

DAY'S EVENT
Bangladesh A v Ireland A
 4th One-Dayer
 Time: 9:00am
 Venue: SKICS, Cox's Bazar

ULTRAS CAUSE UPROAR WITH ANNE FRANK STICKERS

Italian police and soccer authorities yesterday opened investigations after Lazio fans posted anti-Semitic stickers of Holocaust victim Anne Frank wearing the jersey of their top-flight city rivals AS Roma. The stickers and anti-Semitic slurs were found on glass barriers, walls and bathrooms in a section of Rome's Olympic Stadium that was used by Lazio supporters on Sunday in their Serie A match against Cagliari. The hard-core and often violent Lazio fans, known as "ultras," left the stickers and anti-Semitic slogans such as "Roma fans are Jews" in a section of the stadium where Roma supporters usually sit when their team is playing. Local rivals Lazio and Roma share the stadium. Nicola Fratoianni, the head of the small Italian Left party, said those guilty of the anti-Semitism at the stadium should be made to memorise Anne Frank's diary.

—REUTERS



Ronaldo extends reign as the best

Zidane wins coach of the year

AFP, London



Cristiano Ronaldo's stunning last season saw him win the 2017 Best FIFA men's player of the year trophy as Real Madrid dominated a star-studded awards ceremony in London yesterday.

The Portuguese ace, who has scored 44 goals in just 48 games for club and country this year, played a major role in Real winning both La Liga and the Champions League.

Real boss Zinedine Zidane took the corresponding manager of the year award, with the Spanish giants providing five players in the FIFA team of the year.

Ronaldo also won the inaugural Best FIFA men's player of the year award last year.

This year he saw off competition from Barcelona rival Lionel Messi and Paris Saint-Germain's Neymar, with Ronaldo receiving his trophy from Argentina great Diego Maradona and Brazil's Ronaldo in a star-studded ceremony at the London Palladium theatre.

"Thanks a lot for voting for me," said Ronaldo. "I mention Leo and Neymar, great to be here. Real Madrid supporters, my teammates, my coach. We are in England for the first time and I win consecutive awards."

Zidane won out ahead of Chelsea's Antonio Conte and Juventus's Massimiliano Allegri to be crowned men's coach of the year after becoming the first man to oversee a successful defence of the European Cup in the Champions League era.

Real's superb campaign was recognised in a FIFA XI that featured Ronaldo and club-mates Toni Kroos, Luka Modric, Marcelo and Sergio Ramos.

The team was completed by goalkeeper of the year Gianluigi Buffon, Leonardo Bonucci, Dani Alves, Andres Iniesta, Messi and Neymar.

Veteran Juventus and Italy shot-stopper Buffon topped a three-strong shortlist for the goalkeeper award ahead of Real's Keylor Navas and Bayern Munich's Manuel Neuer.

The Puskas Award for the best goal of 2017 went to Arsenal's Olivier Giroud.

The France striker received the award named in honour of Hungary great Ferenc Puskas for a spectacular 'scorpion-kick' against Crystal Palace in January.

The Frenchman won ahead of goals from Venezuela's Deyna Castellanos, 18, and South African goalkeeper Oscarine Masuluke.

Meanwhile, Women's Coach of the Year and Player of the Year awards went to Sarina Wiegman and Lieke Martens respectively.



The recipient of the inaugural The Best FIFA Men's Player Award, Cristiano Ronaldo retained his title yesterday night after leading Real Madrid to the UEFA Champions League, La Liga and FIFA Club World Cup triumphs in the past season.

PHOTO: AFP

Mbappe wins Golden Boy award

AGENCIES, London

French forward Kylian Mbappe has won the Golden Boy award for the best young player in Europe, fending off competition from Barcelona's Ousmane Dembele and Manchester United's Marcus Rashford.

The 18-year-old came to prominence last season, scoring six Champions League goals to propel Monaco to the semifinals while playing a huge part in the club's title-winning Ligue 1 season, scoring 15 goals. Mbappe is on loan at PSG, where he has four goals four assists in 11 games.

Mbappe won by an overwhelming 291 votes, with Dembele coming second on 149. Manchester United's Rashford was third and Manchester City's Gabriel Jesus fourth.

The award, run by Tuttosport, is in its 15th year and winners have included Wayne Rooney, Mario Balotelli, Raheem Sterling and Anthony Martial.

A reality check

ANISUR RAHMAN



The Asia Cup Hockey is done and dusted and India quite predictably retained the title in a country where they famously fell short of winning the regional piece of silverware 32 years ago.

However, India's heart-stopping defeat against Pakistan in that pulsating final in 1985 and their latest victory against Malaysia on Bangladesh soil provided a completely different scenario as far as the hosts' collective ambitions are concerned. The 1985 edition of the Asia Cup served as a hockey renaissance in Bangladesh when every kid took a stick, be it proper or not, in every nook and corner of the country. This time around the mobile-savvy next generation hardly noticed the passing of an event where the home team has failed to provide that much-needed spark as was the case 32 years ago when they suffered a narrow 1-0 defeat against Pakistan, one of the Asian hockey powerhouses.

Bangladesh did finish sixth as was

the case 32 years ago. It is an achievement in itself considering the fact that the game has changed drastically since 1985, when it was played on natural turf. It is now more a game of power than skill, more physical and more technical.

But it hardly had a positive impact in terms of drawing crowds or making a lasting impression among the kids in this part of the world. The entry into the refurbished Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium was free but apart from a few games there was hardly a noticeable audience in the stands.

The result of the home team's first two games against India and Pakistan had a contributing effect to the low turnout. Bangladesh suffered identical 7-0 thrashings against India and Pakistan. They also suffered a 3-1 defeat against Japan in their last group league game.

The home team pulled off a 4-3 tie-break win against China in the place-deciding game. But as has always been the case, people only count how well you fare against the

top teams. So, the defeats against India and Pakistan without a fight certainly put a damper on Bangladesh's ambition of finding a way of reviving the fledgling image of this game in the country.

But then the employers have asked too much from the players, who have been struggling to find a decent livelihood playing this game. They have asked for something magical from a set of players who do not know if the domestic League, which is their only source of income, will take place this season.

The federation failed to hold the league for two seasons due to severe internal conflict between clubs. It staged the last league in 2016 and a transfer date for this season is yet to be announced. The highest authority of Bangladesh hockey has recently developed the idea of having a lot of camps.

It is cheap, with each player entitled to a Tk 300 allowance per day, which is not even enough for transport from their homes to the ground. During the Asia Cup the players were entitled to Tk 800 per

day, an astronomical amount for a professional player indeed!

Before the tournament we had lots of expectations, which is illogical. We wanted to draw inspiration from 1985. Unfortunately, at the same time we were forgetful that we have played even better hockey post-1985. Bangladesh's performance in the 90s and more importantly in the 1995 SAF Games in Madras was more fulfilling. Bangladesh arguably played their best match against Pakistan in Madras, where they lost the game 3-2 due to a controversial ruling from Indian umpire Shakil.

Mahabub Harun, who formed the fantastic strike force with Mohammad Sadek in that match, is the coach of this team now. He made a very interesting remark while recalling that game.

"Hockey has become a power game now. Our players lack physically in this area. They can only compensate that with skill. But to be honest that skill development could only be possible by playing competitive matches, not through camps."

Junaina sets 4 more records

SPORTS REPORTER



Junaina Ahmed, an England-born Bangladeshi swimmer, continued to shine in the Saif PowerTec 32nd National Age-group Swimming Championships as she shattered

four of the 10 national records on the second day at the Syed Nazrul Islam Swimming Complex in Mirpur yesterday.

Junaina set three records, 100m and 400m freestyles and 200m individual medley in girls' 15-17 age group, on the opening day and showed no signs of slowing down on the second day, setting records in four of the five events she took part for Gopalganj Swimming Club.

Yesterday, Junaina first grabbed the 100m backstroke gold without creating a record but after that she created records in the 400m individual medley, 200m freestyle, 200m butterfly and 50 freestyle, to finish with five gold for the day and raise her tally to eight gold medals.

However, all the records were recorded by hand timing. In other events, Mukti Khatun set a record in the 50m freestyle in Girls' 13-14 Age Group, Juthi Akter set a record in 200m freestyle in Girls' 11-12 Age Group, Abu Bakkar set a record in 200m backstroke in Boys' 18-20 Age Group and Nayan Ali set a record in the 200m butterfly in Boys' 15-17 Age Group.

A total of 70 events were completed in two days and 15 records were made. At the close of the second day, BKSP topped the table with 26 gold, 27 silver and 35 bronze medals followed by Bangladesh Ansar (21 gold, 13 silver and 13 bronze) and Golpalganj Swimming Club (8 gold).

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:

Routine win keeps Real pressure on Barca

Real Madrid moved back to within five points of La Liga leaders Barcelona with a hassle free 3-0 victory over Eibar.



Allegri thanks Mandzukic for getting sent off

Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri thanked his own player for getting sent off in the first half of their Serie A match at Udinese.



Chase stars as Windies build big lead

Roston Chase and Kraigg Brathwaite made significant contributions with the bat as the West Indies extended their lead over Zimbabwe to 429 on day three of the first Test at Queens Sports Club.



Hamilton 'wanted to scare Bolt to death'

AGENCIES, Texas

Usain Bolt claimed he thought he was 'going to die' after Lewis Hamilton drove him around the Circuit of the Americas prior to the US Grand Prix.

The Jamaican sprinter was on hand to witness the 32-year-old cruise to victory in Austin as he closed in on a fourth world championship.

Bolt -- who waved the green flag to start the formation lap -- revealed the experience of being in the Mercedes AMG roadcar was far from enjoyable.

He said: "There's no words to describe it. The g-force on that was real. It was stressful."

"The first lap was aggressive and good and then when he took the traction control off I thought I was going to die."

"I'm stressed. I'm stressed. I need to take five. I was not ready for that. I was screaming a little bit."

While Hamilton revelled in the

delight at scaring the eight-time Olympic champion, he declared in trying to frighten Bolt, he almost crashed on multiple occasions.

The Brit said: "That was probably the most fun passenger ride I've ever done. I was on the limit. We nearly crashed several times. I wasn't watching where I was going. Don't do that at home."

"It was so good. I pushed the car to the max because I wanted to scare him to death. He talks about being the fastest dude in the world, but I can still make him scared a little bit."

Bolt -- who recently revealed that 'a lot' of football clubs are vying him -- also reiterated his desire to become a footballer.

The 31-year-old said: "For me it's a personal goal. I don't care what people think about it. I'm not going to lie to myself. I'm not going to be stupid."

"If I feel I can't do it, I'm going to say, 'You know what, forget this.' I'm not trying to embarrass myself."

Sponsorship with a difference

BAF, City Group set sights on Olympic medal in 2020

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladeshi conglomerate City Group extended a helping hand to the Bangladesh Archery Federation (BAF) with a package aimed at enhancing the performances of archers with the ultimate target of winning at least one medal in the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.

With the slogan 'Teer Go for Gold', City Group yesterday signed a five-year agreement with the BAF which will see the conglomerate providing Tk 1.80 crore for the first year, starting from January. The funding will be increased or decreased based on the performances of the archers, who have been given the target of improving their scores from 655 to 680 over the next five years.

Usually the sponsors who provide money to national federations do not play any further role but City Group have worked with the BAF for the past six months to prepare a road map for the coming five years to achieve their targets in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics as well as the 2022 Asian Games.

"We have reached this stage after overcoming a lot of hurdles in the past 15 years. We finished bottom in our first international tournament -- the Asian Archery Championships in 2003 -- but we improved our position in the next two years to finish 11th out of 27 participating teams in the Asian Games. Now, we have 12 gold winning archers," said BAF general secretary Kazi Razibuddin Ahmed Chapal at the signing ceremony at the BOA auditorium yesterday.

"Now, we have found a partner -- Teer --

to achieve our target to win at least a medal in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and grab a gold medal in the 2022 Asian Games," Chapal said as he introduced their partners -- Teer, a product of City Group.

Shoeb Md. Asaduzzaman, executive director, sales and marketing of City Group, gave a presentation about their agreement and development policy before explaining how the conglomerate became interested in becoming involved with archery.

"I was watching the opening cere-

monics and we have chosen archery," Shoeb explained as the reasons behind their big initiative.

Shoeb said that they would provide money to groom archers from the grassroots level through a five-year development programme under local and foreign coaches and also for sponsoring some of the national events. He added that they would also sponsor the national archery team in the 2017 Asian Archery Championships to be held in Dhaka in November.



Officials of City Group and the Bangladesh Archery Federation pose for a photograph after signing a five-year agreement yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

mony of the Rio Olympics on TV and the commentator introduced Bangladesh as one of most populous countries in the world with no medal in the Olympics. Instantly I turned off the TV, feeling ashamed of the way Bangladesh were introduced to the world. Later I discussed this matter with my colleagues. We think shooting and archery can be disciplines that can bring Bangladesh medals in the

However, he warned that the funding may be increased, decreased or even that the contract may be cancelled depending on the performances of the archers year by year.

"It is evident that if the players are not given any target of improvement in training, then development is not seen. So, the target of improvement each year has been set," the executive director explained.