

Jadeja sent to S Africa

MUMBAI, Nov 20: In a volte-face, the Indian Cricket Board has decided to send the injured middle-order batsman Ajay Jadeja to South Africa for treatment, according to its secretary Jaywant Lele, reports PTI.

Lele told the news agency from Baroda over phone that the board has decided to send Jadeja to South Africa for treatment on his right shoulder by specialist Mark Ferguson.

If Ferguson says the injury is not of serious nature then Jadeja will join the Indian team in Australia a week later and if his injury turns out to be serious then we will announce a replacement, he added.

The board has asked Jadeja to leave for treatment as early as possible and we might get a clear picture within a day or two. Now it is entirely his (Jadeja) decision to decide when to go, Lele said.

India A 179 for five

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Nov 20: India A laboured all day Friday against steady home team bowling to post 179 for five on the opening day of the four-day A team Test against West Indies A at Trinidad's Queen's Park Oval, reports AP.

Openers Gagan Khoda and Jagdish Arun Kumar built a solid platform in a stand of 58 after the tourists won the toss and opted to bat.

Khoda top-scored with an even 50, while Arun Kumar scored 18.

But the middle order failed as the tourists slumped to 116 for five in the face of accurate West Indian bowling.

Toward the end of the day, 18-year-old Mohammad Kaif and wicketkeeper Samir Dige revived the innings in an unbroken stand of 63 for the sixth wicket.

Kaif, a right-hander from Uttar Pradesh, was undefeated on 30 off 140 balls.

Only five fours were struck all day across a well-grassed outfield made sluggish by torrential rain on Thursday afternoon.

Grenadian leg-spinner Rawl Lewis, with two for 62 off 26 overs, was the most successful bowler. Pacers Dwight Mias and Goldwyn Prince and off-spinner Chris Gayle each captured a wicket.

DRU cricket

Masud-Farhad pair emerged champions of the Dhaka Reporters Unity Bengal Marketing double wicket cricket tournament beating Ajoy-Pomnel pair at the BUET ground yesterday, reports UNB.

Earlier, Masud-Farhad pair moved into the final beating Murshed-Lavlu pair while Ajoy-Pomnel reached the final beating Sabir-Azim pair.

In all, 14 pairs took part in the two-day competition. They are: Rashid-Milky, Tawhid-Shahid, Abdullah-Azad, Zakaria-Shahid, Utam-Lebu, Badsha-Jasim, Zakir-Shaheen, Arif-Badiuzzaman, Sabir-Shahidul and Wali-Tapan.

Barisal Cadet College sports

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Nov 20: The three-day long inter-house athletic meet of Barisal Cadet College concluded today.

The meet was inaugurated by Prof. Syed Abdul Khaleque, Principal of the college on Nov 17.

141 participants from 3 houses took part in 43 events during the 3-day meet.

Sariatullah House became champions scoring 35.83 points in different events throughout the year while Sher-e-Bangla House became runners-up with 34.50 points.

Among the participants Cadet Saviour Class XII became champion from senior group while Cadet Sahanoor of Class X and Cadet Araque of Class VIII became champions from intermediate and junior group respectively.

Chief of Bangladesh Air Force Air vice Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed was present as chief guest and distributed prizes among the winners.

Biman regain solo lead

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Biman regained the solo lead at the end of the 5th round of the First Division Chess League when they defeated Leonine Chess Club quite convincingly at the National Sports Council yesterday.

The national airline outfit, who jointly shared the top slot with Titas Club at the end of the fourth round on Friday, shrugged off their challenger with a facile 3.5-0.5 points victory over Leonine.

IM Ziaur Rahman, IM Reefat-Bin-Satter and FM Reazul Haque of Biman beat Indian DK Sarma, Aminul Islam and Ahmed Hossain Majumder of Leonine respectively. The star-studded Biman conceded only half a point when IM Abdullah-Al Rakib drew with Moir Hossain.

With this win Biman improved their tally to 16.5 points, one point clear from Titas Club, who recorded a 2.5-1.5 point win over Farashganj in the fifth round.

Indian Sankar Roy and Syed Ruhul Kabir Siplu of Titas beat Mizanur Rahman Labu and Taherul Islam of Farashganj.

While Indian Debashis Mukharjee of Farashganj beat Enamul Hossain Razib. The other game between Saifuddin Lovlu and Prosenjit Dutt ended in a draw.

Bangladesh Ansh holds the third position with 13.5. In this round Ansh beat Sonali Bank by 3-1 points.



American boxing legend Muhammad Ali (L) shows off his Martial Arts Sportsman trophy while mythical Pele of Brazil expressing his gratitude to God after being named the Sportsman of the Century at a gala in Vienna on November 19. —AFP photo

'Oscars' for sports icons

Carnival time in Vienna

VIENNA, Nov 20: Soccer idol Pele and former world champion boxer Muhammad Ali were among the winners of the 'World Sports Awards of the Century' chosen by a top-level international jury, reports AP.

Pele, Ali and 91 other international sports heroes gathered on Friday for a gala at the Vienna State Opera, where the eleven male and female winners were announced.

The jury was headed by Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

People in the packed opera house rose from their seats when Pele was announced the winner in soccer. The Brazilian, a legend in his lifetime, was visibly moved when he addressed the audience in English.

"It's a very special day for me, 30 years ago I scored my 1,000th goal. 200,000 people were shouting my name. My legs were shaking then, and today is the second time my legs were shaking."

When the ailing Ali walked slowly up to the podium to accept his granite and crystal trophy, the house was on its feet, clapping and shouting approval.

The former American boxer paused, then spoke slowly. "I have won many awards, many championships, and many fights. None have been as great as tonight."

Two of the greatest swimmers of all times were also among the winners. Mark Spitz, a 28-time world record holder, said: "Many people have asked me why I did it. I think it was the mystery, the magic, wonder and innocence of never having done it before. That's what made me want to win."

Australian swimmer Dawn Fraser also commented after receiving her trophy. "There are many great athletes here tonight, and I am very proud to be one of them. I came from a working class family and I wanted to take up horse riding, but we couldn't afford it. All I needed for swimming was my swimming suit and a towel."

Winners were announced in the following disciplines: athletics, ball sports, soccer, contact sports, motor sports, water sports and winter sports.

"It was not just the sporting results that were important. There was also the question of leadership and influence on youth," said Gian Franco Kasper, a jury member and president of the International Ski Federation.

The idea of honouring 'athletes of the century' was conceived by a team headed by Hubert Neuper, a former Austrian ski jumper, who is now an entrepreneur and an airline pilot.

Neuper also heads the Austrian Sportschilf, an organization that raises money and public support for sports in Austria. The group has pledged a major part of proceeds from the 300-a-ticket event to the UNICEF campaign to help street children in Ghana.

Other winners of the award included the following former champions:

Formula One driver Alain Prost of France; German tennis champion Steffi Graf; Michael Jordan, the American basketball legend; Romania's gymnastics star Nadia Comaneci; Carl Lewis, the nine-time Olympic gold medalist in track events from the United States; and the Austrian and French multiple alpine skiing champions Annemarie Moser-Proell and Jean-Claude Killy.

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World Youth Cup USA overcome Mexico

AUCKLAND, Nov 20: The United States came from a goal down to beat Mexico 3-2 on Saturday and advance to the semi-finals of the under-17 World Soccer Championship for the first time, reports AP.

Ghana also reached the last four when Anthony Obodai got a 'golden goal' winner on 103 minutes against Uruguay after the scores were level at 2-2 at the end of normal time.

The US will play the winner of Sunday's quarterfinal between Australia and Qatar while Ghana faces either Brazil and Paraguay, who also play Sunday.

Ghana also went a goal down against Uruguay as Ruben Oliviera scored on seven minutes. Ishmael Addo scored on 36 minutes and Benard Dong-Bortey put the Africa's 2-1 ahead just before halftime.

Alvarez Vico's 66th minute strike sent the match into extra time before Obodai's goal finished the game.

Asian Super Cup Jubilo's

JEDDAH, Nov 20: Asian club champions Jubilo Iwata edged out rivals Al-Ittihad on the away goals rule to end Saudi Arabian dominance of the Asian Super Cup on Friday, reports Reuters.

Despite losing 2-1 in the second leg of the final, a goal by World Cup striker Masashi Nakayama 13 minutes into the second half sealed the title for Jubilo after a 2-2 draw on aggregate.

Jubilo had won the first leg in Japan 1-0 on October 23 also with a goal from Nakayama.

Nakayama's strike meant Al-Ittihad had to score three times to become the third Saudi side in a row to win the competition.

With just 12 minutes left, Hassan Al-Yani struck to put the Jeddah-based club level on the evening but still one goal behind Jubilo on aggregate.

Real Madrid after Zidane

ROME, Nov 20: France World Cup winning playmaker Zinedine Zidane is being hunted by Real Madrid. It was revealed Saturday in Turin newspaper Tuttosport — a source that is traditionally well-informed on matters concerning Juventus, reports AFP.

Real president Lorenzo Sanz has made Zidane, whose Spanish wife has frequently said she would like to return to her homeland, his number one target, according to the newspaper, and has discussed the matter with Juventus directors Antonio Giraudo, Luciano Moggi and Roberto Benigni.

It is believed Real have first option on FIFA's World Player of the Year Zidane, a national hero in France since his two goals in France's 3-0 World Cup Final win over Brazil.

The deal could be done on a part-exchange basis with Real's Dutch international Clarence Seedorf moving to the Turin giants.

Zidane moved to Juventus, from Bordeaux and began his career at Cannes.

Bremen beat Frankfurt

BERLIN, Nov 20: Brazilian striker Alton connected twice Friday to lead Werder Bremen to a 3-1 victory over Eintracht Frankfurt and into fifth place as the Bundesliga resumed after a two-week break, reports AP.

Alton, replacing the injured Peruvian Claudio Pizarro, connected from short range when he was left unmarked on a corner in the third minute. His second came in the 66th for Bremen, the German Cup holder and a UEFA Cup entry.

German international Marco Bode scored an insurance goal, his seventh of the season, just before the whistle.

Frankfurt, after recovering from the shock of Alton's early score, dominated most of the first half against Bremen, which was missing five regulars. Alexander Kutscher's 24th minute header levelled the match at 1-1.

But in the second half, Bremen's tactic of having players constantly switch positions paid off in numerous scoring chances.

Snow cancelled Friday's second scheduled match, Borussia Dortmund against Unterhaching.

Woodies in semis

HARTFORD, Connecticut, Nov 20: Australians Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge eased into the semifinals of the Phoenix ATP tour World Doubles Championship on Friday, beating the Czech team of Jiri Novak and David Rikl 6-2, 6-4, reports AP.

Novak and Rikl, the alternate team, replaced South Africans John-Laffnie de Jager and David Adams, the fifth-seeded team that defaulted its last round-robin match after an 0-2 start. De Jager had been ill during the week.

Woodbridge sprained his right ankle on the last point of the second set but expects to play Saturday.

Woodforde and Woodbridge, seeded second, swept through round-robin bracket with 3-0 record.

They will meet Australia's Sandon Stolle and Zimbabwe's Wayne Black of Zimbabwe, the sixth-seeded team, in the semifinals Saturday.

Stolle and Black defeated the third-seeded team of South African Ellis Ferreira and American Rick Leach 6-3, 6-3.

Media kicks up a fuss

LONDON, Nov 20: England manager Kevin Keegan faced a critical backlash on Friday after revelations that his players stayed up until dawn four days before their defeat to Scotland at Wembley, reports Reuters.

The Daily Mail became the first newspaper to openly call for the media-friendly manager to be dismissed under the headline 'Why it's time for clueless Kevin to give up his naive struggle'.

The paper wrote: 'The nine games under his charge have been enough to show that he does not possess either the experience or the inclination to slug it out tactically with the best minds in football.'

Others kept the faith while decrying the manager's apparent lack of any tactical masterplan.

Keegan: I don't know how to sort out England' declared the Mirror's headline.

Overall, the tabloids were scathing of Keegan and his team — and this was after they qualified. It is hard to imagine the vitriol that would have been dumped on them if they had failed to qualify.

And it was a far cry from the adulation on Sunday and Monday when the newspapers hailed Paul Scholes for his two goals at Hampden and Keegan called England 'fantastic'.

A Football Association spokesman, asked about Friday's reaction, said Keegan was contracted until the end of the 2002 World Cup and that was the end of the matter.