

Suhrawardy Cup Jessore-BKSP final today

Jessore will take on BKSP in the final of the Koya Cosmetics Suhrawardy Cup under-19 national football championship at the Rangpur Stadium today at 2:45 pm, reports UNB.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader will witness the final match as chief guest.



Bangladesh Betar will relay the match live.

Jessore moved into the final outplaying Chittagong 3-0 with BKSP by defeating holders Tangail 2-0.

The first phase of the championship was held in eight different regions across the country while the final round began at Rangpur on February 8.

Square Cup golf held

The Square Cup golf tournament was held yesterday at Kurmitola Golf Club, says a press release.

The tournament was inaugurated and prizes were distributed by the club president Lt Gen Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman BB.

List of the winners:

Winner men's : Brig Ahmed Imrul Kayes

Ladies' winner : Mrs Jin Sook Yoon

Senior winner : Maj Gen M Hasan

Junior winner : Ezuan Zulkifly

Best Gross : Sadig Quddus

Ladies' Best Gross: Mrs Negumi Koreeda

Second Best Gross: Rahib Bashar

Men's Runner-up: Faisal Khan

Ladies' Runner-up: Mrs Moon Sun Cho

Junior Runner-up: Nafiz Farid

Second Runner-up: Brig Abdul Mannan Miah

Front Nine Winner: Syed Emdad Ali

Back Nine Winner: Bong Chan Lee

Nearest to Pin: Iqbal Mahmood

Longest Drive: Sadig Quddus

Most Pars: M Saber Afzal

Murali to join Lancashire after WC

LONDON, Feb 26: English county Lancashire have been given the go-ahead to use spinner Muttiah Muralitharan as their overseas player this coming season, reports AFP.

The Sri Lankan cricket board has faxed Lancashire to say they have no objections to Muralitharan playing county cricket after their World Cup bid is over.

However, they want Muralitharan back in Sri Lanka in time for their Test series against Australia in early September.

Lancashire signed him last September after his 16-wicket haul against England at The Oval, but had to wait for Sri Lanka's consent.

McMillan apologises publicly

CAPE TOWN, Feb 26 (Reuters/Internet): Former South African test all-rounder Brian McMillan made a public apology on Thursday for racially offensive "sledging" during a match.

McMillan had been severely reprimanded by a United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCB) disciplinary committee for advising a Western Province team mate to deliver a "coole creeper" to a non-white KwaZulu Natal batsman in a first-class game earlier this month.

The phrase is South African cricketing jargon for a ball that shoots along the ground after pitching. "Coole" is an apter term for a labourer of Indian descent.

McMillan was initially unrepentant. He told reporters on Wednesday that he would not apologise and that the issue was "crap".

In a prepared statement read out in front of television cameras after the first day of a four-day match at Newlands on Thursday he said: "I would like to reiterate that the term 'coole creeper' in my cricketing terminology means a ball keeping low."

"However, I now believe that such a term may be interpreted to be offensive in the South African environment."

If I have offended anybody by using this term, I wish to apologise."

McMillan declined to be questioned on his change of heart.

Western Province chief executive Arthur Turner said: "The UCB (United Cricket Board of South Africa) has sent out a fax saying it will be review all cricketing terms such as coole creeper, chinaman and the like so that they will be politically correct in the wider terms of the new South Africa."

In a separate incident, a provincial second XI player was banned until January 1, 2001 after he was found guilty of using crude and abusive language.

Eastern Province's Alan Badenhorst called an opponent from Grigualand West a "half-bred kaffir".

"Kaffir" is one of the most offensive words a white South African can use to address a non-white countryman.

Mauresmo-Hingis qtrs showdown

PARIS, Feb 26: Australian Open runner-up Amelie Mauresmo set up revenge match with Swiss Martina Hingis when she qualified for the Paris Open quarterfinals on Thursday, reports Reuters.

The strongly-built French player tamed Slovakia's Karina Habsudova 6-2, 6-1 in the second round and appeared confident before facing Hingis who had called her "half a man" ahead of the Melbourne final.

"I was easier today and I think I'm really into the tournament now. This was my second game since the Australian Open and my stamina is improving every day," the 19-year-old Mauresmo said.

"Playing Martina Hingis is obviously going to be a tough task. We know each other and I'm expecting a physical challenge," she said.

Mauresmo bowed to world number one Hingis in straight sets in Australia.

"In Melbourne it was a very peculiar match. I did everything too fast," Mauresmo said. "Of course, I want to take revenge but not for what she said. It now belongs to the past."

Top seed Hingis showed touches of her best form when she dismissed Yugoslav qualifier Sandra Naucik 6-1, 6-1 in the second round on Wednesday.

In other action on Thursday, France's Julie Haldar-Decugis and Nathalie Dechy also reached the last eight.

Seventh-seed Haldar-Decugis trounced compatriot Anne Gaëlle Sidot 6-1, 6-2 while Dechy overcame strong opposition from Croatia's Iva Majoli to win 6-2, 6-2, 6-2.

Haldar-Decugis now meets American teenager Serena Williams, sister of Venus.



Sabrina Sultana of Metropolitan Shooting Club poses after clinching gold in the Sports Rifle Three-Position event yesterday. — Star photo

Nat'l Shooting concludes

Sports Reporter

The 16th National Shooting Championships concluded at the Gulshan Shooting Range in the city yesterday.

Three events were decided on the last day of the meet.

Sabrina Sultana of Metropolitan Shooting Club bagged the gold in the Sports Rifle Three-Position women's event with 553 points. The silver went to Shahnaz Parveen of Chittagong Rifles Club, who was a point short. Shahnaz Parveen of Ansars and VDP with 525 points took the bronze.

In the Men's Free Rifle Three-Position Chittagong Rifle Club's Nasiruddin Johnny took the gold with 1119 points. Saiful Alam Chowdhury Rinki of Gulshan Shooting Club was just three points less and had to be content with the silver. Kamrul Islam of Rajdhani Shooting Club took the bronze in the event.

The Free Rifle gold went to Nazrul Islam of Kushtia Rifle Club, who secured 524 points. Asif Hossain of Gulshan took the silver and M A Gaffar of Ansars and VDP ran away with the bronze.

Int'l jr tennis

MacDade, Wang in boys' final

Andrew MacDade of South Africa takes on Wang Yen Tzuo of Chinese Taipei in the final of the boys' singles of the Bangladesh International Junior Tennis Championship today at 2 pm, reports UNB.

MacDade beat Mark Weaver of England 6-1, 6-1 in the first semi-final while Tzuou beat E Egawa of Japan 7-6, 6-2 in the Other semi at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday.

In the girls' singles, Rencken Nicole of South Africa faces Virat Prasert of Thailand in the final at 9:15 in the morning.

In the semi-finals Nicole beat G Sheetal of India 6-2, 6-3 while Prasert beat R Tulipule of India 6-2, 6-2.

Boys' doubles semi-final results: Andrew MacDade and BW Smith pair beat Chao H Yung and CC Wei 6-2, 6-2 while W Mark and W Ahmed pair beat LN Lian and W Y La Lai 6-4, 6-4.

The final of the boys' doubles will be held today at 3:30 pm.

The day's girls' doubles semis results: Lai Yi Ying and Yu Hui Hua pair beat C Y Han and C Hsin Chen pair 6-3, 7-5 while N Radhika and Yang Fei Ili beat G Sheetal and Nida Waseem 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.

The final will also be held today at 2:45 pm.

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak will be the chief guest at the prize distribution ceremony.

Johansson offended

EINDHOVEN, Netherlands, Feb 26: UEFA president Lennart Johansson on Thursday described FIFA President Sepp Blatter's plan to stage the World Cup every two years as an insult and said it undermined the future of European soccer, reports Reuters.

Blatter backed down on his controversial idea on Wednesday after a meeting with Johansson, one of the harshest critics of the plan.

"Common sense talked louder than anything else," Johansson told a symposium on next year's Euro 2000 Championship.

"I told him that what happened was nothing but an insult against UEFA and its member associations, and also perhaps to me ... I'm vice-president of FIFA and chairman of the organising committee," he said.

Johansson, who had urged Blatter to come to UEFA's headquarters in Geneva for Wednesday's meeting, said Blatter admitted "he had handled this in the incorrect way."

Johansson said he rejected the World Cup plan because no research had been done about the reaction of media, public, clubs, players and medical experts.

Hunt for Deportivo Cali boss

CALI, Colombia, Feb 26: The security forces on Thursday launched a search for Deportivo Cali chairman Humberto Arias, who was kidnapped as he arrived for the Colombian champions Copa Libertadores match with once Caldas, won 1-0 by Deportivo, reports AFP.

An armed gang kidnapped Arias, 73, as he left his private office to attend the match. Three men bearing pistols and machine guns intercepted him and bundled him into a waiting car, according to police sources.

Elite police and secret service agents were leading the hunt and were concentrating their search in the city of Cali.

There is no confirmation of the identity of the kidnappers but police are working along the theory that it was carried out by local delinquents rather than left wing guerrillas, who operate in the city.

Arias has owned Deportivo Cali since 1963 and became president in 1993. During his tenure as president the club has twice won the Colombian title.

The club's coach Jose Hernandez informed the players of the kidnapping after the match and said the players were very upset by his kidnapping because Arias was like a father to them.

Arias also promoted several top Colombian players such as Victor Bonilla, Arley Betancourt and Middles and Middles striker Hamilton Ricardo.

Wang Yen Tzuo of Chinese Taipei playing against Japanese Y Egawa at the 13th Bangladesh international junior tennis championships yesterday. — Star photo

Sport

United hope to bury the curse

of the European Cup Winners' Cup on Thursday, have a tricky home match against erratic Liverpool, while Arsenal face Newcastle at St James' Park on Sunday.

Chelsea, who play Valerenga of Norway in the quarter-final

King's Cup soccer
Brazil, DPRK
in final

BANGKOK, Feb 26: Brazil will meet North Korea in the final of the 30th King's Cup football tournament on Saturday after the round-robin first round was completed Thursday.

United boss Alex Ferguson may rest some of his key players before next Wednesday's European Champions League quarter-final first leg against Inter Milan.

Southampton, who are involved in their usual battle against relegation, have improved in recent weeks, winning four of their last five home matches.

But they were outclassed 3-0 by United at The Dell in October and it would be a major upset if they won on Saturday.

United, 1-0 winners at Coventry last week thanks to a goal from in-form Ryan Giggs, have played 27 matches and led the standings by four points from Chelsea (50 points) and by five from Arsenal.

Both London sides have played one match fewer than United.

Aston Villa, who led the table from the middle of September to the end of December

STANDINGS

Team PW D L G F G Pts

Brazil 3 2 1 0 11 2 7

N Korea 3 0 3 0 5 5 3

Thailand 3 0 2 1 6 9 2

Hungary 3 0 2 1 5 11 2

MacDade 3 0 2 1 6 9 2

Wang 3 0 2 1 6 9 2

Y Egawa 3 0 2 1 6 9 2

Y Tzuo 3 0 2 1 6 9 2

Inter 3 0 2 1 6 9 2

Southampton 3 0 2 1 6 9 2

Chelsea 3 0 2 1 6 9 2

Aston Villa 3 0 2 1 6 9 2

United 3 0 2 1 6 9 2

Inter 3 0 2 1 6 9 2

Southampton 3 0 2 1 6 9 2

Chelsea 3 0 2 1 6 9 2

Inter 3 0 2 1 6 9 2

Southampton 3 0 2 1 6 9 2

Chelsea 3 0 2 1 6 9 2

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