

BCB picks 48 for U-17 camp

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Cricket Board yesterday initially selected 48 cricketers to form the under-17 team for the ensuing tour of Indian CBA (Cricket Association of Bengal) team to Bangladesh.

The selected players are: Habib Chowdhury, Mashiur Alam, Mostafa Helal, Golam Mostafa, Abu Sayeed Razib, Shahed, Raisul Islam, Raisuddin, Aminul Islam, Tamal Kishan Saha, Zesan Abedin, Israk Sonnet, Sowmik, Rabiul Karim, Ishaq Sajal, Ariful Islam, Mahmud, Zubayer, Saif Mahmud, Anwarul, Salahuddin, Mazharuddin and Rezaul Islam (Dhaka), Aei Aei Mong, Raihanuddin Arafat, Maruf Hossain Chowdhury and Iqbal Hossain (Chittagong), Farhad Hossain, Saqlain Sajib, Arif Reza Al Mahmud, Mir Faizul Ali and Shakil lbn High Ami (Rajshahi), Sheikh Farhad Hossain, Nazmus Sadat and Rabiul Islam (Khulna), Khairul Islam, Maruf, Momirul Islam, Ripon and Milon (BKSP), Jasimuddin and Mafizur Rahman (Barisal), Ahmed Sadekur Rahman and Zequn Ahmed Chowdhury (Sylhet), Shirhan Sharif (Pabna), Mridul Chowdhury (Dinajpur), Mostafiz (Savar) and Dollar Mahmud (Narail).

The players have been asked to report to the coach, Carlton Bernardus, and coordinator Shahidul Islam with their kits on Tuesday at the Bangabandhu National Stadium at 5pm. They will be taken to BKSP on the same day to take part in a three-week residential camp.

Agarkar in for Salvi

AFP, Ahmedabad

Indian selectors on Sunday were forced to make one change to the 14-member team for the second and final Test against New Zealand as they included Ajit Agarkar in place of injured Aavishkar Salvi.

Indian cricket board joint-secretary Ratnakar Shetty said fast bowler Salvi had not recovered completely from a hand injury sustained during a practice session here.

The second and last Test begins at Mohali on Thursday. Shetty said the selectors, who had earlier retained the team for the second Test, met again in the evening and decided to name all-rounder Agarkar as the replacement.

SQUAD

Saurav Ganguly (captain), Akash Chopra, Virender Sehwag, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, Venkatesh Laxman, Parthiv Patel, Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan, Laxmipathy Balaji, Sairaj Bahutule, Yuvraj Singh and Ajit Agarkar.

Police nab

FROM PAGE 13

As the news of his police confinement spread through the town, hundreds of sports loving people rushed to the police station. He was later released at about 6 pm on signing a bond.

Officer-in-charge of Kotwali Thana ATM Faruk Ahmed told this correspondent that the land in question belonged to number 2 police outpost. On being informed that someone was erecting a fence on that piece of land, police went to the spot. He claimed that Saiful misbehaved with them when he was challenged. The OC also denied mental assault on the former national player.

Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh could not be reached for comment.



(L) England captain David Beckham slips after taking a penalty kick against Turkey during at the Sukru Saracoglu stadium in Istanbul on October 11. (R) No sooner had the ball scooped over the bar, Turkish defender Alpay rushed in to taunt Beckham

England brave Istanbul

Spain, Holland in play-offs, Germany through



AFP, Paris

England escaped from a bad-tempered clash with Turkey to clinch their place in the Euro 2004 finals on Saturday but Spain must fight their way through the play-offs before they can line up in Portugal.

Italy crushed Azerbaijan to remove any doubt about their qualification and Germany routed Iceland to cruise into the finals, while Holland, Scotland and Wales all enter Monday's playoff draw.

Little Latvia will also be in the play-offs for the first time as they beat Group 4 winners Sweden 1-0 in Stockholm.

The night's drama came in Istanbul where David Beckham slipped when taking a first-half penalty and ballooned the ball over the crossbar, allowing the Turks to go in search of the victory they needed to win Group 7.

Turkish defender Alpay taunted Beckham after he missed the spot kick and then jabbed him in the face as the players walked off for half time, sparking a melee of 50 players and officials in the tunnel.

"He clipped me around the ear and said something about my mother which upset me," explained Beckham who threw a lame punch in response.

Only the intervention of the world's top referee, Pierluigi Collina, prevented a tense situation growing into something uglier.

"The referee took us into his room and told us to shake hands and calm down because the game is much bigger than this. It was a sad thing to happen but these things happen in football," Beckham said.

A strangely tentative Turkey side looked most dangerous at the end of the first half when England keeper David James saved well from a Sergen Yalcin header and then tipped Nihat's fierce cross-cum-shot over the bar.

Late in the second period Nihat was frustrated again by a superb close-range block from James and at the other end, Beckham had the ball in the net but his header was ruled offside.

After a week of players' revolt over the dropping of star defender Rio Ferdinand, coach Sven-Goran Eriksson was relieved to get the crucial point which sent England to Portugal as group winners and relegated Turkey to the play-offs.

"They showed exactly what we hoped," Eriksson said. "They played like a team with a lot of experience, they were very calm. I'm very proud."

Goals from Juan Carlos Valeron, Raul and two from Jose Antonio Reyes in a 4-0 drubbing of Armenia in Yerevan were still not enough for Spain.

Spain's 1-0 defeat to Greece in June proved crucial as the Greeks won their final match, 1-0 against Northern Ireland, to top Group 6 and force Spain into Monday's playoff draw.

Real Madrid forward Raul is confident. "I think with this sort of showing we can beat any team in the play-offs and get to Portugal," he said.

Germany could not afford any slip-ups and duly beat Iceland 3-0 in Hamburg as Michael Ballack, Fredi Bobic and a first international goal for VfB Stuttgart striker Kevin Kuranyi proved enough to win Group 5.

Manchester United's Darren Fletcher came on as a substitute at Hampden Park and rammed home the only goal against Lithuania which took Scotland into the play-offs behind Germany.

"The ball came across and I hit it first time - you always dream of things like that," Fletcher said.

The Scots could meet Wales in those play-offs after Mark Hughes' team lost 3-2 at home to Serbia and Montenegro in the knowledge they were already assured of second place in Group 9.

Italy, the beaten finalists in 2000, made no mistake in winning the group as Filippo Inzaghi scored twice and Christian Vieri and Marco Di Vaio grabbed a goal apiece in a 4-0 home win over Azerbaijan.

Holland smashed Moldova 5-0 but it was too little too late and the Dutch must wait to see who they will face in the play-offs.

The Czech Republic, who had already won Group 3, impressively wrapped up their campaign beating Austria 3-2 in Vienna.

Croatia pinned Belgium to a play-off place behind Group 8 winners Bulgaria by virtue of superior goal difference in matches against the Belgians.

Reigning European champions France equalled their record winning streak of 12 matches when they strolled past Israel 3-0 in their final Group 1 qualifier at the Stade de France.

STANDINGS table with columns for Group, Team, W, D, L, GF, GA, Pts. Includes sub-tables for Group 1-6 and winners/playoffs for each group.



US superstar Mia Hamm (9) waves to fans during a victory lap after beating Canada in the third place match at Carson, CA on October 11.

The Alpay-Becks episode



AFP, Istanbul

England skipper David Beckham revealed on Saturday that the mass brawl which erupted at half-time in the 0-0 Euro 2004 qualifying draw against Turkey was caused by a foul-mouthed tirade by opposing defender Alpay.

"He clipped me around the ear and said something about my mother which upset me," explained Beckham who had clashed with the Aston Villa player minutes earlier when he had missed a penalty which would have given England the lead.

The point from the draw was enough to put England into the finals in Portugal next year as Group 7 winners while Turkey face a play-off. "The referee took us into his room and told us to shake hands and calm down because the game is much bigger than this. It was a sad thing to happen but these things happen in football."

Alpay had taunted Beckham when the England star had slipped as he took the penalty.

As the spot-kick sailed over the bar, Alpay mocked the prone Beckham.

"The ground gave way as I took the penalty and I slipped," said the England captain. "He said something to me but I didn't take much notice because I was thinking about what had happened."

Beckham, who also had a second half headed goal ruled out for offside, said that the win showed the team had a great spirit after a testing week in which the players threatened to boycott the match over the exclusion of star defender Rio Ferdinand for missing a drugs test.

"I think the performance showed our character much more than a 1-0 win would have done, especially in this atmosphere where we had no fans," said Beckham.

England coach Sven Goran Eriksson paid tribute to his players for keeping their cool in trying circumstances and producing a "marvellous" result. "I'd like to congratulate the players - after a strange week they showed exactly what we hoped."

"They played like a team with a lot of experience, they were very calm. I'm very proud."

The Swede said that despite only needing a point the England players

had come to Istanbul seeking outright victory.

"I really don't care about not winning," said Eriksson. "We tried to win but it's the result that counts. But I thought we were a little unlucky especially in the first half where we could have had a couple of goals."

Eriksson said he had missed the brawl in the tunnel at half time.

"I was one of the last to go in as I had to cross the pitch, I know it was Alpay and Beckham who had something to say to each other."

"I told the players at half time to keep their cool and don't be provoked."

Eriksson said he "really hoped" he would still be in charge of England at next year's finals, despite the persistent rumours linking him with the manager's job at big-spending English Premiership club Chelsea.

"I'm getting a little bit fed up as it seems every time I come out of a room I have to say nothing's changed," he said.

"The European Championships are almost as big as the World Cup, it's one of the biggest sporting events you can get."

Aussies a wicket

FROM PAGE 13 wickets crashing for 16 runs, after Mark Vermeulen (63) and Stuart Carlisle (35) had carried the side to 110 for two with a third-wicket stand of 99 which raised hopes of a big total.

The only other Zimbabwe batsmen to show any touch were left-hander Sean Ervine and Streak.

Ervine stroked an attractive 53 (seven fours, one six) from 98 balls in just under two hours his top score in six innings in three Tests.

Ervine's six was a massive straight drive off Lehmann which arced over the sightscreen.

Ervine and Streak added a fighting 83 for the eighth wicket to give the tourists a modicum of respectability as the remorseless Australians continued to stay firmly on top even with seriously depleted resources.

Scorecard at stumps on fourth day of first Test between Australia and Zimbabwe at the WACA Ground Sunday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 735 for six declared (M Hayden 380, A Gilchrist 113 not out, S Waugh 78, D Martyn 53, R Ponting 37, D Lehmann 30; S Ervine 4-146, T Gripper 2-142)

ZIMBABWE: First innings 239 (T Gripper 53, C Wishart 46, M Vermeulen 38, D Ebrahim 29; B Lee 3-48, J Gillespie 3-52, A Bichel 2-62, S MacGill 2-54)

ZIMBABWE: Second innings (overnight 87-2) Ebrahim b Gillespie 4, Gripper c Gilchrist b Gillespie 0, Vermeulen c Gilchrist b Lee 63, Carlisle c Hayden b Lehmann 35, Wishart lbw Bichel 38, Evans b Lehmann 5, Taibu c Gilchrist b Bichel 3, Ervine b Bichel 53, Streak not out 42, Blignaut st Gilchrist b Lehmann 22, Price not out 17, Extras: (lb-6, b-4, w-5, nb-5) 20, Total: (For 9 wickets in 105 overs) 272, Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-11, 3-110, 4-112, 5-118, 6-126, 7-126, 8-209, 9-247

FROM PAGE 13 and believed that they should have won by a bigger margin.

Hosts let Eng

England and BCB President's Eleven at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Sunday:

ENGLAND: First innings Treshoock batting 49, Vaughan c Anwar b Munir 36, Butcher batting 11, Extras: (b-1, lb-1, nb-6, w-2) 10, Total: (For one wkt in 37 overs) 106, Fall of wicket: 1/77

To bat: Nasser Hussein, Graham Thorpe, Chris Read, Rikki Clarke, Gareth Batty, Ashley Giles, Mathew Hoggard and Stephen Harmison.

SCORECARD

Bowler O M R W Munir 10 2 28 1 Alangiri 6 2 24 0 Mushfiq 8 3 17 0 Enamul 10 3 25 0 Bashir 3 0 10 0

BCB PRESIDENT'S ELEVEN:

Hannan Sarker, Nafees Iqbal, Aftab Ahmed, Moniruzzaman, Anwar Hossain, Mushfiqur Rahman, Anwar Hossain Munir, Nadif Chowdhury, Ashiqur Rahman, Enamul Haque and Gazi Alangiri and Abul Bashir (12th man)

Umpires: Nadir Shah and KZ Islam Masud.

One-day football

FROM PAGE 13 The first semifinal will start at 3pm and the second semifinal just after its completion. The final will be held after half an hour's break.

Hamm bids WC bye

USA finish third



AFP, Los Angeles

American star Mia Hamm marked her final World Cup football match on Saturday with a victory lap around the field.

It was the perfect exclamation mark for women's soccer's greatest player.

"The first group we wanted to thank was all our friends and family in the stands. Without those guys all along the way none of this would be possible," said Hamm, who helped set up the winning goal with a superb feed off a corner in a 3-1 win over Canada.

"It is not just your immediate family you want to thank. When you walk into the dressing room everyone comes up and cheers for you."

Hamm's perfectly-timed corner was headed into the net by Shannon Boxx. Substitute Tiffany Milbrett added the insurance marker for the US which clinched third place at the 2003 Women's World Cup.

"This team never ceases to amaze me," said Hamm, who at 31 says she is appearing in her final

World Cup. "The way they rise up and despite the emotions that were going through us all week. We put together a really strong performance against a team we needed to."

Hamm said the team's spirits were down after the 3-0 semi-final loss to Germany on October 5. But the win over Canada enabled them to go out with their heads high.

"We played with a lot of heart," said Hamm. "We did some things today that we needed to do to regain some confidence."

"I am proud to be a part of this team. Today makes me even more so. The way everyone came together and fought to the very end."

The Americans got off to a slow start on Saturday as the underdog Canadians had the better scoring opportunities in the first half and a 6-2 shot advantage.

The US finally woke up in the second half thanks to the play of veteran players like Hamm, who has scored over 140 goals in international play.

"From what we were reading and hearing they (Canada) felt we weren't taking this game seriously," said Hamm, who had knee surgery last year.

Hamm's fiancée is baseball player Nomar Garciaparra of the Boston Red Sox.

While Hamm has been playing in the World Cup, Garciaparra is competing in the American League Championship Series.

"I'm most excited first of all just competing at the highest level," Hamm said. "This is the pinnacle of what we do."

Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 13 and believed that they should have won by a bigger margin.

TEAMS

BANGLADESH: Rahatul, Monu, Atiqur, Abul, Zahid, Rony, Nasir (Akash), Hirak, Rajan (Mithun, Mamun), Rajib and Arafat.

KYRGYZSTAN: Rustamjan, Samat, Yury, Dovranbek, Karl, Fanig, Mirlan (Artem), Stanislav, Denis (Mihail), Alexy and Maktiyev.

Referee: Birendra Bahadur Pandey (Nepal).

Craig, Nathan

FROM PAGE 13 Jacob Oram did not last long, edging Harbhajan to Rahul Dravid in the slips after contributing just seven.

McMillan and Astle then frustrated the Indian bowlers with their match-saving partnership.

SCOREBOARD

Complete scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the drawn opening cricket Test between India and New Zealand at the Sardar Patel Stadium on Sunday:

INDIA: First innings 500-5 declared (R Dravid 222, S Ganguly 100 not out, D Vettori 2-128)

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 340 (N Astle 103, D Vettori 60, McMillan 54; Z Khan 4-68)

INDIA: Second innings 209-6 declared (R Dravid 73; P Wiseman 4-64)

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings (overnight 48-1) Richardson c Chopra b Kumble 21, Vincent b Kumble 67, Tuffey b Kumble 8, Fleming c Laxman b Harbhajan 8, Styris lbw b Kumble 0, McMillan not out 83, Oram c Dravid b Harbhajan 7, Astle not out 51, Extras: (b-4, lb-12, nb-11) 27, Total: (For 6 wickets in 107 overs) 272, Fall of wickets: 1-44, 2-68, 3-85, 4-86, 5-150, 6-169

Bowler O M R W Zaheer 10 1 35 0 Balaji 11 4 21 0 Harbhajan 38 9 65 2 Kumble 39 12 95 4 Tendulkar 7 0 40 0 Sehwag 2 2 0 0

Result: Match drawn. Man-of-the-match: Rahul Dravid. Umpires: David Shepherd (England) and Rudi Koertzen (South Africa)

Second Test: Oct 16-20, Mohali.

SA restrict

FROM PAGE 13 suspended captain Graeme Smith and Andrew Hall.

Smith and Hall were suspended for breaching conduct codes in the second match in Lahore last week.

SCOREBOARD

First innings scoreboard in the fifth and final day-night limited overs international played at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Sunday:

PAKISTAN

Hameed c Kallis b Nel 28, Hafeez b Nel 0, Youhana lbw b Pollock 0, Younis b Peterson 24, Inzamam run out 17, Malik c Nel b Peterson 20, Razzaq c Boucher b Ntini 38, Latif b Pollock 25, Sami c Kallis b Ntini 22, Akhtar c van Wyk b Pollock 6, Kaneria not out 1, Extras: (b-1, lb-4, w-6) 11, Total: (All out in 49.3 overs) 192, Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-16, 3-35, 4-75, 5-80, 6-116, 7-152, 8-180, 9-186

Bowler O M R W Pollock 10 0 33 3 Nel 8 0 36 2 Dawson 7 0 26 0 Ntini 9 1 38 2 Kallis 6 0 22 0 Peterson 10 0 32 2

SOUTH AFRICA: H Gibbs, B Dippenaar, J Kallis, J Rudolph, N McKenzie, M Boucher, S Pollock, R Peterson, A Dawson, M Ntini, A Nel. Toss: Pakistan.

Umpires: Darrell Hair (Australia) and Aleem Dar (Pakistan).

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

Cryptquip puzzle grid with clues and solution: "I E X Z F Y Z P O J Q E Z W Z O." Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF A MOP AND A BROOM BATTLED IT OUT, WOULD ONE WIPE THE FLOOR WITH THE OTHER? Today's Cryptquip Clue: K equals Z.