



PHOTO: FOCUSBANGLA

British High Commissioner Anwar Chowdhury (L) hands over medals and football kits to the graduates of Canary Wharf football academy at his residence in Baridhara yesterday.

Rating chess

SPORTS REPORTER

The Destiny International Rating Chess got underway yesterday at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall-room.

A total of 21 players including GM Ziaur Rahman, IMAbdullah Al Rakib, IM Enamul Hossain Rajib, FM Abu Sufian Shakil, FM Khondoker Aminul Islam, FM Sheikh Nasir Ahmed, FM Mehdi Hasan, FM Rezaul Haque and IVM Rani Hamid won their respective first round boards.

Long distance swimming on June 16

UNB, Dhaka

The Keya Cosmetics 9th National Long Distance Swimming Competition will be held in the Shitalakkhya river in Narayanganj on June 16.

The competition will begin from the Narayanganj BWTA VIP Terminal and ends at the Dhaleshwari River at the Munshiganj Launch Ghat.

The Bangladesh Swimming Federation has selected 10 swimmers including four females for the daylong meet.

The selected swimmers are: Men - Karar Samedul Islam, Abdul Hamid Ripon (Bangladesh Navy), Zakir Ullah, Shah Alam (Bangladesh Air Force), Monirul Islam (Alamgir Swimming Club, Rajshahi) and Abdul Maleq Zihadi (Sagarkhali Swimming Club, Kushlia).

Women - Sabura Khatun (Sagarkhali Swimming Club), Lovely Khatun, Momtaz Shirin (Bangladesh Ansar) and Aduri Khatun (Saint Martin Oceanic Swimming Club, Cox's Bazar).

Junior hattrick

FROM PAGE 17

It seemed that Brothers were playing with a purpose and created numerous openings from the word go at the Khulna Stadium.

However, after missing chance after chance and hitting the bar, it took the tourists 23 minutes to find the back of the net through Junior.

Midfielder Mamunul Islam doubled the lead four minutes later but it was all Junior, who completed his treble before the break with strikes in the 32 and 40 minutes.

It was the third hattrick in the league after Muktiyoddha's Alfaz and Paul.

Junior retired his fourth goal 11 minutes after resumption but as it so often happens, Brothers lost the appetite after getting a five-goal cushion.

Brothers manager Amer Khan admitted that revenge was on their mind.

"We were determined to win and win big. We should have won the first leg match also by a big margin but our players spoiled a number of chances," told Amer over phone from Khulna.

"We lost in the match in Dhaka because Abahani successfully converted all their counter attacks. Here, we had a point to prove and did not give them any chance. Still I was a bit worried as we failed to score midway through the first half despite tearing apart the rival defence.

"It was an excellent performance from Junior and scoring four goals in a match proves his skill," he added.



Did U Know?

European teams have reached every FIFA World Cup final except in 1930 and 1950.

Young booters honoured by British HC

SPORTS REPORTER

Thirty-four graduates of the Canary Wharf Football Academy in Bangladesh received a commemorative for their achievements from British High Commissioner Anwar Chowdhury at his residence in Baridhara yesterday.

Hand-picked by famous coach Anthony Ferguson from over 4000 initial candidates across the country, these young footballers received medals and kitbags for their endeavours but more interestingly look set for an exciting trial in renowned London-based clubs like Arsenal and West Ham and the David Beckham Academy. "Arsenal and West Ham have already agreed in principle to coach some of these youngsters while the David Beckham Academy has also promised to integrate some of these individuals into their training scheme," said community services manager of Canary Wharf Zakir Khan, who is one of the leaders of this initiative.

In his speech, Anwar Chowdhury encouraged the youngsters to grab onto this opportunity with both

hands while commending Canary Wharf for this venture.

"This will go a long way to developing the inter-personal relationship between our nations. Canary Wharf is a big name in the British-Bangladeshi community, if not in the whole of London, and you (the youngsters) would do well to avail this opportunity being provided to you."

He also added that this initiative would perhaps unearth hidden talents in the Bangladeshi football arena.

"Maybe we can find the Bangladeshi Beckham from this lot," he quipped with a smile.

The High Commissioner was in high spirits throughout the reception and keeping in tune with the light-hearted theme, he even turned up for a little game with the trainees in his lounge, using flag-posts as the goalposts!

But in more serious matters, Zakir Khan was convinced that this was a win-win situation for the youngsters.

"This is a huge opportunity for them. The chance to go to Europe and train with such top clubs

would only add to their football knowledge. They can then bring this back to Bangladesh and perhaps turn professional. And who knows? Maybe one of these thirty-four will be good enough to make the grade at a top club. We might just see our first Bangladeshi professional in England."

Head coach of the project Golam Sarwar Tipu was also honoured for his efforts along with his three assistant coaches.

Chief coordinator Fazlur Rahman Babul also spoke in the event where he lauded the achievement but bemoaned the lack of facilities available to the youngsters in Bangladesh.

Canary Wharf is a major property developer which has turned the deprived area of Tower Hamlets in east London into a modern township. They have been supportive to the Bangladeshi community and have come forward to mastermind this project with support from Emirates and Clifton Restaurant.

Kent wishes for Ford



AFP, New Delhi

India's newly-appointed cricket coach Graham Ford flew back to England on Sunday facing delicate negotiations with his current employers over switching jobs.

South African Ford, 46, who is contracted with English county Kent as director of cricket, was on Saturday selected as coach of the Indian national team for a one-year period.

India's cricket chiefs have given Ford until Monday to tell them when he can take up his new job. They hope he will be in place ahead of the tours of Ireland and England starting later this month.

But Kent, where Ford is contracted until September 2008, said they would not discuss the coach's future until Sunday's one-day match against Hampshire in Tunbridge Wells was over.

A statement by Kent's chief executive Paul Millman, posted on the county's official website, also wished

"the popular South African" would continue with them.

"The focus for Graham and the Kent team is very much on winning a match that would see the team edge a step closer to a home semi-final in the Friends Provident Trophy," the statement said.

"Discussions with Ford will take place after the match and ... it is hoped that the popular South African will remain at Canterbury to continue the progress made towards re-establishing Kent as a major force in county cricket."

Another Kent online website reported the county "seem certain to demand some form of compensation package from the Indian board for losing their man."

An Indian cricket board panel picked Ford over Englishman John Emburey, the only other candidate for one of the most high-profile jobs in cricket, after closed-door interviews in Chennai on Saturday.

"The panel has decided to appoint Ford initially for a period of one year," the board's treasurer, N. Srinivasan, told reporters after the meeting.

Dhoni, Jayawardene

FROM PAGE 17

strike before skipper Jayawardene (107) and wicketkeeper Dhoni (139 not out) came to their team's rescue with commendable knocks in hot and humid conditions.

Sri Lankan Jayawardene hammered two sixes and nine fours in a 106-ball knock for his 10th century in one-day internationals before falling in the closing overs.

India's Dhoni gave a superb exhibition of power hitting as he struck five sixes and 15 fours in a 97-ball innings for his third hundred in one-dayers.

Asia were in trouble in the initial overs against disciplined African bowling and fielding before Jayawardene and Dhoni altered the course of the innings.

Seamers Ongondo (3-35) and Mome Morkel (3-50) were brilliantly backed by their fielders, with skipper Justin Kemp and AB de Villiers taking spectacular catches to keep pressure on the Asian side.

Kemp took a diving one-handed catch at second slip to account for India's opener Virender Sehwag, while de Villiers dived to his left at point to dismiss Sri Lanka's Upul Tharanga.

But Dhoni and Jayawardene put paid to Africa's hopes of restricting Asia to a modest total with their exciting

strokeplay during their 178-ball partnership. They helped their side plunder 108 in the closing 10 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard after Asia's innings against Africa in the third and final one-day international of the Afro-Asia Cup series on Sunday:

ASIA									
Sehwag c Kemp b Morkel	8								
Jayasuriya c Botha b Ongondo	13								
Tharanga c De Villiers b Ongondo	10								
Yuvraj Singh b Chigumbura	31								
Yousuf c Dippenaar b Ongondo	2								
Jayawardene c Botha b Morkel	107								
Dhoni not out	139								
Mortaza c Morkel b Chigumbura	1								
Harbhajan Singh b Morkel	4								
Rafique not out	0								
Extras: (b-4, lb-2, nb-2, w-8)	16								
Total: (For 8 wickets in 50 overs)	331								
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-30, 3-45, 4-51, 5-72, 6-290, 7-309, 8-315									
Bowler					O	M	R	W	
M Morkel	10	0	50	3					
Ongondo	10	2	35	3					
Chigumbura	10	0	77	2					
Kemp	2	0	9	0					
Botha	10	1	49	0					
Tikolo	4	0	59	0					
Sibanda	2	0	24	0					
De Villiers	2	0	22	0					

Maninder tried to kill himself

INTERNET, undated

Former Indian cricketer Maninder Singh was admitted to a Delhi hospital with serious injuries on his wrists before daybreak on Saturday, a fortnight after his arrest on drug possession charges. He is currently out on bail.

Singh is out of danger, doctors at the Shanti Mukand Hospital said after a seven-hour surgery. "He had deep cut injuries on both the anterior wrists. He had lost a lot of blood and his condition was really serious," said the hospital's medical superintendent Dr DS Mathur.

"The injuries were due to a sharp object but it would be very difficult to say if it was an accident or a suicide attempt," he said.

Singh's wife Melly said it was an accident. She said he had returned home late, and knocked on the door. "We were all asleep and did not hear him. So, he tried to wake us up by knocking on the bay glass window. He slipped and cut his wrists on the broken window," she said.

Former cricketer Bishan Singh Bedi said Singh had been to his place Friday evening. "I told him he got his act together and face the challenges in life," he said.

The police said they will record Singh's statement. "We can take action only after the nature of the injury is determined," said DCP (East) Ajay Chaudhry.

On May 22, Singh was held with 1.5 grams of cocaine. A day later, the police said Singh had told them that he took to drugs as he was going through a rough patch in life.

Wenger

FROM PAGE 20

will sit down with the board and see."

Wenger remains upbeat that despite Arsenal ending the season without a trophy -- they finished a distant fourth in the Premiership behind Manchester United -- they will make great strides in the next campaign.

"There's absolutely no need to panic. We finished fourth in the table -- level on points with Liverpool -- and we've a very young side which, I believe, can improve again this season," said Wenger.

"We'll bring in new people only if they're exceptional players."

Real-ity bites

FROM PAGE 20

edge of the area after 28 minutes to put Atletico ahead but barely a minute later Fernando Baiano had equalised for Celta from the penalty spot.

Yago Alonso-Fueyo headed Celta ahead from a corner three minutes after the break and Baiano put the visitors further ahead before Maxi reduced the deficit for Atletico.

Real Sociedad could only draw 0-0 at home to Racing Santander and slip to second from bottom, three points away of securing their survival which can now only happen with an unusual combination of results on the final weekend.

Allardyce fears

FROM PAGE 20

Park with speculation already rife over the future of Owen, who has a nine-million-pound (£17.7m dollar) release clause.

"If Michael wants to leave, there's nothing I can do about it, especially if another club triggers his release clause," said Allardyce.

"At the moment, we are benefitting from a release clause to get Joey Barton. But we could also suffer because of Michael's."

Inter or nothing

FROM PAGE 20

Alexi Lalas said he would "follow the situation very carefully," but Figo has now put an end to this speculation.

"Either I will play for another year at Inter or I will retire from professional football," he told Portuguese 'Radio Renascenca.'

"Considering the affection shown to me by the fans, the President and teammates, I would remain at Inter."

"The alternative is to retire. There are no negotiations in place with other clubs."

Stoner wins

FROM PAGE 20

Despite the thrilling nature of the race, Stoner wasn't convinced this was his finest win of the campaign.

"I think Turkey stands out, though, this comes a close second. "Valentino has won here so often so it was quite something to beat him today (Sunday).

The next round of the championship is the British Grand Prix at Donington Park on June 24.

Milito

FROM PAGE 20

Zaragoza Coach Agapito Iglesias that he is "determined" to join Juve.

The club is willing to release the centre-back colossus, but not for the £10.8m offer put forward so far by the Old Lady.

Milito has a contract with Zaragoza until 2010 and the release clause is for £20.4m, but they are ready to negotiate with a new bid.

An Argentine of Italian origin, his brother Diego Milito has already played in Italy for Genoa.

C'paul keeps WI in hunt



AFP, Manchester

Shivnarine Chanderpaul cashed in on being dropped by Monty Panesar to lead a West Indies fight back on the fourth day of the third Test at Old Trafford here Sunday.

At tea, West Indies were 199 for four -- needing a further 256 to reach their victory target of 455 and square the four-match series at 1-1.

Chanderpaul, their most experienced batsman, was 51 not out after being dropped by Panesar on 18, and Dwayne Bravo unbeaten on 11.

However, left-arm spinner Panesar ended a fourth-wicket stand of 73 when he had Runako Morton lbw for 54.

West Indies, who'd won just one of their previous 27 Tests, resumed after lunch on 99 for three.

Morton was 21 not out and left-hander Chanderpaul, who missed West Indies' record innings and 283-run defeat in the second Test at Headingley with a knee injury, five not out.

Morton, carrying on from where he left off at the interval, confidently on-drove Liam Plunkett for four.

Panesar, who before lunch dismissed Devon Smith, had a couple of vehement appeals for lbw against the gritty Chanderpaul, typically crabbing his way across the crease, rejected by Pakistani umpire Aleem Dar.

With the partnership progressing, England captain Michael Vaughan brought on Kevin

Pietersen, rather than himself, to bowl off-spin.

But it was improved fast bowler Stephen Harmison who nearly broke the stand when Chanderpaul, misjudging the bounce, chipped him to mid-on where Panesar, much mocked for his fielding, made ground to the diving chance but couldn't hold on despite getting two hands to the ball.

West Indies were then 127 for three.

Morton, on 40, went down the pitch to Pietersen and his ferocious low straight drive brushed the bowler's fingertips. He went on to his third Test fifty, off 130 balls, with seven fours.

But on 54, after nearly three hours at the crease, Morton padded up to Panesar and Dar gave him out. Chanderpaul cut and pulled Harmison for successive fours to complete an 86-ball half-century to follow his first innings 50.

Harmison, wretchedly wayward for most of this series, enjoyed a fine opening spell Sunday of one wicket for 12 runs in eight overs which saw him remove the dangerous Chris Gayle, caught at second slip by Paul Collingwood.

His 500th first-class wicket was applauded by Allan Donald, watching from the pavilion in the former South Africa quick's first match in a five-week stint as England's bowling advisor.

Panesar followed up by removing Smith who on 42 gloved him to Alastair Cook at short leg to end a stand of 53 with Morton.

West Indies, who fielded shoddily, faced a stiff chase after England

made 313 in their second innings featuring 106 from Cook -- the 22-year-old opener's sixth hundred in his 17th Test.

They would have faced an even bigger target but for seam-bowling all-rounder Darren Sammy's seven for 66 on Test debut.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the fourth day of the third Test between England and West Indies at Old Trafford on Sunday:

ENGLAND: First innings 370 (Bell 97, Cook 60, Collimore 3-60, Edwards 3-94)

WEST INDIES: First innings 229 (Chanderpaul 50; Panesar 4-50, Sidebottom 3-48)

ENGLAND: Second innings 313 (Cook 106, Pietersen 68; Sammy 7-66)

WEST INDIES: Second innings (overnight 22-1)

Gayle c Collingwood b Harmison	16				
Ganga lbw b Harmison	0				
Smith c Cook b Panesar	42				
Morton lbw b Panesar	54				
Chanderpaul not out	51				
Bravo not out	11				
Extras: (b-10, lb-10, w-2, nb-3)	25				
Total: (For 4 wickets in 66 overs)	199				
To bat: Ramdin, Sammy, Taylor, Collimore, Edwards					

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Sidebottom	14	4	29	0
Harmison	17	6	46	2
Panesar	21	5	56	2
Plunkett	11	0	31	0
Pietersen	3	0	17	0

Fernando sinks Africa

Asia XI win series



AFP, Chennai

Fast bowler Dilhara Fernando grabbed four wickets as Asia clinched the Afro-Asia cricket series with a 31-run win over Africa in the second one-day international here on Saturday.

Asia restricted their rivals to 306 under lights after posting a challenging 337-7 to gain an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. The final game will be played here on Sunday.

Sri Lankan Fernando finished with 4-36 off 10 overs, his best in 115 one-day internationals.

Africa, who lost the opening match by 34 runs on Wednesday, were well-served by Mark Boucher (73) and Boeta Dippenaar (67) before Fernando swung the match in his team's favour by striking at the right time.

Fernando broke a 60-run stand for the second wicket between Dippenaar and Vusi Sibanda (35) in his opening spell and then removed Boucher just when the South African wicketkeeper had been putting pressure on Asia.

The Sri Lankan had Zimbabwean Sibanda caught by wicket-keeper Mahendra Dhoni and then bowled skipper Justin Kemp in the same over. In his second spell, he dismissed the well-set Boucher to dash Africa's hopes of levelling the series.

South Africans Boucher and Dippenaar sustained their team's chances with impressive knocks as they batted confidently against both pace and spin on an easy-paced track. The pair added 79 for the fourth wicket.

Boucher hit two sixes and four boundaries in his 71-ball knock and Dippenaar nine fours in his 72-ball innings.

The match was virtually over with the dismissal of Shaun Pollock (35), who had hammered an explosive

century in the previous game.

It was a batting feast in hot and humid conditions as Asia earlier rode on half-centuries from Indians Sourav Ganguly (88) and Virender Sehwag (52), and Pakistan's Mohammad Yousuf (51) to set a stiff target.

They were not the only batsmen among the runs as skipper Mahela Jayawardene (45), Dhoni (33) and Yuvraj Singh (30 not out) made important contributions after their team had elected to bat.

Jayawardene also became the fifth Sri Lankan to complete 7,000 runs in one-day internationals during his 40-ball innings after Sanath Jayasuriya, Aravinda de Silva, Marvan Atapattu and Arjuna Ranatunga.

Yousuf hit two sixes and three fours in his second successive half-century, having top-scored with 66 in the previous match.

Sehwag set the pace when he hammered Albie Morkel for three fours in the opening over. He fell immediately after completing his half-century with a six off Elton Chigumbura. He hit a six and eight fours in his 38-ball knock.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second one-day international between Asia and Africa in the Afro-Asia Cup series on Saturday:

ASIA: 337 for 7 in 50 overs (Sehwag 52, Ganguly 88, Dhoni 33, Jayawardene 45, Yousuf 51)

AFRICA

De Villiers c Dhoni b Asif	13	
Sibanda c Dhoni b Fernando	35	
Dippenaar c sub (Harbhajan) b Yuvraj	67	
Kemp b Fernando	0	
Boucher c Asif b Fernando	73	
Pollock c Asif b Sehwag	35	
AMorkel c Ganguly b Rafique	13	
Chigumbura c sub (Harbhajan) b Rafique	7	
Botha b Fernando	13	
Odoyo not out	12	
M Morkel b Asif	25	
Extras: (lb-4, nb-1, w-8)	13	
Total: (All out in 49.5 overs)	306	
Full of wickets: 1-20, 2-80, 3-80, 4-	306	