

Sport

Comilla-W Bengal match drawn

Sports Reporter West Bengal U-16 team played out a goalless draw against a Comilla selection at the Comilla Stadium yesterday.

Kaiserslautern extend lead

BONN. Oct 4: Striker Olaf Marschall scored twice to help Kaiserslautern win 3-1 at TSV 1860 Munich on Friday and extend their lead in the German First Division, reports Reuters.

Marschall, the league's top scorer with eight goals before the match, added two more with a header in the 22nd minute and an effort from close range with six minutes remaining.

Thanks to their win, newly-promoted Kaiserslautern, whose other goal came from Swiss international midfielder Ciriacu Sorza in the 35th minute, moved five points clear of second-placed Bayern Munich, who visit VfL Bochum today.

TSV 1860 Munich moved in front with a goal from Bernhard Winkler in the 14th minute but Kaiserslautern soon levelled and then moved ahead their hosts.

By scoring two goals, the 31-year-old, former East German Marschall expressed his gratitude to German team boss Bert Vogts two days after being summoned to join a 26-man squad for a World Cup qualifier against Albania on October 11 in Hanover.

In Friday's other match, Werder Bremen beat Borussia Moenchengladbach 1-0 Norwegian striker Havard Flo's goal in the 47th minute.

Moenchengladbach's captain Stefan Effenberg was sent off in the 82nd minute for handling the ball.

Finland bring in a rookie

HELSINKI, Oct 4: Finland have called up two goalkeepers with only one international appearance between them for their last World Cup Group Three qualifier against Hungary next week which they must win to have a chance of playing in next year's finals in France, reports Reuters.

With veteran Glasgow rangers goalkeeper Antti Niemi injured, Finland's Danish coach Moller-Nielsen included Teuvo Moilanen, with just one international behind him, and under-21 keeper Jussi Jaaskelainen, in his squad.

Norway, who have completed their qualifying matches, are already certain of a place in the finals as group winners and the match in Helsinki on October 11 will decide second place. A draw would be enough for Hungary who have 11 points, one ahead of Finland.

Ajax striker Jari Litmanen, the captain, returns after injury as do defender Sami Hyypia and forward Jonas Kolkkola, both of Dutch club Willem II Tilburg, and Glasgow Rangers forward Jonatan Johansson.

Also returning is defender Harri Ylonen of Haka Valkeakoski, who has been out of favour since Finland lost to Hungary 1-0 in Budapest in the opening round over a year ago.

Jordan clears the air

DEERFIELD, Illinois, Oct 4: Superstar Michael Jordan reaffirmed Friday that this National Basketball Association season will be his last, hitting his future plans to departing Chicago Bulls coach Phil Jackson, reports AFP.

One day after ducking reporters at media day, Jordan told WMVP radio in Chicago that he will not play for any coach other than Jackson, who along with team management has determined that the 1997-99 season will be his last patrolling the sidelines for the champions.



South Korean striker Seo Jung-Won (R) skips to avoid a charge from UAE's Jasim Mohamed Youisuf during their World Cup qualifier at the Chamsil Olympic Stadium in Seoul yesterday. South Korea won 3-0.

6 teams in zonal finals

Six teams reached their respective zonal finals while two other advanced to zonal semis of the Bi-man under-14 national football tournament yesterday, winning their matches at eight different venues across the country, reports UNB.

Munshiganj, Manikganj, Kushtia, Bagerhat, Joypurhat and Gaibandha eliminated their opponents in the group semis while Brahmanbaria and Netrakona won their matches to reach the last four.

At Narayanganj, Munshiganj beat the hosts by a solitary goal. Hannan netted the all-important goal in the 3rd minute. Munshiganj will play the zonal final against either Gazipur or Shariatpur.

At Manikganj, the host team defeated Rajbari 2-1. Mamun scored both the goals for the winners while Shaikh reduced the margin. Manikganj will face the winners from the Gopalganj-BKSP match in the zonal final.

At Jessore, Kushtia outplayed Jhenidha 3-1. Arman netted two goals and Rana the other for Kushtia while Sumon pulled one back for Jhenidha. Kushtia will take on the winners of Chuadanga and Jessore.

At Barisal, Bagerhat beat Khulna 3-1 in tie-breaker after the regulation time ended goalless. They will meet either Barisal or Pirojpur in the zonal final.

At Mymensingh, Netrakona scored the most convincing win of the day beating Habiganj by 5-0 goals. Golam, Rajib, Sabuj, Ripon and Liton scored one goal each. Netrakona will meet Sylhet in the group semis also tomorrow.

At Noakhali, it was a bad day for the hosts who were handed a 2-1 defeat by Brahmanbaria. Brahmanbaria will meet Rangamati in the zonal semifinal tomorrow.

At Joypurhat, Nasir notched a hat-trick as the hosts trounced Naogaon by a convincing 4-1 margin. Enamul scored the other for the winners while Nasiruddin netted the consolation goal for Naogaon. Joypurhat will meet the winners of the Pabna-Rajshahi encounter in the zonal final.

At Nilphamari, Gaibandha edged past Rangpur 4-3 in the tie-breaker as the stipulated time's play was locked in a 2-2 draw. Momin and Dukhu Mia scored for Gaibandha while Zaman and Hakim for Rangpur in the regulation period. Gaibandha will face the winners from Dinajpur and Nilphamari tie in the zonal final.

All these zonal finals will be played on Tuesday.

Santos sent to Sao Paulo

AMSTERDAM, Oct 4: Dutch league leaders Ajax Amsterdam have loaned defender Marcio Santos to Brazilian side Sao Paulo until January 1998, Ajax said today, reports Reuters.

Television cameras perched high above the altar focused on the 32-year-old Princess, dressed in an elegant, flowing silk gown, as she knelt next to her groom from Spain's north-eastern Basque country.

Cheering crowds packed the cobblestone streets outside the 700-year-old cathedral for a glimpse of the couple, and tens of thousands more lined the flag-draped route of the procession.

Monarchs from across Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia converged on Barcelona for the wedding, the first major gathering of the world's royalty since the funeral of Britain's Princess Diana last month in London.

Almost every major royal household was represented, among the 1,500 guests were Monaco's Prince Rainier, Jordan's Queen Noor and the monarchs of Sweden and Norway. Britain's Prince Edward stood in for his eldest brother Charles, heir to the throne, who was still in mourning for Diana, his ex-wife.

Arriving at the cathedral in a black limousine, Cristina walked up the red carpet on her father's arm while royal lancers stood at attention. All of Spain came to a standstill to watch the pageantry unfold.

The bride and groom smiled warmly at each other as they took their vows and exchanged rings.

Scores of people had camped overnight outside the cathedral, singing and dancing until dawn.

"I'm here because of my love of the royal family," Barcelona resident Louisa Alvarez said.

The Roman Catholic ceremony was carefully designed to show off the proud position the restored Bourbon monarchy has carved out for itself in modern Spain.

Cristina, Inaki get spiced

BARCELONA, Oct 4 (Reuters): Spain's Princess Cristina married Olympic handball star Inaki Urdangarin today in a majestic Gothic cathedral filled with royalty from around the world.

Cristina, the younger daughter of King Juan Carlos and third in line to the throne, took her wedding vows in a glittering ceremony accompanied by the music of Mozart and Handel and witnessed live by up to one billion television viewers worldwide.

Television cameras perched high above the altar focused on the 32-year-old Princess, dressed in an elegant, flowing silk gown, as she knelt next to her groom from Spain's north-eastern Basque country.

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Iraqis win the battle

BAGHDAD, Oct 4: Iraq's Police Club beat Iran's Barg Shiraz 2-1 in an Asian Cup Winners Cup qualifier on Friday to trigger an outburst of delirium in the capital, reports Reuters.

Thousands of Iraqis outside the Al-Shaab Stadium in the heart of Baghdad where the match took place were said to be full hours before the start of the match. Thousands of people waited outside the gates.

Baghdad streets were almost deserted when the match started. Millions of people waited to see the match on television.

Iraq's Mufeed Assem scored the first goal just a minute before the end of the first half. Sadeq Saadoun added another goal to Iraq at the 69th minute. Iran's sole goal came two minutes later by Dariush Baradash.

"Baghdad is victorious... Baghdad is victorious," chanted the fans, waving Iraqi flags and portraits of President Saddam Hussein.

The Shebab television, a channel run by Saddam's eldest son Uday, also broadcast national anthems when it became clear Iraq would emerge a winner.

"This is the way the sanctions-hit people play... if for them it is a match, for us is like fighting a battle," said a singer.

Iraq is under punitive trade curbs imposed by the United Nations for invading Kuwait in 1990. Iraq and Iran fought a ruinous war from 1980 to 1988 in which more than one million people died.

The countries have not signed a peace treaty and are still at loggerheads over a host of issues including the repatriation of the prisoners of war. They accuse each other of backing the rebels from the other country.

On Monday Iranian planes bombed camps of Iranian exiles in the north and south of Iraq. Friday newspapers and television sports commentators had urged Iraq's football-crazy fans not to miss the match.

The two teams met in Iran last week and played to a draw.

Qatari soccer coach sacked

DOHA, Oct 4: Olympic gold medal winning football coach Jo Bonfrere paid for a series of poor results here today when he was sacked by the Qatar Football Federation, reports AFP.

Bonfrere, who coached Nigeria to 1996 Olympic glory, had guided Qatar to just one draw in their three World Cup Asian qualifying matches so far, leaving them bottom of Group A.

The Dutchman has been replaced by Bosnian coach Jamal Hajrusic who has managed Qatari side Al-Ittihad for the last three seasons, leading them to three successive wins in the Emir of Qatar Cup.

Lewis' test

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey, Oct 4: Lennox Lewis is defending his World Boxing Council heavyweight title tonight against Andrew Golota, but the fight has more meaning than that for the British boxer, reports Reuters.

Until now, few have regarded Lewis as a true champion.

He won the WBC title a first time in 1993 after Riddick Bowe threw the belt into a garbage can rather than fight a mandatory defense.

Lewis accepted the belt — without having to throw a punch — and defended the crown three times before getting knocked out in the second round by Oliver McCall in September 1994.

Lewis regained his title this past February when McCall began to cry and talk to himself uncontrollably during the bout and the fight was halted in the fifth.

In his last outing, Lewis, 31, defeated Henry Akinwande by disqualification after the challenger held Lewis excessively.

But Lewis isn't the only man entering the ring tonight with something to prove.

Golota, a 29-year-old native of Warsaw, Poland who now lives in Chicago, has been regarded for some time as a heavyweight with incredible potential and heads into the light with a 28-2 record.

Koreans keep on rolling

(ROK 3 - UAE 0) (JAP 1 - KAZ 1)

SEOUL, Oct 4: South Korea trounced the United Arab Emirates 3-0 here today to extend their lead in the Asian World Cup Group B with a maximum 12 points from four games played, report agencies.

The Emirates remain in second place with two wins, one loss and a draw followed by Japan with one win, two draws and a loss.

Ha Seok-Ju opened the scoring for the home team when he dribbled through two defenders and fired a left-foot shot past goalie Muhsin Musabeh Faraj in the eighth minute, sending the 60,000 home crowd packing the Chamsil Olympic Stadium wild.

The best chance for the Emirates before the break came in the 21st minute when Ali Hatesan Gholam blasted a 20 metre shot, against the post.

The second goal for the Koreans came 22 minutes into the second half when Yoo Sang-Chul converted a penalty earned by striker Choi Yong-Soo when he was pulled down inside the box.

But the Japanese fought back, taking the lead in the 22nd minute off Yutaka Akita, who noted in a neat corner kick from Hiroshi Nanami.

Kazakhstan suffered a major setback in the 59th minute when Oleg Litvinenko was stretched off to be replaced by Vladimir Logvinov.

Zuberev narrowly missed a shock in the 76th minute and Kazakhstan seemed unable to crack the Japanese defence.

The visitors almost put the game beyond reach in the minute, but were beaten by a brilliant save from keeper Oleg Voskobinikov, and then had another crack minutes later when Hidetoshi Nakata hammered the ball off the right post.

Japan now have one win, one defeat and two draws for five points to trail South Korea. Kazakhstan have two draws and two defeats for two points, ahead of Uzbekistan with one point.

On Friday, a double strike by midfielder Karim Bagheri aided Iran to a comfortable 3-0 win over Qatar in Group A qualifier in Tehran.

Bagheri, who plays for Arminia Bielefeld in the German First Division, scored eightier side of the interval as Iran took the attack to the visitors for most of the match.

The win gave Iran eight points from four matches and took them four points clear of three teams, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and China, who have each played a game less.

Iran opened the scoring in the 34th minute when Bagheri's Arminia teammate Ali Daei fastened onto a pass from Ali Reza Mansourian and hit the ball into the net to the delight of the 80,000 spectators.

The Iranian side could do not wrong after that, and two precise volleys from Bagheri guaranteed victory.

Qatar remained bottom of the group with one point after three matches.

China stayed in the running for a place for the finals by edging Saudi Arabia 1-0 in another Group A game.

Defender Zhang Enhua scored with a diving header in the 69th minute on a storm-swept pitch in the northeastern city of Dalian.

They visit Kuwait next Friday for their next match.

STANDINGS

Table with 5 columns: Country, P, W, D, L, GF, GA, Pts. Group A: Iran 4 2 2 0 9 4 8, Kuwait 3 1 1 1 4 3 4, Saudi Arabia 3 1 1 1 3 3 4, China 3 1 1 1 4 5 4, Qatar 3 0 1 2 1 6 1.

Table with 5 columns: Country, P, W, D, L, GF, GA, Pts. Group B: South Korea 4 4 0 0 10 2 12, UAE 4 2 1 1 7 5 7, Japan 4 1 2 1 8 6 5, Kazakhstan 4 0 2 2 9 2 2, Uzbekistan 4 0 1 3 7 12 1.

Jamaica upset US plan

WASHINGTON, Oct 4: Riding an unprecedented wave of national football fervour Jamaica stunned the United States with a 1-1 draw in a World Cup qualifier Friday night, a demoralising blow in the Americans' hopes for a berth in next year's tournament in France, reports AP.

In a delicious atmosphere at sold-out RFK Stadium — US and Jamaican fans were split about 50-50 in the crowd of 51,528 and they spent the entire game trying to out-cheer each other — Jamaica capitalised on a let-down by the US defence to rally from a 1-0 second half deficit.

Deon Burton, one of four British-born players recruited by the Jamaican team in the past year, scored his third goal in four games in the 50th minute. Eric Wynalda netted for the United States with a penalty in the 48th minute.

The point moved Jamaica (3-2-3) to the top of the group with 12 points while the United States (2-1-4) remained third on 10 points. Mexico was second with 11 points and have two games in hand over the United States and three on Jamaica. El Salvador (2-2-3) was fourth with nine points.

The top three nations qualify for the finals.

Although out-played in the second half, Jamaica tied the score on what may go down as one of the all-time complacency

goals. Two minutes after Wynalda finally broke the deadlock to give the Americans some momentum, defender Jeff Agoos jogged after a ball deep in US territory, unaware that Jamaican forward Paul Hall was hustling behind him.

Hall stuck his shin in front of Agoos' pass, deflecting it in front of the US goal. Forward Deon Burton chased it down and easily beat goalkeeper Kasey Keller from seven metres out in the 50th minute.

It was the first goal Jamaica has scored against the United States in six games, and the tens of thousands of yellow and green-clad fans roared their approval for the 'Reggae Boyz'.

Wynalda's goal was his 31st in international play, by far the most ever by any US national team player. It came after Jamaican defender Ian Godison used his left hand to block Wynalda's cross at the right edge of the box. A penalty was awarded, and Wynalda drilled it home in the right side of the net.

The Americans, playing before their third straight home sellout crowd, tried to apply the pressure in the final minutes, but the closest thing to a winning goal came when Wynalda's close range shot was knocked down by Godison in traffic in injury time.

Jamaican coach Rene Simoes showed his strategic hand early when he announced a starting lineup that included five defenders, a sign the Jamaicans would be content to play for the draw and perhaps steal a goal on a counterattack.

The visitors did create a couple of chances in the first half, with Burton, who plays for Derby County in the English Premier league, leading the charge.

Reyna drew a yellow card in the 36th minute after he disagreed with a linesman's call. It was his second yellow card of the tournament, and he will have to sit out the next game Nov 2 against Mexico.

Bergkamp sets mark in England

LONDON, Oct 4: Dennis Bergkamp has become the first man to win the English Premier league player-of-the-month award outright for two consecutive months, reports AFP.

The Arsenal and Holland striker clinched the award for September after his win in August.

Robbie Fowler is the only other player to have won the award twice in succession, but on one occasion the Liverpool marksman shared the accolade with then teammate Stan Collymore.

Bergkamp's latest award recognises his key role in helping the table-topping Gunners to their best start to a season since they won the league championship in 1990-91.

The Daily Star TV Guide. A large section containing TV listings for various channels including BBC, Channel V, STAR PLUS, STAR MOVIES, STAR SPORTS, PTV, EL TV, ATN, SONY ET, ZEE TV, ZEE CINEMA, and ESPN. It lists programs and their start times for Sunday, October 5th.