

What to WATCH

GTV & CHANNEL 9

West Indies v Bangladesh

First T20I

Live from 6:30am

SONY ESPN

Sri Lanka v South Africa

Second ODI (D/N)

Live from 3:00pm

SONY SIX

England v India

First Test

Live from 4:00pm

PSG SPECIAL INSPIRED BY MAP OF PARIS

Paris Saint-Germain will don an away shirt for the upcoming season which will adopt a special design on the font inspired by the streets of their city. The new jersey has not been used during the pre-season tour played in the USA but is expected to feature once the season proper kicks off. The numbers of Neymar and his teammates will be embedded with patterns of the map of Paris. From the first images, in fact, the Arc de Triomphe and the Champs Elysees are clearly seen and more are expected to appear.

AGENCIES





The stars of the Juventus side gathered around Cristiano Ronaldo (3rd from L) as he enjoyed his first training session with his new club at the Old Lady's training facility in Turin yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

CR7 has first Juve session

AGENCIES, Turin



Cristiano Ronaldo trained alongside his new Juventus teammates for the first time yesterday following his 100-million-euro move from Real Madrid.

The Portuguese star, who is training in Turin following his extended post-World Cup break instead of joining Massimiliano Allegri and the rest of the squad on their United States tour, looked delighted to get down to work.

Ronaldo smiled and gave a double thumbs up for the cameras as he jogged at Juve's training base on Tuesday and posed for a group photograph alongside new colleagues Gonzalo Higuain, Paulo Dybala, Juan Cuadrado, Douglas Costa and Rodrigo Bentancur.

He also posted a snap of him and his teammates with the caption 'First training hard. Work done!' He finished it with emojis of a thumbs-up and a bulging bicep.

And, Ronaldo being Ronaldo, he rolled up his shorts in customary fashion while jogging during the training session. It followed an intensive series of fitness tests on Ronaldo's first day with Juventus on Monday after he jetted back from the holiday he took following Portugal's last-16 exit to Uruguay at the World Cup in Russia.

The 33-year-old looks in peak fitness as always as he prepares to try and propel Juventus to the kind of serial Champions League success he enjoyed in nine seasons with Real Madrid.

Juventus actually take on Real in the International Champions Cup in the United States on Saturday, but Ronaldo is set to remain in Italy ahead of an expected competitive debut at Chievo in Serie A on August 19.

'His parents wanted him to quit'

AFP, London



Alisson's path to becoming the world's costliest goalkeeper may never have come about had his parents not been persuaded he would slim down and grow enough to succeed, his former goalkeeping coach told The Sun on Tuesday.

The 25-year-old Brazilian number one -- who signed for Liverpool for a record £67million from Italian side AS Roma this month -- was too fond of biscuits and fizzy drinks and his parents preferred he stop football and return to his studies.

"One day his parents came looking for me, thinking he had no future in the profession and they wanted to get him out of football," his mentor Daniel Pavan told The Sun. "They thought he had more future in his studies and that he should leave the club.

"But I managed to convince them Alisson was still going to grow to maturity and would have a great future as a keeper."

Pavan said he told the parents they should not be concerned about his relatively small height at the time because he would definitely grow and become a commanding presence in the penalty area -- he now stands at 6feet 4inches.

"When Alisson started he had a slower maturation than the other boys, this made him a shorter keeper and one with weight above the others," said Pavan. "This made him often deprived of a position in the starting line-up.

"He was slower than the boys of his age but with different technical gestures -- we bet on his growth. And thank God they heard me. A year later he had grown 6.5in."

Pavan says he is enormously proud to have seen his protegee play at the World Cup finals and as a result engineer a big money move to the Premier League. "Of the 13 years that he was at Internacional, eight were spent working with me," said Pavan. "They were years of learning and teaching in all areas. I think we contributed much to Alisson as an athlete, a man and a citizen."



ALISSON

Booters' Gwangju test today

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh football team will look to improving their shape and fitness when they take on Gwangju FC in first of their three preparatory matches for the Asian Games at the Mokpo International Training Centre in South Korea today.

After having run his charges through three days of practice since arriving in Korea on Saturday afternoon, Bangladesh coach Jamie Day is expected to field a combined eleven, comprising players from squads for the Asian Games and SAFF Championship, in a bid to see the defensive organisation and attacking shape as the English coach perhaps wants to rely on attacks on the break in the upcoming campaigns.

The men in red and green have already showed a bit of resolve in a practice match against Al Mesaimeer FC of Qatar last month

where they came from behind to hold the hosts to a 1-1 draw. Day is more concerned about fixing things ahead of the Asian Games matches rather than concentrate on match results.

"I know it's going to be a really tough match, so what will be pleasing for me to see is if our shape and fitness has improved since the last game [against Al Mesaimeer FC]," Day said. "We have been working hard for the last few days on the boys' fitness, so it will be interesting to see how that is against a K-League side who are involved in their season already."

The Bangladesh players, who had functional training in the morning before a stretching and fun session in the afternoon yesterday, are ready to take the challenge against Gwangju FC, who were relegated to K-League 2 after finishing bottom of the 12-team table last season.

"We have watched them train tonight [Tuesday] and the level they play at here in Korea, it will be a very tough game as they are a very good

opposition," Day said about the opposition, who have two Brazilian players and one Chinese Taipei player.

The English coach is expected to equal gametime to many of the 27 members of the squad in today's fixture as part of the squad's preparation for the Asian Games the SAFF Championship.

"All the players will play a part in tomorrow's [Wednesday] game with the Asian squad taking more game time in the last two practice matches," Day said.

Manager Satyjit Das Rupu informed that they are thinking of implementing the formation and style they want to employ in the upcoming assignments.

"Tomorrow's [Wednesday] match is part of our preparation ahead of two assignments, so we want to see how the players react on the pitch in defending and attacking in the formation," said Rupu.



Bangladesh players go through a fitness session at the Mokpo International Training Centre in South Korea on the eve of today's practice match against Gwangju FC.

PHOTO: BFF

FARAAZ GOLD CUP

Brac, City into semis

SPORTS REPORTER

Brac University and City University moved into the semifinals of Shahjalal Islami Bank Faraz Gold Cup Inter University Football Tournament by winning their respective matches at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

City University beat Fareast University 2-0 while Brac University beat East West University 4-3 in tie-breakers after the regulation time ended in a 1-1 draw.

Poor show by chess team

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh returned to losing ways in the Asian Nations Cup Chess as they lost to hosts Iran White 3.5-0.5 in the third round at Hamadan on Monday.

Having come into the third round on the back of a win over Oman, none of the Bangladeshis except IM Minhaz Uddin Sagar could do well against the Iranians. GM Enamul Hossain, FM Khandokar Aminul Islam and FM Fahad Rahman lost their boards while Minhaz was able to force a draw.

Bangladesh also lost two boards against Uzbekistan in the fourth round yesterday, with FM Aminul and IM Minhaz on the losing side. GM Enamul and FM Fahd were playing their games when this report was filed.

Quantum win h'ball league

SPORTS REPORTER

Quantum Foundation clinched the title of the Cute Premier Handball League after posting an emphatic 40-15 win over Old Ideals in the league's last match at the Shaheed Captain M Mansur Ali Handball Stadium yesterday.

Quantum needed a win to ensure the prestigious title and they hardly gave any space to the opposition as second-placed Arambagh KS were breathing down their necks.

Both Quantum and Arambagh posted victories in their last matches to finish champions and runners-up with 24 and 22 points respectively from nine matches.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Manchester City's World Cup stars, including Sergio Aguero (L) and Vincent Kompany, returned to training yesterday at the behest of Pep Guardiola.

Jose's mood casts cloud over team

AFP, London



Jose Mourinho's constant carping and foul mood during Manchester United's increasingly tortuous tour of the United States is raising questions about team morale and title hopes just over a week away from the start of the new Premier League season.

Unlike rivals Liverpool and champions Manchester City, two Premier League contenders whose pre-season has included solid preparations and astute transfers, Manchester United watchers see nothing to celebrate as the 55-year-old Portuguese manager prepares for his third term at Old Trafford.

The days when Mourinho used to poke fun at journalists with a twinkle in his eye during press conferences appear long gone, replaced by a litany of complaints as seen following the side's 4-1 humbling by Liverpool on Saturday in their latest outing on the US tour.

Bookmakers are now taking bets on Mourinho becoming the first Premier League manager to be sacked or leave his post this season.

Reports reaching home from the US tour depict players too nervous to talk openly about what they think, with the Daily Telegraph and The Sun claiming those in the squad feel they are



"treading on eggshells".

The Sun cites one case of an unnamed player in a panic asking the TV channel he gave an interview to erase an answer he gave them.

"It's understood the piece of content in question wasn't even contentious and could be considered 'on message' from a club point of view -- but it is a measure of the tension being felt on a troubled tour," remarked the Manchester Evening News.

Mourinho has a history of targeting specific players on occasion and Ivorian central defender Eric Bailly has been in his firing line in the United States.

"I don't think he is a great leader," Mourinho said of Bailly while adding that newly-appointed

captain Antonio Valencia's preparation was below expectations.

He was more critical of French striker Anthony Martial, who he said should have returned to the US tour after going home for the birth of his baby boy.

Mourinho -- who having guided United to Europa League and League Cup success in his first season -- delivered nothing last term.

Critics suggest he is caught in a repetitive pattern seen at previous clubs where his reign turned sour in the third season. It happened twice at Chelsea where he was sacked in the middle of his third campaign in his second spell there, and it also happened at Real Madrid.

However, Mourinho's biggest cause for complaint -- that he has not been given the money for the signings he wanted -- has won some sympathy, even from the board despite reportedly strained relations with Ed Woodward, the executive vice-chairman.

Relations between Woodward and Mourinho may not be great but there is no suggestion the former wants the latter out, having last January secured his signature on a new contract to June 2020 with the option of a further year.

However, with Mourinho still preferring to live in the luxurious Lowry Hotel than buy a more permanent home, many are suggesting the third season curse could prevail again.