

SONY SIX
Pakistan v Sri Lanka
Second ODI
Live from 4:00pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
English Premier League

Man United v Arsenal
Live from 1:00am (Tuesday)
TEN 2
Serie A
Parma v Torino
Live from 12:45am (Tuesday)

NEYMAR COMPARES FANS TO WOMEN

Paris Saint-Germain star Neymar has played down the bad blood between himself and the club's fans, pointing out that every couple fights from time to time. The Brazilian became the focus of the PSG support's wrath due to the constant stories linking him with a return to Barcelona over the summer. He missed the start of the campaign through injury but was nevertheless targeted from the stands through insulting chants and banners in Parc des Princes. Neymar came up with the winner again on Saturday to take down Bordeaux and explained after the final whistle that the love-hate relationship with the club's faithful was nothing unusual. "It is like with women. Sometimes you argue and spend some time without talking," he told reporters. "However, with love and affection, you go back to normal. I am here to help PSG and I will give my life on the pitch."

—AGENCIES



TV producer and Spanish FA in VAR row

AGENCIES, Madrid

The Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) accused TV producers of manipulating VAR images after Denis Cheryshev's goal was allowed in Valencia's 1-0 win against Athletic Club on Saturday.

VAR ruled that Maxi Gomez was onside when in the build-up to Cheryshev's 27th-minute strike, which proved to be the winning goal.

Confusion arose when lines added to the live footage of Cheryshev's goal initially showed he was marginally offside, though the VAR officials adjudged the goal should stand.

The official VAR line used by the officials did not appear on the TV footage until the second half of the match, doing little to clear up the uncertainty.

Defoe 'fine' after crash

AFP, Glasgow

Rangers striker Jermain Defoe said he was "fine" after a car crash following Saturday's 5-0 win against Aberdeen.

Defoe's car was in a collision near the Clyde Tunnel in Glasgow but the former Tottenham and England star was not hurt.

The 36-year-old posted a clip on social media after the smash on Balshagray Avenue at around 1700 GMT.

Defoe thanked fans for their messages on Instagram, adding: "I'm fine, I'm all good, I'm just going to go home and rest up. Still a bit in shock but I'm all good. Thank you for all your messages again."

U-18s fall to India at final hurdle

Indiscipline, skipper's impetuosity cost Red and Greens heavily in 2-1 defeat

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh's hopes of clinching a maiden title of the SAFF U-18 Championship were dashed after they fell to a 2-1 defeat to India in an ill-tempered final at the APF Stadium in Kathmandu yesterday.

The boys in red and green came back strongly into the match after conceding in the second minute, but a spate of indiscipline followed by a moment of petulance from their skipper eventually denied them of an elusive crown in the under-18 level of the South Asian region.

Both teams had come into the final looking for their maiden glory, having fallen victims to Nepal in the previous two editions. Hence both sides were desperate to not give an inch but the historic rivalry between the two footballing neighbours added spice to a match that lacked quality football.

India looked more adventurous in the early exchanges and caught the Bangladesh defence napping in the second minute, with Vikram Pratap Singh expertly dinking the ball over Bangladesh goalkeeper Shanto Kumar Ray following a quick move down the middle.

Bangladesh, who had held their neighbours to a goalless draw in the group stage with both teams having had identical results on the way to the final, looked ruffled and tried to impose their game on the opponents with a bit of physicality.

Captain Yeasin Arafat bundled down an Indian forward in front of the box in the 17th minute, earning himself a yellow card in the process. Goalkeeper Shanto bailed his side out from a precarious situation like he did on a few other occasions, but Mohammad Hridoy soon followed his skipper with a similar challenge, getting himself booked too. These two fouls were signs of indiscipline that dogged the game and the resultants bookings eventually had huge repercussions on the final outcome of the game.

Fahim Morshed fouled Vikram three minutes later and this time the Indian players snapped and a brawl broke out between the two sets of players, which eventually saw India defender Narendra being shown a straight red card while Fahim received a yellow card. Incredibly the referee, after discussion with his assistants, showed a second yellow card to Hridoy, who was only trying to broker peace.

However, Bangladesh got their act together and launched a few meaningful attacks and were



What could have been a moment of joy for Bangladesh turned into the cause for their downfall. Captain Yeasin Arafat (2nd from R) went a little overboard with his celebration following his equalising goal, earning himself a second yellow card which dented his side's chances in the final of the SAFF U-18 Championship final against India in Kathmandu yesterday.

PHOTO: BFF

rewarded in the 38th minute when Yeasin tapped home Amir Hakim Bappi's back-volley following a corner. What could have been a moment of celebration for the red and greens, though, turned out to be the cause of their downfall.

Yeasin, who had recently been called up to the senior squad as reward for his consistent performance as a Saif SC centre-back, let youthful exuberance get the better of his footballing sense.

In a show of bravado, the 18-year-old pulled his jersey over his head, leaving the referee with no option other than to produce a second yellow card.

India should have bossed the game with their numerical advantage, but Bangladesh channeled enormous resilience to keep the Young Blue Shirts

at bay until a moment of brilliance from Ravi Pratap Rana in the first minute of stoppage time of the second half undid all that resilience.

The midfielder collected a throw-in some 25 yards from goal and took his time before unleashing a powerful curling shot into the far corner of the net, leaving Shanto helpless under the bar.

The Bangladesh players, exhausted from all the running, dropped to the ground and the Indian players celebrated by making rude gestures aimed towards the Bangladesh dugout. A feisty encounter ended in an ugly way, but India had all the reasons to celebrate.

Bangladesh coach Andrew Peter Turner was understandably disappointed by the result, but

said he was proud of his charges.

"With nine men, they [Bangladesh] were absolutely fantastic. We looked comfortable and India didn't look like they were going to score. I thought we were going to win the game even with nine men. I am proud of the players. The nation should be proud of the players," Turner said after the match.

The Brit was as perplexed as anyone by the sending off of Hridoy. "The two red cards killed us. The first red card was a bit of a mystery to me because he [Hridoy] was not even involved. The other red card was a lesson learnt for Yeasin. If we were 10 against 10, we would have won the game," Turner said.



The 3rd International Friendship Golf Tournament, organised by Tiger Golf Club, was held between September 19 and 22 at the Spring City Golf Club and Lakeview Golf Club in Kunming, China. Around 30 golfers participated with China's Zhuang Lifeng Leo becoming the eventual winner while Bangladesh's Moazzem Hossain was runners-up.

Arsenal face depleted MU

AFP, Manchester

Granit Xhaka will lead Arsenal into today's Premier League clash at Manchester United as the club's new captain, but the Swiss midfielder has to win over plenty of doubters that he is fit to wear the Gunners' armband.

Xhaka's discipline and defensive awareness have repeatedly been questioned since joining the club from Borussia Monchengladbach in 2016, but both Arsene Wenger and current Arsenal boss Unai Emery have consistently put their faith in the 27-year-old.

That trust is not replicated by the club's fans. On one of the few

occasions he was replaced by Emery with the Gunners trailing 2-1 to Aston Villa last weekend, Xhaka was booed as he trudged off the field.

Despite being down to 10 men, Arsenal turned the game around with the energetic duo of Matteo Guendouzi and Lucas Torreira buzzing around the midfield.

That is a combination many supporters would like to see on a more regular basis, but Xhaka's elevated status in the dressing room means he will remain a fixture for some time to come.

Emery sought votes from his squad before naming a five-man leadership group on Friday, of which Xhaka came top, but the Spanish manager is aware of the doubters questioning his decision.

Emery's trust in Xhaka could easily backfire.

Arsenal have a break clause in the contract they handed the former Sevilla manager in 2018 that could see him released at the end of the season if he fails to deliver Champions League football to the Emirates for the first time in four years.

Xhaka also described his side as "scared" when they threw away a 2-0 lead at Watford to draw 2-2 earlier this month.

Monday's visit to an injury-ravaged United offers Arsenal a great chance for their first league victory at Old Trafford since 2006.

Do so and they will also open up a six-point lead over one of their rivals to break into the top four.



Barishal became the divisional champions of the Bangabandhu Gold Cup by registering a 3-0 win over Patuakhali at the Abdur Rab Serniabat Outer Stadium in Barishal yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS



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