

Sport

Rovers eyeing Kidd

LONDON, Dec 3: Blackburn Rovers said on Wednesday they had given Manchester United clearance to talk to assistant manager Brian Kidd about the vacant managerial position at Ewood Park, reports Reuters.

"This evening we have been given permission by Manchester United to speak to Brian Kidd," said Blackburn chairman Robert Coar after his side lost in English League Cup quarterfinal 1-0 at Leicester City.

"Within the next 24 hours I suspect that we will be speaking to Brian Kidd and we will take the matter forward from there," said chairman Martin Edwards had earlier rejected an initial approach from the Premier League tail-enders who are without a manager after sacking Roy Hodgson last month.

United are keen to keep Kidd, who has been number two to Alex Ferguson for almost eight years, but have accepted that the decision is up to him.

"I have told Brian about Blackburn's approach and that we have turned it down. That's all I can do," said Edwards. "It's up to Brian now."

Ferguson also made it clear he wanted to keep Kidd who has helped United to win four Premier League titles since 1993.

"He is very important to United and to be personally," he said. "We have built up an excellent staff at this club and Brian has been a key part."

Kidd, now 49, joined United as an apprentice and played in the 1968 European Cup-winning team as an 18-year-old.

He had playing spells with Arsenal, Manchester City, Everton and Bolton Wanderers before returning to Old Trafford as a member of the Backroom staff.

Morocco bid for 2006 World Cup

ZURICH, Dec 3 (Reuters/Internet): Morocco will become the sixth nation to officially enter the race to stage the 2006 World Cup finals, FIFA confirmed on Thursday.

The Moroccans, who unsuccessfully bid for the 1994 and 1998 finals, added their name to those of England, Egypt, Brazil, Ghana and Germany, who all submitted their official bids to FIFA last month.

South Africa are expected to become the third African nation to declare their official interest in the very near future.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter has repeatedly advocated the 2006 finals being staged in Africa for the first time if all the conditions laid down by FIFA for hosting the tournament -- stadium facilities, transportation, telecommunications, security and hotels -- can be met.

Davis Cup finals from today

MILAN, Dec 3: After knocking out the most successful nation in the history of Davis Cup tennis the United States, Italy now have nothing to lose in this week's final here against holders Sweden, reports AFP.

Italy have already achieved success by reaching the final, albeit after qualifying against a third-string American side in Milwaukee, and their poor record in Davis Cup finals will only underline Sweden's role as favourites.

But after an 18-year wait, the Italians will have more advantage and their favourite clay surface at the Asago Forum, when the action starts on Friday with David Sanguinetti and Andrea Gaudenzi filling the singles berths.

Team captain Paolo Bertolucci has kept faith with the side who beat the Americans in the semifinals and is expected to field Diego Nargiso and Andrea Gaudenzi in Saturday's doubles.

"You don't change a winning team," Bertolucci said. "Sweden are set to reply with Magnus Gustafson and Magnus Norman, Sweden's best man on clay this year, and a likely doubles pairing of Jonas Bjorkman and Niklas Pietrangeli."

World number 17, Thomas Johansson may have recovered in time from a knee injury. He certainly looked impressive in training here, and may yet pip Norman to the other singles slot at today's draw.

The Italians have plenty of respect for their Swedish opponents but no fear, they insist. "They have players who are good on every surface," Bertolucci said. "They are always in finals, they are a good team and they are the favourites, but our team is solid."

Italy's preparations have, however, been marred by a protracted row, with the Italian Tennis Federation (FIT) and their track record at this level does not inspire confidence.

In six previous finals, Italy have been heavily beaten in five of them and won only once in Chile in 1976 amidst a wave of anti Pinochet protests.

More recently, the protests have been against the FIT and its president Francesco Ricci Bitti, who has offered just 200 million lira (15,000 dollars) in prize money to be divided among the four players if they win.

Gaudenzi said last week "this figure is ridiculous and what's even more inadequate is the way we have been treated."

"We are therefore rejecting those 200 million but we are also complete professionals and for that reason will still play the final, which we have reacted after making so many sacrifices."

Players also feel that the federation has done little to develop tennis in Italy, where people sporting passions are still dominated by football and ferra.

However, the team's claims have been hotly denied. "They are all liars," replied former playing great Adriano Panatta, now a FIT official.

The Swedes, meanwhile, have every reason to feel confident this weekend. Carl Axel Haggeskog's team thrashed Spain 5-0 in the semifinals to reach their third consecutive final after narrowly losing 3-2 to France in 1996, and trouncing the USA last year.

In total, the Swedes have won six out of their 11 previous Davis Cup finals by Sunday night, they could have managed it three times in the last five editions since beating Russia in 1994.

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Officers' Club President Cup tennis champ

The President Cup inter-club tennis tournament was held at the Uttara Club on Wednesday, reports BSS.

In the men's doubles final Quamrul Islam Siddiqui and Nasiruddin of the Officers' Club defeated Azmat Moïn and Syed Wahid of Gulshan Club to emerge as champion.

In another doubles final, Abdus Salam and Zahurul Huq of Officers' Club beat Muhammad Niaz and Wahidul Alam of Gulshan Club.

The Officers' Club gained the championship trophy in the doubles by winning both the final matches.

Member of Parliament SM Akram distributed prizes among the winners.

Driver Hingis

ZURICH, Switzerland, Dec 3: Martina Hingis, whose tennis ability has already earned her four cars, has taken her first driving lesson, reports AP.

Hingis, who turned 18 on September 30 and thus became eligible for a Swiss driver's license, ventured into traffic for the first time Wednesday.

"I won't have to depend on somebody else to get around, go shopping or just go out," a smiling Hingis was quoted as telling the Lausanne daily Le Matin from behind the wheel of her red hatchback.

She has already studied the rules of the road, said her instructor Walter Frei. "She's very serious in her attitude toward driving."

Her only problem on the first day was starting her stick-shift car uphill, said the mass-circulation Zurich daily Blick.

Hingis, who has won two Porsches in tennis tournaments and has been given two Opels by her sponsor, needs at least a month more in training before she will be able to take the test and drive her cars herself.

Japanese team's homage to Oda

TOKYO, Dec 3: Japan's Asian Games team paid tribute to Miko Oda, the region's first Olympic champion following his death on Wednesday, reports AFP.

Teruji Kogake, Japan's Asiad team chief and a former pupil of Oda, said Japan's athletes would dedicate their medals to him.

"What we can do is to produce good results and bring good news to his altar," he said.

Oda, triple-jump champion at the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics and a former world record holder, died shortly before the start of the Asian Games in Bangkok on December 6.

Kogake himself claimed a triple-jump world record of 16.48 metres in 1956 under Oda's coaching.

Japan won the Olympic triple jump title for three straight Games through Oda, Chuhei Nambu in 1932 and Naoto Tajima in 1936.

When Oda won in 1928, the band at the award ceremony skipped the start of the national anthem.

I guess the organisers failed to prepare a complete music sheet as they did not expect a Japanese to win," Oda had joked.

After his Olympic triumph the flagstaffs at Tokyo's national stadium were measured at 15.21 metres to match his winning leap.

After retiring from competition, Oda worked as a sports journalist with the major daily Asahi Shimbun and served as general manager for Japan's athletics team at the 1964 Olympics. He also served as a member of the Japanese Olympic Committee and taught at Waseda University in Tokyo.



Some handicapped girls taking part in a sports competition, organised by the Bangladesh Foundation for the Disabled in observance of the International Disabled Day at the Dhaka University ground yesterday.

Tyson's plea may land him in jail

ROCKVILLE, Dec 3 (Reuters/Internet): Because of his no-contest plea in a Maryland courtroom, Mike Tyson could end up back in prison just as his boxing career is getting back on track.

The former heavyweight champion entered the plea to misdemeanor assault on his role in a scuffle after a traffic accident.

The charges stemmed from an Aug. 31 traffic accident in the Washington suburb of Gaithersburg, Md., involving Tyson's wife, Monica. Tyson was accused of kicking and punching two motorists involved in the accident.

"You understand that this plea could affect your parole," Judge Steven Johnson told Tyson before accepting his plea.

"I'm truly aware of that," said Tyson, who was released from prison in 1995 after serving three years of a six-year sentence for a 1992 rape conviction in Indiana. It will be up to Indiana authorities to decide whether the no-contest plea violated his probation.

Judge Patricia Gifford of that state's Marion Superior Court, who presided over Tyson's trial and sentenced

him, said the count probation department must await word from Maryland authorities on any court action before it can review his probation. Indiana does not have a provision allowing a defendant to plead no contest.

Although the plea to the two counts is not an admission of guilt, Tyson faces up to 20 years in prison -- 10 years on each count -- when he is sentenced in Montgomery County, Md., early next year. He also could be fined up to \$2,500 for each count.

The prosecutor urged that jail time be part of Tyson's punishment. Tyson told the judge he didn't expect leniency or a lighter sentence in return for entering the no-contest plea. He would not discuss the case outside court. The former heavyweight champion has a tentative fight Jan. 16 against Francois Botha.

Tyson is undergoing psychiatric treatment. That was one of the conditions that led to reinstatement of his boxing license by the Nevada Athletic Commission in October. The license was revoked after he bit champion Evander Holyfield's ears during a June 1997 title bout.

Tyson's lawyer, Paul Kemp, said the plea was an appropriate resolution to the case.

"Mr. Tyson certainly concedes that things occurred that were inappropriate," Kemp said.

Following the August accident, Abmelec Saucedo and Richard Hardick said Tyson attacked them. They reached a settlement with Tyson to avoid a civil suit.

Kemp said Saucedo and Hardick are prepared to testify at sentencing that they support Tyson's no-contest plea.

Kemp admitted that Hardick was struck with a glancing blow and Saucedo was inadvertently kicked as the boxer was restrained by his wife and bodyguard.

Compostela rope in Radchenko

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA, Spain, Dec 3 (Reuters/Internet): Spanish second division club Compostela on Thursday completed the signing of Dmitry Radchenko from Deportivo Coruna.

The former Russia international striker, who moved to Spain in 1993 with Racing Santander before transferring to Deportivo two years later, moves on a free transfer after failing to win a place in the first team squad at Deportivo this season.

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Friday 4th December (All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme).

BTV Morning Session 9:00 Opening announcement, Al Quran, Programme summary 9:05 Patriotic song 9:10 Khabar 9:15 Aalor Dishaare 9:35 Sports program 10:00 News in English 10:05 Film show: Ram Blyon Adventure Series 10:30 Mithshriya 11:00 Jantrasongit 12:30 Closed down

Evening Session 3:00 Opening announcement, Al Quran, 3:10 Recitation of the Tripitak 3:15 Patriotic song 3:20 Pobitra chab-Barat (TV program) 4:00 Khabar 4:30 Hamth O Nath 5:25 Kobi Abdul High Masrki Soarani 6:00 Health programme 6:30 Khabar 6:40 Programmes from Chittagong 7:05 Hamth O Nath, 8:00 News in Bangla 8:30 Aalokhanushant 10:00 News at 10:30 Mid-mahil 11:30 Khabar (The News 11:45 Close down

BBC WORLD

6:00am BBC World News Followed by Weather 6:30 World Living: The Net (The programme looks at attempts to develop a machine which could mean an end to City traders, and investigates the concept of artificial intelligence -- can computers think for themselves?) 7:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 7:30 Asia Today (The latest news, analysis and features from the BBC correspondents who live and work in the region) 7:45 World Business Report (The latest business news with informed analysis from the world's financial centres) 7:50 BBC World News Followed by Weather 8:30 Asia Today (The latest news, analysis and features from the BBC correspondents who live and work in the region) 9:45 World Business Report (The latest business news with informed analysis from the world's financial centres) 9:50 BBC World News Followed by Weather 9:30 Asia Today (The latest news, analysis and features from the BBC correspondents who live and work in the region) 9:45 World Business Report (The latest business news with informed analysis from the world's financial centres) 9:50 BBC World News Followed by Weather 10:30 USA Direct (From New York, Brian Barton and Metinda Whitcomb bring the latest in news, entertainment and sport from across the USA including today's American Business News from Wall Street with Patrick Cooney) 11:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 11:30 World Focus: Panorama (The BBC's flagship current affairs programme -- with the best in reporting from Britain and around the world. Followed by World City Guides) 12:00

BBC World News Followed by Weather 12:30 World Living: Top Gear (The new Audi sports-car hopes to take on rivals Porsche and BMW with the new TT. Jeremy Clarkson asks if the TT's good looks and high performance quality are enough to help Audi see off the competition) 1:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 1:30 Hard Talk (Tim Sebastian talks to newsmakers and personalities from across the globe) 2:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 2:30 World Focus: Panorama (The BBC's flagship current affairs programme -- with the best in reporting from Britain and around the world. Followed by World City Guides) 3:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 3:30 World Living: The Net (The programme looks at attempts to develop a machine which could mean an end to City traders, and investigates the concept of artificial intelligence -- can computers think for themselves?) 4:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 4:30 World Living: The Net (The programme looks at attempts to develop a machine which could mean an end to City traders, and investigates the concept of artificial intelligence -- can computers think for themselves?) 5:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 5:30 World Living: The Net (The programme looks at attempts to develop a machine which could mean an end to City traders, and investigates the concept of artificial intelligence -- can computers think for themselves?) 6:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 6:30 World Living: The Net (The programme looks at attempts to develop a machine which could mean an end to City traders, and investigates the concept of artificial intelligence -- can computers think for themselves?) 7:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 7:30 World Living: The Net (The programme looks at attempts to develop a machine which could mean an end to City traders, and investigates the concept of artificial intelligence -- can computers think for themselves?) 8:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 8:30 World Living: The Net (The programme looks at attempts to develop a machine which could mean an end to City traders, and investigates the concept of artificial intelligence -- can computers think for themselves?) 9:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 9:30 World Living: The Net (The programme looks at attempts to develop a machine which could mean an end to City traders, and investigates the concept of artificial intelligence -- can computers think for themselves?) 10:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 10:30 World Living: The Net (The programme looks at attempts to develop a machine which could mean an end to City traders, and investigates the concept of artificial intelligence -- can computers think for themselves?) 11:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 11:30 World Living: The Net (The programme looks at attempts to develop a machine which could mean an end to City traders, and investigates the concept of artificial intelligence -- can computers think for themselves?) 12:00

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Anja Heyl (L) handing over sports equipment to Sharif Hasan at the German embassy in Dhaka yesterday.

The sports gears will be used at the Department of Physical Education of Rajshahi University to develop the standard of track and field.

STAR MOVIES

7:30 Action: Aces: Iron Eagle III 9:15 Action: Unlawful Passage 11:30 Action: Causage Under Fire 1:30 Romance: Bacon 5:30 Comedy: Erik the

CHANNEL [V]

7:00 Turn On TV [V] 8:30 Rewind [V] Sophiya 9:30 Zabarad 12:00 Home Arrest 12:30 Zabarad Hits 2:30 First Day First Show 3:00 Videocon Flashback 4:00 Turn on TV 4:30 Volume Double Guest Special 5:30 Turn on TV 7:30 First Day First Show 8:00 House Arrest 8:30 The Indian Top Ten 9:30 Turn on TV 10:00 First Day First Show 10:30 The Ticket 10:45 Turn on TV [V] 11:00 Bacard Blast 11:30 Turn on TV [V] 12:30 BPL Oye! 1:30 Turn on TV [V] 3:30 Turn on TV [V] 4:30 The 1998 Billboard Awards: Nomination Special 5:00 Pepsi Chinese Top-20

STAR WORLD

6:00am Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures 6:30 Brittas Empire 7:00 Today's Gourmet 7:30 The Wonder Years 8:00 Mr Belvedere 8:30 Newhart 9:00 Walker Texas Ranger 10:00 Theatricals 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show Oprah's Angel Network 12:00 Star Trek: Voyager 1:00 The Bold and the Beautiful 1:30 Today's Gourmet 2:00 Snowy River 2:30 Home Improvement 3:00 Dr Quinn Medicine Woman 3:30 Small Wonder 4:00 Home Improvement 4:30 Brittas Empire 4:30 World News Report 5:30 Home Improvement 6:00 Dr Quinn Medicine Woman 6:30 Heartbeat 6:30 Practice 9:00 The Bold and the Beautiful 9:30 Home Improvement 10:00 Dr Quinn Medicine Woman 11:00 Heartbeat 12:00 Feak Practice 1:00 Home Improvement 1:30 Newhart 2:00 Brittas Empire 2:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 3:00 The Wonder Years 3:30 Mr Belvedere 4:00 Nanny & the Professor 4:30 World News 5:00 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea

ZEE INDIA TV

7:00am Jagran 7:30 Zee News: Hindi 8:00 Help Line 8:30 Zee News: Hindi 9:00 Centre Stage 9:30 Zee News: English 10:00 Mystery Unfolds 10:30 Naye Nagmeen 11:00 Hum Zameen 11:30 Zee News: Hindi 12:00 Bournvita Quiz Contest 12:30 Hasen Pal (Trailer Show) 1:00 Zee Countdown 1:30 Zee News: Hindi 2:00 Mad Show 2:30 Money Game 3:00 Teer Kamal 3:30 News Line 4:00 Aashiana 4:30 Hum Honge Kamyab 5:00 Naye Nagme 5:30 Zed it Pro 6:00 Pushkhetra 7:00 Hasen Pal (Trailer Show) 7:30 Zee Sports Show 8:00 The Diplomacy Show 8:30 Zee News: English 9:00 The Professor 9:30 The Women 9:40 Zee News: Hindi 10:00 Disha Samvad 10:30 Zee News: Hindi 10:50 Zee Business News: Hindi 11:30 Zee News Roundup 12:00 Zee Countdown 12:30 The Dream Merchant 1:00 Vision Beyond-50 1:30 BQC 2:00 Zee News: Hindi 2:30 Hum Zameen 3:00 Zee Face To Face 2:30 Hum

STAR PLUS

6:30 Nainad 7:30 Good Morning India 9:15 Dress Circle 9:30 Murder She Wrote 10:30 Santa Barbara 11:30 The Bold & the Beautiful 12:00 Awaraz 12:30 Hum Tum Gaate Chale 1:00 Tanha 2:00 Kohra 2:30 Manzil 3:00 Swabhiman 3:30 Time Cinema 6:30 Small Wonder 7:00 Jubilee Plus 7:15 Dress Circle 7:30 Star News (Hindi) 8:00 Meri Pasand 8:30 Maal Hai To Taal Hai 9:00 Ajeeb Dastan 9:30 Star News 10:00 Mastercard Family Fortune 10:30 Aamul India Show 11:00 Aaj Ki Baat 12:00 Saboot 12:30 The Bold & the Beautiful 1:00 Newhart 1:30 Baywatch Nights 2:30 Christy 3:30 L.A. Law 4:30 Santa Barbara 5:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show

DD CHANNEL-1

5:55am Vande Mataram & Thought of the Day 6:00 Serial: Aradhana 6:30 For the Sake of 7:30 Samachar 7:45 Short Film 8:45 The News 8:50 This Morning's Business 9:00 Series: I & K Reporter 9:30 Nayna 10:00 Serial: Arakhanaya (Sara Chandra's Story) 10:30 Serial: Tarang 11:30 Serial: Youg 12:30 Serial: Aurat 1:00 Serial: Aparajita 1:30 Serial: Inhaas 1:30 Serial: Wagt Ki Raftar 2:30 News in Hindi 2:40 News in English 2:50 Serial: Koop Suhane 3:00 Serial: Aap Ki Shanti 3:30 Serial: Ujala 4:00 Tea Time Monoranjan 4:30 Alladin Aur Jadu Ka Chirag 5:00 Qawwali 5:45 Rasoi Se 6:00 Sat Sath 6:30 Panjabi Darpan 7:05 Special: 7:30 Tap Tap Topi Topi 8:20 Chitrabhar 9:00 Samachar 9:30 News / 10:00 Hindi Feature Film

SONY TV

7:30am Jeevan Mulya 8:00 Rishprasad 8:30 Yaadon Ki Baraat 9:00 Hum Log 9:30 Cine Clips 10:00 Star Yaar Kalakar (Contest Show) 11:00 Just Mohabbat 11:30 Pop Pouri 12:00 Bhanwar (Based on True Story) Epi: State of Delhi VS Sahdev & Others (Part 1) 12:30 Yeh Sadi Nah Hai 1:00 Chamatkari (Part 1) Cine Clips 2:00 Boogi Boogi 2:30 World of Cricket 3:00

MUSIC ASIA

7:30am Aalaap 8:00 B & W Gems 8:30 All Time Hits (Hit Songs) 9:00 Old Sizzlers 9:30 Aalaap 10:00 All Time Hits 10:30 Baggiper: Jharokha 11:00 Dil Ki Nazar Se 11:30 Bajaj Music Box (Trailer Show) 12:00 Hit 12:30 Old Tavern: Sizzlers 1:00 Baggiper: Jharokha 1:30 Raagaon Se Filmon Tak 2:00 Music News 2:30 Bajaj Music Box (Trailer Show) 3:00 Old Tavern: Sizzlers 3:30 Baggiper: Jharokha 4:00 Music News 4:30 Coca-Cola World Premiere 7:30 Old Tavern: Sizzlers 8:00 Coca-Cola World Premiere 8:30 Baggiper: Jharokha 9:00 Bajaj Music Box (Trailer Show) 9:30 Sham-e-Gajal 10:00 Pop Busters 10:30 Baggiper: Jharokha 11:00 Hindi Film 1:30 Jharokha

DD 7

10:25 Janmadin (Birthday Greetings) 10:30 Daily Sope: Oga Priyatama 11:00 Daily Sope: Rajeshwari 11:30 Parliament Hour/ Rabindra Sangeet 11:45 Light Instrumental-Folk Songs 12:00 Play 12:30 Serial 1:00 Serial: Ashi 1:30 Serial: Simarekha 2:00 Daily So