

QTV & MASRANGA
 Bangladesh v South Africa
 Second ODI
 Live from 2:00pm
STAR SPORTS 2
 Hero Asia Cup Hockey
 Super 4s

Super 4s
 Malaysia v Pakistan
 Live from 3:00pm

India v Korea
 Live from 5:30pm
 5th-8th Place-Decider

Japan v Oman
 Live from 8:00pm
 Venue: Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium

Live from 5:00pm
UEFA Champions League
 Benfica v Man United
 Live from 12:45am (Thursday)
SONY ESPN
 UEFA Champions League
 Juventus v Sporting

Live from 12:45am (Friday)
TEN 1
 UEFA Champions League
 Barcelona v Olympiacos
 Live from 12:45am (Thursday)
TEN 2
 UEFA Champions League

Live from 12:45am (Thursday)
TEN 3
 UEFA Champions League
 Anderlecht v PSG
 Live from 12:45am (Thursday)

ASIA CUP BANGLADESH 2017



Morata boosts Chelsea

REUTERS, London
 Alvaro Morata is primed to lead Chelsea's attack against AS Roma in the Champions League on Wednesday as the Blues seek to quickly erase the embarrassment of their weekend loss to the Premier League's bottom club Crystal Palace. The Spaniard missed the 2-1 defeat after injuring his hamstring against Manchester City before the international break.

But the 28 million-pound (\$77 million) striker underwent full training on Sunday and Chelsea captain Gary Cahill indicated his return is imminent. "He is back out on the pitch and hopefully he keeps progressing okay," said Cahill.

That will be welcome news to Chelsea manager Antonio Conte who substituted Morata's replacement Michy Batshuayi on Saturday after five minutes of his second league start of the season. A nine-point gap separates Chelsea from leaders City but the Blues top their Champions League group, two points ahead of second-placed Roma after winning both opening Group C games.

Camp Nou reopens

AFP, Madrid
 For the first time since playing to an empty stadium in protest at a violent crackdown of an independence referendum in Catalonia, Barcelona's Camp Nou opens its doors when Olympians visit on Wednesday.

On the field, Barca should have little problem sweeping aside an Olympiakos side without a point in the Champions League so far this season to consolidate their position atop Group D. However, how Barcelona's fans will react to a tumultuous few weeks of political tension in Catalonia is less predictable with the support split like the rest of society on wealthy north-eastern region of Spain.

Chelsea will be happy to welcome back Alvaro Morata as the Blues have an injury crisis ahead of their Champions League match against AS Roma tonight.

PHOTO: AFP



'Could have been better' Italy drawn against Sweden in play-off

AFP, Paris

Four-time winners Italy will play Sweden in a playoff for a place in the 2018 World Cup while the Republic of Ireland take Denmark, following the draw on Tuesday.

Northern Ireland will tackle Switzerland and Croatia and Greece will be played between November 9 and November 14. Veteran goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon's Italy, who were seeded for the draw in Zurich, will travel to Sweden for the first leg of their tie as they seek a ticket to Russia. Gabriele Oriali, the Italy team manager who attended the draw in place of coach Gian Piero Ventura, said: "I think it could have been better. But we accept this draw. We are Italy and we shouldn't be afraid of anyone." "Sweden are a very strong team, who qualified in a difficult group. They beat France and eliminated the Netherlands."

"We have optimism and history (on our side). Imagine a World Cup without Italy." The Italians were condemned to the playoffs after finishing runners-up to Spain in their qualifying group, but they have not missed a World Cup finals since 1958.

Sweden coach Janne Andersson said he expected "two tough games".

"But it would have been the same with other countries. I'm happy we know now."

Now we can start work," he told Sky Sports News. Northern Ireland coach Michael O'Neill admitted he faced an uphill task against the Swiss as he bids to steer his country to the finals for the first time since 1986. "The Northern Irish will play at home in the first leg." "Switzerland had a great campaign though their group was one of the easiest. Our job is to make their life as difficult as possible," he said. "Having played Germany twice in the group it will set us up nicely for the match," O'Neill said.

PLAY-OFFS (NOV 9-14)

Northern Ireland	v	Switzerland
Croatia	v	Greece
Denmark	v	Republic of Ireland
Sweden	v	Italy



Winners of skeet shooting events in the National Shooting Championship pose for a photograph with officials at the National Shooting Complex yesterday.

Ardina bags second gold

SPORTS REPORTER

Ardina Ferdous Akhi bagged her second gold medal in the 10th Priyopranong 29th National Shooting Championships when the shooter from Kushmura Rifle Club won the women's 25m sports pistol event at the National Shooting Complex in Gahsham yesterday. It was double delight for Akhi, who had earlier bagged the women's 10m Air pistol gold on Sunday. Akhi was far ahead of silver-medallist Mili Dewan of Dhaka Rifle Club who could score only 531 points, 25 points less than Akhi while Sinitia Nazim Tumpa won the bronze medal with a score of 530 points.

In junior division of the same event, Turing Dewan shot to gold with a score of 534 points while Marjahan Akter and Nilufa Yeasmin won silver and bronze scoring 507 and 504 points respectively. Sharmin Shilpa bagged women's 50m Rifle Prone gold medal after beating Atkia Hasan Disha. Shilpa scored 571 points while Disha scored 570 points. Umme Jakiya Sultana Tumpa won bronze with 564 points. In junior women's 50m rifle prone event, Mayeda Montahina (571), Nupur Akter (561) and Nafisa Tabassum (558) won gold, silver and bronze respectively. SAM Sabir won gold in skeet event while Iqbal Islam and Altamas Kabir won silver and bronze respectively.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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:

Khawaja takes swipe at Aussie selection policy
 Usman Khawaja has taken a swipe at Australian selectors after being dropped for Tests this year in India and Bangladesh, saying chopping and changing created instability in the team.

Messi's influence on Argentina's qualification
 Argentina coach Jorge Sampaoli had strived to create the right conditions and atmosphere for Lionel Messi to thrive. Federer eyes ATP Finals title, top ranking after Shanghai triumph
 Roger Federer is eyeing a seventh ATP Finals crown and has ruled out pinning the world number one ranking from Rafa Nadal if he maintains the form that won him his second Shanghai Masters trophy.

Hosts try to stay positive

SPORTS REPORTER

After much soul searching following dismal performances in the first three matches of the Hero Asia Cup, the Bangladesh national hockey team are now focused on proving that they are not as bad as they have performed so far.

While defeats against India and Pakistan were apparently inevitable, a fighting performance was nonetheless expected from the charges of Mahbub Harun. But they failed to meet that expectation in front of home crowd and familiar conditions. However, the hosts did produce a bit of an improved performance against Japan in their last group match and all held the opposition to a draw before loss of concentration in last two minutes saw them concede two goals and suffer third defeat in a row.

Despite having three months of training and playing six practice matches against a Chinese province side, Bangladesh are searching for their

natural performance as the forwards could not hold the ball in the attacking third. They also made a lot of mis-passes in the midfield and made fumbles in defence. The players showed tendency of playing the ball backwards rather than taking the ball forward.

To shrug off poor performances, team management and the players held a lot of discussions among themselves ahead of another big match against China tomorrow. The positives of Bangladesh's historic win over China in the inaugural Hockey World League (Round-2) in Delhi in 2013 were presented before the players in video analysis sessions to boost some confidence.

"After losing three matches, the players had a lot of talk among themselves. We are determined to do something better in the next two matches. A three-day rest before the China match is giving us an added advantage as we are rectifying the mistakes we made against Japan and watching the videos of our win against China in 2013," left-back Farhad Ahmed Shitul said at the

team hotel after returning from a practice session yesterday.

"The senior players have said that the opportunity has not been lost yet because our main target is the position-deciding matches. Chances are there to grab sixth or even fifth position and we want to ensure the sixth position by beating China," said Shitul, who also believes Bangladesh's defence would be strengthened after the inclusion of under-21 team's centre-back Sabuj.

Shitul believes they could have drawn the Japan match had they held the ball a bit better in the dying moments.

"At 1-1, we thought it was possible to win the game and we went for attacks but could not come down timely in the dying moments," said Shitul, who made his international debut during the 2013 Asia Cup. Shitul however warned his teammates that if they continue to play the way they have done so far and make the same mistakes against China, then there is no possibility of repeating win from four years ago.

Super 4s from today

SPORTS REPORTER

After a one-day rest, the battle of Super 4s of Hero Asia Cup gets underway today at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium, with Malaysia taking on Pakistan in the day's first match before India square off against holders South Korea.

The four Super 4s teams will play in round-robin format over the next three days and the top two finishers will play the final while the bottom two teams will play the third-position deciding match.

India are considered the favourites to life the Asia Cup title as the two-time champions are through to the last four with three convincing wins over Japan, Bangladesh and Pakistan. They are now up against four-

time champions South Korea, who are however going through a bad patch and had to wait for their Super 4s berth till the last match against China.

South Korea, who finished behind Malaysia in Pool B, will definitely try to put on a spirited performance against India in a bid to win their third consecutive title and the tie is expected to be a mouth-watering affair.

Meanwhile, Malaysia, the second-ranked side, are considered better than three-time champions Pakistan considering the former's all-win record in group-stages and their recent performances in the Hockey World League semifinals. In the day's third match, Japan and Oman will take part in a 5th-8th position deciding match.

Leicester sack Shakespeare

AFP, London

Leicester City sacked manager Craig Shakespeare on Tuesday after just four months in charge, British media reported.

Shakespeare, 53, replaced Claudio Ranieri on a caretaker basis in February and was handed a three-year contract in June. But the 2015-16 champions have struggled this season and are third from bottom of the table with a single league win.

Monday night's 1-1 home draw with West Brom saw Leicester's winless Premier League run reach six matches.

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