

Recipe for disaster

BANGKOK, Dec 6: About 1,000 volunteer liaison officers today threatened to walk out of the Asian Games because they were banned from eating in restaurants at the Athletes Village.

"The manager of the Village said there was only enough food for the athletes so we have been ordered to eat elsewhere. It is not fair," one disgruntled liaison officer told Reuters.

It was the second walkout threat against the Games by support staff in 24 hours.

On Saturday motorised tricycle drivers briefly went on strike until they were given assurances that they would soon receive two weeks back pay.

The drivers strike had threatened to disrupt last minute training by athletes because the vehicles were used to transport them to venues.

A medal worth two million bucks!

BANGKOK, Dec 6: President Joseph Estrada has pledged 2 million pesos (51,200 dollars) for gold at the Asian Games but one medal would be priceless to sports fans in the Philippines, reports AP.

The nation has sent a well-prepared and fully professional men's basketball lineup to the games in a bid to end China's winning run of three titles and protect its own record of four Asian Games golds.

After the Philippines dominated the early years of the games, the launch of a pro league took precedence. But this year, authorities have been prepared to starve their own national league of the top players and send big, sending the Asian team touring through the United States in recent weeks.

UCB prefers 'colour black'

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 6: The United Cricket Board of South Africa has ordered all provincial teams to select black players for future matches, the board said on Saturday, reports AFP.

The instruction follows a stinging attack on the country's previously whites-only-only playing codes by Sports Minister Steve Tshwete, who claimed provincial selectors were perpetuating racism in sport by not including blacks in teams.

"In order to increase the number of players of colour eligible for selection for the national team, the UCB agreed it would be a requirement for all provincial teams to contain players of colour," UCB president Raymond White said in a statement.

A UCB committee would be tasked with monitoring teams elections, he added.

It would have a range of powers, including authority over selection of the national squad.

The committee shall be entitled to direct selectors to include players of colour."



Dion Dublin(R), of Aston Villa, tries to get the better of Manchester United defender Wesley Brown during their English Premiership top of the table clash at Villa Park on December 5. The match ended 1-1.

—AP/UNB photo

Villa owe Joachim one

LONDON, Dec 6 (Reuters/Internet): Striker Julian Joachim kept Aston Villa top of the English Premier League by firing a second-half equaliser on Saturday to force a 1-1 home draw against Manchester United.

United manager Alex Ferguson, in his first game since the departure of influential right-hand man Brian Kidd to Blackburn Rovers, had been lifted by a crisply taken goal from midfielder Paul Scholes in the 47th minute.

But Joachim put his side level eight minutes later and both he and Alan Thompson, from a free kick, then struck the woodwork as Villa stayed a point clear of second-placed United.

"Going a goal down helped us in a way," Joachim said. "We went all out on the attack and can take a lot of credit from the game. It has given us a lot of confidence for the other tough games coming up."

Villa, who next face Chelsea and Arsenal, have 30 points from 15 games. United have 29, three more than United, champions Arsenal and West Ham United, who were beaten 4-0 by Leeds on Saturday.

As Ferguson got down to United life without Kidd, his former assistant during the past seven successful years at Old Trafford was enjoying a winning start to his new career at Blackburn.

Kidd, who has replaced Roy Hodgson as Blackburn manager, saw his charges win 1-0 at home to Charlton Athletic to move off the bottom of the table.

A 75th minute goal from Kevin Davies gave Blackburn

only their third win in 16 league matches, and kept Charlton sliding down the table after an encouraging start on their return to the top flight.

Kidd was intending to be purely an observer at the match after agreeing to join Rovers on Thursday, but only 17 minutes had elapsed before he moved from his seat in the stand to go down to the touchline where he quickly became animated.

Leeds' 4-0 win was acclaimed by manager David Leary as a "great team performance".

"We have been playing some great stuff," said O'Leary after his side had blasted three of their goals in an 18-minute spell in the second half.

Midfielder Lee Bowyer thrust Leeds ahead after eight minutes but they had to wait until the 61st minute to extend their lead, with Bowyer getting his second.

Dutch defender Robert Molenaar, in the 68th minute, and Jimmy Floyd Hasselbank,

V-Day carrom from Dec 13

Bangladesh Carrom Association (BCA) will organise a three-day Victory Day carrom tournament 1998 here on December 13-15, reports AFP.

The tournament will be held at the Dhaka University gymnasium on single event basis.

Interested clubs have been advised to contact BCA secretary Mohammad Maksudur Rahman at the Shahbagh Central Library in person or over phone (502509) for registration.

Each club can send a three-member team, comprising two players and an official, along with a registration fee of Tk 300.

Striker Emile Heskey hit the first after 61 minutes and defender Steve Walsh got the second in the 64th.

Wimbledon overturned a 54th-minute deficit to snatch victory with goals from Jason Euell in the 71st and 81st minutes.

Gary McAllister had fired Coventry in front from a penalty after Wimbledon defender Chris Perry brought down Darren Huckerby.

Tyson puts his homes on the market

CLEVELAND, Dec 6 (AP): There will be no open house at this home.

Boxer Mike Tyson is selling his 62-acre (25-hectare) estate in Trumbull County along with homes in Las Vegas and Farmington, Connecticut. The Plain Dealer reported Saturday. Total asking price: 21 million dollars.

The former heavyweight champ is selling the homes because he is training in the Phoenix area and plans to spend more time on the West Coast of the United States, said Mike Farris, a real estate broker in Las Vegas and one-time head of security for Tyson.

"He doesn't spend any time at these properties," Farris said.

Farris said Tyson and his wife, Monica, who also own a home in Bethesda, Maryland, near Washington, will be looking for property on the West Coast.

The house in Trumbull County, about 65 kilometres (40 miles) southeast of Cleveland, has an asking price of 2.2 million dollars. It has six to eight bedrooms, a 900-square-meter (10,000-square-foot) room with a pool, a regulation-size basketball court and a theatre room decorated in zebra-striped carpeting.

He bought the property in 1989 for 305,000 dollars.

Farris is selling the home with Michelle Holcomb, a real estate agent in Ravenna.

"No tours and no open houses," she told the newspaper. "This will be for qualified buyers, by appointment only, and they will have to contact me."

Tyson also is selling a mansion in Las Vegas next door to entertainer Wayne Newton in a neighbourhood where the Sultan of Brunei has a home. Asking price for the mansion with 1,170 square metres (13,000 square feet), 10 bedrooms, a wine cellar, gymnasium and guest house: 5.9 million dollars.

The asking price on the 5,040-square-meter (56,000-square-foot) Connecticut house has been reduced from 22 million dollars to 13 million dollars.

The house has 20 bedrooms, seven kitchens, five dining rooms, a theater, dance club, Olympic-size pool, indoor shooting range, glass elevator, 24 bathrooms and 14 half-baths (toilet but no shower or bathtub).

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