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SOUTH AFRICA 2010
FIFA
WORLD CUP

Football comes home

WORLD CUP 1966 CONTINUED
The following game saw Hungary rip the Brazilians apart, with Florian Albert and winger Ferenc Bene shining. Brazil's first defeat in the competition since 1954 blew the destiny of the trophy wide open in many observers' eyes. In the following game, Portugal's Eusebio eclipsed Pele, who again came in for harsh treatment from opposing defenders. A 3-1 Portugal win sent Brazil home and Pele swore never to play in a World Cup again.

Italy, meanwhile, were another side whose clubs were dominating Europe, and they would suffer an even greater upset than Brazil. Despite having been beaten by a crack Russian outfit, they seemed in little danger from their last group opponents, North Korea, but Pak Doo-Ik is a name guaranteed to wake Azzurri fans in a cold sweat and his goal sent the Italians home to a volley of rotten tomatoes.

And a similar fate seemed likely to befall the Portuguese when, after 22 minutes of their quarterfinal, the Koreans found themselves 3-0 up. But Eusebio again grabbed the game by the scruff of the neck and scored a record four goals in just over half an hour. Though the Koreans would remain men of mystery, their impact on the tournament will never be forgotten.

West Germany made worryingly short work of the Uruguayans in a 4-0 win while the Russians got the better of Hungary in a 2-1 win. England's clash with Argentina, meanwhile, would become notorious. Though Geoff Hurst, Greaves's eventual replacement, scored a header from a superbly executed Martin Peters cross, the English were held back by some South American-style spoiling, with referee Kreidlein a constant target for abuse from Argentina captain Antonio Rattin.

Rattin eventually paid the price and was dismissed and, after ten minutes, the game was restarted and Hurst grabbed his goal. Ramsey refused to let his team swap shirts with their opponents after victory was secured and labelled Argentina 'animals'. It was not to be the last infamous World Cup incident between the two countries.

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As his shot comes down off the bar in the final, Geoff Hurst (extreme right) and Willi Schulz lie back and think of Azerbaijan.

Ballack out of World Cup

REUTERS, Munich



Germany's World Cup hopes suffered a severe blow on Monday when captain Michael Ballack was ruled out of next month's finals in South Africa with an ankle injury.

It was also a personal setback for 33-year-old Ballack, who was set to play at his third World Cup and is unlikely to get another chance to perform on the sport's biggest stage.

Chelsea midfielder Ballack was injured in the first half of Saturday's English FA Cup final against Portsmouth, limping off during the first-half of his team's 1-0 win after a late tackle by Kevin-Prince Boateng.

The ankle was so badly swollen that a planned scan on Sunday had to be postponed until Monday morning.

"There's naturally a lot of disappointment. It's bitter to get a diagnosis like that two or three weeks before the World Cup. But that's football. That happens. Life goes on," Ballack told German television.

"He (Germany coach Joachim Loew) is naturally disappointed. I'll fly down there now and we'll let it all sink in," added Ballack, who broke off the interview and hobbled away on crutches.

Loew said: "Michael Ballack is a very important player for us, in the decisive matches he often played a very, very important role for us, a central role for us."

"We were all naturally shocked this morning when we got the news. I talked to Michael. He's deeply disappointed. He put all his energy and power into playing in this World Cup."

"He's near his 100th cap. That would have been a match in Frankfurt against Bosnia."

"That's an immense disappointment for him to not be able to play in this World Cup."

"I called the team together and spoke with the team and passed along the information. It's very, very unfortunate for us. But it shows we have to pull all our strength together and look forward. We've got a lot of young players."

"We've now got to get to that point that our younger players get this self-confidence and can grow into the roles."

The DFB said Ballack has suffered a tear of one ankle ligament and a partial tear of another. They said his right ankle would be placed in a cast and he would have to wear a special shoe for two weeks once the cast was removed.

"According to the diagnosis today by national team physician, Dr. Hans-Wilhelm Mueller-Wohlfahrt, a complete recovery can be expected, but a return to training will not be possible for at least eight weeks," said a statement.

German-born Boateng, booked for the tackle, is in the provisional squad of Germany's first round opponents Ghana.

DFB president Theo Zwanziger expressed anger at the tackle.

"I'm deeply sad that Michael Ballack will miss the World Cup because of a foul like that. He has done an enormous amount for German football in the last few years and would have deserved to take part in this tournament," he said.

"It's very tough to have this news just before his 100th game, but we will... help him where we can."

Ballack won the first of his 98 caps against Scotland in April 1999 and helped Germany reach the final of the World Cup in 2002 and third place four years ago, when they hosted the tournament.

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PHOTO: AFP

Germany captain Michael Ballack leaves a clinic in Munich following an MRI scan on his injured ankle yesterday. The tests confirmed that Ballack had ruptured ligaments in his ankle, meaning he will miss the World Cup. At 33, this was probably Ballack's last chance to appear in football's showpiece event.

Snr Division soccer back after 2 years

SPORTS REPORTER

After a two-year gap, the Bashundhara Senior Division Football League got underway at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Defending champions Fakirpool Youngmen's Club recorded a solitary-goal win over T&T Club in the opening match with Wahed Ahmed striking the decider in the 69th minute.

Earlier, Bangladesh Football Federation president Kazi Salahuddin declared the 12-team meet open by releasing balloons.

Hinting at not to play any 'fixed or compromised' match, the BFF boss in his brief speech said he would like to see disciplines from all players and club officials in the league.

He also said they could not roll the Senior Division League due to unavailability of ground and that they would start the Pioneer League at Dhanmondi Club ground in August-September.

Div I b'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

Rangers Club, the Gregs and the Gregarious Club won their respective matches in the First Division Basketball League at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

Rangers defeated Mohammadpur Club 77-43, the Gregs handed a 78-69 defeat to Hornets Club and Gregarious defeated Dhumketu Club 82-73.

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh League
Mohammedan v Beanibazar
Time: 4:00pm
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Messi leads Barca to glory

AFP, Madrid



Barcelona made it four league titles in six seasons as they retained the La Liga crown on the final day of the season with a 4-0 win over Valladolid on Sunday to finish three points ahead of arch rivals Real Madrid.

Barcelona knew one more win would see them crowned champions and after a nervous start the Catalans coasted to victory with Lionel Messi scoring a brace for his 33rd and 34th goals of a terrific season.

Ballon D'Or winner Messi, 22, wins his first Pichichi trophy for the league's top scorer while Barcelona's 99 points is the highest ever in the Spanish league.

Real Madrid drew 1-1 at Malaga on Sunday as their 250 million euro plus spending

RESULTS

Barcelona 4 (Prieto 27-og, Pedro 31, Messi 61, 75) Valladolid 0
Malaga 1 (Duda 9) Real Madrid 1 (van der Vaart 48)
Osasuna 1 (Dady 55) Xerez 1 (Antonito 61)
Racing Santander 2 (Tchite 34, 54) Sporting Gijon 0
Valencia 1 (Alexis 90) Tenerife 0

failed to bring a single title for the second successive season.

It is a second league title in his two seasons at the helm for coach Pep Guardiola who also won the Spanish and European Super Cups in 2010 along with a first ever Club World Cup.

For Real their huge summer outlay on 'Galacticos' has proved in vain and the writing looks to be on the wall for their coach Manuel Pellegrini with Inter Milan manager Jose Mourinho strongly linked with the job for months.

Midfield playmaker Xavi was suspended for Barcelona

so Ivory Coast midfielder Yaya Toure came in and Guardiola went with Bojan Krkic, Pedro and Messi in attack.

Barcelona had an early scare when Mateus Manucho forced a fine save from Victor Valdes in the fourth minute and nerves were jangling at Camp Nou.

However, Barca took the lead on 27 minutes when defender Luis Prieto sliced Pedro Rodriguez's harmless cross into his own net.

Four minutes later Messi released Pedro who slotted through the goalkeeper's legs for his 12th goal of the season.

At half-time Barcelona were champions as Real failed to make a fight of it trailing 1-0 at Malaga.

Real fell behind on nine minutes with a neat back-heel from Salvador Caicedo releasing Sergio Duda who finished coolly.

Cristiano Ronaldo, on 26 goals for the season, had a header tipped over and a free-kick punched away in the first half but Malaga.

Minutes after the break Real equalised through Rafael van der Vaart with the Dutch midfielder turning neatly and getting a snapshot away into the corner.

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ROLL OF HONOUR

2010: Barcelona
2009: Barcelona
2008: Real Madrid
2007: Real Madrid
2006: Barcelona

Soma, Manash win TT titles

SPORTS REPORTER

Manash and Soma emerged champion in their respective singles event in the RC Cola Federation Cup Invitational Table Tennis Tournament at the newly-built Wooden Floor Gymnasium yesterday.

Manash of Biman beat Sheikh Russel's Rocky 11-5, 10-12, 11-7, 11-9 and 11-7 to win the men's singles title while Soma defeated her Biman teammate Snigdha 11-4, 8-11, 8-11, 11-0, 11-8 to win the women's singles title.

In the boys' group, Jubair of Moeller defeated his teammate Palash 11-8, 14-12, 12-10 11-5 in the final.

Youth and Sports Secretary Mahub Ahmed distributed prizes among the winners while sponsor Partex Beverage's managing director Rubel Aziz was present on the occasion.

C'WEALTH CHESS

Rajib, Shakil share lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Eamul Hossain Rajib and FM Abu Sufian Shakil earned seven points each after the tenth round in the Commonwealth Chess Championship in New Delhi yesterday. FM Mehdi Hasan Parag earned 6.5 points while FM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar, FM Mohammad Javed, Debaraj Chatterjee and Abdullah Al Saif earned 6 points each. GM Niaz Murshed earned 5.5 points, IWM Rani Hamid earned 4 points and Mokaddesh Hossain earned 3 points.

In the tenth round FM Shakil drew with GM Iuldachev Saidali of Uzbekistan, Rajib beat G A Stany, Parag lost against GM Tejas Bakre, Debaraj lost against Anwesh Upadhyaya, Sagar lost against Konguvel Ponnuswamy, Niaz lost against Phadke Sohan, Javed beat S Harini, Saif beat FM Rishpal Singh, Rani Hamid lost against Anirudh Kannan and Mokaddesh lost against Van Aarde Lenke



PHOTO: AFP

Barcelona star Lionel Messi celebrates his second goal against Valladolid during their Primera Liga encounter at Nou Camp on Sunday. Messi scored a remarkable 46 goals in the season and 34 goals in the League to become the top scorer.

Shuvo puts the brakes on WI A



Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Left-arm spinner Sohrawardi Shuvo overshadowed Darren Bravo's hundred with a six-wicket haul on the opening day of the first four-day match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Shuvo's six for 124 helped the hosts to wrap up West Indies A for 285 runs.

Bangladesh A then lost one wicket to reach 22 before stumps were drawn for the day as opener Shahriar Nafees fell victim of a run out.

The visitors, who chose to bat after winning the toss, were in a commanding position at one stage riding on a 142-run third wicket partnership between captain Travis Dowlin and Bravo, who played seven one-day internationals. But after that they suddenly lost composure and lost five wickets for 60 runs.

Shuvo broke the partnership removing Dowlin, who scored a 144-ball 75 that contained eight boundaries, while spinner Mahmudul Hasan claimed the prize scalp of Bravo, who hit 102 off 137 balls that saw 12 fours and a six.

Brendan Nash was the other notable scorer with 44 off 73 deliveries that featured two fours and a six before Hasan, who took two wickets for 53 runs, bowled him.

Earlier left-arm paceman Syed Rasel gave the first break

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

English media over the moon

AFP, London



British commentators on Monday savoured the England cricketers' "crushing victory over the old enemy" after they beat Australia in the World Twenty20.

England won their first major one-day title in a seven-wicket defeat of Australia in the final of the tournament Sunday, providing a pleasant surprise for Britain's cricket pundits.

"England gave one-day cricket to the world almost half a century ago and finally, after decades of international hurt, they have drawn a dividend from their invention," said the Times.

"They won their first ICC event with such ease that you had to wonder what took them so long."

The Daily Mail noted it had been "a ridiculously long wait for England's first one-day title since the World Cup."

"But they finally and gloriously lifted one at the 18th attempt yesterday with a crushing victory over the old enemy."

The Guardian hailed South African-born batsmen Craig Kieswetter and Kevin Pietersen, who starred for England.

The pair "had exposed how uncharacteristically timid the Australian batting had been, and all but sealed the match," said the paper.

England, chasing 148 to win, after reducing a previously

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