

STAR SPORTS SELECT HD 1
England v South Africa
1st T20
Live from 11:30pm

SONY SIX & TEN 2
Confederations Cup
Russia v Portugal
Live from 9:00pm
Mexico v New Zealand
Live from 12:00am (Thursday)

ARGENTINA PREFERS MESSI

Argentinian footballing legend Maradona said Monday that he preferred compatriot Lionel Messi to Cristiano Ronaldo all the while dubbing the Portugal captain an "incredible" player. "I can't remember having seen Lionel Messi play badly," Maradona told iSports. "I prefer Messi to Cristiano Ronaldo but I acknowledge that the latter is an animal. He's incredible," said the 1986 World Cup winner. Speaking from Dubai, where he now lives, Maradona added that he'd wished Ronaldo, who is Portuguese, was Argentinian. "He makes me think of Gabriel Batistuta," the Argentina striker who starred at three World Cup finals. "As soon as he touched the ball, it was a goal." Turning back to Messi, Maradona said the Barcelona player was still the world's best despite not having won a World Cup. "Alone, he will not be able to win the World Cup. You need a solid team for that. Football history will remember Messi," said Maradona.



Jose accused of 3.3m euro fraud

Spanish prosecutors said yesterday they had filed a claim against Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho on two counts of tax fraud dating back to when he coached Real Madrid.

The Portuguese manager owes Spanish tax authorities 3.3 million euros (\$3.7 million), a Madrid prosecutor said in a statement, adding it had presented a claim to a local court.

Mourinho left Real Madrid in 2013 to manage English club Chelsea for a second spell before signing with United in 2016. Prosecutors said he had failed to declare revenues from his image rights in his Spanish income tax declarations from 2011 and 2012, "with the aim of obtaining illicit profits". They said Mourinho had already settled a previous claim relating to his Spanish taxes, which resulted in a penalty of 1.15 million euros in 2014. But tax authorities later found that some of the information presented in that settlement was incorrect, the prosecutors said.

'Video tech is the future of football'

FIFA president Gianni Infantino on Monday strongly defended the use of video assistant referees (VAR) during the first round of group-stage matches at the Confederations Cup in Russia.

The latest of the five decisions to go to review was when the video assistant awarded Australia a goal in their 3-2 defeat to Germany on Monday, despite replays appearing to show a handball from eventual scorer Tomi Juric in the build-up. There was also confusion on Sunday as Eduardo Vargas saw his apparent goal for Chile ruled out by a marginal offside over a minute after he had started his celebrations. "I am extremely happy with VAR so far," Infantino said in a statement.

BCB coach served show-cause notice

OUR CORRESPONDENT from Dinaipur

A cricket coach, who allegedly sexually harassed a female minor on June 1, has received a show-cause notice from the Dinaipur District Sports Association (DSA), 20 days after the incident took place inside the Dinaipur Sports Village.

Abu Samad Mithu, an appointed coach of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) who runs the Procheta Cricket Chakra cricket school, reportedly made an advance on the 15-year-old budding cricketer as he tended to an injury she sustained on her left leg during practice at the Dinaipur Gor-E-Shohid Boromah.

The father of the victim apparently sat with other DSA members earlier to discuss the matter but after getting no cooperation following arbitration, he wrote a letter to inform the Deputy Commissioner of Dinaipur, Mir Khairul Alam, who is also the president of Dinaipur DSA, on June 14.

Alam issued the show-cause notice on Tuesday after media outlets reported on the salacious act.

The notice requires Mithu to answer to the accusations within three days.

However, when speaking to The Daily Star over phone, Mithu asserted that he did not receive a show-cause letter as of 4:10pm on Tuesday.

This blatant retort is only proved to provoke further protest among rights groups in the district. Abul Kalam Azad, a rights activist, demanded Mithu's expulsion from the DSA and BCB while the Dinaipur Khelegarh Asor will also to hold a human chain in front of the DC office today protesting the incident.



New Zealand players run during a training session at the Fisht Stadium in Sochi yesterday on the eve of their Confederations Cup group A match against Mexico.

PHOTO: AFP

All Whites must be 'brave'

AFP, Sochi

New Zealand coach Anthony Hudson says the All Whites must be brave against Mexico, knowing defeat on Wednesday will effectively end their Confederations Cup hopes.

Their 2-0 loss to hosts Russia in Saturday's opening Group A match means Oceania champions New Zealand have now gone a record ten games without a win at the Confederations Cup having left the 1999, 2003 and 2009 editions empty-handed.

Following Saturday's 2-2 draw with Portugal, Mexico are up-beat and favourites to win the showdown in Sochi.

"We went toe-to-toe with the European champions and we managed to keep Cristiano Ronaldo in check," beamed Mexico coach Juan Carlos Osorio after Sunday's draw in Kazan.

In contrast, underdogs New Zealand must break their goal-drought to have a chance against Mexico.

After friendly 1-0 defeats to both

Northern Ireland and Belarus en route to Russia, the All Whites have now played three matches in the last two weeks without scoring.

"They badly need good result against the Mexicans with Euro 2016 winners Portugal to follow in St Petersburg on Saturday in their final group match.

New Zealand lost 2-1 to Mexico in a friendly last October and Hudson, 36, expects a spirited showing from his side.

"We're determined to approach his game with the right mind-set and we definitely want to progress," said Hudson in Tuesday's press conference.

"We need to be positive, we need to be brave.

"Mexico are a world-class side and we're the smallest team in the competition. "But we played them in October in front of 40,000 fans, it was a close game and we caused them problems.

"We don't want to go in and be fearful, or negative or sit back and let Mexico do what they want.

"I'm expecting an incredible spirit from our team - this is a massive game for us."

Goalkeeper Stefan Marinovic, who faces a busy night against the likes of ex-Manchester United striker Javier Hernandez, believes New Zealand can pull it off.

"We can definitely get a result against them," said the 25-year-old.

"We were unlucky against them before so we'll be going for three points.

Hernandez's diving header against Portugal leaves "Chicharito", Mexico's all-time top-scorer, just two short of the 50-goals tally.

Mexico coach Juan Carlos Osorio is expected to rotate his team, which could see captain Rafa Marquez, 38, make his first Confed Cup start.

Marquez is the only player at Russia 2017 to have previously lifted the Confederations Cup when hosts Mexico beat Brazil 4-3 in the 1999 final.

"We've been trying to figure out if they will make chances," said NZ boss Hudson.

"They have players with quality in all positions, but I believe the style will stay the same. "It's a world-class squad and an incredible test."

QUICK SINGLES

The following are a few samples of stories that did not make the print edition. However, if they pique your interest, you can always read them online on The Daily Star website by simply scanning the QR codes listed below.

Mashrafe and Tamim climb ICC OD rankings

There have been plenty of movements in the ICC rankings and Bangladesh's Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Tamim Iqbal have moved up the ladder after the conclusion of the ICC Champions Trophy in England.

Global League on halt talent exodus: Du Plessis

Far du Plessis is optimistic the creation of a new Twenty20 Global League in South Africa will help prevent the country's top cricketers leaving in search of greater financial opportunities.



New head coach Andrew Ord gets the under-23 team through a practice session at the BKSPP yesterday as part of preparation for the upcoming AFC U-23 Championship Qualifiers.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Ronaldo gets court date

APP, Madrid

Cristiano Ronaldo's woes deepened Tuesday when the star striker who reportedly wants to quit Real Madrid was summoned to appear before a judge investigating tax fraud.

Ronaldo, 32, said to have vowed that he would never play for Real Madrid again, was summoned to appear in a Madrid court on July 31 to answer four counts of tax evasion of 14.7 million euro (\$16.5m).

Unhappy Ronaldo, the four-time world player of the year, has left his future at the Spanish giants in doubt and has been linked to United and other top clubs after angrily announcing last week that his "consistency is clear."

According to media reports Ronaldo is unsettled at Real Madrid because he believes the European champions did not back him as fully as he had hoped in his dispute with the taxman.

And he has also complained on multiple occasions in the past about Real supporters, who have resorted at times to jeering and booing his performance on the pitch.

However club president Florentino Perez disclosed that no offers had been received by Real to tempt Ronaldo away and the club was determined to keep him.

"Ronaldo is a Real player and will continue to be so as far as we are concerned," Perez told Marca sports daily Tuesday. "No offer has been received for him."

was leaving and "there is no turning back". Portuguese sports daily A Bola had also claimed that Perez had already been informed of the player's decision.

However, Perez said that he had not spoken to Ronaldo, who is on duty for Portugal at the Confederations Cup in Russia, which ends on July 2.

He also confirmed that Ronaldo's contact was ring-fenced by a one billion euro release clause.

"I have not spoken with him. We don't want to disturb his concentration with the national team," said Perez. "But something really bizarre would have to happen if he were to leave this club."

SL Army FC for practice match?

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is trying to bring the Sri Lanka Army Football Club for a practice match against Bangladesh U-23 team ahead of the AFC U-23 Championship Qualifiers, claimed a BFF official yesterday.

Initially we tried to bring the Sri Lanka U-23 team, but since Sri Lanka withdrew their team from the AFC Championship Qualifiers, we are now trying to bring Sri Lanka Army FC, which is one of the top clubs in Sri Lanka," informed BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag yesterday, adding that they did not get any response from Qatar, Bahrain, Jordan and United Arab Emirates are to host the Bangladesh U-23 team for practice matches on their way to Palestine.

The BFF spokesman further informed that the U-23 team will also play a practice match against Dhaka Abahani.

Meanwhile out of the 36 members of the preliminary squad, only 29 footballers attended training on the first day at Bangladesh Khira Shikha Protishtan yesterday. Winger Rubel Mia is nursing an injury while Hemsanta Vincent Biswas and Jewel Rana will join the camp as soon as they recover from fever. Informed manager Satsiyit Dan Rupu adding that four Sheikh Jamal DC players will join the camp on July 22.

Sanford leaves

SPORTS REPORTER

Goalkeeping coach Ryan Sanford left Bangladesh on Monday after the Bangladesh Football Federation decided not to extend his contract.

The New Zealander joined the BFF as goalkeeping coach of the national team which however had no international engagement since the Asian Cup Qualifying play-off second leg against Bhutan in October. The 36-year-old worked with Bangladesh's U-16 women's team in the meantime.

BFF Technical Director Paul Smalley had brought Ryan with another motive in mind which was to improve the standard of the country's goalkeepers, who were often blamed for defeats at the international level for both the national team or club teams. There was, however, a question mark over the qualification of Ryan, who had a certificate of Oceania region, equivalent to an AFC B license.

"The executive committee of the federation did not feel the need to renew the contract of Ryan, which is why he departed," BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag said, adding that a reduction of cost regarding foreign coaching staff is also another reason behind the non-renewal of Ryan's contract, especially following the appointment of Andrew Ord as head coach of the national team.

The game's governing body may however look for another foreign goalkeeping coach ahead of December's Bangabandhu Gold Cup and next year's SAFF Championship if Ord recommends it, added Shohag.

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BAN/05/2017/01	20th July 2017	29th June 2017 at 10:30 Hours (IST)	19th July 2017 at 14:00 Hours (IST)

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