

DAY'S
EVENT

Bangladesh Cricket League
Four-Day Match, Day-2
Time: 9:30am
BCB v Walton

Venue: SICS, Sylhet
Prime Bank v BKSP
Venue: BKSP

'HAPPY TO STAY IF WE WIN TITLES'

Harry Kane has set out exactly what Tottenham Hotspur must do to make sure he never has his head turned with the striker reiterating the fact he wants to start winning trophies. Kane's current contract runs to 2022 and there has been no suggestion of Tottenham allowing him to leave or him pushing for a move in the near future. Asked what Tottenham need to do to keep him, Kane replied: "I've always said: keep progressing, keep getting better, we want to start winning trophies. That's the aim, as long as the club keep doing that then, yeah I'm happy here." Kane insisted there have been no recent talks over a new contract and agreed with his manager that it is pointless to try to force a player to stay if they have decided they want to go. He said: "I think if a player wants to go then why would you stop him? He's not going to be in the club, he's not going to play every game, he's not going to put his heart on the line."

—AGENCIES



'Will always cherish time at Liverpool'

AGENCIES, Barcelona

Laliga Outgoing Liverpool playmaker Philippe Coutinho told fans he would "always cherish the club in my heart" at the end of a day that saw him finalise a dream move to Barcelona.

The Brazilian was unveiled by the Spanish giants on Monday following his £145 million switch but was keen to let Liverpool supporters know that he was leaving with a heavy heart.

In an emotional post on Instagram, Coutinho, who scored 54 goals in 201 appearances for Liverpool, spoke of the "unique heart and soul" of the city.

"I hope I have delivered memories and moments that have brought happiness to the Liverpool supporters. Moving to Liverpool, I knew the club's greatness and history but what I did learn during my time was the unique heart and soul of the place," he wrote.

He also took the time to explain why he had moved away from Merseyside, writing that playing for Liverpool and Barcelona were both dreams that he wanted to realise during what is a very short career in football.

"I leave Liverpool because Barcelona is a dream for me. Liverpool was a dream that was fortunate enough to realise and I have given five years of my life to it. A career on the pitch only lasts for so long and to play for Barcelona as well as Liverpool is something I want to experience and enjoy while I am blessed enough to be able to do so.

"I hope the supporters understand that choosing to experience something new is not about diminishing their importance to me or the club's importance. Nothing will ever diminish that in my heart. I wish Jürgen and the team nothing but joy and success for the rest of this season and beyond. This is an amazing team and they are getting better and better all the time."

After thanking the coaching staff, owners and other people in Anfield, Coutinho saved his most heartfelt message for the fans.

"And finally, to the most important people of Liverpool -- the Liverpool supporters. I can never thank you enough for what you have given me during this time and no matter where I go in the world, for the rest of my life, I will always cherish Liverpool in my heart. You, the club and the city will always be a part of me. You'll Never Walk Alone."



Dhaka players catch a Tangail raider during the kabaddi event final of the Dhaka Division leg of Bangladesh Youth Games at the Kabaddi Stadium yesterday. Tangail, however, had the last laugh with a convincing victory.

PHOTO: STAR

Comilla dominate swimming

SPORTS REPORTER

The highlight on the second day of the Bangladesh Youth Games divisional phase was how swimmers from Comilla dominated their discipline in Chittagong yesterday.

Comilla's swimmers scooped up 11 of the 14 gold medals up for grabs at the Chittagong Club swimming pool with Jui Marma and Srabonti Akter bagging three each. Jui won the 100m freestyle, 50m backstroke and 100m backstroke events while Srabonti won the 200m freestyle, 50m breaststroke and 100m breaststroke events.

Meanwhile at the MA Aziz Stadium, Comilla's karatekas grabbed three gold medals and Rangamati's boxers also won three gold medals from their respective disciplines.

On the same day, Tangail district



The Comilla swimmers were ecstatic after winning 11 out of 14 gold medals in the Chittagong Division swimming competition of the Bangladesh Youth Games at the Chittagong Club swimming pool yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

emerged as the champions of kabaddi from Dhaka division yesterday.

Tangail defeated Dhaka district by 33-17 points in the final at the

Kabaddi Stadium in Paltan. Earlier, Tangail beat Narayanganj 37-14 before thrashing Gazipur 47-11 in the semifinal of this eight-team event.

"We could not bring a few players due to their exams. We will get them in the final phase which will make our team stronger. Our target is to become champions in the final phase," said Tangail team manager Tuhinur Rahman.

"The secret to our success is training. The ten players we brought are from the same school, and since we had them together, we could train them in a systematic way which worked behind their success," added Tuhin.

However, Dhaka will have an opportunity to avenge their defeat in kabaddi when the football teams of the two districts meet in the final today.

Dhaka edged Manikganj 4-3 in a tiebreak in the first semifinal at BKSP after regulation time ended in a 1-1 draw. Tangail defeated Kishoreganj 2-0 in the second semifinal at the same venue. The final will be held at 3:00pm today.

The world's richest footballer

AGENCIES, London



Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi have been the absolute kings when it comes to most rankings in the world of football over the last decade, and with their huge salaries and massive commercial deals it would be no surprise to see them at the top of the richest footballer list.

However, a much lesser-known player takes that title.

Faiq Bolkihah, just 19 years of age, is early in his playing career and plying his trade for Premier League side Leicester City in their reserve team. However, although he may not have any awards lining his mantelpiece, he does lay claim to being the richest player in the world.

Bolkihah is the nephew of the Sultan of Brunei, Hassanal Bolkihah, whose family possess fortunes



FAIQ BOLKIAH

valued at 20 billion dollars.

One of Bolkihah's hobbies is playing football with his pet -- obviously a tiger.

His father, Jefri Bolkihah, owner of at least 2,300 cars and reportedly spent around 14 million euros on his fiftieth birthday when he hired Michael Jackson for a private con-

cert with his family.

Jefri, who is the head of the Brunei Investment agency, is also reported to spend a staggering 35 million pounds a month on watches, white gold pens and cars.

Born in Los Angeles, United States, Bolkihah has also decided to play with the Brunei national football team. Despite his young age, he has already made nine appearances for his country and has one goal to his name.

"I've played football since as early as I can remember and from a young age I've always enjoyed going out on the field and having the ball at my feet," he said in a rare interview. "My parents have always been supportive in helping me to achieve my dreams of being a footballer.

"They trained me hard both psychologically and physically through my childhood years, so I have to say they are my role models."

Nadal beaten but injured knee 'fine'

AFP, Melbourne



World number one Rafael Nadal lost his first match of the year 6-4, 7-5 to Richard Gasquet at the Kooyong Classic on Tuesday, but said he was happy after his troublesome knee held up "fine".

Nadal's knee injury hampered the end of his 2017 season and forced him to skip last week's Brisbane International, but he was able to give it a workout at the non-tour event in Melbourne.

Though he lost in straight sets, the Spaniard said he would keep working hard until the start of the Australian Open at Melbourne Park on Monday.

"I'm very happy to be back in Australia," he said. "I had a heavy year in 2017 and I started my preparation later than usual."

"But I've arrived in plenty of time. It's great to get the feeling once again of playing a match. "This was a good test for me after some good

training, that's the most important thing."

The 16-time Grand Slam winner was far from his best in the exhibition encounter against a player he has beaten 15-0 on the ATP Tour in a rivalry dating back to junior days.

Nadal, 31, heads the entry list for the Australian Open and said he will be ready to front up for the first round.

"The knee is fine," he said in answer to the inevitable question. "I'm here. "If I was not feeling good I would not be here, so that's good news."

"I'll train hard over the next few days for the Australian Open, I will be ready."

Nadal is not playing any more matches at Kooyong, but he is also scheduled to turn out for a Tie Break Tens tournament at Melbourne Park on Wednesday evening.

Gasquet was happy to get even an informal win over the Spaniard.

"It's always a pleasure to play Rafa -- I hope to beat him one day on the ATP before retiring. He's a friend of mine and it's great to play him," he said.

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:

NKorea to send team to Winter Games

North Korea said during rare talks with the South it will send a delegation to the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics in South Korea next month.

Neymar is like Messi and will be a reference point: Xavi

Former Barcelona midfielder Xavi Hernandez who plies his trade for Qatar club Al-Sadd, sat down with El Pais to talk about a range of footballing ideas and he shared his opinion regarding PSG's Neymar.



'Won't be here for 10 years'

AGENCIES, Madrid



After being named French coach of the year for the second consecutive year by magazine France Football, Real Madrid's Zinedine Zidane sat down for an interview and admitted that he would not stay at the Bernabeu dugout for the rest of his career.

Although the Frenchman said that his status as a Los Blancos legend would work in his favour, he added that the Zidane of the past -- the player -- 'no longer exists'.

"Zinedine Zidane isn't a player at Real Madrid anymore. That Zidane no longer exists. Now it's down to Zinedine Zidane the coach to carve out a career. I'm not protected by what I've done as a player at this club.

"I know that one day [the coach's job] will come to an end at Real Madrid, so I make the most of it and I do everything I can to be successful. I say to myself: 'If I've got 10 days left here, then I'm going to live those 10 days to the max; if it's six months, I'll live those six months to the max.' I don't think beyond that. I know I won't stay [in the job] for 10 years."

The 45-year-old added that he relished adversity, an encouraging sign for fans of the club who are 16 points behind archrivals Barcelona in La Liga.

"I want to show that I can also be a good coach when the going gets tough. Difficulties don't frighten me; I'm ready for that. People might think that everything comes easy to me, that I do it all by instinct, but they'd be wrong. Be it as a player or as a coach, I've always worked hard."



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Real Madrid's Zinedine Zidane picked up the award for French Coach of the Year from France Football magazine for the second consecutive year yesterday.

Dybala not our target: Nasser

AFP, Paris



Juventus star Paulo Dybala is not a transfer target for Paris Saint-Germain, according to club chairman Nasser Al-Khelaifi.

The Argentine has been linked with a possible move to the Ligue 1 leaders and admitted in November he would love the chance to play alongside Neymar. And with Dybala's form having dipped in recent weeks, there have been suggestions Juve could look to cash in on the forward.

Khelaifi, however, has denied the 24-year-old is seen as an important target for PSG. "The truth is there are a lot of good players in Serie A, not just Dybala," he told La Stampa. "If we are interested in him, we'll call Juventus."

"[Juve president Andrea] Agnelli is a good friend but I can tell you that Dybala, at the moment, is not the key to PSG's future."