Palermo v Torino Live from 7:00pm Fiorentina v Inter Milan Live from 1:45am (Monday)

ICC U-19 World Cup Final Time: 9:00am

Holders bow out amid controversy

India down booters 3-0 in SA Games semifinal

SPORTS REPORTER from Guwahati



Holders Bangladesh exited from the race for gold in the football event of the 12th South Asian (SA) Games after they were humbled 3-0 by hosts India in the first semifinal at the Indira Gandhi Athletics Stadium in

Guwahati yesterday. Now, two-time gold winners Bangladesh will have to fight for the bronze on Monday

against the losers of the second semifinal between Nepal and Maldives. Spanish coach Gonzalo Sanchez Moreno had appealed to his charges during Friday's

training session to control the game by keeping possession of the ball. His charges did their best to follow instructions, as they had the majority of possession, but a few mistakes from the midfielders as well as from defenders saw Bangladesh's hopes of playing the final for the seventh time vanish, marking a third successive failure in international tournaments for the booters.

Bangladesh showed some signs of building their plays from the back and everything was going smoothly until a defender's mistake cost them a goal in the 21st minute. Rezaul Karim failed to clear a Sandesh Jhingan free-kick and Kumam Udanta Singh provided India with a lead through a tap-in against the run of play.

Bangladesh kept pressing for the equaliser but their toothless attacks could hardly expose a compact Indian backline. Nabib Newaj Jibon had a great chance to equalise, but his weak drive inside the box failed to trouble Indian goalkeeper Rehenesh TP.

Nepalese referee Laba Kahtri's decisions were time and again protested by Moreno,

who ventured out of his technical area several times to voice his complaints.

However, four minutes from the break, Mawihmingthanga doubled India's margin through a driven shot from outside the box after being set up by Germanpreet Singh, who snatched the ball away from midfielder Shahedul Alam near the middle.

After resumption, Bangladesh sent on Jewel Rana and Rubel Mia in places o Shahed and Fahad. The move almost paid off as the visitors went close to reducing the margin on the hour mark. However, it was not to be as the referee overlooked a penalty appeal when Jibon, through on goal, was brought down by Indian defender Sandesh

This decision was the final straw for Moreno, who screamed towards the fourth referee and was consequently sent off for continuous protests.

Soon after, India put the game beyond doubt as Jayesh Dilip Rane drove a Hillicharan Narzary pass home from inside the box in the 64th minute. The visitors protested the decision as they believed the scorer to be offside, but they were denied as the referee whistled for a goal. Since then Bangladesh enjoyed better

possession till the last moment, but they failed to find the back of the net. After the match had ended, Jamal Bhuiyan exchanged heated words with a referee, for which he was sent off. "The scenario could have been different

had we not been deprived of a penalty in the second half," alleged assistant coach Syed Golam Jilani. "The decisions of the referee went against us."

However, Jilani also acknowledged that the failure to cash in on a few opportunities and silly mistakes from the players ultimately led to Bangladesh's downfall.

Vardy doesn't know the end of his film yet

AGENCIES, London

Jamie Vardy is hoping to add another chapter to the Leicester fairytale this weekend, as a film about his remarkable career edges closer to fruition.

Many predicted the Foxes would face a relegation fight this season, yet with 13 matches remaining they are five points clear at the top of the league. Claudio Ranieri's men face a crunch clash with Barclays Premier League title rivals Arsenal on Sunday, when Vardy, like so many times this season, is set to play a key role.

Less than six years after plying his trade for Stocksbridge Park Steels, and after stops at Halifax and Fleetwood, the 29year-old is the league's top scorer thanks to an 18-goal haul. British screenwriter Adrian Butchart wants to turn that remarkable ascent into a film and went to see Vardy in action against Liverpool earlier in the month, when the England international netted both goals in a 2-0 win.

"He wanted to see a game and the way we played that day," Vardy told the Daily Star. "I went and had a chat with him and he said he was getting things in place to start it." Asked if the film needs a happy ending, Vardy said with caution: "We'll see what happens and see where they want to take it."



Sunderland defender Lamine Kone (2nd from L) heads in the winning goal against Manchester United during their Premier League encounter at the Stadium of Light yesterday.

РНОТО:

Black Cats bite Red Devils

AFP, Sunderland



David de Gea's cruel 82nd-minute own goal condemned Louis van Gaal's Manchester United to a 2-1 defeat

at struggling Sunderland on Saturday that compromised their hopes of Champions League.

Bidding to close the six-point gap separating them from fourth-place Manchester City, United fell behind in the third minute when Wahbi Khazri's free-kick from out on the left eluded everyone and crept in at the far post.

Anthony Martial equalised in the 39th minute, but Sunderland took the points when Martial's attempt to clear

struck goalkeeper De Gea's arm and rolled into the net. It was United's seventh league defeat

of the season and it will only serve to

fuel speculation about the position of

Lamine Kone's header off the line

their manager Van Gaal, amid reports that the club have approached Jose Mourinho to succeed him. United fell to a first league defeat on Wearside for 19 years and became the

first top-half team that struggling Sunderland have beaten this season in 14 attempts. In their first game since announcing the sacking of Adam Johnson after the

England winger admitted to child sex charges, Sunderland took an early lead in fortunate circumstances. arm inside the area.

their left touchline following a foul on Patrick van Aanholt by Matteo Darmian. Khazri swung in the set-piece, which travelled between the legs of

The hosts earned a free-kick near to

defensive line to find the net off the bottom of De Gea's left-hand post. Chris Smalling stood firm to prevent Defoe doubling the lead shortly afterwards, shepherding the Sunderland forward's effort to safety

Jermain Defoe, and beyond United's

created a half-chance. Sunderland's pressure mounted and they had penalty appeals turned down by referee Andre Marriner when Khazri's shot struck Morgan Schneiderlin on the

after Van Aanholt and Lee Cattermole

Women booters retain bronze Real keep up pressure

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh women's football team retained the bronze medal in the South Asian Games after going down 5-1 to hosts India in last group

match at the JNL Stadium in Shillong. The Bangladesh girls came into the match with six points from three

matches and just needed a draw to put India behind and confirm a final clash with Nepal but defending champions India were too strong for the Bangladeshi girls and the home side easily edged past Bangladesh to confirm the final while Bangladesh finished third in the five-team table and won the bronze medal.

Shooter Shakil Ahmed himself provided hope to win the second gold medal from his favourite event of 10m air pistol, an event he had won a bronze medal from the Asian Air Gun

Championship in Pune last year but the 23-year-old shooter frustrated all after failing to reach the eight-man final round.

"I was not supposed to take part in the event today [Saturday] because I fell sick last night [Friday] and had vomiting thrice in the morning. I was forced to take part in the event for the sake of the team event," said Shakil.

among his teammates as Anwar Hossain and Sabbir Alamin scored 560 and 548 respectively. Anwar qualified for the final but was the first man to be eliminated from the eight-man final round. The performance of Shakil also led Bangladesh men's team to finish in fourth position.

There was also no good news from 50m Rifle 3 position as veteran Suriya Akter and Ummey Jakia Sultana finished seventh and eighth in the final and the women's team comprising Suriya, Jakia and Tabassum Nafisa finished fourth out of the four participating nations.

In women's handball, Bangladesh emerged as group champions to move into the semifinal after handing a 34-27 defeat to Maldives. Bangladesh will face Nepal in the semis today.

In women's kabaddi, Bangladesh

have confirmed the semifinal berth after beating Nepal 24-17 in day's first match before suffering a 11-43 defeat at the hands of India. They will face Sri Shakil had scored the lowest 547 Lanka in the semifinal in Dispurtoday. In men's kabaddi, Bangladesh

suffered their third successive defeat when they lost 17-30 before posting a 28-10 win over Nepal to ensure the semifinal berths. The men's team will take on India today.

In the kabaddi event both the men's and women's team confirmed bronze by moving into the semifinals.

With the day's lone bronze in women's football, Bangladesh have been in the fourth position with four gold, 12 silver and 42 bronze medals while India are on the top with 155 gold, 84 silver and 26 bronze medals.

AFP, Madrid



within a point of Barcelona at the top of La Liga with a 4-2 win on Saturday. Ronaldo's early opener was cancelled out by Javi

Cristiano Ronaldo struck

twice as Real Madrid over-

came a stiff test from

Athletic Bilbao to move

Eraso before a two-goal burst just before half-time from James Rodriguez and Toni Kroos put Madrid in control.

Real were reduced to 10 men late on as Raphael Varane saw a red card, but Ronaldo made sure of the points before Gorka Elustondo grabbed a consolation in stoppage time.

Barca have two games in hand on Madrid and face Celta Vigo in the first of those on Sunday.

Ronaldo had been much criticised for his poor performance as Madrid struggled past Granada last weekend, but was sharp from the off back on home soil as he turned inside from Karim Benzema's pass and smashed home his 31st goal of the season.

However, Athletic reacted well to going behind in a hugely entertaining first-half with chances flowing at either end. The visitors were level on 10 minutes

when Varane's errant backpass was only parried by Keylor Navas into the path of Eraso to slot home.

Navas then had to produce a brilliant save to parry Aritz Aduriz's powerful down-

ward header. At the other end, Gorka Iraizoz also made

a great save to deny Danilo. And Aduriz came close again on the half hour when his deflected shot came back off

the crossbar. However, the Basques were made to pay for their profligacy as Madrid showed their

firepower with two goals in eight minutes before half-time. Rodriguez regained the lead with a trade-

mark drive into the bottom corner from outside the box for just his fifth goal of the season.

Roma's 4th in a row

AFP, Rome

Roma claimed a fourth successive win to move into third spot in Serie A on Friday with a 3-1 triumph at relegation-haunted Carpi.

But they needed two late goals to secure the three points with Edin Dzeko and Mohamed Salah hitting the target in the 84th and 85th minutes.

Roma have 47 points and well-placed for a Champions League spot next season but they are nine points behind leaders Napoli and seven back from

Juventus in second place. French star Lucas Digne opened the scoring for Roma in the 56th minute with a fine drive from the left for his second Serie A goal--both have come against Carpi.

'Zika not a threat to 2016 Olympics'

IANS, Rio de Janeiro

Rio's mayor Eduardo Paes has insisted that the zika virus is not a threat to the 2016 Olympic Games, which will be held in the city in August.

In the re-inauguration of the Maria Lenk Water Park, which got a facelift for the Olympics, Mayor Paes commented on the zika virus situation, which has raised some controversy over the actual risk of holding the Games in Rio, reports Xinhua.

"We have to deal with the zika problem, but that is not an Olympic issue. It is an issue for us Brazilians and for Rio de Janeiro, " he said on Friday.

quito, which also transmits dengue, which is endemic to Brazil. Even though zika has milder symptoms than dengue, it became a health issue worth the attention of the World Health Organisation (WHO) after it was discovered that pregnant women infected by the virus were giving birth to an increasing number of babies with microcephaly, a syndrome characterised by a smaller cranium diameter, often accompanied by other health problems and cognitive delays.

Mayor Paes highlighted that August is one of the dryest months of the year in Rio, and thus is not the right season for the reproduction of the Aedes mosquito - the mosquito lays its eggs on stagnant water, such as water accumulated after major storms and even water from plant vases. The mosquito reproduces more during summer, which is the wet season in the city.

"August and July are dry months, not as warm, so we have less incidence of the mosquito. We must take all the necessary precautions, show that we are doing whatever we can to prevent any athlete or visitor who come to Rio from catching the disease," he said.

Paes criticized the uproar over the zika virus, saying that there is 'some exaggeration' about the risks.

