



Kids fight for the possession of the ball during a Grameen-Danone Nations Cup juvenile tournament between Narayananj and Chapainawabganj at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Nations Cup Football

UNB, Dhaka

BFF Development Squad will play Khulna DFA in the final of the Grameen-Danone Nations Cup Football tournament today at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan will be the chief guest in the final.

On way to the final, BFF Development Squad beat Narail DFA by 3-0 goals while Khulna DFA blanked Lalmonirhat DFA by 2-0 goals yesterday.

Shahzada struck twice and Mithu scored one goal for BFF Dev Squad while Sumon scored both the goals for Khulna DFA.

In the day's other matches, Narayananj DFA outclassed Chapainawabganj DFA by 3-0 goals while Chittagong DFA beat Gazipur DFA by 1-0 goal at the same venue.

BFF to host U-16 qualifiers

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is likely to host the AFC Under-16 2010 qualifiers Group-E matches in Chittagong.

Bangladesh has been pitted in this group along with Chinese Taipei, Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia and Philippines.

There were three options for the BFF to choose from. They could have played the matches in Malaysia, compete in home and away basis or be the host of the group. Since the first two options were not economically viable, the BFF in principle has agreed to host the Group E matches in the port city during October 3 to October 18.

"We will inform the matter to the AFC (Asian Football Confederation) tomorrow," said BFF general secretary Al Musabbir Sadi adding that they would be asking for USD \$ 20,000 from the each participating teams as appearance fees.

Bayern set

FROM PAGE 20

care of itself.

"Franck will stay with Bayern Munich."

And Nerlinger insists Ribery's lack of training ground time last week has nothing to do with his attitude and everything to do with injury.

"Franck has problems with his Achilles' tendon, that is not an invention."

Meanwhile in Spain, Real Madrid's negotiator Pedro Jimenez says he is ready to present Bayern with an offer for Bayern Munich which they will "not be able to ignore."



Did U Know?

A Harvard University study on football showed that Real Madrid Football Club was the most popular team in the world, with a fan base of over 228 million supporters.

Harmison has no place

Cricket

AFP, London

Stephen Harmison has failed to win back his place in the England side after being left out Sunday of their 13-man squad for the first Ashes Test against Australia at Cardiff starting on Wednesday.

The news may come as a relief to Australia opener Phillip Hughes who was twice dismissed by short-pitched Harmison deliveries during the tourists' drawn final warm-up match this week against the England Lions at Worcester.

The 30-year-old fast bowler took six wickets in all for the Lions against Australia but the fast bowler, whose fiery new ball spell against Australia at Lord's four years ago set the tone for England's Ashes triumph, has been omitted after being dropped from the side during this year's West Indies' tour.

Instead fellow Durham quick Graham Onions, who took 10 wickets in England's 2-0 home series triumph over the West Indies, his debut Test campaign, has been added to the England team that drew this week's practice match against Warwickshire while Lions captain Ian Bell was included as batting cover.

Injury-prone all-rounder Andrew Flintoff, the hero of England's 2005 Ashes series win, returns to the squad following a knee injury and his recall means there is no place for Tim Bresnan, his stand-in earlier in the season.

"We were delighted with the way in which the team performed in the warm-up match at Edgbaston and it was very encouraging to see Andrew Flintoff bowl so well on his return to the

side," said national selector Geoff Miller after announcing the squad.

"We were keen to show consistency in selection and retain the nucleus of the side that performed so well against West Indies in the Test series earlier this summer," the former England off-spinner added.

"Graham Onions has made an excellent start to his Test career and gives us a different option when we consider the make-up of our bowling attack and the type of conditions we will encounter.

"Ian Bell has performed well in county cricket this summer and he will act as cover batsman for this Test Match should any of our established batsmen be unavailable through injury."

Left-arm spinner Monty Panesar is back in favour after missing the series against the West Indies while both Harmison and left-arm quick Ryan Sidebottom, in the wickets for Nottinghamshire in the County Championship, have been told by Miller not to give up on their Ashes hopes.

"There is healthy competition for places in our starting line-up at present and the strong performance by the England Lions against Australia at Worcester demonstrated that we are starting to develop a larger squad of players who can compete effectively with international class players," he said.

SQUAD

Andrew Strauss (captain), Alastair Cook, Ravi Bopara, Kevin Pietersen, Paul Collingwood, Matt Prior (wicketkeeper), Andrew Flintoff, Stuart Broad, Graeme Swann, James Anderson, Monty Panesar, Ian Bell, Graham Onions.

Chappell carps team selection

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Ian Chappell believes Australia have picked a "ridiculous" Ashes squad and it would be "nonsense" to rely on part-time spinners during the series. Chappell, who captained the 1972 and 1975 touring squads, has tipped England to prevail in the five-match contest, a prediction backed by the former England captain Tony Greig.

"If you're looking for clues as to who might win, I always look at the bowling attacks," Chappell told Cricinfo. "Generally you can go with the team with the best attack. At the moment England certainly have got it."

"A bit will depend on [Andrew] Flintoff and his fitness, but if he's fit and can stand up for all five Tests then England have definitely got the better attack, and a better balanced attack. On that basis I would

have them slight favourites."

Greig, who played in 21 Ashes Tests, said he was not convinced the Australian batsmen could handle the England bowlers if they swung the ball like they did in 2005. "I'd go for England, but only by a whisker," he said. "There's always so much tension around the first Ashes Test so temperament could play a very important part."

A four-man pace brigade is a strong possibility for Australia following the disappointing early performances of the off-spinner Nathan Hauritz and Chappell said the balance of the side was the biggest concern going into the first Test in Cardiff on Wednesday. "I just don't believe part-time spinners can do the job for you," he said, as Australia consider the merits of using Marcus North, Michael Clarke and Simon Katich instead of Hauritz.

"They should have learned the lesson after what they tried in India and that was an abject failure. You might get away

with it on occasions. You shouldn't win Test matches against decent cricket teams relying on part-time spinners. The selectors have made an absolute nonsense of what they've done with spinners." Chappell would prefer Australia to play three fast men and a slow bowler.

He also said it was a mistake not having a specialist top-order batsman in the squad, especially with Phillip Hughes' early tour problems. "I thought it was ridiculous," he said. "Certainly not going with a third opening batsman is just asking for trouble. There seems to be this widespread feeling that Hughes is fine, he's going to be a star. Well, he's only played three Tests. He's got a very unorthodox technique that could come unglued at any time. If it happens to be a wet summer in England he could be in a bit of trouble."

Van Gaal

FROM PAGE 20

the continuing speculation over a possible move.

"The transfer issue is not good for Franck, not good for Bayern Munich and also not good for me," he said.

"It has to be over soon. We have to solve the problem, but that is not so easy. There are many factors involved, not least money."

Van Gaal said he had spoken to Ribery about the matter, saying the player was in a difficult position because he was being influenced by people around him.

But the coach left a possible sale open, saying Bayern could yet buy another player.

"If we sell Ribery we will have enough money," he said.

Real Madrid are among clubs interested in signing Ribery, and the player was quoted on Thursday by French sports daily L'Equipe as saying he wanted to leave for the Spanish club.

Bayern have insisted that Ribery is not for sale as he has a contract until 2011.

Tim exudes confidence

Cricket

AFP, Worcester

Australia coach Tim Nielsen said his side are in the best possible shape ahead of the first Ashes Test in Cardiff next week.

The tourists drew their final warm-up match after the England Lions were set 445 runs to win from 60 overs before reaching 162 for four by the close of play on the fourth and final day.

Despite it being the tourists' second successive draw, the match answered many of Australia's questions before they start their Ashes defence on Wednesday.

"The whole three weeks we've been here have been just about spot on. It couldn't have been better," said Nielsen after stumps.

"We've pretty much given all our blokes a run and feel as though the time they've had in the nets and the middle, we can pick from our full squad whatever the conditions.

"There was no point being at our absolute best a week-and-a-half ago. I'm really pleased with where it's at."

Marcus North, Michael Clarke, Simon Katich and Mike Hussey all performed with the bat while on Saturday Mitchell Johnson joined Brett Lee in bowling in excess of 90mph, with Australia's premier quick striking twice in the afternoon session.

First innings centurion Stephen Moore was snapped up at second slip by

Ricky Ponting for 16 and Joe Denly was caught behind for 36 as the athletic Queenslander ratcheted up the pace from the first innings.

Johnson was expensive, but the left-arm showed glimpses of the reverse swing which booked Lee's berth in the Test line-up for the much-anticipated opener at Sophia Gardens.

Lee finished with seven wickets for the match after uprooting Vikram Solanki's leg stump with a vicious inswinging yorker.

During the afternoon, Ponting turned to part-time spinner Marcus North ahead of the out-of-touch Nathan Hauritz, who is looking increasingly unlikely to make his Ashes debut next week.

But the specialist off-spinner eventually came on 15 minutes before the tea interval and struck in his third over to remove Ian Bell.

Bell, the Lions captain, was being watched first-hand by the England selectors and captain Andrew Strauss.

But the Warwickshire No.3 never really got going, scoring a slow-going 20 in 63 balls before being caught at short leg by Katich.

"It would have been nice to score a few more runs in this game, but whatever happens happens," said Bell, ahead of England's squad announcement for the first Test on Sunday.

"If an opportunity comes around I've just to make sure I'm in the best form possible."

Hauritz's main opponent for the final specialist bowling spot, Stuart Clark, was typically miserly in a spell of eight overs costing just 11 runs.

Before lunch, North -- who had been doubtful about his place in the side prior to this following a series of low scores -- offered a knee-high caught and bowled chance to Stephen Harmison on 120 on the march to an unbeaten 191 in Australia's 438 for four declared.

North has cemented the No.6 position for next week's opener.

Hussey's run-a-ball 62 included a pulled six over backwards square leg off Graham Onions before the batsman retired hurt with a sore ankle.

The Western Australian, who scored 150 in the first innings to dispel any suggestion his test class powers were on the wane, returned to the field 10 minutes after lunch.

Australia's top seven have all posted half-centuries in their two warm-up matches and, Phillip Hughes' troubles with the short ball aside, batted intelligently at New Road against a strong Lions attack and on a flat pitch expected to play similarly to Sophia Gardens next week.

The match ended in unusual circumstances after the players agreed to finish early following a five-minute delay while umpire Jeff Evans was treated after collapsing as he walked towards square leg.

The 54-year-old Welshman walked from the field after paramedics and a doctor had been called.

No decision yet

UNB, Dhaka

The League Committee of Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) has failed to finalize the date of inter-club player transfer and the Premier Division Hockey League.

The league committee and representatives of the metropolitan Premier League clubs had a marathon meeting Sunday afternoon at the BHF to finalize the date of the player transfer. They will meet again in a day or two.

Earlier, the league committee announced the tentative date for the player transfer on July 8-10.

Sampras sees Federer's history bid

AFP, London

Seven-time champion Pete Sampras returned to the All England Club on Sunday to witness Roger Federer's attempt to break his record of 14 Grand Slam titles.

Sampras, who played his last Wimbledon in 2002, watched Federer tackle Andy Roddick from the Royal Box alongside former champions Rod Laver and Bjorn Borg.

Sahin extends

FROM PAGE 20

League winners.

"Despite some impressive offers that we and the club received, I have renewed my contract with Borussia Dortmund for four more years," said Sahin in a statement.

Sahin has also had a brief spell on loan with Dutch giants Feyenoord in the season of 2007/08.

Nat'l Chess

SPORTS REPORTER

GM Ziaur Rahman maintained the solo lead in the 35th Mercantile Bank National Chess Championship as he won his seventh round game against Golam Mostafa Bhuiyan at the federation hall room yesterday.

Zia played with white pieces and broke open Mostafa's Pirc Defense to win after 35 moves. It was Zia's seventh straight win.

GM Reefat Bin Sattar followed the leader with one point adrift. Reefat beat Jamal Uddin in the seventh round.

Mohammad Hasan Emam drew with GM Enamul Hossain Rajib to keep the third spot.

In the other matches, Aminul Islam Polash beat FM Taibur Rahman, FM Abu Sufian Shakil beat Mahtabuddin Ahmed and FM Mohammad Javed drew with Debaraj Chatterjee.

India

FROM PAGE 17

the individual gold in this event with a score of 696.7 while his teammate Sanjeev Rajput followed him with 695.5 and another Indian shooter Imran Hassan Khan scored 693.9 to secure the bronze.

Pakistani Siddique (678.8) finished fourth and hosts Abdullah Hal Baki finished fifth with 677.3.

In the 50m pistol, India won the team event with 1650 points while Pakistan scored 1584 to secure silver and Bangladesh bagged the bronze with 1502.

Indian Amanreet Singh clinched the gold in the individual event of 50m pistol with 555 points while Sri Lankan EM Senanayaka finished second with 553 and Indian Samaresh Jung took the bronze with 548.

Today's events: 50m rifle prone (men's), 25m pistol (women's), 10m air rifle (women's).

No laurel for Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

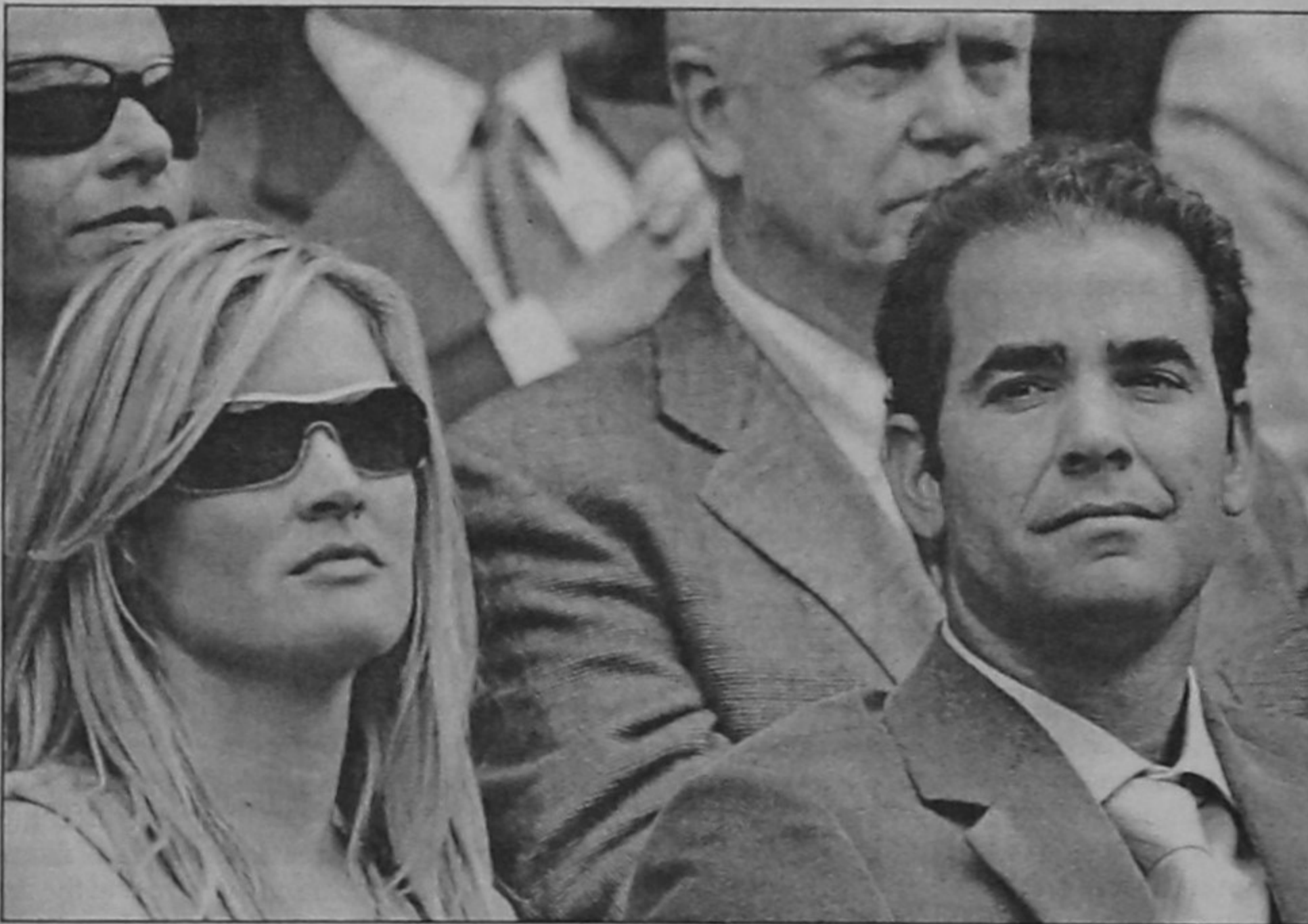
Bangladesh finished their campaign in the First Asian Youth Games in Singapore yesterday without any success.

BKSP's swimmer Mahfizur Rahman failed to reach the semifinal in the 100-meter freestyle as he finished fifth among the eight competitors clocking 55.84 seconds in the heat at the Singapore Sports School on Sunday.

Earlier, Mahfizur was eliminated from the semifinal in the 50-meter freestyle.

A 15-member Bangladesh contingent took part in the first ever Asian Youth meet and out of the 10 disciplines, Bangladesh competed in four disciplines -- athletics, swimming, shooting and basketball (3 on 3).

Bangladeshi young athletes failed to make any mark in the competition.



Tennis legend Pete Sampras (R) watches the men's Wimbledon final between Switzerland's Roger Federer and American Andy Roddick at the All England Club on yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Bottle-nose kin 5 Winter ailment 8 Reed instrument 12 LummoX 13 — relief 14 Industrial region of Germany 15 House-hold arachnid 17 Actress Argento 18 Old photo shade 19 Copies 21 Skin abnormality 24 Vast expanse 25 North American peninsula, for short 28 Persia, now 30 Prized possession 33 Ostrich's cousin 34 Pizza dough 35 Ms. Thurman

36 USO audience 37 For fear that 38 Call a halt to 39 Skater Babilonia 41 Racetrack "helper" 43 Not digital, as a watch 46 Expire, as a subscription 50 Mongolian desert 51 U.S. area where industry once thrived 54 Tel — slayer 56 Slender 57 Assess

58 Chesapeake, e.g. 59 Exile isle

DOWN 1 Auto-maker 22 Paddock Eli — papa 23 Have faith in 25 Plead 26 Parisian pal 27 Very slightly 29 Regarding 31 Comic Philips 32 Chart 34 Advertising award 38 Not wobbly 40 Breathing 42 Last (Abbr.) 43 Culture medium 44 PBS science show 45 Snatch 47 Rind 48 Thick chunk 49 Sicilian spouter 52 — Today 53 Agent

Solution time: 21 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE I'M GOOD AT MAKING UNYIELDINGLY INSISTENT PEOPLE LAUGH, THEY SAY I'M A STICKLER TICKLER.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals T