

FRANCE'S WC GLORY COSTS VATTI MILLIONS

A Chinese kitchen appliance maker said Monday it has so far made refunds worth nine million dollars, fulfilling a costly pledge to reimburse customers if France won the World Cup. Vatti, one of the French team's sponsors, is coughing up after Didier Deschamps' side beat Croatia 4-2 in the final in Moscow a fortnight ago. According to Vatti's latest figures, the Chinese firm has made refunds—either in cash or gift cards—of more than 62 million yuan. And the cost to Vatti of the success of "Les Bleus" does not stop there, with a portion of refunds still outstanding. The total payout over the marketing stunt will amount to nearly \$12 million. Vatti, founded in 1992, promised before the World Cup to refund customers who bought their "Championship Package" of selected products if France lifted the trophy. Vatti stock dived as France made their way through the tournament, but the firm is publicly sanguine.

—AFP



The girls from Bangladesh under-15 and under-18 women's teams take part in a training session at the BFF Astro turf.

PHOTO: STAR FILE

Bangladesh hold South Korea

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh national hockey team finally notched up a creditable 3-3 draw against South Korea, following successive defeats against the same opposition, in their fourth practice match in South Korea yesterday.

Although Bangladesh were beaten by the hosts in the last three matches, the charges of Iman Gobinathan Krishnamurti put up their best performance so far in the Korean peninsula to ensure yesterday's draw.

The men in red and green even had the advantage at one point and could have stunned their mighty opponents after taking a 3-1 lead in the fourth and final quarter but they ultimately lost their two goal cushion and had to be content with a draw in the penultimate match. The five practice matches were arranged for both teams as a part of their preparations for next month's Asian Games in Jakarta.

Defender Khorshedur Rahman gave the visitors the lead in the seventh minute but South Korea hit back to level the margin in the 23rd minute. Khorshedur got Bangladesh's nose in front again in the 37th minute before Pushkor Khisha Mimo made it 3-1 in the 51st minute, raising hopes of an upset, but South Korea bounced back strong as they scored two goals in the 52nd and 53rd minute respectively to end the game in a draw.

Bangladesh will play their final practice match against South Korea today.

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:

Messi video of holding rival's toddler goes viral

In a video clip captured after Barcelona's clash against Real Betis last season shows the humble side of Lionel Messi as he is seen taking Betis player Andres Guardado's son in his lap and posing for a picture.

Ronaldo arrives in his luxurious villa in Turin

The new Juventus player Cristiano Ronaldo arrived in his new luxurious home which was located behind the Gran Madre in Turin.

FIFPro complains of insufficient break

Global footballers' union FIFPro says that at least 15 World Cup players have taken part in UEFA club competitions less than four weeks after returning from Russia.

Sometimes I overreact, but I suffer on the pitch: Neymar

Brazil star Neymar vowed to come back stronger and said he accepted all criticism in an ad with Gillette. The Brazilian had been at the centre of jokes and memes after exaggerating fouls made during the World Cup.

Choton confident about his charges

SPORTS REPORTER



After they made it to the final round of the AFC U-16 Women's Championship for the first time in 2017, the Bangladesh team realised that they lacked the stamina and strength to put up a fight against the likes of North Korea, Japan and Australian till the last minute.

To close the gap in physical attributes with their top opponents, the team management have focused on increasing the players' stamina and strength by implementing different types of drills. The national under-15 women's team displayed the benefits of those additional drills during the inaugural SAFF U-15 Women's Championship, held in Dhaka last December.

Bangladesh clinched that edition of the Championship at home by displaying dominant performances against Nepal, Bhutan and India. Seven months later, the same group of women are ready to showcase a different version of themselves in the 2nd SAFF U-15 Women's

Championship, which gets underway in Thimphu, Bhutan on August 9.

The U-15 team have already proven to be the superior side in the subcontinent's south and central zones by clinching the now defunct AFC U-14 South and Central Regional Championship title twice. They then consolidated their supremacy in the South Asian zone further by lifting the inaugural SAFF U-15 Women's Championship title and so, Bangladesh are the top favourites to win the second edition of the tournament, where six teams will vie for the title.

"As defending champions, the girls will definitely give their best to defend the title though other opponents have also been improving fast following the higher concentration on women's football. But I think Bangladesh are stronger than other South Asian teams," said coach Golam Rabbani Choton after a training session yesterday.

Although the girls faced a bit of difficulty while trying to score against Bhutan and India in the last edition, they eventually routed both teams by identical 3-0 margins in the group

stages before Bangladesh went on to beat India 1-0 in the final.

"Yes, there were issues in scoring in December but those girls proved themselves three months later in a tournament in Hong Kong, where they scored 24 goals in three matches by beating Malaysia 10-1, Iran 8-0 and Hong Kong 6-0."

"So I am not worried about scoring at the moment because the girls have been playing well and getting goals in practice matches against the girls who will play the SAFF U-18 Women's Championship," said a confident Choton.

The coach also elaborated on why he is so certain that they will be able to defend the title.

"Before we had problems with stamina and the girls could not fight at the same pace until the last minute but the girls are now much more fit than in previous edition and now have more stamina and strength to keep fighting," said Choton, adding that the same group of girls will play the AFC U-16 Women's Championship Qualifiers in September at the Birshrestha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium.

PSG win a thriller

AFP, Singapore



Virgiliu Postolachi's injury-time strike handed Thomas Tuchel his first win as Paris Saint-Germain coach after a pulsating 3-2 victory over Atletico Madrid on Monday.

Postolachi, 18, curled a stunning shot past Antonio Adan to settle the friendly after Atletico had recovered from 2-0 down, helped by Antoine Bernede's own goal on 86 minutes.

PSG welcomed back Angel Di Maria after

World Cup duty and Italy's Marco Verratti, but it was Christopher Nkunku and Moussa Diaby who put them 2-0 up before Victor Mollejo pulled one back for Atletico.

The win was welcome for German newcomer Tuchel, whose under-strength French champions have fallen 3-1 and 5-1 to Bayern Munich and Arsenal in their previous pre-season friendlies.

Nkunku's tap-in on 32 minutes was the highlight of a drab first half in front of 22,007 fans at the 55,000-capacity Singapore National Stadium.

PREDICTORS GET THEIR REWARDS



The prize giving ceremony of 'Predict the Winner', a contest organised by Garden Fresh and The Daily Star, took place yesterday at The Daily Star Centre. 11,247 readers from across the country participated in the contest that helped to spread the craze and fanfare surrounding the recently concluded 2018 FIFA World Cup. The top 10 winners were selected and awarded their prizes – the first prize was a Samsung smart phone; second was a Huawei tablet and the third-prize winner won eight footballs. Mahfuz Anam, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star (3rd from R), and Soumendra Sankar Das (4th from R), Chief Marketing Officer (Danish Foods Ltd.), Partex Star Group were present at the event.

PHOTO: STAR

Rooney breaks MLS duck and his nose

AFP, Washington



Former England captain Wayne Rooney grabbed his first goal for DC United but also suffered a broken nose in a 2-1 victory over Colorado Rapids in the MLS.

Rooney, 32, scored the opening goal against ex-Manchester United team-mate Tim Howard but was left bloodied after a clash of heads with Colorado defender Axel Sjoberg in stoppage time.

"Delighted to score my first goal for DC United," Rooney tweeted after his team won for just the fourth time in 18 matches this season. Two of those victories have come since Rooney made his debut on July 14.

The striker, England's all-time record goalscorer, said he required five stitches after breaking his nose in the collision with Sjoberg. Rooney, who played for boyhood club

Everton last season following his return from Old Trafford, signed a three-and-a-half year deal with DC United worth \$13 million earlier this month.

DC remain 11 points beneath the playoff places with 16 matches remaining and several games in hand over the six teams currently in line for the postseason.

After Rooney's opener, an angled shot between Howard's legs, United conceded an 82nd-minute equalizer and appeared destined to again share the points before going ahead on an own-goal.

Coach Ben Olsen called it an important win, not only for the points but also for the confidence his side can take from a gritty performance.

"The other team scoring a late goal – which has been our Achilles heel all year – to tum that around and get a winner, I think psychologically this was a huge boost for the team right now."

Zlatan's first hattrick lifts LA Galaxy

REUTERS, Los Angeles

Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored his first MLS hattrick during a 24-minute stretch of the second half, lifting the LA Galaxy to a 4-3, come-from-behind victory over Orlando City on Sunday night in Carson, California.

Ibrahimovic now has 15 goals over 17 appearances for the Galaxy, scoring multiple goals five times since joining the club in late March.

Giovani dos Santos also scored on an assist from Ibrahimovic and added an assist of his own for LA (10-7-5, 35 points).

The Galaxy are unbeaten in their past nine matches and now sit in third place in the Western Conference.

Cristian Higuaita and Dom Dwyer scored for Orlando City, who also benefited from an own goal. The Lions (7-14-1, 22 points) held a one-goal lead on three separate occasions.

Orlando City has lost three straight and is 1-12-0 over its past 13 matches. The Lions have conceded four or more goals in four separate matches during that stretch.

Ibrahimovic finished with an impressive seven shots on goal, three more than in any of his previous MLS appearances.



Atletico Madrid's 72m euro signing from Monaco, French midfielder Thomas Lemar, poses with his new jersey during his official presentation at the Wanda Metropolitan Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION



This is for information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of Bank Asia Limited in its 388th meeting held on July 30, 2018 at 3.30 p.m. at the Board Room of the Bank at Rangs Tower (2nd floor), 68 Purana Paltan, Dhaka-1000 has approved the un-audited financial statements of the Bank for the second quarter ended on June 30, 2018 and disclosed the following financial indicators of the Bank:

Particulars	January to June 30, 2018		January to June 30, 2017	
	Taka (Solo)	Taka (Consolidated)	Taka (Solo)	Taka (Consolidated)
Net Asset Value (NAV) (Crore)	2,227.91	2,215.02	1,969.99	1,958.49
Net Asset Value (NAV) per Share	20.06	19.95	17.74	17.64
Net Operating Cash Flow per Share (NOCFPS)	(4.02)	(4.12)	(6.64)	(6.54)

Particulars	January to June 30, 2018		January to June 30, 2017		April to June 30, 2018		April to June 30, 2017	
	Taka (Solo)	Taka (Consolidated)	Taka (Solo)	Taka (Consolidated)	Taka (Solo)	Taka (Consolidated)	Taka (Solo)	Taka (Consolidated)
Earnings per Share (EPS)	1.10	1.10	0.63	0.69	0.57	0.56	0.35	0.37

The details of un-audited financial statements of the Bank for the second quarter ended on June 30, 2018 will also be available in the website of the Bank at www.bankasia-bd.com

Dated: July 30, 2018
Dhaka

Bank Asia

Corporate Office
Rangs Tower
68, Purana Paltan, Dhaka-1000