

## Federation Cup from June 11

### Sports Reporter

The 12th Federation Cup football tournament under the auspices of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) begins on June 11.

This was decided during a tournament committee meeting at the BFF office yesterday.

Four divisional teams along with twenty Senior Division clubs will take part in the meet.

The fixture of the meet will be announced today.

### Kiwis enjoy a good day

**CHELMSFORD**, England, May 30: Dion Nash continued New Zealand's heartening revival on Sunday with the prize wicket of Graham Gooch on the second day of the tourists' three-day match against Essex, reports Reuter.

After New Zealand had declared their first innings closed at 428 for five, Nash dismissed Gooch for 42 and fellow-opener John Stephen for 32 in an Essex total of 175 for four at the close.

New Zealand, beaten by an innings by Yorkshire in their last outing, badly needed a good performance against the strong Essex side before Thursday's first Test against England.

Resuming at 314 for three, they lost their overnight pair of captain Ken Rutherford (129) and Stephen Fleming (32) early on to Australian paceman Michael Kasprowicz.

Adam Parore was forced to retire hurt when he was hit on the elbow by Kasprowicz before all rounders Shane Thomson (52 not out) and Gavin Larsen (28 not out) took the chance for some batting practice on a benign pitch.

Former England skipper Gooch, recalled to the Test side on Sunday after missing the tour of West Indies, looked in fine form, scoring his runs off only 59 balls before steering Nash to Martin Crowe at gully.

The rest of the day's play was dominated by Nasser Hussain, who could not force his way into the Test side in the West Indies and was not selected for the first Test at Trent Bridge.

Hussain hit six fours in an unbeaten 53 from 116 balls against some accurate bowling from Nash, who finished with two for 45 from 15 overs, and left arm spinner Matthew Hart who captured one for 55 from 24 overs.

### India to play in Singer World Series

**CALCUTTA**, May 30: The 1994-95 season for the Indian cricket team would start in September this year with a quadrangular series in Sri Lanka, according to the BCCI secretary Jagmohan Dalmiya, reports PTI.

Dalmiya told newsmen here that the Singer World Series featuring India, Pakistan, Australia and the hosts Sri Lanka would begin on September four with Sri Lanka facing India in the inaugural match. The final, which would be played at the Khetarama Stadium in Colombo, would be a day-and-night affair.

Dalmiya said that as per the itinerary given by the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL), there would be four day-and-night matches in the tournament, while the rest would be day matches. All the teams would play against each other, with the top two teams battling it out in the final.



TEAM WORK Nazar Ali Hossain, Abahani's Iraqi forward gives veteran teammate Sheikh Aslam a hand during the practice session at the club ground yesterday. Abahani take on Brothers Union in the final of the third DMFA Cup scheduled for a 5:30 pm start at the Dhaka Stadium today.

— Star photo by Anisur Rahman

## Ireland gun Germans down



**HANOVER**, Germany, May 30: Ireland threw a huge spanner in the works of Germany's World Cup preparations when they sent the world champions crashing to their first defeat at home for six years with a 2-0 victory on Sunday, reports Reuter.

A 31st minute header from Chelsea striker Tony Cascarino and a 68th-minute strike from substitute Gary Kelly gave Ireland a shock victory over the Germans just three weeks before the start of the World Cup finals.

It was Germany's first loss on home soil since falling 2-1 to the Netherlands in the semifinals of the 1984 European Championship and Ireland's first win over Germany for 34 years.

Although both goals came against the run of play, Germany, fielding five of the team which contested the 1990 World Cup final, looked very ordinary for much of the encounter and frustrated the home fans in the 50,000 crowd.

After defeating the Netherlands 1-0 on Dutch soil last month, Ireland showed what difficult opponents they are going to be in the United States where they meet Italy, Norway and Mexico in Group E.

The Irish last beat the German 1-0 in Dusseldorf on May 11, 1960. Germany coach Berti Vogts will not forget Sunday's defeat in a hurry. His team failed to find a way past some tight Irish marking.

In another Irish breakaway Kelly, who came on at the start of the second half, hit a left-

footed shot from the edge of the area which took a deflection off German midfielder Martin Wagner into the net with German keeper Bodo Illgner stranded.

The Irish fans started singing 'always look on the bright side of life' with 15 minutes to go as the celebrations began.

Although the Germans have had poor performances prior to previous World Cups before lifting their form at the right time, they will find it difficult to take the joke so close to the June 17 kick-off in the US.

Vogts' team continue their build-up with another friendly against Austria on Thursday before meeting Canada in Toronto on June 8 in their last test before the finals.

Vogts said he was happy his team had lost in the friendly rather than when his team open the World Cup against Bolivia in their first Group C match in Chicago on June 17.

German midfielder Thomas Strunz forced Irish goalkeeper Alan Kelly to tip the ball over the bar in a brilliant save in the 39th minute but the dissatisfied crowd whistled the German defender Juergen Kohler failed to reach and Cascarino nodded the ball home at the post.

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## Courier's soul searching ...



**PARIS**, May 30: Jim Courier wants a third French Open title in four years, but if it happens, some may struggle to recognise the smiling man holding the trophy aloft, reports Reuter.

When the American faces his compatriot Pete Sampras in the quarter-finals at Roland Garros he insists the world will find a more cheerful character beneath the trademark baseball cap.

Even those who have witnessed Courier regularly during his career are having to admit the previously sullen 23-year-old seems to have under-

gone a near-total personality change. There was nothing so different about his dogged four-set victory over Frenchman Olivier Delattre in Sunday's fourth round but his weekend interview with the French sports newspaper L'Equipe and post-match de-mourne revealed a man apparently desperate to be liked.

"It was not a good match. I expected the midfield to be better and to create more chances. But I'm happy that the defeat came today rather than on June 17."

Ireland's English coach Jack Charlton said too much should not be read into the result.

"We've enjoyed the win but we won't make too much of it," he said. "It was a friendly and the game is 10 yards quicker when you get down to the real business."

In reply, Mariner Young's were bundled out for 110 in 28.2 overs with Masum and Rana contributing 20 and 26 runs each.

Mukti of Seven Brothers finished with a three wicket haul for 15 runs while Sunny took two for 21.

At the Jagannath Hall ground, Oassis Club recorded a massive seven-wicket win over Mohammadpur SS to emerge Group A champions.

Batting first, Mohammadpur survived a humiliating defeat after Lipon, coming in at number five, hammered an unbeaten half century to steer his side to a respectable 111 for nine in the allotted 35 overs.

Now Sampras beckons in the quarter-finals, a first meeting on clay between the long-time friends.

So will the newly-appointed Mr Nice Guy spare a thought for Sampras' guest to be the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to win four successive Grand Slam titles?

Not a chance. "I'm playing for me. Pete's playing for him. Whatever happens will happen. I'm not really worried about what he's thinking."

"Most of the time, I don't want people to know what I think or what I feel. It's like if I was afraid of saying what's really happening. It's stupid ...

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

### ACROSS

1 Exercise a

la Clinton

4 Beauty's

9 Purse

12 Copper

13 Viewpoint

14 George's

15 Grownup

17 Fall behind

18 Samuel's

19 Louise's

21 Small ape

24 Slithery

25 "The

Greatest"

26 Flushed

28 Nouveau

31 Window

ledge

33 Knightly

address

35 Poky

36 Serf

38 Energy

40 Article in

"Paris

Match?"

41 "Show

of Shows"

### DOWN

1 Holyfield

2 Sapporo

3 Hair-salon

4 Waco

5 They get

started at

6 Past

7 Chalk-

8 Leash

9 Nightstick

10 Composer

11 Wildly

12 Enthusiastic

13 Beirut's

14 Land: abbr.

15 Site of

16 ancient

17 Olympics

18 Long cut

19 Opponent

20 of Jimmy

21 and Bjorn

22 Indian-

23 apolis

24 "White

25 Wedding

26 singer

27 Pick-

28 pocket

29 Whet

30 Rams'

31 "White

32 Wedding

33 "White

34 "White

35 "White

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