

# What to WATCH

**BTV & CHANNEL 9**  
SAFF Suzuki Cup  
Semifinals  
Nepal v Maldives

Live from 4:00pm  
India v Pakistan  
Live from 7:30pm

**DAY'S EVENT** SAFF Suzuki Cup Semifinals  
Nepal v Maldives Time: 4:00pm  
India v Pakistan Time: 7:30pm  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

## KOSOVO GET FIRST COMPETITIVE WIN

Goals from Arber Zeneli and Atdhe Nuhiu made football history for UEFA minnows Kosovo on Monday in a 2-0 win over the Faroe Islands. Kosovo is an Albanian-majority former province of Serbia that broke away from the then Yugoslav republic in a bloody war in 1998-1999 and declared independence a decade later. Serbia refuses to recognise its former province, but Pristina, and not Belgrade, had more reason to celebrate on Monday after contrasting results for their respective teams in the new UEFA Nations League. As Kosovo claimed their first competitive win since being admitted to international football in 2016, Serbia were held to a 2-2 draw by Romania in Belgrade despite twice leading.



## Silva sinks insipid Italy

AFP, Lisbon



Andre Silva scored the only goal as European champions Portugal -- without superstar Cristiano Ronaldo -- got their Nations League campaign off the mark with a 1-0 win over Italy in Lisbon on Monday.

Ronaldo had been left out of the squad at his own request to focus on his new Italian club Juventus. But the Euro 2016 winners showed no sign of missing their star striker, dominating the Italians to secure their first three points in a Group 3 that also includes Poland.

Italy coach Roberto Mancini suffered his first competitive setback after being held by Poland 1-1 in their opener on Friday in Bologna, with the Azzurri on one point after two games.

"We made too many mistakes, but the boys gave everything," said Mancini. "We need to find a solution to scoring goals because you don't win games without scoring. That's our main problem right now."

Silva scored three minutes into the second half, collecting a Bruma cross to beat his former Milan teammate Gianluigi Donnarumma in the Italy goal.

Italy had been fortunate to keep their goal clear in the first half, largely thanks to Donnarumma, as Portugal dictated play in the Estadio Da Luz.

Italy struggled to create chances, apart from a Zaza header that went wide 12 minutes from time, as Portugal claimed their ninth straight home win. The four-time world champions now risk being relegated from their Nations League group, but Mancini defended his experimental side.

"We don't like losing, but it's also true that we have to take risks and get experience in these games, otherwise it's hard to move forward quickly," said the former Manchester City and Inter Milan coach. "We must help the youth grow, as we don't have alternatives."



## DJOKOVIC'S DAY OFF

With his trophy in tow, newly-crowned US Open champion Novak Djokovic embarked on an all-encompassing media tour. He did interviews on two TV shows, headed down to the New York subway, showed off his basketball skills with a few dunks and before reaching his final stop at the American Museum of Natural History -- where he snapped a picture with the fossil of a Tyrannosaurus Rex -- the Serb started an impromptu dance session with some of the local children.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Sohel sets sights on Asian Tour

Golfer Shakhwat Hossain Sohel (SHS) broke his long-standing jinx on the international circuit by winning the PGM Miri Championship in Malaysia on Saturday. The 33-year-old golfer from Kurmitola, who has had a similar past to the country's premier golfer Siddikur Rahman and many others, had been knocking on the door of success for quite some time. He endured heartbreak in Malaysia only three months ago when he lost in a playoff in one of the Asian Development Tour (ADT) events. This time though, the golfer made no mistake as he eagled the first hole of the playoff to take the title by the scruff of its neck. Sohel shared his winning experience and future targets during a conversation with The Daily Star's Atique Anam yesterday.

TDS: How was your feeling when you eagled that first extra hole in the playoff in the PGM Miri Championship?

SHS: It was an excellent feeling. I was so excited if you see the pictures of that moment you would know. Doing something good for the country and winning the first international title is something not possible to describe in words.

TDS: You had lost in a playoff in Malaysia just three months ago. What was going through your mind when you tied the game and went into another playoff?

SHS: I didn't even think of sinking an eagle. It just happened; you can say there was a bit of luck. Since I lost the playoff earlier, I tried not to take any pressure. I said, whatever happens will happen. I had lost in the playoff

three months ago, so maybe I was a bit tensed inside, but I think that experience helped me in this instance.

TDS: Describe the winning shot.

SHS: It was a chip shot from 44 yards. The opponent's shot had fallen within 12 yards of the hole. So I tried to hit it around 40 yards and thought I would put it in the next shot. But somehow the ball dropped in from 44 yards and the victory was sealed.

TDS: You had gone close to winning titles on a number of occasions. How much will this victory help you overcome that mental barrier?

SHS: It usually takes time to win the first time. But once that is done, things get much easier. I am in good form and I hope I can do better if I keep my hard work going.

TDS: How competitive is the ADT compared to other international tours?

SHS: The competition is undoubtedly lower than in the Asian Tour, but you will get many Asian Tour players on the ADT, so it's not that easy either. Some of the ADT players come out of good colleges and work under good coaches. I think the ADT is much better than the Indian circuit as it is the platform to the Asian Tour and higher. Our ultimate target is the Asian Tour and the European Tour.

TDS: You are in sixth position in the ADT Order of Merit currently. You will earn a card for the Asian Tour if you finish within the top seven. How confident are you about that?

SHS: I am confident that if I can continue with my current form, I will definitely earn the full Asian Tour card next season. There are three more events in October and a couple more then and I will try to do my best to earn the card.

## New UEFA tourney gets green light

AFP, Split

European Club Association (ECA) chairman Andrea Agnelli has confirmed that UEFA are clearing the way for the return of a third club competition, two decades after the disappearance of the Cup Winners' Cup.

Agnelli said at the ECA's General Assembly in Split, Croatia on Tuesday, that "the 'green light' has been given to introduce a third competition...as of the 2021/22 season".

The move must now be validated at a meeting of UEFA's Executive Committee. Agnelli said the move would mean a total of 96 teams being involved across the three competitions.

His comments come after UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin played down media reports on the subject when speaking to journalists in Monaco last month.

The Cup Winners' Cup ran for almost 40 years before being abandoned in 1999 at a time when the Champions League was being expanded.

## Serena cartoon draws furore

AFP, Sydney

An Australian cartoonist faced withering criticism on Tuesday for portraying tennis superstar Serena Williams using -- what Harry Potter author JK Rowling described as -- "racist and sexist tropes".

Mark Knight's caricature, published in Melbourne's Herald Sun newspaper on Monday, showed a butch and fat-lipped Williams throwing a temper tantrum at the US Open.

In the midst of losing Saturday's final, the 23-time Grand Slam champion smashed her racquet and called the umpire a "thief" and a "liar".



We cannot measure ourselves by what we think we should also be able to get away with. Serena Williams has part of it right... But in her protests she also got part of it wrong. I don't believe it's a good idea to apply a standard of, 'If men can get away with it, women should be able to, too'.

18-TIME GRAND SLAM WINNER MARTINA NAVRATILOVA IN AN OP-ED

She was deducted a point and received a US\$17,000 fine, stirring the tennis world and sparking a broader debate about double standards toward men and women in the sport.

Knight, who has a reputation for controversial cartoons, was pilloried from far and wide for his portrayal -- including by a member of the US Congress and a large portion of the 22,000 people who commented on his Twitter post showing the drawing.

Knight responded to the criticism by pointing out that he had drawn an unflattering portrayal of Australian male tennis star Nick Kyrgios "behaving badly".

"Don't bring gender into it when it's all about behaviour," he said.

Michael Miller, executive chairman of News Corp Australasia, which publishes the Melbourne's Herald Sun, defended his cartoonist.

"Criticism of Mark Knight's Serena Williams cartoon shows the world has gone too PC [politically correct] & misunderstands the role of news media cartoons and satire," he said.

"Poor behaviour in any sport needs to be called out."

The Washington Post ran a searing post about Knight's cartoon, calling it "racist" and reminiscent of the era of racial segregation in the USA.

## 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:

### Tamim, Mushfiq to feature in Afghanistan Premier League

Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal and Mushfiqur Rahim will feature for Nangarhar in the inaugural Afghanistan Premier League, scheduled to begin from October 5.

### Maradona addresses cocaine addiction

Argentine legend Diego Maradona described his decision to coach second-division Mexican club Dorados as a rebirth after years battling addictions, as he officially became the team's new manager.

### Title responds to Trump's joke

The United States were successful in co-hosting the 2026 World Cup with a joint bid alongside Canada and Mexico. US President Donald Trump welcomed FIFA chief Gianni Infantino for awarding the 2026 World Cup to North America when the latter was at the White House.

### Argentina keeping the no. 10 shirt reserved for Messi

Argentina interim coach Lionel Scaloni has said that the Albicelste are keeping the number ten shirt reserved for Lionel Messi as they hold on to hope that their genius playmaker will once again don the shirt when he returns to the national team fold.

## Qualifying of kart racing C'ship ends

SPORTS REPORTER

The Mobil Kart Racing Championship finished its qualifying rounds yesterday, with more than 160 racers competing at the Xtreme Race Track in Ashulia.

The enthusiasts were fighting to see who would have the fastest average lap time and although Rahul Chakraborty had the fastest single lap with a time of 25.521 seconds, Sami Wahid topped the charts with an average lap time of 25.927s.

The final round will take place on 14th September 2018 with a total of 60 racers.



BRAC Bank extended their partnership with the Bangladesh Cricket Board, signing on as kit sponsors until 2020 yesterday. BCB president Nazmul Hassan and Selim RF Hussain, MD and CEO of BRAC Bank were present at the signing ceremony.

PHOTO: COLLECTED