

BTV to cover SAARC cricket

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Television will telecast the matches of the second SAARC cricket championship live. The four-nation tournament begins December 22 at the Dhaka Stadium.

Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka have already announced their teams and the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB), organisers of this invitational meet, is expected to name the host squad today.

Apart from Bangladesh, who will be fielding the national selection, the three participating countries will send second string sides to the limited overs tourney.

The first edition of the quadrangular meet was called off halfway through due to political unrest following the demolition of Babri Mosque in Ayodha, India.

Dhaka Collegiate School back in Nirman cricket

The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) has withdrawn the suspension on Dhaka Collegiate School from the Nirman School cricket tournament, a BCCB press release said here yesterday, reports BSS.

The school was suspended from the tournament for violating the tournament rules in the 1992-93 season.

Blewett upsets NSW's applecart

ADELAIDE, Dec 18: Part-time medium-pacer Greg Blewett humbled reigning champions New South Wales to put South Australia well in command on the second day of their Sheffield Shield match on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Blewett dismissed Test stars Steve Waugh, Mark Taylor and Michael Bevan, as well as youngster Shane Lee, as NSW struggled to 193 for six in reply to South Australia's first innings total of 428 at the Adelaide Oval.

Mark Waugh was unbeaten on 16 and represented their best hope for reaching the 279 required to avoid the humiliation of being forced to follow-on.

Blewett, with only 23 first-class wickets in a 37-match career before this game, finished with four for 39 from 12 overs.

South Australia were bowled out in the over before lunch and it all looked plain sailing for NSW as they reached 145 for one.

To rub salt into the wound,

Forest dent M United pride

LONDON, Dec 18: Nottingham Forest striker Stan Collymore finally ended Manchester United's proud

record on Saturday when he became the first player in more than eight months to score a Premier league goal at Old Trafford, reports Reuter.

It left Blackburn on 43

points after 19 matches, two ahead of United with early season leaders Newcastle five points adrift of the leaders after another goalless draw at Coventry.

Collymore, reportedly a transfer target for United manager Alex Ferguson, opened open

his account with a goal in the opening minute.

A diving header by Sutton forced Poole into a save at full stretch a few minutes later.

Stuart Ripley should have scored for Blackburn after 20 minutes when he exchanged a neat one-two with Mark Atkins, took the ball around Poole but sliced his shot wide.

England striker Shearer blasted the ball over the Leicester ball in the 30th minute and then Poole saved well from Shearer's England colleague Graeme Le Sueux.

But somehow Leicester clung

on, even denying Blackburn in a frantic final 15 minutes and in the end deserved point for their courage.

Leeds' South African striker Phil Masinga fired a double to ruin Arsenal's hopes of providing a boost for under-fire manager George Graham, accused earlier in the week of accepting money illegally in a transfer deal.

But Forest were not to be

denied. A corner in the 62nd

minute was only partially

cleared and the ball fell to

Pearce. His shot from outside

the area took a wicked deflection off a defender and Gary

Walsh in the United goal had no

chance as it flew into the corner of the net.

United never found their

rhythm but they fought back

desperately — at times too desper-

ately.

The undercurrent of violence

finally boiled over in the 67th

minute when three players were

booked. United midfielder Paul

Ince was incensed when

brought down by a scything

tackle by Bryan Roy who was

immediately shown the yellow card.

But the incident angered

players on both sides and

United winger Ryan Giggs and

Forest fullback Des Lyttle

squared up to each other, leaving

the referee no alternative but to book them both.

Little had been seen of

Giggs, returning after injury, in

the first half but it was his

corner kick which put United

back into the game. Cantona

met the ball perfectly at the

near post to head it out of the

reach of Forest goalkeeper Mark

Crossley.

United battled feverishly for

the equaliser but desperate de-

fending, including a goaline

clearance by Steve Stone, kept

them at bay and saw the last

100 per cent home record in

English football fall.

Leicester manager Mark

McGhee's reign at Filbert Street

started with his team's first

clean sheet in the Premier

league as they held visiting

Blackburn to a draw.

It was a brave defensive dis-

play by Leicester, with new cap-

tain Colin Hill and recalled

Jimmy Willis playing inspired

and determined.

Holders Mirpur Jubo

Sangha will take on Baragaoi

Samaj Kalyan Samity in the

first semifinal.

Orient Bread kabaddi

Imarat Nirman Sramik Union edged past Azad

Sporting Club 19-17 in a

quarter-final match of the

Orient Bread kabaddi league at

the kabaddi court yesterday,

reports UNB.

Imarat will face Sonali Bank

Club in the second semifinal

today. Sonali Bank entered the

last four outplaying Bangladesh

Bank 28-12.

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