

# BOA to receive land from NSC

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) will get a piece of land from the National Sports Council for construction of its own premises.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman will hand over documents for a plot of land measuring ten-katha inside the Bangabandhu National Stadium to BOA chief Lt Gen Moyeen U Ahmed today.

The BOA will build a three-storied building near the volleyball stadium.

# Scolari to leave Portugal after 2006 WC

REUTERS, Lisbon

Brazilian Luiz Felipe Scolari will quit as coach of Portugal's national side after next year's World Cup finals, the president of the Portuguese FA, Gilberto Madail, was quoted as saying on Monday.

"If the World Cup goes badly, naturally Scolari will not continue, but if it goes well, it will also be impossible to keep him, although we wanted to keep him," Madail told the daily Correio de Manha on Monday.

Scolari became Portugal's coach after leading Brazil to its fifth World Cup victory in 2002 and took Portugal to the final of Euro 2004 in Lisbon last year which they surprisingly lost to Greece.

Portugal secured their place in the 2006 World Cup finals on Sunday with a 2-1 win over Liechtenstein and complete their fixtures with a home match against Latvia on Wednesday.

# Gilchrist stumped

AFP, Sydney

Adam Gilchrist Monday queried the choice of South African Mark Boucher ahead of Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara as the World XI's wicketkeeper for this week's Super Test here against Australia.

Sangakkara was one of the few successes for the badly-beaten World XI in their three-nil one-day series loss to the Australians in Melbourne over the last week.

Australia's glove man felt Sangakkara's innate understanding with fellow countryman and spin wizard Muttiah Muralitharan was worth his selection alone ahead of Boucher.

Muralitharan confuses batsmen and fielders alike with his bewitching turn and looms as one of the world's big attacking weapons on the spin-friendly Sydney Cricket Ground pitch this week.

Sangakkara's batting record is superior to Boucher, with the Sri Lankan left-hander scoring 3,698 runs at 48.02 in 50 Tests compared to Boucher's 3,007 at 30.68 in 84 matches.

Gilchrist was surprised by the world selectors for Boucher ahead of Sangakkara, who had scores of 64, 61 and 13 in his three Super Series innings last week.

"Kumar keeping so regularly and so well to Murali is probably what jumped out at me," Gilchrist told reporters Monday.

"I thought he might have been in the Test position for that reason alone because I imagine it would be so difficult to take on in a one-off scenario.

"But their selection panel had plenty of time to ponder over it and they have come up with that one and Mark Boucher is a very well-performed cricketer for South Africa as we know."

# Wome asked instead

REUTERS, Madrid

Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o said he did not take the penalty against Egypt in Saturday's World Cup qualifier because his teammate Pierre Wome asked to instead.

Defender Wome blasted the injury-time spot kick against the post, costing Cameroon the chance of an African record sixth World Cup finals appearance in Germany next year.

"Why didn't I take the penalty? I went to take it but Wome came up to me and said he was really confident of scoring," Eto'o told Spanish sports daily Sport on Monday.

"You have to accept that these things happen in football sometimes," added the Barcelona player.

The game finished 1-1 and allowed Ivory Coast, who beat Sudan 3-1, to go top of Group Three and qualify for the finals for the first time.

Cameroon took the lead against Egypt through striker Rudolph Douala after 21 minutes but Mohamed Shawky equalised late in the second half.

Inter Milan's Wome missed the chance to put Cameroon through in the fifth minute of injury time, after Salomon Olembe went down in the area.

# It suits Pekerman fine

AFP, Buenos Aires



Argentina coach Jose Pekerman believes the hard-fought South American qualifying competition is just the right sort of battleground his squad needs to triumph in next year's World Cup.

"Players learn a lot in these situations, and so do coaches," he said. "We can take a lot of positives to Germany."

Argentina climbed above Brazil in the group by beating 10-man Peru 2-0 with late goals from Juan Roman Riquelme from an 81st minute penalty and a Luis Guadalupe own goal in added time.

Pekerman said Barcelona's Carlos Tevez, who came on after 58 minutes, made the difference.

"He added a new dimension to the attack," he said.

Brazil coach Carlos Alberto

Parreira not unhappy with a 1-1 draw in the high altitude of Lap Paz where Bolivia's Jose Castillo cancelled out Juninho's opener for the world champions.

"It's difficult to judge the pace of the ball at altitude so we can't be too hard on ourselves," he said.

South America will be represented in Germany by the same quartet who played in 2002 after Paraguay and Ecuador ensured their qualification alongside Brazil and Argentina.

Uruguay, Colombia and Chile battle it out for fifth place and a spot in the play-offs against Australia on Wednesday.

Paraguay were made to work hard in Venezuela before Nelson Haedo Valdez grabbed a 65th minute winner.

Ecuador were held to a goalless draw in a bruising game with Uruguay who held onto fifth spot. They will again face Australia, whom

they beat to qualify for 2002, if they can beat Argentina in their final game on Wednesday.

Uruguay coach Jorge Fossati said: "Uruguay showed a lot of character. We're confident we can make the play-offs."

Colombia lost ground in a disappointing 1-1 home draw with Chile. They now need to win in their final game and Argentina to beat Uruguay to claim the play-off berth for themselves.

Colombia coach Reinaldo Rueda admitted their chances hung by a thread.

"We have to go and do in Paraguay what we failed to do here. Just as everyone predicted, it has all come down to the final game," he said.

Uruguay play Argentina, while Colombia and Chile, who drew 1-1 on Saturday to leave them one point adrift, are up against Paraguay and Ecuador respectively.

# Brazil hold on to draw

FROM PAGE 12

Renato, then Galindo pushed over Robinho, shouted at the referee and still escaped a booking.

Earlier, Sergio Jauregui was also let off for a cynical tackle from behind on Robinho.

Brazil finished the game on the attack and were let down by unusually poor shooting.

Away in Buenos Aires, Argentina scored twice in the final ten minutes for a hard-earned 2-0 win over a stubborn Peru.

Eighteen-year-old Lionel Messi, given his first start by coach Jose Pekerman, set up the opener when he won a penalty, converted by Juan Roman Riquelme, before defender Luis Guadalupe put through his own goal in injury time.

Already-qualified Argentina remained top of the 10-nation South American World Cup qualifying group with 34 points from 17 games and increased their lead over Brazil to three points.

Argentina are away to Uruguay in their final game on Wednesday while Brazil, who have also qualified, host Venezuela.

Out of contention for a finals berth, Peru stayed ninth with 15 points.

Regarded as one of the most gifted Argentine players to play for the national side in years, Messi had made only two brief appearances before Sunday.

He was sent off after less than two minutes of his debut in a friendly against Hungary in August and was given another nine minutes in last month's 1-0 qualifying defeat by

Paraguay. Messi gave the Peru defence a torrid time with his speed but also found the going tough as he was repeatedly fouled by the visitors.

Captain Juan Pablo Sorin had Argentina's two best first-half efforts, both close range headers which were brilliantly saved by Leo Butron.

Apart from that, Peru's spoiling tactics and massed defence frustrated the hosts.

Argentina continued to struggle after halftime and Peru nearly grabbed a shock lead on the hour when Paolo Guerrero outpaced his marker but shot over the goal.

Peru had another chance in the 73rd

minute when Guerrero forced a point-blank save from Roberto Abbondanzieri in a goalmouth scramble.

Two minutes later, Butron made his best save yet when he turned over Hernan Crespo's goal-bound header.

The Peru keeper's luck ran out in the 78th minute when he upended Messi to concede a penalty and was shown the red card.

Play was held up for four minutes as Peru protested the decision before Riquelme sent Erick Delgado the wrong way in the 82nd minute.

Argentina added another injury-time when Guadalupe turned Carlos Tevez's low cross into his own net.

# SOUTH AMERICAN STANDINGS

(Team, Matches Played, Won, Drawn, Lost, Goals For, Goals Against, Points)
Argentina 17 10 4 3 29 16 34
Brazil 17 8 7 2 32 17 31
Paraguay 17 8 4 5 23 22 28
Ecuador 17 8 3 6 23 19 27
Uruguay 17 5 7 5 22 28 22
Colombia 17 5 6 6 23 16 21
Chile 17 5 6 6 18 22 21
Venezuela 17 5 3 9 20 25 18
Peru 17 3 3 6 8 16 27 15
Bolivia 17 4 2 11 19 33 14

REMAINING FIXTURES (Oct 12)  
 Montevideo: Uruguay v Argentina  
 Belem: Brazil v Venezuela  
 Santiago: Chile v Ecuador  
 Asuncion: Paraguay v Colombia  
 Tacna: Peru v Bolivia

# Vaughan wanted to quit captaincy

Cricket

CRICINFO

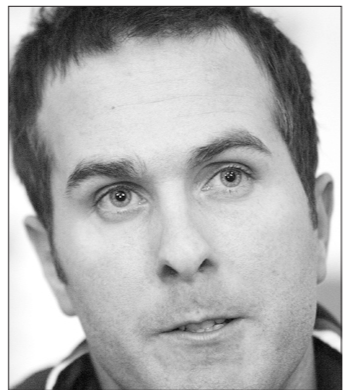
It's hard to imagine it now that he and his team are basking in the aftermath of Ashes triumph, but Michael Vaughan has admitted that at one point he considered quitting the England captaincy. His moment of doubt came during the debate over whether England should tour Zimbabwe in 2004.

The Test series was eventually scrapped, but England went ahead with the four one-dayers, all of which they won easily.

"This was the first time I had felt inclined to give up my position," admitted Vaughan in the Daily Mail on Monday.

"I spoke to David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, and told him

that I didn't need the pressure and that I could quite easily just go back to trying to get into the team as a bats-



MICHAEL VAUGHAN

man only. I wondered if it was all worthwhile."

Vaughan also said that he was coerced into touring Zimbabwe and that, given the choice, he would not have gone. His teammate Steve Harmison ruled himself out of the tour, but Vaughan felt that he was obliged, as captain, to go.

"I wasn't actually blackmailed into going but I was pressured. The rest would have been welcome, especially after playing just about every game over the last four years, and I was disappointed that, despite our success, eventually our views counted for little."

Nevertheless, this did not stop him threatening to withdraw his England side from Zimbabwe once they had got there if they were made to meet Robert Mugabe. At the time, Vaughan said: "The team will not be put in a position to shake any government member's hand."



PHOTO: STAR

Abahani director Harunur Rashid hands over Tk 5.60 lakh in cash to former Abahani and national footballer Monwar Hossain Nannu on behalf of the club at the Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital in Mirpur on Sunday. Shahana Hossain wife of Nannu, Abahani high-ups and ex-footballers were also present.

NZ-SA SERIES

# Fleming plays mind games

AFP, Johannesburg

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming will have an extra incentive to outsmart South African counterpart Graeme Smith when the two countries meet in a one-day international series this month.

Fleming had the upper hand over Smith when the Kiwis gained a crushing 5-1 series win in New Zealand last year but it was Smith who gained the captaincy of the World XI for this week's Super Test in Sydney, Australia.

New Zealand arrive in Johannesburg on Tuesday and will have more than a week to prepare for the international matches in a tour which includes South Africa's first 20-overs international and five 50-overs games.

SQUAD

Stephen Fleming (captain), Daniel Vettori (vice-captain), Andre Adams, Nathan Astle, Shane Bond, James Franklin, Hamish Marshall, James Marshall, Brendon McCullum, Craig McMillan, Kyle Mills, Jacob Oram, Jeetan Patel, Scott Styris, Lou Vincent. Coach, John Bracewell

ITINERARY

- 10: South Africa A, Benoni (day/night).
- 16: South Africa A, Potchefstroom (day).
- 21: Twenty overs international, Johannesburg (day/night).
- 23: First one-day international, Bloemfontein (day).
- 28: Second one-day international, Cape Town (day/night).
- 30: Third one-day international, Port Elizabeth (day).
- November
- 4: Fourth one-day international, Durban (day/night).
- 6: Fifth one-day international, Centurion (day).

# Kahn not buying Ballack excuse

AFP, Berlin

Germany goalkeeper Oliver Kahn claims the 2006 World Cup hosts cannot accept poor performances in the absence of their inspirational captain Michael Ballack.

The Bayern Munich midfielder missed Saturday's 2-1 defeat to Turkey in Istanbul through illness and the media claimed the result was further proof that Germany are a one-man team.

"I cannot carry on like this," Kahn said. "I cannot accept this excuse that Michael Ballack was missing."

Ballack succeeded Kahn as captain when Jurgen Klinsmann took over in July 2004 and the former skipper insisted he was trying to inspire his team.

"I tried to coordinate things from the back and did everything in my power," added Kahn.

# France entering final hours

REUTERS, Paris



France is holding its breath before Wednesday's final act in the team's struggle to qualify for the 2006 World Cup finals.

The former world and European champions, still haunted by past failures, have to beat Cyprus at the Stade de France and hope Switzerland do not win in Ireland at the same time to seal their place in Germany.

Should the Swiss also win, France would have to win by four more goals than they can clinch top spot in a tightly bunched Group Four. On their current form, coach Raymond Domenech's men look unlikely to do that.

With their pedigree, France had been favourites to come out of a group featuring solid teams but no heavyweights.

Domenech, however, says he always knew it would be tough.

"I said from the start that it would come down to the last match and here we are," he said.

"People were laughing then but I don't see anybody laughing now."

France would have made sure of their place in Germany had they won

in Switzerland on Saturday but could only manage a 1-1 draw to revive painful memories of 1993.

Then, France needed one point from their last two home games to book their trip to the 1994 finals in the United States but stumbled to shock last-minute defeats by Israel and Bulgaria.

That fiasco ended the days of Gerard Houllier as France coach and ruined the international careers of talented players such as Eric Cantona and David Ginola.

A similar scenario this time around would probably cost Domenech his job and would seal the fate of France's old guard led by Zinedine Zidane.

The three-times World Player of the Year came out of retirement in August alongside Lilian Thuram and Claude Makelele in a bid to help France qualify.

Victories over the Faroe Islands and Ireland that followed revived some hope, but Zidane and Thuram, both back from injury breaks, showed their age against Switzerland.

France ruled soccer with their triumphs at the 1998 World Cup and the 2000 European Championship.

Their campaign so far, however, suggests they have become ordinary. Dull, goalless home draws against

Switzerland, Ireland and Israel showed that the days were over when France could trounce anyone.

"Ireland and Switzerland are two teams who play good football," said midfielder Patrick Vieira, who also looked below par on the Bern pitch.

"Those who believed we could score four goals against them were wrong. All the teams have improved and they all want to beat France. It's difficult every time now."

With the old generation showing signs of wear and tear and the new one still learning, Domenech, who embarked on a rebuilding mission in the wake of the quarterfinal exit from Euro 2004, has plenty to worry about.

France last reached a World Cup final the qualifying rounds when they sealed their place at the 1986 finals in Mexico where Michel Platini led the team to the semi-finals.

Platini joined the debate by saying before the Bern match that if France could not beat Switzerland, then they would have nothing to look forward to next year.

"He's not totally wrong but on the other hand it's easy to say negative things from the outside," said Vieira.

However, the team are trying their best to stay positive.

"We have to win that last match, no matter how," said Makelele.

# Vieira the cheerleader

AFP, Paris



Captain Patrick Vieira has called for full backing from the fans in France's make-or-break World Cup qualifier against Cyprus in Paris on Wednesday.

The 1998 world champions host the Cypriots at the Stade de France knowing that a win will at the very least guarantee them a place in the play-offs. If Switzerland fail to beat the Republic of Ireland in Dublin the same night then Raymond Domenech's side will gain automatic entry as Group 4 leaders.

Domenech will have to do without Claude Makelele as the Chelsea midfielder is suspended after picking up a second yellow card in the 1-1 draw against Switzerland on Saturday for a tackle on Johan Volanthen.

Given the prize at stake Vieira believes the support of the demanding home fans will be vital to ensuring a positive outcome.

"If we don't play especially well there's a chance the crowd could start turning on us," said the Juventus man.

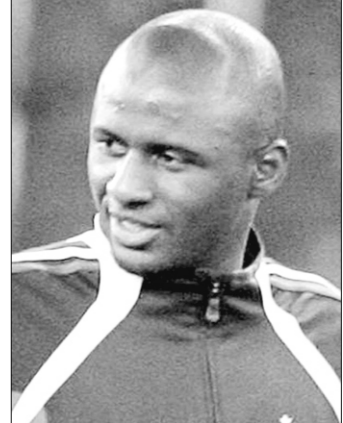
"If we carve out chances but don't capitalise on them then we run the risk of becoming tense, then the fans may start whistling."

"But the public and the supporters appreciate the importance of this game. We'll need them because there are going to be some tough moments."

The midfielder added: "There's a danger it could be a hard match to cope with."

"The important thing is to get the first goal."

Makelele said he couldn't envisage



PATRICK VIEIRA

anything other than victory.

"We have to really, really, really win this match."

"I can't even imagine not being in Germany."

Vieira admitted to not putting up one of his better performances against

Switzerland. "I was no good in the first half, and only average in the second," was the former Arsenal skipper's frank assessment of his contribution, adding that the squad would not dwell on events in Bern.

"The team's disappointed. We did the hard thing by taking the lead, then conceded a goal in the last ten minutes."

"Big teams, when they don't play well, still manage to get a result. Unfortunately we weren't able to do that this time."

"But now that's forgotten, forgotten as quickly as possible, because there's no time to waste."

"Against Cyprus the main thing is to win, then after that the number of goals we score."

"Tactically they're a team that's progressing, they've got two or three players who are capable of making a difference."

He rated France's chances of finishing top of the group as 50-50.

"There's a real chance we can achieve that. It won't be easy for Switzerland to go over there (to Dublin) and get a result. We have to exploit that."

One gratifying statistic however is that France have yet to win at the Stade de France since Domenech took over as manager from Jacques Santini after Euro 2004.

# Gazi Tank give CCL a kick-start

FROM PAGE 12

paltry 97.

National opener Shahriar Nafees batted with ease in a 40-ball 44 featuring half a dozen boundaries and a six over square-leg. But as soon as the southpaw drove a catch to mid-wicket, all hell broke loose.

Kamrul, who bowled his left-arm spinners with a suspect action, captured all five wickets as the Epyllion batsmen suddenly pushed the panic button before scoring the remaining 27 runs for victory. It took Tushar Imran to guide the side home in the 26th over with a painstaking 10 not out off 42 balls.

Kamrul was included three years ago in a list of bowlers with suspect actions and the umpires thought that he still needed to rectify his action. Earlier, Araf were put in and failed to make any impact on a hostile green turf. Their attempt to produce a fighting total was dashed when Alok Kapali (16), mistimed a drive against medium-pacer Tarek Aziz and Khaled Mashud (16) was run out by Tushar Imran's brilliant throw from covers. Mashud, the national wicketkeeper, said afterwards that 150 would have been a winning total on this wicket.

But he was disappointed with the team's performance. BIMAN-MRE At the Fatullah Stadium, Mushfiqur Rahman's all-round show helped Bangladesh Biman beat debutants Metro Real Estate (MRE) by six wickets.

National discard Mushfiq grabbed 4-19 with the new ball as MRE, with no big names on the roster, were all out for 154 in 46.2 overs after opting to bat. Reduced to 23-3, MRE fought back in the middle with Sharifullah (42) and Mohammad Kalim (35) putting on 59 runs. They again lost their way when left-arm spinner Mosharraf Rubel captured three quick wickets.

Undaunted by the loss of his opening partner with the total on one, Nazmus Sadat (61 off 81 balls) guided Biman to 158-4 by the 34th over help form Mosharraf (20) and Mushfiq (33).

SCORES IN BRIEF Gazi Tank v Bangla Cat Venue: BKSP GAZI TANK: 315-9 in 50 overs (Aftab 77, Riyadh 42, Manzarul 82, Wasel 25, Mahmud 33; Anwar 2-67, Aminul 3-37)

BANGLA CAT: 190 all out in 40.5 overs (Shamimul 90 n.o., Rezwan 26; Mahmud 2-18, Monirul 4-33) Araf v Epyllion

Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium ARAF: 97 all out in 38 overs (Alok 16, Mashud 16, extras 35; Sonnet 2-22, Nabil 2-15, Sabbir 2-17)

EPYLLION: 98-5 in 25.4 overs (Sazzadul 16, Nafees 44, Tushar 10 n.o., extras 23; Kamrul 5-17) MRE v Biman

Venue: Fatullah Stadium MRE: 154 all out in 46.2 overs (Sabbir 21, Sharifullah 42, Kalim 35; Mushfiq 4-19, Mosharraf 3-26)

BIMAN: 158-4 in 33.3 overs (Sadat 61, Mosharraf 20, Mushfiq 33, Sanwar 17 n.o.; Sharifullah 2-21)

# CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 36 Check-in time? 55 Writer Bagnold 11 Scoop holder 15 South Line 56 Rams' ma'ams 20 "Bolder Dome" star 18 American Gopher 38 Gopher Ernie 22 Subway 24 Singer's recording novel by 25 Dol. change place 26 Not square 27 Past 29 Disen-cumber 30 Zsa Zsa's sis 31 "Partridge Family" cast member 35 Home of the Saab 36 Rang out 39 Jupiter's alias 40 Act the robot 41 Diamond in the sky? 43 Author Morrison 45 Make no bones about 46 Rickey flavor 47 Praiseful 49 Anger

DOWN 1 Trudge 2 2003 43-Down 3 Perfect place 4 Singer with an eponymous 5 Licorice liqueur 6 Bocelli solo 7 Fight or 8 Fool 9 Water color 10 Actor Reynolds

Solution time: 27 mins.

JAB COLE PAPA TILL ABEL AMIS BLUEBOOK YOKAI EBBE KOREA TACKLE PAPA BLUE AMI JULIE DAY REPLACED SURE CRISIS PLAN LIVE BLUEMOON TIOR RARE SUE PAWS AGED ERE

CRYPTOQUIP  
 M I V H A ' J R W J V M U T W H  
 F M D Q W X R J M T X W P F R O O  
 W H D E P W, C H A O S V H A D E O O  
 M W C M W D X I A O W X M U Q M U T ?  
 Yesterday's Cryptquip: BECAUSE I TRIM MY FACIAL HAIR IN AFTERNOON HOURS, DO I OBSERVE DAYLIGHT SHAVING TIME?  
 Today's Cryptquip Clue: X equals H  
 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 with an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

# World will