DHAKA TUESDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2006

Tickets at **BNS** counters from 10am

SPORTS REPORTER

Tickets for the exhibition football match between under-16 sides of Abahani and Mohammedan in honour of French football legend Zinedine Zidane will be available at the counters of the Bangabandhu National Stadium from 10am today.

Zidane is expected to arrive at the ground shortly before 5pm and don both the Abahani and Mohammedan colours in the match which is scheduled to kick off at 5.15pm.

Gallery tickets will cost Tk 40 while VIP tickets Tk 300, 200 and 100 for different gates.

There was huge demand for tickets at the Bangladesh Football Federation last evening but the federation has already sold the selling rights to an event management group, which is expected to print about 30,000 tickets for the mega event

INDO-BANGLA GAMES Kolkata to host inaugural event

SPORTS REPORTER

Kolkata will host the inaugural Indo-Bangla Games in the third week of January 2007

The decision was taken yesterday after a meeting of the Bengal Olympic Association and the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) officials at the BOA office.

BOA's acting secretary general Kutubuddin Ahmed presided over the meeting. Bengal Olympic Association vice-president HP Ghosh, general secretary Kamalesh Chatterjee and BOA officials were present.

The two parties agreed on eight disciplines -- four proposed each association -- for the five-day first edition. The men from West Bengal proposed football (u-19 male and women's), volleyball, basketball and kho kho (all men's) while Bangladesh named shooting (men's and women's air rifle), swimming (men's and women's), kabaddi (men's) and athletics (men's and women's).

The organisers believe that the yearly event will foster friendship of Bengali speaking people on both sides of the border and give exposure to the youth

Pillay in city

SPORTS REPORTER

Former Indian international Dhanrai Pillav arrived in Dhaka yesterday morning to play for Abahani in the Premier Hockey League.

Pillay, who last pla Abahani in 2002, will take the field tomorrow in their crucial first-lea finale against defending champions and league leaders Usha Krira Chakra.



Convenor of Sammilito Krira Paribar Mubashar Hossain (3rd L) addressing a press briefing at the DRU auditorium vesterday.

Steve's Ashes regret was putting Ricky in stitches

Australian captain," he said.

"As much as I am a fast bowler

But Harmison was not going

"It's just something that hap-

Although he won't nominate

pened. I'm not somebody that is in

the business to hurt people. I'm in

there to take wickets any which

particular Australian targets, such

as his Australian rival Glenn

series, Harmison spoke of his

Ponting, because in my opinion

he's the best player I've ever

"The one player I obviously

and the ball does come out of my

mind

Cricket

AFP, Sydney England's pace spearhead Steve Harmison made a surprise admission Monday that his big regret from last year's epic Ashes victory

hand at decent speeds, and the ball does bounce, and it is a danwas his apparent uncaring attigerous thing, nobody likes to see tude towards a bloodied Australian skipper Ricky Ponting. anyone get hurt. "I'm not a big one for (blood on It was a towering Harmison bouncer that pounded into the pitch) to be honest. But it's my Ponting's helmet in the opening job. I bowl at 'X' miles an hour, the Test of last year's series at Lord's ball bounces, it goes through. It's a man's game, people do get hit." that set the tone for one of the

mightiest battles in Test cricket. Harmison's rising delivery soft and said he had no intentions forced the grille of Ponting's helmet into his cheek and nicked

with his high arm action in the a cut that required stitches. coming five-Test series, which Soon after that, the shaken-up gets underway in Brisbane on Australian skipper was caught in November 23. the slips giving Harmison the me from bowling short balls at prized wicket of the batsman he anybody, and I don't think I'll be rates as the best player he's ever slowing up because of it," he said.

bowled at. But the 28-year-old Durham paceman remains remorseful about the pain he inflicted on Ponting that day, and spoke of his lingering regret at the England team's media day at the Sydney Cricket Ground on the tourists'

first full day in Australia ahead of this month's series. Harmison is not the archetypal fast bowler who enjoys nothing

more than intimidating opposing batsmen with short-pitched deliveries and occasionally hitting the batsmen, sometimes drawing

bowled at. And it probably lifts you blood. just a little more when you come to "As a bowler and as a person I was disappointed with myself the bowl at him," he said. way it came about," he told reporters Monday.

"We hunt as a pack. We hunt Australian skipper about the as a group," he said. incident, yet it still played on his

"We won the Ashes because of four fast bowlers and Ashley Giles "I respect the bloke for what he as a cricketer and as the as the spinner."

While champion leg-spinner Shane Warne took 40 wickets for Australia, Flintoff's 24 wickets was the most by an Englishman. Harmison snared 17 wickets. "We all chipped in. And we did

it as a group, as a pack, and it will be the same again," he said.

CA calls

FROM PAGE 20 England in August and demanded

an inquiry into his conduct. of changing the way he bowled CA chief executive James Sutherland said public confidence in the objectivity of umpiring, and in the ability of umpires to make decisions without fear or favour, was one of "I don't think it's going to stop

the key issues underpinning cricket's ambitions. "We don't agree with the ICC's decision and are concerned about the implications which could see

international umpires concerned about off-field consequences of calling decisions as they see them. Sutherland said in a statement.

Sutherland said his organisation believed Hair was still one of the best umpires in the world.

McGrath often does before a But he said CA believed, more importantly, that appropriate processes should be followed if there were performance concerns about enjoy (getting out) is Ricky umpires.

"World cricket needs champion cricketers, but it also needs worldclass umpires who are equivalently skilled at what they do," he said.

Jayawardene captain till World Cup

Cricket

Five years ago, the then caretaker AFP, Colombo government changed the heads of sports federations immediately after

Mahela Jayawardene will lead Sri taking over because the presidents Lanka at the World Cup in the of all associations were political Caribbean next March, chairman of selectors Asantha de Mel told AFP on Although everyone expected Monday similar moves from the current

"Mahela has done a decent job caretaker government, it has yet to since taking over from Marvan take such moves in the sports arena Atapattu and he will continue till the in spite of going for reshuffling in World Cup," De Mel said.

"We've been working towards the The Sammilito Krira Paribar World Cup and we want to make sure (SKP) yesterday handed over a that Mahela feels comfortable ahead memorandum to CM Shafi Sami, of the tournament which is not too far the advisor to youth and sports, awav. requesting him to follow in the

De Mel said the decision to reapfootsteps of the past caretaker point Jayawardene was made before he was named the Captain of the Year "The chiefs of the sports federaat the International Cricket Council's tions should be removed at once awards ceremony in Mumbai last

because all of them are partisan. week. Jayawardene, 29, beat other high-For transparency, we also demand profile nominees like Ricky Ponting of that all the elected bodies of differ-Australia and Rahul Dravid of India for ent federations should not take any lona-term decisions during this the prestigious award.

The selectors persisted with period. The federations should also Jayawardene despite Sri Lanka's not try to make any financial deals failure to make the semifinals of the because it might be harmful and Champions Trophy in India, although individuals could serve personal the team had been one of the favourinterests," told SKP convenor Mubashar Hossain at a press con-

World champions Australia won the tournament in Mumbai on Sunday. defeating the West Indies by eight

The Russian assured himself of his

highest ever ATP ranking when the

new list is published next week and

only world number one Federer and

The Sri Lankan media reported that Javawardene's authoritarian leadership during the Champions Trophy was not liked by the senior players. It was alleged that Jayawardene failed to consult senior players when making crucial decisions.

Jayawardene denied the allega tions at a post-tournament media briefing in Colombo.

He had been accused of the same fault during Sri Lanka's tour of England in May when he declined to play veteran Sanath Jayasuriya in the second Test at Edgbaston despite the

senior players wanting him in the side. Jayawardene was made stand-in captain in March when Atapattu suffered a back injury during the home series against Pakistan and subsequently captained Sri Lanka in England and at home against South Africa.

Jayawardene has averaged 62 with the bat in Test cricket since taking over as captain even though his career

In one-dayers, Jayawardene's average as captain is 46 against a career average of 32.47. He also hit Test cricket's fourth

we have questioned the quantum of

Nikolay's maiden Masters

season -- although he is not setting any targets.

"I don't want to say anything for the future. Last year I finished in the top five and for me this year it was important to stay in the top 10," said Davvdenko. Davydenko set his sights on Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal after claim-

"But after winning here in Paris and reaching the top three. for me this is ing his first Masters title with a 6-1, 6-2, great and the season is still not fin-6-2 victory over Dominik Hrbaty in ished.

"Next year I want to play good tennis to fight with Federer and Nadal to be plaving in the finals of Masters Series events and winning Grand match. Slams.

"It's very important for me to play well in the Grand Slams.' Davydenko is close to the end of the most amazing year of his life. As well as reaching a career high ranking and winning a first Masters title, he will

for the second year in a row, then get married before ending the season with the Davis Cup final against Argentina. "There's going to be too many celebrations and drinking," he

play in Shanghai in the Masters Cup

quipped. "After the Davis Cup final I will take a week off before starting to prepare for next season."

Despite playing in his first Masters final. Davydenko was imperious throughout, dominating his Slovakian opponent -- the first two sets were more of a massacre than a tennis

Seeded fourth he was the highest

and sports journalists "It is the best time to punish the guilty and I believe that the caretaker government can make ar instance by doing it so that no one even dares to repeat such barbaric acts in the future," Tutul said.

because the focus of every one

Former national footballer

Dewan Shafiul Arefin Tutul

demanded justice on the police

assault and torture on sportsmen

ference at the DRU auditorium

said that they were worried about

In reply to a question. Mubashar

The SKP also demanded investigation into all corruption and irregularity and publish white papers on

Dhaka gears FROM PAGE 17

Bashar for the first time sounded unhappy for being a cricketer. "It is a pity that I have to play

cricket tomorrow while people will watch Zidane. I would have been happy if the match (Corporate

Asif appeals against ban

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan paceman Mohammad Asif Monday said he had filed an appeal against a one-year ban imposed on him by the Pakistan Cricket Board for a failed drug test.

The Daily Star

"I have filed my appeal through my lawyer, Aftab Gul, and submitted it to the PCB's medical officer. Doctor Sohail Saleem, and I hope my ban will be reviewed by the

appeal committee," Asif told AFP. A PCB tribunal last week banned Asif for one year and fellow paceman Shoaib Akhtar for two years after the pair tested positive for the

banned steroid nandrolone. The tests were conducted in September and once the results were known, in mid-October, the PCB suspended the pair, pulling them out of the Champions Trophy in India.

The ban also means both are ruled out of next year's World Cup in the West Indies

The PCB had already announced a two-man appeal committee comprising former High Court judge Fakhruddin Ibrahim and former Test cricketer Haseeb

Ehsan Asif's lawyer, Gul, is a former Test opener who played six Tests for Pakistan between 1969 and 1971.

"This is a case of mitigation and sentence to our client," Gul told AFP.

SPORT

Urge to

change

bosses

appointments.

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vesterday.

would be on it.

them.

every other administration.

SPORTS REPORTER

sports fed



wickets in the final.

average is 46.38.

highest individual score of 374 in July against South Africa while leading Sri Lanka to a 2-0 sweep.

French Open champion Nadal will be ranked player in the field following the withdrawals of Federer, Nadal, David Now Davydenko, who still has the Nalbandian and Andys Roddick. Masters Cup final to come in a week's time followed by December's Davis Cup final, wants to focus on challenging for the biggest tournaments next ATP

Bangladesh Cricket Board's international TV deal and believed that there was scope for corruption with an outgoing lawmaker of BNP being Tennis the president of the board. Former Bangladesh Football Federation general secretary Harunur Rashid suggested that it AFP, Paris would be better to hold the federa-New world number three Nikolay tion polls after the national elections

Paris on Sunday.

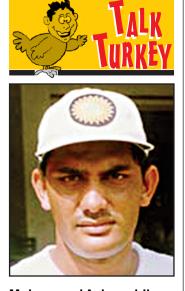
looking down on him.

After a day's break, the league will resume today with Mariner Youngs Club taking on Sonali Bank at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium 2.45pm.

Tomorrow, Mohammedan Sporting Club will take on bottomtable Bangladesh Sporting Club at 1.30pm while Usha and Abahani clash at 2.45pm at the same venue.



Triathlon and taekwondo were first introduced in the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games



Mohammad Azharuddin

(Former India cricket captain) "I am deeply humbled by the honour bestowed on me. It makes me a very happy man."

After being honoured by the Board of Control for Cricket in India for his services to the sport.

"I didn't realise the extent of the injury until I got back to my (bowling) mark, and by then it was too late. It was probably the one regret of the whole Ashes series." Ponting still bears the scar a year on, and Harmison said he had never spoken to the

Johan Cryuff and Barcelona were

also said to be in the running but he

At Turin, Zidane evolved into a

chose the team from Turin instead.

player of some repute finally estab-

lishing himself as a world beater

playing alongside the likes of Didier

Deschamps and Edgar Davids. He

twice won the Scudetto featuring

heavily both times and weighing in

with some superlative goals. With

Juventus, Zidane also reached two

consecutive Champions League

finals but lost both, firstly to

Borussia Dortmund and the second

to Real Madrid. The losses

prompted Zidane to vow that he

would win the Champions League

scene with his two headed goals in

the World Cup final in Paris in 1998,

proving for the first time that there

was greatness hidden away behind

the shy and unassuming demean-

Further evidence of his great-

ness was proved in Euro 2000

when an inspirational Zidane was

at his unstoppable best in the

French march to the title. True it

was a great France team but the

enduring image of that tournament

will doubtless be of Zidane's

slaloming run from the edge of his

own box as he skipped and pirouet-

ted around almost the entire

Portuguese team. That was Zidane

at his best, a figure of intense

authority and one whom you could

count on when the chips were

down. He was at a level above the

mere mortals and it was a fact close

friend Bixenti Lizarazu was aware

of when he famously remarked,

"When you don't know what to do

arrived at Real Madrid in the sum-

mer of 2001, thanks to a napkin

The story goes that Zidane

with the ball, give it to Zidane."

Zidane burst into the world

one day.

our.

"But I'd never target anybody, because if you get Ricky Ponting out, then Damien Martyn comes in, Adam Gilchrist comes in after

way possible."

respect for Ponting.

that. Good players come in. You lose focus if that happens." Harmison did not feel he had a singular responsibility to lead the England attack against the Aussies.

you want to play for Real Madrid?"

and passed round a table at the

Monte Carlo sports club -- a napkin

upon which Zidane then wrote

"Yes", in English, and passed back.

That and the small sum of 78 million

Furos, which Juventus pocketed

At Real, Zidane became the

iewel in the crown, the chief

'galactico' and his partnership with

Roberto Carlos in a team also

featuring Ronaldo and Luis Figo

will go down in folklore. It was at

Real also that Zidane came full

circle and kept his vow of winning

the Champions League. And like all

great players, Zidane himself made

the difference scoring a goal that

many recognise as the best ever to

a dip as he watched injured on the

sidelines as the defending champi-

ons exited at the first round in the

2002 World Cup. Euro 2004 started

brightly and again it was Zidane

leading from the front with two

goals against England but they

bowed out to eventual champions

Greece in the quarterfinal and

Zidane bid international football a

Real till 2006 and then bid the club

an emotional goodbye as fans

across the Bernabeu shouted

'merci' while the players sported

The talisman did not stay away

Italy underlined him for what he is --

Zidane played out his contract at

premature goodbye.

2001-2006."

who he is.

Post 2002, Zidane's career took

settle any final.

for letting go of their gem.

' To aspire to these heights, those umpires need to have confidence in the system -- that they are supported by best-practice administration and processes."

Sutherland said CA regarded Hair as one of the best umpires in the world and, if available, it would welcome him back to officiate in Australian interstate cricket.

Cricket League final) was deferred. he said echoing the sentiment of fellow cricketers. "I wish he was here with Real

Madrid's full 'galactico' squad but still, it is the biggest thing to hit Bangladesh since Muhammad Ali's arrival in 1981," said Rabeed Imam, Editor of tigercricket.com.

Rasheduzzaman, a student of NSU, said: "I'm very excited. A world renowned hero like Zidane is a great inspiration to our country at this time.

His NSU mate Saaolat hoped the arrival of Zidane would boost the country's game. "It's great but I think he's coming due to a commercial reason only. But I really hope that this visit will give our dwindling football hope in some way."

"I just hope that his visit gives us a sudden boost of some sort. But as

he's a red passport holder (UN goodwill ambassador), I hope he uses it to good effect to Bangladesh in the future," said Tasnib Ahmed, a student. Tanvir, service holder, said, "It

would have been great if he came iust to play football.

"Zidane's visit must be lauded as he's here to promote a product that is for children's health. Nonetheless, he's a great footballer and surely this is a proud moment for Bangladesh," BUET student Parvez Mahmood commented.

Same old

FROM PAGE 20

Essien's face. They always have an excuse. He has perfect vision ... two matches with him, and five points we have lost."I have had in my mind for a long time that referees should come to press conferences after the game to explain their decisions. But it would be a fake press conference, because they would come with their excuses -- and you can do nothing about it."

Spurs too hot FROM PAGE 20

after he was felled by a coin thrown from the crowd. It struck the back of his head as he waited to take a throw-in late in the first half.

It was the second such unsavoury incident in the top flight this weekend. On Saturday, Fulham's Claus Jensen was hit on the head by a coin during their 1-0 victory over Everton, leading manager Chris Coleman to call for a prison sentence for the perpetrator.



Russian Nikolay Davydenko kisses the Paris Masters Trophy after beating Slovakia's Dominik Hrbaty in the final at Bercy Indoor Tournament on Sunday.

let us down in the tournament. But

am looking forward to taste the

CCL final today

FROM PAGE 17

already made his mark in Beximco's 61-run success against Partex in the second semifinal on Sunday.

"It is nice to come back in Bangladesh to play cricket because there is a real excitement about the game in the country. And another reason is I always love to share experience with the young guys and I know that there are some very good young talents here," added Jayasuriya, who along with his former skipper Ariuna Ranatunga appeared in the Damal Summer semifinal for Mohammedan immediately after winning the World Cup back in 1996

He assured that he would give hundred per cent effort in the match as a professional cricketer.

"I came here because we have got a two-week break. We are professionals and our job is to play cricket -- be it your own club, your country or any other club," said the prolific batsman, who is only the fourth player in ODI history to have scored more than 10 thousand runs

The leading Sri Lankan batsman expressed his disappointment over his side's failure in the ICC Champions Trophy but said that he was looking forward to winning the second World Cup in 2007.

"I think it was disappointing for us because we couldn't reach the last four, but our batting actually

Hameed. Khan given call-ups

CRICINFO, undated

SQUAD

Umar Gul.

second World Cup success because we have been playing Yasir Hameed, the opening batsgood cricket for the last few man, has been recalled to months," said Jayasuriya, who was Pakistan's squad for the first two instrumental in Sri Lanka's 1996 Tests against West Indies while World Cup victory. Samiullah Khan, the young left-arm paceman, has also been included.

With the arrival of the ace Lankan batsman, both Beximco captain Akram Khan and Acme and national skipper Habibul Bashar were looking forward to a fitting CCL final.

"I hope it would be a very exciting final because both the teams have number of good local players to their arsenal besides the quality foreign recruitments. I hope our main batsmen rise to occasion tomorrow," said former national

skipperAkram. 'I am really excited about the final. Sanath (Jayasuriya) already talked with me about the final

match and it is really encouraging that he is very serious about the match. We are looking forward to a very exciting final," said Bashar, whose side handed a seven-wicket defeat on Epyllion on their way to the title match.

He however was little bit disappointed with the security arrangements and other facilities in the open-ended ground. "I'm really concerned with the security. And you all know the dressing rooms here are not quality ones to accommodate the players like Sanath and Kumar.'

Sevilla go

Imran Farhat, Mohammad Hafeez,

Yasir Hameed, Younis Khan,

Mohammad Yousuf, Inzamamul

Haq (captain), Faisal Iqbal, Shoaib

Malik, Abdul Razzaq, Kamran

Akmal, Danish Kaneria, Samiullah

Khan, Shahid Nazir, Abdul Rehman,

FROM PAGE 20 van Nistelrooy failed to make the difference.

Ronaldo would then make way for Beckham, but before the Brazilian tramped off he tested Pinto again with a drive from the left.

Fabio Cannavaro then saved Real by dispossessing Nene as he was about to bear down on Casillas. Celta manager Fernando Vazquez then replaced Canobbio with Jorge, and that proved to be an inspirational substitution.

In the 82nd minute Real's Jose Antonio Reyes, on as a second half substitute, gave up possession cheaply and Jorge pounced to beat Casillas.

Zidane is an enigma and this is why the humble Frenchman has such a following His football is elegant and masterful, charged with technique and vision. But he can still erupt into shocking violence that is as sudden as it is inexplicable. This streak of

a genius. His headbutt of Marco

Materazzi showed him for what he

also is -- a mere mortal. That is why

impudence and impetuosity and his tempestuous attitude on the pitch have won him guite a lot of detractors. Many point out that he has been sent off 14 times in his career. However it would be wrong to remember Zidane for his flaws. After all, Hitler loved his dog, but we don't remember him for it.

The word Zidane in Arabic means "an overabundance of." And if there is anything that Zinedine Zidane has an overabundance of, it is talent and unbreakable belief in himself. Also he has not forgotten his roots. At Juventus, Gianni Agnelli and his entourage were dazzled by his football but baffled by his reluctance to take advantage of the rewards on offer in Turin -the airls, the niahtclubs, the cars. Unlike Michel Platini, loved by the Juve fans as much for his flamboyant wit as for his football, Zidane was remote, inscrutable, devoted to his wife, his extended family and his children. Plus he had a very personal understanding of the things that really mattered in life.

jerseys with the message "Zidane These are the traits that helped make a fragile and slow boy from Marseilles into a legend of epic for long as he returned in full flight proportions. The story of Zinedine and helped France qualify for the Zidane is of a man who lives life on 2006 World Cup. What happened his own terms; a fact evident even this summer in Germany also further evidenced why Zidane is when he danced his last waltz in the Olympic Stadium in Berlin.

His imperious performances Some say Zidane left in shame against Brazil and Portugal and his but if you ask him all he would probably do would smile and say, audacious goal in the final against "c'est la vie." (this is life)

Bienvenue Monsieur Zidane FROM PAGE 17 upon which then president earn him a transfer to Italian giants Florentino Perez had written "Do Juventus for 3 million pounds.