

Div III cricket qualifiers

Sports Reporter
The Third Division Cricket League qualifiers yesterday produced two brilliant centuries at different city venues.

At the City Club ground in Mirpur opener Faisal scored a superlative 132 to fashion a massive 121-run victory for Rangdhanu Sangha against Crescent Boys Club.

The undefeated 102-ball knock of Faisal enabled Rangdhanu to pile up a mammoth 255 for five in the stipulated 35 overs. He shared 107 runs for the first wicket with Raihan to lay the foundation of a big total.

Raihan, who scored a polished 43, later played the pivotal role of restricting Crescent Boys to 134, claiming four for 11.

At the Uttara Police Lines ground Tariq hammered a blazing unbeaten 101 off only 78 balls to help MM Cricket Academy to amass 242 for five in 35 overs.

The middle-order batsmen clubbed a dozen fours and five sixes in his hurricane hundred.

In reply, Titan Boys were skittled out for 108 in 34 overs after some controlled bowling from Jaked, who took four wickets for 25 runs.

CCS Green also scored a facile five-wicket win over Dhaka Cricket Academy at the Mirpur Outer Stadium.

In a low-scoring affair CCS, chasing a paltry 56 of Dhaka Cricket, raced to 60 in only 7.2 overs.

BRIEF SCORES

CCS Green vs Dhaka Cricket Academy
Venue: Mirpur Outer Stadium
Dhaka Cricket Academy 56 all out in 24.3 overs (Nizam 13; Rubel 3/5; 3/11; Rabib 2/13)

CCS Green 60 for 5 in 7.2 overs (Sozal 18; Asha 12; Kamrul 2/2)
Result: CCS Green won by 5 wickets.

MM Cricket Academy vs Titan Boys Club
Venue: Uttara Police Lines ground
MM Academy 242 for 5 in 35 overs (Tariq 101 not out; Maruf 64; Shahin 24/11)

Titan Boys 108 all out in 34 overs (Faisal 28; Sohagh 12 not out; Jaked 4/25; Rana 2/15)

Result: MM Cricket Academy won by 134 runs
Rangdhanu Sangha vs Crescent Boys
Venue: City Club ground
Rangdhanu Sangha 255 for 5 in 35 overs (Faisal 132 not out; Raihan 43; Imran 37; Uday 2/50)

Crescent Boys 134 all out in 34.4 overs (Tushar 27; Arfin 19; Raihan 4/11; Javed 2/19)
Result: Rangdhanu won by 121 runs

Ronaldo could be back soon

PARIS, Oct 7: Ronaldo, Inter Milan's Brazilian striker, underwent tests on his injured knee here on Friday and could be back in action by January, his surgeon Dr Gerard Saillant said on Friday, reports AFP.

"Six months after the operation, he's 90% cured, it's even ahead of schedule," said the world-renowned surgeon.

Ronaldo's friend and manager Roberto Paiva, who accompanied the player on his trip to Paris, claimed that Ronaldo could be training again as of January but emphasised that there was no rush.

"There's no pressure from Inter Milan, the Brazilian national team or the sponsor, Nike," said Paiva.

The former World footballer of the year arrived at a Paris clinic on Thursday for a meeting with Dr Saillant, who has performed two operations on the stricken knee, to establish a rehabilitation program.

The 24-year-old, still on crutches, is due to return to Portland, Oregon, to continue his recovery in "calmer surroundings and continue with English classes," reports AFP.

Thai skipper misses warm up

BANGKOK, Oct 7 (AFP): A new striker is being called up to join Thailand's football squad after team captain Kiatasak "Zico" Senanuam failed to turn up for training in preparation for next week's Asian Cup, a report said Friday.

Zico, currently playing with English side Huddersfield Town, was given the all clear by the club to lead his national side in the tournament, but failed to appear at the team's training camp in Qatar, the Bangkok Post reported.

The Thai superstar, in search of a new signing, turned up for trials with First Division club Crystal Palace on September 27 but has not been heard of since.

Thailand Football Association president Vittit Getkaew was reportedly furious about Zico's no-show and said it appeared as though he was more interested in looking for a new club than playing for his country, the Post said.

The Asian Cup finals, which start on October 12 in Lebanon, involve defending champions Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, South Korea, Kuwait, China, Qatar, Thailand and Uzbekistan.

Keegan spells it out



2002
FIFA WORLD CUP
KOREA/JAPAN

Keegan confirmed that Manchester United's David Beckham would start despite a knee injury but a groin injury to Liverpool midfielder Steven Gerrard meant he was ruled out.

"David Beckham is not a risk, Steven Gerrard would have been," Keegan explained.

Keegan added: "We have not sold this game to the players - we have not had to, I think

they know they have to lift themselves.

The balance of the squad is good, there is a lot of experience in there. The winners are the 11 who are going to play but the substitutes will have a part to play. That is the way the modern game is.

"I don't think we need to build this game up. It is a game of football, it's against Germany but at the end it's three points in a World Cup qualifying campaign.

The Germans appear to have got back some of the spirit

that seemed to be lacking in Euro 2000. They are a big, strong, physical side and are well organised.

"They will come here fancying their chances to turn around the result in Charlton. They have been a remarkably consistent side over the years and have always performed well in World Cups. But this is another game, another time.

"They have had in the past

as we have had - some fantastic players. We will look to 1966 and they can look to great times.

"Until we lay the ghost of 1966 everyone is going to talk about Moore, Hurst, Peters, Bobby Charlton. But they (the England players) can do something about that."

KEVIN KEEGAN

Under-21 match
Germany hold England

LONDON, Oct 7: England's under-21 football squad drew 1-1 with their German counterparts on Friday in a group qualifier match.

England's Titus Bramble opened the scoring on the stroke of half time, but Germany pulled level in the closing minutes on a strike from Fabian Ernst.

England, who played much of the second half a man down after Liverpool's Stephen Wright received a red card at 66 minutes, next play Finland on October 10.

Other British teams fared less well in their qualifiers.

Denmark downed Northern Ireland 3-0 and Norway beat Wales 2-0. In other matches, Portugal outclassed Ireland 3-1, France edged Austria 2-1, Italy and Romania ended level at 1-1 and Spain beat Israel 1-0.

Savio stays in Real

MADRID, Oct 7 (Reuters): Real Madrid striker Savio said he would not be joining English premier league club Chelsea.

"Even if they make an offer of 5,000 million pesetas (\$25.17 million) I am not going to leave Madrid," he said.

Real's sporting director Jorge Valdano had said on Friday he had met Chelsea officials and they had offered 2,400 million pesetas (\$12.56 million) for the Brazilian international.

Savio said he was tired of speculation linking him to a move from the European champions.

"The club can listen to any offer but it is certain that I am staying. I have an obligation to the fans and I am not going to move."

He is the world-renowned surgeon.

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The 24-year-old, still on crutches, is due to return to Portland, Oregon, to continue his recovery in "calmer surroundings and continue with English classes," reports AFP.

Brazil have won twice and the Netherlands once while Argentina and Germany drew with a country that has made rapid progress since three decades of racism-induced isolation ended eight years ago.

Hopes of a South African triumph at the 68,000-seat Ellis Park in central Johannesburg receded when inspirational captain and central defender Lucas Radebe withdrew with concussion.

This means Pierre Issa from French club Marseille and Denmark-based Frankie Schoeman must subdue the threat from quicksilver young French strikers Nicolas Anelka, Thierry Henry and David Trezeguet.

Issa is desperate to do well as he conceded an own goal when France beat South Africa 3-0 in Marseille during the group phase of the 1998 World Cup. France won the other previous meeting 2-1 in Lens a

Barisal soccer

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 7: Khelear Kalyan Samity defeated 5 Star Club 2-0 in the lone match of the Abdur Rab Sernilab First Division football league at the Abdur Rab Sernilab Stadium today.

T&T Club will take on New Evergreen Club at the same venue tomorrow.



WEMBLEY'S WARMTH: Star midfielder David Beckham standing inside the Wembley Stadium in London during a practice session of the England team on October 5.

—Internet photo

Bafana Bafana's big test

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 7: South Africa try again on Saturday to defeat a major football power when they entertain France here in the Nelson Mandela Challenge.

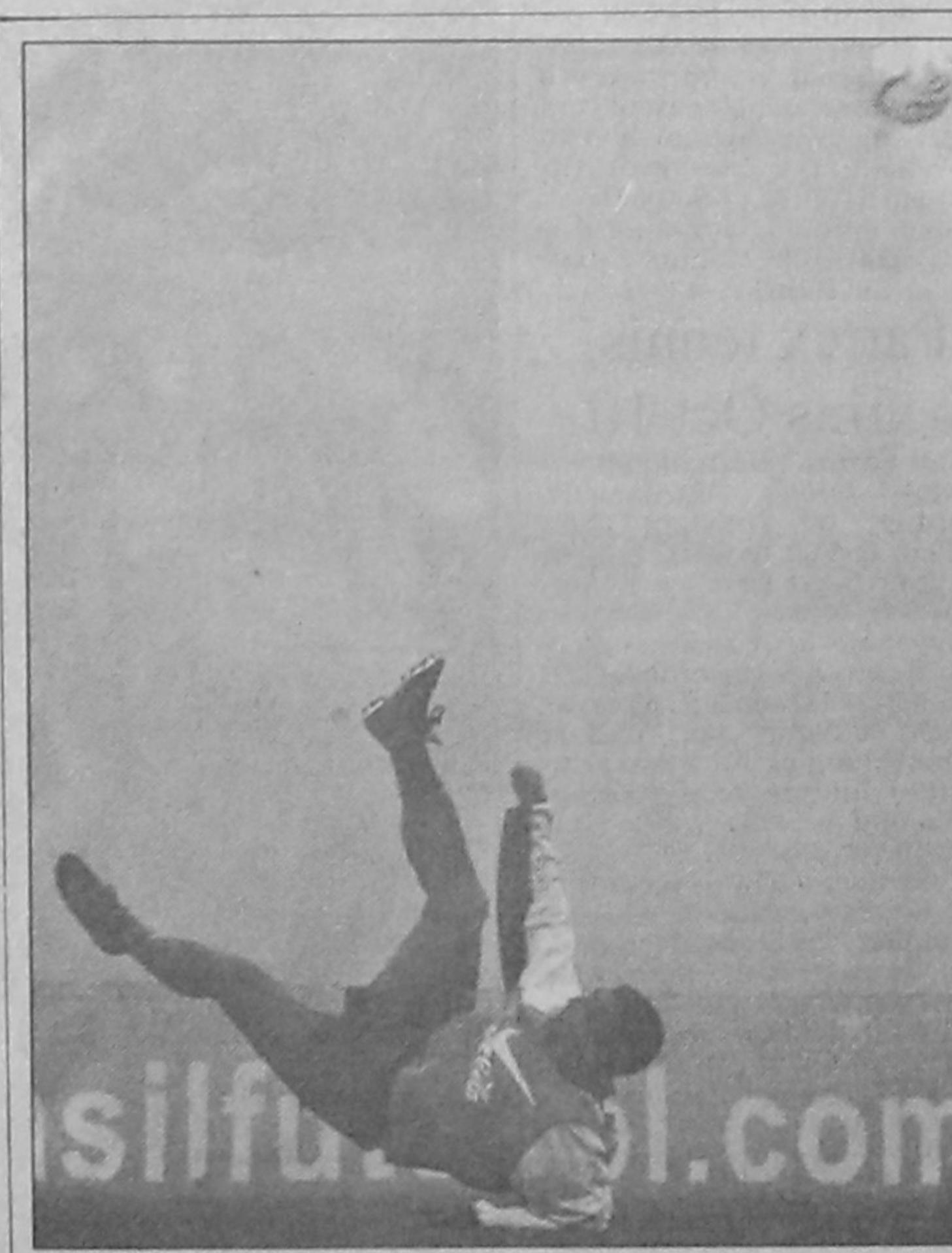
The French are the fifth team among the top 10 in the rankings of world controlling body FIFA to visit Johannesburg and Bafana Bafana (The Boys) are still awaiting their first success.

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UPSIDE DOWN: Superstar Romario executes a bicycle kick during a practice session at the Brazilian Soccer Confederation ground in Teresopolis, 100 kilometres from capital Rio de Janeiro, on October 6. Brazil take on Venezuela in a World Cup qualifier today. —Internet photo

—Internet photo