

JFA Cup from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The JFA (Japan Football Association) Cup Under-16 Football Champion-ship gets underway today at eight venues across the country.

A total of 60 teams -- 58 district sports associations and two educational teams Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishtan and Jessore Education Board -- will take part in the knockout first phase.

Eight zonal champions will play in the final round due to begin from October 20 in Dhaka.

Today's matches: Khulna v Patuakhali at Barguna, Netrakona v Gazipur at Jamalpur, Dinajpur v Lalmonirhat at Sirajganj, Rajshahi v Gaibandha at Natore, Faridpur v Munshiganj at Rajbari, Sylhet v Narshingdi at Laxmipur, Magura v Jessore Board at Meherpur and Chittagong v Khagrachari at Feni.

Easy win for Sky Blues

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani got off to a flying start in the Kings Cup football tournament in Bhutan when the Dhaka giants inflicted a 4-1 defeat on Kang-won University of South Korea on Thursday.

Striker Khokon put Abahani ahead but the lead was short-lived as the Koreans equalised within five minutes.

Farhad, playing on loan from Mohammedan, gave Abahani a 2-1 first half lead while two strikes by Ujjal sealed Abahani's three points.

The Sky Blues will take on Indian Army in their second match today.

Meanwhile, Muktioddha Sangsad left Dhaka on Friday to play in the IFA Shield in Kolkata.

ICC plans Dubai Sports City

AFP, Dubai

World cricket bosses plan to set up a 25-million-dollar Global Cricket Academy at the Dubai Sports City.

An agreement to set up the academy was signed by International Cricket Council (ICC) president Ehsan Mani and Abdul Rahman Bukhatir, president of the Emirates Cricket Board and a sports city partner, an ICC statement said.

Dubai Sports City (DSC), which the Gulf emirate is selling as the world's first purpose-designed sports city, is one of 45 major schemes in a five-billion-dollar "Dubailand" theme park project, described as the Middle East's own version of Disneyland.

It will cover 4.6 million square metres (50 million square feet) of desert and include a 25,000-seat multi-purpose stadium, a 25,000-seat cricket stadium, a 10,000-seat hockey stadium and a 8,000-seat multi-purpose venue, all due for completion within four years.

South African star Ernie Els has put his signature to a championship golf course with an academy under Butch Harmon, the world's leading coach, and Troon Golf.

Manchester United are to open their first soccer school outside Europe, and Britain's ex-Davis Cup skipper David Lloyd will run a tennis academy.

As well as millions of square metres (feet) of residential villas, the city will have every sports facility conceivable, according to its developers.

WHIZZ KID-216 correct answers

- 1. Who won the first gold medal in the Athens Olympics? Ans: Du
- 2. Who became Asia Cup cricket champs? Ans: Sri Lanka
- 3. Who clinched the Cincinnati Masters tennis title? Ans: Agassi
- 4. Who lifted the 25th nat'l hockey crown? Ans: Bangladesh Army
- 5. How many World Cups has Luis Figo played? Ans: One

WhiZZ KID-215 winner



Ahsan Salman Sharif (West Dhanmondi Yousuf High School)

More misery for Ponting



AFP, Sydney

Australian captain Ricky Ponting's thumb injury has forced him out of the opening two cricket Tests against India starting next week, Cricket Australia (CA) said Thursday.

Ponting arrived home last week for treatment for his left thumb, fractured while he was fielding during Australia's six-wicket loss to England in the ICC Champions Trophy semifinal at Edgbaston.

CA said Ponting would now also miss the second Madras Test following a review of his fractured thumb by a hand specialist here on Thursday.

CA medical officer Trefor James said Ponting was making good progress but required further examination and would not be fit to play in

the first two Tests of the four-match series.

"The bone seems to be repairing well and there has been no change in the status of the injury," James said in a statement.

"Ponting will visit the specialist again on October 14, and with the injury progressing at its current rate, we expect he'll be available for the third Test in Nagpur."

"Missing one Test is disappointing enough, so I'm obviously shattered that I won't be part of the series until at least the halfway mark, but it's an outcome I was prepared for," Ponting said Thursday.

"Because of the delicate nature of the injury, there's not a lot I can do until the bone is fully repaired."

"I'll be watching closely from home and wish all the boys the best of luck for the first two matches and I look forward to rejoining the squad ahead of the third Test."

Stamford-Asian final today

SPORTS REPORTER

Stamford University will face Asian University in the final of the Stamford Inter Private University Football Tournament today.

The final kicks off at 2.30 pm at the Army Stadium.

In the semifinals, Stamford blanked Northern University 5-0 while Asian thrashed North South University 5-1.

US coaches praise interest for b'ball

BSS, Dhaka

The American Cultural Centre of US Embassy in Dhaka held a press conference to explain the purpose of a three-day visit by two US basketball coaches on Thursday.

Coaches Omari Faulkner and Courtland Freeman successfully completed their visit. They were impressed by the interest shown by young Bangladeshis cagers.

Christina Miner, chief of Europe/Eurasia Division, US Department of State and Michelle Jones, Cultural Attach of the Embassy of the United State of America addressed the briefing.

Christina termed the coaches as cultural envoys or cultural ambassadors of the United States.

She said: "US Department of State takes initiative to build and strengthen relationships among diverse world cultures. The cultural ambassadors are a dedicated group of people known throughout the world for excellence in their fields who want to teach, mentor and work with young people."

The American Centre and Bangladesh Basketball Federation jointly organised the programme.

The two coaches went to Dhanmondi Wooden-floor Gymnasium on Wednesday and worked with 30 girls showing them basic basketball skills. They also had a similar session with a group of boys.

Besides, they met 20 local coaches. All the participants watched a film on basketball brought by the envoys.

On Thursday, they visited the BKSP.

King inspires Ronaldo



Football

INTERNET SOURCE, Madrid

Brazilian striker of Real Madrid Ronaldo Luis Nazario da Lima, said Thursday that King Juan Carlos of Spain has "cheered me up" after presenting him with the Ibero-American Community Trophy, one of the National Awards to Sport.

He reiterated this award makes him "very happy" and that he feels he is "very well treated in Spain."

Ronaldo went to the ceremony accompanied by his fiancée, top

model Daniela Ciccarelli, who could barely contain the tears when the player received one of the biggest applauses of the day.

"The King has cheered me up. He has told me he is very happy with the latest victory of the team and I have told him we look forward at having a recovery with the coming matches being this good," Ronaldo said on his way out of El Pardo Palace, where the king, accompanied by the royal family, presented the National Awards to Sport and the Royal Orders to Sports Merit.

"This is a unique occasion and I am very happy to have received the

award from His majesty. I am happy. I have always been well treated in Spain, which is the country where I am very happy and I wish to thank the people of Spain for this," said Ronaldo.

The Brazilian striker said he is physically in good conditions although he is undergoing some tests to recover from a lesion suffered last Tuesday against Rome, in a Champions League Match in Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, with a 4-2 victory for the locals.

Ronaldo and Daniella are to marry in Paris on January 2.

Mourinho brings down old club



CHAMPS LEAGUE  
Reuters, London

Porto suffered the agony of being outwitted by their former coach Wednesday as the Champions League holders slumped to a 3-1 defeat at Jose Mourinho's Chelsea.

AC Milan snatched a late 3-1 win over Celtic at the San Siro, Inter Milan beat Anderlecht by the same score in Belgium and Barcelona trounced Shakhtar Donetsk 3-0 as the night's action went largely according to form.

Late goals steered Werder Bremen to a 2-1 home victory over 10-man Valencia and PSV Eindhoven to a 1-0 win over Panathinaikos, but there was only frustration for England's champions as Arsenal were held 1-1 at Rosenborg Trondheim.

CSKA Moscow recorded their first ever Champions League win by beating ailing Paris St Germain 2-0 on another entertaining night that added 23 goals to Tuesday's 31-

goal bonanza.

Several teams will be returning home believing they have one foot in the knockout phase while others, such as Porto, will know they are already in deep trouble.

Chelsea fit comfortably into the former category after following up their 3-0 win over PSG a fortnight ago with a convincing victory at Stamford Bridge to lead Group H on six points.

The meeting between Mourinho and the club he guided to consecutive UEFA Cup and Champions League trophies, along with two Portuguese league titles, had been one of the competition's showcases since the draw was held last month.

Alexei Smertin gave Chelsea an early lead, Didier Drogba added a second after the break and John Terry put the game out of reach after Benni McCarthy had pulled one back for Porto, much-changed since Mourinho's close-season departure.

The Portuguese champions, held to a goalless draw by CSKA a fortnight ago, have garnered only

point in the defense of their title and trail the Russians by three.

Group F is also taking shape with Barcelona and Milan both racking up six points while Shakhtar and Celtic have yet to get a point on the board.

Though Shakhtar were never in with a chance against Barca, who scored through Deco, Ronaldinho and Samuel Eto'o, Celtic suffered a second European heartbreak in as many weeks.

On the verge of registering their first away point in the Champions League at 1-1, Celtic were floored by an 89th minute strike by Filippo Inzaghi and a stoppage-time goal by Andrea Pirlo.

It was all too familiar for Celtic fans, whose team were drawing 1-1 with Barcelona a fortnight ago with 12 minutes left only to lose 3-1.

Inter's second consecutive win, courtesy of goals from Obafemi Martins, Adriano and Dejan Stankovic, secured them a three-point lead over both Werder Bremen and Valencia in a wide-open Group G.

Hooliganism spoils British night



CUP  
AFP, Paris

Four British clubs stormed into the group stages of the UEFA Cup on Thursday but their night of celebration was overshadowed as the spectre of hooliganism involving English fans returned to haunt the continent.

In Budapest, one supporter was fighting for his life after being stabbed in the back during violent clashes between Ferencváros and Millwall supporters.

Police were also called in to quell fighting in the Czech town of Ostrava between followers of the local team and Middlesbrough.

The incidents took the gloss off a good night's work for Newcastle, Boro, Hearts and Rangers who all made it through to the next round.

Over 3,000 Millwall fans travelled to the historic Hungarian capital but scuffles broke out in and around the stadium resulting in arrests with riot police needed to break up running battles an hour before the game.

On the pitch in Israel, former England skipper Alan Shearer grabbed a hat-trick and Patrick Kluivert scored twice as Newcastle brushed past Arab-Israeli rookies Bnei Sakhnin 5-1 in Tel Aviv.

The 7-1 aggregate win also kept up Graeme Souness's unbeaten run since he took over from the sacked Bobby Robson as coach at the English Premiership club.

In Glasgow, Rangers went

through in dramatic style with penalties deciding their first round match against Marítimo of Portugal.

Dado Prso's goal 20 minutes from the time levelled the tie and took the game into extra-time and eventually penalties for Frenchman Gregory Vignal to score the vital spotkick to put Alex McLeish's side through.

The Glasgow side went into the tie trailing Marítimo 1-0 from Gustavo Manduca's first leg goal.

Hearts made it a Scottish one-two when a 2-2 draw at Braga gave them a 5-3 aggregate win over the Portuguese side.

In Budapest, Ferencváros produced a superb first half performance to beat Millwall 3-1 to go through to the second round of Europe's second club competition

Zim probe collapses

REUTERS, Durban

An International Cricket Council (ICC) hearing into player allegations of racism against the Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU) was scrapped almost before it got underway in Harare on Thursday.

South African high court judge Steven Majiedt and India's solicitor general Goolam Vahanvati, making up the ICC panel, released a statement blaming "the unfortunate, recalcitrant and inflexible positions adopted by both parties".

It said the two sides' attitudes reflected "what has brought about these problems for Zimbabwe cricket".

The panel will instead use written submissions to compile a report for an ICC executive board meeting on October 16.

The affair began in April following Heath Streak's departure as Zimbabwe captain, shortly after he had questioned the composition of the national selection panel.

His replacement by Tatenda Taibu led to a walkout by 15 white players who argued the team was being selected along racial lines rather than on ability.

"It is a sad day, but it is not the end. There have been some positive strides," said Streak on Thursday.

"This process is part of a bigger process to highlight what has gone wrong, and to make sure that the future is one in which people are comfortable irrespective of who they are, where they come from and what colour they are."

The hearing, scheduled to last three days, began on Wednesday but was adjourned shortly after the first witness testified.

The panel had ruled in favour of an application by lawyer Chris Venturas, representing the players, that three administrators should not be present to hear testimony.

Venturas argued that witnesses would be intimidated by the presence of ZCU board members Ozias Bvute and Max Ebrahim and chairman of the provincial Mashonaland Cricket Association Tavengwa Mkuhlani, since some of the allegations involved them.

Aussies toil in tour

FROM PAGE 13

Stadium. Damien Martyn, who made 71 before retiring with a stomach upset, and stand-in captain Adam Gilchrist (42 not out) were the only batsmen to make an impression.

Barring Matthew Hayden's 67 on the rain-curtailed first day, none of the others crossed 30 on a wicket where the ball spun and bounced.

There was little joy with the ball either as pace bowler Brett Lee, hoping to make the team for the first Test at Bangalore from Wednesday, failed to take a wicket in 14 overs that cost 36 runs.

Glenn McGrath alone showed the virtue of good line and length in unresponsive conditions and was rewarded with two wickets for just eight runs in 13 overs.

Test discard Wasim Jaffer made 48 against an Australian attack without three frontline bowlers in Jason Gillespie, Michael Kasprovic and Shane Warne.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the three-day match between Australia and Mumbai at the Brabourne Stadium on Friday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings (over-night 159-3)  
Langer c Samant b Agarkar 24  
Hayden c and b Bahutule 67  
Katich c Indulkar b Kulkarni 30  
Martyn retired 71  
Hodge c Indulkar b Powar 30

Clarke run out	10
Gilchrist not out	42
Watson lbw b Kulkarni	0
Lee c Indulkar b Powar	21
Extras: (lb-3, nb-4)	7
Total: (For seven wkts decl in 101 overs)	302
Did not bat: Hauritz, McGrath.	
Fall of wkts: 1-69, 2-108, 3-146, 4- 206, 5-227, 6-248, 7-302.	
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O M R W</b>
Agarkar	15 3 35 1
Powar	29 2 104 2
Salvi	9 2 24 0
Kulkarni	25 5 65 2
Bahutule	23 3 71 1

MUMBAI: First innings  
Mane c sub (White) b McGrath 3  
Jaffer lbw b McGrath 48  
Indulkar lbw b Hauritz 13  
Mazumdar not out 50  
Kambli lbw b Watson 26  
Extras: (b-4, nb-6) 10  
Total: (for four wkts in 57.2 overs) 150  
To bat: R. Powar, S. Bahutule, A. Agarkar, V. Samant, A. Salvi, N. Kulkarni.

Fall of wkts: 1-6, 2-64, 3-80, 4-150.				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
McGrath	13	7	8	2
Lee	14	3	36	0
Watson	5.2	0	11	1
Clarke	4	0	11	0
Hauritz	16	1	56	1
Katich	3	0	18	0
Hodge	2	0	6	0

Razzaq propels Pakistan

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wicketkeeper Tatenda Taibu. Panyangara's new ball partner Douglas Hondo then joined the act, dismissing Shoaib Malik (1) and Yousef Youhana (1) in the space of eight balls to leave Pakistan reeling at 6-3.

Debutant Bazid Khan, son of former Pakistan captain Majid Khan, shaped well for his 12 but chased a wide delivery from Panyangara and was well caught by Taibu behind the stumps.

It was the sixth instance of a father-son appearing in one-day internationals, after India's Sunil and Rohan Gavaskar and Yogrj and Yuvraj Singh, England's Donald and Derek Pringle and David and Graham Lloyd and New Zealand's Lance and Chris Cairns.

Zimbabwe captain praised Razzaq and Afridi.

"Our bowlers bowled well initially but you can't take away those brilliant knocks by Razzaq and Afridi, they blew us away," said Taibu after the match.

"We garnered hopes of upsetting them once we caught them at 146-6 but we didn't finish it off well," said the Zimbabwe captain.

After Bazid's dismissal, Inzamam hit eight boundaries and a six before

he was judged leg before wicket.

Both teams face each other again at Peshawar on Sunday in the tri-series which also involves Sri Lanka.

Each team in the series faces the others twice before the top pair meet in October 16 final in Lahore.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the opening match of the tri-series between Pakistan and Zimbabwe at the Multan Cricket Stadium on Thursday:

PAKISTAN  
Hameed c Taibu b Panyangara 0  
Bazid c Taibu b Panyangara 12  
Malik lbw b Hondo 1  
Youhana c Taibu b Hondo 1  
Inzamam lbw b Utseya 73  
Razzaq not out 107  
Moin st Taibu b Taylor 7  
Afridi b Hondo 58  
Naveedul not out 16  
Extras: (lb-3, w-11, nb-3) 17  
Total: (For seven wkts in 50 overs) 292  
Did not bat: Shoaib Akhtar, Rao Iftikhar.  
Fall of wkts: 1-0, 2-2, 3-6, 4-36, 5-131, 6-146, 7-253.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Panyangara	10	3	52	2
Hondo	10	1	54	3
Chigumbura	6	0	64	0
Utseya	10	1	31	1

Nkala	6	0	47	0
Matsikenyeri	6	0	35	0
Taylor	2	0	6	1

ZIMBABWE  
Taylor b Shoaib 5  
Matsikenyeri lbw b Naveed 0  
Sibanda c Moin b Malik 57  
Ebrahim b Razzaq 29  
Vermeulen c Bazid b Iftikhar 10  
Taibu b Afridi 3  
Chigumbura lbw b Afridi 9  
Nkala c Razzaq b Malik 14  
Panyangara b Malik 9  
Utseya not out 0  
Hondo b Afridi 1  
Extras: (lb-3, w-7, nb-1) 11  
Total: (All out in 38.3 overs) 148  
Fall of wkts: 1-4, 2-8, 3-64, 4-81, 5-96, 6-117, 7-122, 8-144, 9-145.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shoaib	6	0	14	1
Naveed	5	0	15	1
Iftikhar	7	1	41	1
Razzaq	6	1	20	1
Malik	8	0	37	3
Afridi	6.3	0	18	3

Result: Pakistan won by 144 runs.  
Man-of-the-match: Abdul Razzaq.  
Toss: Pakistan  
Umpires: Mark Benson (ENG), Nadeem Ghauri (PAK)  
TV umpire: Asad Rauf (PAK)  
ICC match referee: Jeff Crowe (NZL)

Goal feast in Lahore

FROM PAGE 13

Pakistan's Rehan Butt broke even with India just three minutes before the close of play as the guests held sway in most of the second half in a match watched by a crowd of around 25,000.

Pakistan's other goal came from Akhtar Ali while India scored through Vikram Pillay, Sandeep Singh, Arjun Halappa and Ignace Turkey in a match that exhibited some slick moves and goals.

The series, the first between the arch rivals since 1999, is led by Pakistan by two matches to one with the next leg of four matches scheduled to be held in India.

The Indian leg will comprise matches in New Delhi (October 4), Chandigarh (October 6), Amritsar (October 8) and Hyderabad (October 10).

"It's fantastic to be a part of another India-Pakistan series and although we would have liked to be on even terms considering the good games we have played in the series," said Indian captain Dilip

Tirkey.

Pakistani coach Roelant Oltmans agreed Indian forwards fared better than the home team players in the series.

"Everyone knows they did not have five players who played in the Olympics so the new and young boys were fitter, skilful and speedy," said Oltmans, the former Olympic and World Cup-winning Dutchman hired by Pakistan.

Pakistan won the first match in the southern port city of Karachi by 2-1 but India staged a comeback to take the second match by 4-1 at Quetta.

Pakistan won the third match at Peshawar by 3-2.

In the final match of four hosted by Pakistan, the home team opened through their first penalty corner when Abbas's rasping push hit the net in the 14th minute.

India, who missed their first penalty corner, came level when man of the match Halappa's try was rebounded to Pillay who secured India's equaliser in the 16th minute.

Both teams were locked at 1-1 at half time.

Right winger Halappa exposed the weak Pakistani defense with swift moves and earned India their third penalty corner in the 40th minute on which Sandeep Singh scored to give India a 2-1 lead.

Just three minutes later, Abbas fired his 265th goal in his 215th match to again bring the home team level.

Halappa once again caught the Pakistan defense napping and from the top of the circle put his team into the lead in the 50th minute and then gave a golden back pass to Ignace Turkey who scored India's fourth goal in the 52nd minute.

Egged on by a vocal crowd, Pakistan unleashed an assault on the Indian goal and Ali scored the third off Pakistan's third penalty corner in the 58th minute and with three minutes to play Butt put home the fourth off a rebound from the fourth penalty corner.

Preview: Primera Liga

Time to start scoring



Football

AFP, Madrid

It has not gone unnoticed in Spain that the four goals Real Madrid put past Roma in the Champions League on Tuesday equalled their tally in five league matches after one of their worst starts to a domestic campaign for many years.

Real Madrid currently lie eighth with nine points, thanks to a trio of 1-0 wins, two of them coming thanks to goals from David Beckham free kicks, but the 29-times Spanish champions hope to turn the corner against a struggling Deportivo La Coruna on Sunday.

"I'm convinced we can maintain this positive streak," said Real captain Raul Gonzalez, the author of two