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SPORT



"I do believe that primarily the national team should be coached by a national representative. I'm grateful for the opportunity, but there will be some development in terms of the coaching, and you can see by our staff.

England's red-ball coach **Stephen Fleming**

'Ronaldo let Man United down'

REUTERS

Former Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag has blamed Cristiano Ronaldo's lack of fitness and preparation for the forward's struggles during his second stint at Old Trafford, saying the Portugal international "let the team down".

Ronaldo, who won three Premier League titles under Alex Ferguson before leaving for Real Madrid in 2009, returned to United in 2021. However, he struggled under Ten Hag, scoring once in 10 league appearances in the 2022-23 season before leaving the club in November 2022.

"He let the team down, and he let me down, because we planned with him," Ten Hag told The Athletic in an interview published on Tuesday.

Ronaldo has recently been handed a 30-day suspension for



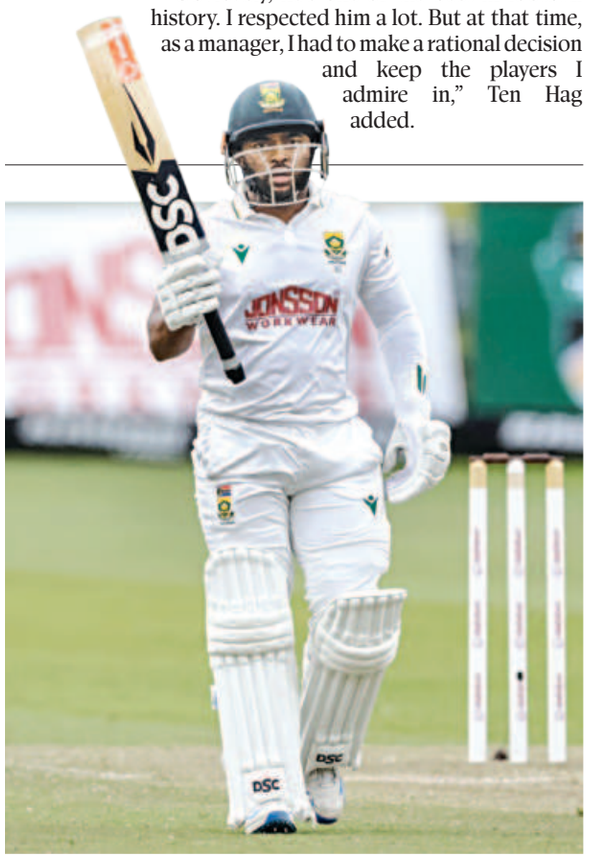
leaving the Portuguese national team camp earlier this month during the Nations League due to a fallout with Portugal coach Jorge Jesus. He will also have to pay a fine of 255 euros ($286).

Ten Hag, who guided United to a third-place league finish in 2022-23 before being sacked in 2024, said he had repeatedly confronted Ronaldo over his performances.

"Many times I say, 'Ronnie, everyone wants to work for you to bring you in the right position, but if you can't bring yourself in the box, you can't score.' He was not capable to do this," Ten Hag said.

He rejected suggestions that he had expected Ronaldo to press relentlessly, arguing that the forward struggled because he had not prepared himself properly.

"Obviously, he's one of the best in football history. I respected him a lot. But at that time, as a manager, I had to make a rational decision and keep the players I admire in," Ten Hag added.



South Africa's Temba Bavuma celebrates reaching 150 on the third day of the second Test against Australia at St George's Park in Gqeberha yesterday. Bavuma's fifth Test century, his first against Australia, and innings-saving partnerships with Marco Jansen and Simon Harmer helped the hosts recover from trouble and into a commanding position. PHOTO: AFP

Tigers' tricky equation for final



Bangladesh face an uphill task to keep their UAE ODI Tri-Series final hopes alive after a crushing 99-run defeat in their tournament opener. Heading into today's must-win clash against Afghanistan at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium, simply securing a victory will not be enough for the Tigers. Locked in a net run rate battle with Zimbabwe for the apparent second spot in Friday's final, Bangladesh must hit specific mathematical targets to advance.

IF BANGLADESH BAT FIRST

- If Bangladesh score 235 or less, they must win by 41 runs to move ahead on NRR.
- If Bangladesh score 236 or more, a 40-run win is enough (as Bangladesh would edge out Zimbabwe on higher overall tournament scoring rate).

IF BANGLADESH BAT SECOND

- Chasing 201 (if AFG score 200): Must win inside 40.3 overs (or 41.1 overs if finishing with a boundary when scores are level).
- Chasing 251 (if AFG score 250): Must win inside 41.3 overs (or 42.1 overs if finishing with a boundary when scores are level).
- Chasing 301 (if AFG score 300): Must win inside 42.2 overs (or 43.0 overs if finishing with a boundary when scores are level).
- Boasting a massive +3.160 NRR, Afghanistan will reach Friday's final unless they suffer a massive defeat (losing by 129+ runs or inside ~16.5 overs), which would put Bangladesh and Zimbabwe through. Conversely, Zimbabwe advances alongside Afghanistan if the Afghans win, or if Bangladesh wins by less than the required 41-run or ~41-over margin.

"If we don't think about 300-350 and instead break it down into smaller targets and play towards them, then I think it will be easier. So we have to set our mentality this way.

Tanzid Tamim on the mentality batters need for chasing big totals

Bayern, Arsenal set for early title test

AGENCIES

Bayern Munich and Arsenal face an early test of their Champions League title credentials when they meet at the Allianz Arena on Wednesday, with the hosts having to cope without in-form winger Michael Olise.

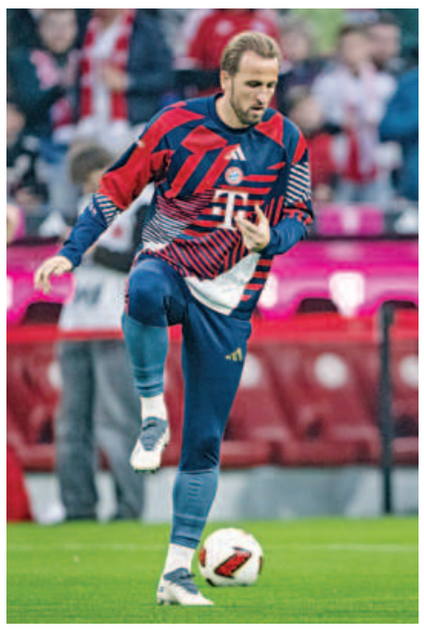
Bayern bounced back from a frustrating run with a 6-1 demolition of RB Leipzig in the Bundesliga on Saturday, with Luis Diaz scoring a hattrick. However, Olise will miss the Arsenal clash after being sent off in Bayern's 3-3 draw against Viking last week.

The French winger has scored nine goals and provided five assists in 10 appearances across all competitions this season. With Jamal Musiala struggling with injury and illness, and Serge Gnabry and Lennart Karl yet to hit their best form, his absence will place greater responsibility on Harry Kane.

The England captain, who has nine goals and six assists in 10 games this season, acknowledged that Bayern would miss Olise but urged his teammates to "step up". Bayern, however, will still have enough firepower, with Diaz firing in recent games.

Arsenal, meanwhile, have won 10 of their 11 matches across all competitions this season.

The two sides are familiar foes, having





met in the 2023-24 Champions League quarterfinals, when Bayern progressed by an aggregate goal. Arsenal gained revenge with a 3-1 victory in the league phase at the Emirates Stadium last November, handing Vincent Kompany's side one of their most damaging European defeats under the Belgian coach.

Bayern have historically dominated the fixture, winning five of their seven Champions League home meetings with Arsenal, drawing one and losing one.

Kane, who has scored 15 goals in 22 career appearances against the Gunners, is relishing another encounter with the London club.

"We're testing ourselves against one of the best, we're here at home, the energy, the fans, it's going to be a special night," he said.

Elsewhere, Real Madrid will aim for a third consecutive Champions League win when they host RB Leipzig, hoping to carry their momentum into next week's first El Clasico of the season against Barcelona.

Jose Mourinho's side head into the match after a 4-1 LaLiga victory over Sevilla, with summer signing Yan Diomande scoring and providing an assist. The 19-year-old is gradually settling in after arriving from Leipzig, and Mourinho was encouraged by his progress.

Although Mourinho has already said he would start Vinicius Junior against Leipzig, Diomande, who played in place of the suspended Brazilian against Sevilla, will want to grab any opportunity against his former club.



West Indies pacers Kemar Roach (L) and Jayden Seales share a moment during a practice session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Having arrived in the country last Sunday, the visitors trained for the first time yesterday ahead of their two-match Test series against Bangladesh, which begins in Mirpur on October 28. The Windies will hope their pacers can make an impact against the Tigers, especially in the second Test, starting in Sylhet on November 5, where fast bowlers usually find better purchase. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

WHAT TO WATCH

T SPORTS
UAE ODI Tri-Series
Afghanistan vs Bangladesh
Live from 5:30 pm
LaLiga
Levante VS Athletic Club
Live from 1:00 am (Thursday)

SONY SPORTS 1, 2, 5
UEFA Champions League
Live from 10:45 pm
Lille vs Galatasaray
Como vs Man Utd
Live from 01:00 am (Thursday)
Bayern Munich vs Arsenal
Real Madrid vs Leipzig
Inter Milan vs Shakhtar

SHORT CORNER

Bangladesh set up IHF Nations Trophy final against India

Bangladesh beat Maldives 33-20 to set up a final clash against India in the Begum Khaleda Zia IHF Nations Trophy at Shaheed Captain M Mansur Ali Stadium in Paltan on Tuesday. Bangladesh will face India in Thursday's final, scheduled for a 3:00pm start. Maldives will take on Nepal in Wednesday's third-place playoff at 2:00pm.

Robson, Emeka keep Kings perfect in Fed Cup

Four days after beating City Club 3-0 in the Bangladesh Football League (BFL), defending champions Bashundhara Kings defeated the newcomers 2-0 in a Group B fixture of the Federation Cup at Shaheed Miraz-Topon Stadium in Manikganj on Tuesday. Robson Robinho and Emeka Ogbugh, two of the three goalscorers in Saturday's league match, were on the scoresheet again as Kings stayed top of the group with two wins from two matches.

Fortis lose to Goa 2-1

Fortis FC suffered a 2-1 defeat in their second Group H fixture of the AFC Challenge League against FC Goa in Hawally, Kuwait on Tuesday. Substitute Rafael Tudu equalised for Fortis in the 78th minute after Goa had taken a sixth-minute lead through Jorge Ortiz before Chiki scored the winning goal for the Indian side in the 85th minute. Two defeats in two matches means Fortis are all but out of reckoning for a place in the next round.

Nayeem hits double ton as batters dominate in NCL

Batters dominated the third day of the third round of the ongoing National Cricket League (NCL) 2026-27 yesterday, with Nayeem Ahmed scoring a maiden first-class double ton and Zawad Abrar scoring the fastest first-class half-century. Host Rajshahi's Nayeem converted his overnight score of 176 not out into a double century against Barishal, becoming the first batter to reach the milestone this season. Meanwhile, Barishal opener Zawad Abrar hit a 22-ball fifty.

***Read full stories on The Daily Star's website.*