoid any strike disruption to this year's Ashes series.

Warner's stock continues to rise as IPL playoffs loom

David Warner has enhanced his leadership qualities with some stellar captain's displays to keep his Sunrisers Hyderabad side on course for a second successive Indian Premier League (IPL) triumph.

Steyn ruled out of England Test series

Fast bowler Dale Steyn has been ruled out of South Africa's four-match Test series in England after being forced to withdraw from his country's A team tour as he has yet to regain full fitness following a fractured shoulder.

Lavezzi denies racism as 'wacky' pose causes storm

Argentina international Ezequiel Lavezzi has issued an apology through his Chinese club after publicity photos that showed him making a slant-eyed pose caused outrage on social media.

Pakistan spot-fixing trial begins

A Pakistan tribunal started hearings into spot-fixing charges against five players who could face life bans if found guilty. Prosecutors played a tape in which opening batsman Sharjeel Khan admitted having met a bookmaker but denied any wrongdoing.



Muktijoddha Sangsad's Egyptian striker Zaki Sahran (R) celebrates his all-important goal against Saif Sporting Club during their Federation Cup match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

City eye top four boost

AFP, Manchester



Pablo Zabaleta's farewell is likely to garner much of the attention as Manchester City host West Bromwich Albion on Tuesday, but Pep Guardiola's side still have work to do to secure a Champions League place.

It was confirmed on Saturday that full-back Zabaleta will leave City at the end of this season after nine years at the club, with West Ham his likely destination.

The Premier League match against Albion will mark his final home appearance, and the club are planning tributes to mark the occasion.

Guardiola believes City need more players with Zabaleta's commitment if they are to succeed in the future.

"It's important to have players like Pablo in the team," Guardiola said.

"Pablo is a real legend in what he has done in the club, he has helped with his team-mates at the club to make a step forward, to try to compete to qualify for the Champions League, sometimes to win the Premier League.

"That's why Pablo Zabaleta, in these kind of things, is so, so important."

Victory would just about ensure a top-four finish for Guardiola's side, and may even make it mathematically certain if Arsenal fail to beat Sunderland on the same night.

Guardiola is in the process of shaping his squad for next season, and while Zabaleta's future has been decided, those of City's six other out-of-contract players remain in the balance.

Costa's humble beginnings

AGENCIES, Brasilia



If you go to the north-east of Brazil where the tough, poverty-stricken state of Sergipe lies, you still have not gone far enough to enter Diego Costa country.

A two-hour bus ride west, into the interior, takes you to Lagarto. Once there, the name of the Chelsea and Brazil striker is known to everyone. It's where Costa will return this summer, as always, after a season of dominance in the Premier League. It's where his family live.

Lagarto's farms are mainly responsible for growing cassava and tobacco. It was on these farms Costa's father, Jose de Jesus, better known as Zeinha, made what little he could.

When it came to his boys, Zeinha had a different path in mind. Diego Costa is named after Diego Maradona. His older brother Jair is named after Jairzinho, the legendary Brazil winger who was part of the 1970 World Cup team. Therein lies the ambition of their father. "I was always betting one of my sons would make it," he says. "Jair used to play better than Diego but he didn't follow through. But I used to get down and pray to God to give me a son that was a footballer."

Tellingly, Costa's parents never left the tougher part of town, but instead bought the house next door, knocked it through and made more room.

Costa takes his responsibility to his old home seriously. They say Lagarto Football Club received around \$350,000 from Costa's transfer from Atletico to Chelsea.

As for the soccer school, Costa is in negotiations with the council to buy the land and build his own complex.

During the World Cup, beside the pitch where Costa once hoofed the ball away, there was a cinema screen erected, with hot dogs and popcorn for kids. The area was once briefly a Spanish colony and that brings us to the issue of why Costa chose Spain over his native Brazil.

"That's because Felipe [Brazil national team manager Luiz Felipe Scolari] just gave him 10 minutes, so of course he was pissed off," said Zeinha, who heard the chants of "traitor" firsthand in Salvador, Brazil, as Spain took on the Netherlands during the 2014 World Cup.

"Those few minutes, that wasn't enough to show his ability, so I don't blame him. You appreciate who appreciates you, and Spain gave him everything. The Brazil media here don't appreciate him; they never gave him any value."

Demichelis announces retirement

AGENCIES, Madrid

Former Argentina, Bayern Munich and Manchester City centre-back Martin Demichelis has announced his retirement from professional football.

The 36-year-old re-joined Malaga for second spell after being released by Espanyol in January and has made 12 appearances in what will prove to be his final season in La Liga.

Demichelis won 51 caps for Argentina, scoring twice, and announced his decision at a news conference yesterday.

"I want to be honest, I lost the strength in my legs and my concentration," he said. "But I want to give thanks to football."

"I speak from my heart when I say I thank you all for being here and showing me the appreciation."

"It was a dream to finish my career at Malaga, it is a club that has always had a special place in my heart and it is an honour to end my playing days here."

"Now I look forward to being a Malaguiستا forever and supporting the club from the stands."

Demichelis could now bring down the curtain on his career when Real Madrid visit La Rosaleda this weekend in pursuit of La Liga title glory.

Klopp urges team to stay focused

AFP, London



Jurgen Klopp believes Liverpool's 4-0 rout of West Ham proves they can cope with the pressure of fighting for Champions League qualification, but he warned his stars to guard against complacency.

Liverpool's destiny is in their own hands after a dominant display at the London Stadium and victory over relegated Middlesbrough next Sunday will secure a top four finish in the Premier League.

If Arsenal drop points against Sunderland on Tuesday, Liverpool will make it back into Europe's elite club competition before the last weekend of the season.

"Part of our life is to handle pressure, to ignore the bad part of pressure and to use the good part of pressure," Klopp said.

"We drew in the last game with Southampton, we didn't score with a penalty and maybe people say then: 'They can't deal with pressure.'"

"I thought we saw really a convincing performance with no doubts about anything."

"But the first sentence the players said in the dressing room was: 'One more time. One more game.'"

"We will stay focused 100 per cent, we know about the difficulty of the next game, nobody will go into this game and underestimate it one per cent."

Liverpool will be heavy favourites to beat Middlesbrough, but Klopp warned his players to stay focused.

"Middlesbrough have had a hard season,

and it's hard in a season like this to enjoy football," he said.

"I'm pretty sure they'll want to enjoy football at Anfield, they'll want to try anything and that makes life difficult for us."

"If we can be as focused as today and as fluent and have as good movements as today, then it will be difficult for them."

Klopp hailed man-of-the-match Philippe Coutinho, who scored twice and created Daniel Sturridge's opening goal.

Divock Origi added the fourth goal but it was Coutinho who drew Klopp's most fulsome praise.

Often lost stationed out on the wing, Coutinho flourished at the tip of the diamond and he has now scored six goals in the last seven games.

"He was never a winger, he's always kind of a playmaker, it's not interesting where he's coming from, he needs to be at one point, in the decisive area in the middle of the park," Klopp said.

"He needs to be in shooting situations and finishing situations, that's what he did today. Obviously he did really well in this position."

Sturridge was another to shine, scoring his first goal since January 2 after an injury-hit season.

West Ham want to sign the England striker, but Klopp said: "He gives us options. His paced troubles teams and I thought his timing was brilliant."

West Ham ended Tottenham's title tilt in their previous match, but there was never a chance of derailing Liverpool's European bid.

"I wanted the same performance as against Spurs or similar," Hammers manager Slaven Bilic said.

Nadal moves to 4th in rankings

AFP, Paris

Rafael Nadal's climb one place to fourth in the world on the strength of his Madrid Masters win was confirmed in the latest ATP rankings released Monday.

The Spaniard continued his flawless record on clay this season by beating Dominic Thiem to win the Madrid tournament for a fifth time 7-6 (10/8), 6-4 on Sunday.

The Spaniard is now 15-0 on his favoured surface this year having also picked up his 10th titles in Monte Carlo and Barcelona in recent weeks.

Thiem's reward for making the final was a two-place move to seventh.

Nadal was last ranked fourth in October last year.

The highest mover of the week was Borna Coric, who jumped 18 places to 41st after his quarterfinal appearance in the Spanish capital.

TOPTEN

1. Murray (GBR) 10,360 pts
2. Djokovic (SRB) 6,845
3. Wawrinka (SUI) 5,605
4. Nadal (ESP) 5,195 (+1)
5. Federer (SUI) 5,035 (-1)
6. Raonic (CAN) 4,180
7. Thiem (AUT) 4,035 (+2)
8. Cilic (CRO) 3,735 (-1)
9. Kei Nishikori (JPN) 3,470 (-1)
10. David Goffin (BEL) 3,055