

NAGORIK & MAASRANGA TV
Bangabandhu Gold Cup
 Palestine v Nepal
 Live from 6:30pm
STAR SPORTS 1
 India v West Indies

First Test, Day Three
 Live from 10:00am
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
 English Premier League
 Tottenham v Cardiff
 Live from 8:00pm

Man United v Newcastle
 Live from 10:30pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
 English Premier League
 Leicester v Everton
 Live from 8:00pm

Bundesliga
 Bayern Munich v
 Monchengladbach
 Live from 10:30pm
SONY SIX
 South Africa v Zimbabwe

Third ODI
 Live from 5:00pm
TEN 2
 Serie A
 Cagliari v Bologna
 Live from 7:00pm

Udinese v Juventus
 Live from 10:00pm
Empoli v Roma
 Live from 12:30am (Sunday)

DAY'S EVENT

Bangabandhu Gold Cup
 Palestine v Nepal

Time: 6:30pm
 Venue: Sylhet District Stadium

Bangladesh v Pakistan
 Fourth Women's T20I

Time: 2:00pm
 Venue: Sheikh Kamal Int. Stadium



PHILIPPINES 1 - 0 BANGLADESH
 MICHAEL DANIELS 24'

Bangladesh created numerous chances against the Philippines but failed to cash in on any of them as they went down to a 0-1 defeat in front of a capacity crowd at the Sylhet District Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Booters go down fighting

ANISUR RAHMAN from Sylhet

Despite an improved performance, a fumble from Tapu Barman cost Bangladesh a 1-0 defeat to the Philippines in their final group match in the Bangabandhu Gold Cup at the Sylhet District Stadium yesterday.

Michael Daniels separated the sides with his 24th-minute strike to help the Philippines finish top of Group B with two wins. They will play the first semifinal against the Group A runners-up on October 9 while hosts Bangladesh, who finished second, will play the Group A champions the next day.

The hosts will likely face favourites Palestine, who can top Group A with a draw against Nepal today.

As both sides had confirmed their semifinal berths before yesterday's match, they rested numerous key players. The hosts left out Jamal Bhuiyan, Mahabur Rahman Sufil, Wali Faisal and Biswanath Gosh on the sidelines.

Playing without any pressure, the men in red and green enthralled the 25,000 capacity crowd with a scintillating performance that kept a Philippines under pressure from the word go. However, they could not find a goal, which was perhaps deserved.

Jamie Day's charges put up an organised display with the defenders and midfielders maintaining two unbroken lines, except on one

COACHES HAVE THEIR SAY

It's disappointing to lose such a match but I'm happy with the effort tonight. I am proud of the boys, who created a lot of chances. We should have gotten at least a goal but I think this performance will inspire the boys in the semifinal which is going to be tough.

BANGLADESH COACH JAMIE DAY

Bangladesh tactically played really well as they have some good players, who controlled the midfield. The only problem is that they did not get the score. Having watched their match against Laos, we knew they would be a tough side and they proved it on the ground tonight.

PHILIPPINES COACH ANDRES GONZALES

occasion, and controlled the game. Philippines seemed content in the knowledge that even a draw would see them top the group on goal difference.

Bangladesh came close to taking a lead in the fourth minute when Tapu headed Rahmat Mia's long throw and goalkeeper Michael Casas's fisted the ball off Nathanael Andrew and onto the woodwork.

The visitors had opted to play on the counter and that paid dividends in the 24th minute. Tapu fumbled and gave the ball way to opposing captain Bahadoran Misagh, who released

Michael Daniels. Tapu slid in to stop the striker's drive, but could only deflect it into the near post.

Bangladesh dominated the second half and even managed to create a few good chances. However, Towhidul Alam Sabuz and Nabib Newaj Jibon failed to cash in on those opportunities.

With the game into its final minute, Biplu Ahmed found a nice chance to equalise from a scramble following a corner but the winger headed straight to the hands of Casas and Bangladesh, leaving Bangladesh to be satisfied with a second place in the group.

Ronaldo ready to play

AFP, Milan



Cristiano Ronaldo is ready to play for Juventus against Udinese this weekend despite the rape claims made against him, coach Massimiliano Allegri said on Friday as the Italian champions try to maintain their perfect start to the Serie A season.

"Ronaldo is doing well, he is ready to play. His professionalism and his composure on and off the pitch are not in question," Allegri told a press conference on Friday.

"He is ready to return to action tomorrow."

US police said Monday they had reopened an investigation into accusations by former American model Kathryn Mayorga that the Portuguese player raped her in a Las Vegas hotel in June 2009.

Ronaldo has strenuously denied the accusations.

"I've known Cristiano for three months now and for over 15 years of his career he has shown to be a great professional both on and off the pitch," said Allegri of the 33-year-old striker who joined the club from Real Madrid for 100 million euros during the summer.

"He's dedicated and he's just as dedicated to social

which says it all."

Juventus travel to Udinese in northeastern Italy, on the border with Slovenia, to face Udinese, who are 14th in the table.

Ronaldo was filmed preparing for the game on Thursday, with several Juventus players later posting a photo of a team dinner in a Turin restaurant, with a smiling Ronaldo seated between Blaise Matuidi and Federico Bernardeschi.

"It is normal that we help him during a delicate time, but he has broad enough shoulders to focus on tomorrow's game, go down onto the pitch and play well," said Allegri.

Amid the storm of sponsors' concerns, and the team's share price taking a hit, Juventus are trying to focus on their quest for an eighth straight league title.

Earlier in the day, US sportswear giant Nike said it was "deeply concerned" by the allegations against Ronaldo and shares in Italian champions Juventus fell over five percent on the Italian stock exchange.

But the player's relationship with Nike, which is rumoured to be worth \$1 billion dollars, is under scrutiny. According to Forbes magazine, Ronaldo is one of only three athletes to have been given a lifetime deal with Nike, joining an elite club that also includes NBA icons LeBron James and Michael Jordan.

EA Sports, for whom Ronaldo is a leading figure in their phenomenally successful FIFA video game market, also described the allegations as "concerning".



Portugal superstar Cristiano Ronaldo has been given full backing by Juventus and is ready to feature for the Old Lady against Udinese this weekend.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

43RD CHESS OLYMPIAD

Men lose against Finland

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh lost against 53rd seed Finland by 1.5-2.5 game points in 10th and penultimate round of the 43rd World Chess Olympiad in Georgia on Thursday.

GM Abdullah Al Rakib drew against GM Nyback Tomi, GM Ziaur Rahman drew against IM Karttunen Mika and FM Fahad Rahman drew against FM Keinanen Toivo while GM Enamul Hossain Razib lost to IM Sipila Vilka.

In women's section, Bangladesh lost to Slovakia by 0.5-3.5 game points. Only WIM Rani Hamid drew her board while WIM Shamima Akter Liza, WFM Tanima Paireen and WFM Sharmin Sultana Shirin lost their respective boards.

No NOCs for Soumya, Mithun

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has denied the No Objection Certificates (NOCs) that Soumya Sarkar and Mohammad Mithun required to participate in the Afghanistan Premier League (APL) in the United Arab Emirates.

Both cricketers were roped in by the Kandahar Knights for 20,000 USD each and were expected to board a flight for the UAE yesterday, the day the tournament began.

"With the upcoming home series against Zimbabwe followed by the West Indies series, we decided not to provide the NOCs to Soumya and Mithun," BCB cricket operations committee chairman Akram Khan said yesterday.

Mithun is currently being rested while Soumya will continue playing for Khulna in the National Cricket League.

However, fast bowler Taskin Ahmed received the NOC to play for Kandahar and has already reached the UAE. Akram also informed that since the pacer just recovered from an injury, the board wants to observe his performance and if needed, the board will also call him back.

BD journalists file complaint with ACC

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh's tour of UAE was a largely successful one as the Tigers made it to the final of the 2018 Asia Cup despite numerous setbacks. However, for Bangladeshi reporters covering the event, it was an altogether different experience as they were often faced with harsh treatment from the ones organising media matters.

On Thursday, a letter bearing the names of 21 Bangladesh journalists was sent to the organisers, Asian Cricket Council, containing the grievances in detail. They are yet to respond or acknowledge receipt.

A regular feature of Bangladesh post-match press conferences, run by Dubai Sports City's media consultant Roshni Jayakrishnan, was reporters not being able to ask questions despite having their hands raised and receiving acknowledgement from Jayakrishnan. There were also numerous occasions when, after announcing the last-question warning, she meted out tongue-lashings to anyone asking follow-up questions -- the bread and butter of press conferences.

The other press contingents were not treated in this manner despite often ignoring the last-question warning to ask follow-up questions.

Another significant hindrance was the demand to ask questions in English. This was not seen to be made of Indian and Pakistani journalists, presumably because she understood Hindi and Urdu. However, it is also understood that at least one Sri Lankan presser was conducted mostly in Sinhalese. When told that not everyone was comfortable with the demand, Jayakrishnan had said that she had to do press releases and did not understand Bengali.

After the final, however, she responded to the protests of yet another abruptly ended presser by saying that the questions from Bangladeshi journalists were too repetitive, and that she understood Bengali. After the last-question warning during the India presser, follow-up questions were allowed for three further minutes. Jayakrishnan said that it was okay because they were winners.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board contributed to the problem by choosing not to send a media manager on tour to help facilitate matters.

Ticketholders denied entry

SPORTS REPORTER from Sylhet



Although the Sylhet District Stadium was partly empty during the Bangabandhu Gold Cup opener between Bangladesh and Laos, a good number of the spectators were deprived of their right to enter the galleries and watch the host's match against Philippines, despite owning match-day tickets.

An enthusiastic weekend crowd packed the 25,000-capacity stadium to the rafters yesterday, which had much to do with Bangladesh's 1-0 win over Laos on the opening day. And so, many individuals were turned away at the gates even though they had tickets.

There was no space left to stand in the galleries as spectators even stood on the top

of the stands and in front of the fence to watch the home side, who thanked the fans as they waved to them after the match. In reply, the crowd gave them a standing ovation in spite of the 1-0 loss to Philippines.

Sylhet District Football Association president Mahiuddin Ahmed Selim was forced to announce that he will pay back the spectators who failed to enter the stadium at double the cost of their tickets.

"We had provided some complimentary tickets for the school students, that's why we could not accommodate all the spectators," said Selim, who however claimed they sold only 23,000 tickets.

There were also whispers, which Selim said were unfounded, that the Sylhet DFA sold more tickets than allotted while some spectators may have entered the stadium without tickets.



After scoring two free-kicks in a Champions League tie against Red Star Belgrade that were compared to David Beckham's (R) legendary set-pieces, Paris Saint-Germain superstar Neymar met up with the English icon in Paris yesterday. Beckham visited the French capital to attend the Paris Motor Show.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Pep vows to take attack to Reds

AFP, Manchester



Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has insisted he will stay true to his attacking beliefs when the English champions visit Liverpool on Sunday despite several defeats by the Reds last season.

Guardiola saw his team beaten three times by Jurgen Klopp's men during the 2017/18 campaign, although his side did win the fourth meeting in the league at the Etihad. But despite Liverpool's German boss having such a good record against his Catalan counterpart, Guardiola has insisted he will not adopt a markedly more defensive style when table-toppers City face the Reds, second only on goal difference, at Anfield in the Premier League on Sunday.

"We have to defend but not in the approach because it's boring and we have to be ourselves," Guardiola told reporters on Friday. "These kind of games we have to be ourselves," he added. "If we lose then congrats to Jurgen, but we try to improve and go again."

Kevin De Bruyne could be involved on Sunday after returning to training a month ahead of schedule.

The Belgian star has not played this season, having injured knee ligaments on the eve of the campaign. De Bruyne was due to be sidelined for three months and, just last week, the City playmaker claimed he was targeting the first Manchester derby -- in mid-November -- for his comeback.

But, just eight weeks after the injury, De Bruyne is back in the squad and Guardiola will make a decision on the eve of the game whether to put him on the bench.

"He made a part of the training session today (Friday), he is training with us. We will see tomorrow," explained Guardiola.

Meanwhile Guardiola has called on Liverpool officials to ensure there are no repeats of the attack on City's team bus which preceded their 3-0 Champions League quarter-final at Anfield in April.

The attack on the bus, by Liverpool supporters lining the route into Anfield, was so severe the vehicle was unable to make the return journey afterwards.

"Liverpool should be upset, not myself," Guardiola said. "The police knew it before it happened, it happened, now they know it. I don't know what is going to happen."

To add to the potential concerns, City supporters have taken to social media and suggested that they should line the roads to Anfield in a bid to 'protect' their stars.