

BTC to sponsor Club Cup

Bangladesh Tobacco Company has agreed to sponsor the Club Cup charity soccer tournament scheduled to begin on May 31 at the Dhaka Stadium.

The Bangladesh Football Federation and Dhaka Metropolitan Football Club Association have agreed to jointly organise this tournament which will be now known as BTC Club Cup tournament.

The three leading Calcutta teams, Mohun Bagan, East Bengal and Calcutta Mohammedans will arrive in the capital tomorrow. The organisers will bear the costs of air-passage and local hospitality of the participating Calcutta teams.

The teams divided in two groups will play their first phase matches from May 31 to

Sports Reporter

On June 2 Mohun Bagan will meet Abahani KC at 4.30 pm while East Bengal will play with Dhaka Mohammedans at 6.30 pm.

The semi-final matches will be held on June 4 and 5 at 6.30 pm while the final match will be played on June 7 at 5.30 pm.

Rate of gallery tickets has been fixed at Tk 20 each, VIP Gate No-2 Tk 70, Gate No 3/A Tk 50 and Gate No 3/B at Tk 30 each.

For the final the rate of gallery ticket will, however, be Taka 25 each while that of other tickets will remain unchanged.

An organising committee headed by State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka was formed earlier with seven other sub-committees for smooth holding of the tournament.

Group A — Mohun Bagan, Calcutta Mohammedans and Abahani KC.

Group B — East Bengal, Dhaka Mohammedans and Brothers Union.

On the opening day, East Bengal Club will take on Brothers Union at 4.30 pm while Mohun Bagan Club will meet Calcutta Mohammedans at 6.30 pm.

Dhaka Mohammedans will face Brothers Union at 4.30 pm while Calcutta Mohammedans will take on Abahani KC at 6.30 pm on June 1.

England-West Indies remaining cricket matches

May 27 : Third Texaco Trophy One-day International (Lord's), May 29, 30, 31 vs Somerset or Surrey (Taunton or The Oval). June 1, 2, 3 vs Leicestershire (Leicester). June 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 FIRST CORNHILL TEST MATCH (Leeds). June 12, 13, 14 vs Derbyshire or Lancashire (Derby or Manchester). June 15, 16, 17 vs Northamptonshire (Northampton). June 20, 21, 22, 24, 25 SECOND CORNHILL TEST MATCH (Lord's). June 26, 27 vs Oxford-Cambridge Universities (The Parks). June 28 vs League Cricket Conference (Trowbridge). June 29, 30, 31 vs Hampshire (Southampton). July 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 THIRD CORNHILL TESTMATCH (Nottingham). July 10, 11, vs Minor Counties (Darlington). July 13 vs Ireland (Downpatrick). July 15 vs Wales (Brecon). July 16, 17, 18 vs Glamorgan (Swansea). July 20, 21, 22 vs Kent (Canterbury). July 25, 26, 28, 29, 30 FOURTH CORNHILL TEST MATCH (Birmingham). July 31, August 1, 2, vs Nottinghamshire or Gloucestershire (Nottingham or Bristol). August 3, 4, 5, vs Essex (Chelmsford). August 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, FIFTH CORNHILL TEST MATCH (The Oval).

England, May 26: A new-look Argentina, but with their old fiery temperament still very much in evidence, scored twice in five minutes of the second half to grab a 2-2 draw against England in a triangular soccer tournament on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Captain Gary Lineker and David Platt had given England a 2-0 lead with goals in the 16th and 50th minutes and they appeared on course to settle an old score from the 1986 World Cup.

But Argentina, without banned captain Diego Maradona and with only two players from the side that lost to Germany in last year's World Cup final, burst to life with two headed goals from Claudio Garcia and Dario Franco in the 66th and 71st minutes.

The match turned nasty in the closing stages as Argentina, under new coach Alfio Basile, sensed victory.

It was the first game between the sides since Maradona's "hand of god" goal against England in the quarter-final of the 1986 Mexico World Cup.

In the final minute, Garcia was booked for a rash tackle on Lee Dixon as tempers became frayed.

A few minutes earlier, several Argentine players had argued furiously with Yugoslav referee Zoran Petrovic as he tried to restart the match with a drop ball after a male stalker had run on the pitch.

England's goals won them the tournament after a mid-week victory over the Soviet Union and stretched their unbeaten run under manager Graham Taylor to eight games.

Lineker, who missed Tuesday's victory over the Soviet Union, exposed the slow Argentina defence with a darting

Argentina draw with England



run to grab the opening goal, the 40th of his England career. Stuart Pearce's free kick looked too long, but Lineker sped in and sent his header past World Cup goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea.

John Barnes had a rare right-foot shot superbly turned round the post in the 40th minute by Goycochea, who saved a penalty in their mid-week draw against the Soviet Union.

The Argentines almost equalised a minute before half-time when Garcia was clear, but he blasted his shot wide.

Platt, who notched two goals in the 3-1 win against the Soviets on Tuesday, scored England's second with a header from a Pearce cross.

Taylor said, "we threw away a win with sloppy defending at two corners which is very unlike England."

"But I was very pleased with the performance on the whole. It was probably the best we have given since I have been in charge."

Points table after the first leg tabulating as matches, wins, draws, losses, goals favour, goals against and points:

South Korea	4	3	1	0	18	17	
Thailand	4	3	0	1	15	6	
Malaysia	4	2	1	1	7	4	
Bangladesh	4	1	0	3	10	2	
Philippines	4	0	0	4	1	32	0

According to a message received in Dhaka hosts South Korea finished top in the first leg with seven points. Thailand earned six points followed by Malaysia with five points.

Bangladesh collected only two points beating the underdogs, the Philippines, 8-0 in their last match.

The second leg of the group will be held in Kuala Lumpur from June 29 to July 8.

Thais thrash Filipinos

Thailand trounced the Philippines 7-1 and South Korea drew goalless with Malaysia in the Barcelona Olympic football qualifiers Asian Group "D" at the Chamsil Olympic Stadium in Seoul, South Korea on the final day yesterday, reports BSS.

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Diego must decide now

BUENOS AIRES, May 26: Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona, out on bail on cocaine charges, could escape a jail term of up to two years by voluntarily joining a drug rehabilitation programme, legal sources said on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Local news agencies, quoting court sources, reported on Friday that Maradona's blood and urine samples had indicated he was dependent on

drugs rather than a sporadic user. Legal sources, commenting on the report said a judge could under local law allow Maradona to opt for up to two years of drug treatment instead of going to jail if he were proven to be drug-dependent.

In such a case, criminal proceedings against the stocky midfielder would be dropped. If convicted of possession and consumption charges, Maradona would face three months to two years in jail.

Maradona, banned from soccer until July 1992 for failing a dope test in March, is also accused of supplying drugs to others free of charge.

If found guilty of those charges, he could face three to 12 years in jail but the charges could be dropped if the amount of cocaine involved were less than five grams, the legal sources added.

Reports have differed as to how much cocaine was found at the suburban flat where Maradona.

Slaney clocks year's best

SAN JOSE, California, May 26: Often injured Mary Slaney made an impressive return to international athletics by clocking four minutes 4.92 seconds for the fastest women's 1,500 metres of the year at the Bruce Jenner Classic Grand Prix meeting on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Leroy Burrell easily won the men's 200 metres as he used an aiding wind of 2.9 metres per second to clock 20.02 seconds.

The time, although wind-aided, equalled countryman Michael Johnson's beat time of the year, as Burrell prepared to face Johnson at the US national championships in three weeks.

But Burrell said his time in his first 200 metres of the year wasn't a message for Johnson.

"He's going to run the 200, and I'm going to run the 200, and eventually one of us is going to win," said Burrell, who will attempt to qualify for the world championships in both the 100 and 200 metres at the US meeting.

Slaney, the 1983 world champion, held off compatriot American Pattisue Plumer in a stirring stretch run to claim her first outdoor track victory in three years.

"It feels great to win, it feels even better to be running healthy," said Slaney, who has been hampered by problems

with her Achilles tendon and ran her first race in more than a year at a small meeting, in Eugene, Oregon, earlier this month.

Sue Rembao, another American making a comeback, cleared 1.96 metres (six-foot five inches) for the best women's high jump of the outdoor season. She previously competed as Sue McNeal.

Olympic silver medalist Mike Powell needed his sixth and final jump to take first in the men's long jump with a leap of 8.30 metres (27 feet 3/4 inches) and former world record holder Renaldo Nehemiah captured the men's 110-metre hurdles in 13.47 seconds.

Olympic double gold medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersey, competing in a mini-helptathlon, won her section of the women's 100-metre hurdles in a wind-aided 13.02 seconds and cleared 1.90 metres (six feet 2 3/4 inches) in the high jump.

Americans won both 3,000-metre races. Shelly Steely won the women's race in eight minutes 50.39 seconds and Aron Ramirez took the men's event in seven minutes 45.82 seconds. Briton Steve Cram was a no-show.

Olympic champion Steve Lewis won the men's 400 metres in 45.28 seconds. Dean Starkey soared 5.76 metres (18 feet 10 3/4 inches) to win the pole vault, and German Astrid Kumbernuss won the women's shot put with a best of 19.13 metres (62 feet 9 1/4 inches).

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BUET cagers named

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) has announced a ten-member squad to take part in the Inter-University basketball championship scheduled to begin on May 30 at the Agricultural University, Mymenstingh.

The name of the players are: Asif Hossain, Maksudul Anwar, Abdul Jabbar, Shaiful Bari Tonu, Mahmoodul Anwar Riyad, Asifuzzaman, Mustaq Ahmed Titaz, Syed Humayun Raihan Sagar, Anwarul Hannan.

The selected players has been requested to report to the coach, Iqbal Hossain Aml, to join the practice session.

Stojkovic won't play against Red Star Belgrade

DIGNE, France, May 26: Marseille's Yugoslav midfielder Dragan Stojkovic will not start next week's European Soccer Cup final against his former teammates of Red Star Belgrade, coach Raymond Goethals said on Saturday, reports Reuter.

"Stojkovic will have a prominent place... on the bench," Goethals said.

The World Cup midfielder, signed by Marseille last year, has been out of action for most of the season with a knee injury.

He played his first full match with Marseille this year in a league match at Nice on Wednesday.

England's morale gets a boost

MANCHESTER, England, May 26: England clinched a nine-run victory over the West Indies at Old Trafford on Saturday to take an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the three-match one-day series, reports Reuter.

Chasing England's total of 270 for four in 55 overs, the West Indies finished on 261 for eight despite a fine 78 from 84 balls by captain Viv Richards.

England's score after losing the toss was their highest in a one-day international against the West Indies.

Michael Atherton, man of the match at Edgbaston 24 hours earlier, hit 74. Allan Lamb smashed 62 from 50 balls and Graham Gooch contributed 54 as the English batsman for once enjoyed themselves against the West Indies fast bowlers.

Lamb, forced to go to hospital for a precautionary X-ray after being hit on the right foot, was named man of the match.

The final game of the series will be played at Lord's on Monday.

The West Indies entered the final 10 overs needing 88 runs to win with Richards and Carl Hooper together at the crease.

Richards, still capable of playing shots other players can only dream about, smashed two sixes and six fours but was trapped leg before by Chris Lewis just when his side seemed to be on course for victory.

Hooper (48), had already steered a catch to gully and, despite some lusty blows from Malcolm Marshall, the task of scoring 19 runs from the final over was too much.

The tourists also suffered with injuries, opener Gordon Greenidge batting only in an emergency after injuring a knee in the field. His opening partner Desmond Haynes was already missing, forcing Phil Simmons and Jeff Dujon to form a make shift first wicket pairing.

They put on a breezy 34 for the first wicket but could not compete with England's opening pair of Atherton and Gooch.

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Bayern find goal scoring touch

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Bayern cast aside the absence of several key players to close the gap at the top to two points with three games remaining. Saturday's goal scoring spree may be crucial if one of the closest title races for years goes to goal difference.

Bayern went into the game without German World Cup player Jurgen Kohler and his defensive partner Roland Grammer who are both suspended.

Jupp Heynckes's side looked hesitant early on until the diminutive Thon struck his first goal to bring relief in the 19th minute. Striker Sven Kretschmer hit an equalizer for the visitors in the 37th minute.

But once Stefan Effenberg put Bayern 2-1 up two minutes later and Thon added a penalty just before half-time the issue was never in doubt.

Roland Wohlfarth, the league's top scorer, boosted his season's tally to 20 with goals in the 50th and 54th minutes before the 25-year-old Thon completed his hat-trick in the 72nd.

Dragotin Celic and Marco Zernicke scored consolation goals for bottom of the table Hertha in the 59th and 87th minutes.

"Often the easiest games for us turn out to be the hardest. Today it was different," Heynckes said. "Grammer and Kohler were not easy to replace in defence and there were a few communication problems."

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Agassi out to make his mark

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Now the controversial American, determined to make the change from clown to champion, has set his sights on the French Open title.

Agassi, adored by his teenage fans and frowned on by officials, lost a four-set final last year to Ecuador's Andres Gomez.

He went on to win the year-ending ATP World Championship, but above all Agassi longs to win his first Grand Slam tennis title.

The two-week French Open, starting on Monday, is his best hope.

"I'm ready," said Agassi who arrived in Paris in mid-week, instead of flying in at the last

minute as he did last year. "Things are better this year. I've played more tournaments and I got here well in advance."

Agassi, 21, has won only one title this year, in the Orlando Hardcourt tournament in Florida in April.

He made early exits at Monte Carlo and the Italian Open and admits he needs a bit of time to settle down on clay.

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