

BKSP junior tennis on

BDNEWS, Dhaka
The five-day BKSP International Junior Tennis Championships began at the BKSP yesterday.
State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman inaugurated the junior ranking tournament of the International Tennis Federation (ITF) as the chief guest.

Gymnastics camp

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur
A nine-day gymnastics training camp began at the Dinajpur Gymnasium in here on Sunday.
A total of 18 gymnasts including 7 ladies, who will take part in the upcoming national gymnastics competition, are taking part in the camp.

Rafter, Sabatini in Tennis Hall of Fame

AP, Melbourne
Two-time US Open champion Patrick Rafter and Gabriela Sabatini, the first female player from Argentina to win a Grand Slam singles title, have been elected to the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

The 33-year-old Rafter, twice a runner-up at Wimbledon in his 12-year career, is the 24th Australian to be elected.
This is one of the highs. I don't think there is any more, this is it for me," Rafter said Monday at the official announcement during the Australian Open. "I'm really surprised to receive this so young. I expected it to come later on, when I was older."

Sabatini won the 1990 US Open, reached No. 3 in the world and was ranked in the top 10 for 10 straight years. The 35-year-old player won 27 WTA Tour singles titles and 14 doubles titles, including the 1988 Wimbledon crown with Steffi Graf.
"The majority of my life has revolved around my tennis, so it is a very special honour to be elected... especially when you look at all the great names of champions that have been elected over the years," Sabatini said in a statement.

Italian sports writer Gianni Clerici also will be inducted July 15 in Newport, Rhode Islands.

Did U Know?

The Olympic hymn, played when the Olympic flag is raised, was composed by Spyros Samaras and the words added by Kostis Palamas. The Olympic hymn was first played at the 1896 Olympic Games in Athens but wasn't declared the official hymn by the IOC until 1957.



Sven-Goran Eriksson (England football coach)
"If we win the World Cup, I will say goodbye and thank you... If we don't get to the semifinals, it's fair that I don't stay in the job."



Manchester United defender Rio Ferdinand, 2nd right, celebrates his late winner against Liverpool in their Premiership clash at Old Trafford on Sunday.

PREMIERSHIP

Rio leaps high on Liverpool

Football

AFP, Manchester

Rio Ferdinand's last-minute winner saw Manchester United beat Liverpool 1-0 at Old Trafford as the hosts cut Chelsea's Premiership lead to 14 points.

The match looked to be heading for a goalless draw until the England centre-back headed in a Ryan Giggs free-kick past Liverpool keeper Jose Reina.
Ferdinand's goal was his third in eight games, a statistic made all the more remarkable by the fact he did not score in his first 140 United appearances.

European champions Liverpool remained third, 18 points adrift of the leaders and four behind United but with two games in hand on the only two sides above them in the table.

"To win so late on is a great feeling," United manager Sir Alex Ferguson said.

"Liverpool are a very difficult side to play against and they are a very powerful side but we felt we had enough quality to keep at them and in the last 20 minutes we probably deserved to win because of that."

The victory will have been just the tonic Ferguson, who rates this match as the fixture in English football, wanted.

And his joy was likely to have been increased by the presence of Sven-Goran Eriksson in the Old Trafford crowd after the England coach reportedly told a British newspaper Sunday that Ferguson should have quit following United's treble-winning season in 1999.

It was Ryan Giggs, the original 'Fergie Fledgling', who was at the heart of much of United's best work. Giggs produced a rare moment of United quality in the first-half when he released Ruud van Nistelrooy although the Dutchman's shot was comfortably saved by Reina.

And it was equally no surprise that Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard inspired the visitors.

After Harry Kewell had bravely won an aerial challenge, the England midfielder surged towards the United goal only to shoot wide.

Gerrard then produced a superb pass, bending the ball with the outside of his right foot to release Djibril Cisse, who shot weakly at Edwin van der Sar.

Cisse did better when he headed Mohamed Sissoko's pass into the feet of England striker Peter Crouch, whose half-volley was well blocked by Wes Brown.

In the 62nd minute Cisse should have scored when he shot over the top, the ball breaking to the Frenchman following a Kewell shot after a mix-up between Ferdinand and Van der Sar saw the England international clear the ball.

"A draw seemed certain but then Riley gave United that free-kick and Ferdinand evaded Liverpool's defence to curl on the end of Giggs's inviting curling centre with a superb header.

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

A tale of two strikers

Football

AFP, Cairo

It was a tale of two strikers at the African Nations Cup on Sunday - one who covered himself in glory and the other in shame.

Brazilian-born marksman Santos scored a hat-trick as champions Tunisia opened the defence of their title and their bid to become only the second side to retain the trophy since it became a 16 team event with a 4-1 victory over a lucky Zambian side in Group C.

It took the Toulouse striker's tally to seven in the African showpiece having scored five in 2004 and within seven of the overall record of 14 held by Ivory Coast's Laurent Pokou.

While he revelled in deserved glory Emmanuel Adebayor saw his status as Togolese national hero stripped away after he was labelled a 'cry baby' by national coach Stephen Keshi.

The 21-year-old, whose 11 goals inspired the country to their first ever World Cup finals this year, refused to play in Saturday's opening 2-0 defeat to the Democratic Republic of Congo, though he came on for part of the second period.

However it appeared on Sunday Keshi had had enough of his turbulent star striker, who recently agreed a 10-million-euro transfer from Monaco to Arsenal.

"He (Adebayor) does not adhere to the discipline of the squad. He is a crybaby," said Keshi.

"If he really is a star then he should behave like one," added Keshi.

Adebayor's hopes of retaining support among his teammates seem to have fallen on deaf ears given the reaction of the captain, Jean-Paul Abalo.

"He can go," said Abalo, who earns far less than Adebayor playing for lowly French club Dunkirk.

"He didn't just betray his team, he betrayed the Togolese people. Everyone was mad at him for what he did on Saturday."

On the pitch, though, Santos was magnificent as Tunisia came back from conceding an early goal to Zambia to secure a comfortable victory.

However Zambia are far from hopeful for the second spot and had they taken their chances they might well have given the champions a scare - a point highlighted by Tunisia's coach Roger Lemerre.

The other Group C match saw Guinea gain an impressive 2-0 victory over the fallen giants South Africa as Sambeugou Bangoura, who plays in the English Championship with Stoke City, and Ousmane Bangoura scored late in the second-half.

Zidane coy on future

INTERNET, undated

Zinedine Zidane has played down talk that he could retire after this summer's World Cup finals.

Reports from Spain earlier this month claimed Zidane was considering hanging up his boots at the end of this summer's showpiece in Germany.

Zidane refuted the reports, but was remaining coy on what his future plans were.

"I will go on playing until the end of the season, and then we will see in June," Zidane told Canal Plus.

"Anyway it is not topical. We know the Spanish newspapers are fond of those kind of rumours. But I don't want to pay it any attention.

"I will try, with my team-mates, to achieve a beautiful World Cup, and then we will see next season.

"I let people talk and I try to remain focused on what I have to do."

Adu makes USA debut

AFP, San Diego

Freddy Adu became the youngest footballer to play for the US men's team on Sunday, but his appearance as a substitute had no effect as the US played to a 0-0 draw against Canada in an international friendly.

The USA launched their final build-up to the World Cup fielding a team composed almost entirely of Major League Soccer players and lacking their Europe-based stars.

With his attack failing to fire, manager Bruce Arena called in DC United midfielder Adu in the 81st minute, making him the youngest player ever to play for the US senior team at 16 years 234 days.

But the precocious youngster was handed a yellow card for diving five minutes after entering the match.

Adu, the Ghana-born prodigy who was just 14 when he debuted for DC United, is a longshot to make the US squad for the World Cup in Germany in June.

He became a US citizen in 2003, and while Ghana's football association president had said the team would welcome Adu, he made it clear he intended to make his international career with his adopted country.

Donald wants England job

REUTERS, Cape Town

Former South Africa fast bowler Allan Donald said on Sunday he had applied for the vacant position of England bowling coach.

Donald, who took 330 wickets in 72 Tests at an average of 22.25 for his country before retiring in 2003, said frustration had led him to apply to join coach Duncan Fletcher's 'Team England.'

"I have a passion for being around international cricketers. I love being in the dressing room and I love dealing with players at the highest level," Donald told Reuters by telephone.

Cairns calls

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"He has shown great commitment in returning to full fitness this season and I believe that he had the ability to push towards the World Cup, if that is what he desired."

Cairns, who recently signed for an off-season with Lancashire league club Bacup, is currently pursuing a business venture which involves getting camera equipment installed in sightcreens and allowing for every ball to be logged into a computer and open for aftermatch analysis.

The matter is currently before the England Cricket Board for consideration.

Dhoni takes

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From four and four sixes, and Pathan surpassed India's previous sixth-wicket record stand of 143 against Pakistan by Mohammad Azharuddin and Kapil Dev in Calcutta (now Kolkata) in 1986-87.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the second Test between Pakistan and India at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad on Monday.

PAKISTAN: First innings 588 (Afridi 156, Inzamam 119, Younis 83, Yousuf 65; Rudra Pratap 4-89, Zaheer 3-135, Kumble 3-150)
INDIA: First innings (overnight 110-1)

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, Overs. Includes names like Sehwaq, Dravid, Laxman, Tendulkar, Yuvraj, Dhoni, Pathan, Afridi, Kumble, Zaheer, Rudra Pratap, Akhtar, Asif, Razaq, Kaneria, Afridi.

PRIMERA LIGA

Barca stay on course

Football

REUTERS, Madrid

Barcelona stretched their lead at the top of the Primera Liga to 10 points with a 2-0 victory over basement side Alaves at the Nou Camp on Sunday.

Sweden striker Henrik Larsson broke the stubborn Alaves resistance when he poked in from close range two minutes after the break and Argentine teenager Lionel Messi made it 2-0 with a follow-up strike late in the game.

Barcelona have now won their last 18 matches in all competitions.

Valencia moved into second place behind the Catalans after a 2-0 win at struggling Real Betis, striker David Villa taking his total for the season to 13 with a classy double.

Osasuna slipped to third after their 2-1 defeat at Villarreal, Juan Roman Riquelme scoring the home side's goals with two controversial penalties.

Champions Barca lead the standings on 49 points from 20

games, 10 ahead of Valencia and Osasuna.

Missing leading striker Samuel Eto'o, who is on African Nations Cup duty with Cameroon, and suspended midfielder Deco, Barca were slow to find a rhythm against their lowly opponents.

Alaves, who have only won three matches all season, chased hard in midfield and strikers John Aloisi and Rodolfo Bodipo created early problems for Barcelona's back four.

Larsson eventually broke the deadlock two minutes into the second half when he bundled in from close range after a low pass slipped through keeper Franco Costanzo's grasp into his path.

They were given a chance to extend their lead 20 minutes later when Alaves defender Josu Sarriegi felled midfielder Andres Iniesta as he raced into the area but World Player of the Year Ronaldinho surprisingly sent his spotkick wide.

French midfielder Ludovic Giuly hit the woodwork twice in the second half before substitute Messi made sure of a 13th consecutive league win when he netted from

three metres after Costanzo stopped a Ronaldinho shot with his foot.

The game of the night came, though, at Anoeta where Real Sociedad and Athletic Bilbao fought out a spectacular 3-3 draw in an action-packed Basque derby.

Sociedad's decision to persuade Nihat Kahveci to reject a move to Spartak Moscow and remain at the club until the end of the season appeared to pay dividends when the Turkish striker scored two great goals in the first half.

Athletic staged an impressive fightback after the break, with striker Ariz Azuriz providing the finishing touch to two superb moves to level the scores midway through the second half.

Sociedad's new Danish striker Morten Skoubo appeared to dash Athletic's hopes when he put the home side 3-2 up, but midfielder Andoni Iraola popped up at the far post in the depth's of injury time to level the game.

The result lifted Athletic a point clear of Alaves at the bottom of the standings, while Sociedad are now five points clear of the drop zone.

SERIE A

Cannavaro heads Juve home

Football

REUTERS, Rome

Defender Fabio Cannavaro scored twice for Serie A leaders Juventus who came from behind to beat Empoli 2-1 and maintain their eight-point cushion on Sunday.

Empoli took an early lead through Sergio Almiron, but Italy international Cannavaro twice converted headers to seal Juve's 14th consecutive Serie A win at the Stadio delle Alpi.

Juve have 56 points from 21 matches. Inter Milan are second on 48 points after beating Palermo 3-0 on Saturday.

AC Milan consolidated third place on 46 points with a 3-0 victory over Siena, Brazilian Kaka scoring twice.

The division's top scorer Luca Toni also got a brace to lead Fiorentina to a 2-0 win over Messina, giving them 43 points and completing a clean sweep of wins for the top four.

Strugglers Empoli, who sacked coach Mario Sempoli in midweek and replaced him with Luigi Cagni, took a third-minute lead when Almiron blasted a free kick into the top corner of Gianluigi Buffon's

goal. Juve responded quickly, with Cannavaro dropping his marker to head in Mauro Camoranesi's free kick at the far post.

The hosts turned up the pressure in the second half but had to wait until 13 minutes from time for the winner, Cannavaro heading in a corner from the edge of the box.

Alessandro Del Piero almost grabbed a third late in the game, when he spun and volleyed against the bar.

Siena's tactics of sitting back against Milan and trying to repel relentless attacks did not pay off. They soon fell behind, Kaka tapping in Jaap Stam's header from a corner.

After that, Siena played a little more positively and Enrico Chiesa forced Milan keeper Dida into a diving save with a neat half-volley. At the other end Andriy Shevchenko twice had shots cleared off the line.

Gifera went even closer to equalising when he fired against the post at the start of the second half, but Milan continued to create chances.

Antonio Mirante pulled off a superb reflex save to keep out Filippo Inzaghi's close-range header, but then fumbled an innocuous-looking Serginho cross into the path of Shevchenko, to leave the Ukrainian

with an easy finish.

Kaka scored his second goal six minutes from the end to ensure Milan kept up the pressure on the top two.

At Florence's Franchi stadium, Messina goalkeeper Marco Storari pulled off a series of superb saves to prevent Fiorentina taking the lead until Toni pounced on Giampaolo Pazzini's nod-on to hook the ball into the bottom corner just before halftime.

Pazzini wasted a good chance to extend the home side's advantage early in the second half when he went through one-on-one against Storari only to hesitate and lose possession.

Toni sealed the win in the 72nd minute, lashing a right-footed shot past Storari from the edge of the area to take his tally to 21 goals in 21 Serie A matches this season.

In other matches, Livorno defender Fabio Galante scored with the last kick of the game to secure his side a 1-1 draw with Treviso that allowed them to hang on to fifth place on 37 points.

AS Roma lie one point further back in sixth after notching up their fifth consecutive win -- a 4-1 victory over Udinese, who played most of the match with 10 men after Giampiero Pinzi was sent off for punching Leandro Cufré in the face.

Sonargaon smite DOHS

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and Pakistani Jaffar Qerashi (64) to score 242 for six in 50 overs but it was not enough for them to avoid a defeat.

National wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud scored his first fifty in the competition (77-ball 66) that included five fours and a six while super-sub Dhiman struck a blistering 36-ball 56 as Mohammedan raced to 243-5 in 48.2 overs.

National and Mohammedan captain Habibul Bashar was the other notable scorer with 40 off 68 balls to continue his good form after 85 in the previous match.

With this defeat Victoria slipped to third place with 16 points.

BIMAN-BROTHERS

Nazmus Sadat hammered hundred as Bangladesh Biman defeated Brothers by seven runs.

The young opener hit 104 off 137 balls with ten fours as Biman amassed 253-8 in 50 overs. It was fourth hundred in the competition after Pakistani Rashed Hanif, Shahriar Nafees and Marshal Ayub.

Nafees Iqbal scored 54 and Marshal Ayub following his hurricane 102 in the previous game with 75 but Brothers still were restricted to 246-8 in their share of 50 overs.

The win improved Biman's tally to 16 points while Brothers glued to their previous collection of 12 points from 13 matches.

SCORES IN BRIEF

DOHS: 265-8 in 50 overs (Golam Rahman 44, Shahin 60, Tikolo 69, Manjarul 35, extras 32; Tapash 4-58).
SONARGAON: 269-4 in 42.2 overs (Shahriar 74, Sriram 93 not out,

Ashrafali 53, extras 15; Hasibul 3-52).
Result: Sonargaon won by six wickets.

VICTORIA: 242-6 in 50 overs (Mustakim 51, Faruque 35, Jaffar 64, Forhad 32 not out, extras 13; Sabbir 2-43).
MOHAMMEDAN: 243-5 in 48.2 overs (Sandeep 25, Bashar 40, Mashud 66 not out, Dhiman 58 not out, extras 18; Jaffar 2-39).
Result: Mohammedan won by five wickets.

BIMAN: 253-8 in 50 overs (Sadat 104, Humayun 29, Mushfiqur 40, extras 16; Ziaur 2-45, Hanif 2-42, Enamul 2-48).
BROTHERS: 246-8 in 50 overs (Nafees 54, Hanif 38, Marshal 75, Arafat Salahuddin 38, extras 18; Sharif 3-51, Jamal 2-33).
Result: Biman won by seven runs.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Bobby old hockey fame
4 Despondent
7 Kiss Me, -
11 Retain
13 Millieu for 1-Across
14 Wading bird
15 Hindu princess
16 Ump
17 La Bohème, on Broadway
18 Gas station name
20 Pigelet's mummies
22 Help
24 Trap setter's outcry
28 Vegas visitor
32 Russian ballet company
33 Sandusky's slate
34 Drenched
36 Roof overhang
37 Domineering
39 Dignified old woman
41 Method swimmer
43 Sargasso sea
44 Incursion
46 Fair of hair
50 Sheltered
53 Follow
55 Duo tool
56 Take out of context?
57 Desiccated
58 Taiwanese dollar nickname
59 Lummoxtoto
60 Sweet potato
61 Mussy suffix
12 Champion skier
19 Refinery product
21 Moo goo quantity
23 Morning city
25 Rugged mountain
26 Thru address
27 State fighters with certainty
28 Sailors maybe how to great them
30 Not see person
31 Roulette bet
35 Place-kicker's pride
38 Nay canceler
40 Symbol of intrigue
42 Blouse style
45 1984 hurricane
47 Comic-strip penguin
48 In good order
49 Say it isn't so the mix
50 Toss into the neighbor
52 Right angle
54 Workout site



CRYPTOQUIP

ONUK XOR QURQSU IUX
YHBBDUC, D IJUGG TRJ
YDINX GHT XNUT UKXUB

DKXR HK HSXBUC GXHXU.
Saturday's Cryptocquip: HAVING HEARD THE JURY'S VERDICT, THE JUDGE HANDED DOWN HIS SENTENCE WITH CONVICTION.

Today's Cryptocquip Clue: Q equals P
The Cryptocquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.



State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman inaugurates the Fourth BKSP International Junior Tennis Championships at the BKSP on Monday.