



Manchester United striker Marcus Rashford scored twice during their 2-0 win against Chelsea in the Premier League at Old Trafford on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

'Rested booters' to leave for Dushanbe on Sep 1

SPORTS REPORTER



The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) on Tuesday confirmed Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, as the home venue for Afghanistan, ending weeks of speculation regarding the venue for Bangladesh's first match against the war-torn nation in the Joint Qualifiers for the 2022 World Cup and the 2023 Asian Cup.

The continental football's governing body released venues for the first four matchdays of the qualifiers, and according to the schedule, Bangladesh will play against Afghanistan at the Republican Central Stadium in Dushanbe on September 10.

Earlier, the Afghans wanted Doha, Qatar as their home venue, but since Qatar is in the same Group E as with Bangladesh and Afghanistan, the

request was denied by the AFC.

On confirmation from the AFC, the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has decided to hold a week's camp in Dhaka from August 24 or 25 before departure for Dushanbe, where Bangladesh national team will hold a 10-day camp.

"The team would likely leave for Tajikistan on September 1 following a week's camp in Dhaka. The 10-day camp in Dushanbe will feature two practice matches against two top clubs of Tajikistan," BFF's general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag said yesterday.

While the squad will train for a week in Dhaka before their departure, head coach Jamie Day will get the full squad at his disposal only after August 30 following the completion of Abahani's AFC Cup away match against April 25 SC of North Korea on August 28.

The BFF spokesman further claimed that it was as per Day's wish that the camp will start in the last week of August.

"The coach did not want the players to go through a long camp, especially after such a long season. He wanted the players to have sufficient rest and the scheduling of the camp has been fixed on his suggestion," Shohag added.

Bangladesh will play their second match against Qatar at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka on October 10 before playing against India on October 15 at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata.

Bangladesh (182) are the lowest ranked side in the group while Afghanistan are ranked 149th. Qatar are the highest-ranked side at 62nd followed by Oman (87) and India (103).

SHEIKH KAMAL INT'L CLUB CUP TC Sports on board, MSC in consideration

SPORTS REPORTER

TC Sports Club of Maldives, the defending champions of the Sheikh Kamal International Club Cup, have officially given their consent to participate in the third edition of the tournament, claimed host club Chittagong Abahani's and tournament's chief coordinator Tarafder Ruhul Amin. The Maldivian outfit beat Pocheon FC of South Korea on penalties in the final of the second edition in 2017, and will be one of the eight teams to take part in the third edition, which is likely to be held in Chattogram between October 19 and November 2.

Mohun Bagan and Kolkata Mohammedan Sporting Club have already signed a written agreement with the organisers regarding their participation while another Kolkata giants -- East Bengal -- have only given verbal assurance over the issue.

"TC Sports Club have confirmed us, filling up form, for their participation. East Bengal management have given verbal assurance, but they need to get approval from their sponsor company. If all the three Kolkata giants take part, we have seven teams now including the three Bangladesh teams -- hosts Chittagong Abahani, Federation Cup winners Abahani and Bangladesh Premier League champions Bashundhara Kings," Ruhul Amin told The Daily Star over phone yesterday.

Although some media reports suggested Bangkok United could be the eighth team, Ruhul Amin said they have spoken to the Thai club, but their participation is not confirmed.

"We are also thinking whether Mohammedan Sporting Club of Dhaka could be included as they are a popular side in the country and played in the tournament earlier. We will decide whether they would be included later," he added.

The football organiser also informed that they are already taking steps to make the tournament a colourful one, starting with a promotional video featuring the past two editions and publicity campaigns on mainstream media and social media.



Argentina WC winner Jose Luis Brown dies at 62

World Cup winner Jose Luis Brown, who scored Argentina's opening goal in the 1986 World Cup final against West Germany, has died at the age of 62, local media reported on Monday.



Perisic joins Bayern on one-year loan

Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich have signed Inter Milan and Croatia winger Ivan Perisic on a one-year loan deal, the club confirmed Tuesday.

Ronaldo link-up motivated Danilo

AFP, Milan



Brazilian full-back Danilo said Tuesday the chance to play again alongside former Real Madrid teammate Cristiano Ronaldo had been a motivating factor in his move to Juventus.

The 28-year-old has been signed by the Italian champions from Manchester City with Portuguese international right-back Joao Cancelo heading in the opposition direction.

"I spoke to Ronaldo before coming here," Danilo told a press conference in Turin.

"He spoke very highly of Juventus and to play with him will be an extra motivation."

The Brazilian won two Champions League

titles alongside the five-time Ballon d'Or winner at Real Madrid before moving to England.

"I jokingly said to him that I wanted to take the number seven jersey, but it was already taken," added the Brazilian, who will wear the number 13.

Danilo was part of the City squad that has won five domestic trophies in the past two seasons, but has played second fiddle to Kyle Walker at right-back.

And he believes the move to Italy to play under former Napoli and Chelsea manager Maurizio Sarri has come at the right time.

"Sarri has a very particular style, he likes to command play. We saw him in England with Chelsea and also Napoli.

"It is always difficult to play against his teams but it has a style of play that I like.

"Sarri and (Pep) Guardiola are similar in style and for what they ask during the game, they both love to control the game and for me it is a very positive thing.

"There were already discussions with Juventus in the past, but I believe that this is the right moment to be here."

Meanwhile the Brazilian warned that the Champions League must not become an obsession as Juventus chase a first European trophy since 1996.

"I know what the Champions League means for the players, it's a competition that gives you a special thrill."



Paris Saint-Germain star Kylian Mbappe celebrates after scoring the second goal against Nimes in the Ligue 1 3-0 win at the Parc des Princes Stadium on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

OVER THE HOLIDAYS

Women's cricket included in 2022 C'wealth Games

AGENCIES, Dubai

Ahead of the possible inclusion of cricket in the 2028 Olympics, scheduled to be held in Los Angeles, the women's game got a shot in the arm with the inclusion of cricket in the upcoming 2022 Commonwealth Games, to be hosted by Birmingham, United Kingdom.

This is the first time since 1998 that cricket will be a part of the

Commonwealth Games.

When the sport was last included during the Kuala Lumpur games in 1998, it was a men's event and South Africa clinched the gold medal, beating Australia in the final. While the games in Kuala Lumpur were played in the 50-over format, Birmingham will see eight teams participating in the Twenty20 format of the game.

Gayle sets record, Kohli hits 42nd ton



AFP, Port of Spain

Indian captain Virat Kohli ended a run of 10 matches without a century Sunday, setting the platform for his team's 59-run (DLS) victory over the West Indies in a rain-hit second ODI at Queen's Park Oval. Kohli went a long way towards justifying his decision to bat first with a typically assertive innings of 120 off 125 deliveries, with 14 fours and four sixes adorning his 42nd ODI hundred as India totalled 279 for seven.

Set a revised target of 270 off 46 overs when rain interrupted play during their chase, West Indies were on course at 179

for four in the 35th over but then crashed to 210 all out with four overs to spare as seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar triggered the slide with figures of four for 31.

Kumar's first wicket was near the start of the innings when he removed Chris Gayle, the hard-hitting opener falling for just 11 although it was enough to take him past Brian Lara for the most runs in ODI cricket by a West Indian, a record which now stands at 10,409.

It was also Gayle's 300th ODI, making him the first West Indian to reach that landmark.

6-wicket loss for U-19s

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh U-19 team suffered a six-wicket defeat against their Indian counterparts in the final of the tri-nation Under-19s tournament at the County Ground in Hove on Sunday, despite Mahmudul Hasan Joy's brilliant 109.

Ajax see off PAOK

AFP, Amsterdam

Ajax reached the Champions League playoffs on Tuesday after seeing off PAOK Thessaloniki 3-2 in a tense encounter in Amsterdam that saw last year's semifinalists through 5-3 on aggregate.

A Dusan Tadic penalty in each half and Nicolas Tagliafico's late header were enough to give Erik ten Hag's side a chance to make the group stage and relive the dream of last season.

Serb Tadic, who had already missed once from the spot for Ajax, slotting home the equaliser two minutes before the break after Diego Biseswar had silenced the Johan Cruyff Arena with a fine strike for PAOK midway through the half. Tagliafico left the Greeks needing to score twice to go through with 11 minutes to go when he met Ziyech's corner with a powerful header.

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