

Magura soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Zia Smriti Sangsad outplayed Zoka Jubo Sangha 7-0 in the Econo First Division Football League at the Magura Stadium yesterday.

First half ended 4-0. Both Rupak and Sumon scored hatricks while Khurshid netted one goal for the winners.

Shafiq Smriti Sangsad will take on Mohammadpur Ekadosh today at the same venue.

1-match ban for Keane

REUTERS, London

Manchester United captain Roy Keane received the minimum one-match Champions League ban on Friday for his dismissal against Porto last Wednesday.

European body UEFA could have imposed a three-match ban but opted for a lesser punishment which means the Irish midfielder will be able to play in the quarter-finals if United overturn their 2-1 first-leg deficit, UEFA said in its website.

Keane was sent off for stepping on Porto goalkeeper Vitor Baia in the 87th-minute of the first leg defeat. Keane will sit out the second leg at Old Trafford next Tuesday.

All-Russian final

AFP, Doha

Defending champion Anastasia Myskina and Svetlana Kuznetsova lined up for only the second ever all-Russian final in the history of women's tennis in the 600,000-dollar WTA Qatar Open on Friday.

The all-Russian affair came about after Kuznetsova extracted revenge for last week's Dubai Open final loss at the hands of Belgian Justine Henin-Hardenne by beating the world number one 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 as Myskina ruthlessly cut short American Jennifer Capriati's comeback 6-2, 6-2.

Tendulkar

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make the ball do what you want on the machine," he said. "I was just trying to practice different things to prepare myself."

Tendulkar also spoke about his debut Test in Karachi, in 1989.

"I was totally overawed by the situation," he said. "Everything seemed to be going against me. I had come straight from the Ranji Trophy into Test cricket, against the likes of Wasim Akram, Imran Khan and Waqar Younis. It was not easy to handle. The experience will always remain there. It's probably the highlight of my career."

Tendulkar made just 15 in that first Test, but notched up his first half-century in the second Test, at Faisalabad. About that innings, Tendulkar said, "I stayed there long enough to know that I can handle this."

Having handled pressure, Tendulkar learnt how to handle pain in the fourth Test, at Sialkot. "I was hit on the nose by Waqar when I was on one. But I carried on batting for three-and-a-half hours and saved the game. That made that tour special. My confidence level really grew."

Waugh's may

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make it any less worthwhile if the last day was washed out."

In Saturday's other match, South Australia, who made 300 in their first innings, were in a strong position at the end of the third day on 106 for one.

The South Australians, battling to avoid finishing last, were well-placed to overhaul their rivals who had made 335 and 302.

Awaiting captain Ricky

Cricket

REUTERS, Galle

Australia's Ricky Ponting will finally inherit the Test captaincy from Steve Waugh when he leads out the team against Sri Lanka on Monday in Galle.

Waugh built one of the strongest teams in the game's history before bowing out after the recent India series.

Ponting, with a hard act to follow, takes charge of a formidable team and coach John Buchanan believes he can be equally successful as long as he stamps his own style on the job.

Ponting has already won the respect of the one-day team, leading them to a World Cup win last year and 79 per cent win ratio in 67 matches at the helm. "The main challenge for him is to be himself as captain," Buchanan told reporters. "If he is himself then he will lead the side exceptionally well and they will play very well under his leadership."

Waugh was a gladiatorial leader, a captain who won the total respect of his players through sheer grit and determination. He was also

super-positive in approach.

Comparing the two men, Buchanan said: "They are the same and they are different."

"They are the same in that they



RICKY PONTING

lead by example, read the game very well and have great respect from all their teammates."

"They are different in the sense that Ricky brings his own brand of tactics, humour and leadership."

"I have thought about this Test match for a long time now and I am

pretty excited," Ponting told reporters. "If anything I want to get it out of the way."

Ponting likens the promotion to a new career.

"I'm really proud of what I've been able to achieve thus far in my career but it's all about to start again. It's another chapter if you like."

The hardest challenge he faces, he says, will be walking the tight-rope between being a friend and leader to his players.

"It's pretty important to remain one of the boys most of the time but there's certain times when you've got to distance yourself a little bit from that sort of stuff."

Ponting wants to build on the winning formula developed by Allan Border, Mark Taylor and Waugh but also to conquer the final frontier, the sub-continent, where all three predecessors enjoyed mixed fortunes.

"It is a huge patience game in the sub-continent and you have got to grind out Test wins. We know what it takes to win over here now but we have to do it when it counts."

An Aussie problem

Cricket

REUTERS, Galle

Australia face selection headaches as they finalise their team for the first Test against Sri Lanka starting in Galle on Monday.

The tourists are full of confidence after a winning start to their six-week tour and the selectors now have to make tough choices in both batting and bowling departments.

"It's always a problem when you are picking an Australia team and even more so with this squad," skipper Ricky Ponting told reporters.

"We have 15 guys and 14 of those guys can put up their hand up and say that they should be in the Test side. They're going to be some hard selections to make."

Shane Warne is available after a 12-month drugs ban and should return alongside fellow leg-spinner Stuart MacGill on a turning pitch.

In the pace bowling department, Jason Gillespie's name is inked in, leaving Brett Lee, Michael Kasprovicz and Brad Williams fighting for one place if two spinners play.

Lee's sore left ankle is receiving intensive treatment and Australia hope that he will recover in time after an explosive showing in the

warm-up match.

The make-up of the top six poses the trickiest dilemma, with the selectors having to choose two from experienced left-hander Darren Lehmann, all-rounder Andrew Symonds and Simon Katich.

Whatever the final XI, Ponting is confident that his team can avenge their 1-0 defeat by Sri Lanka on their last tour in 1999.

"It has always been a hard place for us to come and play but we are improving in these conditions all the time and the guys now know what it takes to do well over here," he said.

Sri Lanka, who have picked four specialist spinners in a 15-man squad, must also decide on the best balance for their bowling attack. Seamer Nuwan Zoysa will probably partner Chaminda Vaas, although there is an outside chance the hosts could play only one pace bowler.

No changes are anticipated to a settled top seven unless the selectors want to make room for an additional bowler.

Sri Lanka coach John Dyson is backing his slow bowlers to make inroads.

"I don't think they [Australia] have seen a big turner yet but everyone knows Galle has a reputation of being a real turner," Dyson told reporters.

Although Australia combated leading off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan confidently in the one-dayers, Dyson predicts greater problems for the tourists in the Tests.

"In Test cricket he is a different kettle of fish," he said. "In one-day cricket he can't have men around the bat and hasn't got as much flexibility."

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA (from): Ricky Ponting (captain), Justin Langer, Matthew Hayden, Damien Martyn, Darren Lehmann, Andrew Symonds, Simon Katich, Adam Gilchrist, Shane Warne, Brett Lee, Jason Gillespie, Michael Kasprovicz, Brad Williams, Stuart MacGill, Wade Seccombe.

SRI LANKA (from): Hashan Tillakaratne (captain), Marvan Atapattu, Sanath Jayasuriya, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Thilan Samaraweera, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Avishka Gunawardene, Chaminda Vaas, Nuwan Zoysa, Nuwan Kulasekara, Muttiah Muralitharan, Kumar Dharmasena, Upul Chandana, Kaushal Lokurachchi.

Japan Cup golf held

SPORTS REPORTER

Air Commodore Mohammad Murad Hussain won the men's title while Sung Yoon Bee clinched the ladies' crown in the Japan Cup golf tournament at the Kurmitola Golf Club on March 5.

A total of 379 golfers including 32 ladies took part in the meet.

Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Fakhru Azam gave away prizes to the winners as chief guest.

OTHER RESULTS

Senior winner: Mohammad Asafudowlah; Junior winner: Master Redwan Bin Rokon; Best gross: Shawkat-Uz-Zaman; Ladies best gross: Jin Sook Yoon; 2nd best gross: Arshi Haider; Runner-up: Sqn Ldr Tejbir Singh; 2nd runner-up: Air Vice Marshal Fakhru Azam; Nearest to pin: E H Han; Longest drive: Farruque Ahmed.

Satkhira cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Satkhira Aryans Club recorded a one-run victory over United Cricket Club in the Satkhira District First Division Cricket League at the Satkhira Government College ground yesterday.

Aryans elected to bat first and scored 208 all out in 49.1 overs.

In reply, United were all out for 207 in 50 overs.

Galatasaray coach quits

REUTERS, Istanbul

Galatasaray coach Fatih Terim resigned on Friday after they were knocked out of the UEFA Cup in the third round, the Turkish club's chairman said.

Wednesday's 3-0 defeat by Spain's Villarreal completed a 5-2 aggregate reverse and comes on the back of a disappointing season so far in the Turkish first division.

"We have accepted our coach's resignation. So that the post isn't empty, he will continue his duties until a new choice has been made," Galatasaray chairman Ozhan Canaydin told reporters after meeting Terim.

Terim earlier said he took responsibility for the club's poor performances in European competition, and at home where they are currently fifth in the first division, 13 points behind Istanbul rivals Fenerbahce and Besiktas.

Terim, 50, led Galatasaray to four consecutive league titles after taking the helm in 1996. In 2000 he masterminded a defeat of Arsenal in the UEFA Cup final.

Later that year he joined Fiorentina as coach, but resigned after clashing with the board. In 2001 he had a brief stint at AC Milan before he was sacked in November. He returned to Galatasaray in 2002.

Terim also played for Galatasaray, who will celebrate their 100th anniversary next year, in the 1970s and served as Turkey's national coach in 1993.

Wenger was threatened

Football

AFP, London

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger received a death threat when he was coach of French championship side Monaco the Frenchman revealed on Saturday.

Wenger's revelations come in the same week that Liverpool announced their manager Gerard Houllier and England striker Michael Owen had been threatened in the light of the club's poor results this season.

Wenger said that he had been sitting in his hotel room on the eve of a match with bitter rivals Marseille when he got a phone call.

"The person rang my hotel room and said: 'I know where you are and do not come to the stadium'," he told the Sun.

"The best response is to carry on

even though it is difficult. If you stop your job then people think they can get you out by writing a letter. Even if it is only a joke.

"I did not try to reason with the caller. I kept the conversation short, very short," added Wenger,



ARSENE WENGER

who coached Monaco from 1987 to 1995.

The Frenchman said he could not understand the mentality of the fans who would go to such lengths.

"When you know the fine line between winning and losing, it is unbelievable that some people do this."

"Sometimes I look at fans' faces on TV and you see guys who are really angry. "You think he must go home, watch himself on TV and think how horrendous he looks."

"But for a guy to go home, put a pen to paper and still not calm down is difficult to believe."

Wenger's Premiership leaders travel to Portsmouth for Saturday's FA Cup quarterfinal in which they are the two-time defending champions.

3 Leicester booters in jail

Football

REUTERS, Cartagena

Three Leicester City footballers

have spent the night in jail on the orders of a Spanish judge pending further investigation of allegations that they sexually assaulted three women at a resort hotel.

James Scowcroft, accused of assault and breaking and entering, was released on bail of 20,000 euros.

Scowcroft and four other players who were provisionally released on Thursday and Friday were ordered to report to court in Spain or to Spanish consulates abroad twice a month.

Spain's penal code says sexual assault -- which can include rape -- carries sentences from one to 15 years.

Nine Leicester players were arrested and gave evidence to a judge at the Cartagena court on Thursday after the three women made the allegation of sexual assault.

German midfielder Steffen

Fellow Leicester City players

Ferguson settles dispute

Football

AFP, London

Manchester United manager Alex

Ferguson has agreed a deal worth 2.5 million pounds (3.7 million dollars) with major United shareholder John Magnier over the breeding rights to record-breaking racehorse Rock of Gibraltar it was revealed on Saturday.

The deal is set to be signed on Monday and will bring to an end a bitter dispute that has overshadowed United's season with constant rumours that Magnier -- the most powerful man in the world of racing -- and fellow Irishman JP McManus were building up their stake in the club so as to remove Ferguson from his post.

the Manchester United board as they had become increasingly concerned by the toll it was taking on the image of the club and its fortunes on the pitch.

According to press reports Ferguson was prepared to go to court next year but was persuaded by United's chief executive David Gill to end it as it was tearing the club apart.

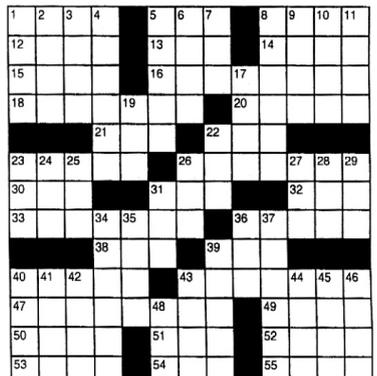
Ferguson made the first peace overture when he rang 55-year-old Magnier -- who is the son-in-law of legendary Irish trainer Vincent O'Brien -- for the first time in nine months at his home in Barbados last Monday and said he was ready to draw a veil over proceedings.

Ferguson will have to pay around 400,000 pounds in legal fees out of the one off payment as he had been preparing for a court case, but doing the deal will please

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 40 In accompaniment stressed 41 Michael 26 Drenched 42 Wright-Patterson or Eglin, for ex. 47 Hall & Oates' big hit 8 Nervous 12 DEA 49 Carry on agent 50 Eternally 51 "— the Dog" 9 Tea-spoonful, maybe 35 Gymnast Korbut 10 Diploma recipient 36 Hamm of soccer 37 Crowd-scene 17 Really actors 39 Bess's man 19 Frequently 22 "Wham!" 40 Iowa city 23 Distant city 24 Altar affirmative 41 Stromboli spillage 42 Change for a five 43 Shaft of light 44 One of the Three Bears 45 Shake-speare's river 46 Capone foe 48 Airline initials

Solution time: 21 mins. SHOT COW DOOM GLOBE ANO CAROUSEL TROY ONE GETAT LIVE TV CO SHOWBOAT GOLFERS AWAY OKLAHOMA ZONE BRETT SON I RON BLADE YES LENS



CRYPTOQUIP Q T E R ' K K N Q R H F C V L Y U B C E Y E B Q E D ; Q V A T N S D U C U D K F Y E L Q ' V E V E H U - A S E D K Q Y K . Yesterday's Cryptogram: WHEN COWS ARE MAKING SOUNDS IN UNISON, I RECKON ONE MIGHT CALL THAT MOOD MUSIC. Today's Cryptogram Clue: K equals T The Cryptogram 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.

Cricket scorecard table with columns for batsmen (Mustadir, Salahuddin, Emran), bowlers, and various statistics (runs, wickets, overs).

Cricket scorecard table for Dhaka vs Khulna, Sylhet vs Rajshahi, and RAJSHAHI, with columns for batsmen, bowlers, and statistics.