



Real Madrid and England star David Beckham (L) meets pupils from his old school during the launch of "The David Beckham Academy" in London on March 14. The football academy is due to open later in the summer on the Greenwich Peninsula, near The Millenium Dome (in the background) in East London.

Becks' academy unveiled

Football

AP, London

David Beckham is preparing for life after soccer.

The English star unveiled plans Monday for The David Beckham Academy, which opens this summer next to the Millennium Dome in east London, where he grew up.

"There is that certain kind of buzz when you step on a football pitch," Beckham said. "I want to be able get that same kind buzz with the soccer school."

"I'll play up to the point where I feel my legs are getting too old and I can't do it any more at the top level, he added. "When that time comes, that's when I'll go into the soccer school."

After this season, Beckham has two years remaining on his contract with Real Madrid. He arrived at the club 20 months ago, and he's won nothing. He'll turn 30 in May, and he knows Madrid fans are demanding and impatient.

"I'm happy at Real Madrid and want to stay at Real Madrid as long as I can," he said. "But in football and life, you never know what is going to happen."

The midfielder star is bracing himself for the day he leaves soccer, and he knows he does not have the temperament for coaching.

"Management has never been a thing for me and never will be," he said. "I'm just one of those players who has never fancied going into management."

And so his academy beckons. Beckham is setting up the school

with "several million" of his own money. He has hooked up with the Anschutz Entertainment Group, which is developing the vacant Millennium Dome into a 26,000-seat arena and entertainment complex. The school will have two full fields, indoor facilities, classrooms and a dining area. The school will be open to boys and girls ages 8-15.

About 15,000 are expected to enroll, with 10,000 enrolling for free. Others will pay a \$480 fee for a five-day training camp.

Dressed in a white track suit, Beckham spoke softly as 20 students from his old school ran through basic drills before several hundred photographers and reporters.

"That was a good one, mate," said Beckman, encouraging one student.

"David has never lost touch with the school and the friends he had there," said Clive Moore, the head teacher at Chingford Foundation School -- Beckham's old school.

Anschutz is planning to open a sister academy this year in Los Angeles. Timothy Leiweke, president and chief executive of Anschutz, said Beckham's celebrity offers a "unique platform." Leiweke watched Beckham instruct children recently in Los Angeles.

"I saw the sheer joy he has working with the kids -- the joy that he brought out of the kids," Leiweke said. "It was something that was natural for us to do as a part of what we were doing at the Millennium Dome."

Blatter stunned at Frisk situation

Football

AFP, Paris

World Football boss Sepp Blatter on Monday said he was shocked at the recent spate of verbal attacks on referees.

The FIFA president, in his first comment on the decision by Swedish referee Anders Frisk to retire after receiving death threats from Chelsea supporters, urged in a statement: "I call on all concerned parties that they show respect and fair play towards referees."

And Blatter, on the day that European football's refereeing supremo Volker Roth described Jose Mourinho as "an enemy of football" after the Chelsea manager's criticism of Frisk, questioned the conduct of some "managers, directors and players."

"I am shocked by the recent verbal attacks aimed at referees. It is often this irrational behaviour that triggers the anger of supporters."

"I call upon all parties concerned to show respect for referees and for fair play," he said.

Blatter concluded by recalling that "those who attack referees are directly attacking the game of football that is their livelihood."

UEFA's director general Lars-Christer Olsson echoed Blatter's

remarks.

"Everyone involved in football should think twice before making provocative statements which could be taken by others as an incitement to cause trouble," he said.

Frisk announced his retirement on Saturday following death threats from Chelsea supporters after their Champions League match against Barcelona at the Nou Camp last month.

Chelsea went on to win the last 16 clash with a 4-2 home victory after their 2-1 defeat in Spain on February 23 when Chelsea fans threatened to kill Frisk in messages by telephone, e-mail and the post.

"The game is just worth all that," 42-year-old Frisk said.

FA CUP SEMIS

Big two avoid each other

AFP, London

Holders Manchester United and arch-rivals Arsenal were kept apart when the draw for the semi-finals of the FA Cup was made here Monday.

United were paired away to Newcastle with Arsenal at home to Blackburn Rovers.

Both semi-finals will be played at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium, the venue for the May 21 final, on the weekend of April 16-17.



LET'S SEE WHO GETS KNOCKED OUT! Two Atletico Mineiro players watch as Wagner Machado Xavier (2-L), a fan of Mineiro, fights with referee Luis Carlos Silva (L), after stepping into the field during the match against America which Mineiro was losing 0-1 in Belo Horizonte, Brazil on March 13.



TWINS! Real Madrid's Brazilian superstar Ronaldo (R) poses with look-a-like Hakim Darouiche during his visit to a promotional event at the world's largest CeBIT computer fair in Hanover on March 14.

Ronaldo buys Grand Prix team

Football

AP, Mexico City

Real Madrid superstar Ronaldo will own the Brazilian franchise in a new international auto racing series, the A-1 Grand Prix.

Sheikh Maktoum Hasher, a member of Dubai's ruling family and series chairman, announced the deal with the Brazilian icon during a presentation Monday of the A-1 car during the launch of the new team here.

The A-1 Grand Prix is meant to pit teams from 25 nations against one another in a series of races around the world from September to April.

The Real Madrid star joins teammate Luis Figo in the increasingly all-star A1 GP line-up, the Portuguese player being one of the first revealed 'seat holders'.

The teams will have identical, open-wheel 550-horsepower cars built by Lola and powered by a Zytac engine.

Ronaldo and Figo will 'take to the pitch' for the opening 'game' of motorsport's World Cup when the A1GP series kicks off at Brands Hatch.

Mexico's dignitaries turned out in force to support the launch of A1 Team Mexico in the World Cup of Motorsport. Attended by guests including prominent business leaders and ministers, A1 Team

Mexico President Juan Cortina introduced the race car, in full Mexican livery, at the prestigious Hipodromo de Las Americas.

Welcoming the first country of the Americas to launch their A1 Grand Prix team Founder, President and Chairman Sheikh Maktoum said, "I am immensely proud to attend the first launch of an A1 team from the Americas and would like to take this opportunity to welcome them into the growing A1 family."

"I am also very happy to announce on this occasion, that the Brazilian team has been sold to Ronaldo, one of the world's greatest athletes and national hero to the 180 million-strong Brazilian population. A1 Grand Prix is a truly global series reaching every continent in the world and as our footprint continues to expand."

Speaking of his involvement in A1 Grand Prix Ronaldo commented, "It's an honour to represent Brazil in any way I can whether that's on the football pitch or by backing our national motorsport team. Like football, A1 Grand Prix is a team sport. Ultimately, it will be the country who will win the World Cup of Motorsport, not the driver. We've won the football World Cup more times than any other nation it would be great to win the first ever World Cup of Motorsport to go alongside it."

MSC school cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Wills Little Flower defeated Motijheel Government High (Day) in yesterday's Mohammedan Dhaka Metropolitan Inter-School Cricket Tournament by virtue of a better run-rate after their match ended in a tie.

Both teams ended on identical totals of 87 at the WAPDA ground.

In other matches, Matuail High handed a thumping 124-run defeat on Motijheel Government Boys High (Morning) while Kurmitola High beat Enam Children High by seven wickets.



Did U Know?

Kamran Akmal is the fifth Pakistan wicketkeeper to score a century in Test cricket. Moin Khan (4), Imtiaz Ahmed (3), Taslim Arif and Rashid Latif -- one each had previously recorded hundreds as wicketkeepers for Pakistan.



Wanderley Luxemburgo (Real Madrid coach)

"I didn't see any real spirit from my players and that they have to change."

After the loss against Getafe.

Everyone's Eden Gardens

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or both? That's the question that India's think-tank have to answer, and while Kumble has been the in-form bowler in Tests lately, Harbhajan's record at Kolkata is a

compelling reason for him to find a place in the playing eleven -- 29 wickets in four matches at 18.75. Kumble's numbers at this venue pale in comparison -- 25 wickets in six matches at 35.08, more than

seven runs off his career average.

Since 1998, fast bowlers have done better than spinners here. The 89 wickets by fast bowlers has come at 32.62 apiece, while spin has accounted for 67 wickets at 41.31. Indian spinners, though, have had a much better time of it, taking 52 wickets at 28.96.

If it's Kolkata, then the VVS factor has to be mentioned. In six Tests here, he averages 84.67, with two centuries and three fifties. Sachin Tendulkar, in contrast, hasn't had such a good time here, while for Sourav Ganguly, his home venue has been a nightmare -- in ten innings, he has only managed one fifty. Rahul Dravid's numbers here are almost as good as his career stats.

Eva atop alone

SPORTS REPORTER

Nazrana Khan Eva beat Shamiha Sharmin in the fourth round at the federation hall room yesterday to maintain her solo lead in the 26th National Women Chess Championship.

IWM Rani Hamid and Shamima Akter Liza followed the leader with 3.5 points each. Rani defeated Masuda Begum and Liza outwit Afroza Khanam in this round.

Daffodil and Manarat win

SPORTS REPORTER

Daffodil and Manarat won their respective matches in the AIUB 4th inter-private university cricket tournament at the BKSP yesterday.

Daffodil (138-4) handed a six-wicket defeat on Northern University (136-10) while Manarat (172-10) beat Presidency University (154-10) by 18 runs.

Kolkata Test

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Tendulkar, Venkatsai Laxman, Dinesh Karthik, Irfan Pathan, Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Laxmipathy Balaji, Zaheer Khan, Yuvraj Singh, Ashish Nehra.

PAKISTAN (from): Inzamamul Haq (captain), Shahid Afridi, Taufeeq Umar, Younis Khan, Yousuf Youhana, Asim Kamal, Abdul Razzaq, Kamran Akmal, Mohammad Sami, Danish Kaneria, Mohammad Khalil, Yasir Hameed, Salman Butt, Shoaib Malik, Navedul Hasan, Arshad Khan.

Umpires: Steve Bucknor (West Indies) and Darrell Hair (Australia).

Omar Kureishi passes away

AFP, Islamabad

Veteran Pakistani cricket commentator and newspaper columnist Omar Kureishi died in the port city of Karachi Monday, state media said. He was 77.



OMAR KUREISHI

Kureishi died in a hospital where he was admitted last week after an asthma attack, the official Associated Press of Pakistan said.

The author of several cricket books was also member of the International Cricket Council's panel which selects the world's best Test and one-day international players for annual awards, it said.

Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Shaharyar Khan expressed deep sorrow over his death, saying Kureishi had achieved the rare status of becoming a "legend" in the sport during his lifetime.

"His passing away has deprived the cricketing public of a colossus in journalism and broadcasting, who will be mourned by cricket lovers all over the world and especially in Pakistan," Shaharyar said.

Keya clinches 100m gold

SPORTS REPORTER

Keya Moni of Rangpur became the fastest woman of the inter-district athletics meet when she won the 100m sprint at the Dhanmndi Women's Complex yesterday.

The high jump gold went to Bagerhat's Sheuli Akhter while Laila Parveen of Natore won the shotput gold medal.

A total of 200 athletes from 43 districts are taking part in ten events.

State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon inaugurated the two-day meet yesterday.

Rokeya Hall sports

SPORTS REPORTER

Sajia Chowdhury emerged champion and her Geography department teammate Tania Shabnam became runner-up in the Rokeya Hall annual sports competition at the Dhaka University playground yesterday.

A total of 150 athletes competed in 23 events of the meet.

Reds' foolish

FROM PAGE 12

a press briefing at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday, Muktiyoddha officials including coach Shafiqul Islam Manik surprisingly defended their position and pointed fingers at the AFC and the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF).

"We should not take the responsibility because it was not our fault or ignorance. It was the duty of the BFF and the AFC to inform us," claimed manager Abdus Sattar. Coach Manik also echoed with the same sentiment at the press briefing but later, he admitted that this kind of an incident happened because of lack of experience.

BFF general secretary Anwarul Haque Helal, also present at the briefing, however blasted Muktiyoddha for their ignorance about international football's laws.

"It was Muktiyoddha's fault. It is a very simple conclusion that a player will not be allowed to play a match if he has seen a red card in the previous fixture," said Helal.

Massive UNDP

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The press conference was hurriedly arranged in the wake of allegations of funds misuse and irregularities in player scrutiny prior to launching of the ongoing 12-team Gold Cup Football Tournament.

"No irregularities took place. Everything is transparent," Ushaton said. "We have screened out players through residential certificates from the circle chiefs following an RSA committee decision," he added.

The UNDP funds will be spent on a campaign titled 'sports for peace' and by organising various competitions in villages, unions and thanas. Development of playgrounds across the hill region was another priority.

Of the total sum, 15-18 lakh Taka is being spent on the Gold Cup Tournament that began here on March 5. The final between Rangamati Mohammedan Sporting Club and Rangamati Sadar will be held at the local stadium today.

Mashrafe ton saves

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at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium. Moniruzzaman Tinku made a quickfire 60 off 69 balls with 11 boundaries while his opening partner Naem Islam contributed 44.

Barisal left-arm spinner Nadif Chowdhury's three-wicket haul gave the home side some sort of discomfort in the middle but the Rajshahi lower half steadied things after that mini-collapse.

Saifullah Khan was adjudged man of the match after the Rajshahi left-arm spinner finished the match with eight wickets.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboards on the fourth and final day of the four-day National League fifth round matches yesterday:

RAJSHAHI-BARISAL

BARISAL: First innings 265

RAJSHAHI: First innings 262

BARISAL: Second innings 162

RAJSHAHI: Second innings

Moniruzzaman c Shuvro b Nadif60

Naeem b Shuvro 44

Reza c Hannan b Shuvro 7

Fahad c Bashbar b Nadif 36

Shahjada c sub (Tarek) b Nadif 1

Rosel not out 11

Anisur not out 4

Extras: (b-17, lb-8, nb-2, w-2) 29

Total: (All out in 61 overs) 242

Bowlers O M R W

Tapash 13 3 40 3

Rezaul 8 1 19 1

Ashiqur 8 0 31 0

Nabil 17 4 99 4

Imtiaz 7 1 39 1

Kapali 7 0 23 1

Mawla 1 0 6 0

KHULNA: Second innings (following on)

Sadat b Rezaul 17

Sajjad c Alok b Nabil 29

Monirul lbw b Kapali 28

Mashrafe b Nabil 132

Salahuddin c Alok b Nabil 3

Manzarul c Hasibul b Imtiaz 41

Razzak b Imtiaz 0

Jamaluddin lbw b Tapash 2

Salim b Tapash 1

Dollar lbw b Kapali 0

Ziaur not out 0

Extras: (b-18, lb-4, nb-2, w-2) 26

Total: (For 9w kts in 85 overs) 279

Bowlers O M R W

Tapash 14 3 56 2

Rezaul 12 6 30 1

Ashiqur 4 3 6 0

Nabil 23 6 70 2

Kapali 20 5 57 2

Imtiaz 7 1 22 2

Mawla 4 0 14 0

Rahman 1 0 2 0

Result: Match drawn.

Man-of-the-match: Mashrafe

Bin Mortuza.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 39 Cereal con- 21 Mex. neighbor 32 Michael- 23 Branch 41 Bungle 25 " 26 Opposite of "always" 27 Swayze's "Only Dancing" 28 "The Untouchables" 29 Curved molding of the "Board" 30 Convent 31 React to 32 "The Godfather" 33 "The Godfather" 34 "The Godfather" 35 "The Godfather" 36 "The Godfather" 37 "The Godfather" 38 "The Godfather" 39 "The Godfather" 40 "The Godfather" 41 "The Godfather" 42 "The Godfather" 43 "The Godfather" 44 "The Godfather" 45 "The Godfather" 46 "The Godfather" 47 "The Godfather" 48 "The Godfather" 49 "The Godfather" 50 "The Godfather" 51 "The Godfather" 52 "The Godfather" 53 "The Godfather" 54 "The Godfather" 55 "The Godfather" 56 "The Godfather" 57 "The Godfather" 58 "The Godfather" 59 "The Godfather" 60 "The Godfather" 61 "The Godfather" 62 "The Godfather" 63 "The Godfather" 64 "The Godfather" 65 "The Godfather" 66 "The Godfather" 67 "The Godfather" 68 "The Godfather" 69 "The Godfather" 70 "The Godfather" 71 "The Godfather" 72 "The Godfather" 73 "The Godfather" 74 "The Godfather" 75 "The Godfather" 76 "The Godfather" 77 "The Godfather" 78 "The Godfather" 79 "The Godfather" 80 "The Godfather" 81 "The Godfather" 82 "The Godfather" 83 "The Godfather" 84 "The Godfather" 85 "The Godfather" 86 "The Godfather" 87 "The Godfather" 88 "The Godfather" 89 "The Godfather" 90 "The Godfather" 91 "The Godfather" 92 "The Godfather" 93 "The Godfather" 94 "The Godfather" 95 "The Godfather" 96 "The Godfather" 97 "The Godfather" 98 "The Godfather" 99 "The Godfather" 100 "The Godfather"

CRYPTOQUIP

V Q V T N E L W K J R R N K M V W E T P N L M X : Q P N A X N W N E U P L D D N P A V G U L W M M X N C V W O V W M K I W G V M V I W

"Saturday's Cryptopuzzle: WHEN A BASEBALL RELIEVER HAS FLU SYMPTOMS, ONE COULD SAY HE THROWS AT A FEVER PITCH."

Today's Cryptopuzzle: K equals C. The Cryptopuzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that K 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.