



Did U Know?

The first woman to win the US Open was Virginia Wade. She defeated Billie Jean King 6-4, 6-4.



TALK TURKEY



Vanderlei Luxemburgo
(Real Madrid coach)

"I'm very happy with the way the team has responded since I took over. But at the same time I'm sad because I didn't have time to win the league... Now I hope to be able to be in charge for a complete campaign and not just half a season. This is a very big club and I have no doubt that we can turn this team into the champions and we are going to do it - I'm sure of it."

After settling for the runners-up spot behind Barcelona in the Spanish Premier League.

What to WATCH

TEN Sports

West Indies vs Pakistan
First ODI
Live at 7:30 pm

ESPN

UEFA Cup (Final)
Sporting Lisbon vs Cska Moscow
Live at 12:30 am (Thursday)

STAR Sports

Brazilian Football
Paulista vs Figueirense

Rating chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Three International Masters Reefat Bin Sattar, Abdullah Al-Rakib and Enamul Hossain Rajib won their respective third round boards in the Open FIDE Rating Chess tournament at the federation hall room yesterday.

They bagged maximum three

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Application missing Sussex win by innings and 226 runs

Cricket

AL-AMIN

The ghost of late Australian cricketer David Hookes must have been at Hove when Bangladesh suffered an inexplicable innings and 226-run defeat on the final day of their three-day match against Sussex yesterday.

Hookes made headlines two years ago when he appealed to Steve Waugh's men to bowl the Tigers out twice in a day on the eve of the two-Test series. But his desire was not fulfilled and unfortunately Hookes met a tragic death after the series.

However, his prophecy came true when the brittle Bangladesh batting, which often shows Jekyll and Hyde syndrome, collapsed twice just over a day's play against an all-local Sussex.

After being buried under a mountainous Sussex total of 549, the Tigers started their first essay after lunch on the second day, and despite a nearly one-hour rain relief

they were bundled out for 127 in just 47 overs.

Tigers' second innings lasted a bit longer -- 63.3 overs and 196 runs on the board -- before it was all over more than an hour before tea on the final day.

True that Bangladesh suffered a big blow after skipper Habibul Bashar was struck on the head on the second day and never returned to bat again. It was also understandable that the English conditions are something that most of the cricketers had never experienced before.

But the manner in which they surrendered in their first real test of English cricket after a nondescript drawn encounter against British Universities is totally unacceptable.

Critics may say that the defeat reflected the true strength of a struggling Test side, which is going to face the second best Test team in a week's time.

But then the question should be asked how a 16-year-old with no first-class experience stayed on the wicket for more than two hours in both innings.

Mushfiquir Rahim has only been thrust into the main team as cover

for the irreplaceable Khaled Mashud, but the character and determination shown by the Bogra lad was just what the situation demanded. Sadly, though, batsmen five or ten years older than him lacked that temperament.

Mushfiquir batted for 141 minutes in the first innings, which was more than the collective contributions of the first five batsmen. Not only that, the young stumper delayed the inevitable by batting for another 114 minutes on the final day and scored highest 63 before becoming the last man out.

It was also the lone half-century for a Bangladeshi batsman in the match.

Michael Yardy, an occasional bowler with only five first-class wickets prior to this game, doubled that tally by taking 5-83. The south-paw was also responsible for the huge Sussex total with a career-best 257.

Bangladesh will play their final three-day match against Northamptonshire from May 20-22 before the first Test at Lords' starts on the 26th.

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Ronaldo gets mixed message

Football

HERZLIYA, Israel

The intentions, certainly Ronaldo's, and presumably those of the Peres Center for Peace - were good ones. It's almost impossible to think of a better marketing tool than a living legend. It worked just great with Chelsea Manager Jose Mourinho; it was supposed to have worked even better with Brazilian soccer star

Ronaldo - in theory, that is.

The police were there three hours in advance; security guards from the Prime Minister's Office were on hand (for Vice Premier Shimon Peres' benefit); the local and foreign media were out in full force; and hundreds of Ronaldo fans, wearing Brazil or Real Madrid shirts, were on hand too.

And let's not forget the 800 or so Jewish and Arab children from the Peres Center's Twinned Soccer Schools who were playing on the Herzliya field and waiting for a glimpse of one of the best strikers in

soccer history.

And then he arrived - surrounded by bodyguards, escorts, an interpreter, various and sundry, and Peres.

It all began with a photo op with the children and talk of peace to the cameras. "I hope there will be peace, and want to do something for peace in the region and the world," said the Real Madrid striker. "Ronaldo is a children's hero and a man of peace," Peres responded.

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PHOTO: AFP

EXCUSE ME, ARE YOU RONALDO? Palestinian children and elders who were waiting for football superstar Ronaldo being moved away by a shaven-headed Israeli soldier at Betunia checkpoint at the entrance of the West Bank town of Ramallah on Monday.



PHOTO: STAR

TIME TO TAKE A NAP: An athlete, who has come here from a distant place to participate in the Milk Vita 22nd National Junior Athletics Championships, makes good use of his leisure on the opening day of the two-day meet at Bangabandhu National Stadium on Tuesday.

National Junior Athletics on

SPORTS REPORTER

Heavy shower ruined the opening day's second session of the Milk Vita 22nd National Junior Athletics Championships at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Only eight events were completed in the morning session, but there was no action in the afternoon following torrential rain in the city that waterlogged the ground.

By the time rain came, Dhaka City Mayor Sadeq Hossain could only complete formalities of the opening ceremony of the two-day meet.

Bangladesh Athletics Federation (BAF) has, however, asked the participating teams to be present at the venue at 7am today despite a daylong hartal called by the opposition party.

"We asked them to be at the ground in the morning, but everything will depend on the situation and it might be impossible to hold competitions if heavy rain continues in the night," said BAF general secretary Shah Alam.

Allegations have been raised against mismanagement, especially after giving accommodation to the boys' and girls' teams under the same roof.

"It seems that the federation has arranged the meet just as a formality. There is mismanagement everywhere and the ground was not even properly prepared. But we are astonished to see that boys and girls have been accommodated in the same dormitory," said an aggrieved team manager on condition of anonymity.

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PREMIER LEAGUE

Team watch: Abahani

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

With only two league titles to show for in the last ten years, it has to be said that things have not gone right for Abahani. The side that had recorded the first hat-trick of league championships from 1983 to 1985, has just completed another treble the last season was their third in a row without a major trophy.

After a wretched start to the new season, the signs do not look good for the boys from Dhanmondi, especially after their 4-0 defeat to new-power Brothers Union in the Independence day Gold Cup, the season's curtain raising tournament.

But if you are Abahani, hope springs eternal even after suffering the biggest loss in 30 years. And the Sky Blues are confident of mounting a challenge for the league crown perhaps inspired by a 5-1 demolition of arch rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club in the Federation Cup.

Abahani still failed to reach the final of that competition but warmed up well for the Premier League when they clinched the Independence Day football title last week in Rajshahi where Brothers did not take part and the other hot side Muktijoddha sent only their second string team.

"We've had very good preparations and although we could not pick the players we had in mind before

the transfers, we will be in the title race as usual," said coach Amlesh Sen who has been involved with the club since its birth in 1972.

Abahani, who have played 12 matches this season losing three, finished third last year but nine players of that squad have left. The new look side had to concentrate on picking upcoming players after failing to recruit the four Bangladesh internationals it had targeted during the transfers.

"Consistency is the key to winning a league and I believe my players have peaked at the right time. There is very little injury prob-



JOY: Indispensable

lem and our young players have gelled well with the seniors and the overseas booters," said Amlesh who played for Abahani until 1984 before joining the club's coaching staff.

Abahani have retained skipper Joy, goalkeeper Nizam, striker Ujjal and midfielder Parvez apart from rookie defenders Shawkat and Faisal while their significant signings are national striker Farhad and ex-national defender Pradeep.

"We did not get the desired service from our Chilean and Argentine players in the Independence Day Gold Cup in Dhaka. But Ndem (Cameroon) and Ibrahim (Ghana), who have replaced them, have looked great so far. Ndem is a hard worker while Ibrahim is a skimmer. All we need now is a quality striker who will put an end to our scoring problems.

"The failure of the strikers and lack of matured players in the defence have cost us heavily. But Pradeep's return from suspension has given the backline some depth. So now we have put our effort into getting a specialist striker."

The Abahani team management is still waiting for the doctor's take on the injury of their latest import Cameroonian forward Pougba before they finalise the quota of three foreigners.

The entire team will be built around Joy, arguably the best defensive midfielder in the country, but Amlesh was worried about a

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