

Rokon wins Lancer Cup Golf crown

SPORTS REPORTER

Redwan Bin Rokon won the men's title and CD Hwang captured the ladies' crown of the Lancer Cup Golf Tournament...

Chief of Army Staff and Kurmitola Golf Club president Lt Gen Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury inaugurated the two-day competition on Thursday...

OTHER WINNERS

Senior champion: Brig Gen Md Jahangir Hussain, Junior champion: Master Sadatul Mubeen Shiam, Best gross: Arshi Haider, Ladies' best gross: Jung Sook Jung...

Rain stops play after Gibbs ton

REUTERS/AFP, Durban

Herschelle Gibbs hit an unbeaten 103 after Alex Wharf's dramatic opening burst to take South Africa to 180-7 before rain stopped play after 42 overs...

Medium-pace Wharf took two wickets in two balls without having conceded a run, removing skipper Graeme Smith (1) and Jacques Kallis for a golden duck to make it 1-2 in the fourth over.

Gibbs survived the hat-trick delivery and rebuilt the innings with some fine drives and cuts, making his second ton of the series and his 15th in one-dayers off 122 balls.

But Darren Gough struck a big blow for England by removing big-hitting Justin Kemp for a duck.

England must win to keep the seven-match series alive after the home side won three games in a row to lead 3-1.

Earlier the hosts won the toss and decided to bat at Kingsmead with the weather hot, humid and overcast with the possibility of rain later.

Vaughan will

FROM PAGE 13 Vaughan hit 633 runs and chalked up three excellent centuries.

Now, however, he has slumped to a lowly 27th in the world rankings, and since being named England captain in the middle of 2003 he has hit just four centuries and averages 35.95 in that period.

Marsh, who played 96 Tests for Australia, said: "He'll want to improve on that, otherwise he won't be satisfied."

"And I imagine there would be no-one he would rather do that against than the Australians."

Australia begin the first of five Tests at Lord's on July 21.

Kenya deeper

FROM PAGE 13 appointed committee, which is seeking to quash an earlier court order issued by Makhandia blocking members of the committee from running the KCA until fresh elections in April.

The delay is expected to further complicate the worsening situation in the sport following the government's decision to freeze all the bank accounts operated by the KCA last week.

The KCA chairman Sharad Ghai said the association was experiencing a cash shortage following the delay in remittance of funds from the International Cricket Council (ICC) which may affect Kenya's preparations for the upcoming African Intercontinental Cup qualifier against Namibia in Windhoek on February 25-27.

The team has been holding makeshift training sessions under new head coach Mudassar Nazar at the Simba Union club after the ICC rejected Kenya's appeal to postpone the three-day match until the impasse is resolved.

But Ghai said they were determined to travel to Namibia and play the match despite the circumstances.

'Pace out India'

FROM PAGE 13 Australia's tour last month, where they lost all three Tests and both finals of this month's tri-series one-day tournament.

"I hope the Pakistan team is mature enough and will learn from their mistakes on the Australian tour," said Imran, who is now a member of national parliament.



Chief of Army Staff and president of Kurmitola Golf Club Lt Gen Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury (5th from L) poses with other dignitaries after inaugurating the Lancer Cup Golf Tournament on Thursday.

'Appeals to sway umpires'

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Australian quick bowler Brett Lee said Friday it was obvious that vigorous appeals were aimed at influencing umpires but denied the Australian team had taken the practice too far.

Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer claimed this week that the Australians were intimidating umpires and said 29 of 34 close decisions in his team's recent tour down under had gone the home team's way.

Lee was frank when asked if the Australians' appeals and the country's vocal hometown crowds could affect umpires' decisions.

"Hopefully," he replied. "Hopefully being a bowler you can sway the umpire to give him out."

"I have not seen a problem with the way the Australian cricket team has been appealing and we only appeal

when we think it should be out."

"There has been a lot written about it and sure umpires make mistakes, they're only human."

"But it is pretty hard for them when he only gets a split second to make a judgement, people get to watch it 15 times at home on super slow-motion replay."

"I think we should give them a pat on the back because they have done a pretty good job."

Lee said while he had no doubts about umpires' integrity, he would like to see two neutral umpires in one day matches to counter any accusations of hometown favouritism.

"Umpires don't cheat, that is common knowledge," he said. "It would be nice to put those rumours to bed and have neutral umpires in a 50 over match."

Lee also spoke of his chagrin at New Zealand umpire Billy Bowden's theatrical gestures on the field.

"Sometimes when you do look around and you've bowled a wide and

you see him stretch his arms out like a pelican it is not the most flattering thing," he said. "You want to just go up to him and push his arms back down."

On the other hand, Lee has also joined the queue calling for the controversial one-day rotation policy to be dumped despite it launching him back into international colours.

Lee, who played in all of Australia's VB Series games while his bowling teammates were alternatively rested, said the fast men should look after themselves well enough to play every game.

"The rotation policy has definitely got to go," Lee said. "If we are managed correctly and doing our warm-ups and stretches there is no reason why a fast bowler cannot play each and every match. It is a long season but if we are doing the right things then I hope the rotation policy won't be needed any longer."

Win WC, get bonus

AFP, Berlin

The German football federation (DFB) have promised Jurgen Klinsmann's players a 250,000 euro bonus if they can win the 2006 World Cup on home soil, according to a report in Kicker magazine.

Germany's stars will receive 50,000 euros each for reaching the quarterfinals, 100,000 euros for the semifinals and 150,000 euros for a final appearance.

"We are agreed on the conditions," explained Germany defender Christian Worns.

A victory in the final in Berlin on July 9 2006 will see them net the jackpot of 250,000 euros, more than double what was on offer in the 2002 World Cup.

A 92,000 euro purse was the reward for winning the World Cup in Japan and South Korea with Germany picking up 71,500 euros after falling to a 2-0 defeat by Brazil in the final.

Ronaldo wedding red-taped!

AFP, Chantilly (France)

Brazil World Cup star Ronaldo cannot go ahead with his reported Valentine's Day wedding to Brazilian model Daniela Cicarelli at Chantilly Chateau because he has not published his wedding bans.

"The bans have to be posted three months prior to the wedding. All he could have is an engagement party," a town hall official said.

The Chateau confirmed its salons had been booked by Ronaldo for a private party on Monday.

"We have been in contact with him over a private reception," said Chantilly chateau development director Frederic Nancel.

Ronaldo had reportedly hired a private jet to fly Real Madrid teammates David Beckham and Zinedine Zidane to the chateau north of Paris for the reception.

Reyes does a U-turn

AFP, London

Arsenal's Spain striker Jose Antonio Reyes has denied he wants to leave the English champions despite being hoaxed into a radio interview where he said he would like to join Real Madrid.

"I have seen stories in the media linking me with Real Madrid," he told the Arsenal website.

"Of course its flattering but not only am I under contract at Arsenal, I am happy here and committed to helping the team win more trophies."

"The season is not over for us, we have much to play for and I am focussed on giving my best so we can finish in the strongest position possible."

His statement came after he told Spanish station Cope Radio, claiming to be Real's sporting director Emilio Butragueno, he had always dreamed of playing for Real.

Reyes' own agent Jaime Rodriguez had also said the player would be happy to join Real.

The striker cost Arsenal a club record 20 million pounds from Seville in the 2004 January transfer window.

Reyes' dip in form had led to speculation he was struggling to settle in London and a deal that could see him move to Madrid and former Liverpool striker Michael Owen arrive at Highbury was believed to be possible.

Glamorgan want Jones to stay

BBC ONLINE, undated

Glamorgan on Friday said they were confident Simon Jones would commit himself to the Welsh county by signing a new contract.

Jones complained that Glamorgan did not use him enough in one-day games last season, and refused to rule out the possibility of moving to another club.

But Glamorgan chief executive Mike Fatkin said: "We will work extremely hard to persuade Simon that this is where he should be playing his cricket."

"I'd like to think that's what he wants to do anyway. He's an iconic player."

Fast bowler Jones enjoyed a successful series for England in the recent 2-1 Test series win against South Africa.

The 26-year-old proved a number of critics wrong by finishing as England's third-best bowler with 15 wickets in four Tests.

Jones has only a year left on his current deal with Glamorgan and, with a number of potential suitors waiting in the wings, Fatkin is keen to wrap up contract negotiations by next week.

"We're hopeful and confident he'll be here," Fatkin told BBC.

"I know Robert (Croft, Glamorgan captain) has had conversations with Simon -- very good, encouraging ones. I'm going to have a chat with him next week."

PREVIEW: PRIMERA LIGA

Madrid's mission seven

Football

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid are on a roll after notching up six successive wins since the arrival of new coach Wanderley Luxemburgo and closing the gap on league leaders Barcelona to four points.

However they face their toughest examination yet under the new regime of the former Brazil boss when they travel to Osasuna on Saturday.

The Pamplona-based side may be languishing in the middle of the table but have lost only one game this season in their intimidating home stadium.

"The public in the El Sadar are like a 12th player and when Madrid come to town they raise their voices even more," said Osasuna's Mexican coach Javier Aguirre.

"They know that some Real Madrid players are not very comfortable here, and its our job to make them even more uncomfortable. We are going to get the ball off them," warned Aguirre.

Nevertheless Aguirre was full of praise for the immediate impact that Luxemburgo has had at the Spanish giants.

"He's changed them, that's the truth. The players now know what they are doing. Before, their tactics were very hit-and-miss. I like and respect what he has done," said Aguirre.

Luxemburgo stands on the verge of making a piece of Real Madrid history if he can guide them to a win

at Osasuna. No other coach has won his first seven league games upon arrival at Real but, if history is to be made, Luxemburgo will have to find an adequate replacement for the suspended Luis Figo.

The most likely option is that England captain David Beckham will move out to the right wing and Danish international Thomas Gravesen will return to the midfield.

Gravesen started last Saturday's 4-0 thrashing of Espanyol on the bench, but later got his first goal for Real since moving from English Premiership side Everton.

Barcelona still top the Spanish first division with 51 points from their 22 games but they slumped to their first home defeat for more than a year when they went down 2-0 to Atletico Madrid last Sunday.

"That's the past now. In fact, I've already forgotten about it," said Barca's ever-cheerful Ronaldinho, ahead of their trip to Real Zaragoza on Saturday.

"We know that we have to play well against Zaragoza and then everybody will relax. I think we are going to demonstrate that there is nothing really wrong with us," added the World Player of the Year on Thursday.

Barca's central defender Oleguer Presas is doubtful after suffering bruising to his lower back against Atletico but Real Zaragoza will have to find replacements for three suspended players.

Among those suspended are the Zaragoza's impressive goal getter David Villa, who made his Spanish international debut in Wednesday's

5-0 thrashing of San Marino. Villa and his two team-mates will have the time to observe the Zaragoza fans' protest at the perceived injustices they have suffered at the hands of the league referees.

More than 8,000 large red cards have been handed out. "But we want to make it clear that our protest is not directed personally against Senor Carmona Mendez, the ref this coming Saturday," commented the Zaragoza supporters' club president Arnaldo Perez on Thursday.

"After all, Carmona Mendez was the referee of last year's Cup final when we beat Real Madrid, and we can't complain about that," added Perez.

Third-placed Valencia have fallen off the pace in the title race after going four games without a win, but the reigning Spanish champions will be out to end their barren streak against Deportivo La Coruna on Saturday.

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PREVIEW: PREMIERSHIP

Blues can still sing

Football

AFP, London

Frank Lampard is confident that Chelsea can keep their bid for a clean sweep of every competition they have entered on track while inspirational Dutch winger Arjen Robben recovers from injury.

With their big, richly-talented squad and nine-point advantage over Manchester United to comfort them, Chelsea should theoretically not be overly concerned at having lost Robben for up to two months as a result of two broken bones in his foot.

"We will miss Arjen," Lampard acknowledged.

"He's got great pace and he's given us so much since he came into the team. But by the same token people have made a massive thing of him being out -- and we are far from being a one-man team."

"Before Arjen did come into the team we were pretty much top of the league. He's a great player and hopefully he will be fit sooner rather than later."

"But Chelsea have to get on with things without him for the time being. We can't rely on one man and we don't do that."

A closer look at the statistical impact of Robben's presence in the Blues' line-up however suggests that Lampard's view of the situation may be a little rosy.

Having managed just eight goals in their first nine matches this season, when Robben was unable to play due to an earlier injury, Chelsea have since been hitting the net at an average of just over 2.5 per game.

However strongly Lampard insists that Chelsea are not a one-man team, it is hard to argue with a near three-fold increase in the team's goals-per-game ratio.

The absence of Robben's incisive running and creative vision was painfully apparent as Chelsea were held to a goalless draw at home to Manchester City on Sunday, a result which allowed United to edge a little bit closer to them.

The cushion remains significant but the pressure from United could start to have an impact on everyone at Stamford Bridge if Chelsea fail to win their lunchtime encounter with fourth-placed Everton on Saturday and their rivals emerge with the points from their derby clash at Manchester City a day later.

Everton will take heart from the way they frustrated Chelsea when the two sides last met, at Stamford Bridge in November.

It will not have been lost on Jose Mourinho that that match was ultimately settled in his side's favour by a 72nd-minute winner from Robben.

Chelsea are not alone however in having suffered a significant loss in terms of personnel since that match. Everton were forced to sell midfielder Thomas Gravesen to Real Madrid during the transfer window and manager David Moyes admits his side are still struggling to adapt to life without the Dane.

"We are still seeking the right blend since we lost Thomas," he said. "That is what we are looking for at the moment -- we have not been at our best but all teams change and we have to adapt."

Like Chelsea, Everton are

currently looking over their shoulders with Merseyside neighbours Liverpool having closed the gap on them in the battle for fourth place and England's final qualifying spot for the Champions League.

Liverpool travel to Birmingham with Czech striker Milan Baros confident that he can forge a deadly partnership with Reds new boy Fernando Morientes.

Both forwards hit the net in last weekend's win over Fulham at Anfield and Baros feels the pair are a perfect match.

"It's great for both Fernando and I to have scored on Saturday," Baros said.

"You can see already he's a great player and he's very good in the air. That's made an advantage for me as I try to get around central defenders."

"He makes a lot of space for me, which is great. He's a big signing for Liverpool. We can have the kind of partnership where we both help each other."

"He's getting better with every game. It's only our fourth game and we still have a lot to learn from each other, but hopefully there is a lot more to come."

FIXTURES

(1500 GMT unless stated) Saturday: Birmingham v Liverpool, Blackburn v Norwich, Bolton v Middlesbrough (1715 GMT), Everton v Chelsea (1245 GMT), Portsmouth v Aston Villa Sunday: Manchester City v Manchester Utd (1300 GMT) Monday: Arsenal v Crystal Palace (2000 GMT)

First-class Mahmud

FROM PAGE 13 for 43 runs.

R A J S H A H I v CHITTAGONG

A 93-run opening partnership between Kuntal Chanda and Nazim Uddin helped Chittagong to a brave draw against Rajshahi at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra.

Resuming the day at 176-6, Rajshahi declared their second innings on 208-7, setting their opponents a 322-run target.

The two Chittagong openers then showed real determination to thwart Rajshahi's hopes of victory. Kuntal's 71 featured six boundaries while his partner Nazim Uddin was one run short of a deserved fifty.

Ehshanul Haque contributed 45 off 94 deliveries as Chittagong ended on 213-4.

SCOREBOARD

Scorecards of the three matches on the fourth and final day of the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea 6th National Cricket League yesterday:

DHAKA-SYLHET

DHAKA: First innings 325 SYLHET: First innings 316

DHAKA: Second innings (overnight 70-4)

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets. Includes Javed b Nazmul (10), Mehraj b Nazmul (6), Al Shahriar c Mabud b Tapash (0), Ashrafu c Rahman b Nabil (58), Halim b Tapash (4), Anwar lbw b Hasibul (9), Mahmud not out (141), Rafique c Mabud b Sadiqur (21), Sunny b Kapali (20), Monir b Hasibul (5), Talha c Rezaul b Hasibul (0), Extras: (b-8, lb-9, nb-13) (30), Total: (All out in 87.3 overs) (304), Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-20, 3-23, 4-29, 5-74, 6-128, 7-171, 8-279, 9-

Table with columns: Player, O, M, R, W. Includes Humayun (11, 2, 30, 0), Nadif (15, 4, 54, 0), Imran (3, 0, 8, 0), Hannan (4.3, 0, 19, 1), Result: Khulna won by four wickets. RAJSHAHI-CHITTAGONG CHITTAGONG: First innings 327 RAJSHAHI: First innings 214 RAJSHAHI: Second innings (overnight 176-6)

Table with columns: Player, O, M, R, W. Includes Naeeem c lbw b Tareq (3), Jahurul c sabbir b Tareq (3), Nuruzzaman c Kuntal b Alamgir (6), Rafiqui b Alamgir (10), Forhad c Kuntal b Aftab (20), Mashud c Tareq b Rashed (70), Rosul lbw b Sabbir (57), Anisur not out (9), Extras: (b-4, lb-13, nb-10, w-3) (30), Total: (For 7 wks in 79 overs) (208), Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-14, 3-14, 4-28, 5-55, 6-168, 7-208.

Table with columns: Player, O, M, R, W. Includes Alamgir (18, 6, 43, 2), Tareq (18, 3, 33, 2), Rashed (16, 2, 33, 1), Aftab (6, 1, 15, 1), Faisal (11, 1, 37, 0), Sabbir (10, 3, 25, 1)

CHITTAGONG: Second innings

Kuntal c Jahurul b Sumon (71), Nazim c Reza b Shahajada (49), Ehsanul run out (45), Aftab lbw b Shahajada (19), Faisal not out (16), Azam not out (4), Extras: (lb-6, w-3) (9), Total: (For 4 wks in 68 overs) (213), Fall of wickets: 1-93, 2-163, 3-193, 4-193

Table with columns: Player, O, M, R, W. Includes Shahajada (20, 8, 36, 2), Reza (14, 3, 33, 0), Sumon (20, 3, 74, 1), Saifulah (10, 0, 51, 0), Anisur (4, 0, 13, 0), Result: Match drawn.

KHULNA-BARISAL

BARISAL: First innings 194 KHULNA: First innings 134 BARISAL: Second innings 169 KHULNA: Second innings (overnight 85-2)

Table with columns: Player, O, M, R, W. Includes Sadat c Shahin b Anis (4), Shaiful c Hannan b Moshraf (62), Sajjad lbw b Salahuddin (15), Jamal Babu lbw b Hannan (116), Asadullah lbw Moshraf (0), Salim b Arafat (1), Manzarul not out (20), Mashrafeen not out (4), Extras: (lb-2, lb-2, nb-5, w-1) (10), Total: (For 6 wks in 98.3 overs) (232), Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-32, 3-178, 4-178, 5-181, 6-224

Table with columns: Player, O, M, R, W. Includes Anis (16, 2, 42, 1), Sonnet (6, 3, 8, 0), Salahuddin (22, 8, 24, 2), Mosharraf (21, 9, 43, 2)

Gullit to play in tsunami match

Football

AFP, Jakarta

Former European football stars, including Dutch ex-striker Ruud Gullit and English ex-goalkeeper Peter Shilton, will play Indonesia in a friendly match to raise funds for tsunami victims, organizers said Friday.

All proceeds from the February 28 match at a 110,000-seat stadium in Jakarta will go to education funds for children in the hardest-hit province of Aceh, said Muhammad Zein of the Indonesian Football Association.

Spectators who make large donations for the victims of the December 26 disaster will be able to play against the European stars in the last five minutes of the match, organisers said.

Former French internationals Jean Tigana and Laurent Blanc, former Liverpool midfielder Gary McAllister of Scotland and ex-Liverpool striker John Aldridge are also expected to be among the 18 players in the international team.

Organisers said they were also trying to get former AC Milan striker and Liberian hero George Weah

and ex-Brazilian star Bebeto to participate.

The Indonesian team of mostly national players will be strengthened

with the presence of two Southeast Asian stars, Singapore's Fandi Ahmad and Thailand's Piyapong Pue On, they said.



A file photo of former Dutch star Ruud Gullit who will play Indonesia in a friendly match to raise funds for tsunami victims.

PREVIEW: SERIE A

Old Lady won't hide

Football

AFP, Rome

Serie A leaders Juventus could be knocked off the top of the table for the first time this season if they fail to win at home to third-placed Udinese on Sunday.

From a seemingly unassailable position, the 27-time Italian champions have seen their advantage slashed from eight points to just two after consecutive defeats to Sampdoria and Palermo.

With 15 games left, Juve are desperate for three points to prevent resurgent title-holders AC Milan from overtaking them, but midfielder Gianluca Zambrotta is backing the Old Lady of Turin to overcome her title jitters.

"We won't be hiding; we've lost two games but there is no crisis," said the 27-year-old Italy international.

"It's been an unlucky period, but it will pass. Udinese will provide us with a good test and a win will show we've learned from our mistakes and that we are back on track."

Zambrotta may be confident, but Juve can expect no favours from an Udinese team aiming for a

top four finish and a place in the Champions League for the very first time.