

WC qualifier
Iran blank
Maldives 17-0

DAMASCUS, June 2: Iran defeated Maldives 17-0 Monday in their World Cup soccer qualifier, reports AP.

Iran stayed on the offensive, dominating the 90-minute match from the start. The first half ended with the score 6-0.

Iran's top scorers were Karim Baqerl with five goals and teammate Hamed Astely with four goals.

The match was the opener in Group 2, which also includes Syria and Kyrgyzstan. The teams are seeking a berth in the 1998 World Cup.

Soccer coaches' licence course

Sports Reporter

A football coaches' course for Grade C licence, organised by Bangladesh Football Federation, will begin in the city from June 15.

A total of 25 selected coaches from different parts of the country will participate in the 15-day course schedule to end on June 29.

The following coaches have been instructed to report to BFF by June 10 for the said course: Madhab Chandra Dutt (Satkhira), M. Shafiquddin (Jaypurhat), Ali Asgar Nasir (Khulna), Amit Roy (Bagerhat), Showkat Ali Tutul (Nilphamari), Moslehdin (Comilla), Mokbul Hossain (Magura), Utpal Kanti Roy (Kurigram), Al-Mamun (Natore), Alamgir Hossain (Barguna), Jahangir Hossain Samrat (Faridpur), Fazlul Haque (Naogaon), Zahid Hossain (Barisal), Mohammad Mala (Rahmatganj MFS), Jarfarul Pradhan (Navy), Abu Yusuf (Abahani KC), Mahmudul Haque Liton (East End Club), Moslharra Hossain (Air Force), Abdul Hamid Miah (Agrani Bank), Abdulla Latif (BRTC), Farhaduddin Ahmed (Agrani University), Rezaul Karim (PWD), Selim Khan (Police), Ashish Bhadra (Chittagong) and Sayeed Hasan Kanan (Mohammedan SC).

Cute h'ball

Sports Reporter

Manjus Krira Chakra registered a huge 21-9 victory over Dhaka Wanderers Club in one of yesterday's two Cute Premier handball league matches at the court near Dhaka Stadium.

The winners led the first half 12-5.

Indian recruits Gurucharan Singh and Rajesh scored highest eight goals each for the winners while Khokon and Jewel added two apiece. On the other hand, Shaheena scored three goals for the losers.

In the other encounter, Bangladesh Ansars beat West Jatrabari Krira Chakra 17-8. Ansars' Rafigul scored highest eight goals followed by Kadir and Nazir who added three each.

Div III cricket super league on

Sports Reporter

PROGOTI SHEBA SANGHA: 261 for six in 45 overs (Tutul 66, Bappi 46, Hero 40, Tipu 34 not out; Rajan 2/43).

NEW EAGLETS CLUB: 217 all out in 44.1 overs (Suman 50, Alam 40; Iqbal 3/29).

MONIPUR CC: 147 all out in 40.5 overs (Iqbal 32, Nannu 22; Arman 5/10).

YOUNG CRICKETERS: 151 for one in 19.2 overs (Suman 54 not out, Badsha 53 not out).

Young Cricketers and Progoti Sheba Sangha won their respective Danish Third Division super league openers at different city venues yesterday.

At the remote Mirpur outer stadium, skipper Arman, with a five-wicket haul, inspired Young Cricketers to huge nine-wicket win over Monipur CC.

Arman finished with fantastic figures of five for only 10 runs in his nine nagging overs as Monipur, electing to bat after winning the toss, were skittled out for a paltry 147.

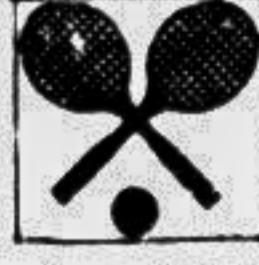
In reply, Young Cricketers rattled up 151 in only 19.2 overs with opener Suman and Badsha putting on 98 runs for the undefeated second-wicket partnership.

In a high-scoring affair, Progoti, sent into bat piled up a commanding 261 in the stipulated 45 overs.



Iva Majoli (rear) of Croatia and Romania's Ruxandra Dragomir lie on the court after their grueling French Open quarterfinal yesterday. Majoli won 6-3, 5-7, 6-2. — AFP/UNB photo

Majoli, Dewulf in semis



PARIS, June 3: Filip Dewulf became the first qualifier to reach the semifinals of the French Open when he beat Magnus Norman of Sweden 6-2, 6-7 (2-7), 6-4, 6-3 Tuesday at the French Open, reports AP.

In a match between two unseeded players, the turning point came late in the third set. Norman wasted four break points and received a warning for smashing his racket to the ground.

Norman dropped his serve in the next game to fall behind 5-4 and he never recovered. Dewulf served out the set and cruised through the last one, clinching the match on a forehand winner.

Dewulf, No. 124 in the world, set a personal and Belgian Grand Slam best by reaching the semifinals.

I started thinking that I could make the semifinals at Roland Garros and I felt that perhaps it wasn't my place. I got a little bit afraid and perhaps that's why I lost the second set, Dewulf said.

Only two qualifiers previously have reached the semifinals of Grand Slam tournament in the Open era, both in 1977. Bob Giltinan at the Australian Open and John McEnroe at Wimbledon.

Earlier, Iva Majoli reached the first Grand Slam semifinal of her career when she beat doubles partner Ruxandra Dragomir 6-3, 5-7, 6-2 in the women's quarterfinals.

The seventh-seeded Croatian collapsed to the ground with relief after the two-hour, 23-minute battle and while she lay

on her back, Dragomir slowly somersaulted over the next and lay next to her. Then they got up and walked away with their arms around each other. Dragomir was the only unseeded player in the women's quarterfinals.

"I was really exhausted, she was chasing every ball," Majoli said.

Serving for the match at 5-3 in the second set, Majoli squandered one match point and dropped her serve.

Dragomir saved two more match points in the next and won four straight games to force a third set.

Majoli went up 5-2 and Dragomir received treatment for a groin injury during the changeover. Although Dragomir was visibly hampered by the injury, Majoli needed three more match points before putting it away with a volley.

On the men's side, no player has been able to establish his mark on clay so far this year and the trend has held true, with six unseeded players reaching the quarterfinals, a Grand Slam record.

The only seeds left are No. 3 and defending champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov and two-time winner Sergi Bruguera, No. 16.

At least two unseeded players will be in the semifinals.

The previous record for the fewest number of seeds reaching the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam was three, set at last year's Wimbledon and the 1994 US Open.

Bruguera, who only became

seeded following the withdrawal of Michael Stich, rallied to oust No. 2 Michael Chang 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 Monday.

French Open diary

PARIS, June 3 (AP): While the men's quarterfinal matchups leave something to be desired in terms of star quality, the women offer three high-profile matches.

Steffi Graf vs Amanda Coetzer, Martina Hingis vs Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Monica Seles vs Mary Joe Fernandez. Graf hasn't been ranked below No. 2 since March 1, 1987.

WARMING UP FOR WIMBLEDON

Pete Sampras, who lost in the third round of the French Open last week, has confirmed his entry in the prestigious Queen's Club tournament, the main warm up for Wimbledon.

Also scheduled to play the June 9-15 grass-court event are Michael Chang, Goran Ivanisevic, Wayne Ferreira and Thomas Enqvist.

Meanwhile, some of the other players who lost during the first week of the French Open have travelled to England to play in a small grass-court tournament this week.

But Kuerten said the outfit, designed by his sponsor Adidasa, is the only one he has.

"I have to play with these clothes," he said. "I have no more clothes to play with."

However, Kuerten said he will make an effort to wear a white bandana for his quarterfinal match against Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

Boris Becker and British hopefuls Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski will be at Serbiton next weekend to play a series of exhibition matches.

RANKING MOVES

Conchita Martinez' early exit from the women's singles

means she will drop out of the top 10 of the WTA Tour rankings for the first time since April 29, 1991.

Steffi Graf, currently ranked No. 2 behind Martina Hingis, could fall to No. 3 if she loses to Amanda Coetzer in the quarterfinals and Monica Seles beats Mary Joe Fernandez. Graf hasn't been ranked below No. 2 since March 1, 1987.

FASHION FLAP

Tournament organisers have asked Gustavo Kuerten, the surprise quarterfinalist from Brazil, not to be so colorful.

Kuerten has been wearing a blue and yellow striped shirt, blue shorts, yellow socks, blue shoes and a yellow bandana — with not a speck of white in sight.

French tennis federation president Christin Bimes and tournament director Partice Clerc have asked Kuerten to include more white in his clothes.

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is the only one he has.

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STAR MOVIES

7:30am Action : Dragonfire 15:30 Comedy : Mermaids 15 (Arabic Subtitles) 11:30 Film Club Heart of Dixie 15:30

10:00 Comedy State Park 15:30

Action : Fall From Grace 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 5:30 Family

Gulliver's Travels G:7:00 Decean

Dream 7:30 Classic : Tarki the Other 9:30 The Movie Show

10:00 Double Bill: Jodie Foster Sommersay 12:12:00 Double

STAR SPORTS

6:30am English Cricket 97

Telley's Challenge Series Derbyshire vs Australia 12:30 Trans

World Sport 1:30 FIM World

Motorcycle Championships Aus-

tralia 9:30 Nine To Five

10:00 Madeleine Cooks 10:30

Holiday Special Children Hour

GI Joe 11:00 Eek! The Cat

11:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show

Santa Barbara 2:30 The Bold &

The Beautiful 3:00 Men Awaz

Suno 3:30 Buniyaad 4:00 Kya

Baat 4:10 4:30 Lost in Space

5:30pm New Adventures of Black

Beauty 6:00 Charles in Charge

6:30pm Madeleine Cooks 7:00

Frame by Frame 11:00 The

Vibe VJ Luke 12:00noon

Rewind VJ Sophie 1:00 By

Demand VJ Trey 2:00 Frame by

Frame 2:30 Liberty First Day

Show 3:00 Soul Curry 3:30

Son of Time Pass 4:00 Planet

Ruby 4:30 Big Bang VJ

Alessandra 6:00pm Rewind VJ

Sophia 7:00 By Demand VJ

Trey 8:00 V 1's 9:00 The Vibe

9:30 Videon Mantra 10:00

11:00 Liberty First Day

Show 10:30 Mojo Working

11:00 House of Noise VJ Luke

12:00pm Rewind VJ Sophie

1:00 Hayashi 2:00 By Demand

VJ Trey 3:00 Big Bang VJ

Alessandra 4:30 Asian Top 20

STAR PLUS

6:30am Nishaat 7:30 Good Morn-

Sport

Another blow to Aussies

BIRMINGHAM, England, June 3: Australia's unsettled first Test preparations have been further compounded by injury worries, leaving the tourists struggling to field 11 fit players for the start of the six-Test Ashes series, reports AP.

Australia, still coming to terms with their unexpected defeat against Derbyshire, is well short of a fit bowling attack after strike bowler Jason Gillespie joined Andy Bichel on the casualty list.

Gillespie, suffering from a badly bruised toe, managed just five overs in the Derbyshire second innings and is unlikely to be 100 per cent fit on Thursday, the first day of the Edgbaston Test.

But Australian captain Mark Taylor, who scored his first half-century in 18 months in the Derbyshire encounter, believes his opening bowlers will shape up for the challenge against England.

With medium paceman Bichel requiring at least 10 days rest to recuperate from a back injury, the third paceman in the tourists' line-up will either be Brendon Julian or Michael Kasprowicz, the only seamer to have endured the opening stages of the 16-week tour without an injury.

Warne efforts go in vain

DERBY, England, June