

Sport

Glamorgan end up badly

LONDON, May 4: County champions Glamorgan conceded 45 runs from the final four overs to lose their English one-day AXA League match against Middlesex at Lord's on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Even without skipper Matthew Maynard, who pulled a muscle while warming up, the Welsh county were clear favourites to win after scoring 218 for eight and reducing Middlesex to 89 for five.

At 174 for seven with only four overs left, Glamorgan still held the whip hand. But talented young Owais Shah and Richard Johnson reduced the target to 20 from two overs and they were knocked off from the bowling of Darren Thomas and Pakistan's Waqar Younis with three balls to spare.

The match finished in anticlimax as Waqar bowled a wide. Shah was unbeaten on 88 and Johnson on 22, having put on 45 from 22 balls.

Earlier, Glamorgan's England off-spinner Robert Croft continued his outstanding run as an opening batsman in one-day cricket, adding a third half-century to scores of 77 and 67 in Benson and Hedges Cup ties.

Hampshire became joint league leaders, beating Sussex by 70 runs for their second victory in two matches. Sussex, who finished bottom of the table last season, lost their third match out of three.

In Sunday's only other match Worcestershire beat Durham by 24 runs. Australian Tom Moody hitting 80 in an opening stand of 110 with Vikram Solanki.

Durham fought well to match Worcestershire's 235 for seven but a target of 30 from the last three overs proved too much, their last three wickets falling in eight balls.

Old sins come to light

LONDON, May 4: England all-rounder Ben Hollis has spoken to two of the national selectors about a magazine article implying he smoked cannabis on the England A tour of Sri Lanka this year, reports Reuters.

A spokesman for the England and Wales Cricket Board said today selectors David Graveney and Graham Gooch had talked to Hollis about the article. Gooch was the manager of the tour party.

"Nothing untoward occurred," the spokesman said. "Hollis and other members of the team have been reminded of their responsibility and obligations as England cricketers."

The article, in a popular men's magazine featuring an in-depth feature on this month's cover, gives a lucid account of the England team's off-the-field activities.

It claims one member of the tour party had requested pornography while another and vomited outside a cab after drinking too much at a restaurant.

Asian swimming in Dhaka

Sports Reporter Bangladesh will host the first Asian long distance swimming championships. A primary decision was taken by the newly elected executive committee of Bangladesh Swimming Federation (BSF) in its first meeting held at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur on Sunday.

However, the date of the meet is yet to be disclosed.

Chaired by BSF president Rear Admiral M Nurul Islam, the meeting also took some important decisions regarding the training of swimmers in order to obtain good results in the domestic and international competitions.

SIX NO TRUMPS

A K Sayeedul Huq
DROP THE JACK TO LEAD PARTNER (Hand # 30)

North (D)			
♠: QXX	♥: QXX	♦: JXX	♣: AKQXXX
East			
♠: JXXXX	♥: KJX	♦: KQ10	♣: JXX
South			
♠: AKX	♥: KXX	♦: A87XX	♣: X
West			
♠: XXX	♥: AXXXX	♦: JXX	♣: 10XX

BIDDING (East-West vulnerable)

South	West	North	East
2D	Pass	3C	Pass
5C	Pass	Pass	Pass

* Club suit

In a non-vulnerable position North opened his solid Club suit in response of which South bid 2 Diamond. In vulnerable position East did not have any suitable bid. With 11 HCP, South pushed on to game contract when North rebid 3 Clubs as opening 2 Club-bid promised six cards.

THE PLAY
East opened a small Spade which the declarer took with the King. He then played three rounds of Club to clear the trumps. He then led a Diamond. East played the 10 which was won by the declarer. West made a key play by dropping the J of Diamond (lead directing). The declarer played back a small Diamond which was won by East with the Queen. If East now tries to cash the King of Diamond, or possibly lead another Spade, the declarer can make the contract. He must lead Heart now from KJ to beat the contract. West must guide his partner to indicate that he was holding the Ace of Heart in the absence of which it was difficult for West to lead from the Heart holding. East understood his partner's dropping of the J of Diamond very well as indication of Heart Ace, for it could not be Spade Queen as in that case no indication was necessary. Again East must not play the King of Diamond assuming that his partner was showing doubleton. If the declarer had another Diamond, he could not throw it on anything in the dummy.

England 1966 World Cup And finally England

Tawfiq Aziz Khan

When Alf Ramsey took over as the England manager on May 1, 1963, he gave an interview to a local reporter in Ipswich, where he was ending a successful eight-year spell with Ipswich Town. "England will win the World Cup in 1966", said Ramsey. This remark came to haunt him over the next three years as he tried to mould an England team that would have at least a sporting chance.



Martin Peters (16) scores the second goal for England against West Germany in 1966 final at Wembley. —Star file photo

Alf Ramsey's "Wingless Wonders" brought off a spectacular win over the ruthless Germans at Wembley with two controversial goals by Geoff Hurst who scored a hat-trick, in the extra-time. The first was a header from a free-kick quickly taken while Dienst, the referee, was admonishing a German, the second hit the bar and came down so fast that the official had to consult his Russian linesman, Bakhranov, who was badly positioned 10 yards from the goal; the third in the dying minutes, came with three spectators running inside the opposite touch-line.

Taking charge of the team Ramsey soon sorted out his defence, giving caps to George Cohen, Jack Charlton and Nobby Stiles. With Gordon Banks, Ray Wilson and skipper Bobby Moore, he had a firm base. Bobby Charlton and Jimmy Greaves were established up front.

However, it was among the wingers that the manager had his biggest problems. By the quarter-finals Ramsey had dispensed with wingers altogether, and Geoff Hurst finally came into his own as a replacement for the injured Greaves. Ramsey's team of "Wingless Wonders" was complete.

In a tournament of cynical tackling, with players apparently fouling in rotation, five men were sent off; two Argentines, two Uruguayans and one Russian. Four of the dismissals were against the often provocative West Germany; the other culprit, Argentine captain Antonio Rattin, was sent off by a German referee for "violence of the tongue".

England showed only flashes in their group games, being easily contained by a defensive Uruguay and beating a poor Mexican side and an injury-hit French outfit, both by two clear goals. In group 2, Argentina and West Germany also settled for a draw to ensure that the top two places would not be unrealistic.

However, group 3 appeared to be the strongest. Hungary and Portugal had looked attractive in pre-World Cup games. Bulgaria were tough and Brazil still had Pele. But he was singled out for roughing-up treatment by the Bulgarians in the opening

FINAL SCORE

Group 1										
England	0	Uruguay	0							
France	1	Mexico	1							
Uruguay	2	France	1							
England	2	Mexico	0							
Uruguay	2	Mexico	0							
England	2	France	0							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P			
England	3	2	1	0	4	0	5			
Uruguay	3	1	2	0	2	1	4			
Mexico	3	0	2	1	1	3	2			
France	3	0	1	2	2	5	1			
Group 2										
West Germany	5	Switzerland	0							
Argentina	2	Spain	1							
Spain	2	Switzerland	1							
Argentina	0	West Germany	0							
Argentina	2	Switzerland	0							
West Germany	2	Spain	1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P			
W.Germany	3	2	1	0	7	1	5			
Argentina	3	2	1	0	4	1	5			
Spain	3	1	0	2	4	5	2			
Switzerland	3	0	0	3	1	9	0			
Group 3										
Bulgaria	2	Hungary	0							
Portugal	3	Brazil	1							
Hungary	3	Brazil	1							
Portugal	3	Bulgaria	0							
Portugal	3	Brazil	1							
Hungary	3	Bulgaria	1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P			
Bulgaria	3	2	0	0	9	2	6			
Hungary	3	2	0	1	7	5	4			
Brazil	3	1	0	2	4	6	2			
Bulgaria	3	0	0	3	1	8	0			
Group 4										
USSR	3	North Korea	0							
Italy	2	Chile	0							
Chile	1	North Korea	1							
USSR	1	Italy	0							
North Korea	1	Italy	0							
USSR	2	Chile	1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P			
USSR	3	3	0	0	6	1	6			
North Korea	3	1	1	1	2	4	1			
Italy	3	1	0	2	2	2	2			
Chile	3	0	1	2	2	5	1			
QUARTER-FINALS										
England	1	Argentina	0							
West Germany	4	Uruguay	0							
Portugal	5	North Korea	3							
USSR	2	Hungary	1							
SEMI-FINALS										
West Germany	2	USSR	1							
England	2	Portugal	1							
THIRD-PLACE MATCH										
Portugal	2	USSR	1							
FINAL										
England	4	West Germany	2							

Sampras' dry spell over

ATLANTA, Georgia, May 4: Top seed Pete Sampras gutted out a 6-7, 6-3, 7-6 victory over second seed Jason Stoltenberg to win the \$1,000,000 AT and T Challenge. It was just his third title on clay for Sampras, who has 54 career victories.

"Well, I've won one every three years," said a smiling Sampras, who collected 45,000 dollars for his two-hour, 40-minute effort. "It's been a tough week, and it was a war out there today. We were both very solid. He didn't give me any free points, and it could have gone either way."

Despite playing on a rain-soaked court once again, thanks to morning showers that caused a 50-minute delay, the players started strongly Sunday. Both executed well, but neither gained momentum by capitalising on the few break points (two for Stoltenberg, one for Sampras) in the first set.

It was only the second title of 1998 for Sampras, who won on indoor hard courts in Philadelphia. He has had some problems this year and struggled here, with a couple of close calls in the early rounds.

The French Open, tennis' most prestigious clay-court tournament, starts May 25. Sampras, who holds 10 Grand Slam titles, but has reached the semifinals just once (1996) at Roland Garros, still feels hopeful.

"People see this result, see I'm winning a tournament, it's great for my confidence going into Rome, though the competition obviously will be a lot tougher than here," said Sampras, who will play in the Italian Open in two weeks. He won that event in 1994.

Schools cricket Emdad all-round glitter for BKSP

Sports Reporter Eight first phase matches of the 16th national schools cricket championship (Dhaka zone) were decided at different city venues yesterday.

On a hectic day of cricket, there was however no upset when BKSP along with Motijheel Govt. High School, Dhanmondi International, Govt. Laboratory High School, Radiant International, St. Gregory's School, Udayan School and Pallabi M.I. School ambled into the next round after eliminating their respective opponents.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, BKSP, aided by a virtuoso all-round performance from Emdad, recorded a thumping 174-run win over BCSIR. Emdad scored a quick-fire 39 to help the lone sports institute of the country amass a commanding total of 213 for seven in the stipulated 35 overs. Emdad then returned with a four-wicket haul to shoot BCSIR out for a meagre 39 in 21.4 overs. In his astounding spell, Emdad gave away only three runs for his four scalps.

At the Uttara Friends Club ground, Motijheel Govt. High School defeated Aftab Memorial by six wickets. In a reduced 25-over-a-side affair, the Motijheel boys, chasing a paltry Aftab total of 109, rattled up 113 for four with four balls to spare. Saimur top-scored with 33 while Adnan and Ehtesham contributed 22 and 20 runs respectively.

At the Mirpur Outer Stadium, Dhanmondi International prevailed over Nazrul Shikhalaya by 19 runs. Batting first, Dhanmondi International scored a fighting total of 165 for five in their share of 35 overs with Shamir making highest 41 runs. In reply, Nazrul Shikhalaya could manage 150 before being all out in the final delivery of their innings. Sadrul scored highest 33 runs for the vanquished. Nadir with three wickets for 23 runs returned as the wrecker-in-chief among the Dhanmondi bowlers.

Govt. Laboratory School posted a resounding eight-wicket win over Manarat International. In yet another low-scoring affair, Govt Lab, who earlier shot out the Manarat boys for 94, went on to make 97 for the loss of only two wickets in 12.1 overs. Shams scored 27 and Tanzir chipped in with 25.

At the City Club ground, Radiant International pulled off a thrilling two-run win over Vasha Prodig School. In a nail-biting finish, Radiant, in defence of a fighting total of 171 for nine in 35 overs, restricted the Vasha Prodig boys to 169 for nine.

Saint Gregory's recorded a facile 36-run win over Mohakhali Model School. Batting first, the Gregorians piled up a huge total of 206 for five wickets in 30 overs with Tanvir notching highest 53 runs. In reply, Mohakhali Model were all out for 117 in 28 overs.

At the tiny Kalabagan Club ground, Udayan School defeated Moonlight School by three wickets. Chasing a paltry Moonlight total of 116 all out in 22 overs, Udayan rattled up 120 for seven wickets in 26.5 overs with Rahman scoring an invaluable 25.

In the other match of the day at the Mohakhali T & T ground, Pallabi M.I. School posted a 58-run victory over Rabeya Pre-cadet School.

What's eating Batistuta?

BUENOS AIRES, May 4 (Reuters): Argentina striker Gabriel Batistuta is set to rival Brazil's living legend Ronaldo as the star of the World Cup finals in France in summer.

If he gets a game, that is. The 29-year-old has netted 38 goals in 59 games for Argentina including the legendary Diego Maradona. He is such a prolific scorer for his Serie A side Fiorentina in Italy that grateful Florentines have put up a statue of him as well as asked him to run for mayor.

But coach Daniel Passarella left him out of the team for many of Argentina's qualifying matches.

To the dismay of supporters, Passarella favoured young Parama striker Hernan Crespo. He said that Batistuta and Crespo were too similar to be able to work together, and called up Valencia's Claudio Lopez to feed Crespo.

Batistuta's lukewarm relations with Passarella goes back to his early days at River Plate, where Passarella was a highly successful coach. Argentina's 1978 World Cup winning captain generally kept the young striker on the substitutes' bench and eventually allowed him to be sold to Boca Juniors in 1991.

The problems are Batistuta's style of marksmanship does not easily fit into the passing game Passarella likes his teams to play. The Argentina national side does not allow him to hover near the area awaiting the sort of long balls his Fiorentina teammates lob to him.

Nonetheless, Passarella has confirmed Batistuta will be in the squad for France, and he played in the morale-boosting wins over Ireland and Brazil this April, scoring in the first and putting one over rival Ronaldo in the latter.

FRANCE '98 SIDELINES

UNDATED, May 4 (AP, AFP, Reuters): French winger Ibrahim Ba says he can't imagine that he won't be selected when France announces its World Cup team this week.

Ba said he was confident the French team had a chance to win the World Cup. But he added that the team needed to be balanced and calm in order to play well.

"I have the French team in my heart. I know I am ready," Ba said in an interview that appeared Sunday with the French weekly newspaper, Le Journal du Dimanche.

Ba also said he thought this year's team was stronger than in 1986, when it was led by soccer star Michel Platini, now the head of the French Organising Committee.

"I can't imagine not being in the World Cup," Ba said.

French trainer Amie Jacquet is expected to announce his choices for the French World Cup team on Tuesday.

KLINSMANN KEEPS 'EM GUESSING

German international Jurgen Klinsmann won't discuss his future with the English club Tottenham — his second stint with the team — until after the World Cup.

Klinsmann, who scored four goals Saturday in a 6-2 win over Wimbledon that virtually assured Tottenham of staying in the Premier League, has had a difficult relationship with coach Christian Gross.

"I don't want to say anything about that now because there was so much said in the last few weeks before I left the first time," said Klinsmann, who arrived at Tottenham four months ago on a short-term contract.

"All I want to say is that today (Saturday) was certainly one of the most exciting of my career in 16 years as a professional. It was a wonderful feeling."

Gross, however, indicated Klinsmann would probably not return.

"But, no, there is no chance of talking to him about staying because it was always the agreement that he would leave at the end of the season," Gross said.

CRUCIAL BLOW FOR BOBIC

Fredri Bobic, Stuttgart's striker who hopes to make Germany's World Cup squad, will be sidelined for about 10 days after injuring his left ankle ligaments, his club said Sunday.

Bobic will miss the last round of the Bundesliga next weekend and is unlikely to be fit for Stuttgart's Cup Winners' Cup against Chelsea on May 13 in Stockholm.

Bobic will not need surgery. He was injured in Stuttgart's 4-2 loss at Karlsruhe in a Bundesliga game Saturday.

The injury could further sink Bobic's hopes of making the World Cup roster. While Germany's other strikers like Jurgen Klinsmann, Oliver Bierhoff, Ulf Kirsten and Olaf Marschall thriving, Bobic has been struggling.

BORA LAYS THE LAW

Any member of the "super eagles" who fails to join the training camp in Zurich before May 22 should forget playing in the France '98 World Cup, coach Bora Milutinovic has warned his players.

Bora, who plans to call up 25 players for the final camp for the World Cup, expressed the hope that to have the bulk of the team together a month to the beginning of the soccer festa.

Bora added that he had been in England to spy on Crew Alexander goalkeeper Ademola Bankole as well as Birmingham striker Dele Adebawale.

On the issue of players' bonus, Bora stated that the matter is purely an administrative one which would be settled between the players and the Nigeria Football Association.

MORE TELEPHONE TICKETS

France's World Cup organisers said they had sold 8,000 more tickets by telephone on Sunday, leaving a further 13,000 tickets available for purchase by European fans.

Tickets sold through World Cup hotlines so far have totalled 157,000.

Initially, 110,000 tickets were to be sold by telephone, but the total rose to 170,000 after organisers announced today that they had identified an additional 60,000 available seats.

The tickets have been made available to citizens of the 15-nation European Union (EU) as well as Norway, Ireland and Liechtenstein under European trade rules.

Czech Open Meligeni's

PRAGUE, May 4: Unseeded Brazilian Fernando Meligeni romped to a 6-1, 6-4 victory over Czech Slava Dosedel to win the Czech Open tennis tournament on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Meligeni, world-ranked 75th, needed just 79 minutes to wrap up the victory.

The left-handed Brazilian was 5-0 up after just 19 minutes and had the first set in his pocket after half an hour on the rain-soaked Centre Court.

Dosedel, also unseeded and ranked 47th, fought back in the second set and broke serve twice to lead 3-1. But his success was short-lived.

Dosedel, who was suffering from flu, made 23 unforced errors against two from Meligeni, whose victory was his third ATP title.