

BOSE
Better sound through research

It's time to expect more from home theater.

Graphics Information Systems Ltd. 8811140

LIPRO
Presents
HIMOINSA
DIESEL GENERATORS
FROM SPAIN

8 KVA - 2500 KVA
Lipro Energy Ltd.
Call: 8817147, 8817916, 8818082

Why give away free tickets?

SPORTS REPORTER

"Come on man, take one at least" was what this reporter faced while entering the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium before the Bangladesh-Pakistan Kityly Cup opener began yesterday. It was not a friend offering a piece of candy but a blacker, and one can find at least 10 to 15 of them roaming around the main gate.

Although the ground remained half-filled, there was a lot of reasons for the blackers to get into action. Firstly, it was the return of a tri-series after five years and secondly, a popular foreign outfit was in town. Pakistan is a big hit in Bangladesh, even with a depleted squad and the much-maligned Tigers are unmissable.

So when the blackers gathered the spectators, one was compelled to ask the prices and it was surprising to find that they were willing to sell gallery tickets at the actual price of twenty taka. But the VIP

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



Paolo Maldini
(AC Milan's veteran captain)
"I like playing football and I believe I can still do it well."



ESPN

Sportscentre India
Sports News
Live at 8:30pm
Euro 2008
Romania v France
Live from 10:00pm
Netherlands v Italy
Live from 12:45am (Tuesday)

Defeated before defeat

BISHWAJIT ROY

Pakistan coach Jeff Lawson specially thanked the rain gods after his side secured an emphatic 70-run victory against hosts Bangladesh in the Kityly Cup opener at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The Australian also praised the ground staff in Mirpur for whom the game finished despite the mid-afternoon heavy downpour that delayed the match by two hours.

"We were lucky enough that rain didn't come again and the groundsman did the hardest job. For all of their efforts, we finished the match," said Lawson with a smile on his face while speaking at the post-match briefing held at midnight.

It seemed that Lawson hardly had any doubt about the outcome of the match and the only threat for them was the seasonal rain.

But more interest was when Bangladesh coach Jamie Siddons came to speak to the media earlier.

Siddons, like his Aussie counterpart, also had the same belief on the outcome and as a result he had no reason to be disappointed with his boys after yet another heavy defeat at the hands of Shoaib Malik's men after a humiliating 5-0 whitewash in Pakistan last April.

His explanation in the post-match briefing made it clear that they accepted the defeat once Pakistan put up 233 runs in 39.3

overs.

"It was impossible chasing down 233 runs in 40 overs. It was a tough task. Actually our bowlers let the team down and they should take a long, hard look at themselves," said the shaven-headed coach when asked whether his batsmen went to the middle with the target of a victory.

So one easily understood the approach of the Bangladesh team - there is now no win in their book rather they only want to find something positive even from the worst possible outcome.

So don't be frustrated with the score of 163-8 in 40 overs.

One may be surprised with the batting approach of skipper Mohammad Ashraful because everybody believes that when Ashraful's bat speaks, something special is around the corner for the Tigers.

Yes, the right-hander was at the crease till the last delivery but his 90-ball 56 was nothing more than for his individual benefit.

Siddons was however satisfied with his skipper's effort as finally Ashraful listened by occupying the crease when the result is totally irrelevant. He was so cautious that he played out a maiden off the final over of the match. The over was bowled by Younis Khan.

"It's a very good innings. It might have been a little bit on the slow side but he returned among the runs which is encouraging," said Siddons.

"Yes, there were a number of positives. The bowling of Alok

Kapali, the batting of Ashraful and the fielding was also good. Of course we earned some positives from the match," he observed when asked about them.

Captain Ashraful however was more logical than his coach, for a change, as he was subdued despite making a half-century after a seven-match gap.

"I think it was possible to chase the score but we failed to have partnerships. Actually I had a plan to make a partnership with Tamim and then go for the kill but I have to change my mind after losing few quick wickets in the middle. Afridi bowled very well to dash our hopes," said Ashraful, most of whose innings brought something special for Bangladesh.

But he also made one thing clear that now their target is not to win the match.

"We don't want to take the pressure by saying that we want to win the match against India," said Bangladesh skipper when he was asked whether they have any target to win the game against India.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard of the tri-nation one-day series match between Bangladesh and Pakistan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PAKISTAN	
Butt c Raqibul b Kapali	70
Akmal c Rahim b Mahmud	25
Younis Khan run out	59
Yousuf c Razzak b Kapali	0
Afridi c Nafees b Kapali	20
Malik b Razzak	9

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

NO WAY OUT: Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraful is being struck by a bouncer from Pakistan paceman Sohail Tanveer during the opening match of the tri-nation one-day series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Asif's fate not yet decided

CRICINFO, undated

The case involving Mohammad Asif, the Pakistan fast bowler detained in Dubai for possession of an illegal substance, has been referred to the Attorney General.

Asif appeared before the court on Sunday, which was adjourned soon after the recommendations of the public prosecutor were heard. The investigation into the matter has been completed, and the Attorney General was expected to take up the case either later yesterday or today.

"The public prosecutor has completed his proceedings in today's hearing," Mansoor Suhail, the PCB media director, told Cricinfo. "He has provided his report to the Attorney General and he will then take further action either later today (Sunday) or tomorrow."

Nadeem Akram, the Pakistan Cricket Board official overlooking the case, was hoping a decision

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Monem Munna Bridge goes official today

SPORTS REPORTER

The bridge at Dhanmondi Road No. 8 (old) will be officially called the Monem Munna Bridge from today.

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mayor Sadeq Hossain Khoka will unveil the plaque of the Monem Munna Bridge at 12.30pm.

The decision was taken by the DCC to name the bridge on occasion of the 42nd birth anniversary of Munna, one of the best footballers of the country, who died three years ago.

Arguably the best defender in the country, Munna was just 39 when he passed away at the Bangladesh Medical College Hospital of critical kidney ailments.

The 'last superstar' of domestic football, Munna led the national team to win their first ever trophy in a foreign football tournament in 1995 in Myanmar.

The central defender played 12 years for Abahani and during that period, also became a household name in Kolkata where he donned the East Bengal shirt from 1991-93.

Munna retired in 1997 and the one-time highest paid footballer in the country became Abahani manager before kidney related complications cut his life short.

SPORT GOES ALL COLOUR

Dear readers,

Taking into consideration your demand and our commitment to serve you in the best possible way, The Daily Star Sport's all three pages are turning into four colours from today, illustrated with attractive photos, graphics and news and stats to take you as closer to the EURO 2008 as possible. We assure you that the 'European World Cup' will come to you in the most colourful way through The Daily Star. And this will continue until the end of the championship. Stay with Star Sport.

Bangladesh bow out

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh crashed out of the fifth SAFF Championship from the group stage when the 2005 runners-up lost 1-0 to Sri Lanka in the final Group B match in Colombo.

Sri Lanka finished group champions with five points to set a clash against fellow co-hosts Maldives in the June 11 semi-final at home while surprise pack Bhutan, who stunned Afghanistan to advance to the knockout stage, will travel to Maldives to play defending champions India in the other semi-final on the same day.

After South Asian football's whipping boys Bhutan's historic 3-1 defeat of Afghanistan in the day's first match in Group B at the Sugathadasa Stadium, Bangladesh were in a must win situation against hosts Sri Lanka, who could

even afford a defeat due to their head-to-head supremacy over Bhutan, to reach the semifinals.

The Lankans created early chances but failed to test Biplab, who led Bangladesh replacing captain Aminul at the goal.

Coach Abu Yusuf, without injured Joy in the midfield and suspended striker Emily, brought back Ujjal in the side and also kept Hassan Al Mamun at the bench.

Bangladesh's inexperienced side looked to get behind the rival backline in the last 15 minutes of the first half but only Abul came close, the midfielder firing one from inside just over the bar.

Arup Baidya's weak volley went straight to the Lankan keeper midway through the first half in Bangladesh's only clear-cut chance after resumption.

Playing hopelessly and without any plan, Bangladesh finally conceded the goal in the 73rd minute when rival midfielder Romi's low drive after a corner went into the far post off a deflection of defender

Ariful, giving Biplab no chance to react.

This is the second time Bangladesh -- who played three consecutive finals and won the trophy in 2003 -- have failed to make the semifinals after failure in the inaugural tournament in 1997 in Kathmandu.

HISTORIC BHUTAN

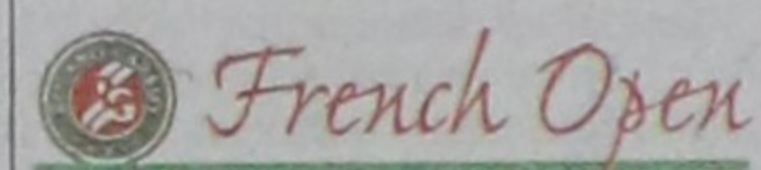
Bhutan recorded their first ever victory in the SAFF Championship when they crushed Afghanistan 3-1 after failing to win a single match in 2003 and 2005.

Bhutan, who drew attention after a 1-1 draw with Bangladesh in the group opener, fell 2-0 to hosts Sri Lanka in their second match but when everyone expected them to become a target of Afghanistan raids, the minnows from the Himalayan Kingdom surprised again.

Yeshey Dorji put Bhutan ahead after 16 minutes while Gyetshen netted a brace, in the 75 and 81 minutes, to put the match beyond

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Four-tastic Nadal



AFP, Paris

Rafael Nadal defeated Roger Federer in the French Open final for the third year running on Sunday and joined Swedish legend Bjorn Borg as the only man to win four straight titles at Roland Garros.

The Spaniard scored a stunning 6-1, 6-3, 6-0 triumph over the world No.1, taking the last nine games of the match, in stark contrast to the two four-set battles he edged to see off Federer in the two previous finals.

Federer was powerless to stop the barrage of heavy top spin fired at him as he slumped to a demoralising hiding. If he was a rapier, Nadal was a sledgehammer and in that matchup there was only ever going to be one winner.

Nadal has now won all 28 matches he has played at Roland Garros and having just turned 22, he is well on his way to replacing Borg as the greatest claycourt player of all time. He did not drop a set all fortnight.

"Sorry for Roger, but to win here is incredible and especially to win this tournament four times," he said after receiving the trophy from the hands of six-times winner Borg.

For 26-year-old Federer it was another dark day in the City of Light. He came into Paris looking to join the history-makers as just the sixth man to have won all four Grand Slam titles. He leaves with the sorry record of being the only player in Grand Slam history to lose to the same player in three consecutive finals.

"I would like to have won more than four games but Rafa has played an incredible tournament and he fully deserves to win," he said.

"But I'll be back to try again next year and I am looking forward to the rest of this year."

Perfect playing conditions

greeted the start of the match but clear crowd favourite Federer got off to the worst of possible openings when he dropped his serve and then squandered two break points in the following game.

He saved two break points to open his account in the third game, but muscled Nadal stepped on the accelerator reeling off four games in a row with two more service breaks to take the set 6-1.

Nadal, wearing the lime-green

shirt he has favoured throughout the fortnight, opened the second set with a love service game and then promptly broke Federer for the third time in a row as the world no.1's famed forehand badly misfired.

There was then a brief moment of hope for Federer's many fans as he nailed his first service break of the final and levelled at 2-2.

Attacking the net with more regularity, Federer got the crowd

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4



PHOTO: AFP

THIS IS MINE: Rafael Nadal holds the trophy after his win over Swiss world number one Roger Federer in the French Open final at Roland Garros in Paris yesterday.



PHOTO: AFP

Croatia star Luka Modric scores the only goal from a penalty during their Euro 2008 match against co-host Austria at the Ernst-Happel Stadium in Vienna on Sunday.

SCORE AGAINST DANDRUFF WITH CONFIDENCE

CLEAR men

NO DANDRUFF