

Afridi to marry on October 19

KARACHI, Sept 7 (Internet report): The Afridi family has announced the marriage plans of its flamboyant son Shahid. The wedding ceremony would take place on October 19 while the reception would be held on October 22.

Although the family said the wedding would be purely on Karachi culture with glimpses of Pathan tradition, it would be a big party.

"It will be a party that people will remember for a very long time. It will be a mixture of Karachi and Pathan culture," Shahid's elder brother Tariq told a website.

Shahid minced no words in saying that he wanted to get married and adored the girl who was about to become his life partner.

"I like the girl and I have made no secrets about it to my family. But there was no affair between us as it is not our tradition," Shahid said. He was hesitant to speak about his would-be bride. "We don't discuss about women in the public. What I can tell you is that her name is Nadia and she lives in Peshawar. Rest is classified."

Shahid said he wanted to get married chiefly because he wanted to lead a more responsible life. "I have enjoyed very much as a teenager. But now I have certain responsibilities towards my profession and family. The only solution was marriage."

Shahid has not planned his honeymoon but says if he is selected for the tour of New Zealand, his bride would certainly accompany him.

"Frankly, I think the chances are bleak but I have not lost hope."

Africa Cup cricket

Uganda upset South Africa

NAIROBI, Sept 7: Just when they looked as if they had victory within their grasp, South African cricketers collapsed to lose by four runs to Uganda in their Africa Cup cricket one-day tournament match at Nairobi's Impala club on Wednesday, reports AFP.

But both countries qualified for Friday's semifinals, alongside hosts Kenya and Zimbabwe.

After winning the toss and putting Uganda to bat, the South Africans, led by Allan McLaren, restricted the East Africans to a paltry score of 165 for nine in 50 overs.

Uganda had made a slow start when they lost early wickets. Opening batsmen Charles Lwanga and Joel Olyemwe fell to South African bowler Teon Caraulus, who claimed three wickets for 28.

Matters were made worse when their star batsman, Nehal Bibodi, suffered a concussion after being hit on the face with the ball. Bibodi was rushed to hospital for some stitches.

Asif saves

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have been a different story. Although Brothers have long since lost the tag of third force behind Mohammedan and Abani with the emergence of Mukti Juddha in 1994, they showed remarkable resilience against their much-vaunted opponents.

The Gopibagh outfit eliminated from the preliminary stage of this year's Federation Cup, however looked a vastly improved unit with the inclusion of three Nepalese booters — Hari Khadka, Basanta Thapa and Bal Gopal Mahajan.

They fought neck and neck in the first half before Mukti Juddha established their domination in the second session. Only lady luck kept Brothers in the contest as Mukti Juddha's star Indian recruit IM Vijayan and Asif happily watched their efforts come off the metalwork in the 62nd and 85th minute respectively.

The match was heading ominously for penalty shootout after hat-trick hero against Rahmatganj Vijayan, hit the far post from a free-kick on the edge of left-hand box. In persevering Mukti Juddha held their nerve to snatch victory.

It was Brothers' first defeat after their 1-0 win against Arambagh.

Yellow Cards: Shahjahan, Sabbu and Munir (Brothers)

TEAMS

MUKTIJUDDHA: Aminul, Hasan-Al-Mamun, Rajani, Propid, Masud Rana, Shamsher (Asif), Mintu, Tushar, Liton (Saurav), Farhad (Johnny) and Bijayan

BROTHERS UNION: Tony, Shahjahan, Chanchal, Polashi, Sabbu, Proshanta, Bal Gopal, Parvez, Salahuddin (Munir), Hari Khadka and Thapa

Referee: Ibrahim Nasar

ARAMBAGH WIN

Meanwhile, in the first match of the day Arambagh scored a 4-2 tiebreak win against Farashganj Sporting Club.

The match went into lottery after the regulation 90 minutes failed to produce any goals.

Arambagh however still managed to get two valuable points when their custodian Himu saved the shots of Mitun and Ashraf.

For Arambagh Ritun, Choton, Nayan and Bakhtiar made no mistake to convert the 12-yarder.

It was their first points in the league.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Premier Division

Badda Jagarani v Dhanmondi Club (5.30pm)

First Division

Shantinagar Club v Sadharan Bina (3.30pm)

Premiership

Silvinho silences Chelsea



LONDON, Sept 7: History came back to haunt Chelsea on Wednesday when they drew 2-2 with their London rivals in the English Premiership, reports AFP.

In the same fixture at Stamford Bridge last season Nwankwo Kanu scored a second hat-trick to earn all three points for the Gunners.



Arsenal players celebrate after their side's second and equalising goal against Chelsea in the Premiership at Stamford Bridge on September 6.

— AFP photo

after Chelsea had led 2-0 at half-time.

Brazilian Silvinho rifled home a stunning equaliser for Arsenal's men seven minutes from time after Frenchman Thierry Henry had hauled Arsenal back from the dead with a smartly taken goal after 76 minutes.

Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink scored his second league goal of the season to give Chelsea the upper hand after 31 minutes, taking advantage of a dreadful tangle between Oleg Luzhny and Gilles Grimandi.

The Dutch striker picked up the loose ball and fired past David Seaman from 20 yards. Gianfranco Zola then doubled Chelsea's advantage 13 minutes after the interval.

Frank Leboeuf's chipped free-kick was chested down by Gus Poyet on the edge of the area into the path of Zola who took his time before knocking the ball past Martin Keown and slotting past the despairing dive of David Seaman.

Hasselbaink hit the post moments before Silvinho's sucker punch and instead of leading 3-1 they were pegged back by plucky Arsenal and had to be satisfied with a point.

Liverpool's Michael Owen grabbed a stunning first-half hat-trick to underline his impressive scoring form in his side's 3-1 win at home to Aston Villa.

His last three games have been devastating. Owen scored twice in his previous league match at Southampton, grabbed a cracker for England in a friendly international in Paris against France, and then turned his talents on poor Villa.

Steve Stone scored a late consolation for Villa seven minutes from time.

Alan Shearer scored his 200th league goal by firing a first-half penalty in Newcastle's 2-0 win at Coventry.

It capped a memorable period for the former England captain whose wife had given birth to their first son, Will, on Friday.

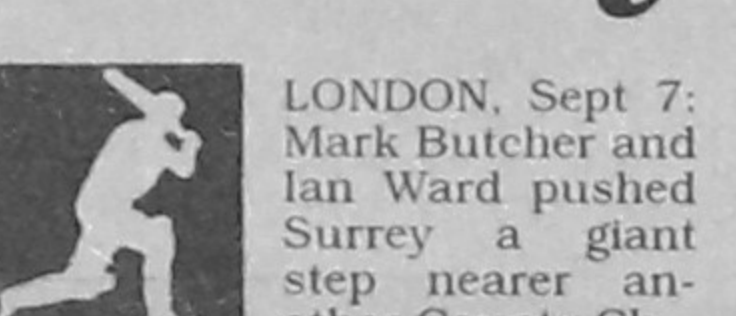
Kevin Gallacher wrapped up the points for Bobby Robson's men.

Derby pulled off a remarkable comeback at home to Middlesbrough coming back from 3-0 down to draw 3-3 at Pride Park.

Leicester conceded their first goal of the season but were still too strong for Premiership newcomers Ipswich at Filbert Street, running out 2-1 winners.

Elsewhere Charlton were held 1-1 at home to Southampton. Latvian striker Marian Pahars gave the Saints the lead after 82 minutes before Jonatan Johansson levelled the scores eight minutes from time.

Surrey openers shine



LONDON, Sept 7: Mark Butcher and Ian Ward pushed Surrey to a giant step nearer an FA Cup title on Wednesday with an unbroken opening stand of 243 against strugglers Durham at The Oval, reports AFP.

Needing victory to tie up the title, Butcher and Ward certainly showed they had only one thing on their minds.

At the close the holders had reached 243 off 76 overs with both openers still at the crease. Ward led the way with 103 and he was backed up by Butcher's 100.

Lawrence Prittpaul and Will Kendall both hit centuries as Hampshire raced to 368 for four against Derbyshire at Southampton.

Prittpaul finished the opening day on 149 not out as the Derbyshire attack struggled. Kendall scored 143, his 100 including 14 fours while Prittpaul's century included 17 boundaries.

Second Division leaders Northamptonshire saw the start of their match at home to Essex delayed because of rain at Northampton.

But it could not stop them from winning promotion to the First Division for next season as they flourished on 233 all out. Stuart Law top-scoring with 59, ably backed up by 45 extras.

Jason Brown did most damage to the Essex batting line-up claiming four victims. Northants were 25 without loss at the close.

Glamorgan's hopes of trying to close the gap on Northants were put on hold as they too fell foul of the weather against Nottinghamshire.

The first four Nottinghamshire wickets fell with less than 100 on the board but Jason Gallian helped to steady the home side's innings.

Gallian's unbeaten century saw Nottinghamshire to 309 for seven by the end of the day's proceedings. Gallian included 17 fours and one six during his century, and went on to make 127 not out.

The pick of Glamorgan's bowling was Steve Watkins who took four wickets.

David Hemps scored a century to steer visitors Warwickshire to a second day total of 416 all out against Middlesex at Lord's.

Hemp took nearly four hours to put his 100 on the board, which came off 160 deliveries and included 13 fours. Together with Mike Powell's opening day 92, Hemp put Warwickshire on the road to their large first innings total.

Having helped Warwickshire on their way to five bonus points, Hemp was finally out for 129 when he was caught off the bowling of former England seamer Angus Fraser.

The Middlesex bowlers had shared the wickets around with Fraser and spinner Phil Tufnell taking two apiece.

By the close Middlesex had taken their reply to 74 without loss.

Asprilla in hot water

BOGOTA, Sept 7: Colombian tax authorities have called for veteran footballer and former Newcastle star Faustino "Tino" Asprilla to be placed in detention for illegal possession of a firearm, it emerged Thursday, reports AFP.

The 30-year-old striker, set for a move to Saudi Arabia after a short stint with Palmeiras of Brazil, will have to cough up 450 dollars if he is to avoid custody.

Asprilla, who made his name with Italy's Parma, whom he rejoined briefly after two seasons with Newcastle, was spotted last Friday in the town of Tulua in an inebriated state and waving a gun in the air and was taken to the local police station.

Asprilla made an oral statement and did not submit any written document to the agency, Khan said.

Kapil's deposition is probably the last by a cricketer before the agency, which will be submitting a report to the government at the end of the month.

As per the present status of the probe, this is the last deposition in the match-fixing case. If there is any need, some people may be called. The inquiry is in its last stages and therefore I don't think there will be anymore such depositions," Khan said.

The report is in the final stages of preparation and would be submitted to the sports ministry, he said. The sports minister will then table it in the Parliament.

Regarding the interrogation of former India and Delhi batsman Ajay Sharma, who was to appear before the agency on his return from England where he is playing in the minor county league, Khan said the CBI team that visited London in August had already questioned him and the officials were satisfied with his answers.

"He was questioned by the CBI team in London and as far as I know he will not be appearing before the agency again," Khan said.

The CBI has questioned a number of cricketers, administrators and bookies after the probe was handed to them by the government in May. Before Kapil Dev, the agency has questioned former BCCI president I S Bindra, current BCCI chief A C Muthiah, secretary Jaywant Lele, treasurer Kishore Rungta, DDCA sports secretary Sunil Dev, Mohammad Azharuddin, May Jadhav, Navjot Singh Sidhu, Manoj Prabhakar, Nikhil Chopra, Ajit Wadekar, Jagmohan Dalmiya and a number of bookies including Delhi-based Mukesh Gupta.

PSG are still looking for their first away win in three attempts so far.

Bordeaux, the 1998/99 French league champions put an end to an impressive run by Nantes with their overwhelming win.

Meanwhile on Tuesday, 10-man Marseille scored twice in the second half to beat French champions Monaco 2-0 at their Louis II Stadium.

St Etienne, deprived at the last minute of their Brazilian Alex who is about to join Real Betis, managed a 2-2 draw at home to Lyon.

In other matches, Metz beat Strasbourg 1-0 in an Alsace derby, and Guingamp had the better of Toulouse to the tune of 2-1.

Bordeaux's David Jemali (R) is under pressure from Stephane Ziani of Nantes during their French First Division encounter at Nantes on September 6.

— AFP photo

AFF SOCCER BRIEFS

LONDON, Sept 7: Arsenal, a leading football club in the English Premier League, received a windfall of 47 million pounds (80.7 million euros, 71 million dollars) on Thursday with the announcement that media group Granada has bought a stake in it.

Arsenal hopes to use the cash injection to help finance the development of a new 60,000 all-seat stadium at nearby Ashburn Grove in north London and Granada will be given the opportunity to exploit the club's new media and internet rights.

KEWELL FACES SURGERY

LONDON, Sept 7: English Premiership club Leeds United confirmed Thursday that Australian star Harry Kewell will have an operation in the next 48 hours to sort out his Achilles tendon injury.

Kewell has not torn his Achilles but persistent pain has not responded to treatment and he now faces an operation to clean up the sheath around the tendon.

DEL PIERO'S PROMISE

ROME, Sept 7: Off-form Italy and Juventus striker Alessandro Del Piero vowed Thursday to get back to his best, telling La Repubblica daily he was currently on his knees but that he could still accomplish his dreams.

"It's just as if I am sitting in front of a computer screen with all the programmes - but without the access key. If I can find it I will find myself," he insisted.

Bundesliga Bayern back to top spot

COLOGNE, Sept 7: Bayern Munich grabbed back top spot in the Bundesliga Wednesday with a 3-1 win over VfL Wolfsburg, while Borussia Dortmund slipped 3-2 against 1860 Munich, reports AFP.

Hertha Berlin got the biggest win of the day with a comprehensive 4-0 thrashing of VfL Bochum while Eintracht Frankfurt finally showed they hadn't forgotten how to play winning football after all.

Bayern and Schalke 04 are the only undefeated teams after three rounds.

It was Matthias Sammer's first defeat as coach and sees Dortmund sink from third to sixth. Dortmund opened aggressively but it was Paul Agostino who opened the scoring for 1860 on 34 minutes.

Eintracht Frankfurt made good their shocking 6-1 loss to Stuttgart's amateurs in the German Cup with a 4-0 victory over Hansa Rostock.

Hansa are winless in their three games so far and rock bottom on zero points with Cottbus.

Hertha Berlin lifted themselves fourth on the table with their 4-0 win over Bochum.

Hamburg won their northern derby against Werder Bremen thanks to a 20 metre shot by defender Ingo Hertzsch in the 82nd minute. Bremen have not won away in the last 11 outings.

CBI interrogates

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refused to give details of the interrogation but said Kapil Dev answered all the questioned put by the officials. The questions were mostly about Prabhakar's allegations and the match-fixing charges against various players. He was, however, not shown the videotapes submitted by Prabhakar.

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Hooper eyes Test return



LONDON, Sept 7 (Internet report): Former West Indies vice-captain Carl Hooper has indicated that he is willing to return to international cricket.

His announcement may help lift the spirits of Caribbean cricket fans, who are still smarting following the team's 3-1 defeat by England.

The 33-year-old quit international cricket in April last year after playing 80 Test matches and 182 one-day internationals.

But the Caribbean News Agency (CANA) reports that he is to play for Guyana during the West Indies domestic season, which would make him eligible for selection for the national team.

Hooper, however, has not yet received any indication as to how his decision would be received by the West Indies Cricket Board.

"As far as West Indies cricket goes, I can be available, but I don't know what the selectors feel," he was quoted as saying.

"If the selectors feel I can play a part, then I feel I can play for another three or four years and help the youngsters come through."

A stylish middle-order bats-

man, Hooper scored 4,153 runs at an average of 33.76, with nine hundreds and 18 fifties, during his Test career and also took 93 wickets with his off-spin bowling.

His one-day record is equally good with 4,612 runs at an average of 33.76 and 163 wickets.

He spent five successful seasons on the English county circuit with Kent during the 1990s, scoring more than 1,000 runs each summer.

Hooper played for Australian club side Carlton last winter and was named Player of the Season by the Victorian Cricket Association.

West Indies head for Australia this winter for a five-Test series and a triangular one-day tournament, also featuring Zimbabwe, and Hooper's inclusion would certainly strengthen the side.

Ex-captain Richie Richardson, now 38, is also considering whether to make himself available for the tour in an attempt to prevent another overseas defeat.

CARL HOOPER



Liverpool's Michael Owen jumps to avoid a sliding tackle from Ugo Ehiogu of Aston Villa during their Premiership clash on September 6. Owen scored a hat-trick as his side won 3-1.

— AFP photo

Bradman loses appeal



MELBOURNE, Sept 7 (Internet report): Sir Donald Bradman has lost an appeal to stop local businesses, including a sex shop, using his name after a bid to honour him in his home town backfired.

Mayor John Trainer said the West Torrens local council had been forced to reject a personal appeal from Bradman, arguably the greatest cricketer ever, to scrap a plan to name the road from Adelaide's airport to the city Sir Donald Bradman Drive.

Uribe new Peru coach

LIMA, Sept 7: Peru, in a bid to revive their flagging World Cup fortunes, have turned to former international Julio Cesar Uribe, appointed Wednesday in place of Colombian Francisco Maturana, reports AFP.

Maturana was dismissed following last weekend's 2-1 home defeat by Argentina which left the Peruvians in a lowly eighth place in the Latin American World Cup qualifying group from which only four automatically go through to the 2002 finals.

Uribe had very firm legal advice that we would be liable for compensation to all those businesses - that have, got ready for the name change and altered all their stationery, (telephone) entries, etc., Trainer on the Drive.

Trainer said he believed the move by a sex shop on the road to register the name Erotica on Bradman was "the final straw" for Bradman, who turned 92 last month. The name change is due to take effect from January 1, 2001.

Trainer would not release details of Bradman's appeal out of respect for the reclusive sportsman, who has not commented publicly on the row.

But Trainer said he had offered to pay the sex shop's registration costs if they dropped the Bradman name and would write to local businesses asking them to demonstrate "civic responsibility".

Philippines pray for success

SYDNEY, Sept 7 (Reuters): Salvador Andrada is praying for a golden medal at the Summer Olympics.

The chief de mission of the Philippine Olympic Committee said today that he was praying that the Sydney Games would be the one at which his country finally won its first gold medal.

"Our target is one gold, two golds would be a blessing and if we get three golds, that would be a miracle," Andrada said.

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