

# What to WATCH

**GTV & MAASRANGA**  
**Bangladesh Premier League**  
 Dhaka Dynamites v Rangpur Riders  
 Live from 1:00pm  
 Comilla Victorians v Sylhet Sixers  
 Live from 6:00pm

**STAR SPORTS 1**  
 India v Sri Lanka  
 3rd Test, Day-5  
 Live from 10:00am  
**SONY SIX**  
 Australia v England

2nd Test, Day-5  
 Live from 9:00am  
**SONY ESPN**  
 UEFA Champions League  
 Shakhtar v Man City  
 Live from 1:45am (Thursday)

**TEN 1**  
 UEFA Champions League  
 Liverpool v Spartak Moscow  
 Live from 1:45am (Thursday)  
**TEN 2**  
 UEFA Champions League

Real Madrid v Dortmund  
 Live from 1:45am (Thursday)  
**TEN 3**  
 UEFA Champions League  
 Feyenoord v Napoli  
 Live from 1:45am (Thursday)

## DAY'S EVENT

**Bangladesh Premier League**  
 Dhaka Dynamites v Rangpur Riders  
 Time: 1:00pm

Comilla Victorians v Sylhet Sixers  
 Time: 6:00pm  
 Venue: SBNS, Dhaka

**Bangladesh Premier League**  
 Sk Jamal v Rahmatganj  
 Time: 4:30pm

Mohammedan v Farashganj  
 Time: 6:45pm  
 Venue: BNS, Dhaka



**Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo attends a training session at the Valdebebas Sport City in Madrid yesterday on the eve of their Champions League encounter against Borussia Dortmund.**

PHOTO: REUTERS

# Goals galore at BNS

## Abahani win big; Ctg Abahani held

SPORTS REPORTER

**League leaders** Chittagong Abahani stuttered to a 2-2 draw against Sheikh Russel KC in their Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

However, despite their third draw in 15 matches, the port city outfit hold a three-point lead over Sheikh Jamal DC with 36 points. The Dhanmondi giants, though, can catch up with the leaders if they beat Rahmatganj MFS today.

Chittagong Abahani took to the field with three straight victories including one against Mohammedan SC, but they were not up to the mark against a side they had beaten 3-1 in their first meeting of the league. The leaders conceded the lead in the sixth minute after a missed-pass from Masuk Mia

Jonny found Moneam Khan Raju, whose powerful shot from outside the box beat goalkeeper Ashraful Islam Rana. The Chittagong Abahani goalkeeper, however, denied Tariqul Islam Julfikar from doubling the lead three minutes later.

Chittagong Abahani coach Saiful Bari Titu sent on Mohammad Abdullah in place of Mamunul Islam and the move made an impact as the promising midfielder initiated both goals for his side as Chittagong Abahani looked to bag all three points.

Abdullah's delivery from a free-kick was turned in with a side-volley by Lionel Saint Preux three minutes from the break while

his low cross from was guided home with a diving header by Zahid Hossain in the 83rd minute.

However, two minutes from time, Sheikh Russel's Haitian forward Francois Jacques nodded in a back-header from Uttam Kumar Banik to score the equaliser as the spoils were shared, taking Sheikh Russel's tally to 20 points from 15 matches.

Meanwhile, defending champions Abahani reduced the gap with the leaders to three points after a 4-1 win against Team BJMC in the day's second match. The win took the five-time champions to 33 points while BJMC remained in seventh position with 16 points.

It was the first match for Abahani since the departure of Croatian coach Drago Mamic, but the Sky Blues seemed to have no shortage of inspiration as they took only 13 minutes to break

the deadlock.

Nasiruddin Chowdhury put Abahani ahead heading in a Wali Faisal cross before Nigerian striker Sunday Chizoba doubled the lead after playing a one-two with strike-partner Nabib Newaj Jibon in the 32nd minute.

Kingsley Oshiohka's left-footed strike, which took a deflection off an Abahani defender, helped reduce the arrears four minutes into the second half, but Emon Babu restored the two-goal margin in the 70th minute from a corner kick before substitute Emeka Darlington wrapped up the victory with a header in the stoppage time of the second half.

<b>SHEIKH RUSSEL</b> (RAJU 6, FRANCOIS 88)	<b>2 - 2</b>	<b>CTG ABAHANI</b> (PREUX 42, ZAHID 83)
<b>ABAHANI</b> (NASIR 13, SUNDAY 32, EMON 70, EMEKA 90+2)	<b>4 - 1</b>	<b>TEAM BJMC</b> (OSHIOKHA 49)

# FIFA threatens BFF over Emeka issue

SPORTS REPORTER

Warning disciplinary actions, football's world governing body FIFA has instructed the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) to immediately deduct three points from Mohammedan SC's current Bangladesh Premier league campaign owing to the club's failure to clear unpaid wages of their former coach Emeka Ezeugo.

The FIFA disciplinary committee had on October 30 instructed the game's local governing body to deduct three points from Mohammedan's tally, but the BFF has not yet taken any action in this regard. On a request from Mohammedan, the BFF wrote to FIFA on November 18, seeking 30 days to clear the unpaid wages and also inquiring whether it is possible to reconsider the deduction of points. However, FIFA has declined the request.

When contacted, BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag admitted receiving such instruction: "We have received a letter from FIFA at the end of last month which instructed us to reduce three points of Mohammedan immediately while refusing extension of the timeframe for clearing the payment."

Shohag also said that the letter cautioned them of face disciplinary actions, subject to delay of the implementation of the instructions.

Emeka had guided Mohammedan to a third-place finish in the 2011-12 BPL season, but claimed he was not paid a single penny during a press conference in July, 2012. Later the Nigerian filed a complaint to FIFA's disciplinary committee, which ordered the club to clear his wages worth \$20,000 in 2015.

# Real remain a threat

AFP, Madrid



Real Madrid's slump in form has alarms ringing in the Spanish capital, but pretenders to the champions' European crown should beware: Real are often a different animal in the spring.

A familiar foe in recent seasons, Borussia Dortmund, visit the Santiago Bernabeu for the fifth time in five years on Wednesday.

However, for once there is precious little on the line with the Germans already eliminated from the Champions League and Real certain to finish second in Group H behind Tottenham Hotspur.

Two years ago, Madrid were in such mid-season crisis that Rafael Benitez was sacked in January. Zinedine Zidane took over and five months later won the Champions League.

Last season, Zidane's men finished second in their group, but still qualified behind Dortmund and went on to retain their European title.

This winter has brought another crisis. A 0-0 draw at Athletic Bilbao on Saturday left Real eight points adrift of Barcelona at the top of La Liga, having failed to win six of 14 league games so far this season.

An unusual lack of firepower has hobbled the Spanish giants with Cristiano Ronaldo and Karim Benzema scoring a

meagre four La Liga goals combined and Gareth Bale sidelined for most of the season by a series of injuries.

The Champions League has been a different story, though, as Ronaldo once again leads all scorers with eight in five games.

Throughout his nine seasons with Real, Benzema has also tended to save his best for the European stage and he became the fifth-top scorer in the competition's history with a double in a 6-0 rout of APOEL Nicosia two weeks ago.

Poor domestic form has historically only made Madrid stronger come the business end of the Champions League.

Last season's La Liga and Champions League double was a first for 59 years with Los Blancos having won the European Cup, or Champions League, eight times in that span.

There is a feeling that this Madrid squad is not as strong as last season. Ronaldo even admitted, following a first group stage defeat for five years, at Spurs last month that the departures of Alvaro Morata, James Rodriguez and Pepe over the summer had left the current squad lacking "experience."

However, Zidane insists the level of performance is the same and all that is missing is a killer touch in front of goal.

"Last season we would score goals in the last minute and at the moment that isn't happening," said Zidane on Saturday.



**World No. 1 and 16-time Grand Slam winner Rafael Nadal was chosen by Spanish newspaper AS as the 'Best Spanish Sportsman of All Time', beating out competition from golfer Severiano Ballesteros, cyclist Miguel Indurain and basketball player Pau Gasol at the AS Awards on Monday night.**

PHOTO: COLLECTED

# Chess title to be decided thru' playoff

SPORTS REPORTER



The title of Omicon 43rd National A Chess Championship will be decided today after holder GM Enamul Hossain Razib and last edition's runner-up GM Abdullah Al Rakib were tied atop the points table at the end of the 13th and final round of matches held at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room yesterday.

The two grandmasters will vie for the title-deciding playoff today as they both finished with 11 points after Razib beat FM Syed Mahfuzur Rahman and Rakib beat FM Mohammad Fahad Rahman in the final round.

GM Ziaur Rahman finished third with 8.5 points while FM Khandokar Aminul Islam and Fahad became fourth and fifth respectively with eight and 7.5 points respectively.

## Admission Spring 2018

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**Last Date for Application**  
03 January 2018

**Admission Test**  
05 January 2018

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## 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:

**PSG, Bayern fans clash**  
 German police broke up a mass brawl after around 60 supporters of Bayern Munich and rivals Paris Saint-Germain clashed at Munich's main railway station ahead of Tuesday's Champions League match.

**Scoop or False?**  
 Cristiano Ronaldo will tie Lionel Messi after being presented with his fifth Ballon d'Or at the Eiffel Tower, Spanish Daily Mundo Deportivo reported yesterday.

**Valverde says Barca won't roll over for Sporting**  
 Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde warned Sporting Lisbon his team will be playing to win in the Champions League despite having qualified for the last-16, while the Portuguese side are still hoping to progress at the expense of Juventus.

**De Villiers, Steyn set for Test return**  
 AB de Villiers and Dale Steyn will both have a dress rehearsal for an expected return to Test cricket when they play for a South African Invitation XI against Zimbabwe later this month.

## Cricket Mania

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