

## RONALDO'S DEBUT TO BE AIRED LIVE ON FACEBOOK

Cristiano Ronaldo's debut for Juventus is among a series of games from Serie A and Spain's La Liga to be broadcast for free on Facebook in the UK and Ireland this season. UK rights holders Eleven Sports announced yesterday that it had reached an agreement with the social media giant that will see at least one live match from both leagues broadcast every week on the network's own Facebook page. Five-time World Player of the Year Ronaldo will make his Serie A debut at Chievo on August 18 with Atletico Madrid's La Liga opener at Valencia two days later and Barcelona's visit to Valladolid on August 25 also among the matches scheduled for free-to-air viewing. "This partnership reflects our commitment to helping broadcasters reach new audiences, build their brands and deliver a great viewing experience for sports fans on Facebook," said Rhys Beer, Facebook's live sports programming lead for Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

— AFP



# Booters win final practice match

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh U-23 football team wrapped up their warm-up matches for the upcoming Asian Games with a come-from-behind 3-1 win over Chodang University at the Mokpo International Training Centre in South Korea yesterday.

An emphatic win over an amateur side means Bangladesh U-23 team posted back-to-back wins in the last two matches after the senior side suffered a 2-0 defeat to a professional side, Gwangju FC, in their first practice match. The boys in red and green will leave for Indonesia on August 11 for Asian Games' football event, where they will play against Uzbekistan, Thailand and Qatar in group stages.

Following their win against Sehan University in the previous match, a win was quite expected against Chodang University, who however gave Bangladesh a run for their money in the first half before running out of steam. The visitors grabbed the opportunities with both hands to score two goals within four minutes to leave the field with heads held high.

According to a conversation with team manager Satyajit Das Rupu, Chodang University stunned Bangladesh in the 17th minute with a planned attack when Ui Chan Jung beat goalkeeper Ashraf Islam Rana with an angular shot from inside the box after

availing a through-pass inside the danger zone.

The charges of Jamie Day tried to establish their authority in midfield and pressed hard, allowing Biplu Ahmed to snatch the ball from an opposition defender before equalising the margin in the 39th minute.

Chodang University looked tired after 75 minutes and substitute striker Matin Mia benefitted from a misunderstanding between the opposition goalkeeper and a defender to give Bangladesh the lead in the 78th minute. The promising forward then turned provider by playing one-two with Rabiul Hasan, with the latter completing the rout in the 81st minute.

"Though the opponents were a university side, they were good and they created some scoring chances but could not convert those due to our good defensive organisation," explained Rupu. "However, they looked tired after 75 minutes and a fitter Bangladesh team had an advantage in this area."

Rupu informed that the positive thing to come out of this tour is that the players have developed fighting tendency till the last minute.

The coach believes his charges are already on board and they just need to improve on their final passes and shots on target.

"I think it is a very tough group [Asian Games] with three national teams that are ranked far higher than us, so all I can ask for is the boys do their best in each game. If they perform to their maximum ability, then of course we will give ourselves a chance of getting a surprise result," said Day.



Bangladesh men's kabaddi team go through a practice session at the National Kabaddi Stadium in Paltan yesterday as part of their preparation for the upcoming Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang. A total of 118 athletes will represent Bangladesh in 14 disciplines at the 18th edition of the quadrennial games set to get underway on August 18.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## India U-20s stun Argentine counterparts

GOAL.COM

The India U-20 team, coached by Floyd Pinto, registered a memorable 2-1 win over the Argentina U-20 national team and concluded their 2018 COTIF Cup campaign in L'Alcúdia, Spain on Monday.

The Indian Colts comprised of eight 2017 U-17 World Cup participants while the Indian Arrows team that plays in the I-League made up the rest of the squad. Deepak Tangri's header from Ninthoinganba Meetei's corner-kick gave India an early lead. Though Aniket Jadhav was sent off in the second half, the Blue Tigers did not fold.

Anwar Ali produced a moment of brilliance with a stupendous free-kick that went in off the post and they held on despite Argentina pulling a goal back.

Argentina U-20s, coached by Lionel Scaloni who also acts as the caretaker manager of the senior team, had already secured a spot in the semifinals of the competition after winning their first three games.

The country erupted in joy in the early hours of Monday after a huge result against a strong opponent.

# Mourinho warns of tough season

AFP, London



Jose Mourinho has warned Manchester United face a "difficult season" if they do not strengthen their squad before the Premier League transfer window shuts on Thursday.

United's build-up to the new campaign has been dominated by Mourinho's clear frustration over transfers, which has brought his relationship with executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward into the spotlight.

The only arrivals at Old Trafford this summer have been Brazilian midfielder Fred, teenage full-back Diogo Dalot and back-up goalkeeper Lee Grant.

In sharp contrast, Champions League finalists Liverpool have spent more than £170 million (\$220 million) on new signings including Brazil's World Cup goalkeeper Alisson and midfielders Fabinho and Naby Keita.

"My CEO knows what I want and I still have a few days to wait and see what happens," the Portuguese manager told MUTV ahead of his side's pre-season friendly defeat by Bayern Munich on Sunday.

"The other clubs who compete with us are really strong and already have fantastic teams. Or they are investing massively like Liverpool, who are buying everything and everybody.

"If we don't make our team better it will be a difficult season for us."

United were beaten 1-0 by Bayern at the Allianz Arena, five days before their Premier League campaign begins at home to Leicester.

Mourinho, without some key players due



to their involvement at the World Cup, including Paul Pogba, Romelu Lukaku and Jesse Lingard, brought on academy prospects James Garner, Axel Tuanzebe, Tahith Chong and Demetri Mitchell during the second half.

At full-time, he compared his youthful team to the raft of talent at Bayern's disposal, including experienced players such as Robert Lewandowski and Arjen Robben.

"Finally, it's over. Finally, such a difficult pre-season is over," Mourinho told mufc.com.

"The players were, once more, brilliant. They could not have done better than what they did. (It was a) fantastic experience for the boys."

Mourinho, who has been linked with moves for Tottenham defender Toby Alderweireld and Leicester centre-back Harry Maguire before the transfer window shuts, selected Alexis Sanchez as captain in Bavaria.

Reports in Germany on Sunday said United have also expressed an interest in Bayern defender Jerome Boateng.

Javi Martinez scored the only goal of the game in Munich, heading home from a second-half corner.

# Luiz urges duo to stay

AFP, London



Chelsea defender David Luiz has urged Thibaut Courtois and Eden Hazard to stay at Stamford Bridge but the Brazilian believes the Blues can thrive if the pair leave.

Courtois, 26, has a year remaining on his contract and has been repeatedly linked with a move to Real Madrid. Chelsea risk losing him for a reduced fee in January or for free next summer.

The agent for the Belgian, voted the best goalkeeper at the World Cup in Russia, has said he wants a move to Madrid to be close to his two children.

Hazard, whose deal expires in 2020, has stalled over a new contract offer and has long been the subject of speculation over a move to Real.

"Chelsea wants for the best players to stay," said Luiz. "They know Chelsea a lot, so they know what they've had here, the fun they've had here."

Everybody loves them and I hope they can stay."

Head coach Maurizio Sarri, following Sunday's Community Shield loss to Manchester City at Wembley, said he would sanction Courtois' departure if the goalkeeper expresses a desire to leave.

The transfer window for incoming players to Premier League clubs closes this Thursday, but Luiz is adamant the Blues have enough quality even if Courtois and Hazard go.

"I want them to stay, because we have top players with the confidence," Luiz said. "If they decide to leave, I think we will continue with fantastic players."

Willian is another Chelsea player linked with a move, with Manchester United, Barcelona and Real reportedly courting the Brazil playmaker but Luiz dismissed the idea of his lifelong friend leaving.

"Since the beginning, he told me he loved Chelsea," he said.

Luiz played a crucial role in

Chelsea's title triumph in Antonio Conte's first season as head coach before injury and a rumoured fallout saw him sidelined.

He insists he never contemplated leaving Chelsea for a second time and is now keen to show he can be a key figure for Sarri's Chelsea.

"I was just working and trying to do my best," Luiz added. "Everybody has the opportunity, you just have to show him character, physical quality, technical quality, so since the first day I'm trying to do that."

The 59-year-old Italian's style has been likened to Pep Guardiola's.

But while Manchester City gave the Catalan time to adjust in his first season in England, there is precious little time for Sarri.

"I hope we can understand it quickly and can fight for all the titles," Luiz said. "When you play for a big club you have to be ready to try to fight for the titles, and we're going to fight for that."

## 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:

### Stokes arrives at court to face affray trial

England cricketer Ben Stokes arrived at court, where he will go on trial for affray. The all-rounder and two other men are jointly charged over a fracas in Bristol on September 25 last year.

### Anderson escapes injury after being struck by ball

England fast bowler James Anderson got a taste of the 'chinnisic' that he is more used to dishing out, courtesy of a golf shot gone horribly wrong.

### 'We can get even better', Guardiola warns City's rivals

Pep Guardiola has warned Manchester City's Premier League rivals that the champions are still well below their peak despite powering to a 2-0 win over Chelsea in the Community Shield.

### Replacing Ronaldo's goals is difficult: Kroos

Real Madrid midfielder Toni Kroos admitted that it would be hard to replace Cristiano Ronaldo's goals but remained adamant that Real Madrid will remain a difficult team to beat.

# Fast start a pleasant surprise for Gundogan

AFP, London



Manchester City midfielder Ilkay Gundogan was pleasantly surprised by how quickly the English champions settled back into their stride by beating Chelsea 2-0 to win the Community Shield in an ominous performance for the rest of the Premier League.

Pep Guardiola's men begin their title defence at Arsenal on Sunday, looking to back-up a record-breaking campaign that saw them amass 100 points to win the league by a 19-point margin from Manchester United.

"I was curious the way we would start the game and how it would go," German international Gundogan told the club's website.

"I wouldn't say that it was necessary to give us confidence, but the first weeks when

the season starts, the important games start, you never really know what to expect. You don't really know 100 percent on which level you are.

"It was a great test for us, a last test before the Premier League season. At the end we feel ready right now and we can't wait for the season to start."

Guardiola could even afford the luxury of leaving Kevin De Bruyne, David Silva and Raheem Sterling out of his matchday squad at Wembley after their World Cup exertions.

However, Sergio Aguero showed no hangover from Argentina's early exit in Russia by scoring twice to take his tally for the club to 201.

"We feel very lucky to have Sergio in our team, a striker like him," added Gundogan.

"On top of that even Gabriel (Jesus) with his ability and his quality. We have two great strikers and feel very, very happy."



Barcelona's latest signing Chilean midfielder Arturo Vidal (R) poses with his son Alonso during his official presentation at the Nou Camp yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

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