

# What to WATCH

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

**STAR SPORTS 1**  
 India v Sri Lanka  
 3rd Test, Day-4  
 Live from 10:00am  
**SONY SIX**  
 Australia v England

**2nd Test, Day-4**  
 Live from 9:00am  
**UEFA Champions League**  
 Barcelona v Sporting  
 Live from 1:45am (Wednesday)

**SONY ESPN**  
**UEFA Champions League**  
 Olympiacos v Juventus  
 Live from 1:45am (Wednesday)  
**TEN 1**  
**UEFA Champions League**

**Bayern Munich v PSG**  
 Live from 1:45am (Wednesday)  
**TEN 2**  
**UEFA Champions League**  
 Chelsea v Atletico Madrid  
 Live from 1:45am (Wednesday)

**TEN 3**  
**UEFA Champions League**  
 Man United v CSKA Moscow  
 Live from 1:45am (Wednesday)

## DAY'S EVENT

**Bangladesh Premier League**  
 Comilla Victorians v Khulna Titans  
 Time: 1:00pm

Rajshahi Kings v Ctg Vikings  
 Time: 6:00pm  
 Venue: SBNS, Dhaka

**Bangladesh Premier League**  
 Ctg Abahani v Sk Russel  
 Time: 4:30pm

Abahani v Team BJMC  
 Time: 6:45pm  
 Venue: BNS, Dhaka



Bayern Munich players do warm-up exercises during a training session in Munich yesterday on the eve of their Champions League encounter against PSG. Bayern will be looking to avenge their 3-0 first leg defeat.

PHOTO: AFP

# Bangabandhu Gold Cup not before March

SPORTS REPORTER



The national footballers will have to wait a few more months for international matches as the Bangabandhu Gold Cup is unlikely to take place this month as per previous announcement of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF).

The national team has not played a single international match in the last 14 months since their Asian Cup play-off defeat against Bhutan in October, 2016, and the wait seems likely to be extended a bit longer. The team was also supposed to take part in the SAFF Championship in January next year, but the regional football extravaganza has been deferred to September next year.

"It is certain that the Bangabandhu Gold Cup is not taking place this month because the Bangladesh Premier League will end in the middle of January. So we are planning to host the tournament in March-April. The executive committee meeting will discuss this issue on

Saturday," BFF's general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag told reporters at the BFF House yesterday.

An annual event of the BFF, the prestigious invitational tournament was originally scheduled for March last year before being pushed to April due to unavoidable circumstances. Then the game's local governing body deferred it for eight more months owing to unavailability of participating teams.

On Sunday, BFF president Kazi Salahuddin sat with the National Teams Committee chairman Kazi Nabil Ahmed, head coach Andrew Ord and technical director Paul Smalley to discuss about the national team's engagements, with the head coach having already prepared a preliminary list featuring 30 to 35 players for a training camp.

However, some of the national team players will get an opportunity to play international club matches as Abahani and Saif Sporting Club are scheduled to take part in the AFC Cup starting from January. The draw for the AFC Cup will be held on Wednesday.

# 10TH ASIAN AIRGUN CHAMPIONSHIPS Hope placed on youths

SPORTS REPORTER

A 10-member Bangladesh shooting team will leave for Japan today to take part in the 10th Asian Airgun Championships, to be held in Wako City from December 6 to 12, with hopes focused on the junior and youth events.

The Airgun championships feature three sections -- senior, junior and youth, with the latter category played as the qualification event for the 3rd Youth Olympic Games to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Risalatul Islam, Rabiul Islam, Arnab Sharar, Syeda Atkia Hasan Disha and Synthia Naznin Tumpa will take part in air rifle events in three different categories while SA Games gold medalist Shakil Ahmed, Anwar Hossain and Ardina Ferdous Akhi will be participating in the pistol events in the senior category.

Commonwealth Games silver medalist Abdullah Hel Baki, Rabbi Hasan Munna and Armin Asha were also supposed to be part of the Bangladesh contingent but did not get the approval from their team, Bangladesh Navy.

Bangladesh grabbed two silver medals in the youth team events in the 9th Asian Airgun Championship held in Tehran, Iran

in December 2016, but this time Bangladeshi shooters will be taking part only in individual events as they failed to form teams following the unavailability of some shooters.

Danish coach Klavs Christensen is optimistic about Rabiul's chances in the junior category while Arnab is also expected to do well in the same category to earn a place for the Youth Olympic Games.

"He [Rabiul] is a junior shooter, who is doing very well in the 10m air rifle event and he has a good chance to qualify for the shoot-off round. I believe he can do better in the championships," said Christensen, who has been working with the shooters for nearly one year.

"Arnab is also doing fine in the youth category. He will have an opportunity to qualify for the Youth Olympic Games if he produces good results in the youth category as the best three shooters are likely to qualify for the Youth Olympics," Christensen added.

The Danish coach is also optimistic about Syeda Atkia Hasan Disha in the junior event, who along with Mahfuza Jannat Jui and Sharmin Akter bagged the youth women's silver medal in the 10m air rifle team event in Iran.

# Ancelotti turns down Italy

AFP, Milan

Italian Carlo Ancelotti has revealed that he turned down the role of Italy coach preferring to stay in club management.

Ancelotti, 58, was the favourite to take over after Giampiero Ventura was fired following Italy's shock failure to reach the World Cup final for the first time in 60 years.

"Yes the federation contacted me, I spoke to them. I told them what I am telling you now, that I am honoured by so many people wanting me to be the coach of the national side," Ancelotti told La Domenica Sportiva television show.

"However, that would be like a whole other job. Being a national coach is different to being a club coach, as I still enjoy training and working every day."

# Messi's statue vandalised again

Argentina star's older brother held with illegal firearms

AGENCIES, Barcelona



A bronze statue of Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi has been vandalised for the second time this year.

Perpetrators cut off the legs of the statue, located on the banks of the La Plata River, in the Buenos Aires port district of Puerto Madero on Sunday morning -- leaving just the tops of his ankles.

Police are searching for those responsible for the latest incident, who left the severed upper body lying on the floor.

In January, the statue was cut in half from the waist up before being repaired and re-erected by the city government days later.

The sculpture forms part of a so-called 'glory walkway' alongside other Argentine stars such as Diego Maradona and F1 world champion Juan Manuel Fangio.

One of the other statues in the area, that of tennis player Gabriela Sabatini, has previously been stolen.



Meanwhile earlier in the week, Messi's older brother was warned that he could be jailed for eight and a half years if convicted of illegal possession of a firearm.

The footballer's wayward sibling was arrested in hospital on Friday after police said they had discovered a gun

in a blood-covered boat Matias is claiming he abandoned following an accident.

It emerged on Saturday that an investigating judge had decided the 35-year-old should be remanded in prison once he is well enough to leave hospital.

# A tennis trailblazer

ATIQUÉ ANAM

Akhter Hossain fell in love with tennis at a very early age, playing for fun at the Jamalpur Officers' Club. He was playing both cricket and tennis simultaneously, and could easily have forged a career in cricket like his friend, neighbour and playing partner, former Bangladesh national cricketer Rokibul Hasan did.

But his proficiency in tennis was a bit too high to escape the attention of local authorities. As a result, he was soon invited to represent the club at the



Akhter Hossain could have been a professional cricketer, but he chose to be something else.

PHOTO: FACEBOOK

national Under-14 level. Despite being quite a novice at that stage, Akhter did exceptionally well and reached the final of the tournament where he eventually lost to future national champion Amol Roy.

He rose through the ranks fast, and got admitted into the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishthan (BKSP). While a student there, he represented the nation in the Davis Cup and other tournaments as his dream was beginning to take shape.

But the youngster soon realised that, with the state of the game in the country, it would be far fetched for him to dream of forging a decent living by playing tennis, let alone become a tour player. As luck would have it, it was during that time in 2005 that he, along with two other students, got an offer for a training course from the Potter's Wheel Tennis Academy in Beijing.

That one offer seemingly changed the course of his life. The now 31-year-old, a coach of the under-14 professionals at the academy, works under the direct guidance of Carlos Rodriguez, the career-long coach of Belgium's seven-time Grand Slam winner Justine Henin and China's two-time Grand Slam winner and former World No. 2 Li-Na, among others. Akhter had the opportunity to work with Henin herself for a while at the academy in 2010. After more than a decade helping youngsters to become tour professionals and working with some of the big names in the game, Akhter feels he has no regrets in giving up playing for this job.

"I feel good about it, honing skills of players who are ranked within the top 50 in the junior ITF circuit and will soon be playing Grand Slams," he said yesterday during a conversation with The Daily Star, while in Bangladesh on vacation for a knee ligament surgery.

"I had dreams of becoming a player during my early years. But this job has certainly made up for the lack of opportunities I got as a player to make it big as I'm now producing players myself. I work with a famous coach [Rodriguez] and I learn from him everyday, which I transmit to my players," he said.

Initially hired as a hitting partner after his three-month training period, Akhter had to rise through the ranks to come this far in his career. He puts it to the 'discipline learnt at the BKSP' for getting the job in the first place and being successful in this career. Now the 31-year-old prepares tour plans for youngsters and takes them to some of the top tennis events at junior level, including the Orange Bowl tournament in Miami which has seen the emergence of some of the all-time great tennis players over the years.

The professional instructor is happy not just about his own work, but the fact that there are at least 15 to 20 tennis coaches from Bangladesh working in different academies all over China gives him immense satisfaction. While things are yet not too promising for youngsters taking up the game in Bangladesh, people like Akhter are doing their best to make a name in the game beyond boundaries.

# WALTON

আমাদের পণ্য



ক্ষণস্থায়ী চাকচিক্য দেখে নিঃশ্বাসের গ্যাস ডোর ফ্রিজ কিনছেন কি?

IEC Standard 60335-2-24 অনুযায়ী ফ্রিজের গ্যাস ডোর 700°C Temperature এ Tempering এবং Pendulum Hammer & Fragmentation Assessment Test এর মাধ্যমে ওয়ালটন তৈরি করছে Real Tempered Glass Door Fridge যা সাধারণ গ্যাস ডোর ফ্রিজের তুলনায়

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