

ANC happy with the Lilly

CAPE TOWN, Mar 3 (Reuters/Internet): South Africa's ruling African 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," said 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 Tshwete 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 Australian 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 don't 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 thrashing Sathkhira Zilla School by six wickets at the Kushiya Govt College ground yesterday, reports UNB.

Meherpur Amzupi School will take on Kushiya Dimnini School in the semifinals on Saturday.

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

Sabbir made 29 runs. Masud battered the opposition's batting line 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. Sabbir, 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 Annuul Islam inaugurated the competition and distributed prizes as the chief guest. Principal of the college, Harun Rashid presided over the function.

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



Marseille midfielder Eric Roy (R) heads the ball past Valera Oskar Valez of Celta Vigo during their UEFA Cup quarterfinal 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-front Florian Maurice which earned Marseille their victory over Celta Vigo as the Rivier 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 dividend in the 33rd minute when Christophe Dugarry possessed Yugoslav's Goran Djorovic 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

Spurs blank Southampton

LONDON, Mar 3: Tottenham Hotspur beat struggling Southampton 3-0 at White Hart Lane on Tuesday to move into 10th place in the English Premier League, reports Reuters.

David Ginola, right, at the top of his game at the moment, was the creator of the first two goals.

Chris Armstrong scored from the Frenchman's free kick in the 18th minute but Southampton, beaten 2-1 at Manchester United on Saturday, battled back to control long periods of the game. Their revival was ended by a second goal when Ginola crossed for Norwegian Steffen Iversen to score with a header at the far post.

Portuguese midfielder Jose Dominguez, recently transferred by George Graham, came on as a substitute late in the game and scored the third 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.

stretch. The goal was virtually inevitable as Marseille have only kept one clean sheet in 1999 in their 1-0 win over Strasbourg on Thursday.

Great work from Robert Pires allowed Maurice to put Marseille back in front three minutes later.

He feigned a cross from the right, completely fooling the defender, which left him plenty of time to pick out unmarked Maurice who easily fired past Richard Dutrieu.

However, Marseille coach Roland Courbis, who tipped Vigo as favourites before the start of the tie, knows they have their 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 Lens 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.

Atletico Madrid-AS Roma

Atletico Madrid dominated AS Roma but had to settle for a 2-1 victory over the Italians in a gritty match.

Romero 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.

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 no clear chances.

Signori, whose team started their UEFA campaign in the

Interotto 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 Argentinian striker Hernan Crespo gave his side hope for a semi-final spot following their defeat at Bordeaux.

Johan Micoud and then Sylvain Wiltord put Bordeaux 2-0 up just before the break and everything looked to be going horribly wrong for Parma when skipper Antonio Benarrivo was sent off for his second yellow card with eight minutes to play.

But substitute Crespo, who has scored 15 goals to put him second in Italy's scoring list, did one more what he does best to earn a valuable away goal with second of the match remaining.

Bordeaux, who reached the UEFA Cup final in 1996 after qualifying through the pre-season Interotto Cup, will be rueing their late lapse to let in Crespo.

Bordeaux coach Elie Baup said afterwards: "I still believe we can make it to the semi-finals and have never lost away in the UEFA Cup all season. I don't think we lost our way after Parma had a man sent off. Parma's goal was deserved and no one was to blame."

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 Hollway 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.

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

Farashganj party for Club Samity president

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

Deputy Minister for Shipping, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Mava, 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.

Nat'l cricket

Kushia were all out for 227 in 77 overs against Khulna on the first day of the two-day zonal final of the 25th National cricket championship at the Kushia stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

In reply, Khulna scored 26 runs without loss in 10 overs at stumps.

Tapas and Mitu were batting with 13 and 7 runs respectively. Earlier, Kushia decided to bat first after winning the toss.

Kabir scored team highest 60 off 98 balls while Marshal contributed 44. Raju played another notable role with 21 runs.

Tuhin picked up three wickets for 11 runs in five overs while Palto and Jitu took two wickets each for 34 and 38 runs respectively.

At the Faridpur Stadium, Rajbari earned an impressive 77-run victory against Shariatpur.

Opting to bat, Rajbari piled up 299 runs for nine in reduced 45 overs.

Number seven batsman Chanchal scored 78 while one down Sabu made 54. Tareq added 43 and Dalim 39.

Bubul, Raihan, Mahtab and Zahidul captured two wickets each.

In reply, Shariatpur could make 222 for seven in 45 overs. Mahtab scored 53 runs off 86 balls.

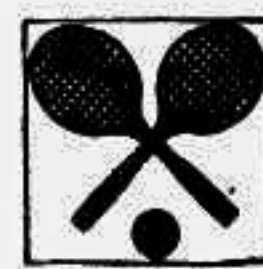
Khagrachhari cricket

KHAGRACHHARI, Mar 3: The local cricket league, organised by the District Sports Association (DSA), will begin at the Khagrachhari Stadium on March 28, reports APB.

In a press release Wednesday, district sports officials announced details of the league and fixed March 15 as the last date for entries.

Players' transfers will be completed between March 16 and 20. Only registered cricketers would be able to take part in the league.

Sampras starts in style



SCOTTSDALE, Arizona, Mar 3: Pete Sampras avenged his loss to Ramon Delgado in last year's French Open and moved into the second round of the Franklin Templeton Tennis Classic with a 7-6, 6-2 victory, reports AP.

After finishing as the world's No 1 player for a record sixth consecutive year, Sampras took 10 weeks off.

Then he sprained his ankle February 12 after winning his first three matches in his first tournament of the year, sitting out until Scottsdale, where his brother Gus is an assistant tournament director.

Sampras didn't get into a groove in Tuesday night's match until falling behind 2-1 in the first set against Delgado, a Paraguayan who beat him in the second round in Paris last year.

"I haven't played a lot, so it wouldn't be surprising that I was a little bit rusty, and I was a little bit today," Sampras said. In the first evening match, Andre Agassi started his title defence with a 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 victory over tenacious Fernando Meligeni.

Agassi, a three-time champion of the tournament (1993, 1994, 1998), took one hour, 33 minutes to defeat the Brazilian left hander for the third time in three meetings. He wore Meligeni out in the second set, when

he came back from an 0-2 deficit, running Meligeni from sideline to sideline before finishing him off with a passing shot.

"I don't like running somebody for the sake of running somebody," said Agassi, who didn't feel comfortable until the third set. "I like hitting effective shots, and if they're getting to them, good for them. But I felt like in that case I was just making my shots, trying to not lose the point."

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fifth seed. Haas earned a No 18 world ranking this year by reaching the final in Auckland, the Australian Open semifinals and then winning his first title two weeks ago in Memphis, Tennessee, to come in with a 14-2 match record.

It meant nothing to Woodford, who serve 12 aces to Haas' three and broke the German five times.

No 6 Cedric Pioline of France became the third seeded player to advance, following Patrick Rafter and Goran Ivanisevic. Pioline beat Mariano Puerta of Argentina 7-6, 6-2.

Nineteen-year-old Lleyton Hewitt, the youngest player in the event, beat Magnus Norman

of Sweden 6-3, 7-5 to set up a second-round rematch with Rafter, the reigning US Open champion. Hewitt upset his fellow Aussie and former practice partner in the first round at Sydney on January 12.

He was one of three qualifiers to advance. The others were Hernan Gumy of Argentina, a 3-6, 7-5, 6-1 victor over Sjeng Schalken of The Netherlands, and Nicolas Lapentti of Ecuador, who beat Romanian Andrei Pavel 6-3, 4-6, 6-1.

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