

What to WATCH

NAGORIK & MAASRANGA
Bangabandhu Gold Cup
Semifinal
Bangladesh v Palestine
Live from 2:30pm

SONY ESPN
Pakistan v Australia
First Test, Day Three
Live from 12:00pm
UEFA Nations League

Albania v Jordan
Live from 12:00am (Thursday)
SONY SIX
Sri Lanka v England
First ODI

Live from 3:00pm
TEN 2
UEFA Nations League
Italy v Ukraine
Live from 12:45am (Thursday)

DAY'S EVENT

National Cricket League
Day Three
Khulna v Barishal
Time: 9:00am

Venue: SANS, Khulna
Rangpur v Rajshahi
Time: 9:00am
Venue: SKS, Rajshahi

Dhaka v Dhaka Metro
Time: 9:00am
Venue: KSOAS, Fatullah
Sylhet v Chattogram

Time: 9:00am
Venue: SKICS, Cox's Bazar
Bangabandhu Gold Cup
Semifinal

Bangladesh v Palestine
Time: 2:30pm
Venue: Birshreshtha Shaheed
Ruhul Amin Stadium



PHILIPPINES 0 - 2 TAJIKISTAN
KOMRON 32', AKHTAM 90+8'

Tajikistan celebrated with fervour after sealing a berth in the final of the Bangabandhu Gold Cup with a 2-0 win over Philippines at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Ruhul Amin Stadium in Cox's Bazar yesterday. The home crowd (Inset) kept a keen eye on proceedings from under their umbrellas as the skies opened up, gauging the team that hosts Bangladesh will be up against if they can beat Palestine today.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Cavani being frozen out?

AGENCIES, Paris

The Neymar-Edinson Cavani-Kylian Mbappe smorgasbord of attacking talent works, but it doesn't work the way it should or even the way it looks like it does.

Sparks flew early last season over a penalty when Neymar demanded it off Cavani and the Uruguayan refused to budge.

That all got smoothed over, or so it seemed, but L'Equipe's data suggests all is not well. And there is one clear victim of the ongoing resentment: Edinson Cavani.

Neymar finds Mbappe with 25 per cent of his passes and the young French attacker finds the Brazilian with 31 per cent of his. However, Cavani is only found 0.5 per cent of the time Neymar passes the ball and Mbappe passes to him with 5 per cent of his.

Against Lyon, the Uruguayan did not receive a single pass from either of his two teammates for the 40 minutes he played. Cavani was sacrificed after the sending off of Kimpembe against Lyon and despite the absence of the striker, they won 5-0 with Mbappe's 13-minute blitz which yielded four goals.

According to L'Equipe, Cavani feels isolated on the field and, despite having six goals and three assists, is the odd man out. They also claim he is more withdrawn and doesn't celebrate his goals as he used to.



Tajikistan romp into final

SPORTS REPORTER from Cox's Bazar



Tajikistan advanced to the final of the Bangabandhu Gold Cup after handing a 2-0 defeat to Philippines in the first semifinal at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Ruhul Amin Stadium in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

Tursunov Komron put Tajikistan ahead in the 32nd minute before Nazarov Akhtam wrapped up the victory late into stoppage time to give the Central Asian nation their first-ever victory over Philippines while ensuring the final of the fifth edition of Bangabandhu Gold Cup.

They will play the winner of today's second semifinal between Bangladesh and Palestine.

Although the hot and humid weather was the talk of the teams the day before, the weather in the seaside city suddenly turned cool on Monday night after heavy showers due to a depression over the Bay of Bengal, bringing respite to the players.

The match was played amid a drizzle, giving both sides a different experience from what they are used to on artificial turfs back home.

On the rain-soaked ground, Tajikistan looked better than Philippines as they twice came close to taking the lead within the first 10 minutes, but Philippines goalkeeper Michael Casas thwarted those attempts to frustrate Tajikistan, who had lost their Asian Cup qualifying match against the same opposition in March last year.

Striker Komron finally broke the deadlock in the 32nd minute with a brilliant side-volley after Rahimov headed the ball into the danger zone.

Philippines came close to equalising in the next minute but Michael Daniels saw his powerful header off a Hikaru Minegishi cross go narrowly wide.

After resumption, Tajikistan adopted a defensive strategy to stop a wave of attacks from the Philippines, who however had to concede

the second goal from a counter-attack in the stoppage time.

Komron and substitute Babadzhanov Nozim played a nice one-two to expose the Philippines defence before Nazarov placed the cut-back with a left footer to the far post.

"The boys played a good match as they have given everything I wanted from them. Philippines applied much pressure in the second half and the players were exhausted due to the heavy pitch but they showed their character and discipline to win the match," said Tajikistan coach Tukhtaev Alisher, who said there was no revenge on their mind.

Philippines coach Andres Gonzales said, "For the first time, we lost to Tajikistan who are tactically and technically good on wet pitch. It was a setback for Philippines though as we didn't have any preparation with no coaching staff as well as the decision of withdrawing good players from the squad."



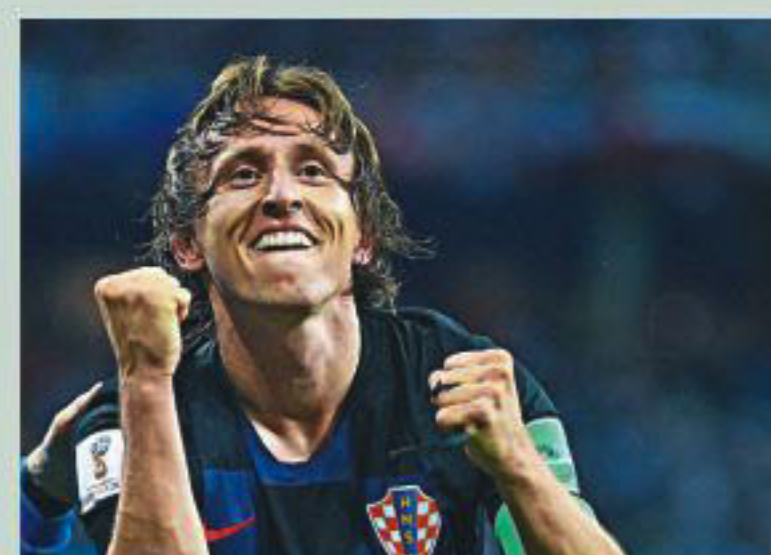
Bangladesh batsman Mushfiqur Rahim, who has been suffering from a fractured rib, showed a significant sign of improvement as he began batting at the BCB Academy Ground in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: BCB

A first or a sixth?



CRISTIANO RONALDO



LUKA MODRIC



LIONEL MESSI

With the shortlist for the Ballon d'Or being released on Monday night, speculation has begun about whether Luka Modric will win his first or whether one of Cristiano Ronaldo or Lionel Messi will get a record-sixth. However, there are other contenders and below is The Daily Star's breakdown, featuring the main contenders, some surprising omissions and some interesting trivia.

THE NOMINEES

- Sergio Aguero
- Alisson Becker
- Gareth Bale
- Karim Benzema
- Edinson Cavani
- Thibaut Courtois
- Cristiano Ronaldo
- Kevin De Bruyne
- Roberto Firmino
- Diego Godin
- Antoine Griezmann
- Eden Hazard
- Isco
- Harry Kane
- N'Golo Kante
- Hugo Lloris
- Mario Mandzukic
- Sadio Mane
- Marcelo
- Kylian Mbappe
- Lionel Messi
- Luka Modric
- Neymar
- Jan Oblak
- Paul Pogba
- Ivan Rakitic
- Sergio Ramos
- Mohamed Salah
- Luis Suarez
- Raphael Varane

SIX WORLD CHAMPIONS

Six of the men who added a second star to France's emblem in the 2018 World Cup feature in the list with Antoine Griezmann, Kylian Mbappe, N'Golo Kante, Paul Pogba and Raphael Varane making up 20 per cent of the list. Could one of them succeed Zinedine Zidane, the last Frenchman to win the prize in 1998?

REAL MADRID DOMINATE

Real Madrid account for more than a quarter of the contenders, featuring more players than any other club. Gareth Bale, Karim Benzema, Thibaut Courtois, Isco, Marcelo, Luka Modric, Sergio Ramos and Varane are the nominees from the 13-time European champions. Liverpool are the second-most-represented club with four nominees while Barcelona and Atletico Madrid have three each.

GERMANY

As a consequence of their World Cup fiasco and perhaps also of the undivided dominance of Bayern in the German Championship, no German player, nor any player from the Bundesliga, has made the list for the first time since 2009.

LA LIGA STILL REIGNS

For the fifth consecutive year, La Liga is the most-represented league among the finalists. The Atletico-Barca-Real trio make up almost half of the nominees, boasting 14 players in the list. The Premier League takes a further 11 spots, leaving five spots to be shared among Ligue 1 and Serie A.



NOTABLE ABSENTEES:

- PHILIPPE COUTINHO:** 29th in 2017 when he was first nominated, Coutinho misses out this year. Although he sparkled with Liverpool last year, the Brazilian joined Barca in winter which meant he missed the biggest Champions League matches. And despite bagging two goals in the group stages of the World Cup, he failed to rise to the occasion thereafter.
- GIANLUIGI BUFFON:** Out for good? At 40, Buffon disappears from the nominees. Fourth in 2017, the Italian had been less impressive with Juve during the first six months of the year. Absent from the World Cup, he then joined PSG where he plays much less.
- GIORGIO CHIellini:** Also absent from the World Cup, his Juventus side exited in the quarterfinals of the Champions League. And despite winning Serie A, the captain of the Old Lady finds no place on the list.
- DAVID DE GEA:** Regarded by most as the best goalkeeper in the world since Manuel Neuer went down to injury, the Manchester United goalkeeper endured a terrible World Cup with Spain which has seen his stock dip considerably.
- PAULO DYBALA:** 20th in 2016 and 15th in 2017, Dybala would have been hoping to crack the top 10 this time around. However, he finds himself off the list. A lacklustre Champions League campaign coupled with a World Cup spent largely on the bench must have contributed heavily to the decision.

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:

England 'happy favourites' against Sri Lanka, Buttler says

England are "very happy" being favourites for the one-day series in Sri Lanka but are aware that past tours have been "tricky", Jos Buttler said Tuesday on the eve of the first match in Dambulla.

Hazard reiterates Real dream

Chelsea star Eden Hazard, who had a fantastic World Cup in Russia has reiterated that moving to Spanish giants Real Madrid would be a dream come true. Hazard has two years left on his current contract.

WC expectations a 'sufferance' for Argentina, Messi

Former Argentina coach Jorge Sampaoli said the 'Albiceleste' were saddled with excessive expectations at the World Cup, stifling the performances of his players, including Lionel Messi.

'Ronaldo isn't easy to replace'

Juventus sporting director Fabio Paratici said Monday it was not easy to replace a player of the calibre of Cristiano Ronaldo as he also dismissed a return to Italy for Manchester United's French World Cup winner Paul Pogba. Ronaldo joined Juventus from Real Madrid last summer and the Spanish giants have lost three and drawn one of their last four matches and are currently fourth in La Liga.

Three recalled to WT20 squad

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) announced a 15-member squad for the ICC Women's World Twenty20 to be held in West Indies from November 9 to 24.

Ritu Moni, Lata Mondol and Sharmin Akter Supta were recalled while Sharmin Sultana and Lily Rani were dropped from the squad that played the ICC World Twenty20 Qualifiers in the Netherlands. Bangladesh became champions and Ireland runners-up in the qualifier to complete the line-up of the 10-team tournament in West Indies.

"We didn't make major changes as only three came into the side and two were dropped from the squad which played the qualifiers. The captain and vice-captain will be announced later," informed Nazmul Abedin Fahim, BCB's women's wing development manager.

The Tigresses had garnered attention after the Asia Cup triumph and success in the world cup qualifiers but the recent 0-3 home defeat against Pakistan in the four-match T20I series came as a setback, especially the poor batting performances ahead of the West Indies mission. The team however regained some confidence by winning the one-off ODI against the same opponents.

Bangladesh, who are in Group A with West Indies, England, South Africa and Sri Lanka, will fly on October 23 for Grenada, where they will have a weeklong preparation camp.

The Tigresses will play two official warm-up matches against Ireland (November 4) and Pakistan (November 6) before taking on hosts West Indies in their opening match.

SQUAD: Salma Khatun, Rumana Ahmed, Jahanara Alam, Fargana Hoque, Khadija Tul Kubra, Fahima Khatun, Aysha Rahman, Shamima Sultana, Nahida Akter, Panna Ghosh, Ritu Moni, Sanjida Islam, Nigar Sultana, Lata Mondol and Sharmin Akter Supta.

BANGLADESH'S GROUP FIXTURES

Date	Match	Venue
November 9	Bangladesh v West Indies	Guyana
November 12	Bangladesh v England	Gros Islet
November 14	Bangladesh v Sri Lanka	Gros Islet
November 18	Bangladesh v South Africa	Gros Islet

run to
BrEAsT
CANCER

BEACON WOMEN'S MARATHON 2018

REGISTRATION GOING ON

Venue: Hatirjheel (FDC Point)
Day : 12 Oct '18 Friday
Time : 6:00 am

Online Registration:
www.dwmarathon.com
01713185414 | DHKWM

Cancer Awareness
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