

Muktijoddha DC Gold Cup champs

UNB, Comilla
Dhaka Muktijoddha Sangsad KC emerged champions in the Comilla DC Gold Cup football tournament...

The final rolled into spot kick session after the stipulated 90-minute was ended goalless. A total of 14 teams, including country's soccer giants Dhaka Mohammedan and Dhaka Muktijoddha Sangsad, took part in the meet, organised by the Comilla District Association.

Chappell blames

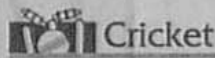
FROM PAGE 12
In that regard our exchange was beneficial. Ganguly's 101 at Bulawayo was his first international century since the 144 against Australia at Brisbane in November 2003.

Bashar's worst

FROM PAGE 12
I am used to batting under pressure as I come to bat in the middle order, said the centurion who was on the verge of missing the Test match due to an elbow injury. I batted in a similar situation last year against England when the team was three down with 40 or 50 runs on the board.

Bangladesh to play

Now 6-nation Afro-Asia U-19 meet in India in November



ACC MEDIA RELEASE

As an important exercise in preparation for the U-19 World Cup, Afro-Asian Cricket Cooperation (AACC) will be holding a six-nation in the Indian port city of Vishakhapatnam from November 19-27, 2005.

The recent Standard Chartered Afro-Asia Cup was the AACC's first tournament venture. An 'A' team tournament, featuring the players on the brink of selection for the Test

and ODI teams is scheduled to be held early in 2006.

Peter Chingoka, president of the Africa Cricket Association said: "These kinds of player-formative exercises are very much part of what the AACC aims to promote over the next few years."

The U-19 World Cup will be held in Sri Lanka in February 2006.

SCHEDULE table with columns DATE, MATCH, and details of fixtures from Nov 19 to Nov 27.

"Our cricketers all have ambitions to play at the highest level and age-group tournaments such as these in different conditions against their cricketing peers can only help them on their way to the top," said Gerald Majola, Cricket South Africa's chief executive officer.

"The U-19 Afro-Asia Cup will go a long way in creating international cricketers."

"It's important that players get as much exposure as possible to top competition and different conditions. Vishakhapatnam will provide a close approximation to what the U-19 players will encounter in Sri Lanka," said KK Haridas, ACC events executive.

In a joint statement, Hoosain Ayob and Sultan Rana, the development managers of Africa and Asia respectively, affirmed that, "Alongside Africa's and Asia's existing development activities, these high-profile events are welcome additions. The scale and scope of our development programme through the support of the AACC, to boost the efforts of all our members will be substantial."

Espanyol winner to be challenged

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid are considering the possibility of contesting the result of their 1-0 defeat at Espanyol on Monday, claiming that the winning goals should not have been allowed.

After Real's first half chances were thwarted by Espanyol's outstanding goalkeeper Carlos Kameni, Espanyol turned the tables in the second period with Daniel Jarque heading the only goal from an Ivan De La Pena free kick.

Real players protested at the time that the goal should not have been allowed to stand as referee Julian Rodriguez Santiago had blown for a penalty while the ball was in the air.

Madrid said in a statement: "Real Madrid are studying the video images of the match against Espanyol, and in particular the move which led to the goal."

"The club think there was a poor interpretation of the rules because, once the whistle has blown, any subsequent action is nullified."

PREVIEW: SERIE A

Juve's tricky outing

AFP, Rome

Reigning champions Juventus, the only team in Serie A with a 100 per cent record after three matches, face a thorough examination of their title credentials away to Udinese on Wednesday.

While Juve extended their flawless run on Sunday with a narrow 2-1 victory at home to Ascoli, Udinese's five-match winning streak came to an abrupt end after a 4-2 defeat at Fiorentina.

AC Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani, who takes care of the club's day-to-day matters with owner Silvio Berlusconi busy running the country, has given Carlo Ancelotti a vote of confidence ahead of their match at home to Lazio.

Milan went down 2-1 at Sampdoria on Sunday and are already five points behind Juve, but Galliani is confident his coach will turn things around quickly.

"Ancelotti isn't afraid and he isn't wavering," he said. "He is and will continue to be our coach."

Lazio, along with Palermo, Fiorentina and Livorno, are unbeaten with two victories and a draw from their three matches.

Palermo host Reggina, who are still looking for their first point, Fiorentina play away to Lecce and Livorno visit Messina.

Inter Milan, 3-0 winners against Lecce last Saturday, face a potentially tricky game at Chievo.

FIXTURES

Wednesday's fixtures (all 1830 GMT kick-offs): AC Milan v Lazio, Ascoli v Siena, Chievo v Inter Milan, Empoli v Cagliari, Lecce v Fiorentina, Messina v Livorno, Palermo v Reggina, Roma v Parma, Treviso v Sampdoria, Udinese v Juventus

Morning did

FROM PAGE 12

Rasel, who brought the ball successfully in to the left-handers, then clean bowled Kumar Sangakkara, who had survived two run out chances on night.

Tottering at 48-4, Sri Lanka clawed their way back magnificently as the wicket began to ease and the Tigers' fielding became sloppy from being sharp in the first hour.

Rasel, who was relieved just 15 minutes before lunch, took 2-46 from his long 10-over spell while Shahadat, who was struck for three fours in one over by Thilan Samaraweera, took 2-34 from his 8-over first spell.

But the bowlers toiled for the rest of the day as big hundreds by Samaraweera and Tilakaratne Dilshan took the match away with mixing caution with aggression. Samaraweera started boldly, hammering the two pacers for five fours in two overs but it was Dilshan started his fireworks, he went back into his usual defensive shell.

The pair, who shared a half-century stand in the first Test and were the two top scorers in Sri Lanka's only Test, added the total to 107 at lunch and steadied 161 runs in 32 overs of the second session with a flurry of strokes all around the park.

Things, however, could have been totally different had the fielders availed chances offered by Dilshan, who later drove fluently through covers and punished the spinners with sweeps and cuts when he was not dancing down the track.

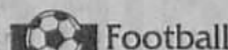
On 11, the number six batsman edged Rasel but Ashrafal was nowhere near the ball which raced through the slips for four. Just after lunch, Dilshan survived a strong lbw shout from Mohammad Rafique and played in air twice in his 30s. But Aftab at gully and Enamul at midwicket reacted late and only managed to palm the ball on first bounce.

Dilshan never looked back and sent the opposition on a leather hunt to dash Bangladesh's hopes with a record 280-run partnership between the two opens.

It was also the best ever partnership at P Sara, surpassing 240 between Asanka Gurusinghe and Ranatunga against Pakistan in 1985-86.

PREMIERSHIP

Campbell to the rescue



AFP, London

Sol Campbell scored twice on his first Premiership appearance of the season as Arsenal beat Everton 2-0 at Highbury on Monday night.

And it is his impact at the other end of the pitch that will determine whether he re-establishes himself in England's starting line-up, it was as well to highlight his return from a calf injury to the watching England assistant manager Tord Grip.

Campbell, who turned 31 on Sunday, could hardly have asked for a more eye-catching start after his return from a calf injury.

His first goal came after 11 minutes, as he rose above a posse of bodies to divert Jose Antonio Reyes's right-wing free-kick past the on-rushing Nigel Martyn.

Then, on the half-hour, Reyes slung in a free-kick from the left, and Campbell, barely marked at the back post, headed low into the corner.

He almost completed a remark-

able hat-trick before half-time, missing another Reyes free-kick by inches as the Clock End chanted "Sol, Sol, Sol."

Everton were not quite as bad as they were in the 7-0 defeat to Arsenal last season, but they weren't far off. Given Everton had lost on their nine previous visits to Highbury, a tenth successive reverse was perhaps not surprising, but they have now suffered seven defeats in eight games this season, and lie, deservedly, second bottom of the Premiership.

Arsenal used to disdain dead-balls, regarding them as merely a means of setting in motion another passing move, but after Gilberto Silva converted a corner against Thun in the Champions League last week, headed goals are becoming almost as common as they were in the George Graham days.

Even so, and despite never finding top gear, in brief flashes Arsenal provided a welcome demonstration that football is a game that still can offer aesthetic pleasure.

Arsenal had other chances.

Robin van Persie, released by an exquisite Reyes through-ball, struck the outside of the post, and Kolo Toure, surging forwards from centre-back, almost completed a classic, meeting Fredrik Ljungberg's cross, only for his flick with the inside of his heel to scoot across goal and wide of the far post.

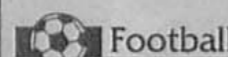
The closest Arsenal came to a third, though, was from another free-kick, Martyn patting the ball down to Ljungberg, who lashed his shot against the crossbar.

Everton, in response, could offer only brute force, and a robust challenge from Phil Neville led to Robert Pires hobbling off with a thigh injury after 29 minutes.

Neville, Tim Cahill and Tony Hibbert were all booked for overly combative tackles, and it was surely frustration at the persistent fouling that led Reyes to collect his own booking for a kick at Neville.

Still, Everton's physical approach checked Arsenal sufficiently to keep the score to 2-0, which, given their overwhelming inferiority, was some achievement.

Owen off the mark



AFP, Newcastle

England striker Michael Owen opened his goal-scoring account for Newcastle in a 3-0 win at Blackburn and promised there's more to come.

The 25-year-old Owen scored his side's second goal in the win at Ewood Park, his first since he moved from Real Madrid and with three points from their last two games, the player is confident the Magpies are on the right track.

"It's nice that we went out and got three points. It's amazing what a win can do. People start looking at the positives, now we hope to keep the momentum going," said Owen as Graeme Souness's team moved

out of the bottom three. "It was a good day all round for us. Let's hope it's the start of big things."

"It was a special day for myself, the team and everyone. To win 3-0 away from home when the pressure is on is a great result. We have picked up our first win and with four points from the last two games, we feel a lot better about ourselves."

Souness's mood was lifted by the first goal for Owen since his 17 million pounds (32 million dollars) move from Real Madrid, four minutes after Alan Shearer had ended his 25-hour goal drought with a 62nd minute free-kick.

Souness claimed Shearer could still make an impact in the Premiership.

"You would be a fool to write off

Alan Shearer," he added. "You can look at his track record and I don't see less desire in him on the training pitch."

"Opportunities for strikers are a bit like buses, they don't come along and then they come along all at once. I hope this is the start of a run for Alan because we need his goals."

"And it was nice for Michael to get off the mark. He's a naturally fit boy but he needed that 90 minutes to get something near to where he wants to be."

"I don't care who scores the goals for Newcastle but I don't think anyone is surprised Michael scored today."

"This is the first full week he has had to train in a long long time because of internationals."

PREVIEW: PRIMERA LIGA

Real tension



AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid's third successive defeat at the weekend has turned the visit of Athletic Bilbao on Thursday into a make-or-break match for the Spanish giants and their coach Wanderley Luxemburgo.

"What am I going to do now?" asked Spanish sports daily As on Monday alongside a picture of Real's former president Florentino Perez after Real's 1-0 defeat at Espanyol.

Perez hired three coaches last season, culminating with the arrival of Luxemburgo in December, but few pundits expect the former Brazil boss to be around to celebrate his anniversary if Real lose at home to Athletic.

"Now's the time to show that we are real men," said right back Michel Salgado on Monday.

Making matters worse for Luxemburgo is that he will be without at least three key players against the Basque visitors.

Zinedine Zidane continues to recover from injury and while the former World Player of the Year may be fit to travel to Alaves on Sunday, playing against Athletic is almost certainly one game too soon.

Luxemburgo will also have to deal with the suspensions of Sergio Ramos, sent off in only his third game for Real after arriving three

weeks ago for 27 million euros from Sevilla, and also Julio Baptista.

Francisco Pavon is likely to replace Ramos and Jose Maria 'Guti' Gutierrez will look after Baptista's absence but Luxemburgo is no doubt keeping his fingers crossed that he doesn't also lose Ivan Helguera.

Real officials said on Monday that the central defender was doubtful after picking up a mild thigh strain at Espanyol.

The lack of cover in the middle of the back four raises the possibility that Jonathan Woodgate could be pressed into action.

The England international missed the whole of last season due to injury and only sat on the bench for the first time in an official game at Espanyol but on Thursday he could find himself starting his first game since April last year.

Real's near neighbours Getafe, from Madrid's southern suburbs, are enjoying their moment in the sun after their 4-3 win at Alaves put them on top of the Spanish first division.

They can consolidate their unfamiliar position at home to Real Mallorca on Wednesday.

Reigning Spanish champions Barcelona face Valencia on Wednesday, looking to bounce back after their 2-1 loss at Atletico Madrid on Sunday.

Barca coach Frank Rijkaard has kept essentially the same team that

won the championship in May but they have looked a lot less formidable this campaign.

"When you look at the results this hasn't been as brilliant as last season, but we have still only lost one game," said the Dutchman on Monday, trying to put a shine on Barca's lacklustre performances.

FIXTURES

Wednesday (Kick off 1900GMT unless stated): Barcelona v Valencia, Deportivo La Coruna v Real Betis, Getafe v Real Mallorca, Malaga v Alaves, Racing Santander v Espanyol, Real Sociedad v Atletico Madrid, Sevilla v Cadiz, Villarreal v Celta Vigo, Real Zaragoza v Osasuna Thursday: Real Madrid v Athletic Bilbao (2000)

New CCL goes

FROM PAGE 12

be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium conference room on September 25 and 26. Each team is allowed to rope in three national players and one from the Premier Division, First Division and the under-19 team.

Meanwhile, the BCB has finalised a 20-member national pool. Besides two foreign players can be registered per side but only one is eligible for the semifinals and final.

Ashes flops pay the price

Australia name squads for Super Series



AFP, Sydney

Damien Martyn, Jason Gillespie and Michael Kasprovic paid the price for Australia's Ashes failure Tuesday when they were axed from the Test squad to face a selection of the world's best cricketers next month.

Opening batsman Matthew Hayden survived the cull but was dropped from the one-day side in a sign from selectors that his Test career remains in the balance after his poor form against England.

The selector's decision to leave Martyn out was the biggest surprise. In 61 Tests for Australia he has scored over 4,000 runs at an average just shy of 50, including 12 Test match centuries.

But he averaged just 19.77 in the five Tests against England, and becomes the latest Ashes casualty after Gillespie and Kasprovic were dropped during the series as Australia vainly attempted a comeback.

Australia opted to inject fresh blood into the 13-man Test and 14-

man one-day squads that will face a formidable International Cricket Council (ICC) World XI next month.

Promising all-rounder Shane Watson and batsman Brad Hodge were called up to invigorate an ageing Test squad, along with specialist spinner Stuart McGill.

Watson, 24, did not feature in the Ashes squad after making his Test debut last summer but has been reinstated as Australia search for an all-rounder to match England's Andrew Flintoff.

McGill, who toured with the Ashes squad but did not play a Test, has a formidable record at his home ground, the SCG, where the six-day Test will be played from October 14-19.

Selectors resisted calls for wholesale changes to the Test team that lost the Ashes for the first time in 16 years but a Cricket Australia inquest into the loss is still underway and could yet lead to a more extensive overhaul.

While Hayden, 33, retained his Test spot, he was dropped from the one-day side, along with Gillespie and Kasprovic.

The trio were replaced by South Australian quick Shaun Tait, New South Wales fast bowler Nathan Bracken and Queensland all-rounder

James Hopes, who made a century for Australia in Pakistan this week.

The Super Series pits Australia against International Cricket Council (ICC) World XI for three one-day matches in Melbourne and a single six-day Test in Sydney.

Gillespie, 30, was one of Australia's most successful bowlers of recent years before his form dipped badly in the lead up to and during the Ashes tour. He has taken over 250 wickets for his country at an average of 26.61.

Kasprovic, 33, who has been in and out of the side over many years, has 106 wickets at a little over 32.

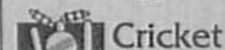
TEST SQUAD

Michael Clarke, Adam Gilchrist, Matthew Hayden, Brad Hodge, Simon Katich, Justin Langer, Brett Lee, Stuart McGill, Glenn McGrath, Ricky Ponting (captain), Shaun Tait, Shane Watson, Shane Watson.

ONE-DAYSQUAD

Nathan Bracken, Michael Clarke, Adam Gilchrist, Brad Hogg, James Hopes, Michael Hussey, Simon Katich, Brett Lee, Damien Martyn, Glenn McGrath, Ricky Ponting (captain), Andrew Symonds, Shaun Tait, Shane Watson.

Eng reveal Pak tour party



AFP, London

England have called up four uncapped players including 36-year-old spinner Shaun Udal for this winter's Test tour to Pakistan.

Chairman of selectors David Graveney added Hampshire seamer Chris Tremlett, teammate Udal, Sussex's Matt Prior and Alex Loudon of Warwickshire to the party which had picked itself following the Ashes Series win over Australia.

As expected the Test squad contains all 12 of the players who guided England to a 2-1 win against Australia in the Ashes this summer.

Loudon and Tremlett will be making their first overseas trip with the senior squad while Udal, who has played 10 one-day internationals, makes his first trip since touring Australia in 1994-5.

He is rewarded for an outstanding county season.

Prior is included as the reserve wicketkeeper to provide cover for Grainger Jones, but the big surprise is the inclusion of Loudon as a third spinner ahead of Worcestershire's Gareth Batty, who has performed that role for the last two winters.

"In choosing our Test squad, the area that involved the most discussion was the choice of spin bowlers," revealed Graveney.

Graveney dismissed concerns over the age of Udal, who has played 10 one-day internationals, but makes his first trip since touring Australia in 1994-5.

"Shaun Udal is an experienced spinner and based on his performances this summer we felt he merited inclusion ahead of other candidates such as Gareth Batty, Richard Dawson and Graeme Swann," said Graveney.

Both Tremlett and Lancashire's James Anderson have been included as back-up seamers and their participation in the three-Test series may depend on the fitness of Glamorgan's

Simon Jones, who has been included subject to fitness.

Jones, who claimed 18 wickets in the historic Ashes series triumph, missed the final Test at the Oval with a right-ankle problem, has been included but may be ruled out if his injury requires surgery.

England squads play Pakistan in three Tests and five one-day matches in November-December.

TEST SQUAD

Michael Vaughan (captain), Marcus Trescothick, Andrew Strauss, Ian Bell, Kevin Pietersen, Andrew Flintoff, Grainger Jones, Ashley Giles, Simon Jones, Matthew Hoggard, Steve Harmison, Paul Collingwood, Matt Prior, Chris Tremlett, James Anderson, Alex Loudon, Shaun Udal.

ONE-DAYSQUAD

Vaughan (captain), Trescothick, Strauss, Pietersen, Flintoff, G Jones, Giles, S Jones, Harmison, Collingwood, Prior, Tremlett, Anderson, Vikram Solanki, Liam Plunkett.



Players and officials of Sunbeams, who became champions in the AKES Centenary Basketball Tournament beating Scholastica in the final 15-8, pose for photographers at the Dhanmondi Gymnasium on September 16.

England's Ashes

FROM PAGE 12

Army - for the tour, Khan said. "We have not been officially told but it has been conveyed through telephone calls, 'Please expect more fans than before', and that is because England have won," he said.

Windies players

FROM PAGE 12

tour signed their letters of invitation before Monday's 5pm deadline for accepting the invitation of the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB).

This has come amid ongoing negotiations between the WICB and the West Indies Players' Association (WIPA) which began only a few days before the deadline.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Cryptogram puzzle grid with letters and numbers.

CRYPTOQUIP Y L R N R D J S N R D Y I Y R T W P S O S T D O R P S I R W M L O M N S D J Y T U , Y U X S O O J S Y O O X N N Y T U X W Yesterday's Cryptogram: NEW FILM ABOUT CROQUET PLAYERS WITHOUT THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT: 'ABSENCE OF MALLET'S' Today's Cryptogram Clue: O equals S The Cryptogram 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.