

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh U-19 v Afghanistan U-19
4th ODI
Time: 9:30am
Venue: SIC5, Sylhet

Bangladesh Premier League
SR Russell v Saif Sporting
Time: 4:30pm
Arambagh v Mohammedan
Time: 6:45pm
Venue: BNS



Angry Spaniards mercilessly taunted Catalonia's Gerard Pique (C) at the Spanish national team's open practice on Tuesday. The session lasted only 23 minutes before the players left the field due to the abuse. (Inset) One fan holds up a banner reading "Pique out".

Pique targeted by angry fans

AGENCIES, Madrid

Barcelona's Catalan defender Gerard Pique was targeted by angry Spain fans on Monday as he took part in an open training session with the national team the day after the Catalonia independence referendum that was declared illegal by the Government.

Centre-back Pique, who voted in the referendum and has criticised police violence against voters which resulted in hundreds of injuries, has long been targeted by Spain fans but Monday's barrage of insults was particularly severe.

Spain supporters at the Las Rozas training facility in Madrid jeered, whistled and chanted at Pique to leave the team, who are preparing for two World Cup qualifiers, brandishing banners carrying insults aimed at him.

Spanish media reported that police confiscated some of the banners, including one which described Pique as "sickening".

The same fan continued to speak in the stands and said: "Pique is not worthy to be in the Spain squad, he doesn't deserve it. They are forcing me to cover a

banner that, for me, is not offensive. I am only saying what I think, Pique is disgusting, he shouldn't have come."

"The behaviour of Gerard has been exceptional," coach Julen Lopetegui told Spanish radio station Cadena COPE.

"I wanted to see how he was and I saw he was motivated and enthusiastic. He's well and fired up, if it were not like that he wouldn't be with me."

However Lopetegui defended the decision to hold the training session in public, adding: "It would have been an error to train behind closed doors. The fans have the right to express themselves. I know the situation is unpleasant, but I ask people for a little reason and sanity."

Pique, 30, said on Sunday he would leave the national team if asked to Lopetegui or the REEF (Spanish FA). He will retire from international duty after the 2018 World Cup in Russia, having grown tired of being criticised by Spain supporters.

Pique has played 91 times for his country and was a member of the squad that won the 2010 World Cup and the 2012 European Championship.

Group C leaders Spain, three points clear of second-placed Italy, are aiming to seal a place at the finals in qualifiers at home to Albania on Oct. 6 and away to Israel three days later.

Barcelona and its members would have to decide which league to play in if Catalonia gained independence from Spain, club president Josep Maria Bartomeu said on Monday.

The Catalan club played behind closed doors at the Nou Camp on Sunday as a protest against Spain using force to prevent voters taking part in a banned referendum.

"In the case of independence, the club and members would have to decide which league we would play," Bartomeu told reporters after a board meeting. "We are going through difficult and complicated moments and with respect to what could happen in the future we will take it on with calm and wisdom."

Catalan sports minister Gerard Figueras last week said Barcelona may be able to play in another country should the region achieve independence.

The dream of the child

Cristiano Ronaldo wrote an article for 'The Players' Tribune' - a media platform that publishes first-person stories directly from athletes and presents direct reflections, thoughts and experiences. Here Real Madrid's all-time top-scorer and Portugal captain writes about how he began playing football, his aspirations and mostly, about family. The excerpts are below:

There is a strong memory I have from when I was 7 years old. It is so clear to me that I can picture it right now, and it makes me feel warm. It has to do with my family.

I had just started playing real football. Before, I was just playing in the streets of Madeira with my friends. I don't mean an empty road. I really mean a street. We didn't have goals and we had to stop the game whenever cars would drive by. I was happy doing that, but my father was the kitman for CF Andorinha - and he kept encouraging me to go and play for the youth team. I knew I would make him really proud, so I went.

So every night at dinner, my father tried to recruit them to come see me play. It was like he was my first agent. But they didn't really



get excited, you know? So what could I do? I just kept scoring and scoring.

I would look to the sidelines every match and see my dad standing there alone. Then one day - I will never forget this image - I was warming up and looked over and I saw my mom and sisters sitting together. They looked cozy. They looked like they had never been to a match before. But they were there. That's all I cared about.

I felt so good in that moment. It was like something switched inside of me. I was really proud. At that time, we didn't have much money. But when you're a kid, you don't care about money. You care about a certain feeling. And on that day, this feeling, it was very strong. I felt protected and loved.

Football gave me everything, but it also took me far away from home before it was really ready. When I was 11 years old, I moved to the academy at Sporting Lisbon.

It's crazy for me to think about now. My son, Cristiano Jr, is 7 years old. And I think

about how I would feel, sending him away in four years. It seems impossible. And I'm sure it seemed impossible for my parents.

Over the past eight years, I have achieved incredible things at Madrid. But to be honest, winning trophies later on in my career has become a different kind of emotion. When you are a father, it is a completely different feeling. A feeling that I cannot describe. This is why my time in Madrid has been special. I was always a footballer, yes, but also a father.

There is a moment with my son that I will always remember so clearly. When I think about it, I feel warm.

It was the moment on the field after we won the Champions League final in Cardiff. When I was on the pitch after the final whistle, I felt like I had sent a message to the world. But then my son came on the field to celebrate with me and suddenly, the entire emotion changed. We held the trophy together. Then we walked around the field, hand in hand.

It is a joy that I did not understand until I was a father. The only thing I can compare it to is how I felt when I was warming up in Madeira and I saw my mother and sister huddled together in the stands.

After 400 matches with Madrid, winning is still my ultimate ambition. I think I was born like that. But the feeling, after has definitely changed. I had a special message engraved on my new boots. The words are the last thing that I read before I go to the tunnel. It is like a final reminder, motivation. It says 'El sueno del niño'.

"The dream of the child."

Maybe now you understand. In the end, of course my mission is the same as it has always been. I want to win the most titles possible. This is just my nature.

But what means the most to me about my time in Madrid, and what I will tell my grandchildren about when I am 95 years old, is the feeling of walking around the pitch as a champion, hand in hand with my son.

I hope we will do it again.

ITALY UNVEIL NEW LOGO

The Italian Football Federation (FIGC) on Monday unveiled its new logo with four stars representing the country's World Cup triumphs ahead of the 2018 finals in Russia. The Azzurri won the trophy in 1934, 1938, 1982 and 2006 and are second only to Brazil who lead the way with five titles. "The FIGC's new visual identity completes a process of renewal that began three years ago, we look to the future by valuing our history," said FIGC president Carlo Tavecchio. "The new logo has made the four-star world triumphs more visible because they represent the pride of the whole country." The logo - which includes the word 'Italia' - features a more modern design than the crest introduced after the 2006 World Cup victory and will appear on the new Italy 2018 home jerseys to be released later this month. Italy first started using the blue jersey of the Azzurri in 1911.

—AFP

Visa issues ahead of showpiece event

SPORTS REPORTER

Hero Asia Cup

Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) is struggling to get the necessary permission from the Home Ministry regarding the arrival of foreign television crews and the Pakistan hockey team.

"We sought permission from the home ministry for on-arrival visas for the TV crews and visas for the Pakistan team five to six days earlier, but we have not yet received any official permission as of today [Tuesday]. We are a bit worried about this issue as the tournament is getting closer," claimed tournament committee's secretary Mamunur Rashid yesterday.

A 27-member crew of Star Sports network including citizens of Singapore, England, Australia, Spain and India are supposed to arrive here tomorrow to set up their studio and other things in order to telecast the matches of the eight-nation tournament live from the venue.

"There is no problem regarding citizens' excess for India to get on-arrival visas, but Indian crew needs certificates from the home ministry before boarding plane. We have not been able to provide them with those certificates yet," Mamunur said. "We are trying to get permission and for that we will go to the home ministry tomorrow [Wednesday] to look for updates."

Mamunur also informed that the Star Sports network needs at least five days to fix their technical staff.

The former national hockey player also informed that the Star Sports network personnel have already confirmed their air tickets and are supposed to board a plane on Thursday from Bahrain where they have been covering tournament.

"We have learnt that the Special Branch (SB) issued clearance for the Pakistan team but the instructions via home ministry and foreign affairs ministry have not reached the Bangladesh High Commission in Pakistan yet," Mamunur said, adding that the Pakistan officials are calling them repeatedly for the Bangladesh visas.

BJMC sink Rahmatganj

SPORTS REPORTER

BPC

Team BJMC tasted their second victory in the Bangladesh Premier League with a surprise 2-1 win over Rahmatganj MFS at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Mehdi Hasan Tapu and Bayback Fomhange scored one goal apiece for BJMC while Nigerian defender Monday Osagie pulled one goal back for Rahmatganj. The win helped BJMC leapfrog to seventh position with nine points while the Old Dhaka outfit remained in sixth position with 10 points.

Smartering from a 1-0 defeat at the hands of Sheikh Russel, BJMC improved their performance against Rahmatganj, who came into the match on the back of three successive draws against Mohammed SC, Farahangj SC and Abahani.

BJMC took the lead in the 19th minute when Tapu fired home from close range after availing a forward pass from Kingsley Oshiohka.

However, the lead lasted only three minutes as Monday headed in Naimur Rahman Shahed's free-kick for the equaliser.

BJMC kept pressing to restore the lead and defender Bayback found the winner with a placing shot in the 39th minute after availing a cross from Sumon Das.

Rahmatganj almost found the equaliser again but Jatta Mostafa's spot kick was saved by BJMC goalkeeper Anuzzaman Hameed.

Meanwhile, Muktiyoddha Sangsad ended their four-match losing streak with a goalless draw against Farahangj SC in the day's first match.

After a barren first half, Farahangj had a great chance to take lead in the 57th minute when Nigerian forward Chinedu Mathew, receiving a long ball, took a powerful volley from inside the box.

only to be denied by the woodwork.

Muktiyoddha's Saikat Mahmud Munna shot just wide following a low cross from substitute forward Didarul Alam in the 75th minute. They had another chance eight minutes later when Motiur Rahman headed one over the bar on a cross from Ejike Collins.

With the first draw in nine matches, Muktiyoddha Sangsad stayed at ninth position with seven points while Farahangj, after their second win, stayed second from bottom with five points.

Barca could leave La Liga, admits Bartomeu

AGENCIES, Barcelona

MUKTIYODDHA 0 - 0 FARAHANGJ
(MONDAY 22)

RAHMATGANJ 1 - 2 TEAM BJMC
(TAPU 19, BAYBACK 29)

QUICK SINKS

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:

Lukaku denies Beverly Hills party charge

Manchester United striker Romelu Lukaku entered a not guilty plea after being cited for holding a rowdy party at his rented Beverly Hills mansion in July.

"Maybe I'll be a boxer like you!"

Former Manchester United star Cristiano Ronaldo invited ex-teammate Rio Ferdinand to his home in Madrid. The pair had a lively talk where they discussed Cristiano's career at Real Madrid and his latest Nike Mercurial boots.

নতুন শিক্ষা
যেহিঁচে -৯২/ডি/৫, ব্লক-এ
বসুধা আ/এ, সাপা-২২২৯

স্থানান্তরিত
ট্রাস্ট ব্যাংক
বসুন্ধরা শাখার (পূর্ববর্ত প্রগতি সরাণি শাখা)
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