

What to WATCH

SONY SIX
The Ashes
England v Australia
Fifth Test, Day-1
Live from 4:00pm

MAN CITY ASSEMBLE FIRST BILLION-EURO SQUAD

Premier League champions Manchester City are the first team to have spent more than 1 billion euros (\$1.1 billion) to assemble their squad, a study has shown. Data from the Swiss-based CIES Football Observatory showed that City have spent 1.014 billion euros on their current squad. French champions Paris St-Germain were second having spent 913 million euros and Spain's Real Madrid were third with 902 million euros. Manchester United (751 million euros) have the second-most expensive squad in the Premier League followed by Champions League winners Liverpool (639 million euros). The Premier League average was 345 million euros, it said. At the other end of the scale, Germany's Paderborn had the cheapest squad in the study (4 million euros), which looked at teams from the English, German, Italian, French and Spanish top flights.

—REUTERS



It was a penalty: Day

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh coach Jamie Day believes his side were deprived of a penalty in their 0-1 loss to Afghanistan in the opening match of the Joint Qualifiers of the 2022 World Cup and 2023 Asian Cup in Dushanbe on Tuesday.

"[Nabib Newaz] Jibon's one was a penalty. He was clearly fouled by the defender," Day told The Daily Star over phone on Tuesday, when asked if Jibon should have equalised in stoppage time.

Bangladesh came close to levelling two minutes into the four minutes of stoppage time in the second half when defender Yeasin Khan back-heeled a pass from substitute Mahbubur Rahman Sufil to striker Jibon.

However, instead of unleashing a shot, Jibon tried to step into the six-yard box and was tackled from behind by Afghan defender Abdul Najem Haidary. Chinese referee Zhang Lei, however, waved for play to continue.

Day's charges defended deep against the skillful Afghans, who broke the deadlock in the 27th minute through a header from Farshad Noor, courtesy of a poor effort from goalkeeper Ashrafal Isalm Rana, who got a fist on the ball but could not prevent it from finding the back of the net.

"I think he [Rana] may feel he should have saved it," Day said about the goal.

"I thought the boys played brilliantly, looked fitter and finished the game stronger with some good



Afghanistan players celebrate their winning goal against Bangladesh at the Central Republic Stadium in Dushanbe on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

chances. We are playing a team who are 33 places above us in the FIFA rankings and to be on top and disappointed we didn't get a point shows how far we have come! I believe they only had one shot in the second half," the 39-year-old added.

Afghanistan had plenty of space in the Bangladesh half, especially in the first half, but things changed after the break as Bangladesh began to get good possession.

It was disappointing to see a lot of misplaced passes that led to loss of possession in promising

situations but Jamie still praised his side for a good performance against Afghanistan, who had thrashed Bangladesh 4-0 three-and-half years ago in the SAFF Championship.

"You must realise Afghanistan are 33 places above us in the FIFA rankings and they have players that play in Europe. So, you should say they have better players than ours. In some parts of the game they are going to be better and on the top and that's football," said Jaime, who refuted that his players were under pressure and nervous from the outset.

"The same tactics were used in both halves. Maybe we kept the ball better [in the second half] but I am extremely proud of our players tonight and their performance. They were brilliant and worked very hard. There were a lot of positives to take from the game."

The booters returned yesterday afternoon and the next course of action will be decided at a meeting of the National Teams Committee today. Bangladesh will play their next match at home on October 10 against Qatar, who were held to a goalless draw by India.

Qatar draw fills India with pride

REUTERS, New Delhi

India are unlikely to make it to their first World Cup finals this time around but a 0-0 draw in Doha against Asian champions Qatar in 2022 qualifying on Tuesday has filled them with pride.

Cricket is king in India with football a distant second in the list of the country's favourite sports, though most fans rarely pay attention to Indian soccer, instead preferring to watch the English Premier League or German Bundesliga.

Igor Stimac's team, ranked 103rd in the world, have given a good account of themselves in their first two matches in Group E. They led Oman 1-0 in their opener last week but conceded two goals in the last eight minutes to go down 2-1 at

home.

Few gave the side any chance of coming away with anything but a defeat to 2022 hosts Qatar, a team ranked 41 places higher than India, but stout defending and some superb goalkeeping from Gurpreet Singh Sandhu helped them earn a point.

"Definitely a night to remember..." Sandhu tweeted after the match, adding that he hoped the result would inspire them against Bangladesh and Afghanistan, the other teams in Group E, both of whom are ranked even lower than India.

"The effort, the will and the guts shown by everyone in the team was truly inspiring. This result will help us to keep grow as a team and as a nation."

Qatar enjoyed 63% possession and had 13 shots on target but Sandhu was unbeatable.

"We have played just two matches, and we have played well, that too against two powerful teams," the goalkeeper said.

"It gives us that added motivation and confidence that in football, anything is possible."

India's talismanic forward Sunil Chhetri missed the match with a fever but was thrilled with the team's gutsy display.

"THAT is my team and THOSE are my boys! Cannot describe how proud I am at this moment," tweeted the 35-year-old.

"Not a big result for the table, but in terms of a fight, as big as it can get. Huge credit to the coaching staff and the dressing room."

Qatar top the group with four points from two matches, one ahead of Oman and Afghanistan. The eight group winners and the four best runners-up advance to the third round of qualification for the World Cup.



India goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, who proved to be an impregnable wall against Qatar on Tuesday, thanks the heavens after their goalless draw in Doha.

PHOTO: REUTERS

44TH WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP Bridge team off to China tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

A six-player Bangladesh bridge team will leave for Wuhan City in China to participate in the 44th World Bridge Team Championships, with the target of faring better than the previous world event.

Bangladesh had finished 22nd out of 22 teams despite beating a few favourites in their maiden appearance in the world's premiere bridge event two years ago in Lyon, France. This time the wants to finish within the top 16 among 24 participating teams in the championship, which will be held from September 14 to 28.

"I would be very happy and would even reward the players if Bangladesh can finish in 18th position this time," Bangladesh Bridge Federation's president Mushfiqur Rahman Mohan told reporters during a press conference at the Bangladesh Olympic Association yesterday.

There is reason for such optimism, according to the federation president, after the team emerged champions in zone 4 of the qualifying campaign from among 11 nations, beating the likes of India and Pakistan on their way.

The members of the Bangladesh team are: Ziaul Haque, Monirul Islam, AHM Kamruzzaman, Moshirul Rahman, Asifur Rahman Chowdhury and Rashedul Ahsan, five of whom were part of the Bangladesh team in Lyon two years ago.

The press conference was also attended by the federation's general secretary Abdul Quddus. Both the president and the general secretary urged the government to help the federation financially and logistically.

Chess World Cup Anish knocks out Fahad

SPORTS REPORTER

FIDE Master Fahad Rahman lost both his first round matches against Anish Giri, one of the top chess players in the world, to be eliminated from the Chess World Cup in Russia yesterday.

The 16-year-old Fahad, with a rating of 2250, was up against the second-seed Dutch Grandmaster due to qualifying with the second-lowest rating points.

And as expected it proved to be a learning experience for the Bangladeshi chess prodigy, who lost the two bouts against the 2780 rating-point holder. Fahad had qualified for the world event after winning the Asian Zonal Chess Championship in Dhaka.

Enamul Hossain Razib remains the only Bangladeshi player to move into the second round which he did beating the then World No. 19 Pavel Eljanov in 2007.

Peru stun Brazil

Argentina thrash Mexico

AGENCIES, Los Angeles

Peru grabbed a slice of revenge for their loss to Brazil in the Copa America final on Tuesday, defeating the five-time World Cup winners 1-0 in a friendly in Los Angeles.

A headed goal from Argentina-based defender Luis Abram was enough to give Peru a hard-fought win over the Brazilians.

Brazil, who defeated Peru 3-1 in the final of the Copa America in Rio de Janeiro in July, never got going to the disappointment of a 32,287 crowd at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

The defeat brought an end to Brazil's 17-game winning streak, a run which started with a victory over the United States just over a year ago.

Meanwhile, Lautaro Martinez fired a 22-minute hatrick as Argentina thrashed Mexico 4-0 in a friendly international in San Antonio.

Inter Milan striker Martinez scored in the 17th, 22nd and 39th minutes at the Alamodome to give Argentina a



Argentina striker Lautaro Martinez scored a hatrick against Mexico.

PHOTO: AFP

deserved win over a lacklustre Mexico team.

Paris Saint-Germain midfielder Leandro Paredes scored Argentina's other goal from the penalty spot after 33 minutes as the South American giants romped into a 4-0 lead at halftime.

But it was the 22-year-old Martinez who grabbed the headlines with a

clinical exhibition of finishing which took his international goals tally to nine in 13 appearances.

Martinez opened the scoring in the 17th minute, picking the ball up deep in Mexican territory before twisting and turning past several defenders and firing low past Guillermo Ochoa.

Martinez bagged his second five minutes later, with River Plate's Exequiel Palacios punishing sloppy play in the Mexican defence to send the Inter Milan striker through on goal to finish for 2-0.

A disastrous start for Mexico got worse shortly after the half hour mark when Carlos Salcedo was adjudged to have handled in the area to concede a penalty. Paredes duly stepped up to convert to give Argentina a 3-0 lead.

Martinez completed his hatrick six minutes from half-time, again capitalising on lackadaisical Mexican defending to dart in and shoot past Ochoa.

Argentina were without several first choice regulars, with Lionel Messi, Sergio Aguero and Angel Di Maria all missing from their two-game international tour of North America.

Ruman Sana reaches final

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's top archer Ruman Sana reached the final in the men's individual recurve bow event at the 2019 Asia Cup (Stage-3) in New Clark City, Philippines yesterday.

Sana beat China's Ta La by 6-4 set points in the semifinal to set a final clash against China's Shi Zhengxi on Friday.

The 24-year-old had previously beaten Chinese Taipei's Yang Huie-Jhong 7-1 in the quarterfinal, Thepna Denchai 6-0 in pre-quarterfinal and Myanmar's Thiha Htet Zaw 6-0 in the third round after getting walkovers in first two rounds.

Ruman's countrymen Tamimul Islam and Hakim Ahmed Rubel were eliminated from the pre-quarterfinal and the third round of the individual recurve event respectively, while Beauty Roy exited from the women's individual recurve bow event after losing 4-6 to China's Wu Jiaxin in the pre-quarterfinal.

Ronaldo hits four

Big wins for England, France

AFP, Paris

England and Portugal both scored five goals while France scored three as they overcame lowly-ranked Kosovo, Andorra and Lithuania in Euro 2020 qualifying on Tuesday.

Captain Ronaldo, making his 160th international appearance, scored four as Portugal won 5-1 in Vilnius and strengthened their position in Group B after a sluggish start.

For Ronaldo it was a second hatrick in three internationals. The victory over Lithuania, 130th in the world rankings, kept brought



Portugal superstar Cristiano Ronaldo (C) celebrates one of his four goals with teammates during their Euro 2020 qualifier against Lithuania in Vilnius on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

Saturday. They have a game in hand on all the other teams in the group.

Ronaldo's first goal was a penalty. The second, with the scores level after an hour, was a scuffed low shot from outside the penalty area which took a couple of strange bounces off the artificial turf before it was parried into the air by the diving Ernestas Setkus.

The dropping ball hit the back of the goalie's head before rolling in. The third was a clinical volley from close range. The fourth was a low shot into the corner.

Vytautas Andriuskevicius scored the hosts' only goal before William Carvalho added a fifth for the reigning champions at the end.

Serbia beat Luxembourg 3-1, as

Aleksandar Mitrovic netted twice, to solidify their grasp on third place. They are a point behind Portugal.

In Southampton, Gareth Southgate's England side trailed early on to Kosovo, ranked 120th in the world, when Valon Berisha scored after 34 seconds. England replied with a first-half goal binge that ended with Jadon Sancho scoring twice to make it 5-1 at the break.

The visitors claimed two back in the second half, including a second for Lazio midfielder Berisha, but the 5-3 victory put England three points clear in Group A, ahead of the second-placed Czech Republic, who beat Montenegro 3-0.

"A bizarre game," said Southgate. "The outstanding parts of our play were obvious. The errors were obvious."

In Paris, the world champions made light work of beating 136-ranked Andorra 3-0. It was Les Bleus' 100th match at the Stade de France.

Antoine Griezmann missed a penalty for his country for the second game running but Kingsley Coman, Clement Lenglet, with his first on the international goal, and Wissam Ben Yedder clinched three points.

ডেল্টা লাইফ-এর বীমা সংক্রান্ত যে কোন তথ্যের জন্য সরাসরি যোগাযোগ করুন

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