

# What to WATCH

**STAR SPORTS SELECT 1**  
English Premier League  
Arsenal v Chelsea  
Live from 8:00pm  
Liverpool v Wolverhampton  
Live from 10:3pm

**STAR SPORTS SELECT 2**  
English Premier League  
Man City v Sheffield  
Live from 12:00am (Monday)  
**SONY SIX**  
Australia v New Zealand

Second Test, Day Four  
Live from 5:30am  
South Africa v England  
First Test, Day Four  
Live from 2:00pm

## Bournemouth fall 2-0 to Brighton

REUTERS, London

**Premier League** Alireza Jahanbakhsh and Aaron Mooy both broke their goalscoring ducks for Brighton & Hove Albion who returned to winning ways at home with a 2-0 win over Bournemouth in the Premier League yesterday.

Jahanbakhsh, who was given his first start of the season, repaid Graham Potter's faith in the midfielder by scoring as early as the third minute with a fierce, low strike into the far corner.

It was his first goal for the club since he was signed after last year's World Cup and the overwhelmed Iranian was on the verge of tears.

"It's been a long time coming and I didn't make minutes but I have been waiting for this time for a long time," Jahanbakhsh told BBC Sport. "Before the match I had a great feeling because I'm playing well and I'm glad to help us win the game."

"Obviously it was an emotional moment for me, I had ups and downs last year, trying to settle. This season it felt good with

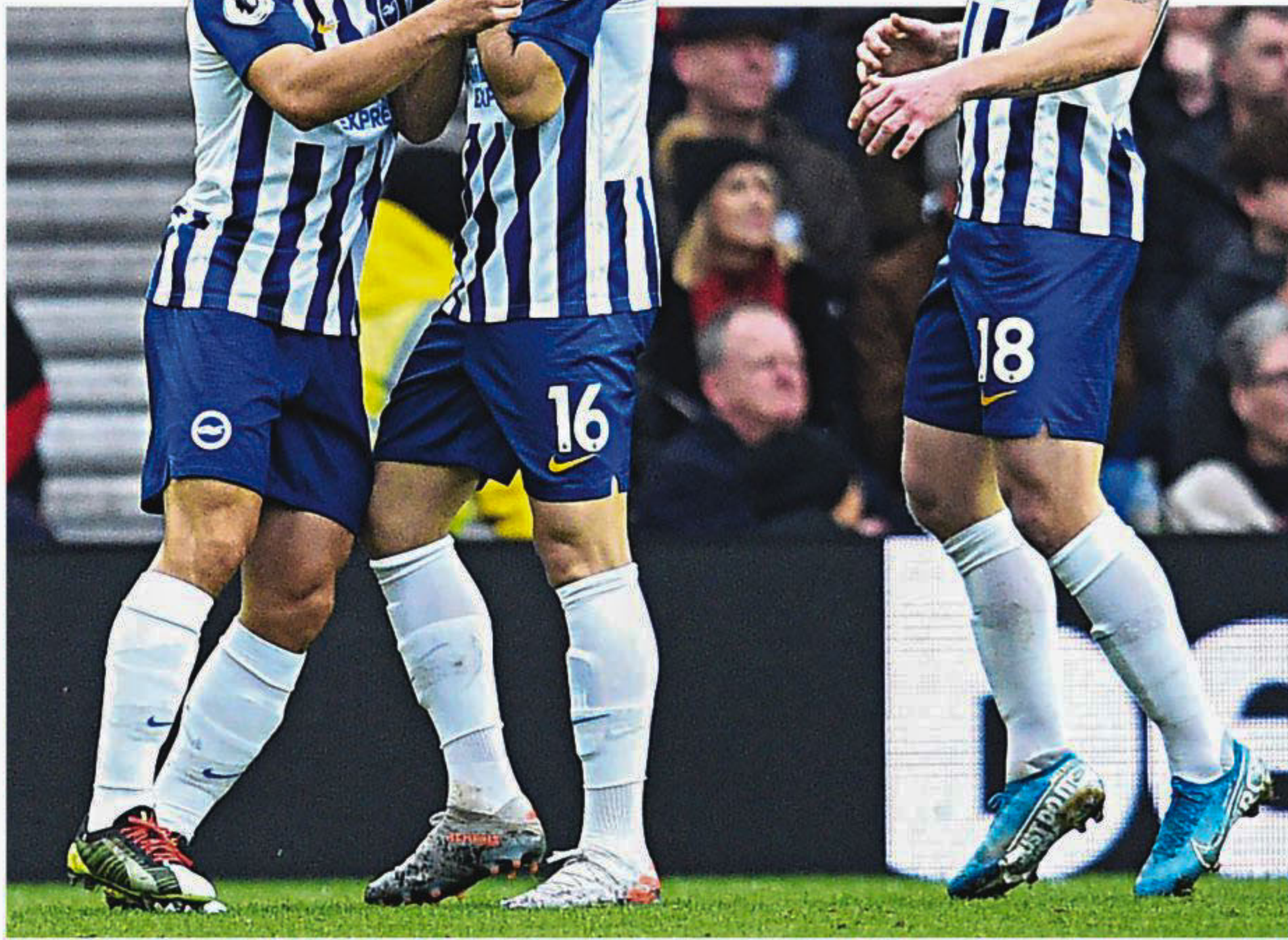
the new manager."

Bournemouth had a couple of chances to equalise in the first half but Brighton defenders Dan Burn and Lewis Dunk were on hand to make last-ditch blocks as the home side went into the break 1-0 up.

Brighton right back Dan Burn then thought he had scored his first goal for his club, too, when he put the ball in the back of the net during a scramble in the box. However, VAR disallowed it for a marginal offside call when the set piece was taken.

Mooy capped a man-of-the-match performance by doubling Brighton's lead in the 79th minute when he latched on to Leandro Trossard's pass and took two sublime touches to set himself up for a curling shot that beat goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale.

The win, Brighton's first at home in four games, lifted them up to 13th in the standings while Bournemouth remained in 16th -- two points above the relegation zone -- after their seventh loss in nine games to increase the pressure on boss Eddie Howe.



Brighton & Hove Albion's Iranian midfielder Alireza Jahanbakhsh (2nd from L) wept tears of joy after opening the scoring in an English Premier League match against Bournemouth at Falmer Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

## Ronaldo heading to the movies?

AGENCIES, Turin

Juventus striker Cristiano Ronaldo opened up on his retirement plans, expressing a desire to challenge himself by starting a new career in acting.

Ronaldo is widely revered as one of the finest footballers in history, having earned five Ballon d'Ors during spells at Manchester United and Real Madrid.

However, Ronaldo's playing days will draw to a close at some point in the near future, which he acknowledged at a Dubai Sports conference on Saturday.

"The moment my body is no longer responding in the right way on the field, then it would be the time to leave," Ronaldo said. "I hope I live more than 50 years to learn new things and face different challenges and try to find solutions for them. One of the things that I seek to challenge myself in, for example, is acting in a movie."

## Yellow cards prove costly for Sk Russel

Muktijoddha, Mohammedan edge into last eight

SPORTS REPORTER

Former champions Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra were eliminated from the race for the last eight of the TVS Federation Cup due to conceding more yellow cards after the last matchday of Group D produced a stalemate on points and goal-difference among the former champions with Mohammedan SC and Muktijoddha Sangsad KC.

Mohammedan beat Uttar Baridhara 1-0 before Sheikh Russel drew their last match against

<b>MOHAMMEDAN 1 - 0 BARIDHARA</b> Souleymane 8'	<b>30 Dec</b>	Abahani v Rahmatganj
<b>SHEIKH RUSSEL 1 - 1 MUKTIJODDHA</b> Alisher 13'	<b>31 Dec</b>	Ctg Abahani v Mohammedan
		Saif SC v Police FC
		Muktijoddha v Bashundhara

two matches.

The Blues were made to pay for their profligacy, with Muktijoddha forward Ismail Bangoura scoring the equaliser five minutes after restart with a placing shot on a chip from Norito Hashiguchi.

The match ended in a 1-1 draw, with Sheikh Russel's two bookings proving vital in the final reckoning.

"We failed to preserve our lead and then saw two of our players receive yellow card. It was unfortunate for us. Luck was not with us," Sheikh Russel's assistant coach Masud Kaiser Parvez lamented at the end of the match.

Muktijoddha coach Abdul Kaiyurn Sentu was relieved to see the side through from a difficult four-team group. "We are happy to go into the

knockout stages. It is a great relief with the way we qualified," Sentu said.

The result helped Muktijoddha emerge group champions and they will play against Bashundhara Kings in the fourth quarterfinal while Mohammedan will be up against Chattogram Abahani.

Mohammedan had earlier scraped to a 1-0 win over strugglers Uttar Baridhara Club in the first match of the day, thanks to an eighth-minute strike from Souleymane Diabate, who placed the ball home past Baridhara goalkeeper Azad Hossain after receiving a through-pass from Amir Hakim Bappy.

Mohammedan had a plethora of chances to extend their lead but failed to convert those chances, giving an anxious wait to the players and coaching staff till the end of the second match.

Mohammedan coach Sean Lane was looking at positives at the end of their game. "We have kept ourselves ahead with this victory. It now depends on the result of the last match, but we are hopeful about progressing," Lane said.

## Arteta backs Ozil ahead of Chelsea tie

AFP, London

**Premier League** Mikel Arteta has backed Mesut Ozil to make the most of his fresh start as Arsenal's new manager prepares for his home debut against Chelsea today.

Ozil has become a polarising figure at Arsenal after several seasons of lacklustre performances from the German playmaker.

Former City assistant coach Arteta has been encouraged by the mentality of the German World Cup winner since he took charge.

"To be fair his attitude in training since the day that I walked in the building has been incredible, and I've seen this," Arteta said. "I said I was going to give a clean slate to everybody and it was fair as well to give it to him."

"When we did the game preparation and we were watching the opponents, and where we could hurt them, we believed that he could be a key point. And we prepared the game like this, with him."

"He responded, he did what he had to do and we could have put two or three goals because of him in the net."

## Granit Xhaka wants out

REUTERS, London

Arsenal midfielder Granit Xhaka wants to leave the Premier League club in the January transfer window and sign with Bundesliga side Hertha Berlin, the player's agent has said.

Xhaka has had a fractured relationship with the fans since he reacted angrily to being booed when he was substituted against Crystal Palace in October.

"Look, I will say it frankly and honestly, we are in agreement with Hertha BSC and would like to go to Berlin," Xhaka's agent Jose Noguera told Swiss publication Blick.

Muktijoddha Sangsad 1-1 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday, with the results seeing the three competing teams ending with five points each and with a goal-difference of +1.

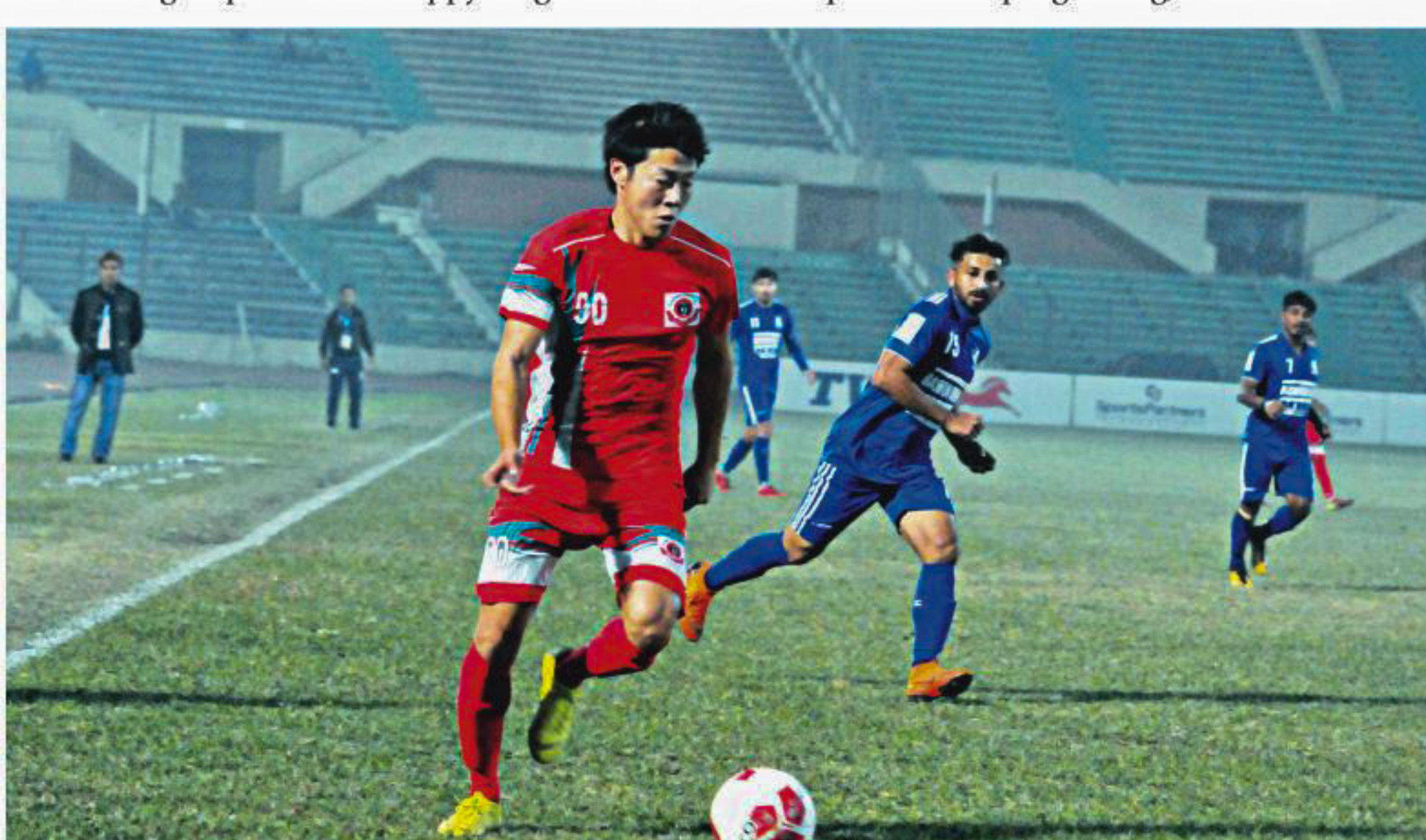
However, Muktijoddha Sangsad, who had scored four goals, topped the group according to the tournament by-laws, but Mohammedan and Sheikh Russel, both having scored two goals and conceding one goal each, were still inseparable.

So the bookings were counted where Mohammedan (3 yellow cards) edged Sheikh Russel (4 yellow cards) due to conceding less yellow cards to book a place in the quarterfinals as runners-up from the group.

It was a sorry end to the curtain-raising tournament for Sheikh Russel, who had taken the lead against Muktijoddha Sangsad on 13 minutes when Azizov Alisher headed home Mohammad Abdullah's corner-kick.

Raphael Odoyin had a chance to extend Sheikh Russel's lead in the 32nd minute, but his shot was brilliantly saved by Muktijoddha goalkeeper Mahfuz Hasan Pritom.

All three teams finished on five points, with Uttar Baridhara, the fourth team of the group, finishing without a single point following the



Muktijoddha Sangsad midfielder Norito Hashiguchi manoeuvres the ball past a Sheikh Russel player during their Federation Cup fixture at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. The match ended 1-1. PHOTO: BFF

## Nat'l football c'ship from Jan 17

SPORTS REPORTER

The National Football Championship will make a return after a gap of 13 years as the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has decided to start the Bangabandhu National Football Championship involving district football teams as well as services teams, university teams and education board teams from January 17, 2020.

Formerly known as Sher-e-Bangla National Football Championship, the nation-wide football tournament was last held in 2006. The game's local governing body took the decision to revive this championship, naming it after the father of the nation as part of birth centenary celebration of Bangabandhu Sheikh

Mujibur Rahman.

A meeting in this regard was held at the BFF house yesterday in presence of district, division and services and university teams.

"The initial plan was to start the championship from January 10. But the meeting decided to start it from January 17. There will be around 78 teams taking part in the initial phase of the championship, which will be held in different zones, with a certain number of teams competing for final round tickets after home and away matches in those zones," BFF's general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag told The Daily Star.

"This championship will revive football at district level and make use of stadiums across the country. We hope to end the tournament in three months," the BFF GS added.

## Wolves wreck City's title bid

AFP, Wolverhampton

**Premier League** Manchester City's faint hopes of retaining the Premier League title were left in tatters as they blew a two-goal lead and had Ederson sent in a dramatic 3-2 defeat at Wolves on Friday.

Pep Guardiola's side recovered from Ederson's 12th minute dismissal to take control thanks to Raheem Sterling's double either side of half-time.

But City's fatigued stars were unable to go the distance as Adama Traore's goal started a thrilling Wolves fightback.

Raul Jimenez equalised with eight minutes to go and Matt Doherty hit the winner to send Molineux wild in the 89th minute.

Third-placed City trail runaway leaders Liverpool by 14 points and Jurgen Klopp's red-hot team have a game in hand, making it hard to imagine the champions getting their hands on the trophy for a third successive season.

Wolves, flying high in fifth place, have contributed to City's downfall more than most and, after winning 2-0 at the Etihad Stadium in October, they celebrated a top-flight double over the Manchester club for the first time since 1960-61.



Manchester City forward Raheem Sterling is left dejected following a 3-2 loss to Wolverhampton Wanderers in the English Premier league on Friday. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Pogba starts own protest

AFP, London

Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba has decided to make a personal protest against racism following the ongoing "ignorance" demonstrated at football stadiums throughout Europe.

The 26-year-old France star came off the bench during United's 4-1 win away to Newcastle on Thursday, when he wore black and white wristbands during the warm-up.

"No to racism" and "We are one" read the wristbands that Pogba asked his team-mates to join him in wearing before the match, with the World Cup winner then presenting his to a young fan in the crowd.

Pogba later posted an image of that moment on Instagram with a Martin Luther King quote - "Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that" - and the hashtag #NoToRacismWeAllOne.

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