

While Shirin Akter equalled the record of seven national titles by winning the women's 100m title, 16-year-old Hasan Mia (R) was the star of the show as he upstaged seven-time champion Mezbah Ahmed in men's 100m during the opening day of the City FC 14th National Summer Athletics Championship at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

# What to WATCH

GTV & CHANNEL 9  
West Indies v Bangladesh  
Third ODI  
Live from 7:30pm

## MARADONA DESTROYS NEPHEW LIVE ON-AIR

Diego Maradona continued his recent streak of headline-grabbing incidents by going live on a television show to criticise his nephew, Walter Christian Machuca. The 57-year-old called the Canal9 show 'Confrontados' after Machuca, who is the son of Maradona's sister Rita, spoke about the alleged marriage between his uncle and 29-year-old Rocio Oliva. Maradona went live on air to hit back at Machuca with a string of comments and defended his relationship with Oliva. "I'm watching the number one coward, this nephew that I have," the 1986 World Cup winner said. "He is someone whose mother can't see him and who hasn't seen me for a long time. He broke lots of my cars. He's someone who even stole money from me. He's the biggest coward in the world because he hides. I get married when I decide. When I get married, I will ask for Rocio's hand; I will ask her for her and not you."

—AGENCIES



# Hasan dethrones Mezbah

## Shirin sprints to record-equalling seventh gold on the trot

SPORTS REPORTER



Young Hasan Mia ended the long-standing reign of Mezbah Ahmed and became the new fastest man of the country, winning the 100m sprint on the opening day of the City FC 14th National Summer Athletics Championship at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The Class-IX student of BKSP, who was participating for the first time in the senior national meet, clocked 10.80 seconds to condemn Mezbah (10.90 sec), the seven-time national champion, to second position.

Bangladesh Navy's M Abdur Rouf, who lost against Mezbah in a photo-finish in the last national athletics championship in December last year, settled for the bronze medal with a time of 11.00 seconds. Mezbah had won the gold with a timing of 10.783 seconds [electronic timing] in that event, but yesterday's sprint events were held with hand timing after there were some technical glitches with the

electronic timer in the afternoon session.

"I did not think that I would beat Mezbah bhai. I just wanted to give my best shot," said the youngster, who hails from Comilla, while visibly overwhelmed with what he had just achieved.

"When I did well in the Youth Games [earlier this year], my coach told me that I should give my best [at the national meet]. However, after doing well in the heats in the morning, I got confident. I thought I would win a medal, but I didn't even dream that I would beat Mezbah bhai to the gold," added the new fastest man.

Having upstaged the best in the country with his first try, Hasan is now looking for bigger things on bigger platforms. He has his eyes set on next year's South Asian Games.

"I'm only studying in school. So this is just my beginning. I want to go ahead and do well in the SA games, SAF Athletics Championship and Asian Games," said Hasan.

While Mezbah failed to extend his record, teammate Shirin Akter made sure there were no upsets in women's

100m sprint as she took the gold -- her seventh consecutively at the national level -- with a time of 12.20 seconds, beating teammate Shohagi Akter by 0.10 seconds. Sharifa Khatun of the same team won the bronze medal after finishing a further 0.10 seconds slower.

Her seventh gold medal put Shirin alongside Parvin Sultana Lovely in the record books. Shirin improved her timing by 0.097 seconds, beating Shohagi in consecutive national meets.

"I did not feel any pressure after watching Mezbah lose his crown. I'm feeling great after joining Lovely apa in the record books," said the Navy swimmer.

"I clocked 11.99 seconds in the last SA Games. I will definitely try to improve my timing in the upcoming SA Games and then hang up my boots by winning a medal in that event next year," said Shirin.

At the end of the first day of the two-day meet, Bangladesh Army led the medals tally with five gold, four silver and nine bronze medals, followed by Bangladesh Navy, who won four gold, seven silver and three bronze medals.

# Stick it like Gianni

AFP, San Felice Sul Panaro

Newspapers recalling decades of sporting glory line the walls, cupboards overflow with stickers of footballing legends and on a desk, pristine packets lie tantalisingly waiting to be opened: welcome to the home of Gianni Bellini, the man with a claim to the biggest football sticker album collection in the world.

Bellini boasts 4,000 complete albums filled with some two million stickers and another 400,000 yet to stick in.

"Every day after I've finished work and picked up my grandson from school, I spend at least 4 to 6 hours working on them," Bellini tells AFP.

The 54-year-old typographer lives in the small town of San Felice sul Panaro around 30 kilometres (18 miles) from Modena -- the heartland of renowned sticker maker Panini.

He began his collection around age 13, before taking a small break a few years later, "more interested in girls" than stickers, he admits.

But soon after getting married aged 19, Bellini picked up where he left off, and published ads in newspapers around the world looking for fellow collectors to exchange albums with.

"I received 600-700 letters a month, it was the start of correspondences and friendships, many of which I still have today," he laughs.

And his wife Giovanna, who is also a football fan, doesn't mind her husband's diehard hobby.

"I support him and I'm happy too. That way he's always at home, where I can keep an eye on him, he doesn't go to the bar," she jokes.

Every day, Bellini checks for new products online and keeps up with his some three hundred correspondents.

"I send about 5,000 emails a year," he says, poring over a large diary where everything is logged.



His entire collection is also archived on his computer.

"It's an amazing feeling to finally have the album in your hands," says Bellini as he opens a fresh packet from Mexico.

"But once that emotion is over, you're already thinking about the next album."

Bellini spends 4,000 to 5,000 euros a year on his albums which are carefully stored at a temperature of 23 degrees.

Nothing is for sale because "the real collector buys, exchanges, but does not sell," he says.

Bellini's most prized album is that of the 1970 World Cup in Mexico: "Panini's first international album," he says proudly.

On the other hand, the thought of the 1986 Egyptian championship album still makes him shudder: the album got lost when he sent it to be translated and he only found another copy 20 years later.

For Bellini, the albums are also a record of shifts in modern culture because "over the years, you see the changing hair-styles, shirts etc."

The Panini factory in Modena has become almost a second home for him as he buys their albums and stickers

direct.

Although the Italian publisher represents only around half of his collection -- there are other manufacturers, such as Topps which holds the rights to the Champions League -- Bellini insists that Panini is "the best."

He also regularly holds exhibits of his collection and is involved in a project to open a museum in Chiasso, Switzerland, expected to be inaugurated in mid-2019.

Bellini hopes that his seven-year-old grandson will share his passion, but he'll have to earn his stripes.

"He must understand that he must buy a package, exchange the pictures he is missing with his friends... Opening a package is like finding some treasure, you never know if you'll find the image that you're missing, that's what's beautiful."

# Ozil thanks Arsenal fans

AFP, Singapore

Mesut Ozil thanked Arsenal fans for their "love" at a pre-season friendly after a torrid week following his racism allegations against Germany's football body.

Ozil watched Arsenal's penalties defeat to Atletico Madrid on Thursday from the bench but he received one of the biggest cheers of the night when his image was flashed up on the big screen.

"Thanks to the Gunners in Singapore for showing so much love tonight," the 29-year-old German midfielder tweeted, with a picture of him waving to the crowd.

Arsenal fans dominated the audience of 23,000 who watched the London team go down 3-1 on penalties to Atletico in the International Champions Cup, after normal time ended at 1-1.

Ozil, benched after his late return to training following the World Cup, sent shockwaves through German football when he quit the national team, complaining of "racism and disrespect".

German football chief Reinhard Grindel rejected the racism charge but admitted he should have defended Ozil after the playmaker was abused for having a photograph taken with Turkey's strongman president Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Ozil, who was born in Germany to Turkish-origin parents and lifted the World Cup in 2014, also felt he was unfairly singled out for their shock group-stage exit at this year's tournament.

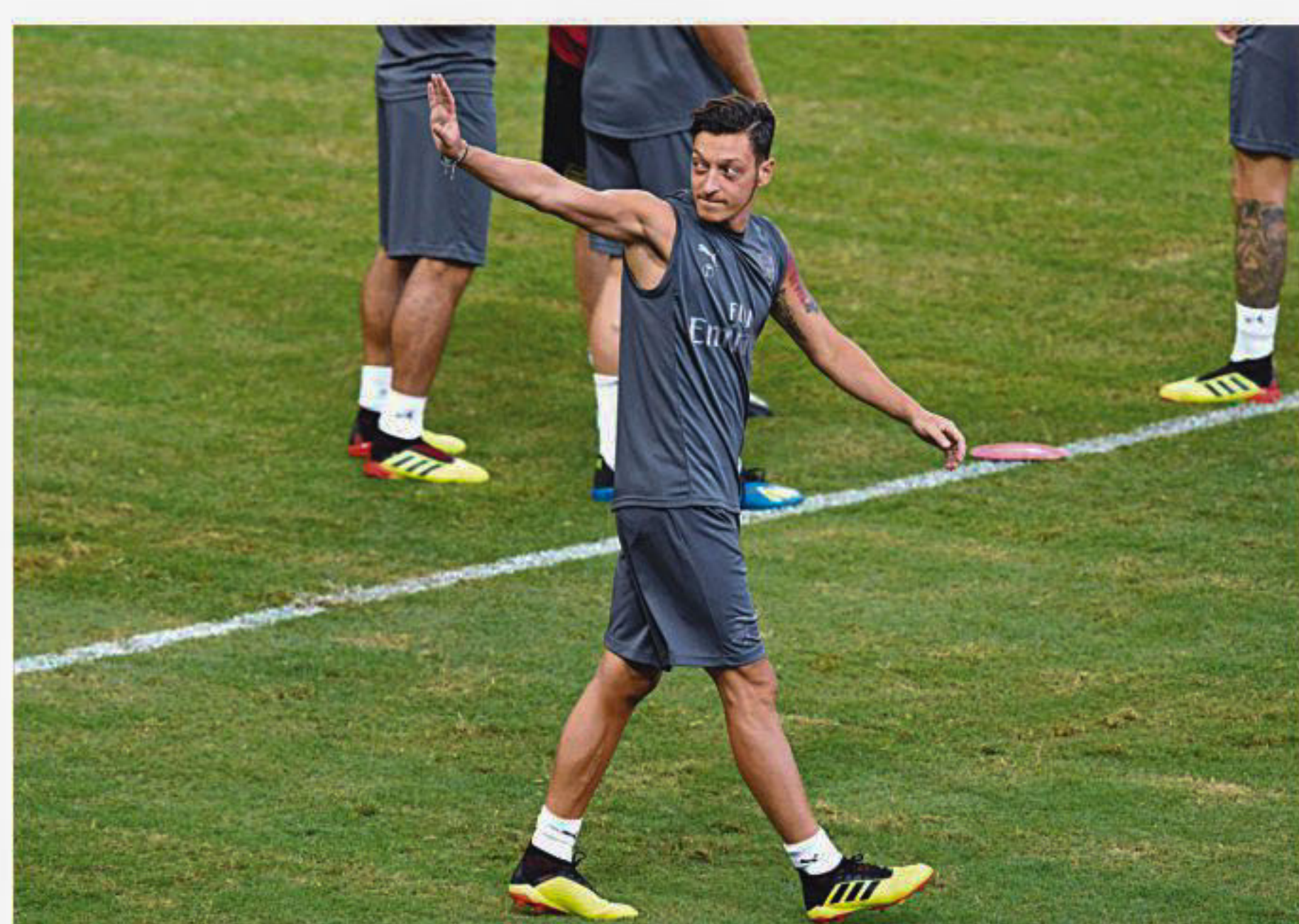


PHOTO: AFP

Arsenal star Mesut Ozil waves to fans during a training session for the International Champions Cup in Singapore yesterday. Arsenal will play against Paris Saint-Germain today.

# 'Neymar's a champion'

AFP, Singapore



New coach Thomas Tuchel dismissed concerns about dealing with Paris Saint-Germain's "big personalities" on Friday, as he pledged to help Neymar bounce back after a difficult World Cup.

The 44-year-old German is taking on a star-studded squad including Neymar, the world's most expensive player, with a mandate from PSG's Qatari owners to land a coveted European title.

Ex-coach Unai Emery reportedly tangled with Neymar, while French World Cup-winner Kylian Mbappe is also rumoured to have a fractious relationship with the Brazilian star.

But Tuchel insisted: "In my experience the biggest players are the easiest characters because they want to compete and they want to win."

"Of course we have very big personalities but I'm not worried about this," he added at the International Champions Cup in Singapore, where PSG play Emery's Arsenal on Saturday.

"In the end I strictly believe that all of these guys were somewhere, sometime, some five, six-year-old guy with the ball under his arm, going round playing on the beach, around the houses, on the streets.

"We want to find this and bring this out so that they enjoy it. And also enjoy the hard work, and that they are aware of the signs that they give to everybody outside and inside the club."

Neymar is yet to return to PSG after the World Cup, where Brazil were stunned by Belgium in the quarterfinals. The forward was also lampooned for his extravagant play-acting, which sparked the viral #NeymarChallenge on social media.

"Everybody in the club wants to help them to feel very well very soon so they can approach their next goals and not worry too long about what happened at the World Cup," Tuchel said, when asked about Brazil's defeat.

"He's (Neymar) a big player, he knows how to handle victories, he knows how to handle losses... he's a champion and we will help him to bounce back."

# Ronaldo settles tax fraud claim

AFP, Madrid



Spanish tax authorities have given their ok for football superstar Cristiano Ronaldo to pay close to 19 million euros (\$22 million) to settle a tax fraud claim, prosecutors said Friday.

Prosecutors in Madrid said the deal with tax authorities and Ronaldo's advisors also includes a two-year jail sentence which he won't serve. Sentences of up to two years are generally not implemented in Spain for first-time offenders in non-violent crimes.

The 33-year-old former Real Madrid striker, who has moved to Juventus, appeared in court last July near Madrid to answer four counts of tax evasion.

Prosecutors allege the five-time Ballon d'Or winner hid income generated in Spain from his image rights from tax authorities.

In 2014, Spanish authorities say he was late in declaring that year just 11.5 million euros of revenue earned in Spain for the period 2011-2014 when his earnings in his country of residence totalled 43 million euros. The Spanish taxman also found he did not declare 28.4 million euros in image rights agreed for 2015-2020, leaving 14.7 million owing.



**APPLICATION DEADLINE**  
August 10, 2018, Friday till 11:30 pm

**ADMISSION TEST**  
August 12, 2018, Sunday at 10:30 am

## Undergraduate Programs

- ◆ BBA in • Accounting • Finance • Marketing • Management • Management Information Systems (MIS) • International Business (IB) • Human Resources Management (HRM) • Investment Management
- ◆ B.Sc. in Economics
- ◆ B.Sc. in • Computer Science & Engineering • Computer Science • Computer Engineering • Electrical & Electronic Engineering • Electronic & Telecommunication Engineering
- ◆ B.Sc. (Hons.) in Mathematics • B.Sc.(Hons.) in Physics
- ◆ B.Sc. in • Environmental Management • Environmental Science • Population Environment
- ◆ BSS in • Media & Communication • Anthropology • Sociology
- ◆ BA in • English Literature • English Language Teaching (ELT)
- ◆ Bachelor of Laws (LLB Hons.)
- ◆ BSS in Global Studies and Governance
- ◆ B.Sc. in • Microbiology • Biochemistry
- ◆ Bachelor of Pharmacy (BPharm) **NEW**

## Undergraduate Admission Autumn 2018 is now open

To apply & for more information:  
[www.iub.edu.bd/admission](http://www.iub.edu.bd/admission)

- ◆ IUB regularly offers scholarships for meritorious & needy students.
- ◆ Up to 100% financial aid based on performance & financial need
- ◆ Top scorers in admission test will get 100% scholarship
- ◆ New female students will get 10% discount on tuition fees per credit hour
- ◆ 100% scholarship with free board & lodging will be provided to meritorious underprivileged FEMALE students from outside Dhaka provided by Shaheed Khalek & Major Salek Bir Uttam Trust

Where dreamers turn to doers **Imagine More**



**INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH**  
Bashundhara R/A, Dhaka-1212. Admission Contacts: Cell: 01780 185006  
Hotline: +880 9612 939393, Tel: 8431645-53, 8432065-76 Ext-1354, 1355  
e-mail: admission@iub.edu.bd