Federation Cup Police v Brothers Union

Bangladesh

weightlifters

leave for

Malaysia

SPORTS REPORTER

An eight-member

Bangladesh weightlifting

weightlifters, one coach and

four officials, left Dhaka for

Malaysia last night to partici-

pate in the Commonwealth

Weightlifting Championship

which starts at Penang today.

The Bangladesh team

has one male participant --

veteran Bidyut Kumar Roy

and two female partici-

pants in Mabia Akter and

Bangladesh are expecting

medals from the two young

have performed decently in

The event will be held from

Pellegrini coy

recent international meets.

female weightlifters who

Reshma Akter.

November 24-30.

on Hart's

One good display for

England has not guaranteed

keeper Joe Hart a return to

Pellegrini refusing to say he

against Tottenham Hotspur.

to 26-year-old Hart being

Costel Pantilimon for the

Premier League club's last

Hart made several fine

saves during England's 1-0

defeat by Germany on

his chance, leaving

Tuesday, but Pantilimon

has impressed since getting

Pellegrini with a dilemma.

Pellegrini told reporters on

Friday when asked about

tomorrow the starting XI,

useful for Joe, the game for

"What did I think of his

performance for England? I

think he did very well. It's

about the national team,

another thing to ask about

Moyes a huge

fan of C'Ron

Manchester United man-

dropped a hint he could

make a future bid to bring

Cristiano Ronaldo back to

Old Trafford after revealing

he hopes to work with the

Ronaldo left United to

fulfil his dream of playing

for Real Madrid in 2009,

but there was speculation

over the last year that he

to Manchester.

could be tempted to return

Moyes was reported to

have considered making an

earlier this year as he looked

mark his arrival at United as

No deal was forthcoming

offer for the 28-year-old

for a marquee signing to

Alex Ferguson's successor.

signed a new five-year con-

tract with the Spanish giants.

But Moyes remains a

huge fan of Ronaldo and,

like the rest of the football

world, he watched in awe

as the forward hit a hat-

trick against Sweden on

Champions League and

in six years with United,

would be hard to prise

away from Madrid, but

Moyes is not giving up

the best in the business

"Everyone at Manchester

United would tell you he is

anyway," Moyes told MUTV

three Premier League titles

the World Cup

completely.

on Friday.

Tuesday to fire Portugal to

Ronaldo, who won the

and Ronaldo has since

Portugal star one day.

ager David Moyes has

one thing you ask me

Manchester City."

AFP, London

Hart. "We will decide

but I think it was very

England.

"We don't know,"

replaced by Romanian

four games.

Some costly mistakes led

the Manchester City side

with manager Manuel

would be recalled for

Sunday's home match

return

REUTERS, London

team including three

Time: 3:45pm Ctg Abahani v Muktijoddha

Time: 6:00pm Venue: BNS

Arsenal pull clear

AFP, London



A calamitous mistake by Southampton goalkeeper Artur Boruc set Arsenal en route to a 2-0 victory that sent the Premier League leaders four points clear on Saturday.

Arsenal had already hit the woodwork through Jack Wilshere and Aaron Ramsey at the Emirates Stadium when Boruc attempted to outwit Olivier Giroud with some fancy footwork inside his penalty area in the 22nd minute.

The Poland international attempted one drag-back too many, however, enabling Giroud to steal possession and stab home the opening goal.

Giroud made sure of victory with four minutes remaining, registering his 10th goal Per Mertesacker's shirt.

Victory left Arsenal four points above second-place Liverpool, while Southampton remain third but will slip off the podium if Chelsea avoid defeat at West Ham United in the day's late game.

Earlier, Daniel Sturridge came off the bench to earn Liverpool a 3-3 draw against Everton with an 89th-minute equaliser in a frenetic and richly entertaining Merseyside derby at Goodison Park.

A brace from Romelu Lukaku had put Everton on the brink of a first win over their city rivals in seven matches, but Sturridge's header gave Liverpool a share of the spoils

RESULTS

Everton 3 (Mirallas 8, Lukaku 72, 82) Liverpool 3 (Coutinho 5, Suarez 19, Sturridge 89) Fulham 1 (Parker 64) Swansea 2 (Hughes 56-og, Shelvey 80)

Hull 0 Crystal Palace 1 (Bannan 81) Newcastle 2 (Remy 2, Gouffran 38) Norwich 1 (Fer 80) Stoke 2 (Adam 30, Nzonzi 81) Sunderland 0

after a breathless encounter.

Philippe Coutinho's fifth-minute opener for Liverpool was swiftly cancelled out by Kevin Mirallas, before Luis Suarez restored the visitors' lead in the 19th minute by bending a 25-yard free-kick into the bottom-right corner.

Mirallas was fortunate to avoid a red card of the season from the penalty spot after for a knee-high foul on Suarez before half-Jose Fonte had been penalised for pulling time, but he teed up Lukaku for both the equaliser and the 82nd-minute header that put Everton in front.

Everton would have moved level on points with Liverpool if they had won, but Sturridge had the final say when he smartly headed past Howard from a Gerrard free-kick.

Freshly-appointed Crystal Palace manager Tony Pulis watched from the stands as his new side survived the dismissal of Yannick Bolasie to win 1-0 at Hull City.

Bolasie was sent off for a clumsy challenge on Jake Livermore in the 78th minute, but Barry Bannan scored from a Cameron Jerome cut-back three minutes later to give Palace a first away win of the campaign.

Midday WC starts could be reviewed

REUTERS, Rome

FIFA could reconsider its controversial decision to schedule some of next year's World Cup matches at midday in tropical venues, the body's president Sepp Blatter suggested on Friday in an apparent U-turn.

Blatter said FIFA had received a number of appeals to rethink its decision which has angered, among others, the world players' union FIFPro.

"That is a good question, I will take up the question again, we will have a meeting of not only the organising committee but the FIFA executive committee and (in December) in Salvador (Brazil)," he told reporters

Although the June 12-July 13 World Cup will take place in southern Brazil's winter, tropical conditions will prevail in the north of the country where two matches in each of Natal, Salvador and Recife have been scheduled for 1300 local time, plus one in Fortaleza.

Barca rout Granada took responsibility to slot the spot-kick low

AFP, Madrid

the break.



Barcelona made light work of Lionel Messi's absence to move six points clear at the top of La Liga with a routine 4-0 home win over Granada on Saturday.

First-half penalties from Andres Iniesta and Cesc Fabregas put the Catalans in command at

Granada were then left to play the final quarter of the game with 10 men as Manuel Iturra was shown a second yellow card.

Alexis Sanchez added a third soon after from Neymar's pass before Pedro Rodriguez rounded off the scoring a minute from time.

Barca's title rivals Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid can close the gap later on Saturday as they face Almeria and Getafe respectively.

With Victor Valdes, Xavi Hernandez, Dani Alves and Jordi Alba also out injured, Barca boss Gerardo Martino was forced into making seven changes from the side that started their last outing against Real Betis two weeks ago.

In Messi's absence, Neymar was tasked with playing in the false nine role, but it was from a free-kick that he nearly created the opener as he picked out Sanchez and Granada keeper Roberto made a brilliant save to turn away the Chilean's flicked header.

The opener arrived after 20 minutes when Dimitri Foulquier brought down Fabregas and captain for the day Iniesta

into the corner of the net.

Granada came close to an equaliser four minutes later with their best effort of the game as Piti drilled a shot from 25 yards off the crossbar.

Foulquier then made amends for conceding the penalty with a fine last-ditch tackle to prevent Sanchez making it 2-0 from Fabregas' fine pass.

However, it didn't take long for Barca to double their advantage as Fran Rico clipped Iniesta's heels just inside the area and this time Fabregas stepped up to rifle the ball into the roof of he net.

Youssef El-Arabi had a chance to halve the deficit from Yacine Brahimi's cross two minutes after the restart, but he headed wastefully.

It should have been three for Barca moments later when Pedro somehow blazed over when presented with an open goal after Roberto had flapped at Martin Montoya's cross.

The visitors' task became even tougher 23 minutes from time when Iturra saw his second yellow card for upending Pedro.

Sanchez made it 3-0 when he lifted the ball over the advancing Roberto from Neymar's well-weighted through ball five minutes later.

With the game won 17-year-old Adama Traore replaced Neymar to make his Barca debut and he nearly sealed it with a memorable goal as he weaved past three Granada defenders before Roberto smothered his low effort.



Liverpool striker Luis Suarez (C) celebrates his goal against Everton during their Premier League Merseyside derby at Goodison Park yesterday.

Ribery targets Club WC

AFP, Berlin



France international winger Franck Ribery remains confident he can return from a broken rib and play in the upcoming Club World Cup for Bayern Munich in December, he told sports daily Kicker on Friday.

The Ballon d'Or candidate suffered the injury during France's dramatic 3-0 victory over Ukraine in midweek at the Stade de France, which gave Didier Deschamps's men their ticket to next June's World Cup in Brazil.

"From now to then (the Club World Cup), I can definitely play again," assured the 30-year-old, who is likely to battle Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi for the Ballon d'Or, which will be awarded in January.

"I think I'll be able to run again in 10 to 14 days, certainly

with pain, but after that it should be fine." he added. Bayern, who travel to arch rivals Borussia Dortmund on Saturday with a four point lead in the Bundesliga, hope that Ribery will be on the plane to Morocco for the year ending showpiece tournament.

Coach Pep Guardiola said: "I'm not a doctor and we have a few more matches yet, but I hope he will be back on form leading up to the Club World Cup."

Bayern are looking for their fifth trophy of the year after an unprecedented treble of Champions League, German title and German Cup, as well as the European Supercup which they won in August by beating Chelsea 2-1 in Prague.

Ribery, however, said that Tuesday's win in Paris over a Ukraine side that had a 2-0 first-leg lead was almost as good as winning silverware.

"It was a memorable evening and like winning a trophy for me, which may mark the beginning of a new era (for France)."

Simunic in hot water



FIFA on Friday announced that they had opened a probe against Australian-born Croatia defender Josip Simunic

for his pro-Nazi chants that marred the country's World Cup qualification celebrations.

"Disciplinary proceedings have been opened," a FIFA spokesman told

AFP, declining to make further comment on the player's case. It was not clear what penalty

Simunic could face. But various football authorities have adopted an ever-tougher stance against far-right displays, with Greece youth international Giorgos Katidis this year earning a life ban from his home federation for a Nazi salute --

Novara in Italy's second tier. FIFA also opened an investigation against Croatia's fans for "improper

conduct", the spokesman said. Following Tuesday's 2-0 home win against Iceland that saw them advance from their World Cup qualifying playoff after a goalless first leg, Simunic took over a microphone at the Maksimir stadium in the Croatian

capital Zagreb. He shouted "za dom" -- Croatian for "for the homeland" -- four times. In response, fans chanted "spremni",

meaning "ready". The chant was used by Croatia's World War II Ustasha regime, allied to Nazi Germany, which killed hundreds of thousands of Serbs, Jews, anti-fascist Croatians, Roma and others in concentration camps.

On Thursday, Croatian prosecutors said Simunic had been fined 25,000 kunas (3,200 euros, \$4,400) for inciting racial hatred, adding that the player was aware that the chant symbolised the official salute of Croatia's totalitarian regime.

Simunic argued that he was motivated purely by his love of the Croatian nation, denying any political intent and saying the emotion of the moment was the only reason.

The 35-year-old Dinamo Zagreb Vrbanovicsaid. captain was born to Croatian immigrant parents in the Australian capital although he has since resurfaced at Canberra.

> Football is highly popular in Australia's Croatian-origin community. He is among a raft of Australian-

born players who have opted for their ancestral home since Croatia joined the international football fold after independence from former Yugoslavia in 1991.

Australia, meanwhile, count bigname players with Croatian roots, such as former captain Mark Viduka.

Simunic has spent the bulk of his career in Europe, joining Germany's

Bundesliga in 1998 and signing to

Dinamo in 2011.

He made his Croatia debut in 2001. His chants were condemned by Croatian President Ivo Josipovic, the

government and Milorad Pupovac,

leader of the country's Serb minority. However, the Croatian Football Federation (HNS) on Friday denied any pro-Nazi connotations.

"Simunic's behaviour is inappropriate ... the HNS has regulations on players' behaviour and we will react,' executive president Damir Vrbanovic told reporters.

However, the federation is "worried by an avalanche of negative comments targeting our player and our view is that his call for cheering was not aimed at remembering the Ustasha,"

"Simunic took all this very emotionally and is shocked that someone is linking his gesture with a dark period of the Croatian past," he added, underlining that it was "human to make

mistakes." HNS head Davor Suker -- a former international who was top scorer in the 1998 World Cup, where Croatia finished third -- labelled Simunic's move

an "inappropriate gesture" and voiced regret that it overshadowed Croatia's qualification.

salutes.

In the past, the HNS has condemned fans' pro-Nazi attitudes and their use of Ustasha insignia and Nazi

Pulis takes over at

Palace AFP, London

Tony Pulis has been appointed as the new manager of Crystal Palace, the Premier League strugglers announced on Saturday.

The 55-year-old Welshman has signed a two-and-a-half-year contract and arrives at Selhurst Park with the London club six points from safety at the foot of the Premier League table.

"Crystal Palace Football Club are delighted to announce the appointment of Tony Pulis as manager on a two-and-a-half-year contract," read a statement on the Palace website.

"Pulis will take charge of the first team following today's game against Hull City, with caretaker boss Keith Millen remaining in the dugout at the KC

Pulis was due to watch Palace's trip to Hull from the stands, with his first game in charge scheduled to be a trip to Norwich City in the league on November 30.

Stadium."