

What to WATCH

GTV & STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
Bangladesh v Sri Lanka
 First Test, Day 5
 Live from 9:30am
TEN 1
South Africa v India
 Second ODI

Live from 2:00pm
Serie A
Benevento v Napoli
 Live from 1:45am (Monday)
TEN 2
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

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. -- AGENCIES



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 both.

Jose following Ferguson's lead to leapfrog City

Jose Mourinho is 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 hatrick leads Marseille six-goal romp

Florian Thauvin took his season's league goal tally to 13 with a hat-trick 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 manager 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. PHOTO: BFF

Ctg Abahani storm into semis

SPORTS REPORTER



Chittagong Abahani will take on 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 top-scorer among the locals in the league,

CTG ABAHANI 4 - 2 SHEIKH RUSSEL
 (SABUJ 9, SOHEL 18, ABDULLAH 43, RONY 45)
 (NOYON 12, JAVED 74)

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 post.

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 six-

yard box following a low cross from Khalekuzzaman Sabuj.

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 Javed Khan's strike from 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.

Di Biagio offered Italy job

AFP, Rome

Italy's under-21 coach Luigi Di Biagio has been asked to take temporary charge of the senior team until a full-time replacement is found, the Italian federation said on Friday.

Without a coach since their shock World Cup qualifying elimination in November, Italy take on both England and Argentina in friendlies in March.

"In the interim, Luigi Di Biagio will take over as national team coach, if he wants to," Italian federation official Alessandro Costacurta told reporters on Friday.

"For the moment Gigi can consider himself coach of the Under-21's and the interim boss of the senior side too," added the former Italy international who won five Champions League titles.

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.

PHOTO: AFP



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

AFP, London



Alexis Sanchez scored his first goal for 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 Lossi 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 point-blank 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 draw.



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

