

What to WATCH

GTV & MASRAANGA
Bangladesh Premier League
Final
Dhaka Dynamites v Rangpur Riders
Live from 6:00pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
English Premier League
Huddersfield v Chelsea

Live from 2:00am (Wednesday)
New Zealand v West Indies
2nd Test, Day-5
Live from 4:00am (Wednesday)
STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
Bundesliga
Wolfsburg v Leipzig
Live from 11:30pm

Mainz v Dortmund
Live from 1:30am (Wednesday)

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh Premier League
Final
Dhaka Dynamites v Rangpur Riders
Time: 6:00pm
Venue: SBNS, Dhaka

MARADONA TO PLAY AGAINST GANGULY

Argentine football legend Diego Maradona is currently on a three-day visit to Kolkata, where he will play a charity match against former India Captain Sourav Ganguly today. The former Napoli star and his partner Rocio Olivio landed at around 7:00pm via Dubai. On his arrival, a Spanish song was played as the former Napoli star waved at the crowd. A 12-foot statue of the 57-year-old holding the World Cup was unveiled at a park named — 'Maradona Park'. "It is such an honour for me to be able to make this trip. Kolkata is a very special place and I have good memories from my trip there many years ago, the fans were fantastic," Maradona said. The much-hyped Dada versus Diego exhibition involving Kolkata cricket icon Ganguly will take place today in Barasat, about 35 kilometres from the city though Maradona is not expected to play the entire match as he had undergone a shoulder surgery a few days ago.



Ronaldo's Real v Neymar's PSG

AFP, Nyon

Cristiano Ronaldo's Real Madrid will continue their bid for a first European Cup treble in 40 years against Neymar's Paris Saint-Germain after the big-spending duo were on Monday drawn together in a mouth-watering Champions League last 16 clash.

No club has won the European title three years running since Bayern Munich in the mid-1970s, underlining how big an achievement it would be if Madrid — 12 times winners overall — won the trophy again in the final in Kiev in May.

They know exactly what it takes to be European champions, and in Ronaldo have the most prolific goalscorer in the competition's history.

Emilio Butragueno, a Real director and former striker, regretted that one of the favourites would be eliminated so soon in the competition.

"For the potential of the two teams, luck has worked out this way and one of the two teams will be out at the last 16 stage, which we think is a bit soon taking into account they are two of the contenders for the

RESULTS OF THE DRAW	
JUVENTUS FOOTBALL CLUB (ITA)	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR FC (ENG)
FC BASEL 1893 (SUI)	MANCHESTER CITY FC (ENG)
FC PORTO (POR)	LIVERPOOL FC (ENG)
SEVILLA FC (ESP)	MANCHESTER UNITED FC (ENG)
REAL MADRID CF (ESP)	PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN (FRA)
FC SHAKHTAR DONETSK (UKR)	AS ROMA (ITA)
CHELSEA FC (ENG)	FC BARCELONA (ESP)
FC BAYERN MÜNCHEN (GER)	BESIKTAS JK (TUR)

title," Butragueno told BeIN Sports Spain. PSG made waves in the transfer market in the close season when they signed Brazilian star Neymar for a world-record 222 million euros (\$261.5 million), followed closely by great French hope Kylian Mbappe, who will cost 180m euros when his loan deal becomes permanent next summer.

"Every summer they have signed great players, they get stronger all the time and they have had a nearly impeccable group stage," acknowledged Butragueno.

"With Neymar and Mbappe they have improved a lot up front, they are a very dangerous team who will

demand the best of us. We need to face both games like finals and for the fans it will be a thrilling tie.

"Mbappe and Neymar are very dangerous. We need to play at our best, but we can't forget this team has won the Champions League twice, we hope to have all the injured players back and the key is who has the luck over two games."

Butragueno added: "Of course it is the big tie of the round. Chelsea-Barca is important too, but I think for the players that will be on show, it is the most attractive of all the ties."

PSG ambassador Maxwell said the Real tie threw up the chance for

the Parisian club to atone for their 6-1 hammering by Barcelona that eliminated them in the last 16 last season.

"It's a good draw, with two good games to play," Maxwell said. "Our fans will like it after we were knocked out by Barcelona last season."

"It will be nice. It's a beautiful challenge for the club. I think we're ready for that."

While Real's La Liga rivals Barcelona were drawn against Chelsea, English Premier League leaders Manchester City play Basel, who have had some fine results against English sides in recent years.

Five-time winners and current Bundesliga table toppers Bayern Munich drew Turkish giants Besiktas, while last year's beaten finalists Juventus take on Tottenham.

With a record five English clubs in the draw, three-time champions Manchester United face Sevilla and Liverpool, five-time winners, will be up against two-time former champions Porto.

Unfancied Ukrainian club Shakhtar Donetsk will play Roma.

First legs will be played on February 13/14 and 20/21, with second legs on March 6/7 and



Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi celebrates his goal against Villarreal during their La Liga clash at the La Ceramica Stadium on Sunday. This was Messi's 525th goal for the club and drew him level with German legend Gerd Muller. PHOTO: AFP

Sk Jamal win 10-goal thriller

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club posted a 6-4 win over a spirited Arambagh KS in a thrilling encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium last night.

The feisty spirit of the game boiled over among the officials as Arambagh KS president AKM Mominul Haque exchanged heated words with referee Sujit Banarjee during the interval protesting Sheikh Jamal's third goal, forcing the start of the second half deferred by ten minutes.

The first half proved to be a keenly contested affair, at the end of which both sides were locked at 3-3, but Sheikh Jamal made it all their own by scoring three more times in the second half against one conceded. Nigerian striker Raphael Odoyin slotted a hat-trick, his second of the league, to reclaim the top-scorer's spot with 11 goals while Gambian midfielder Solomon King scored a brace and Nurul Absar score the other for Sheikh Jamal, who climbed up to second position with 37 points from 16 matches.

Arambagh's impressive run in the second leg came to an end despite the

fact that Rabiul Islam, Shahriar Bappy, Sumon Ali had kept their side in the match in the second half while Alamu Bukola had scored the side's fourth goal. After their ninth defeat in 16 matches, Arambagh remained in eighth position with 15 points.

Meanwhile, leaders Chittagong Abahani returned to winning ways after handing a 1-0 defeat to Rahmatganj MFS in the first match of the day.

Mohammad Abdullah separated

CTG ABAHANI	1 - 0	RAHMATGANJ
(ABDULLAH 72)		
SK JAMAL	6 - 4	ARAMBAGH
(RAPHAEL 7, 40, 45+2, SOLOMON 48, 90, ABSAR 56)		(RABIUL 16, BAPPY 22, SUMAN 4, BUKOLA 90+2)

the sides from a free-kick in the 72nd minute as the port city outfit moved three points clear of nearest rivals Abahani with 39 points from 16 matches.

Coming on the back of a 2-2 draw against Sheikh Russel KC in their previous match, Chittagong Abahani had to toil hard on the muddy pitch against the Old Dhaka outfit whom they had defeated 2-0 in their first meeting of the league.

The league leaders dominated possession, but failed to expose the five-man Rahmatganj defence. Whatever opportunities Chittagong Abahani got were wasted by their forwards.

The first notable attack came in the 18th minute when right-back Sushanta Tripura whipped in a cross for Towhidul Alam Sabuj, who incredibly flicked it wide from in front of goal with the goalkeeper to beat while Zahid Hossain rattled the post from a free-kick in the 34th minute.

Chittagong Abahani were once again denied the lead in the 70th minute when Lionel Saint Preux danced past three defenders to hit the crossbar before midfielder Abdullah broke the deadlock two minutes later. This time the post helped Chittagong Abahani get the lead as Abdullah's free-kick from nearly 35 yards out dipped in to hit the post before embracing the back of the net.

A minute later, Chittagong Abahani's goalkeeper Ashrafur Islam Rana came to his side's rescue, thwarting attempts from Sharham Hawlader and Dawda Ceasay within a single minute. The port city side then almost doubled the lead two minutes before the end when Preux released a perfect cutback for Abdullah, who floated his

Arsenal draw Swedish minnows

AFP, Nyon

Arsenal will face Swedish minnows Ostersund whilst Celtic drew Russians Zenit St Petersburg in the draw for the Europa League last 32 on Monday.

The Gunners will need to get past a Swedish side coached by Englishman Graham Potter, a former journeyman footballer now 42 and who led Ostersund to the Swedish Cup last season.

Potter, the only English manager in European competition, has taken the side from the Swedish fourth division to the top flight in six seasons and will now lead them out at Arsenal's Emirates Stadium in a dream match-up for the Swedes.

Back to the grim realities, Brendan Rodgers' Celtic face the 2008 UEFA Cup champions in the form of Roberto Mancini's ambitious Zenit, third in Russia last term and third in the standings now.

Barca maintain lead

AFP, Madrid

Barcelona restored their lead at the top of La Liga to five points as Luis Suarez and Lionel Messi struck in the final 20 minutes to edge out 10-man Villarreal 2-0 on Sunday.

Daniel Raba's red card on the hour mark for a wild lunge on Sergio Busquets handed Barca the initiative.

And their pressure told when Suarez rounded off a fine team move before Messi blasted home a second to get the Catalans back to winning ways after successive draws

MESSI EQUALS MULLER

Messi's goal against Villarreal had some deeper significance for the Argentine star.

It was his 525th strike in the famous Catalan colours, putting him joint third in the pantheon of goalscorers for a single European club.

The goal drew him level with legendary German striker Gerd Muller, who also managed 525 goals during his 15 years with Bayern Munich.

The 30-year-old is now just nine goals off Josef Bican in second, the Czech-Austrian star who scored 534 times for Slavia Prague between 1937 and 1948.

And he is within striking distance of overhauling the record holder, Fernando Peyroto.

The Portuguese striker found the back of the net 544 times for Sporting Lisbon between 1937 and 1949.

with Valencia and Celta Vigo in La Liga.

Valencia remain Barca's closest challengers five points back, but Atletico Madrid also maintained their title charge with a 1-0 win at Real Betis to stay six points off the top.

Real Madrid are eight points back in fourth and Barca will have the chance to go into El Clasico away at Real in two weeks' time with an 11-point lead over their rivals.

Gerard Pique nearly gave Barca the perfect start at the Ceramic Stadium as his header came back off the crossbar from Messi's corner just four minutes in.

However, Barca dominance of possession was largely stale before the break as Villarreal posed the greater threat on the counter-attack.

Messi orchestrated the visitors' attacking threat after the break as he constantly freed Jordi Alba down Barca's left.

Villarreal had to survive the final half hour a man light when Raba was dismissed for connecting with his studs on Busquets' ankle as the Spanish international cleared.

Another Alba cross was turned onto the post by Suarez on the stretch.

However, the Uruguayan finally broke Villarreal's resistance after exchanging a neat one-two with Alcaccer to round Asenjo and net his seventh goal of the season.

And Messi secured all three points seven minutes from time as he was played in by Busquets to smash past the helpless Asenjo.



Kohli, Anushka tie the knot

AFP, Mumbai

Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli and Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma got married in Italy Monday, they said in a statement, ending weeks of speculation that they were getting hitched.

"Today we have promised each other to be bound in love forever. We are truly blessed to share the news with you," the celebrity couple said, adding that it had been a "beautiful day".

A statement sent to journalists said the wedding had been attended by close family and a few friends as "they wished their wedding to be a very private affair".

The ceremony was performed as per Hindu rituals, it added.

Kohli and Sharma, both 29, posted different photos of themselves smiling

together and dressed in colourful Indian wedding garb on their Twitter feeds late Monday.

The statement added that the couple will host a reception in New Delhi for relatives on December 21, followed by a celebration in Mumbai on December 26.

They will live in Mumbai, the home of India's Hindi film industry, it said.

Rumours of their impending nuptials started swirling recently when Kohli pulled out of India's limited-overs matches against Sri Lanka and Sharma also ducked out of her busy acting schedule in December.

Indian TV channels have billed it as the "wedding of the year".

Kohli and Sharma started dating in 2013 after they met during the filming of a shampoo advert.

Taylor ton rocks Windies

AFP, Hamilton

An emotional Ross Taylor paid tribute to his mentor the late Martin Crowe following a superb century which put New Zealand in sight of a series sweep against the West Indies in Hamilton on Monday.

Taylor equalled the New Zealand record of 17 Test centuries, held by Crowe and Kane Williamson, and was unbeaten on 107 when New Zealand declared their second innings at 291 for eight in the second Test.

The West Indies, set a daunting 444-run target, were two for 30 after eight overs at stumps and staring at a second loss after their innings defeat in the first Test.

A teary-eyed Taylor attributed his success to Crowe, the former New Zealand captain who died last year from lymphoma at the age of 53.

SCORES IN BRIEF
NEW ZEALAND: First innings 373
WEST INDIES: First innings 221
NEW ZEALAND: Second innings 291 for 8 decl (Williamson 54, Taylor 107 not out, Santner 26; Gabriel 2-52, Cummins 3-69, Chase 2-51)
WEST INDIES: Second innings 30 for 2.

FA wants answers over ugly bust-up

AFP, London

The Football Association demanded answers from Manchester United and Manchester City on Monday following reports of ugly scenes that reportedly left City assistant coach Mikel Arteta bloodied after a fracas.

The Guardian newspaper said Arteta was left with blood streaming down his face after a bust-up involving up to 20 players and members of staff from the two clubs after Sunday's Manchester derby, which City won 2-1.

Referee Michael Oliver did not witness the scenes so the FA has not received a report on the matter from him but it has given the clubs until Wednesday to reply to a request for observations following the incident.



As a build up to 2018 Asian Games, a Fun Run was held yesterday starting from the BFF House and ending at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. PHOTO: STAR

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:

Flying Boulton takes stunning catch

Trent Boulton has made a reputation of hauling in some absolute stunners. While most pacers prefer doing the least while fielding this particular Kiwi bowler is known for producing stunning feats of fielding.

Pakistan bans Jamshed for 12 months in fixing case

Pakistan Monday handed former opener Nasir Jamshed a one-year ban for failing to cooperate with investigators in a spot-fixing case that rocked the Pakistan Super League earlier this year.

Neymar headed to Brazil for 'personal matters'

Paris Saint-Germain star Neymar is urgently travelling to Brazil due to "personal matters", the Brazilian company that manages the footballer's career said.