

# What to WATCH

**GTV & STAR SPORTS SELECT 2**  
**Tri-Nation ODI Series**  
 Bangladesh v Sri Lanka  
 Live from 12:00pm  
**STAR SPORTS 1**  
 New Zealand v Pakistan  
 5th ODI

Live from 4:00am (Saturday)  
**SONY ESPN**  
 Australia v England  
 2nd ODI  
 Live from 9:20am

**SONY SIX & TEN 2**  
 Australian Open  
 3rd Round  
 Evening Session  
 Live from 2:00pm  
 Morning Session  
 Live from 6:00am (Saturday)

## DAY'S EVENT

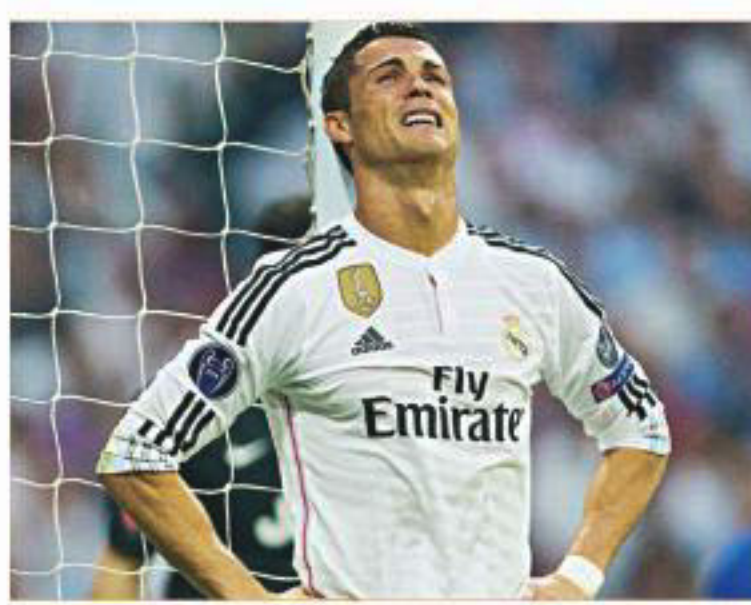
**Tri-Nation ODI Series**  
 Bangladesh v Sri Lanka  
 Time: 12:00pm  
 Venue: SBNSC, Dhaka

**Independence Cup**  
 Team BJMC v Sheikh Russel  
 Time: 3:30pm

Mohammedan v Brothers Union  
 Time: 5:45pm  
 Venue: BNS, Dhaka

## REAL FANS TURN ON RONALDO

A slender majority of Real Madrid supporters are willing to see star striker Cristiano Ronaldo leave the Santiago Bernabeu, according to the results of a poll carried out by AS English. Exactly 1,500 readers took part in a survey in which they were asked: "Should Cristiano Ronaldo stay or go?". And 57.9 per cent of those who voted urged the Spanish and European champions to sell their club-record goalscorer, while 42.1 per cent expressed their desire for him to remain at Real. Interestingly, voters in the same poll on Diario AS's Spanish-language website opted far more overwhelmingly for time to be called on the Portugal captain's Real career, with 67.5 per cent in favour of his departure.



# Federer stays cool in searing heat

AFP, Melbourne



Defending champion Roger Federer coolly swept into the Australian Open third round Thursday as Novak Djokovic survived a gruelling fitness test under the brutal Melbourne sun.

But with temperatures touching an energy-sapping 40 Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) and ice-towels in use, third seed Garbine Muguruza and 2014 winner Stan Wawrinka both wilted and were knocked out.

Maria Sharapova, in contrast, laid down her title credentials with dominant win against 14th seed Anastasija Sevastova.

World number one Simona Halep was also convincing in her straight demolition of Canadian Eugenie Bouchard.

Swiss 19-time Grand Slam champion Federer disposed of Jan-Lennard Struff 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (7/4), avoiding the worse of the furnace-like conditions in his night match.

"I practice with him so I had the information I needed," he said, adding that the heat doesn't bother him.

"If you want to get to the top, you've got to play in all conditions."

It was never going to be easy for the German. While Federer had made at least the third round each year since his Melbourne Park debut in

2000, Struff had failed to go further than the second round at any Grand Slam.

Six-time Melbourne champion Djokovic had a much tougher time, coming through a four-setter against Gael Monfils in a thorough examination after being out for six months with an elbow injury. He lost the first set before Monfils began struggling in the second and was heard at one point telling the umpire: "I'm tired and dizzy."

The Frenchman remarkably recovered to make a fight of it before a relieved Djokovic, seeded 14, came through 4-6, 6-3, 6-1, 6-3.

"It was tough conditions, brutal, especially the first 90 minutes," he said.

"I'm still not 100 percent, but building. I have a lot of faith and self-belief."

The heat took its toll on a host of players, including Wimbledon champion Muguruza, who suffered with heat-blistered feet.

She was knocked out by 88-ranked Hsieh Su-wei from Taiwan 7-6 (7/1), 6-4 but refused to make excuses.

Wawrinka also failed to progress, clearly still struggling from a lengthy knee injury lay-off in his straight sets defeat by American Tennyis Sandgren.

Russian drawcard Sharapova was on Rod Laver Arena early and avoided the brunt of the weather as she showed why she should be again taken seriously in dismantling Sevastova 6-1, 7-6 (7/4).



Roger Federer coolly disposed of Jan-Lennard Struff 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) in the men's singles second round match of the Australian Open in Melbourne yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

# Farashganj into last eight

SPORTS REPORTER



Farashganj became the first team to qualify for the quarterfinals of the Walton Independence Cup after playing out a 1-1 draw against Muktiyoddha Sangsad in their Group B encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday night.

The result saw Farashganj ensure their berth in the last four with four points from two matches. The second-placed team from the group of three will be decided on Sunday when Muktiyoddha face Brothers Union.

Farashganj have shown amazing spirit in the season's closing tournament despite having been relegated from the recently concluded Bangladesh Premier League.

They seemingly picked up from where they left off against Brothers, to whom they handed a 2-1 defeat in their tournament opener.

Some of the participating teams may have a shortage of inspiration to play the Independence Cup, but there has been no deficiency in spirit from the Old Dhaka outfit, who have won the tournament once in 2011.

On the pitch however it was Muktiyoddha Sangsad who could have taken an early lead had Saikat Mahmud Munna not wasted an opportunity in the fourth minute with only goalkeeper Mamun Alif to beat.

Having survived the scare, Farashganj took the lead in the 25th minute when Mohammad Alamgir, having availing a misplaced pass from the opponents' territory, advanced into the danger zone before easily beating goalkeeper Azad Hossain.

Muktiyoddha Sangad hit back in the first minute after resumption as substitute Shah Mohammad Alamgir played a through ball to Amirul Islam, who darted into the box from the left and placed the ball into the far post after goalkeeper Mamun Alif had come off the line.

Afterwards, both of sides fought equally but neither could create any clear-cut chances to post an outright win. However, the draw was good enough for Farashganj to put Muktiyoddha Sangsad and Brothers Union in a battle for second.

In the day's other match, Saif Sporting Club kept their hopes of moving into the quarterfinal alive after playing out a goalless draw, their second in a row, against Arambagh.

A second draw in as many matches means Saif SC have two points and must wait for the outcome of the match between Chittagong Abahani and Arambagh, as both Chittagong Abahani and Arambagh have one point each.

If more than two teams finish on equal points, then goal difference will be the deciding factor.

In the match, Arambagh had the upper hand against an unimpressive Saif and the lightweights could have won the match had it not been for the wastefulness of their forwards.

# Juve after Emre Can

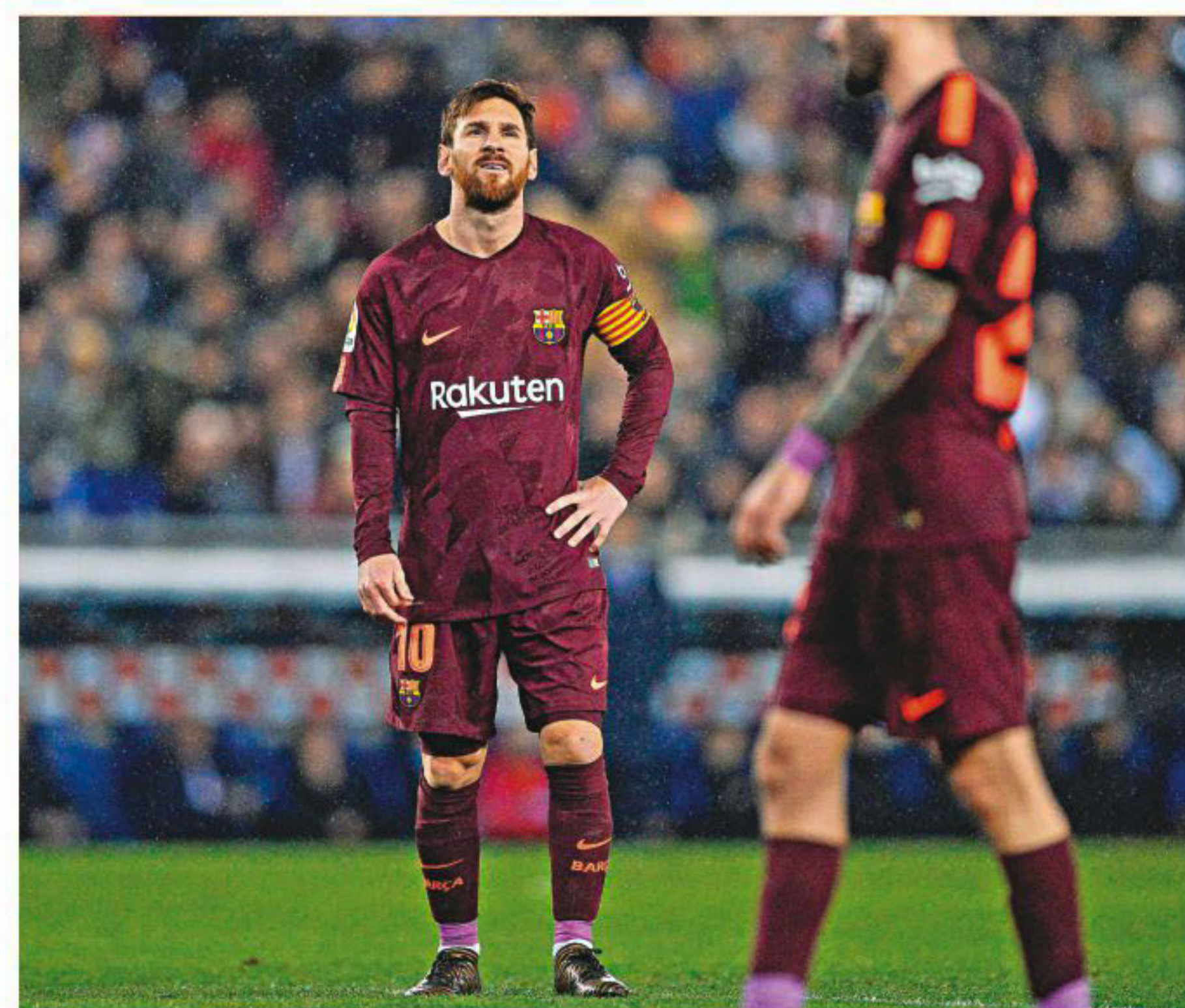
AFP, Turin

Juventus director general Giuseppe Marotta confirmed on Wednesday the Serie A champions are targeting Liverpool's German international Emre Can.

The 24-year-old's contract with the English Premier League side runs out on June 30.

"Emre Can is a player whose contract is running down, so it allows us to approach him for negotiations and that is the course we have taken," Marotta told Sky Sport Italia.

"I can't say if he could sign a new contract with Liverpool, but I can say we will try all we can to get the player. Obviously, we have to respect what the player wants."



Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi (L) is left to wonder what went wrong after missing a penalty against Espanyol during their Copa del Rey match on Wednesday. The miss proved costly as Espanyol found a late winner in the 88th minute.

PHOTO: REUTERS

# Neymar booed off the Parc

AGENCIES, Paris



Despite scoring four times, world record signing Neymar found himself on the receiving end of heavy jeers from supporters during Paris Saint-Germain's 8-0 win over Dijon on Wednesday night after he denied Edinson Cavani the chance to become the French club's all-time top scorer.

The Brazilian had been cheered only minutes earlier when he scored a sensational third goal, dribbling past seven Dijon defenders before unleashing a low shot from the edge of the area.

However, Cavani had drawn level with Zlatan Ibrahimovic's 156-goal record tally for the club with his solitary first-half strike.

With the Uruguayan just one goal away from becoming Les Parisiens' all-time record scorer, supporters urged Neymar to give Cavani the responsibility of taking a late penalty in the match, which could have led to Cavani scoring his second goal of the match.

The former FC Barcelona man, however, stepped up to take the spot-kick himself, seemingly upsetting many fans at the Parc des Princes.

"It was a very, very good PSG against a Dijon side that unfortunately didn't put up much resistance. We were almost perfect today," PSG defender Thomas Meunier said.

However, the right-back went on to back Neymar after the game, suggesting that the fans should be more thankful for the 25-year-old's performance.

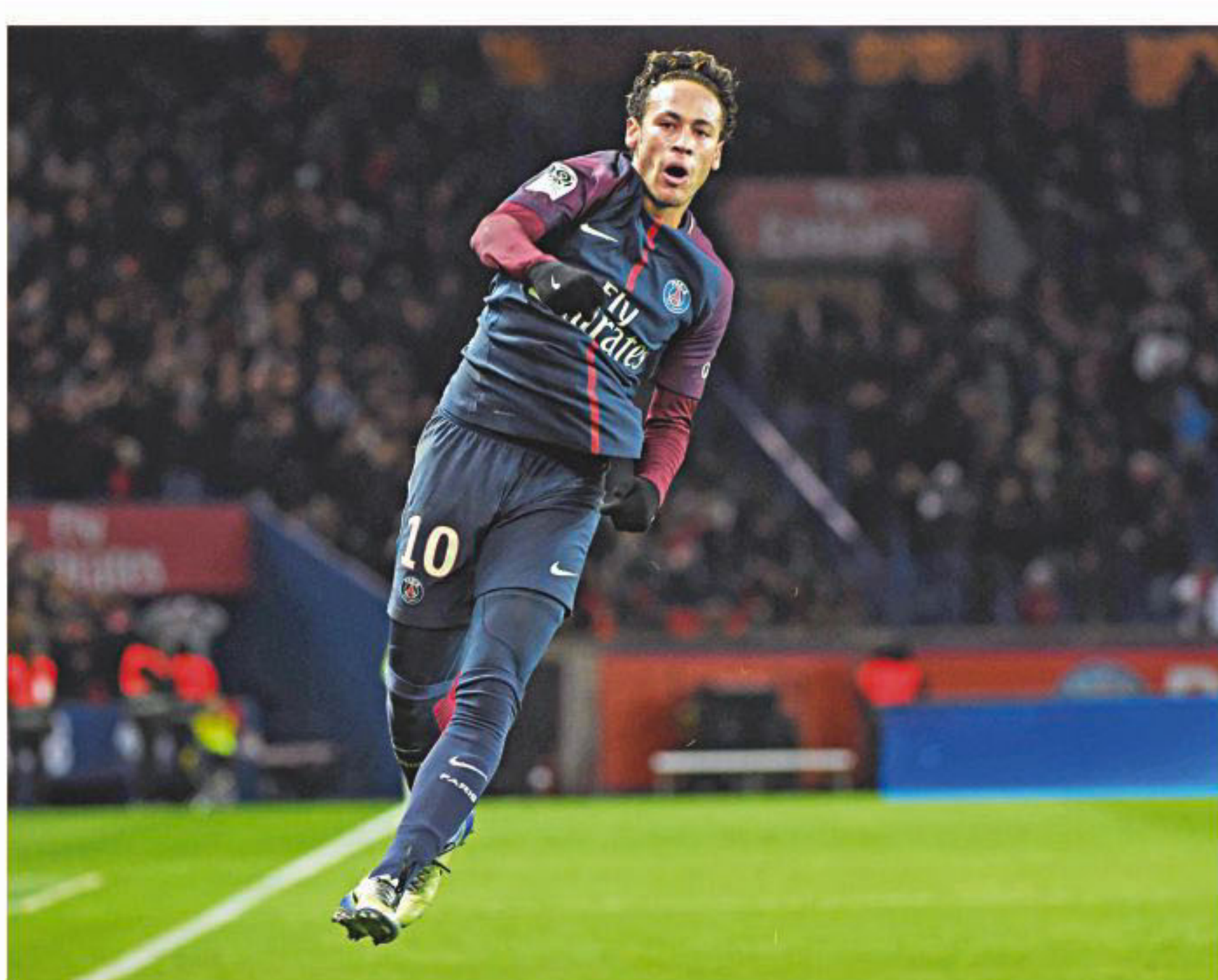
"It was a little ungrateful from the supporters," he said. "We sense the excitement each time Neymar touches the ball but I know that they also appreciate Edinson."

"However, you have to weigh up the pros and cons and put water in the wine, so when a player scores four goals and provides two more assists in a match... The team in general should be cheered and not just individual players."

"(Cavani) is our goalscorer and he's improved a lot here. The team helped him to achieve this individual mark," said PSG coach Unai Emery, who was quick to defend Neymar's decision to take the spot-kick.

"I think Neymar took the penalty because it was also a good day for him. We're happy with it. But there will be lots more chances for Cavani to score more goals."

PSG have yet to drop a point at home this season and lead Lyon by 11 points, with a trip to face Bruno Genesio's men next up for the league leaders at the weekend.



Neymar scored four goals in a Ligue 1 encounter against Dijon on Wednesday, but the Brazilian was booed off the pitch by the Paris Saint-Germain faithful for his perceived selfishness.

PHOTO: AFP

# Brac team leave for Malaysia

SPORTS REPORTER



With their sights set on a top five finish, the Brac University Chess Club will leave here for Malaysia on Sunday to take part in the 2nd GACC International Inter-University Chess Championship.

Brac University Chess Club, which was established as a part of the university's extracurricular activities, is participating in the tournament for the first time following their success in the domestic circuit, where they became champions of the Second Division Chess League and runners-up of the Inter-University Chess Championship last year.

The sub-continent's first Grand Master,

Niaz Murshed has been working with the club as coach for the past three years.

"Our team has consisted of players who are good and have international ratings. After having assessed the ratings of participating teams from six to seven countries, we understood that we are in fourth position, so we want to finish either third or fourth," said teacher-cum-player Shams Ud Duha during a press conference at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room, adding that if the last edition's champions Kolkata University do not participate then their position may improve.

The team consists of Shams, Ejaz Husain (a blind player), Sabbir Hossain, Mohammad Shakil and Nanziba Ibanth.

GM Niaz is expected to tour with the

# S Korea blast Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh suffered a massive 46-20 defeat at the hands of hosts South Korea in their first match of the 18th Asian Handball Championship in Suwon yesterday.

Bangladesh, who are participating in the top-level Asian championship for the first time, were trailing 21-8 before conceding 25 more goals in the second half, where they played a bit better and scored 13 goals.

Mehdi Hasan, Mahub and Sohag Hossain Arif scored four goals each while Samir Sakir Emon netted three for Bangladesh, who will play their second match against the United Arab Emirates today.

# Misfiring Messi costs Barcelona

AFP, Madrid



Lionel Messi missed a penalty as Espanyol struck in the dying moments to consign Barcelona to their first defeat of the season, 1-0 in the first leg of the Copa del Rey quarterfinals on Wednesday.

Oscar Melendo slotted home a neat finish with two minutes remaining of a temperamental derby cup tie, racing onto Marc Navarro's low cross to punish Messi for missing a 62nd-minute penalty and send the home crowd into raptures.

In a match of few chances Barca's penalty, which came after a foul on Sergi Roberto, looked to be the decisive moment for the away side, but Espanyol keeper Diego Lopez dived superbly to his left to push Messi's powerful shot wide.

Navarro set up the winner on the 88th minute, giving Espanyol their first win over Barcelona in nearly nine years.

Diego Costa's third goal in four matches wasn't enough for Atletico Madrid as Sevilla twice scored late to stun their hosts 2-1 in the first leg at the Wanda Metropolitan.

Valencia came close to being shocked at the Mestalla by Alaves but Goncalo Guedes and Rodrigo scored in nine second-half minutes to overturn Ruben Sobrino's 66th-minute opener for the away side.

## 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:

**Man United set to make Sanchez highest-paid**

**EPL player**

Manchester United are set to land Alexis Sanchez from Arsenal by making him the Premier League's highest paid player, according to several reports on Thursday.



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