

GTV & MAASRANGA
Bangladesh v South Africa
2nd Test, Day-3
Live from 2:00pm

SONY SIX
Pakistan v Sri Lanka
2nd Test, Day-3
Live from 4:00pm

TEN 1
FIFA World Cup Qualifiers
Lithuania v England
Live from 10:00pm
Norway v N. Ireland
Live from 1:00am

TEN 2
FIFA World Cup Qualifiers
Germany v Azerbaijan
Live from 1:00am

DAY'S EVENT

National Cricket League
5-Day Match
Day-3
Time: 9:30am

Khulna v Rangpur
Venue: SKS, Rajshahi
Dhaka v Barisal
Venue: SANS, Khulna

Dhaka Metro v Chittagong
Venue: ZACS, Chittagong
Rajshahi v Sylhet
Venue: SCS, Bogra

Bangladesh Premier League
CTG Abahani v Saif Sporting
Time: 4:30pm
Sheik Jamal v Abahani

Time: 6:45pm
Venue: BNS

Ventura fears for play-offs

AFP, Turin

Gian Piero Ventura warned Italy will struggle to even get past November's World Cup play-offs if they reproduce the woeful form of Friday night's 1-1 draw against Macedonia in Turin.

Aleksandar Trajkovski cancelled out Giorgio Chiellini's first half goal as the Azzurri left the pitch in Ventura's old stadium with whistles ringing in their ears.

"If Italy play like we did in the second half with Macedonia, we'll struggle in the play-offs," said Ventura.

Spain qualified first in Group G by thrashing Albania 3-0 with Italy second but still not mathematically sure of even being one of the top eight runners-up to make the play-offs.

"The result is not positive, it is not what we wanted, nor what we expected," said the former Torino coach.

"I think the whistles were deserved, even if I think you should never jeer the national side as a point of principle.

"We need to get the crowd on our side because they can help us. We have a match waiting for us in Albania (on Monday) before the play-offs and we'll go out there to play."

"The only thing that matters now is getting our energy back, recover a few players and go to achieve what this group deserves, which is a place in the play-offs."

Teams arrive today

SPORTS REPORTER

All seven foreign teams will reach Dhaka today to participate in the Hero Men's Asia Cup, the continent's apex hockey competition, to be held in Bangladesh for the second time.

Up until the eight-team tournament kicks off on Wednesday all the sides will have their official practice sessions at the renovated Maulana Bhasani Stadium from today where Bangladesh are set to face Japan at 3:00pm for a light 40-minute practice match.

The Japan team was scheduled to arrive here in the early hours of Sunday while the rest of the teams will arrive at different times through the day.

The Japan team, who had asked for a detailed security arrangements report from the Bangladesh authorities, will be accommodated at the Sonargaon Hotel while India, Pakistan, Oman and China will stay at the FARS Hotel.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh, Malaysia and South Korea will be set up at the Purbani hotel during this 11-day long competition.

Hosts Bangladesh have been placed alongside India, Pakistan and Japan in Pool A while Pool B features defending champions South Korea, Malaysia, China and Oman.

Silva suffers thigh injury

AFP, Sao Paulo

Brazil defender Thiago Silva will miss his country's final 2018 World Cup qualifier against Chile on Tuesday with a thigh muscle injury he suffered in Thursday's 0-0 draw against Bolivia.

The 33-year-old Paris Saint-Germain centre-back hobbled off in the 27th minute of the match in La Paz.

Brazil have already wrapped up top spot in South American qualifying, having been the first nation to join hosts Russia in booking a spot at next year's World Cup finals.

Coach Tite has called up Sao Paulo defender Rodrigo Caio, 24, to replace Silva.



Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon leaves the pitch dejected at the end of their 2018 World Cup qualifier against Macedonia in Turin on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

'Abysmal' Azzurri

AFP, Turin



Italy and coach Gian Piero Ventura were in the firing line Saturday after an "abysmal" 1-1 draw against Macedonia in Turin left the Azzurri's path to the World Cup uncertain.

La Stampa hit out at a "soft and clueless Italy... on death's door," with Ventura and defender Leonardo Bonucci in the firing line.

"The Azzurri are extinct... an Italy that can't be watched, a shame," the newspaper said of the draw against a team "worse than Trinidad and Tobago (in the FIFA rankings)."

"Enough Ventura!" headlined Turin-based daily Tuttosport as the four-time world champions not only failed to seal a spot in the 2018 World Cup play-offs, but also their status of seeds in the draw.

"Abysmal Azzurro," the newspaper continued in their editorial of the "disconcerting" stalemate.

And based on the performance in the Stadio Grande Torino the newspaper fears "the eventuality of the play-off makes one shudder".

La Gazzetta also lambasted Ventura, giving him a rating of four out of 10.

"Italy were indecent," wrote La Gazzetta. "What is worrying is above all the difference in the performance of many of the players between their clubs and the national side," the newspaper continued.

"(Ciro) Immobile began the season with quickfire scoring (9 goals), (Lorenzo) Insigne blows away the San Paolo every time he touches a ball... but in the national side just flops."

La Repubblica headlined: "Italy are on their last legs."

"The visa for the play-offs should be a formality but Italy stumbled as Macedonia upped the level.

"The equaliser was scored by a player in the (Italian) second division, Palermo's (Aleksandar) Trajkovski," noted the newspaper.

Not being seeded means Italy could be paired with strong teams such as Portugal or Croatia in the play-offs.

Trying to sound a positive note ahead of what is now a crunch tie in Albania on Monday, "Il Corriere dello Sport" wrote "Be strong Italy!"

Italy need a point against Albania to seal their place but if Bosnia fail to beat already-qualified Belgium on Saturday night then Italy will automatically be in the top eight.

Amallesh Sen no more

SPORTS REPORTER

Amallesh Sen, footballer-turned-coach and member of the Swadhin Bangla football team, breathed his last yesterday evening after suffering cardiac arrest at the Abahani Club premises.

The veteran footballer, who had been working as a coach of the Abahani team for a long time, complained of chest pain and unease towards the end of the team's training session at the club premises. He was rushed to the nearby Bangladesh Medical College and Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead at around 6:30pm.

Sen was 72. He left behind his wife, two sons and a host of well-wishers.

When Abahani was formed in 1972, Sen joined the club and spent the rest of his playing career with the Dhanmondi outfit after having played for a number of other clubs including Mohammedan Sporting Club before the nation's independence.

He also represented the national team from 1975 to early 1978.

Sen continued his playing career till the early '80s before embarking on his coaching career in 1986. He stayed with Abahani till the late '90s before having a two-year stint with Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra. He returned to Abahani in 1999 and remained until now.

Sen also served as the vice-president of Bangladesh Football Coaches' Association. Members of the Bangladesh Football Federation, different clubs and football organisers expressed deep shock at the demise of the renowned football coach.



Amallesh Sen (1945-2017)

Spain shrug off crisis to qualify

AFP, Alicante

Spain sealed their place in next year's World Cup by routing Albania 3-0 on Friday in a match laced with political tension amidst Catalonia's drive for independence and blighted by more jeers for Gerard Pique.

However, the outspoken Barcelona defender and his teammates put the distractions of a turbulent week behind them to continue their sensational form since Julien Lopetegui took charge thanks to goals from Rodrigo, Isco and Thiago Alcantara.

"We had to concentrate solely on football," Lopetegui told Spanish TV station Teleduarte.

"It has been a difficult, complicated week and fortunately we managed to do that in a very, very good first 30 minutes."

Victory opened up a five-point gap on Italy atop Group G of European qualifying with just one qualifier remaining after the Azzurri were held 1-1 at home by Macedonia.

"We did our bit which was to win the game and the Italy result qualifies us mathematically," added Lopetegui.

'Make a lasting impression'

SPORTS REPORTER



Shahbuddin Chaklader, the captain of the Bangladesh hockey team in the 1985 Asia Cup, yesterday urged the current team to have no fear when they take on two-time champions Pakistan on the opening day of the Hero Asia Cup on October 11.

The veteran hockey player urged the team to make the first impression a lasting one so that spectators come to watch them in droves, like they did 32 years ago when Bangladesh had hosted the second edition of Asia's apex hockey tournament.

"I believe the Pakistan match will be our biggest test. Take the match very seriously and make a lasting impression," Chaklader told the members of the current team during a programme titled 'Hockey Stars of 1985 & 2017', organised by the Bangladesh Sports Press Association (BSPA) at the

Bangladesh Olympic Association auditorium.

The lively programme, attended by veteran hockey players and organisers, felicitated the members of both the 1985 team as well as the one that will be embarking on 10th edition of the event, to be held at the renovated Maulana Bhasani Stadium from October 11 to 22.

Apart from Chaklader, the other members of that team present at the programme were: Khaza Daniel, Jamil Parvez Lulu, Kamrul Islam Kismat, Alamgir Chunnun, Osman Gani and Abdullah Piru while veteran players such as Pratap Shankar Hazra, Abdus Sadque, Ehtesham Sultan and veteran organiser Shamsul Bari were also present.

Abdus Sadeque, the general secretary of the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) who held the same position 32 years ago, said that the current crop should do well for the fact that they get a lot of facilities which

were not available back in the day.

"I wouldn't say we had the best team back then, but the team played their best hockey because they had team-spirit. I believe the current players are lucky that they get so much training facilities and play abroad. So I hope the team will do well and create the same kind of buzz that the 1985 event had created," the legendary player opined.

Rasel Mahmud Jimmy, the captain of the current side and arguably the best player to come out in the last two decades, said that hockey runs in the life-blood of the players and hence they always try to do their best.

"I have grown up playing hockey and watching hockey. We play with dedication and love for the game. If we go out there without the belief of winning, then there is no point of all these training. So I urge my fellow teammates to make a mark so that someone will felicitate us 32 years from now," Jimmy said.



Hockey players from the past and present were honoured during a programme titled 'Hockey Stars of 1985 & 2017' at the Bangladesh Olympic Association auditorium yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Tragedy strikes at Balur Math

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenager tragically lost his life as he was hit by the ball while umpiring a cricket match among friends at the Balur Math ground in Mugda, a southern region of the capital, on Friday.

17-year-old Rafiqul Islam was declared dead at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital the same day.

"Every Friday he [Rafiqul] went to Balur Math early in the morning and returned home after 10am. After batting, Rafiqul stood behind the stumps as an umpire when suddenly the taped tennis ball struck him and he fainted. His friends did not understand the

gravity of the injury and that's why they took him back home in the Manda area. But his condition deteriorated so we rushed him to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the attending doctor declared him dead," Shafiqul Islam, the deceased's elder brother, told The Daily Star on Saturday.

Officer-in-Charge of Mugda Police Station Enamul Haque confirmed the incident and said that nobody issued any complaints against the people involved as it was an accident.

"A group of youths were playing cricket in the field and the boy was the umpire. He collapsed on the field after a ball hit him in the chest," Enamul told The Daily Star.

Karunaratne lifts SL

AFP, Dubai



Sri Lankan opener Dimuth Karunaratne hit a career best 196 which left Pakistan fighting to avoid defeat in the second day-night Test in Dubai on Saturday.

Karunaratne missed a double hundred by four runs but lifted Sri Lanka to an imposing 482 in their first innings before Pakistan finished the second day at 51-0, still trailing by 431 runs.

Opens Sami Aslam (30 not out) and Shan Masood (15 not out) negotiated the 18 overs under light without any major trouble but Pakistan still need 231 to avoid the follow on.

That leaves Pakistan in a spot of bother to square the series after losing the first Test by 21 runs in Abu Dhabi and, more impor-

tantly, save their seven-year unbeaten series record in the United Arab Emirates.

It was another brilliant display by the Sri Lankan batsmen led by left-hander Karunaratne.

Karunaratne deserved a double hundred during a marathon nine hour stay at the crease but he was unluckily dismissed, playing onto leg-spinner Yasir Shah just before dinner.

When on 143 he brought up his 3,000th run in his 44th Test, the 12th Sri Lankan to reach that milestone.

Shah took 6-184 in a marathon 55.5 overs of hard work and toil on a flat Dubai stadium pitch.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA: First Innings 482 all out (Karunaratne 196, Chandimal 62, Dickwella 52, Perera 58; Shah 6-184)
PAKISTAN: First Innings 51 for no loss (Masood 15 not out, Aslam 30 not out)

India win big in rain-hit T20 match

AFP, Ranchi

Spinner Kuldeep Yadav led an inspired bowling effort to help India down Australia by nine wickets in the rain-shortened first Twenty20 international in Ranchi on Saturday.

Chasing a revised target of 48 runs in six overs, the hosts achieved the win with three balls to spare. Opener Shikhar Dhawan, on 15, and skipper Virat Kohli, on 22, remained unbeaten.

But it was left-arm wrist spinner Yadav who set up India's 1-0 lead in the three-match series as he returned figures of 2-16 to restrict Australia to 118-8 in 18.4 overs when rain stopped play for about two hours.

Opener Aaron Finch's 30-ball 42 was the only bright spark for the David Warner-led side.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: 118 for 8 in 18.4 overs (Finch 42; Bumrah 2-17, Yadav 2-16)
INDIA: 49 for 1 in 5.3 overs (Dhawan 15 not out, Kohli 22 not out)
Result: India won by 9 wickets

Kingsley punishes Arambagh

SPORTS REPORTER



Eleta Kingsley scored twice in the second half as Team BJMC came from a goal down to beat Arambagh Krira Sangha 3-2 in their Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The Nigerian striker hit the mark from the spot in the 68th minute and clinched the winner in the second minute of added time after Arambagh had taken the lead through two goals in four second-half minutes following a first-half goal from Team BJMC.

FARASHGANJ 1 - 1 BROTHERS
(MATHWEW 51) (BIPOLOB 42)
TEAM BJMC 2 - 2 ARAMBAGH
(SHOEB 42, KINGSLEY 68, 92) (BUKOLA 53, SUFIAN 57)

The topsy-turvy affair fluctuated from one side to the other since Shoeb Mia had opened the scoring in the 42nd minute with an expert strike, but goals from Alamu Bukola and Abu Sufian Sufil early in the second half seemed to have given struggling Arambagh some breathing space. Eleta, though, had other ideas as his brace lifted his side to sixth position, keeping Arambagh in 10th.

Earlier in the day, the honours were also shared in the battle of the bottom two sides as Farashganj SC held Brothers Union to a 1-1 draw.

Brothers took the lead three minutes before the break when Mohammad Biplob offoxed Farashganj goalkeeper Borhan Uddin with a clever chip after noticing the keeper had been standing out of his line.

But the Old Dhaka outfit hit back six minutes after restart, with Chinedu Mathew volleying home from close range after Brothers goalkeeper Kamal Hossain had failed to gather Rakib Khan's initial shot.

The draw left both teams at six points from 10 matches although Farashganj are ahead on goal difference.

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:

Hamilton one of the greatest ever, says Wolff

Mercedes boss

Toto Wolff hailed

Lewis Hamilton as

one of Formula

One's greatest ever drivers

after the Briton's record-

breaking pole in Japan.

England aren't a one-man

show says Kane

Harry Kane insists

he isn't England's

only hope of a

successful run at

next year's World Cup. Gareth

Southgate's side booked their

place at the finals in Russia

with a lacklustre 1-0 win over

Slovenia at Wembley.

Neuer could be out till March

Bayern Munich

and Germany

goalkeeper

Manuel Neuer

said he could now be sidelined

until March because he is

taking longer than expected to

recover from a foot operation.