



**GTV & STAR SPORTS 1**  
**Asia Cup**  
**Super Four**  
**Bangladesh v India**  
**Live from 5:30pm**  
**STAR SPORTS SELECT 1**  
**Asia Cup**  
**Super Four**

**AFCU-16 Women's C'ship Qualifiers**  
**Vietnam v Lebanon**

**Afghanistan v Pakistan**  
**Live from 5:30pm**  
**TEN 2**  
**Serie A**  
**Sassuolo v Empoli**  
**Live from 12:30am (Saturday)**

**Time: 11:30am**  
**UAE v Bangladesh**

**SATURDAY**  
**STAR SPORTS SELECT 1**  
**English Premier League**  
**Fulham v Watford**  
**Live from 5:30pm**  
**Man United v Wolves**  
**Live from 8:00pm**  
**Brighton v Tottenham**

**Time: 3:30pm**  
**Venue: BSMK, Dhaka**

**Live from 10:30pm**  
**STAR SPORTS SELECT 2**  
**English Premier League**  
**Liverpool v Southampton**  
**Live from 8:00pm**  
**Bundesliga**  
**Schalke v Bayern Munich**  
**Live from 10:30pm**

**TEN 1**  
**Serie A**  
**Fiorentina v SPAL**  
**Live from 10:00pm**  
**Sampdoria v Inter Milan**  
**Live from 12:30am (Sunday)**  
**TEN 2**  
**Serie A**

**Parma v Cagliari**  
**Live from 7:00pm**  
**La Liga**  
**Getafe v Atletico Madrid**  
**Live from 10:30pm**  
**Real Madrid v Espanyol**  
**Live from 12:45am (Sunday)**

**DAY'S EVENT**



Cristiano Ronaldo's Champions League debut for his new side Juventus got off to the worst possible start as the Portuguese superstar was shown a red card for (inset) pulling Jeison Murillo's hair.

PHOTO: AFP/COLLECTED

## CR7 sees red but further ban unlikely

AFP, Valencia



Juventus believe they can win the Champions League with Cristiano Ronaldo, but they had to start by beating Valencia without him after he was controversially sent off on his debut in the competition for the Italian champions on Wednesday.

A tearful Ronaldo left the pitch in disbelief in the 29th minute, having seemingly aimed a kick at Valencia defender Jeison Murillo.

The Portuguese player then made contact with Murillo's head while urging him to get up.

Ronaldo dropped to the floor like the tournament was lost after German official Felix Brych bran-

dished the red card but Juve showed more composure, Miralem Pjanic scoring twice from the penalty spot to clinch a comfortable 2-0 win.

Valencia were even awarded a third spot-kick of the match deep into injury-time but Daniel Parejo missed.

It remains to be seen how UEFA judge Ronaldo's offence, and dissent, but he is set to miss the next game at home to Young Boys on October 2.

After that comes the more threatening double-header against Manchester United.

"I can only say that VAR would have helped the referee make the right decision," Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri said afterwards.

Valencia fans celebrated Ronaldo's dismissal at the Estadio Mestalla like a goal had been scored but, in truth, their team missed a golden chance to

gain a foothold in Group H. Instead, Ronaldo's absence had little effect. The Italians won with ease.

"You could say he's increased the players' desire," Allegri said. "He's raised the bar for everybody."

Juventus have claimed seven Serie A titles in a row but the Champions League is the one they want. They last won that in 1996 when Ronaldo was 11 and still playing youth football for Nacional.

Valencia fans lined the streets outside just to witness the buses pull in, boozing the visitors and Ronaldo, in particular.

They also jeered him during the warm-up, during which Ronaldo replied by banging a ball into the open net from two yards.

Emre Can reacted to the dismissal of Cristiano Ronaldo in Juventus' 2-0

Champions League win over Valencia by saying "we are not women".

After watching a replay of the incident, Can told DAZN: "That's supposed to be a red?"

"I just heard he said it was because of hair pulling. We're not women, we're playing football. If you're going to give a red for that, you can give a red for anything. It was 100 per cent not a red card."

Goalscorer Pjanic said that the sending off was "absurd".

"Football is a strange game. We could have been 4-0 up after the opening period, then came that absurd sending off," Pjanic said.

"It was like the Lyon game [in 2016]. We dug deep and found the spirit we needed to take us all the way to the final. That's what we need to do again."

## Pep's City given a rude wake-up call

Real Madrid, Manchester United cruise

AFP, Manchester



Manchester City assistant manager Mikel Arteta admitted the English champions were handed a wake-up call in a shock 2-1 home defeat by Lyon to start their Champions League campaign on Wednesday.

Arteta took charge for the evening with Pep Guardiola serving a touchline ban for being sent-off in last season's quarterfinal exit to Liverpool. And Pep could only watch on in horror as Lyon punished a sloppy first 45 minutes through Maxwell Cornet and Nabil Fekir.

Bernardo Silva pulled a goal back in the second half but couldn't prevent City slumping to their first defeat of the season.

"When you are not at the races at the start of a game in the Champions League after, it doesn't matter how good you are, it is too late," said Arteta.

In contrast to their stunning domestic form, City have now lost their last four Champions League games.

Elsewhere, Gareth Bale scored as Real Madrid moved on from the departures of Cristiano Ronaldo and Zinedine Zidane with a 3-0 win over Roma to confidently launch their pursuit of a fourth successive title.

Everybody knows I'm a United supporter. To come here to win at City -- I've never lost here -- is very good for me.

LYON RIGHT-BACK RAFAEL

Iscu curled in a terrific free-kick just before half-time at the Bernabeu, with Bale powering in a second and Mariano Diaz striking late.

"I thought the performance was very good tonight; the only disappointment was that we didn't score more," said Bale, who struck for the fourth time in five matches. "Real Madrid will always be Real Madrid, no matter who leaves."

Meanwhile, Paul Pogba was the driving force with a brace as Manchester United recorded a convincing 3-0 win away to Young Boys in Bern.

Skipper Pogba's superb opening goal cut down the Swiss champions in their prime, and he then doubled the English side's lead from a penalty just before the break.

The France star also set up the third goal for compatriot Anthony Martial in the



Lyon midfielder Nabil Fekir's (R) goal dealt the killing blow to Manchester City in their Champions League clash on Wednesday as the French outfit got a shock 2-0 win.

## MEN'S CHALLENGE CUP Bangladesh fail to stop Saudi Arabia

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh national volleyball team suffered a 3-1 sets defeat to Saudi Arabia in the second semi-final of the AVC 1st Asian Men's Challenge Cup in Colombo yesterday.

Bangladesh will now play against Sri Lanka in the third-place playoff while Saudi Arabia and Iraq will play the final today.

Bangladesh, who started on the wrong foot with a defeat against Iraq before emerging as group champions by beating UAE and Mongolia, were helpless against a skilful and so far unbeaten Saudi Arabia, who easily took the first set 25-15 before Bangladesh bounced back in the second set.

Bangladesh showed their character to level things at 1-1 after winning the second set 25-21 but the boys in red and green lost the third set 25-12.

However, the charges of Iranian coach Ali Pour Aroji offered a stiff challenge in the fourth set to raise hopes of equalising with a neck-and-neck fight.

The scores were tied at 20-20 before Saudi Arabia had a four-point blitz.

However, Bangladesh again came back strongly and secured four successive points to even the scores. However, they ultimately could not stop Saudi Arabia from securing two more points to wrap up the win.



PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hands over the documents of a flat to Yasmin Monem, wife of late footballer Monem Munna, at the Ganobhaban yesterday. The sport-savvy Prime Minister also presented flats to two more sporting icons of yesteryears – footballer Sheikh Ashraf Ali and late hockey player Zahid Rahman Pushkin's family – for their outstanding contributions to country's sports.

## Chess team leaves with hopes of top-50 finish

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh chess team will leave for Georgia tomorrow to take part in the 43rd World Chess Olympiad with hopes of improving their position after three months of training under GM Igors Rausis of Czech Republic.

Although Bangladesh produced its best-ever result in the 2012 Chess Olympiad with a 33rd-place finish, they could not keep the momentum going in the next two editions after finishing 64th and 76th respectively in 2014 and 2016.

However, they will be hoping to do better in this tournament, which is scheduled to start from September 23.

The Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) had taken a good initiative by appointing Rausis to coach Bangladeshi GMs like Enamul Hossain Razib, Abdullah Al Rakib, Ziaur Rahman, FIDE Master Fahad Rahman and FIDE Master Aminul Islam along with other female players.

It was the first time that a foreign trainer conducted a training camp for three suc-

sive months.

BCF general secretary Syed Shahabuddin Shamim believes the men's team can produce a good result like in their 2012 campaign but Rausis's target is to do better than the past two editions and finish among the top 50.

"It is a big motivation for us to have a coach like Rausis as the players generally don't have anything to be inspired by when taking part in such tournaments," said GM GM Razib. "However, we will be trying our best to produce a good result in the Olympiad."

"Chess is a sport which needs regular rehearsal, like practicing singing. So, when the federation appoints a coach or trainer the players are in practice. We all have benefited from Rausis's coaching. Now we have to perform on the board," said GM Razib.

"Actually, I can't tell you what the team can do in the Olympiad. I think we need a bit of luck. However, I will be trying to play better," said GM Zia.

FM Shamima Sharmin, WIM Shamima Akter Liza, WFM Tanmia Parvin, WIM Rani Hamid and WFM Zakia Sultana will represent Bangladesh in the women's section.

## Golden girls return to action

SPORTS REPORTER

The batch that began Bangladesh women's football team's spectacular journey is all set to return to business at the international level through the inaugural SAFF U-18 Women's Championship to be held in Thimphu from September 28.

The girls will leave for the six-team tournament in Bhutan on Wednesday. Bangladesh are set to open their campaign against Pakistan on September 30 before they take on Nepal on October 2 in the final group match.

Players such as Krishna Rani Sarker, Sanjida Akhter, Masura Parvin, Mishrat Jahan Mousumi and Sirat Jahan Swapna, who catapulted Bangladesh women's football to power, have been away from the international stage since the final round of the AFC U-16 Women's Championship in Thailand last September.

However, they remained in action in the domestic circuit alongside the current under-16 women's team, who are currently playing in the AFC U-16 Women's Championship Qualifiers.

Although these girls guided the Bangladesh senior team to a runners-up finish for the first time in the SAFF Women's Championship in 2016, they want to take it one match at a time and reach the final of the upcoming tournament in Bhutan.

The tournament was basically introduced as a preparatory meet for South Asian teams ahead of the AFC U-19 Women's Championship Qualifiers.

The U-18 team will also feature 13 players, including Maria Manda, Monica Chakma, Akhi Khatun and Anai Mogini, who are participating in the AFC U-16 Women's Championship Qualifiers.

"These girls have been together for a long three years and have a good understanding among them. Even if they haven't played international matches, they play three to four games each week against the under-16 girls team. So I am hopeful that the girls will produce good results," said head coach Golam Rabbani Choton.

## Hosts take on UAE

SPORTS REPORTER



Hosts Bangladesh will likely rest a few key players when they take on United Arab Emirates in their third match of the AFC U-16 Women's Championship Qualifiers at the Bishreshtha Shaheen Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur today.

The match will get underway at 3:30pm after the day's first fixture between Vietnam and Lebanon at 11:30am.

Bangladesh and Vietnam currently share the top spot with six points each from two outings and an equal goal difference. Lebanon have also secured six points but are in second position due to a lesser goal difference. Therefore, it will be crucial for all three of the Group F teams to perform well in the penultimate round if they are to qualify for the next round, which begins on September 23.

Bangladesh brushed Lebanon aside with a scintillating performance on Wednesday but now, the girls in red and green are considering whether to conserve some firepower for the match against Vietnam on Sunday by resting a few players in today's encounter with UAE, who remain winless following 7-3 and 4-0 losses to Lebanon and Vietnam respectively.

"The girls need some rest before the match against Vietnam. Besides, captain Maria was booked once, so we may bring some changes in the starting eleven against UAE but we will go for a victory," said coach Golam Rabbani Choton yesterday.

"At the moment, we are not thinking of the goal difference with the other teams because we will play the second match after Vietnam. So we will keep that in mind when we take on UAE," said Choton, adding that he expects a more organized performance in the attacking third today.



Roberto Firmino may have scored the winner against Paris Saint-Germain despite his eye injury, but that was not enough to get him a pass for these ridiculous spectacles in training yesterday.