

War protested at World Cup

AFP, Johannesburg

A few hundred anti-war protesters rallied outside the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg while the Cricket World Cup final between Australia and India was under way.

"We hope Australia loses the World Cup because (Australian Prime Minister) John Howard supports the war in Iraq," Anti-War Coalition spokesman Trevor Ngwane told AFP.

He said between 800 and 1,000 people, donning placards stating "War is not the answer" and "Down with US greed", participated in the protest, but police spokesman Chris Wilken put the figure around 250.

"We have many policemen deployed to monitor the situation and everything is proceeding peacefully," Senior Superintendent Wilken said.

Ngwane said the protest would continue outside the stadium until the end of the cricket match.

"There are plenty of police here and they have brought a water cannon. But if you compare water with the bombs in Iraq, we don't mind taking the water," Ngwane said.

Hooper to keep job

INTERNET, undated

Carl Hooper has been invited to captain West Indies in the home series against Australia, according to reports.

There has been no official confirmation from the West Indies Cricket Board as yet, but news agencies in the Caribbean say the 36-year-old Guyanese all-rounder will remain in charge.

Hooper has been skipper for the past two years but indicated he was thinking over his future following the team's early exit from the World Cup.

They won three of their five completed matches, but were ultimately denied progress in the competition after having to share the points for the game against Bangladesh, which was abandoned due to rain.

He has also been suffering further problems from his troublesome knees, but the selectors feel he is still needed to give a lead to the younger players in the side.

West Indies have won only four out of 22 Tests since Hooper took over from Jimmy Adams, losing 11, but their one-day record is better with 23 wins from 49 games.

He has helped oversee the development of talented youngsters like Ramnaresh Sarwan, Chris Gayle and Marlon Samuel, but none of them is deemed ready for the responsibility of leading the team.

West Indies will play four Tests against Australia, who they have not beaten for a decade.

They were whitewashed 5-0 in Australia the last time the two sides met, but will draw encouragement from the 1999 series in the Caribbean when Brian Lara inspired them to a 2-2 draw.



What to Watch

- ESPN Follow Through Final WC Cricket Programme Repeat at 8:00 am Western Union World Football Repeat at 4:00 pm Sportscentre Hindi Sport News Live at 8:30 pm STAR Sports Follow Through Final WC Cricket Programme Repeat at 7:30 am Futbol Mundial Repeat at 3:00 pm Sportsline Tonight Sport News Live at 8:00 pm

Star Whizz Kid Competition 191

Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star. Win attractive prizes.

Competition closes at 8 pm March 28, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who clinched the Shahjalal Bank International Rating Chess title? Lovtu Rajib Zia

2. New Zealand beat South Africa in a World Cup Group B match by: 102 runs 9 wickets 5 wickets

3. How many runs did Bangladesh score against South Africa in the World Cup Group B match? 120 108 110

4. Bangladesh lost to Canada in the World Cup Group B match? Name Class Roll No School Address Phone (if any)

City finish on a high

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

City Club finished their GrameenPhone Premier Cricket League first round campaign on a winning note with a 111-run white-wash of Uttara Sporting Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Opener Faruque Ahmed scored 101 as City Club piled up a huge 315 for seven in the allotted 50 overs after electing to bat.

Faruque slammed 12 fours in his 125-ball knock.

One-down Mazharul Haq and middle-order Nuruzzaman supported Faruque with 61 and 53.

In reply, Uttara, deducted two overs because of their slow over rate while in the field, were restricted to 204 for six in 48 overs.

City Club's ninth win against three defeats helped them finish the first round joint-second with Abahani. Both have collected 50 points, six points short of leaders Victoria Sporting Club.

On the other hand, Uttara suffered their sixth defeat against as many wins. It kept them glued to 32 points, equal with India Roka Krishna Chakra and Brothers Union.

However, Brothers came back into contention for a super six place with a six-wicket win over Young Pegasus at the BKSP ground in Savar.

Chasing 218 in 50 overs, Brothers reached 222-4 in 45.4 overs.

Openers Shahriar Hossain and Gazi Salauddin laid down the foundation for win scoring 55 and 50.

The win helped Brothers join Uttara and Indira Road Kriya Chakra at the crowded fifth position.

Two teams having better net run rate would make it to the Super League. CCMD officials were calculating the matter when this report was being filed.

In the other match of the day, Kalabagan Kriya Chakra defeated Surjo Tarun Club by six wickets at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

It was Kalabagan's fourth win in 12 matches while Surjo Tarun tasted their tenth defeat.

With yesterday's three matches, first round of the league concluded. The super league, involving top six teams, and the relegation league are likely to start from March 28.

SCORES IN BRIEF

City Club v Uttara SC Venue: DCS

City Club: 315 for 7 in 50 overs (Faruque 101, Mazharul 61, Moniruzzaman 53, Arman 3-46)

Uttara SC: 204 for 6 in 48 overs (Sumon 63, Shahriar 45, Faisal 28, Tareq 2-20, Saifullah 2-40)

Result: City Club won by 111 runs.

Brothers Union v Young Pegasus Venue: BKSP

Young Pegasus: 218 for 8 in 50 overs (Rezanul 75, Russell 39, Imrose 38, Mosaddek 2-27, Rana 3-42)

Brothers Union: 222 for 4 in 45.4 overs (Shahriar 55, Salauddin 50, S Kabir 57 n.o., Murad 2-43)

Result: Brothers Union won by six wickets.

Kalabagan KC v Surjo Tarun Venue: FCS

Surjo Tarun: 161 all out in 45.5 overs (M Akhtar 55, Sakib 22, Nasir 21, Sharfuddin 2-25)

Kalabagan KC: 164 for 4 in 43.4 overs (Majed 98 n.o., Nahidul 28, Ilyas 2-15)

Result: Kalabagan won by six wickets.

POINTS TABLE

Table with 7 columns: Teams, M, W, L, T, Bonus, Points. Lists Victoria SC, Abahani KC, City Club, Mohammedan, Indira Road, Uttara SC, Brothers, Y Pegasus, Orient SC, Kalabagan, Biman.

Premiership

Ruud shock for Fulham

Football

AFP, London

A Ruud van Nistelrooy hat-trick fired Manchester United to a 3-0 win over Fulham that sent Alex Ferguson's side above Arsenal at the top of the Premiership.

It was also a hugely significant day at the bottom of the table with West Ham escaping from the relegation zone with a 2-0 win over doomed bottom-club Sunderland and Birmingham moving to the brink of safety thanks to a stoppage time winner over West Brom.

A record total of 67,706 spectators squeezed into Manchester United's Theatre of Dreams and most of them went home happy to have witnessed van Nistelrooy's second goal, a stunning solo run from inside his own half finished in trademark clinical fashion.

The win lifted United a point above their London rivals and left them sitting at the top of the Premiership for the first time this season.

Arsenal can restore their lead with victory over Everton on Sunday but after defeat by Blackburn last weekend and their Champions League exit in mid-week, there is no doubt the pressure on the champions is building up.

Newcastle maintained their drive to force their way back into the final reckoning by moving to within two points of Arsenal with a

Serie A

Milan back on track

Football

AFP, Rome

AC Milan threw themselves back into the title race after defeating league leaders Juventus 2-1 at a sold-out San Siro on Saturday.

All the goals came in a thrilling first-half with Filippo Inzaghi scoring the winner after Juve's Czech midfielder Pavel Nedved had cancelled out Andriy Shevchenko's early goal.

Milan, whose win ended a run of three successive draws, remain third in the table after their victory which reduced Juve's lead over them to five points.

On Sunday second-placed Inter Milan can draw level with Juventus at the summit if they win at Udinese, who have only lost once at home all season.

Milan's Brazilian playmaker Rivaldo was left on the bench along with Juventus strike duo Alessandro Del Piero and David Trezeguet for the Scudetto showdown.

The home side settled into a nice early rhythm and took the lead four minutes into the match.

Shevchenko peeled off to the right after collecting Manuel Rui Costa's long pass and tried to pick out strike partner Inzaghi, only to see his cross blocked by Gianluigi Buffon.

The Juve goalkeeper however could not hold on to the ball, giving

chances of surviving the drop after defeating fellow strugglers Reggina 2-1.

Modena's victory lifted them up one place in the table to 12th, while Reggina remain fifth from bottom.

But Juventus, who along with Milan and Inter are in the quarter-finals of the Champions League, levelled the scores six minutes later.

Nedved whipped in a vicious free-kick from outside the penalty box which took deflections off Igor Tudor and Alessio Tacchinardi to deceive Brazilian goalkeeper Dida, who could only help the ball into the roof of the net.

Milan stuttered temporarily and regained the lead over their championship rivals in the 25th minute.

Andrea Pirlo's chipped pass was cleverly controlled by Inzaghi, who in one swift movement turned his marker Paolo Montero and poked the ball between Buffon's legs for his 14th goal of the season.

In Saturday's other match 10-man Modena improved their

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