

STANCHART CRICKET

A world record!

SPORTS REPORTER

The ongoing school cricket tournament was marked by a new domestic record when BKSP-B amassed a mammoth 621-6 in a limited-overs match yesterday.

The total, in 50 overs, could also find its place as a world record but information about school cricket was unavailable.

The team on the receiving end of the assault were Scholastica, beaten by 555 runs after being all out for 66 in the Standard Chartered Under-15 Young Tigers school cricket tournament match at the Lalmitia Housing Society ground.

Saikat Ali hammered a 75-ball 153 with the help of 17 fours and 10 sixes while Mominul Haque smashed an unbeaten 88-ball 170 that produced 17 fours and 11 sixes. But it was Shahzada who stole the show with a cameo 143 off only 59 balls. He hit ten fours and 14 sixes.

BKSP A (472-7) also rode on two centuries by Ahmed Khan (113) and Ashrafulah (140 not out) to outplay Badda Alatusna (57) by 415 runs.

In the day's other U-15 matches, Sabuj Biddiyapath (105-2) defeated Happy Times (104) by eight wickets, Government Laboratory (133-2) also managed an eight-wicket victory over Mishu Pre-cadet (132), Rahamatullah Model (196-5) beat Dhanmondi Tutorial (194) by five wickets, Junior Laboratory (149-4) registered a six-wicket victory against Nabakumar (146), Shaheed Ramzuddin (384) handed a 299-run defeat on Bangladesh International (85) and Paramount (164-3) beat Uttar Badda (161) by seven wickets.

In the U-17 zonal match, North Zone (114-3) beat East Zone (113) by seven wickets.

Pepsi beach v'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

The Pepsi Beach Volleyball tournament will begin in Cox's Bazar on April 19.

A total of 13 teams including two from Nepal will participate in the three-day men's and women's competitions.

THE TEAMS

Men's (Group-A): Bangladesh Police, Titas Club, Power Development Board; (Group-B): Bangladesh rifles, Water Development Board, Nepal and Cox's Bazar. Women's (Group-A): Usha KC, Sister Concern, Cox's Bazar; (Group-B): Nepal, Motijheel Club and Nabajagarani.

Mini handball final today

SPORTS REPORTER

Green Herald, Dhanmondi Quamrunnessa School, Sunnydale and hosts Maple Leaf reached the semifinals of the Maple Leaf 2nd Mini girls' handball tournament yesterday.

The semis will be held this morning and the final in the afternoon at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex.

Maple Leaf edged Vqarunnisa Noon School 4-3, Green Herald dumped Agha Khan School 11-0, Dhanmondi Quamrunnessa thrashed Radiant International School 16-0 and Sunnydale defeated YWCA 5-2.



Did U Know?

India and Pakistan played their 100th limited-overs international in Kanpur on Friday. With the Kanpur triumph, Pakistan have won 61 games against 35 losses and four 'no-result' games.



Shoaib Akhtar

(Pakistan fast bowler)  
"I will regret missing the series against India for the rest of my career."



WE WON IT FOR YOU, MUNNA: Muktijoddha Sangsad Players pose for photographs with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and other guests after the final of the Independence Day Gold Cup Football Tournament on Saturday.

Inter escape with 4-match ban, fine



AGENCIES, Milan

Inter Milan were handed a record six-match stadium ban and 300,000 Swiss francs (248,600 dollars) fine after their Champions League quarterfinal second leg against city rivals AC Milan was abandoned because of crowd trouble.

The final two games of the ban are suspended and will come into effect only if Inter fans are the cause of further trouble during a probationary period of three years, European soccer's ruling body UEFA said on Friday.

The Serie A club had feared expulsion from next season's Champions League given that this was a second offence.

In practice the ban means Inter will have to play without supporters for their next four UEFA competition home fixtures.

AC Milan were awarded the tie 5-0 on aggregate and will play PSV Eindhoven in the semifinals.

AC Milan won the first leg of the quarterfinal 2-0 and were leading Inter 1-0 when the game was stopped after 73 minutes when flames were thrown on to the San Siro pitch.

Inter are currently third in Serie A. If they finish in that position, or fourth place, they would enter the Champions League in the final qualify-

ing round and play the home tie behind closed doors.

If they qualified for the group stage then all three of their home matches would be behind closed doors with fans only returning to the San Siro if Inter got through to the first knockout phase.

The continued presence of Inter supporters at the Milan venue would then depend on their good behaviour and the 'suspended' two-match ban would be in addition to any separate sanction for a further offence, UEFA said in a statement.

The ban would also apply to the UEFA Cup and would be transferred to the following season if Inter were eliminated before playing four games.

UEFA communications director William Gaillard denied Inter had escaped lightly.

He told BBC Radio Five: "There will be some people who think that it is lenient and other people who think that it is harsh."

"This is the highest fine in the history of UEFA and the loss of four home games will mean they lose out on revenue for around eight million euros (5.5 million pounds)."

"You have to put it in the context of the game. There were no further injuries apart from a very slight one to the goalkeeper which we absolutely regret anything in the last five years."

Internazionale president Giacinto Facchetti admits he is saddened by the penalties imposed by UEFA. Facchetti told www.gazzetta.it:

"We were hoping to have as few (banned) days as possible and now we will see what the reasons are."

"It is very sad to be playing behind closed doors and it will not be easy for the players to find the right atmosphere."

Facchetti claimed there was little the club could do to stop violence, saying: "From abroad, it's difficult to understand some things about Italian football - certain incidents - because they think control in the stadium depends on the clubs."

Inter earlier revealed they are to sue one of their fans who was arrested after the chaos at Tuesday night's game.

Fabio Roia, state prosecutor in Milan, revealed he has been instructed by the club's lawyers to begin proceedings.

"I think this is an important step," Roia said.

"It means that the club is distancing itself from this type of fan."

Roia said this is the first time a club has filed a suit in this kind of situation. Tuesday's match was the second time this season that a Champions League game in Italy had been abandoned due to crowd trouble. AS Roma's tie with Dynamo Kiev was halted after Swedish referee Anders Frisk was hit by an object thrown from the crowd.

UEFA ordered Roma to play two games behind closed doors.

2006 WC ticket scam exposed

AFP, Frankfurt

The organisers of the 2006 World Cup finals in Germany said they had exposed a fraudulent attempt from the United States to obtain two million match tickets.

The addresses supplied in the applications made by Internet were fraudulent, organisers found.

"The orders were based on irregular addresses to obscure the identity of the sender," said a statement from the organising committee. "We contacted people by telephone who supposedly placed orders. Of those we reached, none had placed orders."

Checks were then carried out by e-mail and when no replies were received, the applications were withdrawn from the draw for tickets.

Football's world governing body FIFA started the draw on Friday for the tickets after receiving 10 million applications for the 812,000 tickets available in the first phase of ticket sales.

The organisers said applicants from 195 countries placed orders. The lucky recipients will not be notified until April 22.

The finals begin on June 9, 2006, and finish with the final in Berlin on July 9.

Scolari prefers club over country

AFP, Lisbon

Portugal's Brazilian coach Luiz Felipe Scolari said Saturday he would like to remain in Europe for five more years as a football coach.

"My goal, as well of those around me, is to stay in Europe for five more years. In a club or national team," Scolari told the Jornal de Noticias newspaper.

"I have been offered a job training a national side after the 2006 World Cup," he said without giving details. "But I'd prefer to coach a club."

Scolari, who led Brazil to the 2002 World Cup title, is under contract with the Portuguese Football Federation until the 2006 World Cup.

Portugal lead European Group 3 on 14 points, level with Slovakia who have an inferior goal difference and three ahead of Russia.

Presidential reward for Afridi

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's president announced a 500,000 rupee (8,400 dollar) cash reward for cricketer Shahid Afridi after he smashed the second-fastest century in one-day history to help his team to victory over India.

Afridi's 102 off just 45 deliveries steered Pakistan to a five-wicket win in Kanpur on Friday and gave them a 3-2 series lead with one game to play.

President Pervez Musharraf personally congratulated Afridi by telephone and sent a message to the team, which has come back from a two-nil series deficit.

"The fighting spirit and determination of players in all departments of the game is laudable," Musharraf, an avid cricket fan, told the team according to an official.

Afridi, 25, fell one ball after reaching his fourth hundred to equal West Indian Brian Lara's 45-ball century against Bangladesh in Dhaka in 1999.

The Pakistan star also holds the world record for the fastest one-day hundred, off 37 balls against Sri Lanka in 1996.

Arsenal in FA Cup final



AFP, Cardiff

Arsenal advanced into their fourth FA Cup final in the last five years with a 3-0 victory over Premiership rivals Blackburn Rovers at the Millennium Stadium here Saturday.

Robert Pires struck three minutes before half-time but the France winger's goal was all that separated the sides until the 86th minute when Dutch substitute Robin van Persie netted before scoring again in stoppage time with a powerful shot. The Gunners will now face the

winners of Sunday's second semifinal between Newcastle and holders Manchester United on Saturday, May 21 when the final takes place at the Millennium Stadium for the last time before returning to Wembley next year.

Arsenal's win was proof that doggedness will only get you so far. Through determination and an occasionally brutal resolve, Blackburn thwarted the nine-times FA Cup winners for 42 minutes, with Brad Friedel making a series of fine saves, before the north London giants' greater class eventually told.

Even when they were only a goal behind, Blackburn never looked like

getting back into the game and, at one point in the second half, Arsenal kept the ball for well over a minute, stringing together at least 40 passes in one move.

But Arsenal did not begin with such confidence or fluency. Without Thierry Henry, the victim of a strained groin, this was very much a diminished Arsenal, reduced, at least until they had the lead, to playing in fits and starts.

Only occasionally in the first half Arsenal did sweep forward and it was not until the 38th minute that they managed their first serious effort as Dennis Bergkamp played in Jose Antonio Reyes.

Brazil releases racist Argentine player



REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

An Argentine footballer has been released after spending 40 hours in Brazilian police custody for an alleged racist insult during a Libertadores Cup match on Wednesday night.

Television pictures showed Quilmes defender Leandro Desabato leaving a Sao Paulo police station after his representatives paid bail of 10,000 real (3,878 dollars).

He was arrested at the end of Wednesday's match between Sao Paulo, one of Brazil's biggest clubs and twice Libertadores winners, and Quilmes, an unfashionable team from a Buenos Aires suburb.

Desabato, charged with slander aggravated by racism, had been granted bail late on Thursday but his release was delayed while the money was paid.

He was bundled into a car and Sao Paulo supporters waiting outside banged their fists on the vehicle as it drove away.

Police said that Desabato would still have to appear at a court later on Friday before leaving the country, so as to sign a pledge that he would return to Brazil when summoned.

Desabato was involved in an off-the-ball incident with Grafite -- who was sent off for retaliation -- in the first half of the Group Three match.

No action was taken against Desabato by the referee, although his teammate Carlos Arano was

sent off along with Grafite.

At the final whistle, police came onto the field and arrested Desabato. He was taken to a police station, questioned and kept overnight. He was later transferred to another station where he spent Thursday night.

Quilmes coach Gustavo Alfaro said: "It was a farce arranged by the Sao Paulo players. The witnesses are two television viewers who said they read his (Desabato's) lips."



LEANDRO DESABATO

Quilmes vice-president Jose Luis Meizner added: "This is not a coincidence, it seems that in Brazil there's a competition with Europe to see which country is leading the fight against racism."

Julio Garcia, another Quilmes director, on Friday criticised South American Football Confederation (CSF) president Nicolas Leoz for

saying that Desabato could face a lengthy ban.

Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira, whose team face Argentina in a World Cup qualifier in Buenos Aires in June, said racism was a serious problem but, in this case, the authorities had gone too far.

"I'd preferred it not to have gone beyond the sporting boundaries," he said.

"I think that this fact which happened at the Morumbi (stadium) in a highly competitive game should have remained between Sao Paulo and Quilmes.

"Brazil and Argentina are two world champions, who have nothing to do with a game between these teams. I hope our match stays within the sporting arena and is settled on the field, in the cleanest way possible."

Meanwhile, back in Buenos Aires Diego Maradona joined a chorus of protest after Desabato was arrested by Brazilian police.

"Racism exists everywhere and in Brazil if they have problems they should resolve them elsewhere, not on the soccer pitch," the former Argentina international said in a television interview on Friday.

Cricketers go

FROM PAGE 12  
Chief selector Faruque Ahmed admitted that there were a number of players nursing some minor injury problems but hoped that they would recover before the tour began.

"There are some injury problems in the team but it's nothing serious. Hopefully, they all will recover before the tour starts," he said.

Bangladesh will leave for England on May 7 to play two Tests and take part in the triangular one-day series, which also involves world champions Australia.

Mukti's Cup

FROM PAGE 12  
their triumph in the Premier and National Leagues.

Muktijoddha took home a replica of the Tk eight-lakh gold cup and Tk 2 lakh prize-money while the runners-up were richer by Tk one lakh.

Yellow cards: Hassan Al Mamun, Saiful (Muktijoddha).

U-19s keep

FROM PAGE 12  
On the previous day, half-centuries by Nazmus Sadat (59) and Mushfiqur Rahim (52) helped the Bangladesh youngsters inflict a 69-run defeat to the same side.

Nazmul Hossain was unbeaten on 49 in Bangladesh's 247 all out in 49.4 overs.

Rezaul, Aslam and Kamrul each chipped in with two wickets to fold the home side for 178.

The visitors have now won four matches in a row.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Unfortunate occurrence 37 More, to Manuel 5 Clamorous partner of 13- 12 Chaplin's widow 13 See 5- 14 Cookie name 15 Small telescope 17 Hideous 18 Whammy 19 Frequently 20 Victims 21 Lornieux millieu 22 Binge 23 "Wisness" sect 26 Ammunition 30 Actress Moore 31 Shack 32 Met melody 33 California crop 35 Song of praise

DOWN

1 "Poppy-cock" 2 Easy stride 3 Layered quartz 4 Humorist 5 Rub the tables wrong way 6 Reddish-brown color 7 "Absolutely" 8 It measures time 9 Incite 10 Hinge (on) 11 Santa's run 16 Nessie's home 18 Backyard building 21 Mica

22 Stick out like a sore thumb 23 Big other 24 Mal de — 25 "Yankee..." 26 Clear the tables period 28 Before, in verse 29 Muppet eagle 31 Height of fashion 34 "Holy cow!" 35 Throe 37 Saddle horse 38 Bridge coup 39 Jerry Herman heroine 40 Rainbow 41 Dog's treat 42 Apiece 43 Tennis legend 44 Second-hand 46 Chip topper 47 Part of UNLV

Solution time: 21 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

BD H KARY ADBBXN LEJPNV  
VAIP, B KJNREWN BY IAETV  
TAAF TBFN H XHRN AD  
LTHXFWHBT  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SUPPOSING AN INSECT WAS SINGING WITH CLOSED LIPS, MIGHT IT BE CALLED A HUMBUG?  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals O  
The Cryptoquip 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.

PFA AWARD NOMINATIONS

Blues trio lead way



SPORTINGLIFE, London

Chelsea dominated the nominations for the Professional Footballers' Association Players' Player of the Year award with captain John Terry, midfielder Frank Lampard and goalkeeper Petr Cech all on the short-list released on Thursday.

They have each been in top form as Jose Mourinho's side look to add both the Champions League and Premiership titles to the League Cup they won in February.

As well as Chelsea's trio, Arsenal striker Thierry Henry -- winner in 2004 -- was again selected, while top-flight newcomer Andrew Johnson also made the six candidates after an impressive Premiership debut which has seen the Crystal Palace frontman become the leading English marksman in the league as well as win his

first England cap. Steven Gerrard, the driving force behind Liverpool's bid for both European and domestic success, completes the list, from which the winner will be announced at the PFA awards dinner to be held at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London on Sunday, April 24.

Cech received recognition for his consistency following his seven million pound arrival from Rennes during the summer.

He broke the record for the number of successive clean sheets in the Premier League, going 1,025 minutes without conceding a goal earlier this season.

The 6ft 5in Czech international is still only 22 and Taylor told Sky Sports News: "The clean sheets he has kept, the records he has set and the form he has maintained from day one have been nothing short of phenomenal."

Henry has won the award twice before and put himself in the frame for

a hatrick with another 30-goal haul this season.

Johnson has been the surprise package of this season's Barclays Premiership campaign as, despite Crystal Palace struggling at the wrong end of the table, he has scored 18 league goals.

He is the leading English scorer and forced his way into Sven-Goran Eriksson's national squad after a string of consistent displays.

Chelsea winger Arjen Robben made the nominations for the Young Player Award.

Manchester United and England star Wayne Rooney was selected, along with his Old Trafford teammate Cristiano Ronaldo.

The remaining nominees all represent England's future, with Jermain Defoe, of Tottenham, Middlesbrough winger Stewart Downing and Shaun Wright-Phillips of Manchester City completing the list.

Ferozeshah Kotla

FROM PAGE 12  
Musharraf will travel from Taj Mansingh Hotel to the Kotla in a bullet proof vehicle used by the Indian president.

Posse of security men and women swarmed the Kotla frisking and checking the identity cards of the people going there.

The air-conditioned bullet-proof enclosure for the VIPs has been erected and its positioning gives a fantastic view of the match.

The tickets for the match were sold out within two hours of the start of sale at various branches of a nationalised bank amidst reports of jostling and chaos at several counters of the bank in Delhi.

ENTER DILLI HAAT FOR FREE  
The New Delhi city administration was

Friday planning special delights for some 2,000 Pakistani cricket fans scheduled to watch the final one-day match here between the two national teams.

They said fans will get free entry to tourism spots such as Dilli Haat, a highly-popular ethnic shopping plaza.

"For the next five days the Pakistani fans will enjoy free entry at the Dilli Haat," said New Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development manager Suman Sharma.

New Delhi will also organise trips to the Taj Mahal town of Agra and Jaipur in the desert state of Rajasthan, Sharma said, adding that hotels, food and transport will be on offer across the once-troubled borders.

India need

FROM PAGE 12  
Pakistan were trailing 1-0 in the three-Test series before bouncing back to win the third and final match at Bangalore to level the series.

"When we came here we were written off, but I am happy we have been able to fight back," said Inzamam.

"The fighting spirit and determination of players in all departments of the game is laudable," Musharraf, an avid cricket fan, told the team according to an official.

Afridi, 25, fell one ball after reaching his fourth hundred to equal West Indian Brian Lara's 45-ball century against Bangladesh in Dhaka in 1999.

The Pakistan star also holds the world record for the fastest one-day hundred, off 37 balls against Sri Lanka in 1996.