

Rajshahi cricket

United Sporting Club beat Mahabagan Club by 35 runs in the Rajshahi First Division Cricket League at RMC hostel ground yesterday.

Cute handball

Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club beat Victoria Sporting Club by 35 runs in the Cute Premier Division Handball League match at the Outer Stadium handball court yesterday.

Injury-hit Aussie Open

Tennis REUTERS, Sydney

The Australian Open women's competition has been ravaged by injury before a ball is hit with the withdrawal of most of the leading contenders.

waiting to hear whether world number 15 Jelena Dokic is planning to compete. She pulled out of two warm-up events for "personal reasons" but still has not decided whether she will go to Melbourne or not.

Police attack condemned

SPORTS REPORTER

Former players and sports organisers yesterday condemned the police attack on Abahani fans and officials on Monday after the Abahani-Muktijoddha match at the Sheik-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

U-13 cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Kalabagan Cricket Academy defeated Ankur by 78 runs in the Helvetia fifth under-13 cricket tournament at the Kalabagan sports ground yesterday.



Juan Sebastian Veron's luxurious house (L) in west London. (R) Veron with wife Maria.



PHOTOS: INTERNET

Burglary at Veron's villa

AFP, London

home in 2002 and held the Nigerian's brother at gunpoint until he handed over the keys to his 45,000 pound Mercedes.

BD A shame

FROM PAGE 13 tional Airlines (PIA) by an innings and five runs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Table with 5 columns: Team, Innings, Runs, Overs, and Extras. Includes Bangladesh vs Pakistan and Bangladesh vs India.

Pressure on Pakistan

FROM PAGE 13 Styris, Craig McMillan, Chris Cairns, Jacob Oram, Brendon McCullum, Kyle Mills, Daniel Vettori, Daryl Tuffey, Andre Adams.

Ctg, Khulna stunned

FROM PAGE 13 DHAKA: First innings 326 all out in 117.3 overs (Sanwar 117, Neeyamur 55, Al-Shahriar 44; Rezaul 6-60)

Table with 5 columns: Team, Innings, Runs, Overs, and Extras. Includes Barisal vs Chittagong and Khulna vs Rajshahi.

BU alone atop

FROM PAGE 13 the back Firoz Mahmud Hossain Titu, Nazrul, Sujon and Parvez Babu calmly negotiated their attacks.

POINTS TABLE (4-DAY) with columns for Team, M, W, AB, O, L, D, LOSS, L, Pts.

Totti, Nedved Serie A's finest

AFP, Rome

Roma captain Francesco Totti and Juventus midfielder Pavel Nedved shared the award for best Serie A footballer in 2003 after they received an equal number of votes from their fellow professionals.

Real show in Dark Continent

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid's quest for global recognition will take them to Johannesburg on March 2 -- for a friendly against a South African XI which could earn the club 12 million dollars.

Football

Chelsea star Juan Sebastian Veron has brought in private security guards after an intruder threatened the Argentine player's children during a robbery at his house.

The 80,000-pounds-a-week footballer and his family were in bed when a man clambered in through a window.

Football

Overmars and Patrick Kluyvert, his teammate at Ajax when they won the 1995 European Cup.

Football

Edgar Davids was presented to the media by Barcelona Monday after the struggling Spanish giants agreed to take the Dutch international midfielder on loan from Juventus for the rest of the season.

Dauids delighted

AFP, Barcelona

Zidane's no-show at dope trial

AFP, Turin

Real Madrid star Zinedine Zidane failed to show up in court here on Monday where he had been called to testify at the Juventus doping trial.

Two Juve officials are on trial over charges relating to the doping of players from the club over a four-year period in the 1990s.

The Surinam-born player passed a medical and then declared himself delighted with a move that sees him end a six-year stay at the Italian champions.

Real Madrid sent a letter to Judge Guiseppe Casalbore explaining the former Juventus midfielder's absence, saying the player had "professional obligations."

"I am happy to play for Barcelona, who are a great club," said Davids, whose contract includes an option for Barcelona to buy him at the end of the loan period.

However the club said Zidane would be available to give evidence via a telephone conference call or by videoconference from Spain.

David Beckham last July from Manchester United, Real set off for Asia where they raked in upwards of 10 million dollars from a tour of Japan, China and Thailand.

The prosecution alleges that Juventus managing director Antonio Cirauda and club doctor Riccardo Agricola supplied pharmaceutical products to several of the club's players between July 1994 and September 1998.

Now, despite the fact the Spanish league title holders and nine-times European champions will be half-way through a two-leg Champions League tie with old foes Bayern Munich as the season reaches the boil, Real are preparing to jet off half way round the world once again.

It is charged that, while the drugs in question were legal, they had been used in such a manner that essentially produced the same effects as illicit substances.

According to El Mundo daily, Real will waive one million euros of their 10 million euro (12.5 million dollar) fee and donate it to humanitarian organisations while using their appearance to boost South Africa's bid to host the 2010 World Cup.

Over that period, Juventus won three Italian league titles and the European Cup.

But for the players the trip is yet one more game in a jam-packed programme which could see them play 17 matches in January and February.

Inter Milan's 19-year-old Nigerian striker Obafemi Martins prefers to stay in Italy.

On February 24, Real take on Bayern in Germany before hosting Celta Vigo in the league five days later.

"Going to the Nations Cup would be harmful to my career and I only want to think about my club."

Two days after that they head for Johannesburg where they will stay overnight, play the gala match and head straight home afterwards for a March 6 meeting at Santander.

Manchester United are expected to make an improved offer for Fulham's Louis Saha after the London club turned down an 8 million pound (14.5 million dollar) bid last week.

Three days later Real welcome Bayern to the Santiago Bernabeu stadium for a Champions League return leg which could make or break their season.

The Sun newspaper reports that Saha's agent Branko Stolic says United manager Alex Ferguson will go back with a renewed bid.

Even the summer will bring no relief -- save from Madrid's sweltering sunshine -- as the squad fly back to Asia for two exhibition matches -- one of them in Seoul -- and two more in the United States, the only market the club has yet to crack.

Negotiations are very hard. A new bid is coming, superior to the previous one and I believe the transfer will go ahead during this week," he said.

Those games, in Los Angeles and New York, could reap Real another seven million euros (8.5 million dollars) according to Spanish media reports.

Fulham reacted to United's initial bid by putting a 13 million pound (23.5 million dollar) price tag on the 14-goal French striker.

India's Sato and Singai, Roy and Dutta, Bae and Seo, Sandrin and Reddy, K Shingh and Jeevan, Taipei's Lim Hyung and Lee, Bangladesh's Hossain and Roy won in the boys' doubles event.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions.

CRYPTOQUIP

Cryptoquip puzzle: O V Z P Q V O M B T H M T V Z B Q I P E N M Z X A I Y Q K K Z M H Z V B R Q M, N E M I Z M, B N Z Q I

Zim keep faith

FROM PAGE 13 "We've also got to lift our fielding, the mis-fields cost us 18 runs the other night and in the end that was the difference."

Int'l junior

FROM PAGE 13 In the girls' doubles, Huaian and Chien, Lin Yu and Lee Ya, Malieva and Kim, Weiping and Kenykey of Taipei, Huaian and Yuan, Pnchar and Ratchaya of South Korea, Dilyaia and Tjasa of Russia and Asha and Shweta of India all advanced.

Football

AFP, Tunis

Never mind Old Trafford, Highbury or White Hart Lane. This season's battle to win - and even stay - in the English Premiership could be fought on the sun-baked grounds of Tunisia just as much as it will be at those famous English grounds.

With the African Nations Cup about to claim some of the continent's brightest talent for the next month, the shockwaves are already being felt as the club v country debate gets another familiar airing.

However, this time round it's more intense thanks to a new FIFA ruling which allows players with dual nationality to switch allegiance as long as they haven't played for their homelands at senior level.

Spurs boss David Pleat is incensed at Frederic Kanoute's decision to play for Mali even though he had represented France at Under-21 level.

Pleat has insisted he was not aware of the player's Mali links when he signed him for 3.5 million pounds (6.3 million dollars) from West Ham.

"We did not sign him as a Mali player, fully aware that he was going to the African Nations Cup," Pleat said of his 12-goal top scorer.

"It's like buying an intimidating player who misses 12 games a year because he keeps getting sent off. You would think twice about signing him."

Arsenal had tried to delay Kanu's departure to the Nigerian squad with the Gunners, struck by injuries, entering a crucial part of their title chase.

to hang onto Nigerian skipper Jay-Jay Okocha for as long as possible with crucial matches on the horizon.

Even champions Manchester United have not escaped the net with Cameroon calling up Eric Djemba-Djemba.

However, Old Trafford breathed a sigh of relief when Quinton Fortune was left out of the South African squad after falling out with his country's soccer chiefs.

"I want Kanu to go to the African Nations' Cup finals as I respect the fact that he plays for his country, but I wanted it to be as late as possible," said Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger.

Bolton boss Sam Allardyce even tried to persuade Okocha to retire from international football but the Nigerian's mind was made up even though it rules him out of League Cup semi-final against Aston Villa.

"I should be there for the team but I will be there spiritually," Okocha said.

"The African Nations Cup is massive for us and it doesn't really get the publicity it should."

The debate over player availability even drew in FIFA chief Sepp Blatter.

"It cannot be acceptable to recruit such stars and then demand that they show disrespect to their countries if a tournament clashes with their Premier League matches -- particularly if they are part of the international co-ordinated calendar," he said.

In comparison to France, English clubs have got off lightly. Title chasers Paris St Germain could be deprived of five players - Algerian goalkeeper Mohamed Benhamou, Moroccan defender Talal El-Karkouri, midfielders Modeste Mbami of Cameroon and Selim Benachour of Tunisia as well as Nigerian striker Bartholomew Obgeche.