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SPORT

Portugal provisionally suspends Ronaldo

AFP, *Barcelona*



Cristiano Ronaldo has been provisionally suspended after the Portuguese Football Federation (FPF) announced on Saturday that it had opened disciplinary proceedings against the 41-year-old over his decision to leave the national team's camp.

Ronaldo apologised to supporters earlier this week while criticising Portugal coach Jorge Jesus, saying he would accept any punishment imposed on him.

"Disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against Cristiano Ronaldo," the federation said in a statement, classifying the case as "urgent" and confirming that the forward would remain suspended pending a final decision on the punishment.

Ronaldo left Portugal's camp in Copenhagen before their Nations League match against Denmark last week following a rift with Jesus.

Ronaldo, who was not brought on despite warming up against Norway on September 27 and later learned that he would not start against Denmark on October 1, accused Jesus of twice breaking his word over his role in the team.

According to Portuguese media, under the federation's regulations, a player who misses a training session, a match, or a national team activity faces a suspension ranging from one to six months.

Portugal won all four of their Nations League matches and qualified for the quarterfinals with two games to spare. Ronaldo returned to club action yesterday, scoring in Al-Nassr's 3-0 win over Al-Diriyah in a Saudi Pro League match.

Portugal host Denmark on November 14 and then travel to face Wales on November 17 in their final two Nations League Group A4 matches.

SHORT CORNER

Plenty of changes as Aliss earns maiden ODI call-up

Off-spinner Aliss Al Islam earned his maiden ODI call-up, while Litton Das, Mustafizur Rahman and Hasan Mahmud returned to Bangladesh's squad for this month's tri-nation tournament involving Afghanistan and Zimbabwe.

Tigresses eye response in second Australia WODI

Bangladesh will look to bounce back from their opening defeat when they face Australia in the second Women's ODI at Allan Border Field in Brisbane on Sunday, with the hosts leading the three-match series 1-0. The visitors were bowled out for 166 in 49.4 overs in Friday's series opener, their first-ever ODI on Australian soil, before Australia cruised to a seven-wicket victory in just 25.4 overs, with 146 balls to spare.

Naim, Mim hit tons as Mahedi shines with ball in NCL

Mohammad Naim and Mim Mosaddeak struck centuries for their respective sides, while Khulna Division's Mahedi Hasan claimed six wickets against Rajshahi Division on the opening day of the second round of the ongoing National Cricket League (NCL) on Saturday.

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Australia's Matt Renshaw struck a career-best 190 on Day 2 of the first Test against hosts South Africa in Durban yesterday, helping the visitors recover from a precarious 124 for six to post 390 in their first innings. In a near-flawless innings lasting almost eight hours, Renshaw forged an 86-run seventh-wicket stand with skipper Pat Cummins before combining with Nathan Lyon (27) for a ninth-wicket partnership of 134 -- a record for Australia in Tests against South Africa. The left-hander fell just 10 runs short of a double century, but Australia finished the day on top after reducing the hosts to 27 for one at stumps.

PHOTO: **AFP**

Missed review adds to bowling woes

SPORTS REPORTER



PHOTO: **ACB**

Bangladesh's bowlers endured a frustrating outing on the second day of the one-off Test against Afghanistan yesterday, claiming just four wickets as the hosts finished in a strong position in Abu Dhabi.

After adding 29 runs to their overnight score, the Tigers lost their remaining two wickets early in the morning to be bowled out for 346 in their first innings, with off-spinner Nayeem Hasan remaining unbeaten on 35 at the Zayed Cricket Stadium.

With five experienced bowlers in their line-up, Bangladesh would have expected to put Afghanistan's inexperienced batting order under pressure. However, the latter negotiated the challenge confidently, reaching 211 for four at stumps, trailing by 135 runs.

Afghanistan skipper Rahmat Shah, who has featured in all 13 Tests played by his country, was Bangladesh's chief tormentor, remaining unbeaten on 84 off 186 balls and moving closer to his fourth Test century. Opener Abdul Malik, whose previous highest Test score was 30 in six matches, also impressed with 62 off 120 deliveries, registering his maiden Test fifty.

Pace duo Ebadot Hossain (2-50) and Hasan Mahmud (1-36) shared three wickets between them, bowling 11 and 16 overs, respectively, in scorching heat. However, their three-pronged spin attack of Taijul Islam, Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Nayeem, who bowled 51 overs collectively, managed just one breakthrough. Miraz dismissed Hashmatullah Shahidi for a two-ball duck.

Bangladesh spin coach Mushtaq Ahmed, however, remained confident that his bowlers could make an impact as the match progressed, provided the batters extended their first-innings lead in the second innings.

"I think spinners are going to play a huge role because, for the first two, three, four days... the first three days, I think, the pitch is going to get slower and, obviously, there is going to be less spin. But with the passage of time, because of this weather, I think the pitch is going to start spinning more," Mushtaq said after the day's play.

"Hopefully, if we can defend the score and score more runs in the second innings, we can put them under pressure."

Besides their lack of penetration, the visitors also missed opportunities in the field, while their decision-making with reviews left much to be desired.

On just the fifth ball of Afghanistan's innings, Bangladesh reviewed an appeal for caught behind against Sediqullah Atal. Replays, however, showed a clear gap between bat and ball, with the delivery merely brushing the batter's pads on its way to the wicketkeeper.

In Hasan's next over, Atal edged one through to the wicketkeeper, but Bangladesh did not review the decision after the umpire turned down the appeal. Skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto was visibly frustrated with himself after watching the replay on the big screen, even making a kicking motion in frustration.

Afghanistan were four without loss at the time, with Atal on the same score. Although Hasan eventually dismissed the opener for 17 in the 11th over, Afghanistan's openers had already blunted the new ball, easing the pressure on the batters who followed.

Bangladesh will now hope to break the 72-run fifth-wicket partnership between Rahmat and Ikram Alikhil -- unbeaten on 26 at stumps -- early today.

Goal fest in BFL

Sports Reporter

Goals continued to flow in the Bangladesh Football League as the final two matches of the third round produced 14 goals yestreday.

Bangladesh Police FC thrashed Young Men's Fakirerpool Club 8-0 in Gazipur, while Mohammedan Sporting Club blanked Arambagh Krira Sangha 6-0 in Munshiganj.

Senegalese forward Rassoul Ba scored a hattrick and MS Bablu netted twice as Police maintained their perfect start to the season. Manik Molla, Shamim Ahmed and Arman Foysal Akash scored the other goals for Asifuzzaman's charges.

Police lead the table with nine points from three matches and are yet to concede a goal this season.

Meanwhile, Mohammedan, playing only their second league match, produced a commanding performance against Arambagh, with captain Souleymane Diabate scoring a hattrick. Shahriar Emon, Minhajur Abedin Rakib and Sourav Dewan scored the other goals for the Black and Whites.

The round had produced 18 goals on Friday, taking the overall tally to 32 at an average of 5.33 goals per match.



Bruno Guimaraes celebrates after scoring the winner as Arsenal come from a goal down to beat Leeds 2-1 in the Premier League, making a winning return after the three-week international break on Saturday. Defender James Justin gave Leeds a deserved lead early in the second half, but Riccardo Calafiori equalised minutes later before Guimaraes finished off a finely crafted team move. The result lifted Arsenal level on points with Manchester City at the top of the table. City, who have been embroiled in controversy since being found guilty of financial breaches, can move ahead of Mikel Arteta's men when they face Liverpool away today.

PHOTO: **ARSENAL**

WHAT TO WATCH

T SPORTS
One-off Test, Day 3
Afghanistan vs Bangladesh
World Championship of Legends
Australia vs West Indies
Live from 6:00 pm

India vs Bangladesh
Live from 9:30 pm
La Liga
Racing Santander vs Valencia
Live from 1:00 am (Monday)

STAR SPORTS SELECT

HD1, RAJDHANI TV
English Premier League
Crystal Palace vs Nottm Forest
Hull vs Everton
Live from 7:00 pm
Liverpool vs Man City
Live from 9:30 pm

