

What to WATCH

GTV & MAASRANGA
Bangladesh Premier League
Ctg Vikings v Rajshahi Kings
Live from 1:00pm
Comilla Victorians v Dhaka Dynamites
Live from 6:00pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
English Premier League
Stoke City v Liverpool
Live from 2:00am (Thursday)
STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
English Premier League

Chelsea v Swansea
Live from 1:45am (Thursday)
TEN 1
Ligue 1
PSG v Troyes
Live from 2:00am (Thursday)

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh Premier League
Ctg Vikings v Rajshahi Kings
Time: 1:00pm

Comilla Victorians v Dhaka Dynamites
Time: 6:00pm
Venue: ZACS, Chittagong

YASHIN DECORATES WORLD CUP POSTER
 FIFA presented the official poster for next year's World Cup finals in Moscow on Tuesday, unveiling a vintage design of Soviet goalkeeping great Lev Yashin in flight. Inspired by the constructivist art movement, the poster shows Yashin, wearing a knee brace and his signature cap, leaping across to get a hand on an oversized ball featuring Russia's landmass seen from space. Orange rays emanate from the ball and the circle of green in the middle of the poster represents the pitches of the 12 tournament venues, FIFA said. The poster's presentation comes three days before the World Cup draw takes place to determine the match ups for the group stage.

—REUTERS





Abul Kashem Mamun is all smiles after moving into the quarterfinals of men's individual compound event in the 20th Asian Archery Championships at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Mamun hogs the limelight

SPORTS REPORTER



Abul Kashem Mamun emerged from nowhere to move into the quarterfinals of men's individual compound event of the 20th Asian Archery Championships after Roman Sana saw his own hopes get shattered in recurve event at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

All the focus was on Sana due to his performance in the last edition, but the lad from Khulna was eliminated from the pre-quarterfinal stage after a nail-biting 4-6 defeat to Liyen Yu of Chinese Taipei.

The focus shifted to Mamun, who beat 7th-ranked Akbarali Karabayev of Kazakhstan in the pre-quarterfinal after producing his best performance in the previous round against 10th-ranked Weng I-Chen of Chinese Taipei.

Mamun, who was away from archery between 2011 and 2016 to concentrate on his studies, was not supposed to participate in the competition at all, but a delay in announcement of degree exams gave him the chance, and he grabbed the opportunity with both hands.

The 25-year-old was on target to score 149 out of 150 -- only one out of 15 shots hit nine -- and outshone Weng

I-Chen, who could manage 145.

Mamun then set his pre-quarterfinal clash against Akbarali, who led the way till 12 shots with two points more (118) than Mamun. But the lad from Narail held his nerve to score 30 out of 30 in the last three shots while Akbarali could only manage 27 to lose the match 145-146.

The feat offered Mamun a place in the last-eight, a stage he had previously reached in the Asia Cup in Thailand in February this year.

"I was really determined to beat the Chinese Taipei player today after losing my quarterfinal match against another Chinese Taipei player in the Asia Cup. I recorded my all-time best score in this match," Mamun said, adding that he had scored 149 only once in a practice session before while his average score in competitive matches is 140.

After beating Weng I-Chen, Mamun salvaged a losing position to beat Akbarali by a single point. "When the fifth set comprising three arrows started, I was trailing by three points [actually two points] and thought I would have no chance if the opponent scored 28 or 29. At the same time, I heard that [Roman Sana] Sujun won the match and I thought it was now my turn to confirm the quarterfinals,"

Mamun said. "The coach told me to score 30. I went to the mark without any pressure and did just that."

Mamun will play his quarterfinal match against 2nd-ranked Abhishek Varma of India today.

After confirming the quarterfinal berth, Mamun was happy but not overwhelmed because compound is not given as much attention as recurve, which is an Olympic event.

"I was not involved with archery for four years because of my studies, which I think is the most important thing for an athlete because I won't get any job even if I become an A+ archer. I would not have participated in this tournament if my degree exams were declared on Nov 24," said Mamun, who resumed playing one month before the ISSF Islamic Solidarity Archery Championships in January this year where he had won gold medals in men's compound and compound mixed events.

Meanwhile, the first two gold medals of the championships went to South Korea, who won gold in recurve mixed and compound mixed events beating Japan and India while Vietnam and Kazakhstan won bronze medals in those events.

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:

Curfew as Strauss says Eng players not 'thugs'

England cricket chief Andrew Strauss says his players are not "thugs" and there is no drinking culture in the team, as he slapped a midnight curfew on the Ashes tour, reports said.



Russia builds inside-out arena for World Cup

How does it feel to be on the outside looking in? Football fans visiting Yekaterinburg in the Russian Urals for the 2018 World Cup will find out when they get seated in one of two temporary stands that fill empty plots of land next to the arena -- originally too small to fit FIFA rules.



Sevilla coach Berizzo to undergo cancer surgery

Sevilla coach Eduardo Berizzo will have surgery after being diagnosed with prostate cancer last week. The Argentine's assistant Ernesto Marcucci will take over his duties in his absence.



Buffon open to Azurri return

AFP, Milan



Italy's veteran goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon has eased some of his World Cup heartache by winning the Serie A Best Player of the Year award.

"I'm happy and proud. I never thought I'd get this kind of trophy, and I'll hold on tight to it because I never won best youngster!" said the 39-year-old Juventus goalkeeper at Monday night's ceremony.

"The failure to participate in the World is the biggest disappointment in my career together with some (lost) Champions League finals."

Napoli's Maurizio Sarri was named the best coach in the Italian football awards, voted for by the players, for competing for the title with a smaller budget than Juventus.

Buffon quit international football last month as four-time champions Italy sensationally missed out on their first World Cup finals in 60 years after a playoff defeat to Sweden.

"Italy-Sweden was the biggest disappointment of my life," he told Sky Sports Italia.

"But we need to move on, the season must end in the best way and with Juventus there are so many goals to be achieved."

Buffon won a tenth Serie A title with Juventus and helped the Turin-based side reach the Champions League final for the second time in three years.

He also won a third Italian Cup with the Juve.

Despite the World Cup setback, he has left the door open on a future return for the national side.

"I've taken a period of rest, I'm getting on, I've always been a soldier signed up for the national side and Juventus, so I can't desert," he said.

"Even at the age of 60, if there was a dearth of goalkeepers I'd be available because that's how I conceive the idea of a nation."

It is the sixth straight year that a Juventus player has won the award with Buffon following in the footsteps of Andrea Pirlo (2012- 014), Carlos Tevez (2015) and Leonardo Bonucci (2016).

Buffon has said he will retire at the end of this season, unless Juventus win the Champions League title.

The Serie A champions play league leaders Napoli on Friday before a crunch Champions League game next week at Olympiakos when they need a win to guarantee passage into the next round.

Fair playing foul



Bamboo structures set up for trade fair pavilions at the sadar upazila sports field at Shahi Eidgah area of Sylhet.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

In March this year the Sylhet Sadar upazila sports field in the Shahi Eidgah area was declared as Sheikh Russel Mini Stadium by the National Sports Council (NSC), ushering development work on the field.

But over a little more than six months into the order, the field has been allotted to Sylhet Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SMCCI) for holding the Sylhet International Trader Fair (SITF) 2017, scheduled to start on December 12.

SMCCI has already started building pavilions and developing other facilities on the field with the fair in sight, bringing an end to sporting pursuits of the children of the locality as there are hardly any alternative grounds nearby.

This is a recurring theme for the ground, which is used more often for trade fairs and animal huts rather than serving as a sporting ground.

During a visit to the field on

Sunday afternoon, this correspondent found a group of kids playing cricket in one portion, with left-over concrete from last year's fair piled up in other parts alongside garbage of Eid-ul-Azha's animal hut.

A number of structures of the mini stadium are around, but ground development has not started due to the field being allotted for the fair.

According to section 5 of act 36 of year 2000, lease or rent for any other purpose is completely prohibited in a bid to protecting open fields, gardens and natural water reservoirs.

Ashfaq Ahmed, chairman of Sylhet Sadar upazila, said that the ground has not been developed for sports purposes but work will start after the fair.

"After recommendations from the Trade Ministry and Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhit, the ground was allotted for the SITF for the last time this year. After completion of the mini-stadium, it will follow the rules of the NSC," he said.

The locals want this field to be open for only sporting purposes but authorities have not considered the demands despite protests and meetings.

The field is also surrounded by two hospitals and an educational institute, which face problems due to the fair's crowd and noise, locals said.

On Friday evening, the locals staged a protest demanding that the field not be used for business purposes.

Rahat Anwar, deputy commissioner of Sylhet, said that the authorities have not yet filed any applications seeking permission for the fair, which is mandatory, and that the matter is under consideration.

However Hasin Ahmed, president of SMCCI, claimed that the field has been used for the fair for a couple of years and that they were organising it again after getting proper permissions from all concerned authorities.

BANGLADESH PREMIER LEAGUE

Two Indian bookies detained

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The spectre of gambling has been a tenacious presence during the Bangladesh Premier League this season and it has made an appearance in the Chittagong leg with two Indian bookmakers being detained at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium during the Rangpur Riders-Sylhet Sixers match yesterday.

Senior security coordinator at the stadium, Abdur Rashid Lokman told The Daily Star that two bookies were caught by Elite Force personnel in the stands during the match and have been handed over to the police.

On November 25 too, two Indian bookies were caught in similar fashion and handed over to the police. The Indian High Commission then took custody of the individuals.

The gambling goes on in the stands, where the bookmakers reportedly have dollar transactions with interested spectators through their smartphones.

Earlier in the tournament, on November 17 in the Dhaka leg, 77 people involved in betting were ejected from the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium. 12 were foreigners, 10 of whom were Indian.



Juventus legend Gianluigi Buffon collected the Serie A Best Player of the Year award at the Gran Gala del Calcio Awards on Monday night, confirming that he would retire at the end of the season unless the Old Lady won the Champions League.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

No Jan exit for Ozil, Sanchez

AFP, London

Arsene Wenger has ruled out January departures for Arsenal pair Alexis Sanchez and Mesut Ozil unless "something unbelievable" happens even as the clock ticks down on their contracts.

The players are out of contract at the end of the season and have so far refused to sign new deals.

Ozil has been linked with a move to Barcelona while Sanchez almost joined Manchester City on the final day of the transfer window, only for Arsenal to pull the plug when they failed to land Monaco's Thomas Lemar.

Wenger says he has no concerns over the commitment of the pair.

"Yes, I rule it out," Wenger said at his pre-match press conference when asked about potential departures.



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