

MAASRANGA, GTV
Tri-Nation Series
Bangladesh v Ireland
Live from 3:45pm

SONY ESPN
Indian Premier League
QUALIFIER-2
Mumbai v Kolkata
Live from 8:30pm

TEN 1
La Liga
Granada v Espanyol
Live from 12:45am (Saturday)

FEDERATION CUP
Sheikh Russel v Sheikh Jamal
Time: 5:30pm
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

DAY'S EVENT

'I'D LEAVE ATLETI FOR THE NEW YORK KNICKS'

Antoine Griezmann says he would only leave Atletico Madrid to play alongside Derrick Rose for NBA side New York Knicks. Griezmann has been widely tipped to join Manchester United in the summer, something repeatedly denied by the France international. However, Griezmann did hint at a move away from Madrid – not to England but instead to a team in the NBA. "I would only leave Atleti to play with Derrick Rose," the 26-year-old jokingly told Cadena Ser. It has been another fine season for Griezmann, who has 16 La Liga goals and 26 in all competitions. But his goals have not been enough to deliver a trophy to Atletico, who will finish third in La Liga this term, having lost in the semi-finals of the Champions League and Copy del Rey.

—Agencies



Army sink Navy to regain title

SPorts Reporter



Bangladesh Army regained the title of the National Hockey Championship with a 5-4 shootout win over Bangladesh Navy in the final at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The final rolled into shootouts after regulation time ended in a 3-3 draw in which national players-studded Bangladesh Navy came from behind thrice to take the match into tiebreakers. However, they just could not bring a fourth straight trophy home.

The 13-time national hockey league champions Bangladesh Army came into the final after missing out on a hat-trick during the last edition as they were defeated by Faridpur.

Regaining the national hockey title seemed like a distant dream for Army as their opponents, Bangladesh Navy, comprised of the top national players who had proved their worth by winning three tournaments straight, such as the Victory Day and Independence Day hockey tournaments.

But despite all that, it was Army who dominated the show from the outset. They took the lead in the eighth minute through national striker Hasan Jubair Niloy, before

Roman Sarker brought Navy back into contention ten minutes later.

Army then scored again in the 22nd minute with Monoj Babu converting a penalty, but once again their lead only lasted ten minutes as national defender Ashraf Islam levelled the margin by converting a penalty in the 32nd minute.

Niloy struck his second goal two minutes into the second half, but Navy once again found the equaliser, this time through national striker Mahmud Jimmy equalized in the 39th minute.

"We were eager to do something as we lost to Navy twice in two [other] tournaments, so all the players were determined to avenge those defeats. Now, we are happy to win the title," said Army and national team striker Puskhor Khisha MIMO after the match.

Meanwhile, Navy striker Jimmy felt that squandered opportunities cost his side the match.

"Our opponents, Army, are not weaker compared to Navy because they also have some national players. But the reality is that we squandered a lot of scoring chances throughout the match while Army availed opportunities whenever they created one. It is not possible to win a final if you miss a lot of scoring chances," said Jimmy.



Bangladesh Army players pose with the National Hockey Championship trophy after a hard-fought win over Bangladesh Navy at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

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:

British tip-off led to PSL scandal: ICC
Britain's National Crime Agency provided the initial intelligence that helped uncover a major spot-fixing scandal in the Pakistan Super League, a leading official from world cricket's governing body said.

Lehmann plays down Ashes strike threat

National coach Darren Lehmann

admitted a bitter pay dispute will be a distraction for Australia at next month's ICC Champions Trophy, but played down a boycott of this year's Ashes series.

Qualifying tournament for 2019 Cricket WC to be moved from BD

The qualifying tournament for the 2019 World Cup is set to be moved to Ireland and Scotland next summer.

Rod Tucker, Sundaram Ravi umpires for BD-Eng match

The International Cricket Council

have announced the umpire and match referee appointments for the ICC Champions Trophy 2017, which will be staged from 1-18 June at Cardiff Wales Stadium, Edgbaston and The Oval.

Mohammad Nawaz suspended for not reporting suspect approach

Pakistan all-rounder Mohammad Nawaz has been suspended for two months for failing to report a suspect approach to indulge in corruption, the country's cricket board has said.

Real on verge of title

REUTERS, Barcelona



An insatiable Cristiano Ronaldo fired Real Madrid to a 4-1 win over Celta Vigo on Wednesday to take Zinedine Zidane's side three points clear at the top of La Liga and within touching distance of winning a first league title in

five years.

Real top the standings on 90 points meaning they need just one point from their remaining league game at Malaga on Sunday to finish ahead of Barcelona and lift a first title since Jose Mourinho's 2012 success.

Ronaldo lashed into the near corner from outside the area to put Real in charge in the 10th minute with a goal that moved him ahead of former England striker Jimmy Greaves as the all-time leading scorer in Europe's top five leagues on 367 goals.

The prolific Portuguese doubled his and Real's tally in the 48th minute by latching onto a through ball from the impressive Isco and tucking it in off the near post to take Madrid closer still to a 33rd league success.

Celta's Iago Aspas was later sent off for a

second booking for diving although the home side briefly clawed their way back into the match when John Guidetti's deflected strike looped over Keylor Navas in the 69th minute.

Karim Benzema quickly extinguished any comeback hopes by nudging home a Marcelo cutback from close range and the Frenchman and Ronaldo each wasted chances late on to add to the scoring before Toni Kroos knocked in the fourth in the 88th minute.

"The most difficult part is still to come even though we're getting closer (to the title) every day," Zidane told reporters.

"We have one game left but today was very important. We know what we need to do, we need to prepare well and recover from today as we gave so much."

The game had been due to take place in February but was rescheduled after the roof of the Balaidos stadium was damaged in a storm, provoking a dispute between the two sides.

The ill feeling increased when Celta were denied a penalty for a handball by Raphael Varane towards the end of the first half which saw Aspas booked for dissent.

Ctg Abahani in last eight

SPorts Reporter



Chittagong Abahani emerged as group champions and secured passage to the quarterfinals of the Walton Federation Cup after knocking out last edition's runners-up Arambagh KS with a 2-1 win in their Group C encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The port city outfit will play their quarterfinal on April 25 against the runners-up of Group B, either Sheikh Russel KC or Sheikh Jamal DC -- who will battle today to decide who finishes on top in their group.

Mohammed SC advanced as runners-up from Group C after Arambagh's second consecutive defeat saw them eliminated.

Although yesterday's match was a battle between big-spenders Chittagong Abahani and a youthful Arambagh, it was hard to separate the sides until the last 15 minutes, when the port city outfit could have run away

with the game had strikers Shakhawat Hossain Rony and Afeez Olawale Oladipo not missed gilt-edged opportunities.

Arambagh fought neck-and-neck with their superior opponents from the start and unsettled the opposition's backline often with flowing counter attacks. However, their inexperienced

CTG ABAHANI 2 - 1 aRAMBAGH
OLADIPO 34', UDOKA 61' IKGAN 37'

footballers failed to cash in on those opportunities.

As expected, Chittagong Abahani broke the deadlock in the 34th minute as Nigerian striker Oladipo fired home from close range after an Alison Udoka header from a Zahid Hasan corner fell at his feet inside the six-yard box.

That lead did not last long as Arambagh midfielder Jeans Jules Ikgan levelled the margin with a fine solo effort following a counter-attacking move. The tall Cameroonian danced

past two defenders as he raced into the box from midfield before releasing a driven low shot to the far post in the 37th minute.

Three minutes before the break, Chittagong Abahani carved out an opportunity to restore their lead when Zahid Hasan snatched the ball from defender Kingsley Chukwudi inside the box, only to be thwarted by onrushing goalkeeper Akkas Sheikh.

However, Sheikh soon became the villain. His poor clearance from a Koushik Baura header fell straight to Udoka, who gleefully restored Chittagong Abahani's lead in the 61st minute.

Chittagong Abahani exposed Arambagh's backline time and again in the last 15 minutes. Rony was first presented with two lovely through balls from Zahid Hossain, but the former Sheikh Russel striker failed to convert with only the goalkeeper to beat. Oladipo seemingly followed his striking partner's footsteps, shooting wide of the post after racing past Arambagh's hapless keeper.

Juventus win Coppa Italia

REUTERS, Rome



Juventus beat Lazio to win a third successive Italian Cup final as goals from Dani Alves and Leonardo Bonucci kept them on course for a treble this season with a 2-0 victory in the Olympic Stadium on Wednesday.

The Turin side, who are on the verge of winning a sixth successive Serie A championship before facing Real Madrid in the Champions League final in Cardiff on June 3, won the domestic cup for a record 12th time.

"Compliments to the lads for what they did in the first half and for coming through a defensive test in the second," coach Massimiliano Allegri told reporters.

"We've won the first title, now we want to clinch the second, Sunday against Crotona, who have taken 17 points from the last seven matches," he said.

"It's going to be a difficult match. We'll have to play a mean game like this evening's."

Sharapova granted wildcard

AFP, London

Maria Sharapova has been granted a wildcard for next month's WTA grasscourt event in Birmingham, a key Wimbledon warm-up, organisers said Thursday.

The decision came just a day after the Russian was refused a wildcard for the French Open.

"Sharapova has been named as the first of seven Main Draw singles wild cards for this summer's British WTA grass court events," said a statement.



(L-R) Lionel Messi, Antonella Rocuzzo, Sofia Balbi and Luis Suarez pose at the shoe shop in Barcelona.

Messi's partner, Suarez's wife open shoe shop

GOAL.COM

If there is one thing Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez know it is fancy footwear - and it appears their partners are no slouches in that area, either!

The Barcelona pair were the guests of honour at the opening of a new Barcelona shoe shop, a joint venture between Messi's partner, Antonella Rocuzzo, and Suarez's wife, Sofia Balbi.

Javier Mascherano, Sergio Busquets and a host of other Barca players also traded in their boots for more formal attire as they took in the grand opening on Wednesday.

Monaco end long wait

AFP, Paris



For Monaco, after the euphoria of a league title won in brilliant style will come the realisation that this could be the start of a glorious era.

A thrilling young team coached by Leonardo Jardim clinched the Ligue 1 title on Wednesday, ending Paris Saint-Germain's recent domination of the French game.

Having made the capital its home for four seasons, the trophy goes to the Mediterranean principality for the eighth time, the first since 2000 and the days of David Trezeguet.

In the intervening period, Monaco have gone from the highs of a Champions League final to the low of a stint in Ligue 2, but they have now struck gold with a group of players around whom Europe's ogres are circling.

Teen sensation Kylian Mbappe has taken France and Europe by storm, while Radamel

Falcao has gone from busted flush to a 30-goal striker once again.

Bernardo Silva was nominated for France's player of the year prize and the likes of Thomas Lemar, Tiemou Bakayoko and Benjamin Mendy have been transformed from exciting youngsters into some of the most coveted performers on the continent.

Cut down to size by Juventus in the Champions League semifinals, at home they have racked up the goals at an alarming rate to hold off PSG's formidable challenge, becoming just the fifth team ever to hit the 100 mark in a French season.

"We are aware that we have done something historic because the club had not been champions for a long time," said Mbappe.

On the face of it, Monaco's championship triumph looks to be the culmination of the project started when Russian billionaire Dmitry Rybolovlev bought a controlling stake in December 2011.

At the time the club were languishing at the bottom of the second division.

EPL to punish divers

REUTERS, London

Players will face a two-match retrospective ban for diving from the start of next season after the English Football Association (FA) approved a new rule to combat simulation in an annual general meeting yesterday.

Under the new regulations, incidents involving players who deceive a match official into awarding their team a penalty or sending off an opponent can be reviewed by a three-man independent panel.

"This process would be similar to the one used now for a red card offence (violent conduct/serious foul play/spitting at an opponent) which was not seen at the time by the match officials but caught on camera," the FA said in a statement.

The FA will only be able to impose the ban if the panel's decision is unanimous. The panel will consist of one ex-match official, one ex-manager and one ex-player.

"Should a charge of 'Successful Deception of a Match Official' be admitted or found proven, the Independent Regulatory Commission will have the power to rescind the caution or dismissal received by the opposing player as a result of the simulation if it chooses to do so."