

Sport



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Bari baffle

Inter

ROME, Jan 18: South African Phil Masinga fired in the winner with 23 minutes left Sunday to lift lowly Bari to a shocking 1-0 victory over Italian League leaders Internazionale, reports AP.

Inter Milan's second loss in 16 matches this season — and first home defeat — cut the club's standings lead from four points to just one over defending champions Juventus, who routed Bologna 3-1.

Filippo Inzaghi scored twice in the first 19 minutes and Alessandro Del Piero tucked a 25-metre (yard) free kick under the crossbar in the second half to lead Juventus (10-5-1).

Inter (11-3-2) were undone by their often shaky defence, which allowed Masinga to find space in front of the net.

The South African, in his first Serie A campaign, netted his fourth goal by knocking in the rebound after Inter keeper Gianluca Pagliuca failed to hold his close-range header.

At the other end, Brazil's Ronaldo — who last week collected FIFA's top award for the second straight year — was held without a goal for the fifth match in a row.

Ronaldo (5-4-7) are joint 12th in the 18-team league.

IOC boss bucks up Moscow

MOSCOW, Jan 18: IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch said on Saturday Moscow stood an "excellent chance" of hosting the 2012 Summer Olympics, reports Reuters.

Samaranch, on an inspection visit to Moscow to check preparations for the World Youth Games later this year, said Moscow had organised a very successful Games in 1980.

"But you paid a political price there because politicians used sports as a political weapon," he said. "Now we do not have such a problem."

Samaranch was referring to the Games in the then Soviet capital, boycotted by the United States and some other western powers because of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Samaranch, who met Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Moscow Mayor Yury Luzhkov during his visit, also praised the Luzhniki Stadium which hosted athletics and some other events in 1980.

"You have one of the finest Olympic stadia in Europe," he said.

Over 200 million dollars has been spent on renovating the 40-year-old, 82,000 capacity Luzhniki, including covering all stands. A retractable roof is due to be completed this year.

Samaranch congratulated swimming's governing body FINA for "showing how to fight doping" at the World Championships in Perth.

"If all sports federations follow the example we will be able to solve the (doping) problem," he said.

FINA has been heavily criticized for not taking tougher action over series of doping controversies, mainly involving Chinese swimmers, in the past two weeks.

But Samaranch sided with FINA saying: "There are regulations and one should follow the rules set by the federation."

Iran choose Ivic

TEHRAN, Jan 18: Iran officially named Croat Tomislav Ivic today to coach their national team in the World Cup finals in France, state-run Tehran radio said, reports Reuters.

It quoted Mohsen Safaei Farahani, head of Iran's soccer federation, as saying Ivic would start work on Sunday.

Ivic, 63, was quoted by a Croat newspaper as saying this week he would coach the Iranian side for the next six months.

He replaces Brazilians Valdeir Vieira, who was originally hired to coach the Iranian Olympic soccer team but was moved to the national squad late in Iran's World Cup qualifying campaign.

Iran were the last team to qualify for the World Cup finals in France this year after knocking-out Australia in the play-offs, and are underdogs in their first round group featuring three-times world champions Germany, Yugoslavia and the United States.

Ivic has been serving as vice-president of Hajduk Split, the club with which he achieved his first major successes in the 1970s.

In his long career marked by numerous transfers, Ivic has coached some of Europe's top clubs including Anderlecht, Porto, Ajax Amsterdam, Atletico Madrid, Paris St Germain and Olympique Marseille. He also had a spell with the United Arab Emirates and was briefly in charge of the Croatian national squad in 1994.

Iranian Ibrahim Qasempur, Bijan Zolfaqarnasab and Valiollah Salemani would continue as assistant coaches. Safaei Farahani said, adding that Ivic would also have a fellow Croat to help him.



INDIA OWES THEM ONE: Player-of-the-match Saurav Ganguly (L) and player-of-the-series Sachin Tendulkar proudly pose with their trophies during the prize distribution ceremony of the Coca-Cola Independence Cup yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium.

— Star photo

Independence Cup notebook

Hasan Masood

VINEPOTISM
Most of the chairs of the VIP gallery were reserved for different high government officials and their relatives, while invitees with valid passes either had to remain standing or squeeze into other galleries during the last final of the Coca-Cola Independence Cup at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board issued VIP passes exceeding by far the actual seating capacity. This insane exercise by the BCB led to total disorder as guests were seen scampering for any vacant spot including the ones reserved for journalists.

ADVANTAGE TO MINISTER

A senior minister of the Bangladesh Government entered the Dhaka Stadium yesterday with four invited guests who gate-crashed without any pass.

A BNCC cadet, who was on duty at the VVIP gate, asked them to show their passes before entering. But the minister waved aside the dutiful cadet saying that he was a "Minister" and scurried into the big bowl.

SACHIN C GOLAM

Golam Mustafa, a student of

the 13-year-old boy, one of the BKSP students on duty adjusting the side screen throughout the tournament, took the catch like a veteran and earned all round applause from an appreciating crowd.

NEW ROMEO

Some girls of the city proved to be ricketts as well as crazy. For the past one week they had been showing keen interest in Pakistani blockbuster Shahid Afridi waving amorous and suggestive banners at the Dhaka Stadium. One went as far as asking the comely opener to marry her. Yesterday, following Afridi's lacklustre performance, the girls shifted their loyalty to off spinner Saqlain Mushtaq whose bowling had put the Indians in some sort of trouble. The girls were heard shouting Saqlain's name yesterday instead of Afridi's. Girls will be girls.

DALMIYA DEPARTS
International Cricket Coun-

cil chairman Jagmohan Dalmiya, who came to Dhaka on Thursday in connection with the Coca-Cola Independence Cup, left the capital for Europe outside the long-off boundary.

During his four-day stay in Dhaka, Dalmiya attended a conference of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) where the schedule for the ACC trophy and the Seventh Asia Cup were finalised.

BESIDES, he also held meetings with other ICC officials regarding the forthcoming ICC knock-out tournament to be held in Dhaka next October and November.

David Richards, the executive secretary of ICC and Jayanth Lele, the secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, also left the city last evening.

Meanwhile, 12 of the 14-member victorious Indian team left for Delhi last night immediately after winning the Independence Cup. The remaining two — Sourav Ganguly and Debasish Mohanty, would be leaving Dhaka today.

The defeated Pakistan team is also due to leave the capital early this morning.

BATTING & BOWLING AVGS

The followings are the batting and bowling averages of the tri-nation Coca-Cola Independence Cup held at the Dhaka Stadium from January 10 to 18, 1998:

BATTING

Name of player	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	100s	50s	Avg
M Azharuddin	5	5	1	284	100	1	2	71.00
S Tendulkar	5	5	0	258	95	0	3	51.60
S Ganguly	5	5	0	242	124	1	1	48.40
Robin Singh	5	4	0	96	82	0	1	24.00
R Kanitkar	2	2	2	24	13*	0	0	24.00
A Jadeja	5	5	1	69	34	0	0	17.25
J Srinath	5	3	2	17	12	0	0	17.00
N Singh Sidhu	5	4	0	47	36	0	0	11.75
N Mongia	5	4	2	20	10	0	0	10.00
S Bahutule	4	2	0	12	11	0	0	6.00
D Mohanty	4	1	0	4	4	0	0	4.00
Harvinder Singh	4	1	1	3	3*	0	0	3.00

BOWLING

Name of player	O	M	Runs	W	BB	Avg
J Srinath	44	5	202	11	5/23	8.36
Harvinder Singh	28	0	174	8	3/47	1.75
D Mohanty	24	1	133	5	3/30	6.60
S Tendulkar	23.3	0	148	5	3/45	9.60
Robin Singh	36	3	150	2	2/24	5.00
S Bahutule	27	0	180	1	1/31	80.00
R Kanitkar	13	1	60	0		
S Ganguly	8	1	26	0		
R Sangvi	5	0	38	0		

BOWLING

Name of player	O	M	Runs	W	BB	Avg
M Hussain	20	1	73	5	4/33	4.60
S Mushtaq	45.4	0	229	13	4/41	7.62
Mushtaq Ahmed	17	0	68	3	2/20	2.67
Aaqib Javed	36.2	1	197	7	2/27	8.14
S Afridi	41.4	3	189	4	2/25	7.25
M Akhtar	13.2	0	84	0		
F Akbar	2	0	19	0		
A Sohail	1	0	9	0		

(Compiled by Hasan Masood)

Post match parley

Both the Indian captain and manager thanked all their players for doing a great job in the tournament and winning the final of the Independence Cup yesterday, reports UNB.

"Really it was a very exciting final and everybody enjoyed... our batsmen showed great ability, especially Ganguly and Robin.... Sachin played his usual style, made it easy for next batsman to overcome the daunting task," said skipper Mohammad Azharuddin.

"Three hundred fifteen was a big target in any pitch, but we played a natural game," he said replying to a question at the post-match briefing.

"Yes, the batsman faces difficulties playing in bad light, but we had taken the risk to have a result," he told a questioner.

Asked about Bangladesh's prospects, Azharuddin, said: "I am optimistic that Bangladesh will be a fine one-day team in next few years. But they should work hard."

Manager, Ansuman Gaekwad, was quite happy with his team's performance and gave all credit to "total teamwork."

The losing Pakistani captain, Rashid Latif, said "I am satisfied with the performance of my teammates. We played well but luck was in favour of India."

— Star photo



THERE SHE GOES: Yet another flashing drive races towards the boundary as Saurav Ganguly takes charge. The flamboyant left-hander smashed a career-best 124.

— Star photo

PAKISTAN-INDIA SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the tri-nation Coca-Cola Independence Cup third and last final match between Pakistan and India at the Dhaka Stadium on Sunday:

PAKISTAN

Saeed Anwar c Azharuddin b Harvinder	140
Shahid Afridi c Robin b Harvinder	18
Aamir Sohail c Mongia b Harvinder	14