

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

CHANNEL 9 & DSPORT

Nidahas Trophy

Bangladesh v India

Live from 7:30pm

TEN 1

Serie A

Juventus v Atalanta

Live from 11:00pm

TEN 2

UEFA Champions League

Chelsea v Barcelona

Live from 1:45am (Thursday)

Dhaka Premier League

Time: 9:00am

Gazi Group v Abahani

Venue: KSOAS

Prime Doleshwar v Agrani Bank

Venue: BKSP-3

Prime Bank v Shinepukur

Venue: SBNS

'USAIN'S INSANE' HOT SAUCE HITS MARKETS

Usain Bolt is looking to revolutionize the food industry by bringing Caribbean flavors to Australia with his Usain's Insane Hot Sauces. The eight-time Olympic gold medalist decided to do more than just get a sponsorship deal with a brand that is already established and instead made the move to get in contact with chilli farmers to create his own product. According to News Mail, Bolt reached out to the farmers at Austchilli late last year in collaboration with Australian supermarket chain Coles to get chilli purees for his sauce. There are four different types of chilli puree used in Bolt's hot sauces. Usain's Insane Hot Sauces come in three flavors and they are inspired by a Bolt family recipe, according to The Grocery Geek. The sauce flavors are original Jamaican spice, mango and three chilli and pineapple and Jamaican spice.

ONLY coles

USAIN'S INSANE Hot Sauce

--AGENCIES



Rajshahi division's Fatema Khatun (R) lands a fierce hit on Jamuna Akter in their Bangladesh Youth Games 48kg category bout at the Muhammad Ali Boxing Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Nasser visits Neymar in Brazil

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Paris Saint-Germain president Nasser Al-Khelaifi visited injured superstar Neymar at his luxury home in Brazil amid rumors about the forward's intention to quit PSG. The star's father, Neymar Santos Sr, posted pictures late Monday of the meeting on Instagram. "Visit of the day at @neymarjr! Thanks @PSG," he wrote. In one picture, Neymar gives the thumb's up, flanked by Al-Khelaifi and his father. Unconfirmed reports are swirling that Neymar has grown disenchanted with PSG, who crashed out of the Champions League as the forward missed the second leg on March 6, and wants to return to Barcelona or even join rivals Real Madrid.

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:

Silva double takes Man City one step closer to title

David Silva scored twice as Manchester City moved a step closer to their first Premier League title under Pep Guardiola with a 2-0 victory at struggling Stoke on Monday. Tigers to wear armbands as mark of respect for victims of US-Bangla plane crash

Bangladesh's stand-in skipper Mahmudullah Riyad said that the Tigers would take the field against India wearing black armbands as a mark of respect for victims of the US-Bangla plane crash.

Shocked Abahani want to turn the tide

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Premier League champions Abahani are expected to face an uphill task when they take on high-flying Bengaluru FC in their second Group E encounter of the AFC Cup at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru tonight. Abahani went to India on the back of a 1-0 home defeat against New Radiant SC of Maldives, and now they are up against a much stronger side, who have been playing in the Indian Super League (ISL) since last November. On Sunday, Bengaluru FC reached the final of the franchise league after beating FC Pune City 3-1. Bengaluru had reached the AFC Cup qualifying round by beating Bhutan's Transports United (3-0 on aggregate) before dispatching TC Sports Club of Maldives (8-2 on aggregate) in the play-off qualifiers. However, they fielded second-string sides in their qualifying fixtures and may rest some of their best players against Abahani

ahead of Saturday's ISL final. Abahani, meanwhile, were due to have their final practice session at the match venue last night following the arrival of Nigerian duo Emeka Darlington and Alison Udoka. The players were apparently in a state of shock due to the US-Bangla Airlines plane crash in Kathmandu on Monday as the Abahani players also used the same airline to fly to Kolkata on the same day. "The players are in shock following the plane crash in Nepal as we had a chat with a few passengers of that flight during our departure. However, the players are focusing on tomorrow's match," coach Saiful Bari Titu said over phone yesterday. "Bengaluru will be a very difficult side but we will try to improve our performance. We don't want to give space and allow the opposition to come in like we did against New Radiant," Titu said. "Abahani beat Bengaluru in Dhaka during the last edition, so if we can give our best and make less number of mistakes, it is possible to secure points against them."

Bangladesh put 25 past Afghanistan

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh national hockey team emerged as Pool A champions in Asian Games Qualifiers following a massive 25-0 win against lightweights Afghanistan at the Sultan Qaboos Complex in the Omani capital of Muscat yesterday. The men in red and green will face Sri Lanka in the first semifinal tomorrow while hosts Oman will take on Thailand in the second semifinal on the same day. Having confirmed the semifinal berth after two empathic wins over Thailand and Hong Kong, Bangladesh came into the final pool match strongly and toyed with Afghanistan, who conceded 42 goals in their previous two matches. Bangladesh opened the floodgates in the very first minute and ended the rout in the final minute, keeping their hundred per cent winning record in the tournament. Bangladesh scored three goals in the first quarter before adding 10 goals in the second quarter while the third and fourth quarters saw six goals each. In the one-way affair, six players -- Arshad Hossain, Ashrafur Islam, Deen Mohammad Emon, Rasel Mahmud Jimmy, Mamunur Rahman Chayan and Roman Sarker -- slotted hattricks while Hasan Jubair Niloy, Farhad Shitul and Naim Uddin also wrote their names on the scoresheet.

Saints sack Pellegrino

AFP, London

Struggling Premier League club Southampton sacked Argentinian manager Mauricio Pellegrino on Monday with only eight matches left in the season. Pellegrino took over at St Mary's on a three-year deal last June, but Southampton announced in a statement that they had parted ways with the 46-year-old with the club only one point above the relegation zone. "The club will look to appoint a new management team as soon as possible, with the search for a replacement already underway," the statement added. A disastrous run of form that has seen the Saints win only one of their last 17 Premier League matches always appeared likely to end in Pellegrino's demise.

Muhtadi wins rapid chess

SPORTS REPORTER



Mortuza Muhtadi Islam of Narayanganj turned heads when he won a gold medal in the U-13 Rapid Chess competition of the inaugural Bangladesh Youth Games at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room yesterday. Muhtadi has been participating in the sub-junior chess championship for the past three years, since he was a second grade student, yet he never even finished in the top ten till now. His previous best result was when he finished 12th during last year's edition of the championship. This time however, the now fifth grade student from Narayanganj Ideal School made his parents proud, though they have always supported him fiercely in this regard. "I am very happy to win the gold. I believe this success will help me reach

my target in the future. I want to be a FIDE Master within the next two to three years," said Muhtadi, who always looks restless during his activities at the chess federation. In Rapid Chess, Muhtadi secured 4.5 points from five matches to ensure the gold medal. "I also play football, cricket and volleyball in the open space in front of our house but I love chess most," he continued. "It was not possible to play chess without my family's support and I am really enjoying chess and want to be a player like GM Abdullah Al Rakib." Muhtadi's elder brother, Mahathir Islam, also took part in the Youth Games and won the bronze medal of the U-17 group, where junior champion FM Fahad Rahman grabbed the gold. Both brothers received tremendous support from their parents, with their mother -- Kazi Jannata -- regularly taking them to the Elegant Chess

Academy in Dhanmondi to practice. Apparently, the boys became enamoured with the sport after watching their father play at home and practise between themselves while also using different chess apps to help hone their skills. "We are determined to provide them with all types of support as long as they are involved with chess because we don't believe in imposing anything on them from our sides. Chess is a discipline which will help them understand the positive and negative sides of life in the future," said Jannata. "We will love it if they become Grand Masters in the future to better the image of our country," Jannata added. "We know they have to cross a long path and play a lot of tournaments to achieve the GM title and their father, who is an additional tax commissioner, is ready to help them but both of our sons first have to prove themselves by securing places in the national teams."



Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi (C) broke his long-running duck against Chelsea in the first leg, and the Argentine will be hoping to add to that when the sides meet for the second leg of their Champions League round of 16 match at the Nou Camp tonight.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Time for Conte to throw caution to the wind

AFP, London



Chelsea manager Antonio Conte faces a conundrum of balancing his tendency for caution with the English champions' need to score to get past the might of Barcelona in the Champions League last 16 on Wednesday. Conte's plan to contain and counter-attack on the La Liga leaders nearly worked to perfection in the first leg three weeks ago as Willian put the hosts in front and also hit the woodwork twice. But one Andreas Christensen error cost Conte's men dear as Barca pounced for a vital away goal when Andres Iniesta set up Lionel Messi to finally net against Chelsea at the ninth attempt and give Barca the upper hand from a 1-1 draw. However, whilst Willian shone in Conte's strikerless set-up, Eden Hazard was unable to exert the influence he desires on the biggest stage in an unfamiliar centre-forward role. "We need to repeat the game we

played at Stamford Bridge and to try to exploit the chances to score," Conte said following Saturday's 2-1 win over Crystal Palace, hinting that he will opt for a similar approach at the Camp Nou. "It's important to understand that we must be prepared to suffer, if we play with Hazard as number nine, or if we play with [Olivier] Giroud or [Alvaro] Morata as number nine and Hazard as number 10." Hazard suffered when deployed once more in a central role as Chelsea were passed off the park by Manchester City in a 1-0 defeat nine days ago. "When you leave the pitch you have the impression that you've ran [a lot], but that you haven't played a game of football," said Hazard as Chelsea failed to muster a single shot on goal. "We could have played on for three hours, and I wouldn't touch a ball. "For me personally it's difficult to play a good game when you only touch the ball three times." Hazard's best displays throughout his Chelsea career have come when playing off a focal point, most notably

in two Premier League title winning seasons alongside Diego Costa. A fallout with Conte meant Costa was hastily dispatched by the Italian at the end of last season despite playing a huge role in delivering the title. Morata was bought to replace his Spanish international teammate and initially struck up an excellent relationship with Hazard. However, an alarming dip in form allied to injury problems has seen Morata make just one start in two months and not score since Boxing Day. On the eve of the first leg, Hazard welcomed comparisons to five-time Ballon d'Or winners Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, but admitted he had to produce far more on a consistent basis in the Champions League to justify such comparisons. But after Conte claimed playing in a more open style against City and Barcelona would be "stupid" given their superior quality, Hazard may be forgiven for wondering if he can realise his ambitions at Stamford Bridge should Chelsea fail to make the quarter-finals for a fourth straight season.



Venus Williams (L) consoles her sister Serena after winning their third round match at Indian Wells on Tuesday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Venus KO's Serena

AFP, Indian Wells



Serena Williams' return to the WTA Tour came to an abrupt end Monday as she crashed out of Indian Wells with a 6-3, 6-4 loss to her sister Venus. Venus closed out the 29th career meeting between the two on her second match point as Serena sailed a forehand long to end the third-round showdown. It was the first meeting between the sisters since they clashed in the final of the 2017 Australian Open, which Serena won before taking a 15-month hiatus due to her pregnancy. Serena said she is still easing her way back into match fitness. "It wasn't very easy, obviously," she said. "It was good to play and try to get in the rhythm and get into the swing again. "I can't really replicate the situation no matter how much I do in practice. I make those shots 10 times out of 10 in practice. "It's just nerves, the anticipation you feel naturally. It's a little bit of everything that

comes that doesn't normally happen." The 10th seeded Venus moves on to the round of 16 where she will face Anastasija Sevastova, who defeated 12th seeded Julia Georges 6-3, 6-3. It is rare for the Williams sisters to play this early in a tournament and the earliest they have faced each other since their first encounter at the Australian Open in 1998. They arrived outside the stadium together on a golf cart then walked through the tunnel with Serena entering the court first, as many in the crowd stood and cheered. Venus blasted six aces but had eight double faults in the one hour 26 minute main stadium match in front of a crowd of about 13,000. Serena is still shaking off the rust after the long layoff as she hit four aces but had her serve broken four times. "I just have a long way to go," Serena said. Despite the loss Serena still leads their career series 17-12. This was their first encounter with Venus as an aunt and Serena as a new mother after giving birth to her baby daughter, Alexis Olympia, on September 1.

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