Bangladesh v Sri Lanka First Test, Day 5 Time: 9:30am Venue: ZACS, Chittagong

Live from 2:00pm Serie A Benevento v Napoli Live from 1:45am (Monday) La Liga Espanyol v Barcelona

Live from 9:15pm Atletico Madrid v Valencia Live from 1:45am (Monday) STAR SPORTS SELECT 1 **English Premier League** Crystal Palace v Newcastle Live from 8:15pm

Liverpool v Tottenham Live from 10:30pm **SONY ESPN** Serie A Juventus v Sassuolo Live from 8:00pm

PLAYERS THREATENS COACH AT GUNPOINT

A coach in the lower leagues in Argentina has quit his post after being threatened at gunpoint by one of his own players. "I've been involved with the club for more than 45 years and nothing like this has ever happened," Cristian Neira, manager of Escuela Presidente Roca, said after Cesar Pagani pulled a pistol on him during a training session and said he would kill him if he wasn't included in the starting line-up. "It's not possible to just let this pass. He will have to be held accountable by the justice system." The police were called after the incident and have decided to place officers at the club's training ground.



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:

CL need unites Liverpool and Tottenham

Liverpool and Tottenham Hotspur will be separated by just two points, but united in one ambition when they meet at Anfield on Sunday with a top-four finish imperative for

Jose following Ferguson's lead to leapfrog City

Jose Mourinho is michaelin using Sir Alex Ferguson as inspiration to turn the balance in power from Manchester City next season. "I always remember when Sir Alex said in 2005-06, when we won the second title with Chelsea, 'we need to improve a lot because they have raised the bar to such a level. They won two titles in a row," said Mourinho.

Bayern charm offensive irritates Heynckes

Jupp Heynckes said Friday that the charm offensive to persuade him to stay as Bayern Munich coach will be "in vain" as he insists on leaving when the season finishes.

Thauvin hattrick leads Marseille six-goal romp

Florian Thauvin took his season's league goal tally to 13 with a hattrick as Marseille enjoyed a 6-3 rout of rock-bottom Metz in French Ligue 1 on Friday. No diet needed for Van

Dijk, insists Klopp Liverpool man-

ager Jurgen Klopp laughed off suggestions from former Liverpool captain Jamie Carragher that club-record signing Virgil van Dijk needs to slim down to recover his top form.



Chittagong Abahani's four goal scorers -- (from L) Tawhidul Alam Sabuj, Mohammad Abdullah, Sohel Rana and Shakhawat Hossain Rony -celebrate their 4-2 win over Sheikh Russel in the Independence Cup quarterfinal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Ctg Abahani storm into semis

SPORTS REPORTER



Chittagong Rahmatganj in the second

semifinal of the Walton Independence Cup on Tuesday as the defending champions brushed aside former champions Sheikh Russel with a 4-2 win in the fourth and final quarterfinal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The port city side's emphatic win completed the semifinal lineup as Arambagh had, on Friday, beat league champions Abahani to set up the first semifinal clash against Sheikh Jamal for Monday.

Chittagong Abahani, the new powerhouse of domestic football, had led the premier league for a considerable amount of time before slipping up at the last stages to eventually finish third. The club management sacked coach Saiful Bari Titu, giving the reins to his deputy Zulfikar Mahmud Mintu, yet their fortunes hardly looked bright.

The big-spenders struggled in the

group stages of the Independence Cup as well and needed an injury-time goal from Tawhidul Alam Sabuj against Arambagh in their last group game to squeeze into the quarterfinals.

However, they turned up in style for yesterday's game and an emphatic victory in the quarterfinal will definitely give them a shot in the arm ahead of their game against Rahmatganj.

It was again that man Sabuj, the topscorer among the locals in the league,

CTG ABAHANI 4 - 2 SHEIKH RUSSEL (NOYON 12, JAVED 74) (BDULLAH 43, RONY 45

who started the goal-fest at the BNS yesterday. The port city side went close to scoring with several attempts from a goalmouth scramble, but Sohel Rana's eventual effort went wide off the far

Sabuj broke the deadlock a minute later, volleying home from the middle of the box. The goal gave way to a mad-cap first half as Sheikh Russel hit back four minutes later, with Mehbub Hasan Noyon burying one home with a superb volley from outside the sixyard box following a low cross from Khalekuzzaman Sabuj.

offered

AFP, Rome

Italy job

Italy's under-21 coach

Luigi Di Biagio has been

asked to take temporary

charge of the senior team

until a full-time replace-

ment is found, the Italian

federation said on Friday.

Without a coach since

both England and Argentina

"In the interim, Luigi Di

their shock World Cup

qualifying elimination in

November, Italy take on

in friendlies in March.

Biagio will take over as

told reporters on Friday.

national team coach, if he

wants to," Italian federation

Under-21's and the interim

boss of the senior side too,'

added the former Italy inter-

national who won five

Champions League titles.

official Alessandro Costacurta

"For the moment Gigi can

Sohel restored Chittagong Abahani's lead with an opportunist strike from the top of the box six minutes later. Then the pace of the game died down a bit as both sides shored up their defensive duties, but the port city side scored twice in the last few minutes of the first half to take the game away from their opposition.

The third goal came in the 43rd minute when young forward Abdullah floated a free-kick from the corner of the left-hand of the box, with the ball sailing into the top right corner of the net.

Shakhawat Hossain Rony made it 4-1 on the stroke of half time for the defending champions, poking in Abdullah's free-kick at far post.

The second half was a much tame affair compared to the first as there was little goalmouth action. Substitute laved Khan's strike from | consider himself coach of the the top of the six-yard on 74 minutes only reduced the margin of defeat, but they could barely pose a threat to Chittagong Abahani's commanding lead.

the cut Athletics, swimming and kabaddi teams included

Rowing makes

SPORTS REPORTER



Jakarta 2018

included while athletics, weightlifting and a one-man rowing team made the cut as the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) finalised the list of teams for the upcoming Asian Palembang Games, to be held in Indonesia from August 18 to September 2. The contingent features a total of 144 members, 114

Men's football and kabaddi teams were

athletes and 30 officials from 14 disciplines, who were included in the final list, which was decided during a BOA executive committee meeting yesterday. The meeting also decided to exclude the women's football and men's handball teams, though they were initially considered, from the final roster. The final list will be sent to the Asian Games authorities by February 6. The 14 disciplines are - athletics, men's football,

kabaddi (men and women), archery, golf, beach volleyball, weightlifting, shooting, hockey, bridge, wrestling, swimming, basketball and rowing. From the last edition of the Incheon Games 2014 in South

Korea, three disciplines - gymnastics, karate and taekwondo - were not considered while athletics, golf, swimming, bridge, weightlifting and wrestling have been included, though they were not a part of the contingent in the previous games. Bangladesh had also participated in wushu, karate and

cricket in the last games, but the organisers have decided to postpone these three sports altogether from the games.

The inclusion of rowing was the most surprising one out of all the picks.

"Rowing federation's secretary asked the BOA president to give the discipline a chance. They will choose one candidate for the event. They have promised to win a medal in this discipline," BOA's deputy general secretary Asaduzzaman Kohinoor said.

"Bangladesh is a riverside country. Yet rowing has always been ignored. If given a chance and proper facilities, rowing can do something good too. That was our point of demand," said Rowing Federation's general secretary Khorshed Alam. He also hinted that Aminul Islam Mithu of Barisal Rowing Club might be the man chosen for the Bangladesh team.

Both athletics and swimming, not considered the previous time, have been included. The new ad-hoc committee of the Bangladesh Athletics Federation has somewhat got rid of some of the bad reputation it had earned previously, which is the reason of including the event. One male and one female participant will represent Bangladesh in athletics.

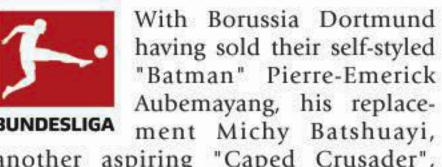
Swimming has seen a new light following Mahfuza Khatun Shila's performance in the last SA Games as well as the successful hosting of the nation-wide talent hunt programme. London-based Junaina Ahmed's performance in last national junior swimming competition has probably played a part in including the discipline in the final roster.

The inclusion of the men's football team in place of the women's was no surprise as the BFF had asked the BOA to reconsider its original decision of sending the women's team at the expense of men's, with the BOA recently hinting

that it would backtrack from its original decision. While the handball team's exclusion was supported by most members in the EC meeting, the kabaddi teams' inclusion is also thought to be a popular demand.

Borussia Dortmund striker Michy Batshuayi became the first player since the club's former star Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang to score two goals on Bundesliga debut in a 3-2 win over Cologne on Friday. DEVONIK PHOTO: AFP

New Batman answers call



"Batman" Pierre-Emerick Aubemayang, his replacement Michy Batshuayi, another aspiring "Caped Crusader", answered their call for goals on his debut.

"I heard the Batman job was vacant at Borussia Dortmund so I decided to take over," Batshuayi, who already liked to call himself "Batsman", wrote on Instagram after signing a loan deal until the end of the season from Chelsea on Wednesday.

With one Batman gone, Dortmund turned to Batshuayi who responded on Friday night. The 24-year-old scored twice on his debut in a 3-2 Bundesliga victory at Cologne.

After showing clinical finishing for his goals, Batshuayi then turned provider. With time running out and the score locked at 2-2, Batshuayi set up the winning goal for Germany forward Andre Schuerrle.

The win lifted Dortmund to second in the Bundesliga ahead of other weekend games. "Yes, I am very happy, but the most important thing is the victory," he said after barely two days at the club. "We want to go

up as far as possible in the table and, of course, qualify for Champions League. "He's a good boy," the Austrian said of Batshuayi. "He brings a lot from what we need. His debut is what we had hoped for.

"This is what one dreams for after the weeks of discussion and the whole overriding [Aubameyang] theme, where we have not focused much on sport."

Club duped by player's fake Wiki page

AGENCIES, Vilnius

Wikipedia is the go-to website for most people looking to get a basic overview of topics or people. However, due to the nature of the website -- it can be edited by anyone at any time -- there is at times incorrect information floating around the various pages.

That was something Lithuanian side FK Panevezys discovered this week after announcing the acquisition of "Angolan international and star player" Barkley Miguel-Panzo before writing about his exploits.

The club were led to believe, by his Wikipedia page, that he had starred for Championship side Queens Park Rangers, bagging an impressive 45 goals between 2010 and 2012.

But all that information was false, with the player's career including spells with non-league Woking in England, French second-tier US Orleans and former Swedish outfit Syrianska.

It certainly evokes memories of Southampton's legendary signing. Then again, even Ali Dia might have done a job in the Lithuanian second division.

MU cut gap on Man City

Alexis Sanchez

scored his first

AFP, London



Manchester United as Jose Mourinho's men took advantage of a rare slip-up from Manchester City to close to within 13 points of the league leaders with a 2-0 win over Huddersfield Town.

City were made to pay for an extraordinary miss by Raheem Sterling as they dropped points for just the fourth time in the Premier League this season in a 1-1 draw at Burnley as Johann Berg Gudmundsson's equaliser eight minutes from time cancelled out Danilo's spectacular opener for City.

United manager Mourinho conceded his side were playing for second place after falling 15 points behind City with defeat at Tottenham Hotspur on Wednesday, and showed his displeasure at that performance by dropping star midfielder Paul Pogba to the bench among four changes.

A minute's silence preceded kick-off at Old Trafford as United paid tribute to the victims of the Munich disaster 60 years on from the tragedy that killed eight of the great United Busby Babes.

Mourinho had called on his players to mark the occasion by bouncing back in style, but the hosts had to wait until 10 minutes into the second half to make the breakthrough when Lukaku got across his marker to volley home Juan Mata's cross from the left for his 19th goal of the season.

Sanchez was then given the chance to cap his home debut 21 minutes from time when he was brought down just inside the area Michael Hefele.

And much to the Chilean's relief, he tapped home the rebound after Jonas Lossl had saved his initial effort from the penalty spot to open his United account after joining from Arsenal on reportedly the biggest ever contract in Premier League history.

City were made to rue a slew of missed chances, most notably when Sterling failed to turn Kyle Walker's low cross into an unguarded net from pointblank range as Burnley salvaged a valu-

able point despite seeing their winless league streak extended to nine matches.

"Of course we are frustrated in terms of the result but the performance was outstanding against a Burnley side who are the most British of teams in terms of long balls and the way they play," said City boss Pep Guardiola.

"But football is about goals. We needed to score the second, third and fourth when we had the chance. When you arrive in the last 15 minutes at

Burnley 1-0, this is what can happen." Leicester City missed the magic of star man Riyad Mahrez as they failed to beat Swansea City at home in a 1-1



Burnley's Johann Berg Gudmundsson (R) scored a dramatic late equaliser as Manchester City were made to pay for a dismal showing in their Premier League encounter yesterday. PHOTO: AFP















