

Ctg wants to host an Int'l cricket match

Chittagong district sports officials want to hold an international match between Bangladesh and either Kenya or Zimbabwe before or after the three-nation cricket tournament, reports BSS.

The tri-nation tournament will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium from March 19 to 27.

General secretary of Chittagong Jila Krira Parishad (CJPK) Shahed Asgar Chowdhury said, "We are eager to hold a match between Bangladesh and Kenya in Chittagong, as the people have been deprived of an international match for so long."

He said Chittagong has been contributing a lot to the national cricket for more than one decade.

"We have sent a letter to BCB in this regard and requested them to prepare a pitch at the M A Aziz Stadium," the newly-elected CJPK official said.

Schools cricket

JHALAKATHI, Feb 18: Udbodhan School advanced to the group final beating Kirtipasha Prasanna Kumar School by five runs in the national schools cricket championship here today, reports APB.

Batting first, Udbodhan made 122 in 27.2 overs. In reply, Prasanna Kumar scored 117 in 26.1 overs.

The ship of the winning side captured five wickets for 17 runs.

Meanwhile, Pourasava Adarsha School beat Amirabad High School by 63 runs on Wednesday to earn a final berth from the other group.

Khulna cricket

KHULNA, Feb 18: Two matches were played Wednesday in the Belayet Hossain Foundation and Silver Line Group First Division cricket league being held under auspices of Khulna, Zila Krira Sangstha, reports BSS.

The first match of the day was played between Abahani Krira Chakra and Kapilmun Krira Shikha Pratisthan (KKSP) at the local stadium, KKSP won the toss and invited Abahani to bat who scored 121 all out.

In reply KKSP scored 123 for the loss of seven wickets.

In the second match of the day played at the Divisional Stadium, New Town Club defeated Central Club by 88 runs.

Central Club won the toss and put New Town in to bat who scored 216 for seven. In reply, Central Club were all out for 128 runs.

V'BALL LEAGUE

Meanwhile, two matches were held in the volleyball league at the Outer Stadium on Wednesday.

In the first match, Dargahpur Jana Kalyan Samity defeated young Saheed Smriti Shaugha 25-7, 25-10, 25-11.

In another match of the day Football Referee Welfare Association earned full points defeating their rival team 25-20, 25-13, 25-11.

Pakistan clinch hockey series

KARACHI, Feb 18: Pakistan trounced India 4-2 Thursday taking an unbeatable 5-1 lead in the nine-match hockey series against their arch-rivals, India, reports AP.

Pakistan's Naveed Asim struck twice, while Atif Bashir and Mohammad Sarwar got a goal each.

Kamal Horo and Baljit Singh Dhillon put India on the scoreboard.

Pakistan won the first round in India 3-1 and the last two games played here.

Bashir's 10th minute goal was helped by the weak reflexes of India's goalie Jagdish Ponnappa allowing the ball to roll into the goal.

Sarwar's well placed cross from the right flank enabled Asim to double the lead in the 17th minute. Asim struck a second time with just one minute remaining in the first half.

India were weak on the penalty shots missing several attempts.

World Cup ref passes away

MOSCOW, Feb 18 (Reuters/Internet): Nikolai Latyshev, the man who disclosed two jars of Russian caviar may have helped England win the 1966 World Cup, has died in Moscow aged 85.

A spokesman for the Russian Football Union said on Thursday the Soviet-era World Cup referee had died in hospital late on Wednesday after being taken ill that evening.

Latyshev is best remembered for refereeing the 1962 World Cup final in Chile and for his recollections of the 1966 World Cup in England.

Last month in an interview with Reuters Latyshev revealed how caviar may have changed the outcome of the 1966 final in which England beat the former West Germany 4-2.

In that game, Soviet linesman Tofik Bakhrumov convinced Swiss referee Gottfried Dienst that Geoff Hurst's controversial third goal, which crashed down off the bar, had crossed the goal line before bouncing out.

The arguments have raged ever since and followed Bakhrumov, who died in 1993, and Dienst, who died last June, to their graves.

Latyshev recalled how Bakhrumov lobbied to get the job on the line with the help of two jars of caviar, a great delicacy.

He wanted very much to officiate in a World Cup final and came to me for help," said Latyshev, who was on the 1966 referee selection panel.

S Africa hope for the best



CAPE TOWN, Feb 18 (Reuters/Internet): South Africa is confident it will emerge as the sole African bidder to host the 2006 soccer World Cup, a move that would greatly boost its hopes of staging soccer's showcase, bid chief Danny Jordaan said on Thursday.

"My feeling is that we may only have Morocco around by April 30, and we are on our way to talk to them," he told a news conference.

Nigeria, Ghana and Egypt have also indicated a wish to host the 2006 event but Jordaan said he expected all three to withdraw by the April 30 deadline set by CAF, the African Football Confederation, which wants a single bidder.

"We will talk to Morocco to try to settle the African question. My feeling is CAF will support us and we will get the votes of the four others," Jordaan said.

If South Africa did become the sole bidder, it should logically then get to host the World Cup because even FIFA head Sepp Blatter had said it was the continent's turn, he added.

Jordaan said South Africa met or exceeded all the requirements laid down by FIFA for countries qualifying to enter the bidding process.

It had the necessary sports stadiums with the appropriate capacity, the airports, the telecommunications networks, the transport system, world-class banking and plenty of top-quality hotels.

A major boost to the national campaign came this week with a decision by the national and provincial Rugby Football unions to allow their grounds to be used for the World Cup soccer matches.

This would mean South African soccer not having to embark on a financially crippling stadium-building programme and is a gesture heavy with symbolism in the newly democratised nation.

Rugby has been traditionally dominated by the country's white minority, whereas soccer is the property of the black majority.

Opening the gates of the major rugby stadiums for soccer matches would show a strong commitment to a racially equal South Africa and represent another nail in the coffin of the apartheid legacy.

Jordaan said he was proud that the 65 million rand (10.8 million dollars) for the South African bid process had all been raised from local business, with not one cent of money from government.

By contrast the main competing bids from Germany and England had substantial quantities of state funding, he said.

He admitted that South Africa had a problem with crime but said the government was starting to tackle it and he was confident it would be under control by 2006.

He also noted that Britain and Germany had their own urban crime problems as well as a fair number of soccer hooligans -- a phenomenon so far alien to South Africa.

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MSC, Abahani storm into last four

Giants Mohammedan SC and Abahani moved to the semifinals of the Cotton Group Shaheed Smriti hockey tournament yesterday, reports UNB.

The aspirants, Mohammedan outplayed Bangladesh Navy 5-0 and holders Abahani defeated Ajax 5-1 at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

Mohammedan won their first match against Ajax 10-0 while Abahani against the Navy 5-0.

A brilliant hat-trick by Pakistani Tahir Zaman enabled Mohammedan to sink the sailors.

The winners led the first half 1-0. Pakistani striker Kamran Ashraf netted the goal in the fourth minutes.

In the second half, another Mohammedan Pakistani recruit Rana Atique doubled the margin in the 38th minute also by a field goal.

Tahir scored thrice in the 54th, 59th and 69th minutes. Abahani dominated the first half 2-0.

Nakib gave the champions the lead from a penalty corner in the third minute, which came from Alamgir, Harun and Nakib combination. He netted another goal in the 54th minute also from a penalty corner.

Four minutes later Pakistani Imran Yousuf doubled the margin also from a penalty corner.

In the 36th minute, Rabiuddin scored third goal from another penalty corner.

Skipper Alamgir netted one goal in the 42nd minute out of Harun pass while Shovo of Ajax scored one field goal in the 49th minute.

Both teams have earned two wins from as many as outings and now face each other in their last group league match on Saturday. The match will decide who tops the group.

TEAMS

MOHAMMEDAN SC: Javed, Khokon, Shipu, Rony, Mitul, Tahir Zaman, Khalid, Rajib, Rana Atique, Kamran Ashraf and Ramji.

BANGLADESH NAVY: Boby, Rafique, Biplob, Saiful, Saifq, Azad, Azam Khan, Shahin, Mamun, Lunan and Tawhid.

ABAHANI: Banni, Mamun, Nakib, Rabiuddin, Miral, Harun, Rubel, Khokon, Alamgir, Gul Hasnain and Imran Yousuf.

AJAX SC: Nayan, Samshuddin, Babu, Imran, Shiplu, Titu, Tawfiqul, Rana, Rubel, Prince and Shovo.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Bangladesh Army vs Azad SC (2 pm)
Usha KC vs Bangladesh Air Force (3:30 pm)

Kevin under media fire

LONDON, Feb 18 (Reuters/Internet): The British media greeted the appointment of Kevin Keegan as part-time England coach on Thursday with derision.

"Just when English football needed stability, the uncertainty deepens," commented the Daily Telegraph.

At the other end of the press spectrum, the tabloid newspaper the Sun was typically forthright: "Keegan breaks our hearts again" was its back page headline.

The appointment of the former Liverpool and Hamburg star for just four games, including three Euro 2000 qualifiers, was viewed as a compromise by the media.

Keegan will retain his role as coach of Second Division club Fulham after talks with the Football Association.

"Keegan leaves England in limbo" was the headline in the Times, commenting on a decision which the FA were at pains to deny was a stop-gap measure.

"I do not think it is desperation," said the FA's David Davies.

Whatever the opinion of the Football Association's acting chief executive, the British media were united in their condemnation.

The outcome of talks between Kevin Keegan and the FA was reported as a victory for the new part-time England coach.

"Heads I win, tails you lose," was the provocative headline in the Daily Mail, referring to what it saw as Keegan dictating terms to England's football authorities.

There was a rare admission of achieving a less than successful outcome by FA acting chairman Geoff Thompson: "It would appear we're back where we started. I can understand people saying it's a mess."

The Guardian was among the sharpest critics. It reserved its harshest comment for the leader page rather than the sports headlines. Unusually, Keegan himself came in for as much criticism as the FA.

Describing him as a "quintessential man of the Seventies", the newspaper questioned Keegan's credentials for the job, part-time or otherwise.

"Kevin Keegan, like Glenn Hoddle before him, comes from a generation too many of whose young men and women left school too early. The Guardian did not hold back: "Hungry," minded they may be but they compete in a world increasingly dominated by discipline, mental as well as physical.

Comparing the intellect of the new England coach unfavourably with such French counterparts as Arsene Wenger of Arsenal and Liverpool's Gerard Houllier, the Guardian said, "a part-time use of Keegan's skills isn't the answer."



Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Mustafizur Rahman, BB, (L) handing over the Best Foreign Team Trophy of the Willis Cup golf tournament to Shaiful Islam during a prize-giving ceremony at the BGCC on February 13. Brig Intiaz Ahmed Chowdhury, who was a member of that team which also included Masud Ahmed and Mazzad Alam, is on the right.

Parma power past Inter



MILAN, Feb 18: Inter Milan lost 2-0 at home to Parma in an Italian Cup semifinal first leg match on Wednesday, ending the tie with eight men after three players were sent off for dissent in the space of two minutes, reports Reuters.

Argentine midfielder Juan Veron scored Parma's first goal with a fine diagonal right foot volley from the edge of the penalty area after 76 minutes.

No sooner was the ball in the net than the whole Inter team surrounded referee Stefano Braschi and claimed vehemently there had been a foul in the build-up to the goal.

They appeared to be saying Parma defender Paolo Vanoli had fouled Inter's Francesco Colonnese before he gave the ball to Faustino Asprilla, who crossed for Veron to score.

Television replays suggested that, if anything, it was Vanoli that was fouled.

Braschi first sent Inter captain Giuseppe Bergomi off for dissent. He then showed Colonnese the red card as more Inter players joined the fray, jostling the referee.

Finally Braschi dismissed Argentine midfielder Javier Zanetti before play resumed.

Parma lay siege to the Inter goal for a bizarre closing 15 minutes and Abel Balbo took advantage of the huge hole in the centre of the Inter defence to score an 86th minute header.

Balbo also hit the post in injury time as Inter tried desperately to defend their goal.

Stewards escorted Braschi to the players' tunnel after the whistle as Inter fans showered the San Siro pitch with oranges, and plastic cups.

"I don't know what the problem was with the goal," a bewildered Parma goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon said. "It looked like a good goal to me, a goal to applaud."

The two sides clash again in the second leg in Parma on March 10. The winners will face either Fiorentina or Bologna, who meet in a first leg tie on Thursday.

Traore joins Liverpool

LIVERPOOL, England, Feb 18: Liverpool have signed 18-year-old French defender Djimi Traore from French Second Division club Laval for 550,000 pounds (900,600 dollars), the Liverpool Post reported on Wednesday, says Reuters.

Traore played under Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier when Houllier was in charge of the French under-18 side.

He is not expected to be part of the first team squad this season and will join recent Norwegian signing Frode Kippe in the reserves.

Houllier is concerned about the lack of defensive talent coming through the club's development system, with only Stephen Wright expected to turn into a first-team regular over the next few years.

Keegan for the time being



LONDON, Feb 18 (AP): They say the two 'e's' in Keegan stand for energy and enthusiasm.

After the post-World Cup slump under Glenn Hoddle, that's just what England needs if it is to reach the finals of the 2000 European Championship and restore lost pride by winning the next four games under interim coach Kevin Keegan.

A standout striker for Liverpool and Hamburg, Keegan became one of soccer's biggest names in the 1970s. He then dropped out of the game, only to reemerge as a popular and successful manager of Newcastle.

Keegan's appointment as England coach until June to cover the Euro qualifying games against Poland, Sweden and Bulgaria and a friendly against Hungary will be welcomed by the fans as well as the media because he always has a positive approach.

He was a committed and eye-catching player and his Newcastle lineup was full of ball-playing stars with the emphasis on goal-scoring rather than goal-saving.

Playing for Liverpool, Keegan helped the club win three league championships and, in 1977, the first of its four European Cups. He moved to Hamburg, led the club to the Bundesliga title in '78 and was voted European-player-of-the-year two seasons in a row.

As a manager, Keegan paid a then world record 15 million pounds (25 million dollars) for England captain Alan Shearer in 1996 and bought international stars such as Colombian striker Faustino Asprilla and French forward David Ginola.

His best two league wins were 5-0 over Manchester United and 7-1 over Tottenham. Keegan led the Magpies to promotion to the Premier League in his first season, and the club finished second in the Premier League be-

times boils over.

During the 1974 FA Charity Shield at Wembley between the league champions, Liverpool, and FA Cup holders Leeds, he was sent off along with Leeds' fiery midfielder Billy Bremner for fighting.

Both players ripped off their shirts in protest as they left the field and where suspended for a month by the Football Association.

During the 1995-96 season when Newcastle was overtaken by Manchester United, Keegan blew his top during a live television interview, riled by comments made by United manager Alex Ferguson.

His outburst -- "I would love it, I would just love it" if Newcastle beat United -- has become part of English soccer lore.

Kevin Keegan

While at Hamburg, Keegan turned down offers to join Real Madrid and the New York Cosmos. Instead he returned to English soccer with modest Southampton in 1980.

Keegan played the last of his 63 games for England at the 1982 World Cup in Spain. He retired from the game at age 32 two years later after a short spell with Newcastle.

One of the most famous personalities in sport, Keegan dropped out of the spotlight altogether.

He moved to Spain, left soccer behind and played golf instead, occasionally visiting England to see his racehorses in action. On one return to southern England in 1991, he was resting in his Range Rover in a country lane when he was attacked by robbers wielding baseball bats and left dazed and bleeding.

In 1992, Keegan was tempted back to soccer by Newcastle owner Sir John Hall and handed millions to rebuild a struggling team which was close to relegation to Division Two.

He completely turned things around and the team was promoted to the top flight as Division One champions. Three years later, Newcastle were runners-up in the Premier League. By then, Newcastle fans referred to him as "The Saviour."

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