What to WATCH

GTV, MAASRANGA, STAR SPORTS 1
Champions Trophy
England v Pakistan
First Semifinal
Live from 3:30pm

TEN 3
West Indies v Afghanistan
Third ODI
Live from 2:30am (Thursday)

MODRIC TESTIFIES IN GRAFT TRIAL

Luka Modric swapped his football kit for a suit on Tuesday as he appeared in the witness box to testify in a multi-million-euro corruption trial against Dinamo Zagreb's former boss. The 31-year-old star midfielder, who is not a suspect, was visibly uncomfortable as he gave evidence at the trial of controversial Zdravko Mamic, considered the most powerful man in Croatian football. Mamic is being tried along with three others: his brother and former Dinamo Zagreb coach Zoran Mamic, former club director Damir Vrbanovic, and a tax inspector. They were charged last year with abuse of power and graft that cost the former Croatian champions more than 15 million euros ($17.6 million), and the state 1.5 million euros. Most of the money -- more than 12 million euros -- was illegally acquired by the Mamic brothers, according to the indictment. The cash was allegedly embezzled through fictitious deals related to player transfers.
—AFP

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:

Griezmann extends Atletico deal until 2022
French star Antoine Griezmann has extended his contract with Atletico Madrid by a year, the Spanish club announced on Tuesday.

Tigers' rise through the India rivalry
Bangladesh are set to play a semifinal match against India in the ICC Champions Trophy 2017, a game which will definitely induce excitement among fans on both sides.

Federer done resting
Roger Federer will begin his grasscourt campaign where he will bid for a record eighth Wimbledon crown at Stuttgart on Wednesday insisting that he's rested enough.

Iran book ticket to Russia
Sardar Azmoun and Mehdi Taremi were on target as Iran confirmed their spot in the 2018 World Cup finals with a 2-0 victory over Uzbekistan at the Azadi Stadium in Tehran on Monday.

Diego Andrade (C) of Brazil celebrates his goal with teammates Marcio Rafael Souza (R) and Douglas Costa during their international friendly against Australia in Melbourne yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Second trial ends in one day

SPORTS REPORTER

The second three-day trail for Under-18 footballers concluded after just one day owing to a lack of quality players from district teams. There was no such shortage of 'good players' in the first trial, where booters from the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) and Bangladesh Championship League (BCL) took part.

Around 74 footballers, who represented their districts in the U-18 National Football Championship, turned up in front of the BFF's high-profile coaching staff, but only 10 caught their eye. The rest were sent packing as the three-day trial was ended prematurely.

With the inclusion of the 10 new faces, the BFF has now shortlisted 50 footballers to form squads for September's SAAF U-18 Championship Nepal and October's AFC U-19 Championship Qualifiers in Tajikistan. Australian coach Andrew Ord and technical and strategic director Paul Smalley will decide on the preliminary squad for the U-18 team.

"We have found some exciting players, who have come from BPL and BCL. We have also found a few players from outside that group," Smalley said yesterday.

"If you compare the players from the two groups, then the players from the BPL and BCL are further ahead of these footballers but the quality of today's trial are more of a mixed bag as there are good goalkeepers, defenders and genuinely fast players," said Smalley.

Eight or nine of the 50 players have represented Bangladesh before in either U-16 Championship or U-19 Championship and are now members of the playing eleven for their BPL outfits. As a result, the final squad for the U-18 team is expected to be a stronger than the squads which competed in the last edition of the SAFF U-18 Championship and AFC U-19 Championship Qualifiers.

Brazil demolish Australia

AFP, *Melbourne*

The world's number one team Brazil demolished Australia 4-0 fired by a Diego Souza goal after just 12 seconds in their international friendly in Melbourne on Tuesday.

The Socceroos held the five-times World Cup champions to 1-0 at half-time but the dazzling Brazilians ripped apart the home defence with three second-half goals.

Souza, who replaced injured striker Gabriel Jesus, scored twice with other goals from defender Thiago Silva and substitute Taison with his first international goal.

Brazil bounced back spectacularly from their 1-0 loss to Argentina at the same venue on Friday with captain for the night Liverpool's Philippe Coutinho and Chelsea's David Luiz outstanding for the South Americans.

Brazil got off to a stunning start with a goal after just 12 seconds when defender Bailey Wright dithered and gave away the ball to Giuliano.

Giuliano sent Diego Souza through to beat goalkeeper Mitch Langerak for his first international goal.

But after the catastrophic start, the Socceroos settled down with their passing improved from last week's World Cup 3-2 qualifier win over Saudi Arabia.

Coutinho, Brazil's ninth captain since Tite became manager, troubled the Australians with his deft close skills and touch, while Luiz was rock solid as the holding midfielder in front of the back three.

The Brazilians made it 2-0 just after the hour when Luiz's thunderous header from Coutinho's corner came off the bar for Silva to nod home amongst a crowd of players in the six-yard box.

Langerak saved with his legs to deny Souza from scoring when Mark Milligan gave away possession to substitute Willian as Brazil turned the screws on the Socceroos.

Coutinho and Luiz, Brazil's two most influential players, were substituted minutes apart before substitute Taison scored his first international goal after exquisite interplay by Willian and Paulinho set up the chance 15 minutes from time.

Souza had a free header off corner in the third minute of stoppage time to round off the scoring for Brazil.

It was a sobering farewell for the Australians, who leave on Wednesday for Russia and the Confederations Cup where they face Germany in their first game on June 19.

Brazil were the first time to qualify for

Nantes appoint Ranieri

AFP, *Nantes*

Italian Claudio Ranieri is the new coach of Nantes, the Ligue 1 side said on Tuesday, just four months after he was sacked by Leicester City.

Nantes had to ask for -- and received -- special dispensation from French league officials to hire the popular Italian as he has reached the manager's age limit of 65.

Ranieri guided Leicester to one of modern sport's great upsets in the 2015/16 season as the Foxes won the Premier League in his first campaign in charge.

But his second season was a disaster as the team flirted with relegation and he was sacked in February.

Nantes finished seventh in Ligue 1 last season but a week ago agreed to allow Portuguese coach Sergio Conceicao to return to his homeland and take over

Argentina hit Singapore for 6

REUTERS, *Singapore*

Argentina's experimental lineup proved too strong for an outclassed Singapore in their international friendly on Tuesday, with the South Americans swatting aside their hosts 6-0 and the opening five goals coming from first-time scorers.

The match was organised to celebrate the home FA's 125th anniversary but Argentina were in no mood to go easy on the Singaporeans, with new coach Jorge Sampaoli keen to try out attacking options against limited opposition.

Some local fans had demanded refunds when leading lights Lionel Messi and Gonzalo Higuain withdrew from the trip at late notice but Sampaoli saw it as an opportunity to try out a five-man attacking unit led by Sevilla forward Joaquin Correa.

Argentina did not take long to create chance after chance but it took them 25 minutes to finally break through from an unlikely source when Roma central defender Federico Fazio was left unmarked at a corner to slot home from close range.

A set piece proved to be Singapore's undoing once more when Juventus' Paulo Dybala collected a short corner and drilled in a low cross to the near post, which Correa tucked home for his first international goal in the 30th minute.

Argentina continued their attacking onslaught after the break and the massed ranks on the 157th-ranked home side's defence did well to stave off the visitors until Alejandro Gomez marked his debut with a 61st minute goal.

Everton agree Pickford deal

AFP, *London*

Everton have agreed a £30 million ($38 million, 34 million euros) deal to sign Sunderland goalkeeper Jordan Pickford, according to British media reports on Tuesday.

Pickford was Everton manager Ronald Koeman's top target to take over from Maarten Stekelenburg and Joel Robles, who both endured inconsistent spells last season.

Sunderland have accepted an offer from Everton which could rise to £30 million with various add-ons included in the package.

England Under-21 international Pickford was one of the few bright spots as Sunderland were relegated from the Premier League last season.

He earned a call-up to England's senior ranks in October and has represented the country at each of the six youth levels from Under-16 upwards.

ASIAN ATHLETICS C'SHIP

BAF to send large group

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Athletics Federation (BAF) will send a big contingent to the Asian Athletics Championship to be held in Bhubaneswar, India from July 6.

Sending only sprinters to international championships has become a traditional practice, but this time the new BAF ad-hoc committee decided to include athletes from field events as well.

"We don't want to discriminate in selecting events, rather we want to give opportunities to athletes in all events," BAF joint secretary Farid Khan told reporters.

The men's events includes 100m and 200m sprints, 800m run, 110m hurdles, javelin, hammer throw, long-jump, 4x100m relay and 4x400m relay while 100m sprint, 200m sprint, 400m sprint, 800m run, 100m hurdles and 4x400m relay were included in women's events.

Before participating in the championship, 18 athletes accompanied by three coaches are supposed to receive three-week training in Odisha,

Di Francesco set for Roma

AFP, *Milan*

Sassuolo coach Eusebio Di Francesco moved a step closer to taking over at Roma after the clubs agreed a compensation package, reports on Tuesday said.

Roma have been looking for a new coach since Luciano Spalletti left last week to join fellow Serie A outfit Inter Milan.

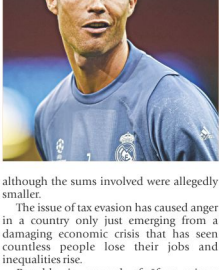
But Di Francesco, a former midfielder with Roma, has been a long-time target for the capital club and, according to reports, could be officially appointed on Wednesday.

Ronaldo accused of tax evasion

AFP, *Madrid*

Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo was on Tuesday accused of evading 14.7 million euros in tax through offshore companies, the latest footballer to fall foul of fiscal authorities in Spain.

The 32-year-old -- the world's highest paid athlete according to Forbes magazine -- follows in the steps of FC Barcelona forward and Argentina star Lionel Messi, who was found guilty of the same offence last year



although the sums involved were allegedly smaller.

The issue of tax evasion has caused anger in a country only just emerging from a damaging economic crisis that has seen countless people lose their jobs and inequalities rise.

Ronaldo is accused of "four crimes against the public treasury between 2011-14... which involves tax fraud of 14,768,897 euros ($16.5m, £12.9m)", the office said in a statement.

"The accused took advantage of a company structure created in 2010 to hide income generated in Spain from his image rights from tax authorities, which is a 'voluntary' and 'conscious' breach of his fiscal obligations in Spain," it said.

Prosecutors accuse the Portugal international of evading tax via a shell company based in the British Virgin Islands and another in Ireland, known for its low corporate tax rate.

In addition, they say he only declared 11.5 million euros of Spanish-related income from 2011 to 2014, while what he really earned during that time was close to 43 million euros.

And finally, they accuse him of "voluntarily" refusing to include 28.4 million euros in income linked to the sale of his image rights for the 2015 to 2020 period to a Spanish company.

The football world in Spain has been rocked by charges of tax evasion or corruption pressed against some of its top stars.

Messi was sentenced to a 21-month jail sentence and 2.09-million-euro fine last year for tax fraud.

The prison term will likely be suspended as is common in Spain for first offences for non-violent crimes carrying a sentence of less than two years.

The 29-year-old and his father Jorge Horacio Messi were found guilty of using companies in Belize, Britain, Switzerland and Uruguay to avoid paying taxes on 4.16 million euros of Messi's income earned from his image rights from 2007-09.

The income related to Messi's image rights that was hidden includes endorsement deals with Danone, Adidas, Pepsi-Cola, Procter & Gamble and the Kuwait Food Company.

Former Barca defender Javier Mascherano also agreed a one-year suspended sentence with authorities for tax fraud last year.

Meanwhile Brazil star and Barcelona forward Neymar and his parents are due to stand trial for alleged corruption over his transfer from Santos in 2013.