

# What to WATCH

**SONY SIX**  
Commonwealth Games  
Opening Ceremony  
Live from 4:00pm

**TEN 1**  
UEFA Champions League  
Barcelona v Roma  
Live from 12:45am (Thursday)

**TEN 2**  
UEFA Champions League  
Liverpool v Man City  
Live from 12:45am (Thursday)

**SONY ESPN**  
Serie A  
AC Milan v Inter Milan  
Live from 10:30pm

## DAY'S EVENT

**Dhaka Premier League**  
Relegation Playoff  
Agrani Bank v Brothers Union

Time: 9:30am  
Venue: BKSP-3

## PLAYERS FINED, SENT ON HOLIDAY

Olympiakos president Evangelos Marinakis fined the team 400,000 euros on Monday and ordered the club's under-performing players to go on holiday until the end of the season. Marinakis was angry at Sunday's 1-1 draw at Levadiakos that left the defending Greek league champions in third place. "I will build Olympiakos from the beginning and it will become the team we are dreaming of. I and the rest of the fans have tolerated you enough. You will leave today and go on holiday," Marinakis was quoted in the Greek media as telling the players. He said very few in the current squad will be retained for the final three matches of the campaign, with replacements to be called up from the under-20 team. "The amateur teams live with the basics, they love Olympiakos and their supporters much more than you do," he continued, vowing to reinvest money collected from the fines into the club's amateur teams. "[You think more about] the nice houses you live in and your cars and don't care about the team," Marinakis reportedly told players. -- AGENCIES



# Returning Messi in Roma's path

AFP, Barcelona



"Welcome Romans, 100,000 gladiators await you," warned Barcelona in a video ahead of their Champions League quarterfinal first leg against AS Roma on Wednesday.

One warrior stands head and shoulders above the rest. Lionel Messi is fit again and expected to start against the Italian side after rising from the bench to rescue Barcelona a point in a 2-2 draw with Sevilla on Saturday.

Thrown on by Ernesto Valverde just before the hour mark as Barcelona trailed Sevilla 2-0, Messi turned the tide in his team's favour and drove home an 89th-minute equaliser from outside the area.

"He didn't start the game as a precaution," coach Valverde said. "We think he will be fine for Wednesday but we will see how he feels after tonight's effort. Of course, he's an important player. He makes a difference every time he touches the ball."

The last time Roma faced Barcelona was in the Champions League group stage in November 2015, with the Catalans registering a thumping 6-1 home win over the Italians.

Messi made his return from a two-month

injury layoff in that game, running the show by scoring twice and setting up Gerard Pique.

Luis Suarez, who also struck twice against Roma in that match, was pleased with the team's attitude against Sevilla.

"It's to Messi's credit that he keeps on demonstrating (his class)," the Uruguayan forward said. "But the work of the whole team, to keep going and not give up, is what stays with me."

Barcelona looked lost at Sevilla until Messi arrived, especially without Sergio Busquets anchoring the team and controlling the game. The Catalan holding midfielder is back in training after a toe injury and could also start as Barcelona welcome Roma to their Colosseum for the first leg.

"Andres Iniesta, our Michelangelo, Leo Messi, our emperor," declared the video.

While veteran playmaker Iniesta's brush strokes in midfield paint the path, it is only with Messi leading the charge Barcelona can be confident of putting Roma to the sword and taking another step towards a potential treble.

"We're up against the very best in Messi," Roma forward Stephan El Shaarawy said. "Every time he gets on the ball, he can make something happen. That's why we'll have to try to act accordingly and restrict his influence as much as possible."



Lionel Messi (C) has found the back of the net 12 times in 19 games against Italian opposition and now, back to full fitness after a brief spell on the sidelines, the Barcelona superstar will be looking to add to his tally against AS Roma in the first leg of their Champions League quarterfinal at the Nou Camp tonight.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



Bangladesh Football Federation president Kazi Salahuddin congratulated the under-15 girls' team and urged them to work even harder for further glory during an unofficial programme at the BFF House yesterday.

PHOTO: BFF

# Start of a long journey: Salahuddin

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president Kazi Salahuddin told the Jockey Club IGC Invitational Tournament winners - the Bangladesh under-15 girls' football team -- that they will have to work hard over the next few years if they are to be ranked among the best in Asia. He was speaking at an informal gathering with the team at the BFF House yesterday, following the team's return in the early hours.

"I want to congratulate you for being champions. It makes me happy that the city [Hong Kong] you came back from as champions is the one I also played and my elder daughter, too, was born in that city," the BFF boss told the team in presence of media.

However, he asked them not to get carried away with the triumph and the subsequent flood of congratulations as he felt much tougher tests await them. "It is only the beginning of a long journey. To reach the top is much easier than staying there."

There are many players who play very well for a week but if he/she can't continue the next day he/she will fall behind. So it is tough to reach the top but even tougher to stay there.

"You are only 14, 15 and 16 years old, in the next 4 to 5 years, you have to train/practice six times more than now. When the level of your training increases by ten times after 4 to 5 years, then you will be a real footballer," Salahuddin said.

The head of Bangladesh football gave the example of Sabina Khatun, the national women's team captain who is now playing in the Indian Women's League, to inspire these budding footballers.

"You see Sabina. I want to see you playing the league in Hong Kong, Japan, Korea and if you can do that then today's gift would be nothing," he said.

The team's proud coach Golam Rabbani Choton informed there is hardly any time for these girls to relax. "These girls will join the ongoing long-term camp today as we have a number of international tournaments ahead including a futsal tournament in Thailand next month," he

said. He however, feels that the young players have already benefited a lot from the camp. "They have obviously improved in technical skills as well as mental toughness, but the difference was physical fitness. Our players played in full tempo for the entire matches all throughout the three games. This happened due to the continuous camp that the girls are in," Choton added.

The tournament's top-scorer Saraban Tohura, who scored eight goals, including two hattricks in three matches, said that the biggest gain from these competitions for them is earning the courage to fight against other teams.

"When I first went outside the country, during the U-14 AFC Regional Championships final in Nepal in 2015, I cried. I was afraid when I had to board a lift for the first time. But now after playing so much in different tournaments we have got used to these things," the youngster from Kalshindur in Mymensingh said.

"We used to have neck-and-neck fights with teams like Iran. But this time we have beaten Iran 8-1. So we have the courage now when we take on other teams," she added.

## 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:

### Nafees joins Mumbai to help out Mustafizur

Bangladesh left-arm bowler Mustafizur Rahman is set for his third season in the IPL and the star bowler will be looking to make his mark with his new team Mumbai Indians, having featured for Hyderabad Sunrisers the past two editions of the tournament.

### Cricketers' union want Smith, Warner bans reduced

Bans handed to Steve Smith, David Warner and Cameron Bancroft should be reduced, the Australian cricketers' union said, arguing the punishment was disproportionate to previous ball-tampering cases.

### 'Argentina-Spain final will be great but only if we win'

Lionel Messi, the protagonist of many Barcelona victories has always remarked that he would give away all the trophies he won with the Catalans for one trophy with Argentina.

### 'Derby della Madonnina regaining significance'

AC Milan coach Gennaro Gattuso believes Wednesday's 'Derby della Madonnina' against bitter city rivals Inter Milan is beginning to recapture its past glory with Champions League qualification potentially at stake.

# Make your history, Klopp tells troops

AFP, Liverpool



Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp urged his players to write themselves into the club's storied European history when they face Premier League leaders Manchester City in the first leg of their Champions League quarterfinal on Wednesday.

While City currently have the upper hand domestically as they sit 18 points clear of Liverpool in the Premier League, five-time European champions Liverpool have far more pedigree in continental competition.

However, the Reds haven't reached the Champions League last four for a decade and Klopp wants modern day memories created at Anfield.

"This club is already so full of history and we have to write our own history," said the German on Tuesday when quizzed whether he was seeking inspiration from Liverpool's glory days in Europe. "People meet me in the street and they can tell me each goal Liverpool who scored 37 years ago in the 56th minute... we need to be proud of our history but we need to create our own history."

"I did that a lot in the past with my former teams, but at one point you need to do your own things. The boys are ready, they are really looking forward to it."

City's only league defeat of the season came at Anfield in a thrilling 4-3 Liverpool win and Klopp welcomed the challenge.

"I like the difficult jobs, that is the most interesting thing for a manager," added Klopp. "What to do in this or that moment? How to prepare your boys as good as possible from the mental and physical side?"

Guardiola has won all seven of his previous Champions League quarterfinals as a coach at Barcelona and Bayern Munich. However, no opposing coach has beaten Guardiola more in his trophy-laden career than Klopp. In 12 previous meetings, Klopp has six wins to Guardiola's five.

The Liverpool boss played down the significance of that personal record, but did cite it as reason to believe that winninn was feasible.

"I didn't beat Pep, my teams did and I was lucky with them doing what they did," said Klopp. "It's really difficult, but I think we can beat the best. But only if we work really hard and smart."



Cricketer Mahmudullah Riyad (4th from L) signed a year-long contract with Savlon as a brand ambassador at the ACI Consumer Brands' Tejgaon office yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## SA WOMEN'S HANDBALL Bangladesh finish third

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh finished third in the 5th South Asian Women's Handball Championships, which concluded in Lucknow, India yesterday.

Bangladesh lost their last match against eventual champions India 27-11.

The women in red and green started the campaign with victories over Bhutan and Afghanistan, but lost to Nepal in their third match before conceding defeat against the hosts yesterday.

## Casillas hits 1,000 mark

AFP, Lisbon

Iconic Spanish goalkeeper Iker Casillas played the 1000th match of his career on Monday as Portuguese contenders Porto suffered a damaging 2-0 defeat at Belenenses.

Casillas was making his 108th appearance for Porto, having previously turned out 725 times with boyhood club Real Madrid while earning 167 caps for Spain.

He captained his country to their first World Cup title in 2010 as well as consecutive European Championships, in 2008 and 2012.

The 36-year-old broke through into the Real team as a teenager in 1999, winning the Champions League on three occasions before moving to Porto in 2015.

Porto have already announced that Casillas will leave at the end of the season following a three-year stint in Portugal as the club look to trim their payroll.

# MSC look to Jimmy & Pakistani players

## Transfer window extended till Saturday

SPORTS REPORTER



Mohammedan SC completed their registration formalities for the upcoming Premier Division Hockey League yesterday evening with 18 local players including star forward and national team captain Rasel Mahmud Jimmy alongside a few other experienced and young players making the squad.

The Black and Whites were reportedly in a quandary over whether to take part in the transfer as the club was keen on deferring the transfers by a few days, but they eventually appeared at the eleventh hour.

However, as only 11 of the 13 teams completed the registration formalities, the transfer window, which was supposed to end yesterday, has been extended till Saturday.

Bangladesh Sporting and Usha KC are yet to take part in the transfers. It has been learnt that the extension has been made so that these two teams can still complete their registration.

Meanwhile, Mohammedan's current coordinator Ariful Haque Prince said that the delay in registration happened as they waited for their hockey committee chairman Shafi Ullah Al Munir.

"Actually the reason for the delay was that we waited for our hockey committee chairman

Minur bhai. To be honest, it is a matter of huge involvement of money, and without him it is really tough to handle about Taka 80 to 90 lakhs. However the club eventually decided to complete the transfers," Prince said. "Mohammedan always forms the team to become champions, whether it is hockey, football or any other sport. This time also we tried to form a strong side to fight for the championship."

"We keep up our effort to confirm the services of the national captain Jimmy, along with some others who proved themselves as the country's premier performers like [Kamruzzaman] Rana, Imran Hasan [Pintu], Zahid Hossain."

The former player claimed they have contacted four Pakistanis while they will also try to add one or more German players to the roster.

"All four players of Pakistan are national team members. Alim Billal is a defender and a drag-and-flick specialist; Kawsar Abbas is a defensive midfielder; Mohammed Tousif is a midfielder who played for Abahani last season. We will also have the option to sign one off three strikers - Irfan Butt, Mohammed Izzat and Mohammed Omar," Prince revealed.

He also informed that there will be four young players from the BKSP -- one in each position.

**ICU সেবা নিতে গিয়ে সর্বশান্ত হতে না চাইলে**

**গণস্বাস্থ্য ICU সুবিধা নিন**

প্রয়োজনীয় এক্সরে, সনোগ্রাফী, ECG, ECHO, কার্ডিয়াক মনিটর, ভেন্টিলেটর ও ইনফিউশন পাম্প ব্যবহার, রক্তের পরীক্ষা, অক্সিজেন এবং গ্লুকোজ সর্বমোট দৈনিক চার্জ ১৭০০০ (সতের হাজার) টাকা মাত্র।

বিশেষজ্ঞগণ যতবাই ICU রোগী পরিদর্শন করুন, কোন অতিরিক্ত চার্জ নেই। তবে ইমার্জেন্সী ডায়ালাইসিস বাবদ ৪০০০ টাকা চার্জ হবে।

যে কোন কিডনী সমস্যার জন্য যোগাযোগ করুন।

মার্কিন প্রটোকলে নিয়ন্ত্রিত দেশের বৃহত্তম সর্বাধুনিক কিডনী চিকিৎসা কেন্দ্র

**গণস্বাস্থ্য ডায়ালাইসিস সেন্টার**

বাড়ী-১৪/ই, সড়ক-৬, ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা-১২০৫ ফোন: ৯৬৭০০৭১-৭৫, ০১৭০৬৬০৬৯৪ Ext. ০, ১১১, ১১৭

মাসে ১০,০০০ বিকল কিডনী রোগী চিকিৎসা নিয়ে সুস্থ জীবন যাপন করছেন