



Did U Know?

Until recent years, the Olympics were a hotbed of political protest and boycotts. The most poorly attended modern Olympic Games since 1964 were the 1980 Games in Moscow. Only 81 countries participated in those games because of a boycott against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.



WATCH

ESPN

Pakistan vs England
First Test Day Three
Highlights
9:30 am & 6:30 pm
Western Union World Football
12:30 pm
English Premiership
Highlights
1:00 pm
Serie A
Udinese vs Lazio
12:00 am (Saturday)
Star Sports
Futbol Mundial
12:00 pm
UK Domestic Cricket
Gloucestershire vs Durham
1:00 pm
Asian Football Show
8:30 pm
Pakistan vs England
First Test Day Two
Highlights
11:00 pm



TALK TURKEY



Chanda Rubin

(American tennis star)
"I don't date much, but when I do, I don't like anything too heavy, like the whole hearts-and-flowers kind of thing. But I'll take candy on Valentine's Day."



Sports WHIZZ KID

Competition 150
✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
June 1, 2001 and draw
shortly afterwards

1. What was the result of the one-day international series between South Africa and West Indies?
6-1 5-2 4-3

2. Who became UEFA Cup champions?
Arsenal Liverpool Alaves

3. Who clinched the Standard Chartered National School Cricket title?
New Model BKSP Manikganj High

4. Who lifted the Premier Division Cricket League title?
Abahani MSC Biman

5. Who holds the top position in the current FIFA World rankings?
Brazil France Italy

NB v'ball

UNB, Dhaka
Water Development Board beat Bangladesh Police 3-1 in the National Bank Premier Division Volleyball League at the volleyball court yesterday.
This was the fourth victory for the Water Development Board while the Police suffered their fourth defeat in five matches.
Friday's matches: Wari Club vs Bangladesh Bank and Bangladesh Rifles vs Azad SC.

Milan Rahmatganj's hero

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society booked a place in the second round of the Nitul White Cement 17th Federation Cup Football Tournament when they defeated Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) 1-0 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

After a barren first session in the first round Group A final, substitute Murad Ahmed Milan scored the all-important goal 30 minutes into the second half.

The lanky midfielder, who replaced Chanchal early in the sec-

ond half, found the net with a power packed grounder from close range after a neat cross by captain Saiful Rahman Moni from the right.

Premier Division Rahmatganj with three pool players -- defender Kingshuk, midfielder Kamruzzaman Selim and forward Moni -- made an impressive start against the First Division transport outfit and created as many as four good chances in the first half.

But a combination of poor marksmanship and some stunning acrobatics by BRTC goalkeeper Mamun Khan, managed to deny the old-timers from taking the lead.

National forward Moni should have opened the account in only the third minute. After making a

run down the left flank, but his effort at the far post was fisted away by the BRTC keeper for a corner.

The action didn't stop there. Because Moni's header forced Mamun to make a diving stop to his right.

Later in the 38th minute, Johnny missed two easy chances inside a minute. First he shot the ball over the cross piece from only three yards and then wide of the near post.

However, Rahmatganj coach Pano Govinda was a relieved man after watching his super substitute find the target in the 75th minute.

Rahmatganj became the first team to enter the eight-team group-phase stage. They feature in Group Two along with last year's runners-up Mohammed Sporting Club, semifinalists Muktiuddha Sangsad and the first round Group D champions.

TEAMS

Rahmatganj: Ali Hossain, Moniruzzaman, Kingshuk, Amir Khan, Mintu, Chanchal (Milan), Selim (Iqbal), Shamim, Jalal, Moni and Johnny.

BRTC: Mamun, Hafiz, Pihumoy, Uzzal, Kowshuk, Noor (Yusuf), Kamal, Manger, Polo, Towhid and Fazul.

Referee: Golam Mustafa.

BADDA-4, D'MONDI-1

In the other match of the day, Badda Jagarani Sangsad trounced Dhanmondi Club 4-1 in the Group B final.

The winners led the first period 3-0.

Nurul Islam, Walid Khan, Uzzal and Azim scored once each for the winners. Hanif grabbed a consolation goal for Dhanmondi.

The losers could have reduced the margin even further had forward Sourav Raju not missed a penalty in the 56th minute.

The victory meant Badda sealed their second round spot. They are joined in Group One by defending champions Abahani, last year's semifinalists Arambagh Krira Sangha and first round Group C champions.



BRTC defender Pihumoy Barua (L) keeping close eye on Rahmatganj forward Masud Khan Johnny during Thursday's Federation Cup clash at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.



EUROPE IN EFFENBERG'S HANDS: An elated Bayern Munich captain Stefan Effenberg holds aloft the Champions' League trophy while his teammates explode into joy after they defeated Valencia in the final in Milan on Wednesday.

Bayern back after 25 years

UEFA CHAMPS LEAGUE

AFP, Milan

Bayern Munich made up for their 1999 Champions League final agony in dramatic fashion here Wednesday with a tension-filled penalty shoot-out victory over Spanish side Valencia to lift the European Cup.

The German giants, who won their 17th Bundesliga title last Saturday, finally exorcised the ghost of their devastating defeat against Manchester United in the final two years ago by holding their nerve superbly to prevail 5-4 on penalties after the match finished 1-1 at the San Siro Stadium.

Goalkeeper Oliver Kahn was the hero for Bayern, saving brilliantly on three occasions in the shoot-out to spark wild celebrations amongst his team-mates and an army of German fans who had travelled to Milan.

Kahn's heroics handed Bayern their first European Cup since the Munich side's heyday in the 1970s when they won the tournament three times between 1974 and 1976.

MRF chief coach to arrive in city

SPORTS REPORTER

The chief coach of the MRF Pace Foundation T A Shekhar will be arriving in Dhaka May 27 to impart training to local players.

This was revealed by BCB director Mahmud-ul-Haq in a press release on Thursday. Mahmud, who was the secretary of Development, Coaching and Planning of the previous committee, also called up 24 players to attend the short training.

Interestingly, chief selector of the age-group Tanjib Ahsan Saad said that he was not aware of the selection of 24 cricketers that also included national pacers Sharif and Bikash Ranjan.

"I do not know whether it was in our jurisdiction to select the players for the training," said Tanjib, who was also made one of the three national selectors in the first meeting of the newly elected Board on May 21.

The selected players are: Shariful Islam, Shafiq-al-Zaber, Nazmul Hossain, Shafiqul Huq Rony, Tariqul Islam, Rubaiyat Huq, Asif Newaz, Monir (BKSP), Taher Chowdhury, Taposh Kumar, Kabir Ahmed (Sylhet), Mohammed Sharif, Talha Jubair, Towhidur Rahman, Bikash Ranjan Das (Dhaka), Wasel, Russell (Comilla), Altaf Ahmed (Chittagong), Kowshik, SK Russell, Tariqul Hasan (Khulna), Tony (Rahshahi), Prosenjit and Mahabubul Alam.



DAY'S EVENT
17th Federation Cup Football Tournament Group final
Farashiganj SC v Victoria SC (4 pm)
Brothers Union v Prantik KC (6 pm)
(at Bangabandhu National Stadium)

It also left coach Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld as only the second man to lead different clubs to victory in the European Cup.

Hitzfeld, who coached Borussia Dortmund to the 1997 title, now joins Ernst Happel in the record books. Happel was victorious in the European Cup with Feyenoord in 1970 and SV Hamburg in 1983.

But the Bayern coach admitted it had been a close call.

"We were lucky winners at the end," said Hitzfeld.

"It's very bitter when you lose on penalties. Valencia deserved to

win too. We were lucky winners. We say thank you to Oliver Kahn."

His Valencia counterpart Hector Cuper, who has lost three successive European finals having lost in last year's Champions League and the 1999 Cup Winners Cup with Real Mallorca, insisted his team had nothing to be ashamed about.

"You need time for the pain to subside," said the Argentinian.

"We have to stand up again."

Last year Valencia were thrashed 3-0 by Real Madrid in the final and Cuper was pleased that his side had given their all.

"First and foremost I believe we have done everything. It is down to the stability and the moral fibre of the players."

"What I have told them in the dressing room is that they have done everything possible."

"We need a couple of hours to reflect then tomorrow we go home and we must lift ourselves up," continued Cuper who sidestepped questions as to whether - as has been reported - he will leave the club in the summer.

But while Hitzfeld will earn praise for finally ending Bayern's

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'ICC needs correction'

Cricket

REUTERS, London

Two bodies created by the International Cricket Council (ICC) have combined to urge the world governing body to reform itself immediately.

The first report of the Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU), released on Wednesday, said the match-fixing scandal which erupted last year had justifiably undermined confidence in the ability of those running the game.

The unit, headed by former London metropolitan police chief Sir Paul Condon, was set up last year after South Africa captain Hansie Cronje admitted taking money from a bookmaker. Cronje and two other former captains, Salim Malik of Pakistan and Indian Mohammad Azharuddin, were subsequently banned for life.

Significantly, each of the 24 recommendations contained in the report have been endorsed by

a special committee convened to study the report.

The five-man Code of Conduct Commission inquiry committee, chaired by Lord Hugh Griffiths, examined the report nine days ago and also questioned Condon.

"It has become apparent that the present structure of the ICC is inadequate to run international cricket to manage the vast sums of money it now receives from television rights and other sources," the committee concluded.

"It is essential that the ICC, within the next 12 months, be geared to provide the best possible infrastructure for control, finance and, in the cases of matches under its control, corruption."

"There is no point in lamenting that this has not been the case in past years, it is a matter of getting it right now and for the future."

"To this end the recommendations in this report for the future of the ICC must be tackled as a matter of urgency."

Condon's report called for the ICC to become "more open, transparent and accountable."

It said consideration should be given to the publication of an annual report by the president and chief executive.

"The chief executive and executive board of ICC should be held accountable for their performance in combating malpractice," Condon said.

Lord Griffiths's committee said the ICC had to accept that a

"proper percentage" of the money coming in from television rights and all other sources had to be put into the prevention of corruption and match-fixing.

It added draconian measures such as banning mobile phones could be difficult to enforce.

"However, there should be written into the players' contracts that players will be prepared to make available to the ICC's security unit, printouts of any mobile phones of which they have use," the committee said.

The ICC's executive board will meet at Lord's on June 18 with the 24 recommendations forming the main item on the agenda.

Mission turnaround

Cricket

INTERNET, undated

India embark on a tour of Zimbabwe on Friday desperate to end a run of poor Test results abroad.

Despite being a tough proposition at home, India have won just two series in more than 20 years of playing away from home.

In 1986 they beat England 2-0 and Sri Lanka 1-0 in 1993 but have consistently under-performed abroad, something captain Sourav Ganguly wants to remedy.

"We have to win a series abroad," he said. "One win abroad will set right a lot of things."



SAURAV GANGULY ... captain

Last year, even minnows Bangladesh, who were playing their first-ever Test, managed to scare Ganguly's men, although the Indians fought back to save their self-respect and win match at Dhaka.

India have only lost one series at home since 1988 and beat the formidable Australians 2-1 recently, but struggled on their last tour to Zimbabwe in 1998.

Then they lost a one-off Test match in Harare, to extend their dire run of results.

But Ganguly believes his side now have the players to rectify the problem.

The forthcoming tour is going to be tough and different. Obviously the aim is to win abroad.

"I think we have a big chance now. We have the team to win matches abroad and we have the team which is inspired to prove a lot of critics wrong."

"The team is in excellent shape for the tour and that is what counts," he said.

"It's a matter of reputation for us."

But former Test captain Bishen Bedi said Ganguly's side would be under pressure to offer evidence that their defeat of Australia was not a one-off.

"I think the pressure is on the Indians this time, for they have to prove that their win over Australia



BISHEN SINGH BEDI



After their Federation Cup fixture against BRTC, some Rahmatganj players and coach Govinda (2nd from R) listen to some words of wisdom from national coach George Cottan (L) at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.