

## STAR SPORTS 1

India v Sri Lanka

1st T20!

Live from 7:30pm

## TEN 1

Ligue 1

PSG v Caen

Live from 1:50am (Thursday)

## TEN 2

La Liga

Getafe v Las Palmas

Live from 12:30am (Thursday)

Real Sociedad v Sevilla

Live from 2:30am (Thursday)

## DRY'S SEVENTH

National Cricket League

Time: 9:30am

Kolkata v Dhaka

Venue: BKS

Barisal v Rangpur

Venue: SKS, Rajshahi

Dhaka Metro v Rajshahi

Venue: ZACS, Chittagong

Sylhet v Chittagong

Venue: SKS, Sylhet

Bangladesh Premier League

Farshadpur v Rahmatganj

Time: 4:30pm

Brothers Union v SK Jamal

Time: 6:45pm

Venue: BNS, Dhaka

# Hosts, India in final

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh and India confirmed their final berths in the SAFF U-15 Women's Championship with a game in hand after they outlasted their respective opponents in their league phase matches at the Bishreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Bangladesh notched a commanding 3-0 win over Bhutan while India handed a 10-0 defeat to Nepal in yesterday's matches. The two sides will meet each other in the last match of the league stage on December 21 before playing against each other in the final, scheduled for December 24.

Defender Akhi Khatun scored two brilliant goals before substitute Sajeda Khatun added the other in the one-sided affair where Bhutan, who were under tremendous pressure throughout, showed guts to keep the margin of defeat to a respectable one after having suffered an identical margin of defeat against India.

The girls in red and green dominated the show from the outset and the match played almost entirely in Bhutan's half with Bangladesh goalkeeper Mahmuda Akter never having to touch the ball with her hands. Rather she joined the defenders outside the danger zone to build the game from behind.

Bangladesh tried to attack through the flanks but Bhutan were excellent with zonal marking, almost neutralising Bangladesh's striking pair of Sara Ban Tohura and Anuching

Mogini, who shared five goals against Nepal.

However, Bangladesh broke the deadlock in the 13th minute when Marzia whipped in a well-judged corner from the left corner for the tall Akhi Khatun, who rose above her markers to head in with sheer confidence.

Midfielder Monika Chakma, who showed tremendous performance against Australia where she scored one and set up another during the AFC U-16 Women's Championship in Thailand in September, tied her luck from a distance in the 28th minute, but the ball went wide. Anuching then rattled the post in the 37th minute as Bangladesh had to content with one-goal lead before the lemon break.

The hosts kept pressing after restart but Bhutan defence stood tall to thwart efforts from the hosts, who eventually doubled the lead on 56 minutes through a brilliant left-footed flick from Akhi following a corner taken by Marzia.

Sajeda, who came off the bench to replace Tohura, wrapped up the victory in the 80th minute with a diagonal shot which embraced the back of the net after hitting the far post.

"Though I previously scored against Nepal and Tajikistan, this is my first international brace and I am really happy with the feat," said Akhi, who squandered two opportunities to complete her hat-trick.

"There is no regret for not getting the hat-trick, rather I am happy because our team won," said the defender from Sirajganj.



Joyous Bangladesh players embark on a victory lap following their 3-0 victory against Bhutan in their SAFF U-15 Women's Championship fixture at the Bishreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Atletico set to report Barca

AGENCIES, Madrid

Atletico Madrid are preparing to present an official complaint to Fifa over Barcelona's pursuit of French forward Antoine Griezmann.

The Rojiblancos are understood to be angered by Barca's increasingly public pursuit of their striker with a director of the Catalan club recently admitting there had been contact with the player who is still under contract to the Madrid side.

"If Bartomeu met with Griezmann's family as the newspapers say, then there may well have been an approach," Guillermo Amor admitted. "Though, I don't know anything for sure."

"There is a good relationship, there can also be comfortable conversations. Rumours are inevitable in the football world. In Griezmann's case there are many people we talk to; it's our obligation to have contact with players."

Sources at Atleti and former suitors Manchester United told The Independent that the 26-year-old frontman is expected to sign for the Nou Camp club next summer, but should Fifa decide to act then the deal could be in danger.

## 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.

**Messi can bring Argentina the World Cup**  
Argentina's former midfielder Juan Roman Riquelme believes that Argentina can compete in the World Cup if Messi performs at his best.

**Neymar is overrated, says Bayern president**  
While many have expressed opinion the PSG star Neymar will become the top player of the world once Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo have called time on their careers, it is not an opinion shared by Bayern Munich chief Uli Hoenes.

# Games gather steam amid fog

SPORTS REPORTER



Defying difficult weather across the country, the Bangladesh Youth Games continued smoothly as numerous districts completed the second day of the nation's biggest sports carnival yesterday.

Due to the dense fog early in the morning, organisers were forced to start the competitions a couple hours behind schedule. After the dusk kicked off, a few districts completed multiple competitions and disciplines such as handball, volleyball, swimming, judo, karate, chess, kabaddi, wushu and archery. Those districts are now preparing to complete their remaining events within the next three to four days.

Meanwhile Moulvibazar became the first district to wrap up all the events of their district - football, kabaddi, badminton, table tennis and athletics - where approximately 350 athletes participated at three separate venues, within the first two days.

"Some devoted teachers from 10 schools came to help us complete the competitions of the five disciplines as we did not face any problem to host those disciplines," said Moulvibazar's District Sports Association (DSA) general secretary Mishbah Rahman over the phone.

"The Youth Games generated a good response from the athletes and I am hopeful about our district's football, kabaddi and athletics," added Mishbahur.

However even though Moulvibazar completed their competitions without a hitch, some other districts face difficulties to continue in the face of dense fog.

"We have started the competitions some one-and-a-half hour later than the scheduled time because of dense fog as the teams from the upazilas were late to turn up amid the fog," said Joypurhat's DSA general secretary Mahub Morshed Alam Babu, adding that the handball and badminton events will be completed tomorrow (Wednesday).

"We could not start the competitions in morning because of fog until after sun rose. We have already completed badminton while other disciplines like football, kabaddi and volleyball will be completed in due time," said Shariatpur's DSA general secretary Abdus Salam while thanking the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) for undertaking such an initiative.

"As there is less interest in sports among athletes, who are actually busy with smart phones, if such games are held every two years, the scenario would change I believe," added Salam.

Chandpur's DSA general secretary Golam Mostafa Babu echoed Salam when he said: "Today [Tuesday] we initially faced a bit of a problem to start the competitions due to fog but we completed the day's events successfully."

Babu also made known that they initially planned to host 10 disciplines yesterday but had to content themselves with six due to the weather. Bagerhat though, amid great enthusiasm from participants and fans alike, finished their badminton and swimming events without a hiccup.

"We regularly participate in national championship in 14 disciplines, so there is no shortage of enthusiasm and athletes in the district," said Bagerhat's DSA general secretary Sardar Selim Ahmed.

Faridpur's DSA general secretary Ahsan Tuhin informed that the football competition's final will be held tomorrow (Wednesday). Tuhin went on to say that though there is already much fanfare over the games in all nine of the district's upazilas, the response might have been better still had school level athletes been included.

Lastly, in addition to the 20 former and current athletes appointed as goodwill ambassadors, who will travel during the divisional and national phase to help inspire the budding athletes, the BOA recruited Mashrafe Bin Mortaza as the 21st.



Footballing royalty were hosted at a dinner party following an event in Riyadh in celebration of Saudi Arabia's qualification for the 2018 World Cup. (From L) Ronaldo, Paolo Maldini, Carles Puyol, Ryan Giggs, Luis Figo, Roberto Carlos and Rivaldo.

## Sterling attacker arrested

APP, London

Police investigating reports of a racially motivated attack on Manchester City forward Raheem Sterling announced they have arrested a man on Tuesday.

"A 29-year-old man was arrested earlier this morning, Tuesday, December 19, 2017, on suspicion of racially aggravated assault," said Greater Manchester Police in a statement.

"He is now in police custody for questioning. This is being treated as a hate crime."

# Gatlin shocked by allegations

APP, London



World 100 metres champion Justin Gatlin says he is "shocked and surprised" by allegations in a British newspaper that his coach and an athletics agent offered to sell performance-enhancing drugs to undercover reporters.

Anti-doping officials have launched an investigation into the claims about Gatlin's coach Dennis Mitchell and an agent Robert Wagner, while IAAF President Seb Coe says changes are needed.

"He is looking at who we want in our sport," Coe, the 1500m gold medalist from the 1980 and 1984 Games,

said in a statement.

"The IAAF recognises as an industry we need to do more," said the Englishman.

"Focusing on the influences that surround athletes is a critical area of work," Coe insisted.

The 35-year-old American sprint star, who has twice served bans for doping, said he had sacked Mitchell after hearing of the claims.

The report alleged Mitchell and Wagner offered to provide undercover reporters with false prescriptions for banned performance-enhancing substances and smuggle the drugs into the United States.

The claims are being investigated by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU), set up this year by the International Association

of Athletics Federations (IAAF) and the US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA).

Gatlin said on Instagram: "I was shocked and surprised to learn that my coach would have anything to do with even the appearance of these current accusations. I fired him as soon as I found out about this."

He said he was "not using and have not used" performance-enhancing drugs.

He added: "All legal options are on the table as I will not allow others to lie about me like this."

IAAF president Sebastian Coe said the claims were concerning.

"These allegations are extremely serious and I know the independent Athletics Integrity Unit will investigate in accordance with its mandate," Coe said.

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