

Sport

Dhaka Sr Div cricketers' transfer

Sports Reporter

The following cricketers changed their clubs during the three-day inter-club cricketers' transfer held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium from November 25 to 27.

FINAL LIST

Table listing cricketers' transfers with columns for No, Name, From, To, No, Name, From, To. Includes names like Tasriqul Islam, Habibullah Barkat, Anul Kabir, etc.

Happy outings for BOC, SK&F

Sports Reporter

SK&F and BOC won their respective JPGL Lights Professional's Cup cricket matches played at different city venues yesterday.

The BUET ground, BOC posted a 28-run win over Phillips.

Put into bat first, BOC amassed 152 for the seven in the stipulated 30 overs with...

one-down Mustafa hammering highest 35. Opener Mostafiz (27) and middle order Afriz (23) were the other notable run getters.

Chasing a small Daily Star total of 79 in 30 overs, SK&F reached 83 in 20.1 overs with two wickets in hand.

Earlier, electing to bat first on an under prepared wicket, The Daily Star could manage only 79 before they were all out in 25 overs.

SK&F's Mahfuz was the wrecker in chief capturing four wickets for 12 runs. He was later adjudged the Nescame man-of-the-match.

Rindel's century at Centurion

Centurion, Nov 27 (Reuters/Internet)

Northerns continued their good batting form in the second session of the opening day of their Super-Sport Series cricket match against Boland at Centurion Park in Centurion on Friday.

Much of the good work has been done by opener Mike Rindel, who was undefeated on 105 having been at the crease for 261 minutes, faced 191 balls and hit 14 fours and a six.

Caribbean tri-series in 2000

Auckland, Nov 27: New Zealand and Pakistan will take on the West Indies in a one-day tri-series when they tour the Caribbean in 2000, a report said.

The West Indies will host the two countries each in a three-test series before playing in the one-day matches during April and May.

New Zealand cricket chief executive Chris Doig said: "We have talked about it before and it sounds great but West Indies have yet to tell us officially."

Blackburn's woes outweigh Liverpool's, as last week's 2-0 home defeat by Southampton dropped them to bottom place in the standings and led to the surprise departure of coach Roy Hodgson.

Club stalwart Tony Parkes takes over as caretaker for the fourth time in 12 years and a trip to Anfield will not be the easiest of starts.

Manchester United usually struggle after Champions' League outings and a number of changes are likely after the exertions of the 3-3 draw at Barcelona.

Lee Bowyer and Robert Molenaar are suspended for Leeds who have just one win to show from their last 12 league visits to Old Trafford.

Hick may replace Thorpe

Sports Reporter

PERTH, Nov 27: England batsman Graham Thorpe is doubtful for Saturday's second Test against Australia.

Thorpe's loss would be a major blow to England's Ashes campaign after they were lucky to escape with a draw in the first Test in Brisbane when a thunderstorm cut the match short as they were heading towards average defeat.

England named a squad of 14 for the match today, dropping veteran paceman Angus Fraser for a match expected to be dominated by fast bowling.

Left-hander Thorpe was forced to miss today's final training session at the WACA ground after aggravating his back on the seven-hour flight from Brisbane to Perth.

"We're hopeful he might snap out of it but it's not looking great at the moment," England manager Graham Gooch said.

Concern over Thorpe's condition forced England's selectors to delay naming a team today.

Instead, they picked a 14-man squad including Hick, who joined the tourists just over a week ago as a back-up for opener Michael Atherton who is also troubled by back pain.

Hick was due to fly home on Sunday after Atherton improved. He is now poised to start in a Test despite not having played in more than a month.

"I hope the memory is good. I haven't had much cricket in the last six weeks," Hick said.

Thorpe is struggling a bit today but I have been through back problems and some days you wake up and it's bad and the next day it's good.

"My gut feeling at the moment is I have a reasonable chance of playing."

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until Saturday morning. Fraser will be replaced in the starting side by either Dean Headley or the uncapped Alex Tudor.

The tourists were given a clue to how the WACA wicket might play when Australia left out leg-spinner Stuart MacGill.

Australian captain Mark Taylor said: "It's going to be a predominantly pace wicket with a pace barrage from both sides. It could well be a shootout."

"But I'm not overly concerned about any of their bowlers. Whoever they pick we will have to play well against but I really believe we have got the batsmen to do that."

MacGill was replaced by all-rounder Colin Miller, who bowls a mixture of medium pace and off-spin. It is likely to be recalled for the third Test in Adelaide.

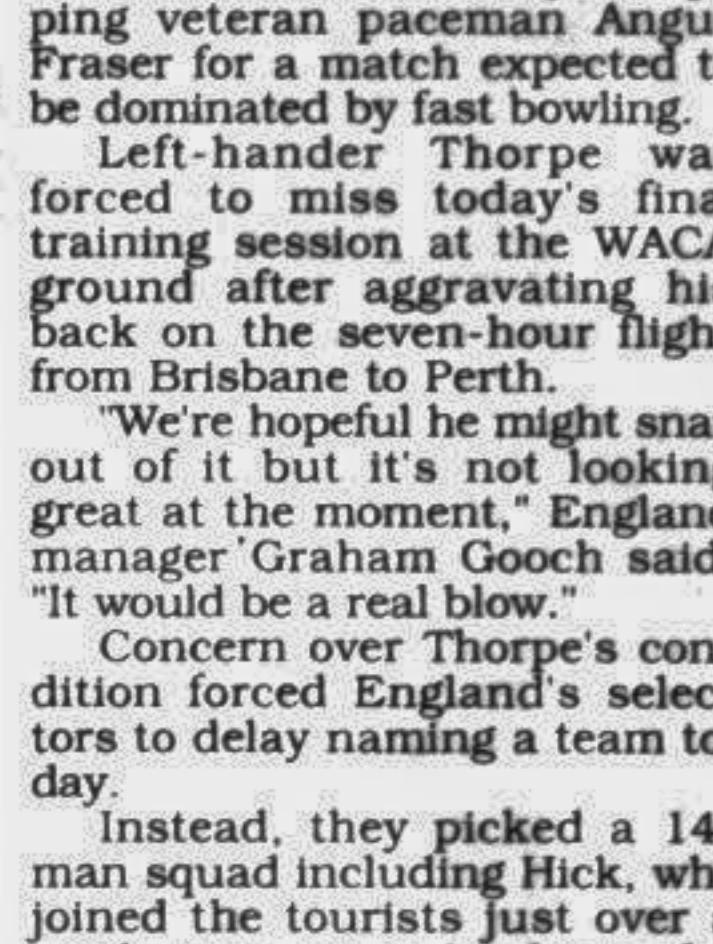
With Miller certain to play because of the variety he offers, Australia's 12th man is likely to come from either Jason Gillespie, Michael Kaspruz or Damien Fleming, all proven performers at Test level.

Following are highlights of other matches on Saturday: league positions in parentheses:

ENGLAND (from): Alec Stewart (capt), Michael Atherton, Mark Butcher, Nasser Hussain, Graham Thorpe, Mark Ramprakash, John Crawley, Graeme Hick, Dominic Cork, Robert Croft, Darren Gough, Alan Mullally, Dean Headley, Alex Tudor.

AUSTRALIA (from): Mark Taylor (capt), Michael Slater, Justin Langer, Mark Waugh, Steve Waugh, Ricky Ponting, Ian Healy, Colin Miller, Damien Fleming, Michael Kaspruz, Jason Gillespie, Glenn McGrath.

ENGLAND (from): Alec Stewart (capt), Michael Atherton, Mark Butcher, Nasser Hussain, Graham Thorpe, Mark Ramprakash, John Crawley, Graeme Hick, Dominic Cork, Robert Croft, Darren Gough, Alan Mullally, Dean Headley, Alex Tudor.



GRAEME HICK

scored an unbeaten double century in the match against South Australia, then 77 in the first innings in Brisbane.

England's main concern, however, remains their bowlers. They gambled on four seamers and a spinner in the first Test but managed to take only 13 wickets at a cost of 722 runs.

Because of the WACA's reputation as a fast bowlers' pitch, England are almost certain to drop off-spinner Robert Croft and replace him with an extra batsman, although Gooch insisted nothing would be decided

L'pool, Rovers hope for better things

LONDON, Nov 27 (Reuters/Internet)

Liverpool and Blackburn, who meet in the English Premier League on Sunday, are both looking for big improvements after poor starts to the season.

Both have sacked managers this month and while Liverpool had a mixed return since ending the joint-managership regime of Roy Evans and Gerard Houllier, the Anfield clash represents the first post-Roy Hodgson game for Blackburn.

After parting company with Evans and placing Frenchman Houllier in sole charge, Liverpool saw an immediate improvement last Saturday when they won 4-2 at leaders Aston Villa, the league leaders' first league defeat of the season.

That win was just the first step on a very big set of stairs for Liverpool.

And he was right not to get carried away as on Tuesday all the defensive failings were back as the Merseysiders committed suicide in going down 3-1 at Celta Vigo of Spain in the UEFA Cup.

Houllier has made no secret of the fact that he wants a commanding centre back but seems resigned to wait until at least the end of the Champions' League group stage before trying to find one.

In the meantime he hopes to sign 29-year-old Jean-Michel Ferri before the weekend for 1.7 million pounds (2.8 million dollars) from Turkey's Istanbulspor, but he will not be able to play on Sunday.

The good news for Liverpool is the return to form of Robbie Fowler, who looked back to his sharpest when he scored a hat-trick against Villa, taking his total of goals to four in his last two matches.

"It was his best game since coming back from injury," said midfielder Jamie Redknapp. "He turned in the complete performance."

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Manchester United usually struggle after Champions' League outings and a number of changes are likely after the exertions of the 3-3 draw at Barcelona.

Lee Bowyer and Robert Molenaar are suspended for Leeds who have just one win to show from their last 12 league visits to Old Trafford.

Lucas Radebe (hamstring) is out. The highlight of Saturday's programme is Duncan Ferguson's debut for Newcastle at home to Wimbledon.

However, the big striker, who joined for 7.0 million pounds (11.59 million dollars) from Everton this week, may have to wait for his chance to link up with Alan Shearer as the England man is struggling to overcome a hamstring strain.

Evans has been mentioned as a possible candidate, possibly in tandem with former England winger John Barnes, who has played for just 20 minutes this season at Newcastle.

But Blackburn cannot afford to wait for results and Parkes must try to get Hodgson's squad firing immediately. The Anfield clash is one of three on Sunday, which also sees Manchester United hosting Leeds and champions Arsenal, who were knocked out of the Champions' League by Lens on Wednesday, at home to Middlesbrough.

Arsenal are going through their worst period for some time without a goal in any of their last four matches and with only one win in their last six.

Patrick Vieira (hamstring) and Tony Adams (back) are out for goal-shy Arsenal while Emmanuel Petit (stomach) and Dennis Bergkamp (calf) are extremely doubtful.

Paul Gascoigne (ankle) is doubtful for Middlesbrough who have Robbie Mustoe back from suspension. Gianluca Festa (shoulder) and Phil Stamp (suspended) are out.

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Aston Villa meanwhile, ought to put last week's defeat behind them by avoiding defeat at Nottingham Forest.

Forest, beaten 2-0 at Tottenham last weekend, have now gone 11 league matches without a win, and will have to show a huge improvement of their own to end that disappointing run against their midlands rivals.

Meanwhile fourth-placed Chelsea, who have not lost any of their last 18 league or cup matches since an opening-day

defeat at Coventry, should keep the pressure on the leading trio by overcoming erratic Sheffield Wednesday at Stamford Bridge.

Following are highlights of other matches on Saturday: league positions in parentheses:

Charlton Athletic (13) v Everton (16)

Charlton have beaten Everton only once at home in the last six league meetings but are boosted by the return of Shaun Newton after injury.

Everton laboured to beat Newcastle 1-0 on Monday night without the suspended Duncan Ferguson and they will have to show they can manage without him again after his 7.0 million pounds (\$11.59 million) move to James Park.

Coventry City (17) v Leicester City (12)

Coventry's recent signing Laurent Delorge will be a long-term absentee after breaking his leg in a reserve game on Wednesday. David Burrows (hamstring) is again out.

Andy Impey is in line for his Leicester debut after his 1.6 million pounds (\$2.65 million) move from West Ham United. Tony Cottee is doubtful.

Southampton (19) v Derby County (11)

Matthew Le Tissier (suspended) and Egil Ostendst (hamstring) join Southampton's lengthy absentee list.

Defender Igor Stimac (foot) is Derby's major doubt as Francesco Baiano (ankle) is out.

West Ham United (6) v Tottenham Hotspur (10)

Striker Ian Wright is suspended for a West Ham side that have won their last two games and who will continue with John Hartson and Paul Kitson in attack.

Tottenham will be without Colin Calderwood (suspended), Justin Edinburgh (knee), Les Ferdinand (foot) and Ramon Vega (knee).

Blatter to visit Seoul

SEOUL, Nov 27: Joseph S. Blatter, head of soccer's world governing body FIFA, will visit here early next week to check on preparation for the 2002 World Cup. South Korean soccer officials said Friday, reports AP.

During his two-day trip starting Sunday, Blatter will pay a courtesy call on President Kim Dae-jung and talk with Chung Mong-joon, chairman of the Korea Football Association, the officials said.

SIX NO TRUMPS

A K Sayeedul Huq SOUTH ALSO MUST CUE BID TO REACH GS CONTRACT (Hand # 138)

Table showing bidding for Six No Trumps with columns for North (D), West, East, and South.

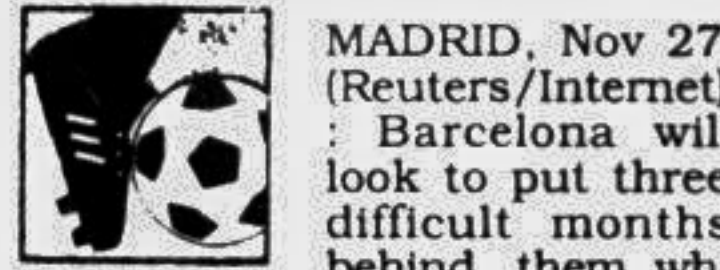
Bidding: North South were vulnerable

Table showing South, West, North, East bidding for Six No Trumps.

With 12 HCP but strong two suited hand North opened one Spade and partner responded two Diamonds. North immediately smelled slam if partner could provide the first round control in Hearts and Spades.

THE PLAY There was not much to play. West opened the King of clubs which was ruffed in dummy. Trumps were cleared and as a safety play was necessary in Spades to guard against 4-0 distribution, the King was led from dummy, all was well and the contract was claimed as losing Hearts were parked on the Spades.

Barca want to celebrate



MADRID, Nov 27 (Reuters/Internet)

Barcelona will look to put three difficult months behind them when they get the club's centenary celebrations underway against Atletico Madrid on Saturday.

Since the new campaign began back in August, Louis van Gaal's band of Dutchmen and Brazilians, augmented by a handful of home-grown players, a Nigerian and one Portuguese, have lost the Spanish Super Cup to a more determined Mallorca side, crashed out of the European Champions' League and struggled to build up any momentum in the Spanish First Division.

In that time, Van Gaal's position has inevitably become under threat, with the Catalan press and public unwilling to offer the benefit of the doubt to the man that sold such crowd favourites as Ivan de la Pena, Albert Ferrer and Guillermo Amor.

But players and coach alike are calling for a fresh start at Saturday's ambitious centenary inauguration, which will feature hundreds of dancing figurines, a firework display and a giant mosaic covering the Nou Camp pitch.

Brazilian striker Rivaldo, one of the few Van Gall imports who has been an unquestioned success, will miss the game after picking up his fifth yellow card against Mallorca last week.

But on Friday he led the pleas for a clean slate, insisting the team can clinch their second successive domestic league and cup double under Van Gaal's leadership.

least temporarily — with a two-goal victory over Atletico.

And, despite the absence of Rivaldo, they could not have chosen a better time to play them.

In five games away from their Calderon stadium this season Arrigo Sacchi's side have picked up just a single point, and that a scrappy 1-1 draw with Espanyol.

Atletico have injury doubts over senior players such as Kiko Narvaez, Jose Antonio Chamot and Vladimir Jugovic and the form of Brazilian playmaker Juninho has been under question to date.

Barcelona hopes of emerging from the later round of matches at the top of the standings will depend upon Athletic Bilbao overcoming leaders Mallorca and Valencia getting a result at second-place Celta Vigo, with both games taking place on Sunday.

Atletico, who went the same way as Barcelona on Wednesday after their European defeat to Rosenborg of Norway, need to get back to winning ways in the league after a shaky start that has seen them slip to 15th place.

And, with the distraction of the Champions' League now all but behind them, coach Luis Fernandez is confident his side can build on their 1-0 victory over Tenerife last week.

Celta, who lost their unbeaten league record against Alaves last weekend, recovered in style to beat Liverpool 3-1 in midweek.

But they come up against an equally confident Valencia, following their 3-1 drubbing of Real Madrid in the league last week.

Gus Hiddink's side, in fourth place in the table after the Valencia defeat, seem certain to slip further behind the

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes clues like '1 Homer', '4 Pickle holder', '7 Wheels of fortune?', etc.