

Big win for local U-15s

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-15 development squad recorded a massive 142-run victory over visiting CAB (Cricket Association of Bengal) Under-15s in the first limited-over match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The home boys amassed a huge 328 for 9 in the stipulated 50 overs after deciding to bat first. One-down Amit Majumdar hammered team highest 71 off 75 balls with six fours and one six.

Mahmudul Hasan (58 off 70 balls) and Sufiqul Rahman (58 not out off 41 balls) were the other two notable scorers.

In reply, CAB Under-15 were bundled out for 186 in 47 overs with Bikash topscored 71 off 102 balls.

Faisal Hanif was the most successful home bowler picking up four wickets for 10 runs in 9 overs.

Railway split points with Farashganj

SPORTS REPORTER

The lone Club Cup hockey match between Dhaka Railway and Farashganj Sporting Club ended in a 1-1 draw at the Maulana Bhashani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Russel put Railway ahead in the 31st minute capitalising their first penalty corner but their joy lasted only three minutes as Rubel struck the equaliser for the old Dhaka club from a field goal.

Abahani will take on Ajax Sporting Club in today's only match.

Muggers rob Imran Khan

AFP, Islamabad

Men carrying semi-automatic weapons robbed Pakistani cricket legend Imran Khan and his two young sons as they drove along the outskirts of Islamabad at dusk on Friday, said his spokesman.

Khan, his sons, aged seven and five and their maid all escaped unhurt after they handed over cash, credit cards and his mobile phone, spokesman Akbar S. Babar said.

Babar said the ambush appeared well planned as a vehicle pulled in front of Khan's vehicle and forced him to stop on the road about 6:00 pm (1300 GMT).

When Khan, who was driving, stopped the vehicle, two men brandishing semi-automatic weapons appeared from some bushes and demanded they hand over their valuables.

Mongia joins Leicester

AFP, London

Indian batsman Dinesh Mongia will play English county cricket for Leicestershire next season, the club announced Thursday.

Left-hander Mongia, 27, replaces Australian Brad Hodge who could be involved in the 2005 Ashes tour.

Mongia, who has a first-class average of 53.29 and a career-best score of 308 not out, has hit 18 centuries and 20 half centuries in his total of 5,500 runs but has yet to play Test cricket for India.

But he has scored eight hundreds in limited overs cricket, including an unbeaten 159 for India, for whom he has played 48 one-day internationals. In all one-day competitions Mongia averages a healthy 34.34.

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 21

Tick the correct answers, post

The Daily Star

Competition closes at 8 pm November 5, 2004 and draw

1. West Indies defeated England in the ICC Champions Trophy final by:

2 wkt 50 runs 33 runs

2. Who won the China Open tennis title?

Serena Sharapova Hingis

3. How many times was Pavel Nedved capped before announcing his retirement?

83 84 81

4. Who became man-of-the-tournament in the ICC Champions Trophy?

Sarwan Flintoff Lara

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

'A wonderful achievement'

AFP/REUTERS, Nagpur



"Having been part of that 2001 series, I know the feeling we all have now."

"We plan to enjoy every moment of his great win. I am not even thinking of the final Test yet."

"We are in no hurry to get out of Nagpur. We plan to spend some more time in the dressing room soaking in the atmosphere."

The inconsequential fourth and final Test will be played at the Wankhede stadium in Bombay from Wednesday.

The tourists won the first Test in Bangalore by 217 runs while the second in Madras was drawn after the fifth day's play was washed out.

Indian captain Rahul Dravid said the fast, bouncy track at Nagpur's CCA Stadium helped Australia clinch the series.

"This wicket suited their squad more than ours, there's no doubt about that," Dravid told reporters.

"It was an interesting wicket to see in India. It'll be really nice to see these kinds of wickets in domestic cricket and under-19 cricket, rather than straightforward in a test match."

The wicket, which offered sharp seam movement, had shocked regular captain Saurav Ganguly on the eve of the test because he had wanted a track helpful for spinners.

Ganguly, who missed the match due to a side strain, had asked the groundsman and the local cricket association to shave the grass off

the track but his request was denied.

"If we make wickets like this consistently in India, in every single game in domestic cricket over the next 2-3 years, then it will be good," Dravid said.

The 31-year-old blamed the Indian batsmen for not applying themselves in the match.

"If you see the tours where we've done well, it's generally been when our batsmen been able to put good scores on the board. In this series we have not got the runs that were required and that's put a lot of pressure on us," he said.

"When you play against teams like Australia, you have to be at the top of your game. Otherwise they will make you pay. All the batsmen, me included, have not managed that this series."

The Indian selectors are expected to make changes when they meet on Saturday to pick squad for the fourth and final test starting in Bombay on November 3.

Dravid said good planning had helped Australia.

"They adapted to the conditions better than us. A lot of their players from their core group since 1996 have visited the subcontinent, and they have planned much better and this has made a difference."

Ronaldo, Carlos could become Spaniards

INTERNET SOURCE, Madrid

Real Madrid are believed to have applied for Spanish citizenship for Brazilian striker Ronaldo.

The Primera Liga giants have reportedly commenced proceedings for Ronaldo to obtain a Spanish passport to ensure he no longer occupies one of the foreign berths in the squad.

According to Spanish law, Brazilian citizens who have lived in Spain for two years can request dual nationality, as opposed to previous regulations which stated the required time limit was five years.

Real president Florentino Perez has already discussed the matter with Ronaldo's representatives and early indications are that the forward is amenable to the idea.

The club is now putting the wheels in motion concerning Ronaldo's citizenship, while they also await a decision on the outcome of the hit-man's compatriot, Roberto Carlos.

The full-back has already applied for dual nationality and is likely to learn the verdict in February or March next year.

Roberto Carlos is keen to pick up a Spanish passport as he will lose out on £1 million (\$3m) if he has not acquired the desired documentation by the end of the season, as part of the contract he signed in the close season.

Zola to receive OBE award

AFP, Rome

After seven memorable seasons with Chelsea, Gianfranco Zola will be made an honorary member of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his services to British soccer, the British embassy said on Friday.

The ambassador will present the striker with the award on behalf of Queen Elizabeth at a ceremony in Rome on Monday.

In a statement, the British embassy called Zola "the most enduring and popular foreign player in the history of Chelsea Football Club" and praised his support for charities.

Zola left Chelsea to play for Cagliari in his native Sardinia but they will not be able to sustain their impressive form due to their busy schedule.

"The championship is very long and nobody knows how things will turn out," he said.

"It's crazy having to play so many matches. It's difficult to recuperate and there are going to be injuries."

Capello voiced his concerns of player burnout when Serie A was

Preview:

Primera Liga

Focus shifts for Barca

Football

AFP, Madrid

League leaders Barcelona aim to put their shock Spanish Cup exit, to third division Gramenet on Tuesday, quickly behind them by taking their unbeaten league run to nine games at Athletic Bilbao on Saturday.

"It was a tough blow to go out like that but if we win the league or the Champions League, no one will remember what happened in the Cup," said Garcia Remon after Real's 2-1 win over Leganes in the Spanish Cup on Tuesday, changing his tune after refusing to guarantee Owen a starting role just a week before.

"It's not a question of awarding me a medal because the goals are the result of everyone's work," said Owen with his usual modesty.

"There is no excuse but if you are playing Athletic on Saturday then you've got Milan in the Champions League three days later, it is sometimes a little difficult to get motivated for a Cup match," added Puyol.

To be fair to Barca, many of their first team regulars were rested against Gramenet, including the Spanish first division's leading scorer, Samuel Eto'o.

Barcelona have 22 points from their eight games and have a five point advantage over the rest of the first division, and there are nine points between them and their bitter rivals Real Madrid.

"Morientes and I understood each other very well. He gave me a good pass to score and I can play alongside him," added Owen.

In the Real defence, summer signing Walter Samuel is out after inuring his right knee on Tuesday, and Garcia Remon is expected to recall Francisco Pavon to the middle of the back four.

Sevilla have been the surprise of the Spanish season so far and lie in second place.

The Andalusiens won their one-and-only league title in 1946 and last finished in the top three 35 years ago but they could enhance their standing further at Real Zaragoza on Sunday.

"It's nice being in this position but let's see how we do in May," cautioned Sevilla coach Joaquin Caparros this week.

Caparros said one of the keys to Sevilla's success has been the impact of summer signing Carlos Aranda from Villarreal.

Aranda has been teamed up with Brazilian international striker Julio Baptista and opposition defences are still trying to work out how to deal with the deadly duo.

FIXTURES

Saturday (kick off GMT): Athletic Bilbao v Barcelona (2000), Valencia v Atletico Madrid (2200)
Sunday: Deportivo La Coruna v Albacete (1600), Espanyol v Villarreal (1600), Real Mallorca v Racing Santander (1600), Numancia v Real Sociedad (1600), Osasuna v Levante (1600), Real Zaragoza v Sevilla (1600), Real Madrid v Getafe (1800), Real Betis v Malaga (2000)

Agassi reaches qtrs

Tennis

AFP, Stockholm

Johansson has a chance at a possible alternate's spot in the field if he does well here and next week in Paris to end the regular ATP season.

"It would be great to finish in the top eight," said Agassi.

"That would be an accomplishment to be appreciative of. It's also important for next year and at the Australian Open."

"I'm always hungry for a chance to compete against the best in the world."

Agassi, competing here for the first time since 1994, will face off Friday against Spanish eighth seed Fernando Verdasco, who knocked out Raemon Sluiter of the Netherlands 6-4, 6-2.

Agassi put Bjorkman into a two-break deficit in the second set, but the Swede got one back as he broke while Agassi served for victory.

But the Las Vegas holder of eight Grand Slam trophies hardly bowed under pressure, constructing a winning break-back to claim his place in the last eight.

"Every day, you have to be better than one person," Agassi said of his effort.

"And what's required each day is always different. To deal with Jonas

Pakistan enjoy

FROM PAGE 13

SRI LANKA: First innings 208 (R. Kaluwharana 54; Razzaq 5-35)

PAKISTAN: First innings

Hameed c Sangakkara b Maharoof 3
Farhat lbw b Vaas 72

Younis c Samaraweera b Herath 124

Inzamamul not out 79

Riaz Afridi b Vaas 9

Extras: (lb-5, nb-6) 11

Total: (For four wkts in 82.4 overs) 298

To bat: Younis Youhana, Shoaila Malik, Abdul Razzaq, Kamran Akmal, Rana Naveed Hassan, Danish Kaneria.

Fall of wkts: 1-13, 2-135, 3-284, 4-298.

Bowler O M R W

Farhat 17.4 0 57 2

Maharoof 17 3 46 1

Fernando 13 1 62 0

Herath 20 1 73 1

Mubarak 4 0 23 0

Jayasuriya 5 1 20 0

Samaraweera 6 0 12 0

Toss: Pakistan

Umpires: Steve Bucknor (WIS), Billy Bowden (NZL)

15 teams for WC kabadi

PTI, Mumbai

Fifteen teams will vie for top honours in the first ever World Cup Kabadi tournament to be held at Bhartiya Krira Mandir in this west Indian city from Nov 19 to 21.

"Apart from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Germany and hosts India, other countries who have confirmed their participation are United Kingdom, the West Indies, Canada, Iran, South Korea, Japan, Thailand, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Malaysia," organising secretary Jaya Shetty told reporters here.

"We are holding this tournament to celebrate the golden jubilee year of South Kanara Sports Club, which has produced many national and international players," he added.

"The winning team stands to gain Rs 2,00,000 while the runners-up will take home Rs 1,25,000. The semifinalists will get Rs 50,000 each."

"A total of 23 matches will be played in the tournament and 23 man-of-the-match awards (Rs 5000 each) will be given away apart from Rs 50,000 for the