

What to WATCH

SPORT
Pakistan Super League
Final
Islamabad United v Peshawar Zalmi
Live from 8:00pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
New Zealand v England
First Test, Day Four
Live from 7:00am

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
ICC World Cup Qualifier
Final
Afghanistan v West Indies
Live from 1:30pm

SONY SIX
Australia v South Africa
Third Test, Day Four
Live from 2:30pm



Cristiano Ronaldo scored two goals in stoppage time to give Portugal a stunning come-from-behind 2-1 win to deny Mohamed Salah, who had scored the game's opening goal, a chance to upstage him in the in-form duo's clash in a friendly on Friday. PHOTO: AFP

Thangaraja wins by six shots

SPORTS REPORTER



Sri Lanka's N Thangaraja came up with a classic six-under-66 in the fourth round of the City Bank American Express Chittagong Open to cruise to a thumping six-shot win at the Bhatiary Golf & Country Club yesterday.

Thangaraja, the overnight leader by two shots, bagged his third PGTI title as he ended the week with a record total of 22-under-266.

India's Veer Ahlawat carded a three-under-69 on the final day to finish runner-up at 16-under-272. Among the Bangladeshi golfers, Mohammad Sajib Ali had the best finish as he clinched fifth place with a total of 11-under-277.

Thangaraja (65-67-68-66), who was in contention in the last two PGTI events before

slipping on the final day on both occasions, managed to set the record straight this time around.

The 36-year-old did not look to be in any trouble from the very start as he sank birdies on the third and sixth to extend his lead to three shots on the front-nine. He then went on to tighten his grip on the title with four more birdies on the back-nine. Thangaraja thus signed off with a bogey-free effort.

Thangaraja, who pocketed a paycheque of 6.46-lac-taka, said he was delighted with the achievement. "I'm just delighted that I kept my focus and got the job done unlike the previous two events where I missed out on converting my opportunities in the final stages. It's great to win a title after such a long gap and that too with my best ever four-round total of 22-under."

"I really enjoyed playing at the BGCC and look forward to coming back to this top-class venue next year," added the Colombo native.



Sri Lanka's N Thangaraja receives the winners trophy as hosts, organisers and sponsors applaud at the end of the City Bank American Express Chittagong Open at the Bhatiary Golf and Country Club yesterday. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Emery won't coach us next year: Meunier

REUTERS, Paris

Paris Saint-Germain coach Unai Emery will not lead the team next season, the club's fullback Thomas Meunier was quoted as saying by French media.

"A lot of things will change, including the coach," French sports daily L'Equipe quoted him as saying while on duty with Belgium.

PSG were eliminated from the Champions League in the last 16 by Real Madrid earlier this month, fuelling speculation of Emery's departure.

Emery's contract expires at the end of the season and it will reportedly not be renewed, with Luis Enrique, Antonio Conte and Carlo Ancelotti rumoured as replacements.

Youth Club Cup from April 25

SPORTS REPORTER



The third edition of the Youth Club Cup Under-18 football tournament will kick off on April 25 with the participation of 12 clubs, officials decided during a meeting of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday.

12 top-tier clubs of the Bangladesh Premier League will field their youth teams in the competition, which will be held after a gap of two years.

The Professional Football League Committee (PFLC) decided that they would provide Tk two lakh each to the clubs as participation money while the champion team will be awarded Tk five lakh and the runners-up team will get Tk three lakh.

"We will get 40,000 dollars from FIFA to organise the youth tournament," BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag said. "We will distribute all the money among the teams while we will have to spend Tk 18 lakh to organise the tournament."

The BFF also decided to start the next domestic season in the last week of October. "We are planning to begin the next season in late October, taking into account Bangladesh's international engagement and the upcoming FIFA World Cup."

"The SAFF Championship is also scheduled for September and we will hold the Bangabandhu Cup International Tournament after the SAFF Championship, so there is no scope to start the next season before that," the BFF spokesman added.

Ronaldo stuns Salah's Egypt

AFP, Zurich



Cristiano Ronaldo hit two goals in stoppage time as European champions Portugal defeated Egypt 2-1 in a friendly international on Friday, winning his personal duel with Mohamed Salah who had put the seven-time African champions ahead.

Ronaldo, appearing in his 900th career match, made his mark to devastating effect as time ran out. First, he pulled his team level with a header from a Ricardo Quaresma cross, before adding the winner in almost identical circumstances in the fourth minute of injury time.

However, the 33-year-old Real Madrid star had to wait for the VAR system to validate his goal after a suspicion of offside. His two-goal salvo took his Portugal tally to 81.

Earlier, Salah, who has shone at Liverpool this season with 28 Premier League goals, broke the deadlock in Zurich after 56 minutes. After a quickfire exchange of passes, Abdallah El Said found Salah in space for his teammate to beat Beto in the Portuguese goal with a sweetly-timed left-foot strike from the edge of the area.

SELECTED RESULTS		
Norway	4 - 1	Australia
Kamara 36, 57, 90+2, Reginiussen 48		Irvine 19
Argentina	2 - 0	Italy
Banega 75, Lanzini 85		
Germany	1 - 1	Spain
Mueller 35		Moreno 6
Netherlands	0 - 1	England
		Lingard 59
Portugal	2 - 1	Egypt
Ronaldo 90+2, 90+4		Salah 54
France	2 - 3	Colombia
Giroud 11, Lemar 26		Muriel 28, Falcao 62, Quintero 85-pen

"In the last minutes we were better, created four chances and showed great determination to turn it around. They showed that they did not want to lose," said Portugal coach Fernando Santos. "And with Ronaldo, it's about a goal and another goal."

Egypt coach Hector Cuper said: "As far as measuring ourselves against a top team like Portugal, this was a good game for us in that sense" he said. "It's just a shame they scored in the 92nd and 94th minutes."

game, it was a test in which we were able to learn a lot," said Loew. "Both teams have room to improve and you do not always want to show everything so soon before a World Cup."

Meanwhile, Spain coach Julen Lopetegui took the positives from having frustrated the Germans in their own backyard.

"Overall, I see this match very positively," said the Spain boss. "We played against the best of the world champions at (their) home. "We played with personality,

"My team showed World Cup character," beamed Colombia coach Jose Pekerman. "It's very important for this preparation for Russia."

France coach Didier Deschamps admitted the visitors had shown greater desire. "The Colombians gave us a lesson in aggressiveness, whereas we were too quick to settle for what we had," he told TMC television. "The top level is demanding and we didn't respond in the second half."

Olivier Giroud scored his 30th goal for France before Thomas Lemar doubled the lead but Luis Muriel gave the South Americans hope. Lemar's Monaco team-mate Radamel Falcao equalised and Quintero then had the last word, just two minutes after entering the fray. **NO MESSI, NO PROBLEM** Ever Banega ensured Argentina weren't derailed by Lionel Messi's absence as La Albiceleste clinched a 2-0 win over Italy in Friday's friendly at the Etihad Stadium.

Without their talismanic star, who reportedly suffered a groin strain, Jorge Sampaoli's side showed they have strength in depth with a solid display capped by late goals from Banega and Manuel Lanzini. "We played this game as a final," said Sampaoli. "The team had a lot of stability and the collective level was very good."

Italy remain in turmoil after failing to qualify for the World Cup for the first time since 1958.

"We suffered with their possession and lost some shape," Italy boss Luigi Di Biagio said. "We deserved more in the second half but let's not forget who we were up against."

"The group must develop. There are a lot of youngsters who need experience. We must realise this is a difficult moment for the team. We ask everyone to be patient."



Argentina midfielder Ever Banega (R) sets off to celebrate as Italian defenders are left to lick their wounds in a friendly on Friday. Even without Lionel Messi, La Albiceleste came out 2-0 winners. PHOTO: REUTERS

SPAIN, GERMANY WANT TO IMPROVE AFTER DRAW

Germany head coach Joachim Loew says he knows the areas where the defending champions must improve before the World Cup after drawing 1-1 with Spain on Friday.

Rodrigo Moreno put Spain ahead after just six minutes in Duesseldorf, but hosts Germany levelled when Thomas Mueller hit a superb equaliser in his 90th international. "There was a good intensity to the

ambition, rigour and confidence in who we are. Of course, there are always things to improve."

FRANCE LOSE THEIR COOL Substitute Juan Quintero lashed home a penalty five minutes from time as Colombia came back from 2-0 down to stun France 3-2 on Friday.

Centre-back Samuel Umtiti was penalised for a rash lunge on Jose Izquierdo as the South Americans received a morale boost ahead of the World Cup in Russia.

Shooting team fly off for Gold Coast

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh shooting team left for Australia last night to take part in the XXI Commonwealth Games, which will be held in Gold Coast from April 4.

The 18-member contingent, including 13 shooters, three coaches and two officials, is the first of the contingents from Bangladesh, who will also be participating in swimming, boxing, weightlifting, athletics and wrestling disciplines.

However, shooting remains the discipline that Bangladesh will be pinning most of their hopes on after having won a few medals from the sport in the past.

The shooting team will reach Australia tomorrow evening and are expected to start their training at the official practice range a day or two later, provided they get the required permission, informed Bangladesh Shooting Sports Federation's chief executive officer Mushtaq Wais.

Both rifle shooting coach Klavs Christensen and pistol shooting coach Marko Sokic are hopeful with their disciples about earning laurels from down under.

Although last edition's silver medallist in 10m air rifle, Abdullahel Baki, is part of the contingent, the centre of attention will be Raisalatul Islam, who outshone other senior shooters to win gold in the National Shooting Championship in October last year.

The six male shooters and seven female shooters will compete in five events each in men's and women's group -- 10m air pistol, 50m air pistol, 10m air rifle, 50m rifle prone and 50m rifle three positions.

March with Strong Determination

With strong determination our journey starts from a disaster after 71's Liberation War, and now we have been graduated to the developing countries' status. Remembering with respect those souls who made it possible.

