

U-10 chess from June 15

SPORTS REPORTER

An under-10 chess tournament will begin on June 15 at the federation hall-room.

The interested boys and girls have been asked to enroll their names before June 13 with age certificate.

The Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) will select the top 12 players from the Swiss League competition for long-term training.

Gaibandha chess

OUR CORRESPONDENT

The final matches of the Anwar Hossain Smriti chess competition organised by the Utshahi Tarun Gosthi concluded here at the hall room of the district sports association yesterday.

In the first group a total of four under-16 teams appeared in the competition. Hridoy of GKSP secured the title while Sumon of Utshahi Tarun Gosthi became runner-up.

In the second group a total of 16 sports organisations participated in the competition. In this event Sakil of Eleven Star clinched the crown and Babu of Sunrise Sporting Slub emerged runner-up.

Rangamati soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Kaptai upazila crushed Baghaichhari 4-1 in their second round match of the Zila Parishad Junior (Under-14) Gold Cup football tournament at the local stadium yesterday.

Reshim Uddin netted all the goals to record the first hatrick in the tournament. Yusuf pulled one back for the losers.

PREVIEW: ARGENTINA V BRAZIL LIVE ON TEN SPORTS AT 7AM BST (THURSDAY)

The ultimate clash

AFP, Montevideo



World Cup champions Brazil face arch rivals Argentina on Wednesday night in a winner-takes-all clash with the victors earning a berth for next year's 32-nation World Cup finals.

Huge prestige awaits the winners such is the interest surrounding the fixture.

Fans spent the night of Sunday to Monday outside River Plate's Monumental stadium hoping to buy tickets with a queue that extended two kilometres and that was eight-people wide.

Riot police with batons and shields at one point intervened to control the thousands of people as scuffles broke out.

Argentina, in the shadow of Brazil, who have won two out of three World Cup finals during the last decade, have a point to prove

but this fixture is always treated with huge respect by both sides.

Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira told the Brazilian press: "It's not something that you can put into words. Let's be clear though, it's a rivalry that is limited to football and doesn't extend to politics or culture.

"Argentinians don't hate Brazilians or vice-versa."

The Uruguayan referee of the fixture, Gustavo Mendez, hoped the clash would inspire a party spirit rather than a warlike attitude. He told Clarin.com: "The term war does not correspond to a wonderful sport such as soccer. I hope it is more of a celebration than a war."

Brazil do have a point to prove having lost their last two games at the Monumental stadium and not having won there in nearly a decade.

Parreira has led Brazil against Argentina seven times but only twice at this particular venue - when they lost 1-0 in 1983 but drew 1-1 in

1993 - and he is out to vastly improve those statistics with a win.

Brazil beat Argentina 3-1 at home in Belo Horizonte just over a year ago and will want to avoid what happened in 2002 qualifiers when they first won 3-1 at home before losing 2-1 in Argentina after going a goal ahead.

Brazil are going into the match in good spirits, having beaten Paraguay 4-1 on Sunday, though that cannot be said for their opponents who lost their unbeaten record in a 2-0 defeat away to Ecuador on Saturday.

Argentina lead the 10-nation, South American World Cup qualifying table with 28 points and Brazil now have 27 points from their 14 matches. The top four qualify automatically with the fifth-placed team playing off with the Oceania winners.

Parreira however continues to do without midfielder Juninho Pernambucano who pulled a ham-

string in training though he is expected to recover in time for the Confederations Cup in Germany from June 15 to 29.

Brazil team doctors confirmed Juninho would definitely not be playing against the Argentinians.

Third placed Ecuador - who are bidding for their second successive finals appearance - will look to continue their fine form with at least a point in a tough away trip to Colombia.

Paraguay will not want to slip-up again after their Brazilian defeat as they host bottom of the table Bolivia while defeat for Venezuela in Chile would probably end their hopes of making the finals in Germany.

Peru too cannot afford any mistakes as they sit five points adrift of fourth-placed Paraguay and entertain Uruguay on Wednesday.

Glazer's sons join MU board

AFP, London

Manchester United said on Tuesday that non-executive chairman Roy Gardner and two non-executive directors had resigned from the board of the world's richest football club following Malcolm Glazer's takeover.

The US tycoon's three sons were meanwhile appointed to the board, it said in a statement to the London Stock Exchange.

"Following the unconditional mandatory cash offer for Manchester United... Roy Gardner, the non-executive chairman of Manchester United, and Ian Much and Jim O'Neill, both non-executive directors of Manchester United, have each resigned," it added. The English Premiership club also announced the appointment of Joel, Avram and Bryan Glazer and the re-appointment of its commercial director.

"Manchester United is pleased to announce the re-appointment to the board of directors of Andy Anson as commercial director and the appointment of Joel Glazer, Avram Glazer and Bryan Glazer as new non-executive directors."

The boardroom reshuffle was effective from June 6, 2005, the statement added.

Malcolm Glazer initially seized majority control of United after buying a 28.7-percent stake in the club from Irish racing millionaires J.P. McManus and John Magnier last month.

Manchester United's board later caved in to Glazer after agreeing to sell its minority stake to the 76-year-old owner of NFL franchise Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Minority shareholders in the Premiership team have until June 13 to accept Glazer's unconditional offer valuing the club at 790.3 million pounds (1.16 billion euros, 1.47 billion dollars).

Van der Sar's mission

AFP, London

Edwin van der Sar has vowed to become Manchester United's new Peter Schmeichel and put them back on top of English football.

The former Juventus and Ajax keeper has agreed a two-year contract at Old Trafford who have tried 10 keepers since Schmeichel left in 1999 after the treble-winning season.

"They have tried a lot of goalkeepers since Peter went. I know United wanted a goalkeeper with experience, leadership qualities and who has performed at the highest level," said the 34-year-old Dutch international after his 2 million pound switch from Fulham.

"I am that man and I am still a player with big ambitions. I believe I am now back at a level where I belong.

"A lot has been said about replacing Peter Schmeichel. I will do my best to copy what he did. I know I have the experience and the ability to help the club push for all prizes next season."

United could have landed Van der Sar in 1999 if they had moved quicker when he was leaving Ajax.

Portuguese side want Gazza

AFP, Losbon

A minor Portuguese outfit Algarve United are trying to sign former England star Paul Gascoigne.

Gascoigne resigned in October last year as player-coach of fourth division Boston United after just three months in the job.

He also spent a short-lived spell in China as a player-coach.

Algarve United have only been in existence for a year, but they have high ambitions.



PHOTO: REUTERS

WELCOME TO MARADONA LAND! Brazilian aces Robinho (L) and Ronaldinho (R) stand beside Argentine legend Diego Maradona who came to meet them at Brazil's team hotel in Buenos Aires on Monday.

PREVIEW: AFC ZONE QUALIFIERS

Iran, Japan almost there

AFP, Bangkok



Iran and Asian champions Japan only need draws against Bahrain and North Korea on Wednesday to secure their automatic seats at the World Cup finals in Germany next year.

But both Asian heavyweights are promising to go all out for wins as they look to qualify in style from group B.

In group A South Korea, 2002 World Cup semi-finalists, will be eyeing maximum points against Kuwait, who are under new management after Serbia and Montenegro coach Slobodan Pavkovic paid for Saturday's 3-0 drubbing by Saudi Arabia with his job.

Former coach Mohammad Ibrahim has been handed the task of trying to reverse the team's fortunes with only two throws of the dice left.

"We have only 48 hours and while its not an easy task its not impossible. We have lost seven points so far in the qualifiers and

the situation now is very hard," the 42-year-old told football.asia.com on Monday.

South Korea are in second on seven points, one behind leaders Saudi Arabia who host Uzbekistan in Riyadh.

The Saudis, under Gabriel Calderon, are vying for their fourth straight World Cup.

The top two in each group qualify automatically with the third-placed teams facing a play-off against each other with the winner playing the fourth-placed team from the Concacaf zone for another place.

Iran, bidding for a place in their third World Cup, have been promised "valuable" bonuses by President Mohammed Khatami if they make it to a fourth final.

"Wednesday will be a great day for Iran and the Iranians," said Mohammad Dadkan, the head of Iran's Football Federation.

"Although we can qualify with just a draw, we want to get the maximum points. We want everyone to pray."

Iran's Croatian coach Branko Ivankovich refused to get carried away with the tide of expectation.

"The game is not over yet," he said.

"It is too soon for the big celebration. We have a difficult game ahead of us on Wednesday against Bahrain. Some of our players got two yellow cards meaning they will not be able to play."

Man of the Match and the sole goal scorer in the North Korea game, Rahman Rezaei, is among them.

Japan were put through a searching training session on Monday as their manager Zico left no stone unturned in his pursuit of qualification.

"We know we can go to Germany with a draw, but we will be playing to win," the former Brazilian star said.

Zico is missing three key players through suspension - talismanic midfielder Hidetoshi Nakata, fellow midfielder Shunsuke Nakamura and left-sided flyer Alessandro Santos.

The clash on Wednesday night is being played behind closed doors in neutral Bangkok on the orders of FIFA after crowd trouble in Pyongyang erupted in the game against Iran in March.

PREVIEW: UEFA ZONE QUALIFIERS

A chance to cash in

AP, London



Perennial European powerhouses Spain, the Netherlands, Portugal and the Czech Republic can significantly boost their chances of qualifying for the 2006 World Cup with wins against relatively easy opponents Wednesday.

The most competitive of the 13 scheduled matches is likely to be European champion Greece against visiting Ukraine. The former Soviet Republic can just about guarantee itself a spot in the tournament with a win, while the Greeks will be looking to extend their seven-match unbeaten run and keep themselves ahead of Turkey in the standings.

The teams drew 1-1 in their first meeting in Kiev in October.

Ukraine leads Group 2 with 20 points, and Greece is second with 15. Turkey, which visits Kazakhstan, is third with 13 points.

The eight European group winners and the best two second-place teams qualify directly for the World Cup in Germany. The other six runners-up play off for three more spots.

The Netherlands, which visits Finland in Group 1, made some changes Monday, dropping PSV Eindhoven midfielder Mark van Bommel and replacing him with club teammate Phillip Cocu.

Netherlands coach Marco van Basten also dropped Jan Venegoor, Andre Ooijer and Wilfred Bouma.

The Dutch team leads Group 1 with 19 points, one more than the Czech Republic, which hosts Macedonia.

Spain, which trails Group 7 leader Serbia-Montenegro on goal difference with 12 points, hosts Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Spanish team struggled in its 1-0 win over Lithuania on Saturday.

Portugal, boosted by the return of Luis Figo on Saturday in a win over Slovakia, visits Estonia in

Group 3. The first time the Portuguese met Estonia, it took 75 minutes to break through the defense in a 4-0 win.

Also scheduled for Wednesday are Romania vs. Armenia; Denmark vs. Albania; Latvia vs. Liechtenstein; Luxembourg vs. Slovakia; Faeroe Islands vs. Ireland; Belarus vs. Scotland; and Iceland vs. Malta.

Ireland, which gave up two second-half goals in a 2-2 draw with Israel on Saturday, could take over first place in Group 4 with a win.

Switzerland currently leads the group with 12 points, followed by Israel with 11, and Ireland and France with 10 each.

Germany, which automatically qualifies as host, faces Russia in its final warmup before the Confederations Cup.

Other group leaders, including Italy, Poland and Croatia, are idle. The next round of European qualifying is Sept. 3.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Nigerian footballer Ernest Jeremiah (C) is welcomed by Muktiyoddha Sangsad officials at the Zia International Airport on his arrival from Kolkata yesterday. The East Bengal striker, originally linked to play for Dhaka Mohammedan, has finally signed for Muktiyoddha to play in the ongoing Premier Football League.

Pele's son

FROM PAGE 12

Some 70 police officers participated in the arrests in Sao Paulo, which also netted weapons and 11 vehicles, according to media reports.

Edinho is a former footballer with the Santos club, where Pele also played.

Pele, one of the greatest footballers of all time who won the World Cup three times with Brazil, went on to become a government minister in his home country.

BCCI & WCAI

FROM PAGE 12

heard they are considering the merger, and are looking into how other countries have merged and they are going to put it up in the next meeting."

According to the BCCI, though they are considering the merger, the matter has been put on hold. SK Nair, secretary of the BCCI, was quoted by the Indian Express as saying, "The recent performances

[of the women's team] have been exceptional and we want to give them due credence. The BCCI will soon allow itself to take a decision on this."

Robinho deal done?

RIO DE JANEIRO

The transfer of Brazil striker Robinho from Santos to Real Madrid has virtually been sealed, Madrid left-back Roberto Carlos said.

Carlos was speaking at a press conference during the national team's training for the World Cup Qualifiers against Paraguay on Sunday and Argentina on June 8.

"Robinho is coming to a great club which has an immense infrastructure. Real is different from other clubs and he will play better there than he did at Santos," said Carlos.

Meanwhile, Real Madrid soccer director Arrigo Sacchi confirmed the interest.

He said: "When I was in Parma I wanted Robinho. He is young but very good. The economic situation is addressed by the president. It is true we have possibilities, but not everything is done yet. He is a player I am interested in."

Pakistan square

FROM PAGE 12

Former West Indies skipper Brian Lara was named player-of-the-series after scoring centuries in both games.

BRIEF SCORES

PAKISTAN: First innings 374 (Younis 106, Kamal 51, Inzamam 50, Akmal 49, Afridi 33; Collymore 7-78, Powell 2-69)

WEST INDIES: First innings 404 (Lara 153, Hinds 63, Sarwan 55, Gayle 33; Shabbir 4-64, Afridi 3-51, Razzaq 2-83)

PAKISTAN: Second innings 309 (Inzamam 117, Malik 64, Younis 43, Afridi 43; Best 4-46, Collymore 4-56)

WEST INDIES: Second innings 143 (Smith 43, Hinds 19, Gayle 15; Kaneria 5-46, Shabbir 4-55)

Result: Pakistan won by 136 runs and draw the 2-Test series 1-1.

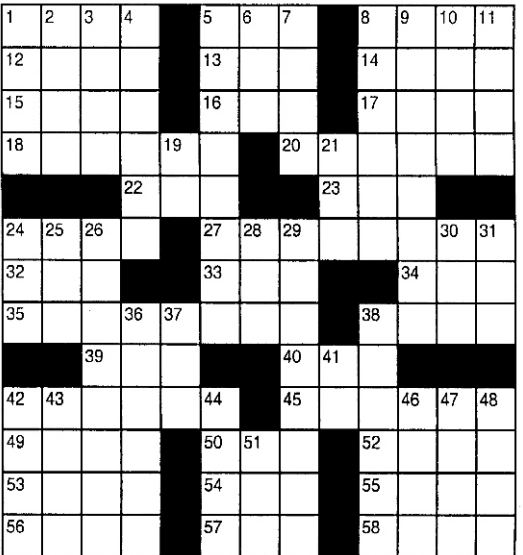
Man-of-the-match: Danish Kaneria.

Man-of-the-series: Brian Lara.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
1 Silents star Theda
5 Neely of hockey
8 Highlander
12 Norse lander
13 "Tobacco Road" character
14 In fine fettle
15 Bring up
16 "— your old man!"
17 One side of the Urals
18 Awkward sort
20 Kidnapper
22 Tackle
23 Cause of royal insomnia
24 House-hold members
27 Came back
32 Generation
33 Jazz trombonist
34 Zsa Zsa's sister
- 35 Winter phenomenon
38 Branch
39 Prior to
40 Freddy's street
42 Outer layer of a wall
45 Vulgar
49 Stopover
50 Stopover en route to Casa-blanca
52 Examine
53 Put on the line
54 "— Miser-ables"
55 Piquancy
56 Wilander of tennis
57 Pismire
- 58 Dispatch a dragon
DOWN
1 "Wozeck" composer
2 Vicinity
3 Omani money
4 Not this way!
5 Skillet makeup
6 Big fuss
7 N. classi-fication
8 Corset, e.g.
9 Half a flamenco duo
10 Hedge-podge
11 Lachrymal drop
19 Fine
- 21 "Simp-sons" shop-keeper
24 Lobbyists' grp.
25 id
counter-part
26 Air
28 Mound stal
29 Unable to show versatility, maybe
30 Time of antici-pation
31 Flood control
36 Imbibes
37 Capital
38 Intelli-gence
41 "Behold!"
42 Standard-ized
paper-work
43 La Scala offering
44 Big bash
46 Verifiable
47 "Mens — in ..."
48 Irritable
51 Coop dweller

Solution time: 25 mins.



CRYPTOQUIP

M W K S H O W E ' L W S U E D Q

O I K R S K Y H D K R Z K W Y W S I ,

K B H I F Z B H O S Z E ' L

K Y W S U E D Q O B H D F M E U W O ?

Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF OUR WASHING MACHINE STOPPED FUNCTIONING, I IMAGINE WE'D HIRE A SPIN DOCTOR.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: K equals C

The Cryptquip 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.