

STAR SPORTS 2
Hero Asia Cup Hockey
 India v Japan
 Live from 3:00pm
Bangladesh v Pakistan
 Live from 5:30pm

DAY'S EVENT
Hero Asia Cup Hockey
 India v Japan
 Time: 3:00pm

Bangladesh v Pakistan
 Time: 5:30pm
 Venue: Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium

Bangladesh v Ireland A
 Four-day Match, Day-1
 Time: 9:30am
 Venue: SICS, Sylhet

LEWANDOWSKI A 'BACHELOR OF SPORTS'

Robert Lewandowski is one of the finest strikers in world football, and the Bayern Munich star is now also a bachelor of sports. The 29-year-old has finally finished a degree in Physical Education with coaching and management at Warsaw's School of Education in Sport. One of his professors, Marek Rybinski, said that Lewandowski's answers within his work were "excellent". Having added academic honours to his list of achievements, the Polish frontman is now free to turn his attention back to matters on the football field. He collected his degree less than 24 hours after helping his country to the 2018 World Cup in Russia. Lewandowski will now be among the galaxy of stars at next summer's global showpiece in Brazil. Lewandowski has also passed the 300-goal mark in club competition this term, while raising his international tally to 51 from 51 caps. —AGENCIES



Cahill breaks Syrian hearts

REUTERS, Sydney
 Tim Cahill scored twice, including the extra-time winner, as Australia kept their World Cup hopes alive with a 2-1 victory over Syria in the second leg of the Asian playoff on Tuesday.
 The 3-2 aggregate victory sends the Socceroos into an intercontinental playoff in November against the fourth-placed team in North and Central America and Caribbean (CONCACAF) qualifying with a World Cup spot on the line.
 Cahill scored Australia's opener with a trademark header in the 13th minute but it was not until 96 minutes later that he kept alive his country's hopes of a fourth successive appearance at the World Cup finals with his 50th international goal.
 "I knew I was going to score, I didn't touch the ball much but in the end I delivered," said Cahill, who has played at the last three World Cups.
 "That's what I've done my whole life and I'll continue to do it."
 The United States, Panama and Honduras, the three nations who could provide the opposition in the intercontinental playoff, play their final qualifiers later on Tuesday.
 Syria, who had to play all their "home" qualifiers in Malaysia because of the security situation in their war-torn nation, fought against Australia's away goal advantage from the 1-1 first leg draw.
 The visitors, without five first-choice players through injury or suspension, had made the perfect start in the sixth minute to cancel out Australia's away goal advantage from the 1-1 first leg draw.
 Tamer Hajj Mohamed dismissed Mark Milligan in midfield and he fed Omar Al

Somah, who outpaced the Australian defence and planted the ball high in the net with his left foot.
 Australia lost Brad Smith to injury, bringing dropped midfielder Aaron Mooy on to the pitch, but the Asian champions were back on terms in 13th minute.
 Matthew Leckie broke down the right and delivered a pinpoint cross that Cahill was never going to pass up, the 37-year-old forward heading the ball home in his 103rd international.
 Australia dominated the remainder of the first half, with Syrian skipper Zاهر Medani blocking a Cahill shot after one flowing move and goalkeeper Ibrahim Alma force to save James Troisi and Leckie efforts.
 Alma again had to be at his best to stop a fierce Rogic strike from the edge of the box after 70 minutes and the Celtic midfielder curled a shot just wide of the far post from the ensuing corner.
 Rogic had another chance to clinch the winner in the 89th minute but his shot was deflected past the post and the Australians were unable to make the breakthrough in normal time.
 Syrian midfielder Mahmoud Al Mawas was sent off for a second yellow card four minutes into the first period of extra time and from then on it appeared only a matter of time before the Australians would break down the already weary visitors.
 Robbie Kruse finally carved out the decisive chance in the 109th minute when his perfectly weighted cross to the far post found Cahill, who headed it into the top left-hand corner to the delight of the majority of the 42,136 crowd.
 Al Somah had one final chance to secure a page for Syria on the away goals rule as time ran out but his brilliantly struck free kick hit the post and bounced away.



Australia's Trent Sainsbury (L) consoles Syria's Jehad Al Baour after the Socceroos dashed the Middle East nation's hopes of making it to the 2018 World Cup by handing them a 2-1 defeat in extra time in Sydney on Tuesday. PHOTO: AFP

Iceland make history

AFP, Reykjavik
 Less than 18 months after sensationally knocking England out of Euro 2016, Iceland qualified for the World Cup for the first time on Monday following a 2-0 win over Kosovo.
 Needing victory to guarantee top spot in European qualifying Group I, goals from Everton star Gylfi Sigurdsson and John Gudmundsson ensured Iceland would be on the plane to Russia 2018.
 "I thought after Euro 2016 that the hardest thing would be to motivate ourselves again," admitted Iceland coach Heimir Hallgrimsson. "The first beer after a party is not the best. The hardest thing was to get going again after our massive party in France."
 "And what's more in a group contested between Croatia, Turkey, Ukraine and Finland, who are much better than their position in the group would have you believe. The success is not an end in itself but a long journey towards a final destination."

It was only two years ago that Iceland qualified for a major finals for the first time, taking advantage of a tournament expanded to 24 teams but nonetheless knocking out the Netherlands in qualifying.
 From there the team from the tiny island of just 330,000 people stunned Europe by not only negotiating their group but also upsetting England in the last 16, before going out to hosts France in the quarter-finals.
 Now, the World Cup in Russia will also be graced by the popular northern Europeans and their colourful fans who started a clapping trend at the Euros that is sure to make its mark next year.
 The fireworks blazed into the sky at the Laugardalsvoll stadium after Hallgrimsson's team completed their expected victory over the European minnows Kosovo, ranked 184 by FIFA.
HEARTBREAK FOR WALES
 The Republic of Ireland claimed a World Cup play-off spot at Wales' expense after James McClean's crisp second-half strike earned his side a 1-0 victory in Cardiff on Monday.
 The West Bromwich Albion winger's goal moved Ireland above Wales into second place in Group D below Serbia, meaning Martin O'Neill's men will be one of the eight teams in the European play-off draw on October 17.
 "The performance of the players was absolutely fantastic," said Ireland manager O'Neill. "We had to withstand a lot of pressure, which you would expect. But we had to win tonight in Cardiff and we've done

exactly that.
 "James scores a great goal for us and then we have to withstand more pressure. Some great, great performances all round. And so we go to the play-offs."
 "While Ireland remain on course for a first World Cup finals appearance since 2002, surprise Euro 2016 semi-finalists Wales saw their dream of a first appearance at the tournament since 1958 turn to dust.
 Breff of Real Madrid star Gareth Bale, and robbed of Joe Allen by a suspected concussion in the first half, Wales fell to their first defeat in the group and their first loss in a competitive home game in over four years.
 The tense game at Cardiff City Stadium stands to be Chris Coleman's last as Wales manager in a competitive fixture, the architect of last year's Euro heroics having pledged to stand down after the current World Cup cycle.
 "We just came up a bit short tonight," Coleman said. "Our imagination, offensively, we didn't quite have enough. I can't say right now about my future because I'm not thinking about it. The dressing room's full of devastated players and staff."
 "The whole nation will be mourning because of elusive World Cup has passed us by again."



Australia make it 1-1

AFP, Cooatulla
 Fast bowler Jason Behrendorff led an inspired bowling effort to help Australia down India by taking eight wickets in the second Twenty20 international and level the series in Cooatulla on Tuesday.
 Behrendorff, playing his second match after making his debut in Ranchi last week, claimed four wickets to bowl out India for 118 before the visitors chased down the total with 27 balls to spare.
 Moises Henriques, who hit 62, and Travis Head, who made 48, put together an unbeaten 109-run partnership to keep the 3-match series alive.
SCORES IN BRIEF
INDIA: 118 all out in 20 overs (Jadhav 27, Pandya 25, Behrendorff 4-21, Zampa 2-19)
AUSTRALIA: 122 for 2 in 15.3 overs (Henriques 62 not out; Head 48 not out; Kumar 1-9)
Result: Australia won by 8 wickets and levelled 3-match series 1-1.
Player-of-the-match: Jason Behrendorff.

QUICK SINGLES

The following are a few samples of stories that did not make the print edition. However, if you pique your interest, you can always read them online on the Daily Star website by simply scanning the QR codes listed below.

BCB announces members of the five-member EC
 The executive committee of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) announces the names of the five-member Election Commission under the secretary of the Youth and Sports, Mohammed Omar Faruk NBC as its chief.
Dean Jones named as interim Afghan coach
 Former Australia batsman and cricket commentator Dean Jones will coach Afghanistan in their upcoming Hong Kong tour, in the latest sign of the team's rising fortunes. Jones will take charge for Afghanistan's four-day intercontinental Cup game from October 20-23, and could become a permanent fixture, the Afghan cricket board said.
Starcrus Aussie fans get 'stuck into' Stokes
 Fast bowler Mitchell Starc has urged Australian fans to "get stuck into" England had by Ben Stokes if he makes the trip for the upcoming Ashes, calling for them to be "very loud".



Spinner Dilruwan Perera's (L) five for 98 powered Sri Lanka to a 68-run victory against Pakistan on the fifth day of the second Test in Dubai yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Five-star Perera seals series

AFP, Dubai
 This is Pakistan's first series defeat at their adopted home of United Arab Emirates (UAE) in seven years. They had won five of the previous nine, with four drawn.
 This is also Pakistan's first home defeat since losing to South Africa 1-0 in 2007, a series held on their grounds, and only the second whitewash in their history.
 Sri Lanka captain Dinesh Chandimal, whose team lost to India 3-0 in August, hailed "a team performance".
 "They put their heart and soul in the practice sessions." It was a tough series against India but we learnt a lot from it. The boys executed the game plan really well in this series. We knew when we came today that Dilruwan and Rangana (Herath) would do the job."
 Pakistan spinner Ahmed was left reeling to a tough series.

"It was a tough series for us. We came close in both matches, but we haven't played good cricket and that's why we have lost the series," said Ahmed.
 Shahef was the ninth man out when he edged paceman Suranga Lakmal to slip where Kusal Mendis took a low diving catch to end all Pakistan's hopes of an upset win.
SCORES IN BRIEF
SRI LANKA: First innings 482
PAKISTAN: First innings 262
SRI LANKA: Second innings 96
PAKISTAN: Second innings 248 (Shahef 112, Sarfaraz 68, Herath 2-57, Perera 5-98)
Result: Sri Lanka won by 68 runs and clinched 2-match series 2-0.
Player-of-the-match: Dimuth Karunaratne.
Player-of-the-series: Dimuth Karunaratne.



MSC move to fifth

SPORTS REPORTER
 Mohammedan SC leapt-frogged to fifth position in the Bangladesh Premier League, with a come-from-behind 2-1 win over MuktiJoddha Sangsad at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.
 MuktiJoddha took the lead through a strike from Abbas Inusa in the stoppage time of the first half before Kingsley Chigozie levelled the margin for Mohammedan by chipping the onrushing MuktiJoddha goalkeeper Uttam Barua in the 62nd minute. Substitute Mitush Chowdhury scored the winner in the added time of the second half.
 In the day's other match, Rahmatganj MFS held Sheikh Russel KC to a 1-1 draw. Captain Shahedul Alam gave Sheikh Russel a 11th-minute lead with a spectacular free-kick from the edge of the box before Ismail Bangoura tapped in from close to level the margin in the 74th minute.
 With their fourth win in 10 matches, Mohammedan stayed in fifth position with 14 points, followed by Sheikh Russel at sixth position with 13 points.
 Rahmatganj MFS, with five draws, remained at eighth position with 11 points while MuktiJoddha Sangsad were in ninth position with seven points.

Ronaldo, Messi lead shortlist

AFP, Paris
 Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi and Neymar headlined an impressive 30-man shortlist unveiled on Monday for the 2017 Ballon d'Or world footballer of the year award.
 Portugal superstar Ronaldo is attempting to match Lionel Messi's record by winning the prize for a fifth time after his starring role in Real Madrid's first La Liga and Champions League double in 59 years.
 Ronaldo has claimed the prestigious honour in three of the past four years, with Argentina standout Messi last collecting the trophy in 2015 following Barcelona's treble-winning campaign.
 Ronaldo remains the strong favourite despite still searching for his first league goal in the 2017/18 season after serving a five-match domestic ban following his dismissal in the Spanish Super Cup.
 Messi has profited from his rival's absence to spearhead Barcelona's stunning start to the campaign, scoring 11 goals in the first seven matches while adding two more in Europe.
 But both players remain in danger of missing the 2018 World Cup.

ANNOUNCEMENT
 Mental Health and Care Practices department of Action Against Hunger is seeking for voluntary participation of Mental Health and relevant humanitarian professionals in technical review and validation process of nine Bengali translated IASC & WHO MHPSS guidelines and documents. Interested professionals are requested to contact the following email address and mobile number.
Email: mhpcop@bd.missions-act.org
+8801717075097