

What to WATCH

GAZI TV & STAR SPORTS1
 Bangladesh v India
 One-off Test, Day 4
 Live from 9:30am

TEN CRICKET
 West Indies v Australia
 Second Test, Day 3
 Live from 9:00pm

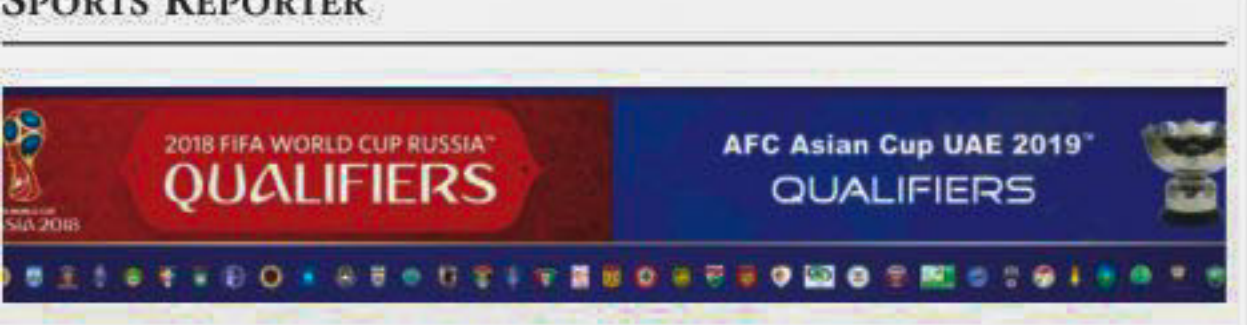
DAY'S EVENT
 Bangladesh v India
 Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium
 One-off Test, Day 4
 Time: 9:30am

MOURINHO CAUGHT SPEEDING

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho has been banned from driving for six months after he was caught speeding close to the club's training ground. Mourinho pleaded guilty to the offence at Staines Magistrates' Court in Surrey on Wednesday, a court official said. He was ordered to pay £910 (\$1410) in fines and court costs following the incident on the A3 in Esher on September 23 last year, the official added. Mourinho was caught on a speed camera doing 60mph in a 50mph zone, near to Chelsea's Cobham training base. - AFP



Old mistakes irk BFF high-ups



Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) high-ups have expressed their displeasure over the performance of the national team against Kyrgyzstan, especially with the way the team called upon danger by committing needless challenges in and around the danger zone.

In Thursday's match, midfielder Hemanta Vincent Biswas made a reckless challenge on a Kyrgyzstan forward just outside the box to concede a free-kick before left-back Yeamin Munna brought down Kyrgyz forward Victor Maier inside the danger zone. Both the incidents came back to haunt the hosts as the visitors took full toll by scoring from the set-pieces.

This is an aspect of the game which has dogged the Bangladesh team in most of their matches over the last few years and showed no signs of abating since Dutch coach Lodewijk de Kruif took charge in July, 2013.

The coaching staff claimed that they have worked a lot on how to defend set pieces and instructed the players not to commit any rough tackles in and around the box. But the defeat against Kyrgyzstan showed that those mistakes are still the biggest concern.



BFF president Kazi Salahuddin, who had earlier expressed his hope of Bangladesh securing full points against Kyrgyzstan, refrained from making comments about the team's performance in the opening fixture of the Joint Qualifiers for the World Cup and the Asian Cup.

But the Tabith M Awal, a BFF vice president and a member of the National Teams Committee, squarely expressed his displeasure.

"I have no complaint about the third goal but it is painful to see the way we awarded the first two goals. It is alarming that the players are committing the same mistakes again and again and they concede goals from set pieces. It is a kind of a gift for the opposition," said Tabith.

"We have identified our problems but can't overcome it. I don't know why the players can't absorb pressure around the box and commit fouls which prove costly for us. We have to sit together to overcome this problem," emphasised the former footballer.

However, the questions as to why the players are committing the same mistakes in almost every match and whether they are not capable of taking lessons from the coaching staff or is there a fault with the coaches' methods are making rounds in the football arena.

With the next home match against Tajikistan scheduled for June 16, the BFF high-ups preferred not to make any comments in this regard, but a source informed that they are thinking of recruiting a permanent coach once the temporary contract with de Kruif expires after the match against Tajikistan.

The BFF may have been encouraged to think about the appointment of a permanent coach following the promise of Tk 14 crore from the Bankers Association of Bangladesh.

Chile off the mark in Copa opener

AFP, Santiago



Arturo Vidal buried his Champions League heartache to set up a 2-0 opening victory for Chile over Ecuador as the Copa America kicked off here Thursday.

Juventus star Vidal bounced back from the disappointment of defeat to Barcelona in last week's Champions League final to score a 67th-minute penalty in a man-of-the-match performance.

Napoli's Eduardo Vargas made it 2-0 late on to give the Chileans a winning start in Group A as they chase a first Copa America crown in 99 years of trying.

"It was very difficult, they pushed us to the end," Vidal said after.

"We are very happy but we know we have to improve on this. The result is what counts though," he added.

Vidal admitted he was still weary after turning out for Chile just days after last weekend's Champions League final in Berlin.

"My back hurts a bit and I will need a massage after the match," he said.

The win puts Chile firmly on course to qualify for the quarter-finals. Group A also contains Mexico and Bolivia, who meet on Friday in the second game of the tournament.

Chile had been unable to find a breakthrough until Vidal burst forward midway through the second half to be tugged over by Ecuador's Miller Bolaños.

Argentine referee Nestor Pitana pointed to the spot immediately and Vidal stepped up to blast the spot kick high and wide past Ecuador's giant goalkeeper Alexander Dominguez.

The hosts made sure of victory six minutes from time when Arsenal star Alexis Sanchez released Vargas who finished coolly for 2-0.

The only blackspot for Chile was a red card for Matias Fernandez in the closing minutes for two cautions.

Chile's dreams of lifting the title on home soil will face stiff opposition from favourites Argentina and five-time world champions Brazil.

Argentina, led by Lionel Messi, and Brazil, now skippered by Neymar, have results on their side heading into the tournament.

Brazil completed their preparations on Wednesday in Porto Alegre, beating Honduras 1-0 to rack up their 10th consecutive friendly victory since last year's World Cup, when they were humiliated 7-1 by Germany in the semi-finals.

The Barcelona teammates are carrying a mountain of expectation on their shoulders.

Messi is determined to finally taste glory at a major international tournament while Neymar

is aiming to erase the memory of Brazil's World Cup debacle.

"I feel I'm in better shape arriving at this tournament than I was at the World Cup last year," Messi said.

Messi and Argentina fell agonisingly short at the World Cup, suffering a 1-0 extra-time defeat to Germany in the final to extend a title drought which stretches back to the 1993 Copa America.

Argentina open their campaign against Paraguay on Saturday, and should progress from Group B which also includes Uruguay and Jamaica, one of two teams from the CONCACAF region invited to bolster the tournament.

Brazil will kick off Group C against Peru on Sunday, with Colombia and Venezuela completing the group.

Brazil defender David Luiz said his teammates had emerged stronger from their World Cup nightmare against the Germans.

"The players who went through the World Cup are more mature," the Paris Saint-Germain star said. "We are working hard every day to grow, to evolve."

However Luiz said Brazil could expect a fierce challenge from their rivals as they attempt to reclaim a crown last won in 2007.

"It will be one of the most difficult Copa Americas in history," Luiz said, citing the threat from Chile, Argentina and holders Uruguay.



Chile forward Eduardo Vargas celebrates scoring the second goal against Ecuador during the opening match of the Copa America at the Nacional Stadium in Santiago on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP

Nasir out of Tajikistan match

SPORTS REPORTER

Centre-back Nasiruddin Chowdhury has been ruled out of the match against Tajikistan following a knee injury he sustained during the match against Kyrgyzstan on Thursday.

Nasir, a vital cog in Lodewijk de Kruif's first eleven, limped off in the stoppage time of the first half after injuring his left knee while attempting to block a Kyrgyzstan attack. Nasir was immediately replaced by Raihan Hasan.

"Nasir's left knee is still swollen and he can't walk properly. The exact condition of his knee will be known after an MRI report and he will certainly miss the match against Tajikistan on Tuesday," said assistant coach Saiful Bari Titu yesterday.

Olympic Day Run held

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) observed the Olympic Day Run yesterday. A procession marking the day, featuring officials from the BOA, government organisation, different national federations, clubs, organisers, athletes and school-going students started from the Ramna Tennis Complex in the capital ended at the torch gate of Bangabandhu National Stadium.

After the procession certificates were distributed among the runners and a cultural show was held at the BNS. Six divisional cities - Rajshahi, Khulna, Rangpur, Sylhet, Chittagong and Barisal - also arranged the Olympic Day Run.

Xavi explains Neymar push

DAILY MAIL

Xavi had some words of advice for prodigious talent Neymar after the departing midfielder explained the argument they were seen having during the open top bus parade.

The former Barca captain gave his old teammate a ticking off over the scenes of the two rowing on as they celebrated winning the Champions League with supporters on the streets of Barcelona.

Xavi was caught on camera pushing Neymar and the 35-year-old has explained why.

"He (Neymar) was trying to take my shoes off and pushing me when I was on the edge of the bus. I said that they should stop messing about and concentrate on the people that had come out to wave as the bus passed," Xavi said.

Hall in ICC Hall of Fame

CRICINFO, Dubai

Former West Indies fast bowler Wes Hall was inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame during the lunch break on the opening day of the Sabina Park Test between West Indies and Australia. He became the fourth cricketer to receive the honour this year after Betty Wilson, Anil Kumble and Martin Crowe.

Hall, 77, received his commemorative cap from fellow countryman and Hall of Famer Courtney Walsh, and is now the 18th cricketer from the Caribbean to be bestowed with the award.

Hall, who played 48 Tests for West Indies between 1958 and 1969, said he was "privileged" and "honoured" to receive the award which put him in the company of the "many greats of the game".

Rain delays final result

AGENCIES, London

Rain interrupted England's innings as they chased New Zealand's total of 398.

England were 345 for 7, with Rashid and Plunkett both looking to make one last push for victory.

However, when the rain delayed the game, England required another 54 runs with 3 wickets and 37 balls remaining.

New Zealand, after winning the toss, made 398 for five in the second one-day international against England at The Oval on Friday.

Ross Taylor's 119 not out and Kane Williamson's 93 did the bulk of the damage as England conceded their highest total in all one-day internationals, surpassing the 387 for five posted against them by India at Rajkot in 2008.

Chris Jordan's return of one for 97 in nine overs equalled the England record for the most expensive in a one-day international innings.

England lead the five-match series 1-0 following their 210-run win at Edgbaston on Tuesday.

SCORES IN BRIEF
NEW ZEALAND: 398 for five (Williamson 93, Taylor 119 not out; Stokes 2-66)
ENGLAND: 345 for seven (Morgan 88, Hales 54; Boult 2-53)

Sterling bid rejected

AFP, London



Liverpool have rejected Manchester City's £25 million (\$38 million) offer for unsettled England forward Raheem Sterling, according to reports on Thursday.

Sterling has told Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers he wants to leave Anfield to join a club who can offer him Champions League action next season and City have made the first move in what could prove a lengthy saga to settle his future.

According to the Times, City's bid valued Sterling at £25 million, with an additional £5 million to be paid in potential add-ons.

But Liverpool are determined to keep hold of their most gifted youngster and have snubbed the approach for the 20-year-old, who has two years remaining on his current £35,000-a-week contract.

It is believed that only an astronomical offer of at least £50 million could persuade Liverpool to consider letting Sterling leave.

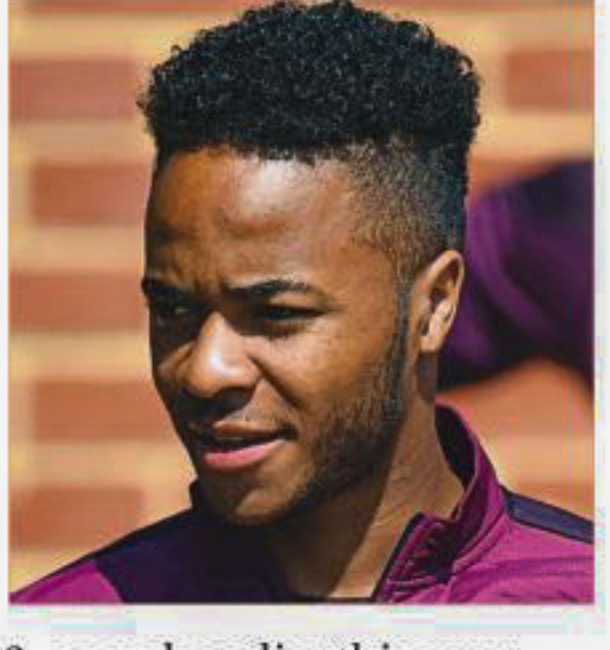
Liverpool remain keen to convince Sterling to sign a new contract, even though he rejected a deal that would have paid him around £100,000-a-week earlier this year.

Sterling's refusal to commit to Liverpool has angered the club's supporters, who jeered him at an end of season awards dinner.

The situation turned even uglier when his agent Aidy Ward last month said there was no chance Sterling would extend his contract no matter how much money Liverpool offered.

Liverpool responded by cancelling a scheduled meeting with Sterling and his representative, while Rodgers left the winger on the bench for the team's 6-1 thrashing at Stoke on the final day of the Premier League season.

Arsenal, Chelsea and Manchester United are also reported to be interested in Sterling, who is currently on international duty with England ahead of their Euro 2016 qualifier in Slovenia on Sunday.



Fearless Bolt ready to face Gatlin

IANS, New York

Six-time Olympic champion Usain Bolt dismissed suggestions that he is 'afraid' of facing American Justin Gatlin.

"Afraid? When people say that, I laugh. I've been in the sport for years and I've never dodged anybody. When it matters, I've always showed up and shown that I'm the best," Bolt said.

"Gatlin has been doing a lot of talking, saying a lot of things. He's proved he's running fast times and he's ready. So it should be exciting going into the World Championships.

"I look forward to competing when people talk, because if you don't back it up you look really stupid."

Nadal set to face Monfils

AFP, Stuttgart

Rafael Nadal made hard work of winning through to the semi-finals of the Stuttgart Open, with the Spaniard struggling to put away Bernard Tomic 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 6-3 on Friday.

The top seed now finds himself in a Saturday contest with Gael Monfils.

The French fourth seed beat German Philipp Kohlschreiber 7-5, 3-6, 6-3 in their earlier quarter-final.

Ozs ride on Smith

AGENCIES, Kingston



Steve Smith was dismissed agonisingly shy of a double-century, as he was dismissed for 199. Being present at the crease for all but three balls of Australia's first innings, Smith's departure saw the Australian's bowled out for 399.

However, the West Indies' innings began very poorly, as Mitchell Starc dismissed Rajendra Chandrika on a duck in the third over of the game. Chandrika was caught behind, but the celebrations were put on hold momentarily as the umpire asked for a no-ball review, which showed that Smith's foot was barely on the line, allowing the festivities to resume.

Things went from bad to worse only a few overs later as opener Kraigg Brathwaite had to make the long walk back to the dressing room. A flighted delivery from Nathan Lyon completely deceived Brathwaite, who was left hitting at thin air as the ball passed him by and knocked off the bails.

Having provided the foundation around which the tourists' first day effort of 258 for four was built, Smith started sedately before getting back into stride in the second hour, progressing by another 40 runs in getting to 175 not out. Smith played cautiously as the wickets tumbled around him.

Unfortunately, his double-ton was denied by a brilliant inswinging yorker from Jerome Taylor, who trapped Smith in front. Smith was quick to take the review, but the decision stood and Smith trudged back to the pavilion.

Jerome Taylor made good use of the second new ball in completing the fourth five-wicket innings haul of his Test career and third on his home ground.

Amid overnight speculation as to the reasons why the home side did not utilise the second new ball when it became due an hour before the end of play on day one,

Taylor wasted no time in getting among the wickets when it was eventually taken at the start of play.

He bowled Shane Watson for 25 offering no shot and then dispensed with Brad Haddin, whose defence was breached after he had raced to 22 off 23 deliveries, improving his figures at the break to an impressive five for 38 off 23 overs.

During the course of his innings Haddin became just the fourth player to compile 3,000 Test runs at number seven in the batting order.

Interestingly, the other three were his predecessors as Australian wicketkeeper-batsmen - Adam Gilchrist, Ian Healy and Rod Marsh.

Kemar Roach shrugged off his inconsistent and expensive effort on the first day to claim the wicket of Mitchell Johnson when Darren Bravo held on to the head-high catch at first slip.

Jason Holder then accounted for Mitchell Starc, raising the prospect of the West Indies finishing off the Australian innings before lunch.

But Josh Hazlewood, promoted by one spot in the order after a 97-run last-wicket stand with Adam Voges in the first Test in Dominica a week earlier, survived a second spell from Taylor while Smith accelerated at the expense of Veerasammy Permaul.

Hazlewood resumes with Smith in the afternoon session only because Denesh Ramdin missed a stumping chance off the suffering left-arm spinner.

Australia won the first Test by nine wickets inside three days in Dominica last week.

SCORES IN BRIEF
AUSTRALIA: 1st Innings 399 all out (Smith 199, Clarke 47; Taylor 6-47, Holder 2-64)
WEST INDIES: 1st Innings 25 for 2 (Bravo 14, Dowrich 5 not out, Hope 0 not out; Starc 1-3)
Match situation: West Indies trail by 370 with 7 wickets remaining in the 1st innings.