

ANC happy with the Lilly

CAPE TOWN, Mar 3 (Reuters) - South Africa's ruling Afri-can National Congress on Wednesday praised the governing bodies of cricket and rugby union for their attempts to boost the number of blacks in top-level sport.

"We definitely approve of the work that has been done," Lulu Xingwana, ANC chairwoman of parliament's sports and recreation committee, told a hearing on affirmative action.

Xingwana told Reuters after the meeting that progress aimed at addressing government concerns about "lily-white" teams meant legislation mooted last year to impose quotas on certain sports would probably not be necessary.

"Last year it seemed as if there was no progress and we would be forced to look at legislation to speed up transformation. That would be a last resort and we are now seeing progress," she said.

Xingwana said she welcomed moves by both the South African Rugby Football Union (SARFU) and the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) to address the fact that five years after the end of apartheid national teams included few blacks.

Last year, Sports Minister Steve Tshwane said he would find it difficult to support "lily-white" sports teams in future, but recently said he was encouraged by the progress made.

SARFU, which last year angered many South Africans when it dragged President Nelson Mandela to court over an inquiry into racism in rugby, has changed its attitude since Silas Nkanunu replaced Louis Luyt as president of the body.

"The time of delivery has come now. We cannot keep talking about our development programme," Rian Oberholzer, SARFU chief executive, told parliament's committee.

Oberholzer said merit would remain the basis of selection for the national Springboks, squads for the Super 12 competition with Australia and New Zealand teams, and the provincial cup.

But a quota system should help encourage more blacks to take part in the domestic Vodacom Cup, the under-19 and under-21 teams and at the senior provincial level.

"If we do not see results within a year, it will force us to put regulations in place for provincial teams," he said.

Nkanunu said SARFU hoped to send a more representative team to Britain in October to defend South Africa's 1995 rugby World Cup title.

Nat'l schools cricket

Meherpur Amzupi High School moved into the semifinals of the 17th National Schools Cricket Championship by thrashing Satkhira Zilla School by six wickets at the Kushtia Govt College ground yesterday, reports UNB.

Meherpur Amzupi School will take on Kushtia Dinmoni School in the semifinals on Saturday.

Batting first, Satkhira Zilla School were all out for 102 in 28 overs.

Sabir made 29 runs.

Masud batted the opposition's batting line-up taking five for 23 while Khurshid claimed three for 34 and Ujjal two for four runs.

In reply, Meherpur Amzupi High School reached the target in 32 overs losing three wickets.

Titu emerged top-scorer making 35 runs. Sabir, Taz and Litu took one wicket each.

College sports

The three-day annual sports competition of the Government Science College in Tejgaon ended at the college premises on Tuesday, reports BSS.

Vice Chancellor of the Independent University Prof Aminul Islam inaugurated the competition and distributed prizes as the chief guest. Principal of the college Harunur Rashid presided over the function.

Teachers, students, guardians and guests took part in 40 events of the meet.

—AP Photo



Marseille midfielder Eric Roy (R) heads the ball past Valera Oskar Valez of Celta Vigo during their UEFA Cup quarterfinal first-leg encounter at Marseille on March 2.

—AFP photo

UEFA Cup quarterfinals

Only Bologna can breathe easy



PARIS, Mar 3: The balance of power among Italian, Spanish and French clubs in the UEFA Cup quarterfinals hung in the balance on Tuesday with only Italy's Bologna overwhelming winners, reports AFP.

Bologna beat French side Lyon 3-0 but there was all to play for in the second leg of the three other matches which had 2-1 scorelines.

Roma fell at Atletico Madrid, Marseille beat Celta Vigo at the Stade Velodrome and Bordeaux won at home against Parma.

Marseille-Celta Vigo

It was two goals from back-to-back Florian Maurice which earned Marseille their victory over Celta Vigo as the Riviera club kept on course to repeat its European glory days.

Maurice, who had not scored since December 19, found the net in the 33rd and 67th minutes with Russian Alexander Mostovoi equalizing in the 64th minute.

Marseille, who won the 1993 European Cup, saw their early domination pay dividends in the 33rd minute when Christophe Dugarry dispossessed Yugoslav's Goran Djordjevic on the edge of Vigo's box and passed to Maurice, who fired home.

Former Strasbourg midfielder Mostovoi brought the scores level on 64 minutes after stroking the ball home after Stephane Porato had been scrambling for the ball at full

length.

Romeo Jose Mari opened the scoring in the 13th minute and Roberto made it 2-0 just minutes after the re-start against a Roma side who failed to create a single clear scoring opportunity.

International midfielder Luigi di Biagio conjured their goal out of nothing in the 75th minute, blasting a 30-metre free-kick into the roof of Atletico's net to give Roma a chance in the second leg.

Their coach Zdenek Zeman said: "I just hope we can have a good game in Rome, the important thing will be to score a goal and not concede one."

Atletico dominated the first half and most of the second, but were relieved to see the referee reject appeals from Roma's Brazilian striker Paulo for a penalty within minutes of the start.

Atletico Madrid-AS Roma
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Bologna-Lyon
Giuseppe Signori all but booked Bologna's place in the last four after engineering a convincing victory over Lyon.

Signori scored a goal in each half and then set up the third for Jonatan Binotto as the Italian side outgunned their French opponents.

Lyon were a match for their hosts in midfield, but failed to make much headway in the Bologna penalty area and had nobody capable of finishing their best chances.

Signori, whose team started their UEFA campaign in the last minute.

The victory extended Tottenham's unbeaten run to 16 matches in all competitions and moved them to 10th place with 36 points from 27 games.

Southampton remained second from bottom with 23.

Intertoto Cup last summer, said: "We've got the right spirit, we set ourselves this objective at the start of the season and we want to see it right through to the end."

But having seen Lyon's recent win at the Parc des Princes, he admitted: "We've seen a different Lyon to the one who played against Paris St Germain."

Parma-Bordeaux
A late goal by Parma's Argentinean striker Hernan Crespo gave his side hope for a semi-final spot following their defeat at Bordeaux.

However, Marseille coach Rolland Courbis, who tipped Vigo as favourites before the start of the tie, knows they have the work to do to make the semi-finals in the second leg in Spain.

Success in the return match would not go amiss to Marseille fans, who have seen their club knocked out of both domestic cups by Lems though they do lead the French league.

Vigo, fourth in the league in Spain and with a formidable midfield unit of Russia's Valery Karpin, compatriot Mostovoi and Brazil's 1994 World Cup winner Mazinho, have already proved their pedigree to beat two former European Cup winners in England's Liverpool and Aston Villa in previous rounds.

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SOCOG's info for sale

SYDNEY, Mar 3: Sydney Olympic officials have come up with a novel way of raising much-needed cash — selling information about how they organised the 2000 Games, reports AFP.

The Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) is putting together a blueprint of "intellectual property" to sell to other countries, chief executive Sandy Holloway said today.

The idea was to sell information to cities planning major bids and events such as Olympic and Commonwealth Games.

No price had yet been set because at this stage the concept was only being floated, he told reporters.

When SOCOG began it had virtually no guide on how to run a major sporting event, despite input from the International Olympic Committee and the organising committees of Atlanta and Barcelona.

It was felt if a city purchased the SOCOG blueprint, the information would be followed up with seminars and contacts with representatives from related government agencies.

—AP Photo

Sport

Farashganj party for Club Samity president

Sports Reporter

Farashganj Sporting will felicitate its president Nazrul Islam Khan Badal this evening for being elected the president of Dhaka Mahanagar Club Samity recently. The reception will be held at the Lalkuthi Auditorium at 6:30 pm.

Deputy Minister for Shipping, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Bir Bikram, will attend the programme as chief guest while Bangladesh Football Federation General Secretary Harun-ur-Rashid MP will be present as special guest.

—AP Photo

—AP Photo