Baggio & Juve reach end of the road

TURIN, June 6: Giovanni Agnelli, owner of league champions Juventus and of their star-forward Roberto Baggio, on Monday virtually kissed the player goodbye, reports AP.

"It's likely that Baggio leaves Juventus," Agnelli said in a television interview." Baggio can stay under condition he accepts a curtailed contract. But he's not apparently willing to accept."

Baggio, is opposing the halving of his yearly salary of about 4 billion lira (2.5 million dollars) by Juventus officials as condition for the extension of his contract, which expires at the end of June.

Agnelli, chairman and major shareholder of Italy's auto giant Fiat, recently depicted the 28-year-old player as the Raphael of soccer. He said on Monday, "We all at Juve would regret his transfer ... but budget requirements are priority for our club."

Baggio, a key player of Juventus and of the Italian national team, said he will talk of his future on June 12, the day after the last season engagement with Juve — the second-leg final of the Italian Cup against Parma.

Internazionale and Japanese and Spanish clubs have been bidding for Baggio, whose transfer fee would reach as high 21 billion lira (13 million dollars).

AC off on Asian tour

MILAN, June 6: Italian soccer powerhouse AC Milan left on Monday for a two-week Asian tour, including three exhibition games in China, one in Japan and one in Hong Kong, reports AP.

GianLuigi Lentini, Italy's most expensive transfer, and internationals Marcel Desailly, Franco Baresi, Paolo Maldini, Christian Panucci and Demetrio Albertini were part of the 20-player party.

The Milan team, which lost the Italian league title to Juventus of Turin and the Champions' Cup crown to Ajax Amsterdam this year, was without injured Montenegrin star-forward Dejan Savicevic and Italian striker Marco Simone.

To make up for their absence, AC Milan got Portuguese forward Paolo Futre on loan from Reggiana.

Croat midfielder Zvonimir Boban will join the teammates in China, where the Milan team will play exhibition games on June 7, 9 and 14.

The Italian team, owned by media tycoon and former premier Silvio Berlusconi, will take on Shimizu S-Pulse in Tokyo on June 11. The last game of the tour is scheduled in Hong Kong on June 18.

Meanwhile Juventus announced they had cancelled two exhibition games originally scheduled in China on June 14 and 17.

Barton hits the headlines

LONDON, June 6: Wimbledon's Warren Barton became England's most expensive defender on Monday when he completed a four million pounds (6.4 million dollars) move to Newcastle, reports Reuter.

Barton, 26, who is still looking for his first full England cap, was teaming up with the international squad in Leeds hours after passing a medical at St. Jame's Park.

England play Sweden in Leeds on Thursday in a four-nation tournament which also features Brazil and Japan.

Barton signed a four-year contract with Kevin Keegan's Newcastle and then said: "As soon as I spoke to the boss I didn't have any hesitation."

Barton's versatility in defence and midfield gives Keegan a wide option over his role next season.

But the player said: "I feel right-back is my strongest position. However, I will be quite happy in midfield — or even in goal — if it means playing for Newcastle."

Keegan, who has tracked Barton for some weeks, said: "Warren is a great signing for Newcastle. Our style will suit him and his style will suit us."

The 3.5 million pounds (5.3 million dollars) transfer to Liverpool of Barton's ex-Wimbledon teammate John Scales was the previous English record for a defender.

Francis quits Sheffield Wed

SHEFFIELD, England, June 6: Former Sampdoria star Trevor Francis Saturday became the 13th manager to leave an English Premier League team this season when Sheffield Wednesday announced they had terminated his contract a year early "by mutual agreement," reports AP.

Action from yesterday's Beximco 13th Federation Cup football tournament engagement between defending champions Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra and Chittagong Abahani KC at the Dhaka Stadium. The holder swamped the Chittagong outfit 6-0. — Star photo

Naquib slams a hattrick

Muktis sail, Abahani toil

Sports Reporter

Inspired by a brilliant hattrick from Imtiaz Ahmed Naquib defending champions Muktijodda Sangsad Krira Chakra made a resounding start in the Beximco 13th Federation Cup football tournament with a thumping 6-0 win over Chittagong Abahani Krira Chakra in one of the two second round openers at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

While Abahani Krira Chakra, the last year's runners-up, came from behind to earn a hard-fought 3-1 win over Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society in the second match of the day.

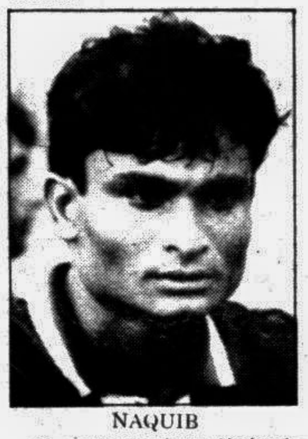
The match, scheduled for a 7 pm kick-off, started thirteen minutes later following an unnecessary delay by Abahani, who swaggered on to the ground seven minutes later defying the repeated whistle from referee M R Mukul.

Apart from the undesirable incident the match was a very enterprising one with forays and counter forays before Rahmatganj striker Mamunul Karim silenced nearly a strong 20000 crowd in the 35th minute when he fired into the net of his former club with a gem of a volley from outside the Abahani box.

The goal originated from a faulty clearance of Abahani's defender Chanchal, who in a bid to clear the ball with a header virtually allowed an on-rushing Mamunul Karim shot it home past an out of position Abahani custodian Dhanu.

After conceding the goal, Abahani came up firing on all four cylinders but were frustrated by a stubborn Rahmatganj custodian Lahul, who made some spectacular saves keeping their awe-inspirational opponents at bay.

Lahul, who had earlier made a reflex save off a powerful left-footer from Abahani's Russian midfielder Sergei in the ninth minute, offered yet another display of fine goalkeeping in the 40th minute fisting away an Iqbal volley at the cost of a corner.



NAQUIB

Two minutes later Abahani were denied an equaliser when Biplob's header rebounded off the cross-piece.

But after the breather Abahani had to wait for only four minutes before Vladimir, a too familiar Kazakh recruit of the Dhanmondi outfit, struck the equaliser from a penalty. The spot-kick was awarded when Biplob Marma unintentionally handled the ball in the forbidden zone while trying to cut off an Abahani attack.

The goal added fuel to Abahani's attacks, who picked up two more goals in quick succession through their striker Jamal and Sergei.

Sergei, who regained his touch of class in the second half, set free Jamal in the 57th minute to notch up the second goal while scored the third with a neat placing shot just one minute later to seal the fate of the match.

Meanwhile, in the first match of the day the star-studded Muktijoddha duly rolled up the Chittagong outfit with a moral boosting 6-0 win.

National striker Naquib, who was sidelined in the last couple of matches during the DMFA Cup, returned to action with a bang scoring the first hattrick in the second phase.

After Rakib gave the defending champions a 20th minute lead Naquib made it 3-0 with strikes in the 25th and 40th minute respectively before completing his hattrick at the stroke of the breather with a magnificent flying header off a Masud Rana cross from the right.

After a goalfeast first half Muktijoddha pressed for more during the second session and got their fifth goal in the 55th minute when Mizan send the ball home with a volley from inside the box.

Rakib, who opened the floodgate of goals, added more plight to a beleaguered Chittagong Abahani when he fittingly sealed the fate of the one-sided affair strucking his second and teams sixth goal three minutes away from the final whistle.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Brothers Union vs Fakirerpool YMC (5 pm)

Mohammedan SC vs Bangladesh Boys (7 pm)

Swiss cyclist shines in Japan

UTSUNOMIYA, Japan, June 6: Swiss cyclist Oscar Gamenzind won the men's race Tuesday while American Elizabeth Emery took the women's race and the overall lead after two legs of the '95 International Cycle Road Race, reports AP.

In a light rain, Gamenzind covered 123.60 kilometres (77.25 miles) through Utsunomiya Shinrin Park, north of Tokyo, in 3 hours, 26 minutes, 49.10 seconds — an average speed of 35.86 kilometers (22.41 miles) an hour.

Andrea Guidotti of Switzerland, who won the first leg of the six-race series on Sunday in Tokyo, placed second Tuesday in 3:29:13.31. Olivier Ouvrard of France was third in 3:30:02.31.

Japan's Takayuki Kakinoki finished fourth in 3:30:11.87.

Guidotti led the men's overall standings with three points.

Camenzind leads

NAGOYA, Japan, June 6: Oscar Camenzind of Switzerland finished fourth Saturday but kept the men's overall lead while American Emery Elizabeth maintained the women's lead after placing seventh in the '95 international Cycle road race in Nagoya, reports AP.

Italian Alain Turicchia won the men's 64.50-kilometre (39.99-mile) race at Shonai Special Course in Nagoya in central Japan, in 1 hour, 27 minutes, 30.66 seconds at an average speed of 44.22 kilometres (27.42 miles) an hour.

Turicchia was 0.04 seconds ahead of Tomokazu Fujino, who was clocked in 1:27:30.70. Fujino in turn edged Japanese compatriot Kyoshi Miura by 0.06 seconds.

Komen comes of age

NAIROBI, June 6: Daniel Komen of Kenya beat a world class field to take the 5,000 metres at the Africa Amateur Athletic Confederation (AAAC) meeting here on Saturday, reports AFP.

Komen, double world junior champion in the 5,000 and 10,000 clocked 13min 29.32 sec.

The field included compatriot Paul Bitok, the 1992 Olympic 5,000 silver medalist, who was unplaced, and another Kenyan Dominic Kirui, the 1993 World Cross-Country Championships silver medalist, who finished third.

Kenya's William Kalia came second clocking 13:38.32, while Kirui posted 13:44.85.

Vincent Malakwen, another unknown Kenyan, clocked 1:44.8 in the 800m which is the second fastest time set on African soul since compatriot Robert Kibet's 1:44.0 in 1989.

World champion Paul Ruto of Kenya finished seventh while South Africa champion Jurgen Koertz trailed the field in 1:50.0.

Abahani's striker Biplob (L) makes a move down the middle during their Beximco 13th Federation Cup opener against Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. The last year's runners-up came from behind to win the match 3-1. — Star photo

Unforgivable error

NORTH VANCOUVER, British Columbia, June 6: A cricket player who took off his helmet because of the heat died when hit in the head by a pitch, reports AP.

Greg Hobson, 21, of North Vancouver is the first person to be killed during a cricket match in Canada, said Ben Seebaran, president of the British Columbia Cricket Association.

Hobson was struck with a ball delivered by a member of the Vancouver Meralomas in a first-division match Saturday.

His twin brother Wayne, also a member of the North Shore team, joined players from both teams who tried to revive Hobson before an ambulance arrived. He was pronounced dead at hospital.

"The ball bounced up towards his face and he instinctively turned his head to the side and was hit in the base of the skull just behind his ear," said Greg Hobson's father, John.

Batsmen rarely wear helmets in Vancouver cricket games, though it is more common in the higher divisions where bowlers are especially fast. The cricket ball, made of leather, is considered the hardest ball in any sport.

Seebaran, who did not see the accident, said Hobson usually wore a helmet.

"I guess he felt he was able to operate more comfortably, and he was wanting to get as many runs for his team as possible."

Illingworth Worcester's inspiration

LONDON, June 6: Richard Illingworth celebrated his surprise England Test recall by helping Worcestershire to their first county championship victory of the season against Surrey on Monday, reports Reuter.

Left-arm spinner Illingworth, named in the 12-man squad for this week's first Test against the West Indies at Headingley, claimed three for 23 from 16.1 overs as Surrey slumped to a 134-run defeat.

Chasing a victory target of 287 in 74 overs, Surrey looked on curse at 100 for two, but lost their last eight wickets for 52 runs in 34 overs.

Another player inspired by his England call was Middlesex batsman Mark Ramprakash who hit an unbeaten 75 in the drawn match against Derbyshire at Lord's.

Given 71 overs to reach the victory target of 303 after Derbyshire had declared on 209 for three, Middlesex could only manage 130 for four by the close.

Durham's disappointing championship form continued as they crashed to their fifth successive defeat, by 115 runs against Kent, who moved into third place in the table.

Set a target of 201 in 95 overs after both sides declared in a bid to contrive a result, Durham were shot out for 85 - only two more than their lowest total in first-class cricket.

Mark Lathwell returned to the form which earned him a Test call two years ago by hitting 111-his first championship century of the season — to steer Somerset to a seven wicket victory over Yorkshire.

A mid-pitch action from yesterday's second semifinal of the Transcom national schools hockey championships between last years champions Narayanganj High School and Rajshahi Medical College Campus High School at the Hockey Stadium. The Rajshahi school won 2-0. — Star photo

Transcom national schools championship

Rajshahi, Moijuddin in final

Sports Reporter

Defending champions Narayanganj High School made their exit from the Transcom national schools championship after going down 2-0 in the semifinals against Rajshahi Medical College Campus High School at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

An early goal in the 14th minute from Shamim Reza, who scored both the goals for the strong Rajshahi outfit, gave his team a 1-0 lead at the breather. He put the issue beyond doubt ten minutes away from the final whistle.

Earlier in the other semifinal, Moijuddin High School knocked out last year's runners-up Ahmed Bawani Academy.

Ashifur Rahman opened the winners' account from a penalty corner in the 32nd minute. Arifur Rahman doubled the margin a minute from the breather.

Ashifur Rahman scored his second goal in the 52nd minute from a nice field goal.

Rajshahi Medical College Campus High School and Moijuddin High School will meet in the final tomorrow.

Kuzenkova's mark

MOSCOW, June 6: Olga Kuzenkova of Russia set a world record of 68.14 metres for the women's hammer at an international athletics meeting in Moscow on Monday, reports Reuter.

She beat the previous mark of 66.86 established by Mihaela Melinte of Romania in Bucharest.

Jansher in qtrs

NEW YORK, June 6: World champion Jansher Khan cruised through the second round of the New York, Sports Clubs Tournament of Champions at Grand Central Station on Monday, reports Reuter.

Khan defeated Britain's Paul Johnson 15-11, 15-6, 15-12 to reach the quarterfinals against eighth seeded Anthony Hill of Australia.

Luckless day for Lara

LONDON, June 6: Brian Lara was bowled for a duck second ball on Monday as the West Indies played out a tame draw against Northamptonshire in their last match before the first Test starts against England at Headingley on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The West Indian world record-breaker flew home to Trinidad last week to sort out some "urgent personal business," and it looked as though his head was still in the clouds at the County Ground when he wasted a golden opportunity for batting practice before the start of the Test.

Lara pushed back the first ball from former England seamer Paul Taylor — then launched into an intended cover drive second delivery and was bowled off an inside edge.

The visitors finished on 268 for five in reply to Northants' 281 all out and a draw was the only possible outcome after rival captains Courtney Walsh and Rob Bailey had failed to reach agreement on forfeitures and declarations following Saturday's wash-out.

Lara, who scored 375 against England 14 months ago and a world record 501 for Warwickshire against Durham last summer is finding life a little more difficult these days.

Despite heading the averages during West Indies' recent Test series defeat by Australia, Lara failed to make a century, and his form so far this tour has been less than sparkling, with a top score of 78 from six innings.

BRIAN LARA

It could all come spectacularly right at Headingley of course, and while Lara failed at Northampton, there was good news for the tourists with both Jimmy Adams and Keith Arthurton making the most of a generally meaningless final day.

Adams, who looked badly out of touch during the Texaco Trophy series grafted his way to 93. He was upstaged, though, by Arthurton, who followed 140 against Leicestershire last week with an unbeaten 121.

Arthurton made exactly the same score here seven years ago but has never fully realised his potential at Test level.

He now looks set to pip fellow left-hander Shivnarine Chanderpaul for the No 6 spot at Headingley, however, having laced a 216-ball innings with three sixes and 20 fours.

The West Indies were in danger of embarrassing themselves when Adams and Arthurton came together at 52 for three.

Dettol soap cricket

CHITTAGONG, June 6: Chittagong Mohammedan Sporting Club beat Shaheed Shajahan Sangha by 87 runs in the Dettol soap metropolitan cricket league at the Dampara Police Line ground here today, reports BSS.

Mohammedans batted first and scored 211 for nine the stipulated 40 overs.

In reply, Shaheed Shajahan Sangha were all out for 124 in 31.4 overs.

CROSSWORD *By Eugene Sheffer*

ACROSS

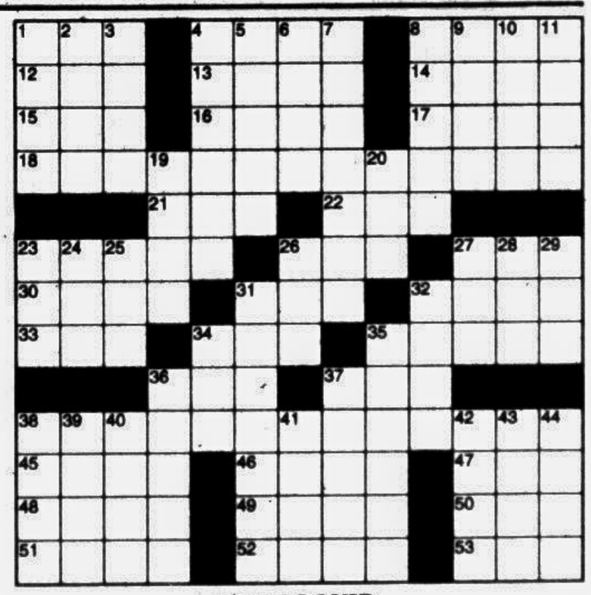
1 Sharp turn
4 Calendar info
8 React in horror
12 Rhoda's mom
13 Congregational cry
14 Writer James
15 Year-end quaff
16 A money-making enterprise?
17 Steelers coach Chuck
18 Capitalists vs. workers, to Marxists
21 "For — a jolly..."
22 Fool
23 Mountain air?
26 Literary collection
27 Harper Valley org.
30 Saharan
31 Cambridge sch.
32 A Katzenjammer kid
33 A March sister
34 Golden, in Grenoble
35 Profundity
36 Poker winnings
37 Spelldown
38 Oscar film for Glenda Jackson
45 Ship VIP
46 First name in scat singing
47 Understand
48 "— a man with seven..."
49 Verifiable
50 Strain
51 Say it isn't so
52 Topers
53 Whatever amount

DOWN

1 Galvanizing stuff
2 Pedestal occupant
3 Overenthusiastic
4 Fair maiden
5 Wrong
6 Circus structure
7 Competitor
8 Rumble factions
9 Quite eager
10 Broker's advice
11 Soccer legend
19 Lose fur
20 N.A. map abbr.
23 Sweet potato
24 Mine output
25 Understand, in slang
26 Melody
27 Insubstantial writings
28 Stick with a kick
29 Bat material
31 Dams
32 Command to Rover
34 One of Snow White's pals
35 Car-window decorations
36 Caulking material
37 a/k/a A sharp
38 Word with test or rain
39 Do circus work
40 Sans restrictions
41 Bread spread
42 The Charleses' pooch
43 Connery or Penn
44 Not merely attractive

Solution time: 23 mins.

P	A	W		B	A	R		A	T	L	A	S
A	G	O		A	G	E		C	O	U	P	E
R	E	N		B	E	E	T	H	O	V	E	N
I	N	K		A	N	D	R	E				
S	T	A	B		D	Y	E		F	A	L	A
			O	R	A		Y	E	L	L	O	W
J	O	L	L	Y				G	E	E	S	E
A	B	A	T	E	D		D	O	E			
W	I	G	S		I	C	E		T	O	G	A
				B	A	R	G	E		P	O	W
S	T	B	E	R	N	A	R	D		I	T	A
A	R	E	N	A		N	E	D		N	O	R
L	I	D	D	Y		K	E	Y		E	N	E



CRYPTOQUIP

C R K N T I B X T B B E W D K O V D X X K R X B X E R X R E D I D V B C , O R G G R X Q D C E G B W D G B Q D C E U K V T .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HUGE SKI RESORT'S WELL-KNOWN MOTTO: "THE SNOW MUST GO ON."

Today's Cryptoquip clue: W equals M

The Cryptoquip 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.