

CCDM ignores Kalabagan's protest

Sports Reporter
The Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) has overruled a protest lodged by Kalabagan Krira Chakra, who claimed that their Premier Division Cricket League match against Abahani Krira Chakra on March 9 ended in a tie and they won the match by virtue of losing lesser number of wickets.

In an emergency meeting on Monday night CCDM, organisers of the League, also decided against replying to a legal notice served on them for the same reason.

"We did not find anything wrong regarding the result of the match," said CCDM secretary Mahmudul Haq Manu yesterday.

"Only two things came into our discussion. Firstly, whether the action of the match referee and secondly, the procedures followed to set the revised target for Kalabagan were in accordance with playing conditions or not."

BHF picks 24 for camp

Bangladesh Hockey Federation yesterday (Tuesday) picked up 24 players for the second phase residential training camp for the Asian youth tournament to be held in Kuala Lumpur May 3-14, reports UNB.

Selected players are — Goalkeepers — Russel Khan Bapli, Mohammad Javed and Rinku.

Defenders — Ishtiaq Ahmed Shipu, Rafiqunnabi Nakib, Issa Miah, Shahidullah Khokon, Tabib-e-Nor, Faruk Ahmed, Tuhin, Narma and Yesin Miah.

Linkmen — Mahbubul Ehsan Rana, Shahidullah Tito, Mirahul Ehsan, Rahul Kanti Roy and Ashiquezaman.

Forwards — Ramizuddin Ahmed, Giasuddin Rubel, Shaim Reza, Arifur Haq Prince, Shamsuzzaman Khokon, Moudud Rahman Shuvo, Kuttubuddin Ahmed Yean and Mokedd Alam Habul.

Selected players have been asked to report to team coach M Nurul Islam at BKSP in Savar on March 20 at 4 pm.

Saju Press Club chess champ

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Mar 14: Saju emerged champion in the Rajshahi City Press Club chess tournament organised by Rajshahi Chess Development Association (RCDA) played at Rajshahi city Press Club conference room.

Saju collected six points. Mahafuzur Rahman Imon followed Saju with 5 and half points. Alam took third place with 5 points.

A total of 14 players took part in the competition.

Takahashi bears Japanese hopes

TOKYO, Mar 14: Asian Games champion Naoko Takahashi will spearhead Japanese marathon runners for the Sydney Olympic Games, the Japan Amateur Athletics Federation said Monday, reports AFP.

The 27-year-old woman runner, who set the Asian record of two hours 21 minutes 47 seconds to win the gold medal in Bangkok in December 1998, clocked 2:22:19 to win the last Japanese qualifying race in Nagoya Sunday.

"I just ran a race yesterday and I don't feel like I was really qualified for the Olympics. Before the race, I had thought of nothing but the Olympics," said Takahashi.

NSU cricket

Batch '99 beat MBA team by five wickets in the inaugural match of the NSU inter-batch cricket tournament at the Gulshan Youth Club ground on Monday, says a press release.

Six batches of the university are taking part in the meet.

United the team to beat



PARIS, March 14: The European Champions League, hyped to be any team which can come even within spitting distance of their domestic league title, may look like the rich man's table, reports AFP.

But Wednesday's penultimate round of second-phase group games will provide some evidence to the contrary because, even if UEFA has tried to keep the hot pot at arm's length, the competition is still a two-class society.

Manchester United, whose assets are now estimated at a mind-boggling billion dollars - and set to rise still further - should reach the last eight if they can see off Fiorentina, who beat them in Italy.

At the other end of the scale, Marseille will be playing for battered pride only at Lazio of Italy on Tuesday.

The French, European champions in 1993, beat United in the opening group phase in Marseille, but a home defeat by Bordeaux on Saturday left Bernard Casoni's men in the bottom five with just eight wins in 12 matches and only a point clear of a relegation slot.

Sir Alex Ferguson's men have no such problems. Sir Alex's biggest dilemma is how to fit Ole Gunnar Solskjaer into a team which already has Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole up front - although David Beckham's predilection for spending time in London with wife 'Posh Spice' might also tax his mind.

Beckham has buried the hatchet with Ferguson and insists the only way he will leave is if the club decide to sell him.

The United boss dropped Beckham for the Premiership clash at Leeds on February 20 after he missed training in the build-up to the game because baby son Brooklyn had 'flu.

That fuelled speculation that Beckham might be bound for Arsenal or move abroad to the likes of AC Milan or city rivals Inter.

But Beckham told the News of the World: "I need to let our fans know I intend to stay at Old Trafford. I've never thought about joining another club."

"It annoyed me to read I am leaving Manchester United because there's no other club I want to play for."

Explaining why he missed training before the Leeds game, Beckham said: "I put my duty as

a father and the health of my son ahead of my football. I think I would always do that. Any parent would, in the same circumstances."

Fiorentina arrive at Old Trafford with the air of a side which already looks beaten.

Captain Giovanni Trapattoni claimed on Monday that Fiorentina's form has hit rock bottom following a 1-0 defeat at lowly Torino on Sunday.

Now mid-table with just 33 points from 25 games, they are currently out of the running for a UEFA Cup place next season.



DAVID BECKHAM let alone another slot in the Champions League.

Trapattoni told reporters: "I told the team this morning that it's impossible to sink any lower than this. But that after every fall, there has to be a rise. We mustn't ease up, we must never surrender - that's always been my philosophy in life."

said Trapattoni, the most successful coach in the history of Italian football.

"It's true that it's going to be a very tough match in Manchester but now's the time to be convinced of what we can do."

"With determination and humility, qualification is within our reach," he added.

Trapattoni said he would try to inspire the squad by showing a video of November's 2-0 victory over United in Florence.

Fiorentina have plenty of attacking options in the shape of Gabriel Batistuta and Predrag Mijatovic, as well as Enrico Chiesa, who should be on the subs' bench after six weeks out with injury.

Fiorentina are currently second in Group B, two points behind United and one ahead of Valencia, who travel to tailen-

ders Bordeaux missing star striker Claudio Lopez, who is suspended.

But the Spaniards will not leave anything to chance as they host United in the final match.

"We're not too hot on maths and so Valencia will have to go for the win in Bordeaux," said Valencia defender Miroslav Djukic.

Group A leaders Barcelona are already in the last eight having won home and away against second-placed Porto.

Barca now face German tailenders Hertha Berlin while Porto will hope to book their passage by beating Sparta Prague of the Czech Republic, currently two points adrift of the Portuguese champions.

Porto, who have already won in Prague, are set to recall experienced keeper Vitor Baia, the former Barcelona man having missed the previous two Champions League games with knee trouble.

Porto coach Fernando Santos can also welcome back skipper and defender Jorge Costa, suspended for last week's home loss to Barcelona, but Brazilian central defender Aloisio is suspended.

Hertha Berlin go into the lion's den at the Nou Camp to face a Barcelona side who thrashed Bilbao 4-0 away at the weekend to keep up their challenge in the Primera Liga.

Coach Louis Van Gaal is set to rest several regulars and give an outing to reserves such as French defender Frederic Dehu, Finnish striker Jari Litmanen and Dutch defender Michael Reiziger.

Barca have won four matches on the trot, scoring 14 goals against two.

Hertha, showing inconsistent form in Germany, will be without six regulars.

They include Greek defender Kostas Konstantinidis, who is suspended, and coach Jurgen Rober has also decided to leave out Norwegian skipper Kjetil Rekdal, who is set to quit the club in the coming weeks.

WEDNESDAY FIXTURES:

Group A
Barcelona (Spa) v Hertha Berlin (Ger)
Porto (Por) v Sparta Prague (Cze)

Group B
Manchester United (Eng) v Fiorentina (Ita)
Bordeaux (Fra) v Valencia (Spa)

Best still in hospital

LONDON, March 14: Former Manchester United and Northern Ireland star George Best remained in hospital Monday as he continued to battle a serious liver condition, reports AFP.

Best was well enough to watch televised sport Sunday as his spell in the Cromwell Hospital in west London continued.

The 53-year-old former winger, now a television commentator, hopes to be able to leave hospital on Thursday, his personal assistant, Phil Hughes, said.

"He's been sitting up and chatting. He's looking and feeling a lot better," Hughes said.

Best's wife Alex, 27, was again a visitor and is thought to have spent several hours with him.

A new battery of test results released by the hospital showed Best's health was improving steadily.

His consultant, Professor Roger Williams, said: "He's doing well. The latest test results are encouraging and show he is continuing to improve."

He said Best was in the early stages of recovery but he was unable to say whether his patient would ultimately require a liver transplant.

"I can't look that far ahead at the moment," he said. "There is a waiting list for such operations and those who need a transplant can usually get one very quickly and successfully."

"But I would stress that transplant is not something we are thinking about at the present time. We won't really know until later in the week exactly how he's getting on."

Best has told reporters that without the help of his wife, he would have drunk himself to death - and has vowed to give up alcohol.

Souness appointed Rovers manager

LONDON, March 14: Graeme Souness was on Tuesday appointed new manager of English First Division side Blackburn Rovers on a three-and-a-half year deal, the club confirmed, reports AFP.

The former Liverpool, Rangers and Southampton manager replaces Tony Parkes, who remains on as assistant, in the Ewood Park hot-seat with immediate effect.

Souness, 46, takes over with Rovers 11th in Division One - eight points off the play-offs as they seek to regain their Premiership status at the first attempt.

Souness said: "This is a wonderful opportunity and just the sort of challenge I relish."

"I am delighted to be back in day-to-day management, particularly as the chance has come at a club as ambitious as Blackburn Rovers."

"This club is geared for top-level football and has a proven record. My job is to help bring back the good times to Ewood Park and I can't wait to get started."

Confirming the appointment, Rovers owner Jack Walker said: "Graeme Souness is precisely the man we need and he can count on our full and unwavering support."

A much-capped Scottish international, Souness was one of the finest all-round midfield players in world football during a glittering career with Middlesbrough, Liverpool and Sampdoria.

He became the first ever player-manager at Glasgow Rangers in 1986 and brought significant success to Ibrox, four successive League titles and four League Cup triumphs before resigning in order to succeed Kenny Dalglish at Liverpool.

He guided Liverpool to the FA Cup before a spell overseas saw him join Galatasaray, of Turkey, where he again enjoyed Cup glory.

Friendly against China

Troussier turns to Euro-stars



KOBE, Japan, March 14: Japan's under-pressure coach Philippe Troussier is banking on his trio of European-based stars to help his team beat China -- and silence his critics -- when the two Asian giants clash here Wednesday, reports AFP.

Italian Serie A star and AS Roma record-signing Hidetoshi Nakata has been called up to the



HIDETOSHI NAKATA squad along with Hiroshi Nanami and Spanish-based Shoji Jo.

Troussier has had to weather mounting criticism in recent months and is hoping his full-strength side for Wednesday's friendly can end feverish speculation about his future.

"This game is the place to confirm the high quality of the Japanese team's potential," said Troussier. The inclusion of the Eurostars has ensured a 42,000 sell-out for the match.

Two-time Asian Player of the Year Nakata and Jo were excused from duty during the recent Hong Kong Cup and Asian Cup qualifiers.

Troussier's straight-talking has earned him enemies in Japanese football and one sports daily has reported that he may be sacked as Japan's national football coach.

However, the French coach has said his contract, originally scheduled to run to June, included a clause that if Japan were in the Asian Cup finals, he would stay on until it was over, in October.

Troussier is hoping to earn a contract extension through to the 2002 World Cup finals.

If their record against Asian sides under Troussier is anything to go by, Japan ought to be celebrating victory after Wednesday's game. They have never lost to an Asian team during the Frenchman's reign.

The showdown also represents a crucial test for Troussier's Chinese counterpart, Bora Milutinovic, who is taking charge of China for the first time.

The globe-trotting coach who has taken four countries to the World Cup quarter-finals -- Mexico in 1986, Costa Rica in 1990, the United States in 1994 and Nigeria in 1998 -- has been handed the task of helping

China live up to their potential. He replaced Englishman Bob Houghton earlier this year, who was fired by the China Football Association after failing to qualify the team for the Sydney Olympics.

Milutinovic was brought in on a two-year 1.2 million-dollar contract in January, with the blunt brief to get China into the finals of the next World Cup.

"We are in good form. The Japanese are a well-organized



SHOJI JO good team and it will be a tough match, but I'm confident to win," said Milutinovic.

China and Japan have a level record from their previous 16 matches, both teams beating the other seven times, with two games drawn. China won the last encounter between the two rivals with a 2-0 victory in the 1998 Dynasty Cup in Yokohama.

Anelka shown no mercy



MADRID, March 14: Real Madrid on Monday hit troubled French international Nicolas Anelka with a massive fine - 360,000 dollars, equivalent to 45 days salary - for skipping training at the weekend, reports AFP.

The club, announcing Anelka's punishment at a press

conference, also slapped him with a 45-day suspension.

The former Arsenal star earlier attended training for the first time in four days - but on his own behind closed doors.

Anelka agreed to attend a session on Monday afternoon, but without his teammates, who had trained earlier in the morning.

The former Arsenal striker

had a solo session with physical trainer Javier Minano, local reports revealed.

The troubled 21-year-old had faced a fine of 670,000 dollars - a quarter of his salary for a season - the Spanish daily AS reported Monday, but Real still showed they meant business with their errant player by hitting him where it hurts.

Anelka was unavailable for comment after learning his fate, which came after two and a half hours of talks among the club hierarchy.

But club spokesman Jaime Ussia was more forthcoming.

"If we had known how Anelka was before recruiting him we would be masochists," said Ussia.

"The (club's administrative) council decided to maintain the principle of discipline within the club. Anelka will be kept apart from the group."

"It's up to him if he wants to continue training in order not to lose form. The player has offended our supporters," said Ussia.

Anelka skipped training from Friday to Sunday - and was dropped for Saturday's match against Sevilla which Real won 3-1 - claiming that tactics adopted by coach Vicente Del Bosque did not suit him.

"He is guilty of indiscipline and he must pay the price," said Real president Lorenzo Sanz of his wayward investment.

Sanz at the weekend accused Anelka of suffering from "psychological problems".

A record 23 million pound close-season signing from Arsenal, Anelka is angered that Real's tactics fail to play to his strengths - and claims he has been treated with a lack of respect by the club's officials.

WC 2006

Inspectors impressed with SA



ROBBEN ISLAND, South Africa, March 14: South Africa has the infrastructure and enthusiasm to host the 2006 World Cup, FIFA inspectors said Tuesday on the final day of their visit here, reports AFP.

"We were most favourably impressed... the whole thing really was excellent," team leader Alan Rothenberg told reporters at the end of the inspectors' six-day assessment tour of South Africa.

"Clearly the infrastructure is in place," he said at a briefing on Robben Island, the former prison island off Cape Town where the previous apartheid government detained hundreds of freedom fighters, including Nelson Mandela.

"There would be a few modifications but the country has six years to make them," he added.

The team was particularly impressed with South Africa's stadium and enthusiasm for the event, Rothenberg said.

"Everywhere we went there were smiling faces yelling at us to bring the World Cup to South Africa," he added.

The inspectors - who have already toured other bidders Brazil, England, Germany and Morocco - would not pronounce if South Africa was completely ready to host the event.

"That will be the bottom line of the report we submit to the FIFA executive. We will tell them that before we tell the rest of the world," Rothenberg said.

South Africa's bid has stressed that the football World Cup has never been held in Africa in its 70-year history.

Rothenberg said some FIFA members "will take into account whether a continent has had a World Cup before and how long ago they had it."

Danny Jordaan, head of South Africa's bid company,

said the FIFA team's last press conference was held on Robben Island because that was where football officials decided to make a bid for the World Cup.

"It used to be a place of despair but it became a place of hope. Now we are hoping that South Africa will get to host the World Cup in 2006," he added.

Mandela, who became South

Africa's first democratically elected president in 1994, was held on Robben Island for the bulk of his 27 years in apartheid jails.

The team met Mandela and his successor President Thabo Mbeki during their visit.

FIFA is expected to announce the successful bidder on July 6.

Directorate General Defence Purchase

Ministry of Defence
New Airport Road, Tejgaon
Dhaka-1215

Tender Notice

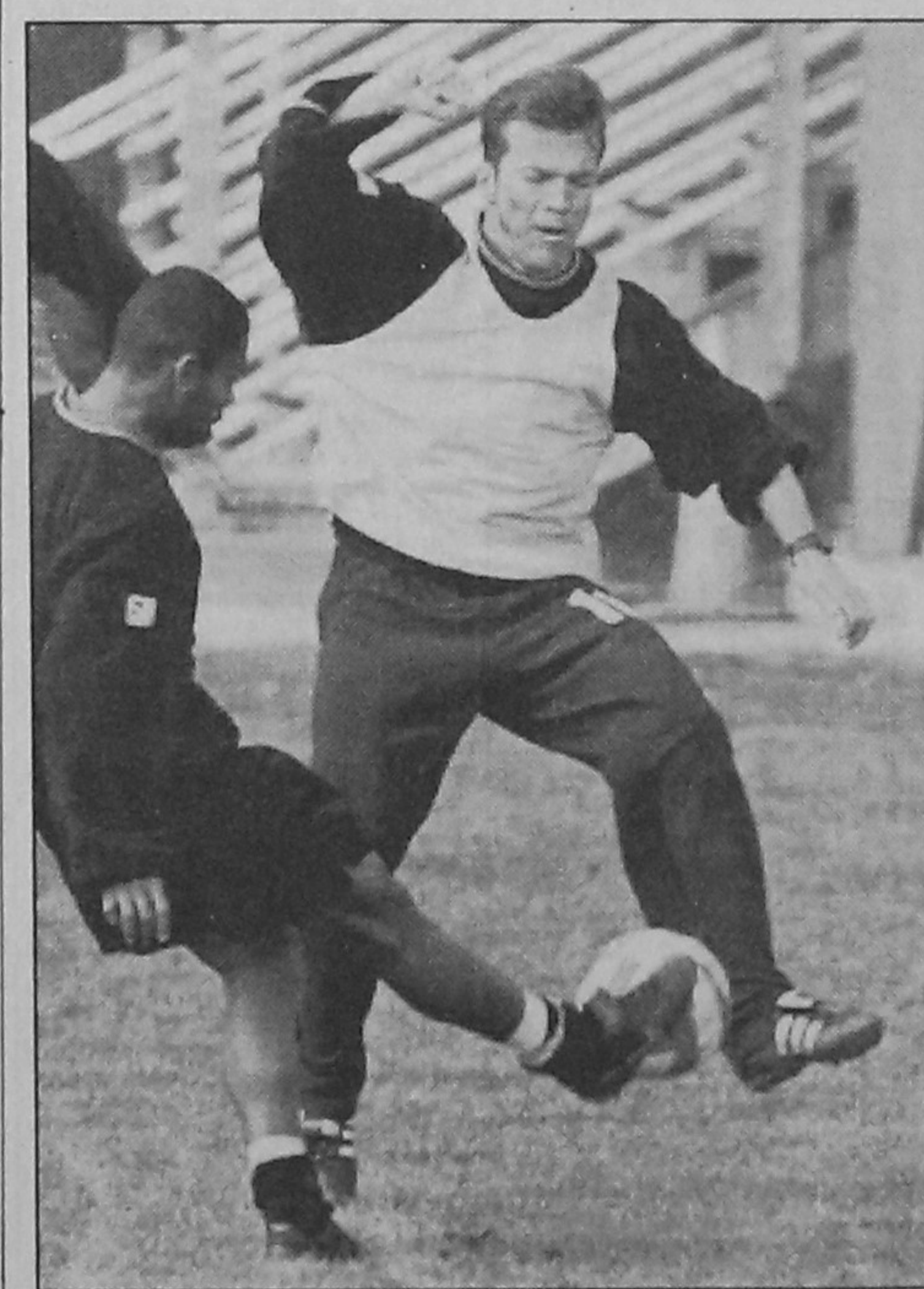
1 Sealed tenders in foreign currency are invited from bonafide manufacturers/dealers/suppliers/indentors (Enlisted Firms in DGDP) for supply of following items for Bangladesh Navy:

Sl No	Name of Items & Qty	Selling Date	Opening Date	Tender No	Tender Value
a)	Marine Propulsion Engines, Gear Boxes, Stern Gears and Control System of High Speed Naval Ship Qty 04 in No.	21 Mar 2000 to 17 April 2000	18 Apr 2000	6432/NP-4	Tk 1,500/00

2 Tender schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per I/T selling rate (not refundable) during office hours between 0800 hrs to 1300 hrs. The tender can be dropped latest by 1000 hrs and opened at 1005 hrs on the specified date of opening in the presence of tenderers (if any).

ISPR/Misc/2000/236
DFP-5698-9/3
G-469

Lt Cdr BN
For Director General



German super star Lothar Matthaeus enjoying his first training session for New Jersey MetroStars at Ken University ground in Elizabeth, New Jersey, on Monday. — AFP photo

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

National Health Library & Archive

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Memo: No: NHLA/Bio-Medi: Book Purchase-7/99-2000/257 Dated: 5/3/2000

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Tenders under sealed envelopes are invited from bonafide book supplier firms/contractors for purchasing Bio-Medical Books for the National Health Library & Archive, Mohakhali, Dhaka. Schedule can be collected subject to depositing Tk 400/= (four hundred) only (non-refundable) as price of schedule through treasury challan under Code No 1 2 7 1 1 0 0 0 2 3 6 6 in favour of the undersigned & submitting its original copy to this office, during office hours from 12-3-2000 to 28-3-2000. Tender will be received up to 11:00 AM of 29-3-2000 & opened on the same day at 11:30 AM in presence (if any) of the tenderers.

The Tender Committee reserves the right to accept tender or reject all tenders without assigning any reason.

Prof Md Mozaherul Haq
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