National team beat MSC in friendly

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh national football team, under the guidance of Argentine coach Diego Cruciani, made their first home appearance yesterday. They were not totally convincing but looked impressive in a 2-1 win over Mohammedan Sporting Club in an exhibition match

On the day Cruciani used all 25 members of his squad except Hassan Al Mamun and Feroz Mahmud Titu, who have been suffering from minor foot injuries.

The core with which he intends to form his first eleven for next month's SAFF Championship in Pakistan, were fielded in the fist half and showed better control and enjoyed superior possession than the secondstring which came off the bench after

dashes down the flanks or aerial crosses and instead it was all one-toone play throughout the game.

The national team took the lead after 26 minutes when skipper Joy headed home a corner by Arman.

Mohammedan, armed with four Africa-based booters, levelled in the 79th minute when Nigerian booter Francis struck after a cross from his compatriot Emeka Christian

Cruciani's boys showed the desperation to win and midfielder Abul's header from a Parvez Babu corner made the difference six minutes later. Cruciani, however, was not satis-

"They lacked penetration and I was not happy with their possession at times," said the 41-year-old

"Maybe they were a bit tired after a week's hard work. I think they will show more improvement in the next



A Mohammedan defender tries to shield the ball from national forward Rokonuzzaman Kanchan during their friendly match at the Army Stadium on

AFC Challenge Cup draw held

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

The draw for the Asian Football Confederation Challenge Cup is to be held in Nepal and Bangladesh between March 25 and April 9 next year.

The tournament features 16 "emerging" footballing countries, $divided\,into\,four\,groups.\,Groups\,A\,and$ B will be played in Nepal while the matches of Groups C and D will be hosted by Bangladesh

Match schedules will be issued at a later date. Group A: India, Taiwan, Philippines,

Afghanistan Group B: Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan

Group C: Palestinian territories, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Guam Group D: Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Macau

Sweet and sour

batting," he added gracefully.

FROM PAGE 16

In reply to a question, Akram said that he did not show discontent over the decision of his dismissal, but had talked to the umpire about ignoring a lot of short deliveries and not calling them wides. He had stood at his crease after being declared caught behind and was seen speaking to the umpire on his way to the pavilion.

Epyllion skipper Tushar Imran thought that his own dismissal was the turning point of the game.

"I think we had a chance to win but our tail could not provide the support to Arafat after I was run out. It was a call from my partner (Yasir Arafat) and I started late," said Tushar.

"We also missed Nabil Samad Had he been with us, we could have restricted them to 240. That would have been an interesting match," Tushar said about the Under-19 leftarm spinner who is touring India on national duty.



first ODI against India on November 16, have now played 20 ODIs without losing their longest undefeated run. Only Ricky Ponting's Australians, with 21 matches between 2002-03 and 2003, have a better record.



Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi

(Former Indian captain) "Competition for a berth in the Indian team has now drastically increased. And it is all the more difficult to return once you are out of the team. I am not saying that (Sourav) Ganguly is not successful, but he will have to be really among the runs to stake a claim in the

Soccer rules down under

GERMANY SERMANY 2006

Any lingering reservations Australians hold about football vanished Thursday as thousands of cheering fans in Sydney saluted the Socceroos' reaching the World Cup finals for the first time in 32 years.

Wearing Australian green and gold, draped in the national flag and bearing banners with slogans such as "Uruguay will roo the day", the patriotic fans attended a hastily-organised presentation to honour the side. Australia's dramatic qualification

late Wednesday has unleashed an unprecedented outpouring of passion for "the world game" in a sportsmad nation that traditionally favours cricket and rival football codes.

More than 83,000 fans cheered the Socceroos home to a 4-2 penalty shootout victory over Uruguay with another 15,000 ticketless fans watching on a giant screen outside. Over television at home or in bars.

"In my sporting career I have never seen anything like it," Football Federation Australia (FFA) chief executive John O'Neill said.

"It's a defining moment in this

sport," added the former head of the Australian Rugby Union, who predicted soccer could eventually rank alongside the Olympics in the Australian sporting psyche.

Despite football often struggling for coverage in the Australian media. the victory commanded saturation coverage in the nation's newspapers.

"We did it" trumpeted the front page of Daily Telegraph, while the Australian declared "Here we go". Congratulations poured in from

such varied sources as Prime Minster John Howard at the APEC summit in South Korea and Hollywood actor John Travolta, who attended the game and visited the post-match dressing room. "I guess we're all soccer fans now,"

ABC radio host Trevor Chappell said as his show was inundated with callers wanted to discuss the match. At Thursday's ceremony, fans reserved their loudest applause for

goalkeeper Mark Schwartzer, who saved two penalties in the shootout. The lunch-hour crowd in central Sydney also screamed their approval when coach Guus Hiddink declared

"let's go all the way" in Germany. For the supporters, qualification for the team lying at No.54 on the FIFA rankings was made sweeter by the bitter memories of narrowly missing out on attending the past three World

"This is unbelievable." Michael Jarvis told AFP.

"I've waited so long for Australia to get through and now no one can say we don't deserve to be there.

Football has long been regarded as a poor relation in Australia to cricket, rugby league, rugby union and Aussie rules football. Like Americans, Australians have often regarded it as too low scoring and intricate. But Australian striker John Aloisi

said the Socceroos' qualification for next year's finals in Germany meant sports fans reeling at the national cricket side's Ashes loss and the Wallabies' seven-match losing streak in rugby union could now turn to "83,000 at the game, 20 million

Australians following it, finally football is going to kick off in this nation,' "This year rugby and cricket

haven't been the best and finally we've come out on top and we're putting Australian soccer ahead of other sports."

Howard hailed a "tremendous resurgence of soccer in Australia".

However, he warned the benefits of the victory would be wasted if football returned to the ethnic rivalries and bureaucratic vendettas that left it languishing in Australia's sporting ghetto for decades.

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50 0

Beximco corporate kings

FROM PAGE 16 of Rashedul Haque

Rajin Saleh (50 off 66 balls), who clubbed seven boundaries, was unfortunate not to complete his halfcentury as the opener mistimed a pull against paceman Arafat and gave a leading edge to the wicketkeeper. Runs also flowed from the bats of

Al Shahriar (40 off 48 balls) and Tikolo, each hitting five fours. An aggressive Mohammad Ashraful blasted part-time off-spinner Tushar over the midwicket fence for a quickfire 30-ball 32 but the Epyllion captain had his revenge by luring his national teammate to pull a short ball to the safe hands of Nafees at the same region

Tushar also clean bowled Tikolo in his next over to reduce Beximco to 202-5 but Akram Khan's trusted willow made sure they took the match beyond the opposition's reach, adding 69 runs in the final ten overs. Akram, who showed his disappointment over the decision of his caught behind, made 31 off 29 balls, inclusive of an

Shabbir, Malik

reported again

Pakistan's Shabbir Ahmed and Shoaib

Malik have been reported for suspect

bowling action after the opening Test

against England here, the International

The bowlers were reported by on-

The Pakistani bowlers would be

permitted to play international cricket

pending the outcome of an independ-

ent analysis of their bowling action,

ICC match-referee Roshan Mahanama

international cricket, including the

next Test against England, should they

"Both players will be allowed to play

"At any time during this period they

Pakistan beat England by 22 runs in

are subject to being called on the field

in accordance with the laws of cricket."

the first Test here to gain a 1-0 lead in

the three-match series. The second

Test starts at Faisalabad from

field umpires Billy Bowden and Simon

Taufel, and TV umpire Asad Rauf, the

ICC said in a statement.

be selected," he said.

Cricket Council (ICC) said Thursday.

unusual pulled six off fast bowler Shahadat Hossain. **SCORECARD**

Scoreboard of the GrameenPhone Cricket Corporate League final match between Beximco and Epyllion at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on

Ł	DEMINICO	
ı	Rashedul b Arafat	12
l	Rajin c Dhiman b Arafat	49
ſ	Al Shahriar b Sabbir	40
ſ	Tikolo b Tushar	53
,	Ashraful c Nafees b Tushar	32
7	Akram c Dhiman b Shahadat	31
l	Shahin b Arafat	14
f	Razzak run out	8
	Shahjada not out	8
l	MahbubulcTusharbShahadat	4
)	Nazmul not out	0
7	Extras: (b-5, lb-6, nb-1, w-13)	25
1	Total: (For 9 wkts in 50 overs)	276
ŗ	Fall of wkts: 1-41, 2-89, 3-133, 4-	199, 5-
,	202, 6-234, 7-251, 8-263, 9-274.	
	n 1	n

Tushar 0 24 2 **EPYLLION** Sajjad c Tikolo b Shahjada Nafees lbw b Tikolo Moniruzzaman lbw b Razzak 11 Tushar run out 60 Shamsur lbw b Nadif Arafat b Shahjada 46 Dhiman b Shahiada Sabbir lbw b Shahiada Tarek c Shahin b Shahjada Shahadat b Nazmul Sonnet not out Extras: (lb-9, nb-1, w-17) 27 Total: (All out in 44.1 overs) Fall of wkts: 1-68, 2-84, 3-116, 4-132, 5 198, 6-208, 7-222, 8-222, 9-226, 10-226. M 0 42 Mahbubul 0 22 Shahiada 9.1 0 39

Sabbir

Razzak 0 35 0 36 Nadif 43 Result: Beximco won by 50 runs.

Woeful West Indies

47

50

Shahadat

after retiring with an irregular heartbeat while on 18 in the first hour and put on 56 for the fourth wicket before MacGill had Chanderpaul caught at short-leg by debutant Brad Hodge in only his second over.

Gayle succumbed in the next over when he was deceived by McGrath's slower ball and was lbw.

"It was very tough, even though it was a good wicket to bat on, but a big credit to the Aussies, they bowled well on that wicket and I put my hand up and say that we didn't bat good," Gayle The tourists had lost the wickets of

Devon Smith (4) and Sarwan (2) in the morning session and crawled to lunch at 49 for two off 26 overs. McGrath's opening spell lasted 11

overs and Lee's nine overs as skipper Ricky Ponting ratcheted up the pressure on the touring batsmen SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the opening day of the

second Test between Australia and West Indies at Bellerive Oval on Thursday: WEST INDIES: First innings

Gayle lbw b McGrath $Smith\,b\,Lee$

Sarwan c Gilchrist b McGrath Lara lbw b Lee Chanderpaul c Hodge b MacGill Samuels c Gilchrist b McGrath Bravo c Hodge b MacGill Ramdin c Warne b MacGill Powell c Gilchrist b Lee $Edwards\,c\,Symonds\,b\,McGrath$ Collymore not out Extras: (lb-3, w-1, nb-3) Total: (All out in 68.3 overs) 23 9 31 6 32 13.3 17 Symonds 10 4 11 2 48 Warne 3 18 AUSTRALIA: First innings Hayden not out Hussey not out Extras: (nb-3) Total: (For no loss in 18 overs)

15 149 Fall of wkts: 1-15, 2-26, 3-60, 4-119, 5-119, 6-124, 7-126, 8-130, 9-141, 10-149 0 26 60 M R Edwards 6 1 22 Powell 1 32 Collymore 1 6 Bravo Toss: West Indies

England U-19s lose tour opener

BDNEWS, Bogra

The Bangladesh High Performance (HP) Squad defeated the England Under-19s by 28 runs in the first limited-overs match at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium here on Thursday.

Batting first, the local boys made a modest 219-9 in 50 overs. HP opener Ragibul Hasan hit highest 61 off 81 balls with nine boundaries.

Iames grabbed three for 17 for the visitors.

The tourists were bundled out for 189 in 47 overs. Moeen Ali top scored with 72 off 83 balls with six boundaries and two sixes.

Mosharaf Hossain bagged five wickets for 39 while Sirajullah and Farhad Reza took two wickets each.

The second match of the five-game series will be played here today.

Special Chess on

SPORTS REPORTER

The seventh Special National Chess Championship for the Visually Impaired began at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall-room yester-

Standard Chartered and Sight Saver are sponsoring the meet, organised by the Bangladesh Braille Chess Association. A total of 78 players including ten women are taking part in the 7-round Swiss League.

In the first round, 38 players won their respective matches.

Earlier, State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahar declared the four-day meet open.

Olympic Day Run today

The Bangladesh Olympic Association will organise the Olympic Day Run today in the capital as part of celebration of the International Olympic Day across

The Run, scheduled to be held last June, could not take place due to inclement weather.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman will be present as chief guest while BOA president and the Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Moeen U Ahmed will be present.

Yousuf uncertain for next Test

Pakistani batsman Mohammad Yousuf may be unable to play in the second Test against England, starting on September 20 in Faisalabad.

Yousuf reportedly injured his shoulder during the first Test. Although a MRI scan is said to have come out clear, he has complained of discomfort during fielding.

A PCB official said a decision would only be reached after Yousuf has the opportunity to practice in the nets.

He has hurt the same shoulder. which resulted in him returning home from the West Indies earlier this year.

If Yousuf is unable to play, bench strength means an opening will be provided for either Shahid Afridi or Hasan Raza.

-- Internet Source

A night FROM PAGE 16

whose low shot from 10 yards found the back of Norway's net with goalkeeper Thomas Myhre diving in vain. It was Rosicky's 15th goal in his 52nd

SPAIN-SLOVAKIA

international appearance.

With a big lead from the first leg, Spain wasn't troubled in Bratislava.

Filip Holoski put Slovakia ahead seven minutes into the second half. But David Villa extinguished any hope of a big comeback by tying it with 20 "I'm happy for my players, for my

country and for myself. Spain has always qualified for the last 30 years, so there's not a lot to celebrate. But I'm content, we've done the job," Aragones

TURKEY-SWITZERLAND In Istanbul, Switzerland forward Alex

Frei gave his team the lead with a firstminute penalty kick, but Tuncay Sanli scored twice and Necati Ates converted a penalty kick to make it 3-1 for Marco Streller scored the decisive

goal in the 84th minute, making it 3-2 and putting the pressure on the Turks to score two more goals. Tuncay soon got his third goal, but the Swiss held on. "All football fans, and those who might become fans, are feverish with impatience for the World Cup next

summer," Swiss President Samuel Schmid said. Players from both teams fought in the tunnel on the way to the locker room following the game and one Swiss player was reportedly hospital-

Defender Stephane Grichting was taken to Acibadem Hospital following the scuffle, the Anatolia news agency

Blatter threatens Turkey after tunnel bust-up



FIFA president Sepp Blatter has threatened to come down hard over the trouble which blew up after Switzerland knocked Turkey out of the 2006 World Cup on Wednesday.

"I can tell you this, not as a Swiss, but as the president of FIFA that we will act here and we will act tough,' Blatter told a news conference. FIFA will decide on sanctions

before the 2006 World Cup draw on December 9. Penalties could range from a

warning to a ban for individual players or countries Earlier in the day Blatter had threatened to ban Turkey from the qualifying competition for the 2010

World Cup in South Africa. Switzerland lost a dramatic second leg 4-2 in Istanbul on Wednesday but advanced to 2006's finals thanks to the away goals rule.

Swiss players left the pitch under a hail of objects thrown by the crowd

and players from both sides clashed in the tunnel.

Reports said Swiss defender Stephane Grichting was taken to hospital with a perforated urinary

Switzerland coach Kobi Kuhn was also hit by coins and press officer Pierre Benoit said the incidents would be reported

Tuncay Sanli scored a hat-trick for the Turks, who finished third in the 2002 World Cup, but Marco Streller's 84th minute goal put the Swiss through.

However, the match ended with tempers frayed and television footage showed Swiss player Benjamin Huggel kick a member of the Turkish coaching staff as he ran off the pitch.

Then former Aston Villa defender Alpay aimed a kick at Streller as the goalscorer went down the tunnel towards the dress-

ing rooms and the trouble erupted. According to reports, Grichting was taken to Istanbul's Acidem Hospital after being kicked in the

However, TRT television reported that he was in good condition and the Istanbul hospital told AFP they had treated no one by that name. The Turkish media blamed Huggel's kick

for sparking the trouble. And Turkey striker Halil Altintop, with German team Kaiserslautern

played down the clashes. "A few of our players overreacted after the match but I am happy there

were no serious incidents," he said. "I was in the Swiss locker room and talked to the players I knew from the Bundesliga. They said everything

The Swiss bus had been pelted with eggs when they flew in on Monday and the Swiss national anthem was whistled during Wednesday's pre-match ceremony -as the Turkish anthem had been in

Violence is not rare in footballmad Turkey.

But the 43,000 fans at the Sukru Saracoglu stadium in Istanbul were relatively well-behaved after appeals by cabinet ministers for calm.

The worst case of violence came in 2000 when two English fans were stabbed to death before a UEFA Cup match between Galatasaray and

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES

Ivory Coast hold Italy

Football

REUTERS, London Argentina enjoyed a 3-0 victory away to

Qatar on Wednesday as several qualified nations for next year's World Cup finals squeezed in warm-up friendlies. Italy, who like Argentina will be

were given a fright in Geneva where they were held 1-1 by the fellow qualifiers Ivory Coast Twice world champions Argentina, still smarting from their 3-2 defeat by

arch-rivals England on Saturday, scored

strongly fancied in Germany next year,

three times in four second-half minutes. Midfielder Juan Roman Riquelme broke the deadlock after 70 minutes before substitute Julio Cruz and defender Roberto Ayala put the gloss on

their performance

Lionel Messi who missed the England match through suspension Chelsea's Didier Drogba scored after 69 minutes as the Ivory Coast threatened

"I am surprised by Qatar's display,"

said Argentina coach Jose Peckerman

who handed a start to Barcelona teenager

three-times world champions Italy.

Drogba, who helped the African nation qualify for their first finals, controlled a low ball before lashing it into the Italy were spared defeat four minutes

from time when Sampdoria midfielder

Aimo Diana latched on to a cross from Gianluca Zambrotta to poach an equaliser at the far post. Japan, coached by former Brazilian great Zico, edged out first-time World Cup qualifiers Angola 1-0 in Tokyo

thanks to a last-minute goal from substitute midfielder Daisuke Matsui Japan's neighbours South Korea also raised optimism for next year's finals with an impressive 2-0 victory over first time World Cup qualifiers Serbia & Montenegro in Seoul that maintained their unbeaten run under new coach

The 2002 World Cup semi-finalists opened the scoring in the fifth minute when defender Choi Jin-cheul rose to meet Lee Eul-yong's free kick with a

glancing header. South Korea went 2-0 up early in the

from striker Lee Dong-gook who raced the length of the field before slamming in

rivals Egypt. Poland were 3-1 winners over Estonia

failed to reach the finals, scrambled a 2-1 victory at home to Hungary Cyprus beat Wales 1-0 in Limassol, a Welsh performance coach John Toshack

will host four matches each instead of the previously scheduled five, it was

The tournament, however, will not start on November 20. The BFF will give

Maradona speaks



ACROSS

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pugilism

AFP, Doha Wayne Rooney could inspire England to World Cup success in Germany next summer, Argentine legend Diego

Maradona said here on Thursday. The retired superstar took in the Manchester United striker's starring role in England's 3-2 win over his country in Geneva last week and believes he is one of the players who could make the difference.

"Argentina have a very good chance (in Germany) but they have to $improve \, in \, many \, aspects, "\, he \, said.$ "England won the game but

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57 More,

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48 Man-

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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was useful as a reference but the World Cup finals are different. The 45-year-old Maradona said

one of the key players to watch. "He is a great player -- very powerful and his technique is very good, but he needs guidance, he needs leader-

ship," he said. Speaking in the Qatari capital Doha where he was attending the opening of the Aspire Sports Academy complex, Maradona said he expected it would be a case of the usual suspects for the title in Germany.

"Brazil, Argentina, Germany, England and Italy, I expect them all to have a chance. The finals usually are

Asked to name the player most

likely to dominate the finals,

Maradona had no hesitation in namthere was not much to choose ing Brazilian maestro Ronaldinho. between the two bitter World Cup But he knocked on the head any rivals and he pinpointed Rooney as talk of him playing a major role in the

> Argentine set-up for Germany. Following his recent rehabilitation from drugs use and weight problems, Maradona has staged something of a comeback, starring in his own televi-

sion show back home and comment-

ing on Argentina's World Cup hopes. But, asked if he was about to return to the fore, Maradona was adamant.

"The coach is (Jose) Peckerman and he will remain so," he said.

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45 Time of prosperity POXMQ EV MOB Saturday's Cryptoquip: MIGHT YOU CALL WORDS LIKE "TRANSGRESSION," "WICKEDNESS" AND "UNGODLINESS" SIN-ONYMS? 51 Sapporo

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals P 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.

52 Grecian vessel 53 Blue

a low drive. Tunisia, who will be appearing at their third consecutive World Cup finals, enjoyed a 2-1 victory over north African

while European champions Greece, who

described as: "the worst international performance I have ever witnessed. I was embarrassed by what I saw and feel sorry for our fans who came out to Cyprus to

20 NFL games

a fresh schedule soon.

history could be different. That game down to the same teams." he said.