

What to WATCH

MAASRANGA TV
Sheikh Kamal Int'l Club Cup
Abahani v TC Sports Club
Live from 4:00pm
FC Alga v Pocheon Citizen FC
Live from 7:00pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT HD 1
Bundesliga
Dortmund v Wolfsburg
Live from 8:30pm
Live from 8:30pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT HD 2
Bundesliga

Hertha Berlin v Bayern Munich
Live from 8:30pm
Hamburger v SC Freiburg
Live from 11:30pm

SONY ESPN
FA Cup
Huddersfield v Man City
Live from 9:00pm
Serie A
Atalanta v Crotone

Live from 11:00pm
Juventus v Palermo
Live from 1:45am (Sunday)
Millwall c Leicester City
Live from 9:00pm

SONY SIX
La Liga
Sporting Gijon v Atletico Madrid
Live from 6:00pm
Real Madrid v Espanyol

Live from 9:15pm
Sevilla v Eibar
Live from 1:45am (Sunday)
FA Cup
Wolverhampton v Chelsea
Live from 11:30pm

DRY'S EVENT

SHEIKH KAMAL INT'L CLUB CUP
Abahani v TC Sport Club
Time: 4:00pm

FC Alga v Pocheon Citizen FC
Time: 7:00pm
Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chittagong



(ANTICLOCKWISE FROM TOP L) While the opening ceremony of the 4th Roll Ball World Cup was a colourful affair, with even members of the participating teams taking part, the playing field was left in a sorry state in its aftermath and forced the opening match to be held at an adjacent venue yesterday. However, the gloom was short-lived as Bangladesh won the opener by a handsome margin against Hong Kong.



PHOTOS: FIROZ AHMED

Ambassadors of harmony

ATIQUÉ ANAM



Swayed by the media reports, one would probably be hard-pressed to believe the apparent harmony that prevails among the Myanmar team members taking part in the 4th Roll Ball World Cup taking place in Dhaka.

Thanks to the well-documented atrocities of the military in Western Myanmar on the Muslim minority of Rohingyas in the Arakan province, the southern tip of Bangladesh is now a big shelter house for refugees. But the 11-member team from Myanmar, who are here in their first overseas appearance, bring a different side to the story.

The 11-member team, accompanied by a team manager and a federation official, is as diverse as it could be. According to one of the members, there are seven Buddhists, one Christian and three Muslims, including one who has his roots in Bangladesh.

"I know the issues [relating to Rohingyas]. It's a big headache for us," said the member on condition of anonymity. "Actually that hatred is created by only small groups of people. We and other middle class people have no problem. Even in my team, there are a lot of Muslims."

"Frankly, the new government controls only 50 per cent of the country. Important ministries are controlled by the army. So those are the rules happening around the Arakan state and they are controlled by the military. There is a big disconnect between the political parties and the army," he added.

The players said since they don't live at the hotbed of turmoil of the Arakan province, they haven't witnessed the atrocities, but they are glad to be 'in the friendly and neighbouring country as ambassadors of harmony.'

Fanfare and excitement with a dash of mismanagement

SPORTS REPORTER

The 4th Roll ball World Cup got underway in three venues of Dhaka yesterday amid fanfare and excitement from the participating teams, and a big win for the hosts, but the events on the ground were somewhat marred by mismanagement on part of the organisers.

The tournament got off to an auspicious start as a colourful opening ceremony was held at the newly-built Sheikh Russel Roller Skating Complex after Planning Minister AHM Mostafa Kamal officially inaugurated the event. The players of the participating teams from Asia, Europe, Africa, Australia and South America joined in the fun and even performed on stage to make the opening ceremony a heart-

warming event.

However, the disorganisation from the organisers, the Bangladesh Roller Skating Federation (BRSF) and the event management company charged with carrying out some of the tasks, left a sour taste on the opening day.

Hosts Bangladesh were scheduled to play the opening match against Hong Kong at the complex at 3:00pm, some three hours after the opening ceremony finished. However, at the scheduled time the complex was still full of debris from the ceremony and in no shape to host a match. Hence some of the matches had to be rescheduled and shifted before Bangladesh eventually started their game at 4:45 pm at the adjacent Shaheed M Mansur Ali Stadium.

However, the logjam in schedule

was only one of many mishaps on the opening day. Parts of the surface of the court had been scratched off in the aftermath of the opening ceremony as tournament director Ravinder Kapil was seen instructing people to wipe garbage off the court hours after the ceremony. The Indian administrator, however, transferred the blame on the event management company, saying that the opening ceremony and the communication affairs were poorly handled by the company.

Aside from that, the media handling was poor to say the least as the accreditation cards provided were full of mistakes and written in poor English.

BRSF's general secretary Ahmed Asiful Hasan regretted the incidents. "We are sorry for the disorganisation. This is the first time our federa-

tion is hosting such a big event and we did not have any such experience before. However, we will try to keep things tidy after today," Asif said.

Meanwhile the Bangladesh men's team eventually brought back some of the smile of the organisers with a powerful display over Hong Kong, winning the game 19-1. The hosts, who finished seventh in the third edition of the world cup in India two years ago, were propelled by an excellent display from Mohammad Hridoy Hossain, who scored nine goals much to the delight of a jam-packed and expectant crowd.

The Bangladesh men's team are scheduled to take on Bhutan in their second match of Group D at 2:30pm at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium today, while the women's team are scheduled to take on Nepal at the same venue at 12:00pm.

Critic slams Totti

AFP, Milan



A top Italian art critic lined himself up for a venomous backlash by fans after calling emblematic Roma captain Francesco Totti a "cretin" who is blindly backing the club's plans for a new stadium.

Totti, 40, is playing out his 25th and final season with the club he helped lead to only their third Serie A title in 2001.

But his backing for a new Roma stadium at Tor di Valle on the outskirts of the capital, as well as Totti himself, came under attack during La Zanzara radio show on Radio Rai.

"Totti's a cretin, an idiot who says 'famo lo stadio'," said Sgarbi, a former member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, the equivalent of a lower house of the Italian Parliament.

'Famo lo stadio' in the Rome dialect, known officially as the 'Lingua Romanesca', equates to saying 'Faciamo lo stadio', meaning 'Let's build the stadium'.

"I challenge him. Does he want the stadium or to run up the side of a skyscraper? He's ignorant. Once, someone told him 'Carpe Diem'. And he replied, 'I don't know English'."

Carpe Diem, in Latin, translates to 'seize the day'.

Roma's hopes for a new, all-purpose stadium complex have met with stiff resistance and are yet to convince mayor Virginia Raggi, who last year announced the end of Rome's bid for the 2024 Olympic Games.

Factions of her Five Star Movement party are opposed to the stadium plans and on Thursday she said threw a spanner in the works when she said: "There is no agreement for the stadium."

She added: "We're working to reach a middle ground."

Sgarbi, known throughout Italy for his candid, outspoken views, has seen the new stadium plans and added: "It's horrible, ugly, and would totally devastate the green belt of Rome."

Roma are notorious as the team that has finished runners-up all too often. Since Totti's last triumph in 2001, they have finished second in Serie A no less than eight times.

Sgarbi said there was no need to build skyscrapers at the new stadium because Roma have never been used to being on top anyway.

Siddikur misses cut

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman missed the cut in the ISPS Handa World Super 6 after settling for a tied 122nd position in Perth yesterday. The two-time Asian Tour winner carded an even-par (72) in the second round for an aggregate of three-over-par (147), yet missed the cut by five strokes.

The 32-year-old traded four birdies for the same number of bogeys at the Lake Karingup Country Club on Friday.

Tamim shines in Sharjah rain

STAR SPORT DESK

Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal got his Pakistan Super League campaign off to a glittering start by scoring an unbeaten 62 in a truncated Peshawar Zalmi innings at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium yesterday, before rainfall forced the match against Quetta Gladiators to be abandoned.

In a first innings repeatedly interrupted by rain, Tamim was by far the highest scorer with a 46-ball knock with four fours and as many sixes. The last interruption came when Zalmi had reached 116 for three after 17 overs and the authorities decided to end the innings there and the Gladiators were set a target of 79 in nine overs. However, further play was not possible. Shakib Al Hasan was also playing for Zalmi while Mahmudullah Riyad was playing for Quetta.

SL win last-ball thriller

AFP, Melbourne



Chamara Kapugedera smashed a four off the last ball to give Sri Lanka a thrilling five-wicket victory over Australia in their first Twenty20 international at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Friday.

The win kept Sri Lanka unbeaten in four T20 internationals in Australia and followed their 2-1 series win over South Africa last month.

The pulsating win was made possible by a dashing 52 off 37 balls by Asela Gunaratne, who was named man-of-the-match for his match-turning innings.

Gunaratne slammed seven fours to share in a decisive 60-run stand with Milinda Siriwardana to put the Sri Lankans just 18 runs short of victory with 17 balls remaining.

It was a tense finish with skipper Aaron Finch making fielding changes before every ball to prevent Sri Lanka from getting home.

But it was Kapugedera who stood up to the pressure and slammed fast bowler Andrew Tye's final delivery through the covers to the boundary rope for the winning hit.

The win put Sri Lanka one up in the series with two matches to play in Geelong on Sunday and Adelaide on Wednesday.

For a time it looked as though the Australians, playing without their leading stars, Steve Smith, David Warner, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood all on tour in India, would hold off the fast-finishing Sri Lankans. The home side posted a competitive total of 168 for six off their 20 overs with skipper Finch smashing two sixes and two fours in his top-scoring 43 off 34 balls.

Finch shared in an opening stand of 76 with T20I debutant Michael Klinger.

Klinger, making his debut at the age of 36 after starring with the Perth Scorchers in the domestic Big Bash



Chamara Kapugedera of Sri Lanka celebrates scoring the winning runs in the first Twenty20 International against Australia at the MCG in Melbourne yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

League, hammered 38 off 32 balls with four boundaries.

Lasith Malinga, who has played virtually no cricket for nearly a year due to injuries, was an influential figure taking two wickets in two balls and taking two catches.

Paceman Pat Cummins struck with the last ball of his opening over getting skipper Upl Tharanga to edge to wicketkeeper Tim Paine for a duck in the first over of the Sri Lanka innings.

Dilshan Munaweera smashed a breezy 44 off 29 balls with six fours before he hit a short ball from Zampa

to mid-wicket where Finch took a head-high catch.

But Gunaratne took charge and his half-century turned the tide to set up the thrilling victory for the Sri Lankans.

SCORES IN BRIEF
AUSTRALIA: 168 for 6 in 20 overs (Finch 43, Klinger 38, Head 31, Henriques 17, Turner 18; Malinga 2-29)
SRI LANKA: 172 for 5 in 20 overs (Dickwell 30, Munaweera 44, Gunaratne 52; Zampa 2-26, Turner 12)
Result: Sri Lanka won by 5 wickets.
Player-of-the-match: Asela Gunaratne.

Bondhu XI win opener

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Bondhu XI defeated Retired XI by 18 runs in the opening match of the AM Sayedur Rahman T20 Cricket Tournament at the Shahid Miraz-Tapan Stadium in Manikganj on Friday.

Bondhu XI elected to bat after winning the toss and scored 154 for the loss of six wickets in their allotted overs. After the exchange, Retired XI could only put up 136 runs for the loss of six wickets.

Retired XI's Sumon Khan was adjudged man of the match for scoring 70 runs and taking three wickets.

Earlier, Golam Mohiuddin, chairman of Manikganj District Council, and Nina Rahman, wife of late AM Sayedur Rahman, formally inaugurated the tournament as guests while Sudeb Saha, secretary of Manikganj District Sports Association, presided over the inaugural function.

Florenzi's season over

AFP, Rome

Italy international Alessandro Florenzi could miss the rest of the season with a knee injury, his club Roma said on Friday.

The 25-year-old, who can play at full-back or in midfield, had previously ruptured his cruciate knee ligament in October and only just returned to full training.

Jose wants more focus

AFP, Manchester



Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho accused his players of not showing an appropriate level of mental preparation during their 3-0 Europa League victory over Saint-Etienne.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic's hat-trick earned United a handsome win in Thursday's last 32 first-leg match at Old Trafford, but the scoreline did not tell the full story.

Saint-Etienne finished the first half strongly and substitute Nolan Roux spurned a glorious chance to level two minutes before Ibrahimovic netted United's second goal in the 75th minute.

Mourinho said United's first half had been "so bad" and when asked why, he said it had been down to a "lack of concentration".

"I had the feeling immediately in the dressing room: too noisy, too funny, too relaxed," he told reporters.

"Then my assistants had the feeling in the warm-up, with some of the guys not really focused on getting the right adrenaline in their bodies.

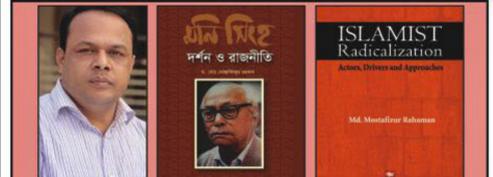
"The game started and the first thing we did was a back-pass (by Eric Bailly) to the striker to be face-to-face with Sergio (Romero, the United goalkeeper).

"Lack of concentration. When you don't have it, it's difficult to recover it. In the first half it was hard.

Mourinho has made no secret of the fact he would rather be playing in the Champions League than its sister competition, but he said that was no excuse for United's lack of focus.

"I know the Champions League is the competition everyone wants to play, everyone wants to win," he said.

Two Books By Md. Mostafizur Rahman



Shrabon Prokashoni, Stall No. 255-257 at Ekushey Boi Mela, Suhrawardy Udyan