



Players and officials of Partex and BEXIMCO Pharma teams pose before the start of their eight-a-side cricket final at the DOHS Cricket Club ground yesterday. The eight-day carnival was organised by the DOHS Cricket Club to celebrate its promotion to the First Division League.

Khulna soccer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rafique Smrity Sangsad drew with Biddyt Kendra Youngmen's Club 2-2 in the National Bank Second Division Football League at the local stadium yesterday.

In another match of the day between Brothers Union and Challengers Soccer Club ended in a goalless draw.

TODAY'S MATCHES: Sumon Smrity Sangsad v Dumuria Tarun Sangha and Muslim Sporting Club v Balaka Sporting Club.

Dhaka clinch women's v'ball title3

OUR CORRESPONDENT, M'singh

Dhaka District became champions in the Dhaka Divisional Women's volleyball competition beating Rajbari 2-0 at the local stadium yesterday.

Div I handball

BSS, Dhaka

Dhanmondi Club overwhelmed Prime Sporting Club 20-8 in the Bata First Division Handball League at the court next to the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 11-2. Bhratritta Samaj Kalyan Sangha drew 18-18 with Satirtha Club in another match.

Captain-again

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taincy from Heath Streak, who suffered a shoulder injury in a motor accident in Colombo, Sri Lanka, last month. Streak will not be fit to play until January next year.

Campbell, a left-handed top order batsman, has previously captained Zimbabwe but resigned following a series of poor results three years ago.

Zimbabwe squad: Alistair Campbell (capt), Andy Flower (vice-capt), Guy Whittall, Mark Vermeulen, Grant Flower, Tatenda Taibu, Blessing Mahwire, Campbell McMillan, Hamilton Masakadza, Andy Bignault, Douglas Hondo, Mluleki Nkala, Dion Ebrahim, Stewart Matsikenyeri, Sean Ervine, Richard Sims, Gavin Ewing, Raymond Price, Travis Friend.

Aussies top one-day chart



AFP, London

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Thursday named Australia as the world's best one-day side as they unveiled a new rankings system for the limited-overs game.

The world champions head the inaugural list, which is comprised of all ten Test nations and Kenya, followed by South Africa and Sri Lanka. Pakistan, India and England complete the top six.

The new ranking system has been devised by statistician and scorer David Kendix with a view to providing a context for every one-day game played, eliminating the so-called 'dead rubbers' where an individual match has no bearing on the outcome of a series or competition.

Speaking at Lord's, ICC Chief Executive Malcolm Speed outlined the premise behind the first official ODI team rankings and the intention of the game's governing body that every single one-day match is of some significance.

"One-day international cricket is a hugely important and successful part of the international game and official recognition of outstanding team performance is long overdue,"

he said. "Now the result of every one of the 120 or so matches that will be played between the 11 ODI countries over the next 12 months will count towards a country's rating.

"This will add a new dimension to the playing side of the game and contribute towards a greater spectator interest," he added.

The system has been designed to stand alongside the existing Test rankings, but places greater emphasis on current form, taking into account all ODI matches played over the previous 2-3 years, with the oldest results being constantly replaced by the newest every 12 months.

The inaugural table reflects all ODI matches played since 1st August 2000. All ODIs played until next August (2003) will then be added to the table, so that by then the rankings will be based on the maximum three years of results.

At this point, the first year's results will be dropped from the rankings so that only the last two years are represented. By this method it is possible that rankings could change overnight without any matches being played. The key principles in determining a side's ranking are the relative strength of opposition - there is greater reward for beating a higher ranked side -

and the equal weighting given to all matches, irrespective of significance, venue or the margin of victory.

Therefore a side's movement up or down the table is dependent entirely on the quality of the opposition. Beating a superior side is worth more points than beating a lower ranked side, while losing to a country higher in the ranking incurs a lesser penalty than defeat against a supposedly weaker side.

A side's ranking, in simple terms, is simply an average worked out by dividing the points scored by the number of matches played.

The number of points scored is reached by a mathematical formula based on the result of the match and the ranking difference between the two sides. The rankings table will be updated after every match played around the world and posted on the ICC website (www.icc.cricket.org) to allow fans to track their side's progress.

One feature of the website will be a 'Predictor' function which allows users to input future results and view the resulting changes in the ratings.

A trophy is being constructed which will be held by the leaders as long as they top the table.

Services Cup golf held

SPORTS REPORTER

Nasir Mohammad Khan and Rani Padamsee clinched the men's and ladies' trophies in the Services Cup Tournament that ended at the Kurmitola Golf Club on Friday.

The two-day event was teed-off by KGC president and Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury on Thursday morning.

He also gave away prizes at the club in the evening.

OTHER RESULTS

Senior Winner: M H Samad, Junior Winner: Taosif Siddique, Winner Army: Brig Gen Shahedul Islam Mondol, Winner Navy: Rear Admiral Shah Iqbal Mujtaba, Winner Air Force: Air Vice Marshal Fakhru Azam, Winner (handicap 0-12): Farruque Ahmed, Winner (handicap 13-18) I K Hwang, Winner (handicap 19-24) Gp Capt M Aminul Haque, Runner-up: K J Yoon, Front Nine: Brig Gen Md Nurul Bashir, Back Nine: Razzak Sattar, Nearest to pin: Brig Gen MA Malek, Longest Drive: S Liaquat Ali, Winner (9 hole): Col Md Mujibul Haque.

Gough's war

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playing the best side in the world, that's an obvious statement again, but we all have a dream of winning the Ashes, whether it be this time, the next time or the one after."

Gough said England wasn't baulking at Australia's ominous form against Pakistan in Colombo and Sharjah last month.

"We beat Pakistan in Pakistan, which not many sides have done, and we beat Sri Lanka in Sri Lanka - not many sides have done that either," Gough said.

"We've got a good side, and we believe we've got a realistic chance. If we bat like we did in the summer, and we bowl like we did in the sub-continent, we can beat anyone. The Aussies know that."

England will probably turn to Andrew Caddick, Matthew Hoggard, Jones and left-arm spinner Ashley Giles to form its attack in the first Test while they wait for news on Flintoff.

The powerful Lancashire all-rounder would need to play against Queensland to be considered for the Gabba Test.

Jones has played only one Test but he was impressive earlier this week, claiming five wickets against Western Australia at the WACA Ground.

Knee test

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"Every different ground and venue has a different surface and we get used to playing on them so it's not that much of a deal," Vaughan said.

"We're pretty confident because we gained some momentum (against Western Australia) last week and we have to continue it here but we realise we're up against a good team."

Australian Test players Matthew Hayden and Andrew Bichel were unavailable for Queensland, with the national squad assembling in Brisbane on Sunday.

Experienced wicketkeeper Wade Secombe, who was an Ashes tourist last year, is expected to play despite receiving four stitches above his left eye during a fielding accident on Friday.

Queenland: Jimmy Maher (capt), Brendan Nash, Martin Love, Stuart Law, Andrew Symonds, Lee Carseldine, Wade Secombe, Ashley Noffke, Nathan Hauritz, Michael Kasprowicz, Joe Dawes, Damien MacKenzie (likely 12th man).

England (likely): Nasser Hussain (capt), Marcus Trescothick, Michael Vaughan, Mark Butcher, Robert Key, Alec Stewart, Andrew Flintoff, Ashley Giles, Matthew Hoggard, Simon Jones, Andrew Caddick, Stephen Harmison (12th man to be named).

What to watch

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Third Test, Day Four Day Four, Highlights Same Day Delay at 8:30 pm Gillette World Sports Special Int'l Sports News Taped Version at 10:30 pm Sportsline Tonight Sport News

Live at 8:00 pm India vs West Indies Third Test, Day Two Highlights Same Day Delay at 8:30 pm

Men lose

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Hungary. The positions of Zhu Chen and Xu Yuhua left much to be desired, but the duo scored 1.5 points, thanks to their tenacity. China ended the round with 13 points, just like France and Romania. France was a big 2.5-0.5 winner over the Czech Republic while Romania whipped Yugoslavia, 2.5-0.5.

Germany is solo at 12.5 points after disposing of ambitious Vietnam, which played without first board Hoang Thanh Tran. With 12 points are USA, Kazakhstan and Bulgaria.

UEFA Cup

First blood Larsson's



AFP, Paris

Celtic's Swedish international Henrik Larsson settled the Battle of Britain UEFA Cup second round, first leg clash against Blackburn Rovers in Glasgow on Thursday.

Outplayed for much of the match, Celtic snatched the winner five minutes from the end of regulation time after substitute John Hartson rose above the Blackburn defence to head powerfully towards goal.

Blackburn's American international goalkeeper Brad Friedel produced his second brilliant instinctive save of the evening to keep Hartson's effort up but Larsson swept the ball home from close range to secure a famous victory for Martin O'Neill's side. It was the Swede's 176th goal in 222 games for Celtic and his 19th in 16 appearances this season.

Celtic goalkeeper Rab Douglas admitted that Blackburn had reason to be disappointed with the outcome.

"We didn't play that well in the first half, but got back in it in the second and got a cheeky wee goal at the end.

"It gives us a good start to go

down to Blackburn with."

A late winner from Harry Kewell earned Leeds a 1-0 victory over Israeli side Hapoel Tel Aviv at Elland Road.

Australian striker Kewell found the net in the 82nd minute to give Terry Venables' side victory and end a streak of six matches without a win for the Yorkshiremen.

"It was very tough," Kewell admitted. "They came here to do a job - but there were a lot of chances and thankfully one went in."

"We have been going through some hard times, but we worked hard and it was a great relief for the whole team."

Fellow English Premiership side Fulham put in one of the most impressive wins of the day defeating Dynamo Zagreb 3-0 in Croatia to take a huge stride towards the third round.

The match turned in the 33th minute when Zagreb midfielder Kristijan Polovanec was sent-off for a foul on striker Luis Boa Morte and the Londoners took full advantage with Boa Morte opening the scoring three minutes later.

In the 60th minute, Japan's Junichi Inamoto made a precise pass to Frenchman Steve Marlet who scored the second with Barry Hayles adding the third in the 78th minute.

The historic first European club match between a Turkish and a Greek side was overshadowed by violence.

Fenerbahce and Panathinaikos drew 1-1 in Istanbul but leading government ministers from both nations were hit by missiles thrown from the crowd while there were also a large number of injuries when police intervened to break up fighting between the two sets of fans.

Reports suggested that around 1,500 Greek fans were responsible for the assault on the officials, whose number included Greek foreign minister Georgios Papandreu and his Turkish counterpart Sukru Sina Gurel as well as Greek minister of culture Evangelos Venizelos and sports minister Georgios Lianis.

Elsewhere, a 10th minute goal from Stefano Fiore gave Lazio a slender 1-0 first leg win against Red Star Belgrade of Yugoslavia in Rome in a game watched by just 15,000 fans.

A late goal from Adrian Mutu secured a 2-1 win for Parma at home to Wisla Krakow of Poland where only 6,000 spectators managed to rouse themselves.



Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury (4th from R) poses with the golfers of the two-day Services Cup Tournament, which began on Thursday at the Kurmitola Golf Club. Rear Admiral Shah Iqbal Mujtaba (4th from L) and Air Vice Marshal Fakhru Azam (3rd from R) were also present on the occasion.

EURO FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Following are the fixtures of the major European Leagues:

SERIE A

Saturday: Torino v Brescia, Udinese v Bologna. Sunday: AC Milan v Reggina, Atalanta v Piacenza, Como v Inter Milan, Empoli v Lazio, Modena v Juventus, Parma v Chievo, Roma v Perugia.

PREMIERSHIP

All fixtures (1500 GMT kick off unless stated) Saturday: Birmingham v Bolton, Liverpool v West Ham, Manchester United v Southampton, West Brom v Man City. Sunday: Blackburn v Aston Villa, Charlton v Sunderland (1605 GMT), Fulham v Arsenal (1400 GMT), Leeds v Everton, Tottenham v Chelsea (1400 GMT).

Monday: Newcastle v Middlesbrough (2000 GMT).

PRIMERA LIGA

Saturday (kick off GMT): Atletico v Rayo Vallecano (1600), Valladolid v Real Mallorca (1600), Deportivo v Real Madrid (1930) Sunday: Espanyol v Valencia (1500), Osasuna v Recreativo Huelva (1500), Villarreal v Real Sociedad (1500), Betis v Malaga (1500), Athletic Bilbao v Celta Vigo (1500), Alaves v Sevilla (1700), Racing Santander v Barcelona (1830)

FRENCH FIRST DIVISION

Saturday: Lyon v Nice; Lens v Auxerre; Sochaux v Strasbourg; Marseille v Montpellier; Monaco v Le Havre; Bastia v Lille; Troyes v Guingamp; Rennes v Ajaccio

Sunday: Sedan v Paris Saint Germain; Nantes v Bordeaux

BUNDESLIGA

Saturday: Energie Cottbus v Schalke 04, Nuremberg v Borussia Monchengladbach, 1860 Munich v Arminia Bielefeld, Hannover 96 v VfL Wolfsburg, Hansa Rostock v Kaiserslautern, Bayer Leverkusen v VfB Stuttgart, Borussia Dortmund v SV Hamburg. Sunday: Werder Bremen v Bayern Munich, VfL Bochum v Hertha Berlin

Korea snatch AFC U-20 crown

AFP, Doha

A stunning Jung Jo-Gook golden-goal winner seven minutes into extra-time saw South Korea crowned Asian Under-20 champions after defeating Japan 1-0 in the final here on Thursday night.

FA chief quits

AFP, London

The English Football Association were on Friday looking for a new applicant to replace former chief executive Adam Crozier who resigned in the wake of Premier League plans to gain more influence at the FA's expense.

Shiv again

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Chris Gayle (88) and skipper Carl Hooper (19) fell in the morning session.

Left-arm seamer Ashish Nehra and Kumble shared the early wickets to raise India's hopes of seizing the initiative after the tourists resumed at 189-3.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the third and final cricket Test between India and the West Indies at the Eden Gardens here on Friday: INDIA: First innings 358 (S Bangar 77; M Dillon 3-82) WEST INDIES: First innings (over-189-3)

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists bowlers like Srithan, Nehra, Harbhajan, Kumble, Bangar, Tendulkar, Sehwaag and their statistics.

Toss: India Umpires: David Shepherd (Eng) and Asoka de Silva (Sri) TV umpire: Avi Jayaprakash (Ind) Match-referee: Mike Proctor (Rsa)

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across, Down, and Cryptic sections.

Cryptic crossword puzzle grid with numbers and some filled letters.

CRYPTOQUIP RFLUWNMU: "ANE R QCRFVU NA MRQU, KU NIVCL LN ZKRM ENWUZ." WDNF: "ZIEU. D'HVRHU."

Yesterday's Crypticquip: IT'S ONLY LOGICAL THAT HIGH JUMPERS SHOULD DO A MUCH BETTER JOB DURING LEAP YEAR. Today's Crypticquip Clue: M equals P

The Crypticquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.