



England forwards Marcus Rashford (L) and Raheem Sterling both got their names on the scoresheet during a 6-0 rout of Bulgaria in a 2020 UEFA European Championships qualifier at the Stadion Vasil Levski in Sofia on Monday. PHOTO: REUTERS

# Racism mars England's 6-0 win

AFP, Sofia

England manager Gareth Southgate said his side made a statement by deciding to complete a 6-0 Euro 2020 qualifying win over Bulgaria on Monday after the match was twice halted by racist chanting.

The visitors led 2-0 through early goals from Marcus Rashford and Ross Barkley when play was first stopped and an announcement made to supporters that the game could be suspended if offensive chanting continued.

Once restarted, England quickly made it 3-0 through Barkley before a second stoppage as Croatian referee Ivan Bebek held discussions with players and coaching staff from both sides.

Raheem Sterling then netted twice either

side of half-time before Harry Kane rounded off the scoring to take England to the brink of qualification.

In a statement, The English Football Association said their players "were subjected to abhorrent racist chanting" and called on UEFA to investigate immediately.

Tyrone Mings was one of those targeted on his England debut. The Aston Villa defender believed that stopping the game did have the desired effect of reducing racist abuse in the second half.

A comprehensive victory was the perfect riposte for Southgate's men to their shock 2-1 defeat at the Czech Republic on Friday and opens up a three-point lead at the top of Group A.

However, the focus was again on the stands as another England match blighted by racism from opposition fans.

After several English players suffered racist abuse in a qualifier away to Montenegro in March, Southgate had prepared his side to follow UEFA's three-step protocol for reporting racist incidents that can lead to matches being abandoned.

On the field, Southgate's decision to make five changes from the side beaten in Prague on Friday was fully vindicated.

Rashford was one of those recalled put his Manchester United woes behind him by smashing the opener into the roof of the net after just seven minutes before Barkley tapped home a second at the back post.

The first stage of UEFA's protocol followed as the game was temporarily stopped and a warning played over the loudspeaker in both Bulgarian and English that the match could be suspended after monkey chants were aimed at England players.

## LAWRENCE, BENNETT PLEAD GUILTY

Derby players Tom Lawrence and Mason Bennett avoided prison after admitting to drink-driving over a crash that left their club captain seriously injured. Wales international Lawrence and Bennett were detained by police after the incident on September 24, which followed a team-building dinner. Both players admitted drink-driving and failing to stop at the scene of an accident when they appeared at Derby magistrates' court yesterday. District Judge Jonathan Taaffe had warned the players that a prison sentence was an option but the men walked free from court after probation services told the hearing of concerns they would struggle in custody. He imposed a 12-month community order on both defendants, ordering them to carry out 180 hours of unpaid work, and banned them from driving for two years. —AFP



## UEFA ASSIST U-16 DEV TOURNAMENT

# BD coach wants good performance

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh coach Robert Ryles wants for his team to earn valuable experience while keeping his sights on the title as four-nation UEFA Assist U-16 Development Tournament begins in Dhaka today.

Bangladesh will take on Cambodia at 7:00pm while Faroe Islands, the only European representatives, will square off against Maldives at 4:00pm on the opening day, with both matches taking place at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The four teams will play against each other over three match-days to decide the winners of this development tournament, funded by UEFA in collaboration with AFC.

"Sometimes when you win a football match you don't play well but that doesn't really float my boat. What floats my boat is when I see Bangladesh players play well. Of course, we set the target to win the tournament but it's all about performances for me," the Bangladesh coach said while talking about his target during a pre-tournament press meet at the Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday.

Even though Bangladesh is hosting this tournament for the first time, Bangladesh did participate in the under-15 version of this tournament in Thailand last year. The boys in red and green finished third, thanks to 4-0 defeat against Cyprus followed by a goalless draw against Thailand and a 10-0 win against Maldives.

While the Bangladesh coach is wary of all the opponents, he thinks the physical aspect of Faroe Islands players could be a challenge for his team.

"There are similarities between Bangladesh and Faroe Islands football. But they are physically very strong. It will be an interesting physical challenge for us," Ryles

said, who recently guided the side to one victory and two defeats in the AFC U-16 Championship Qualifiers.

Faroe Islands coach is Aki Johansen, however, is more concerned about the weather here, having made a 14-hour journey from Torshavn on Sunday.

"We have come from six degrees and it's 31 degrees here. So the weather is a challenge for us. It's a new experience for us, a different experience," said Johansen, whose charges ply mostly in Faroe Islands, except for three who play for youth teams of Danish clubs.

The two other teams, Maldives and Cambodia, are coming into this



tournament looking to build for the future.

Both teams had less than average build-up to this tournament as Maldives lost most of the matches in three tournaments this year while Cambodia lost all their matches of the AFC U-16 Championship Qualifiers by big margin.

Maldives coach Mohamed Nizam is, however, looking forward to the future. "I have been given a four-year project two months ago to take this team to under-19 level, and I'm already noticing improvements," Nizam said.

## U-19s lose 2-0 against Kuwait

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh wrapped up their U-19s Three Nations Cup campaign with a 2-0 defeat against Kuwait in Doha on Monday night.

The boys in red and green conceded the lead in the 36th minute and went two goals down nine minutes after restart.

Bangladesh had lost their first match against Qatar by the same margin. Qatar and Kuwait will meet each other today in the last match, which will also decide the champions.

## U-21s HOCKEY SERIES Oman grab consolation victory

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh under-21 hockey team lost the last match of the five-match series against their Omani counterparts yesterday, but won the series 3-1, having already taken a 3-0 lead in the fourth match.

Mamunur Rashid's charges lost the last match by 4-3 goals, with Ashraful Islam scoring twice and Mahbub Hossain getting the other goal for the hosts.

Bangladesh had won the first match 5-1 before drawing the second 2-2. The red and Greens won the third and fourth matches by 2-0 and 4-1 margins.



Ukraine players celebrate after securing qualification for the 2020 UEFA European Championships with a 2-1 win over Portugal on Monday. (Bottom) Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 700th career goal in the match. PHOTO: AFP

# Ukraine qualify

Ronaldo scores his 700th career goal

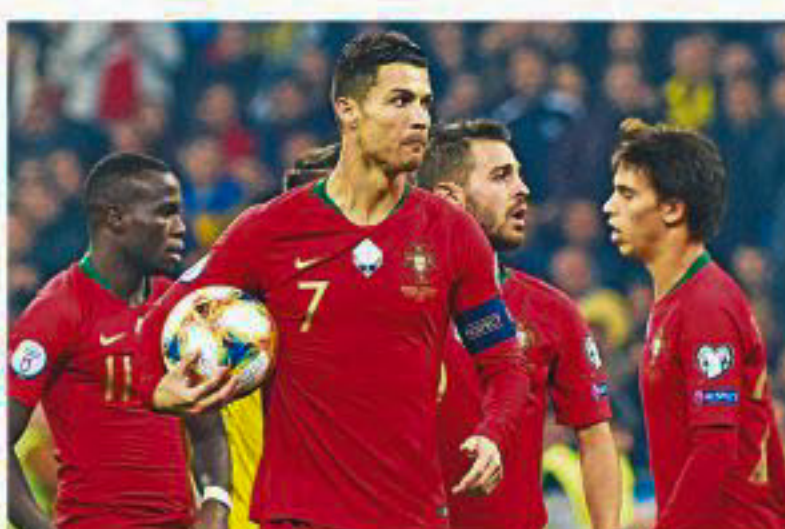
AFP, Kiev



Ukraine beat Portugal 2-1 on Monday to clinch a place at Euro 2020 despite Cristiano Ronaldo scoring his 700th career goal.

Roman Yaremchuk and Andriy Yarmolenko put Ukraine two goals up after 27 minutes.

Although Ronaldo scored his landmark goal from the penalty spot in the 72nd minute and Taras Stepanenko was sent off, Ukraine held on to secure first place in Group B.



Yaremchuk pounced from close range in the sixth minute. The centre forward reacted fastest after Rui Patricio dived to parry Serhiy Kryvtsov's header from a corner, and poked the ball across the line.

Yarmolenko added the second when outpaced the Portuguese defence to finish a swift counter attack with a low, crisp first-time shot.

Portugal dominated the second half and finally achieved a breakthrough when Stepanenko blocked a shot with his arm, receiving his marching orders before Ronaldo blasted home the penalty to make it 700 goals for club and country.

The goal was his 95th for Portugal. The 34-year-old is now just 14 goals behind the all-time international record of 109 held by former Iran striker Ali Daei.

## U-15 women lose on penalties

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh's dreams of regaining the title of SAFF U-15 Women's Championship ended in a defeat in tiebreaker against India at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu yesterday.

Golam Rabbani Choton's charges were beaten 5-3 on penalties after regulation time failed to produce a goal.

There was very little to choose between the two best teams of South Asia as both sides had collected same number of points in the group stages, including a goalless draw between the two sides. With one title each in the previous two editions, it was up to the teams to get ahead of each other.

The match proved to be a very cagey affair as neither side managed to assert their domination in midfield. There was very few goalscoring chances as both defences stood firm against opposition attacks, meaning the game rolled into penalty shootout after 90 minutes.

While India started the spot-kick clinically, Bangladesh skipper Shamsunnahar blasted the first spot-kick on to the crossbar. Bangladesh converted the next three spot kicks, but the Indians were on target on all five attempts, eventually taking the tiebreaker 5-3.



Bangladesh players wait tensely during the tiebreaker in the final of the SAFF U-15 Women's Championship against India at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu yesterday. PHOTO: BFF

## Surreal qualifier ends in draw

AFP, Seoul

North and South Korea yesterday drew 0-0 in a historic but surreal World Cup qualifier, played in front of FIFA president Gianni Infantino but an otherwise empty stadium and almost completely blocked off from the outside world.

The showdown between the two sides -- whose countries are still technically at war -- took place at Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung Stadium with no live broadcast, no supporters and no foreign media in attendance.

Tottenham Hotspur star Son Heung-min captained South Korea in the first competitive men's match to be played in Pyongyang. But frustrated South Korean fans who were not allowed to travel to the game, will have to wait days to see it on television -- after officials bring back a recording on DVD.

Qatari referee Abdulrahman Al Jassim booked North Korea's Ri Yong Jik and Ri Un Chol, and Kim Young-gwon and Kim Min-jae from the South.

A photo posted on the website of the South's Korean Football Association (KFA) showed the match in progress with giant floodlights illuminating the empty stands.

## NZ players slam late change

AGENCIES, Wellington



Black Caps all-rounder Jimmy Neesham had to console a shattered batting partner Martin Guptill after they lost an epic Cricket World Cup final to England on a boundary countback.

Not surprisingly, Neesham was unimpressed at news the International Cricket Council (ICC) has now scrapped that method of deciding big tournaments three months after the little-known rule was used to split the finalists when they tied a Super Over at Lord's.

"Next on the agenda: Better binoculars for the ice spotters on the Titanic," Neesham wrote on Twitter with a link to a story about the rule change.

Former batting coach Craig McMillan, whose final match with the Black Caps was the Lord's decider, was similarly irked.

"Bit late ICC," he tweeted, before drawing attention to another controversial moment when England scored a bonus four runs via the bat of man-of-the-match Ben Stokes as he dived to beat a Guptill throw at the stumps.

After board meetings in Dubai, the ICC resolved that in semifinals and

finals in future world tournaments, if the teams score the same number of runs in their Super Overs, the Super Over will be repeated until one team wins.

Had the new rules been in place for the July 14 final, England and New Zealand would have played another Super Over, rather than the game being decided on the technicality of England having scored more boundaries across their 50 overs.

Former Black Caps coach Mike Hesson wrote for Stuff after the final saying using a Super Over to decide a 50-over tournament was "farical" and the trophy should have been shared.

## Sanchez to see specialist

AFP, Milan

Inter Milan yesterday said Chile forward Alexis Sanchez will see a specialist in Barcelona to determine if he needs surgery for a serious ankle injury sustained on international duty.

Sanchez hobbled off in the 88th minute of a goalless draw in the friendly against Colombia in Alicante on Saturday.

He underwent medical tests in Milan on Tuesday which revealed damage to a tendon in his left ankle.

উৎপাদক থেকে ভোক্তা পর্যন্ত নিরাপদ পণ্য নিশ্চিত করতে সবাইকেই সচেতন হতে হবে

বিশ্ব খাদ্য দিবস ২০১৯

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'Improving consumer awareness and access to certified safe tomato and mango products in Bangladesh'

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