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SOUTH AFRICA 2010
FIFA WORLD CUP



LONE WARRIOR: Bangladesh A opener Shahriar Nafees drives on the up, giving silly mid-off a lot of trouble, during the left-hander's century against West Indies A on the third day of the first unofficial Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Tigers stoop to Lions

SPORTS REPORTER

Robiul Islam's two-wicket burst gave Bangladesh little hope after the England Lions dominated the opening day of their four-day game at the County Ground in Derby yesterday.

The Tigers slumped to 220 all out in their first innings after the openers made a bright start. But the home side also found it hard and were 43 for two, with new boy Robiul snaring Ravi Bopara and Moeen Ali, both caught in the slips by Imrul Kayes, the man who top-scored with 42 for Bangladesh when they batted.

Kayes and the returning Tamim Iqbal added 68 for the first wicket. The Chittagonian fell for 36 with six boundaries. After both were dismissed Junaed Siddiqui and Jahurul Islam continued the good show

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

Nafees shines in ruins

Cricket
SPORTS REPORTER

Shahriar Nafees batted superbly to make 133 for Bangladesh A on an otherwise terrible third day of the first unofficial Test against West Indies A at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The visitors are just three wickets away from victory after Bangladesh A slipped to 233 for seven in their second innings, chasing 430 runs.

It was another terrible day for Bangladesh A as none of their batsmen, barring of course Nafees who struck an imperious 133, made any impact. Skipper Nazimuddin fell in the first over to pacer Gavin Tonge before Marshall Ayub followed suit, falling for just nine.

Nafees, who scored more than half the runs for the home side, remained detached from what was happening at the

other end as he struck boundary after boundary with a lot of confidence. He dominated a 79-run third wicket stand with Rokibul Hasan, reaching his half-century off 54 balls.

Odean Brown's leg-spin trapped Rokibul in front for 19 and the slide continued. The leggie had in-form Faisal Hossain stumped and Mahmudul Hasan leg-before in consecutive overs to reduce Bangladesh A to 104 for five. A result seemed likely on the third day but thankfully, Sahagir Hossain offered Nafees ample support in a nearly three-hour partnership. The two added 126 for the sixth wicket during which Nafees reached his century off 142 balls.

The left-hander made 133 off 170 balls with 21 boundaries and a six, before falling in the final over of the day to pacerman Lionel Baker. The right-handed Sahagir missed a half-century but played his 47-run innings mostly from the crease, hitting 10 boundaries.

Brown's three wickets and a couple from Tonge came in short bursts, highlighting the jumpy tendencies of the Bangladesh batsmen.

The day also began with the visitors in full control with their overnight score of 162 for two.

Kirk Edwards, unbeaten overnight on 55, fell to Nazmul Hossain for 72 and was shortly followed by Edwards's overnight batting partner Darren Bravo, who made 37.

Brendan Nash stuck around for 27 off 52 balls and had Shane Shillingford for company when Travis Dowlin declared the second innings on 245 for six.

SCORES IN BRIEF
WEST INDIES A: First innings 285 and second innings 269-6 in 79 overs (Smith 62, Dowlin 32, Edwards 72, Bravo 37, Shuvo 3-104).
BANGLADESH A: First innings 125 all out and second innings 233-7 in 62 overs (Nafees 133, Sahagir 47; Brown 3-33, Tonge 2-26).

Butt likely to get Pak Test captaincy

PTI, Karachi

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) will announce the squads for next month's Asia Cup and the tour of England on May 22 and opener Salman Butt is likely to get the Test captaincy.

Sources said the acting on the advice of former coaches Intikhab Alam and Aaqib Javed, the PCB has ruled out selection of banned seniors like Muhammad Yousuf, Younus Khan and Shoaib Malik from selection.

"This is the suggestion that Aaqib gave to the inquiry committee of the board during the hearings in February and March and he had told them to appoint a compromise candidate for the tests in England against Australia and England," a source told PTI.

Messi will prove it

AFP, Buenos Aires

Argentina's reigning world footballer of the year Lionel Messi insisted on Tuesday he did not crack under the weight of expectation when he played for the national side and he would show that at the upcoming World Cup finals.

The 22-year-old Barcelona star has often been criticised for not reproducing his stellar club form at international level, but Messi - who was arriving here from Spain where he ended the season with 34 league goals as Barca retained the title - said that was not the case.

"I am going to try and do what I do at Barcelona," said Messi.

"I am full of hope and really desire to do well (in South Africa where the tournament runs from June 11 to July 11)."

"I am used to the pressure. I

play for Barcelona who are one of the most important teams in the world and where it is obligatory to always win."

Messi, who flew in to join up with his fellow squad members and coach Diego Maradona, said he thought that Argentina could surprise many and lift the World Cup for the third time in their history.

"For me, Argentina is a serious candidate for the title even if nobody puts us among the favourites."

"And I believe that is a good thing for us."

Argentina are in Group B along with 2002 semifinalists South Korea, African heavyweights Nigeria and Euro 2004 champions Greece.



Will Messi be able to carry his fabulous club form into his national team Argentina in next month's World Cup?

Flower hints at rotation

Cricket
CRICINFO

England's coach, Andy Flower, believes that some of England's key players will have to be rested during the forthcoming home series against Bangladesh, Pakistan and Australia, in order to make sure they are in peak condition come the Ashes and the World Cup this winter.

Speaking in the aftermath of England's triumphant World Twenty20 campaign in the Caribbean, Flower emphasised the need to keep bodies and minds fresh in the course of a hectic schedule, and warned that key performers such as Stuart Broad, Paul Collingwood and Graeme Swann -- who are integral to all three forms of the game -- are those most at risk of burn-out.

"We have a very busy 12 months ahead of us and we are going to have to rest players at various times," England Flower told reporters at

Gatwick on Monday. "In certain situations it is possible that we will have to rest some players either for emotional reasons such as stress, and sometimes it will be for strength and conditioning reasons. With our schedule it will be hard to fit enough strength and conditioning in."

The issue of squad rotation comes into sharp focus this week with the return to action of the Test and 50-overs captain, Andrew Strauss. He has been resting since the end of the South Africa series in January, having been replaced by Alastair Cook for the recent tour of Bangladesh, but is set to lead the side at Lord's next week for the first Test of the summer, against Bangladesh.

Collingwood, who has become the first England captain to lift an ICC trophy in 35 years of trying, says that he has no wish to reclaim the job that he held briefly at 50-over level in 2008, and is ready and willing to return to the ranks when Strauss returns to the fray.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

Pepsi ignites WC fever!

SPORTS REPORTER

As part of its promotional activities, Transcom Beverages Limited yesterday launched the 'Pepsi Football Mania' campaign ahead of the upcoming FIFA World Cup.

"Ahead of the FIFA World Cup, we have taken some promotional activities as the football craze is heating up the world. As the rage builds around Pepsi football stars like Drogba, Kaka and Messi, young Bangladeshi fans wait eagerly to see their heroes rock the field," said Khurshid Irfan Chowdhury, executive director of Transcom Beverages at a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday.

"Pepsi, the drink that stands for 'refresh your world' spirit, irreverence youthfulness and a 'can do' attitude, is igniting the football fever with its Pepsi Football Mania campaign," he went on. "The hip consumer promo has been created by the youth brand to give the millions of Bangladeshi Pepsi lovers a chance to express their football passion."

For participating in the campaign, the Pepsi consumers can win instant prizes like rocking Pepsi star cards, jerseys, i-Pods, mobile phones, laptops and LCD television sets.

Besides, the top 12 participants will be taken to a four-day trip to Pattaya beach in Thailand as the campaign is expected to continue till June 30.

Transcom Beverages managing director Golam Quddus Chowdhury, Bangladesh PepsiCo country manager Prateek Sabharwal were among other present.

All that a Pepsi fan needs to do is to purchase any Pepsi PET bottle and SMS the hidden code number under the bottle cap to 6969 number. Each SMS will be registered as a goal against that Pepsi fan's cell phone number.

Arambagh's 5th win

SPORTS REPORTER

Arambagh Krira Sangha recorded their fifth victory in the Bangladesh League when they defeated visiting Chittagong Abahani 4-3 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

With the win, Arambagh raised their point tally to 23 from 21 matches to leapfrog to sixth position from ninth while the Chittagong side, who also went 4-1 down against Arambagh in their home match in Chittagong, remained to 18 points from 21 matches and stayed in the 11th position in the 13-team point table.

Arambagh had to wait for half-an-hour to open the account as Kenyan striker Nicodemus Anunda put the hosts ahead in the 32nd minute.

The second half was more exciting as both sides found the target three times each, but Arambagh left the field heads held high with their first-half advantage.

Abahani bit back six minutes into the second half when Mithun Chowdhury converted a penalty corner to level the margin.

Alfaz then put Arambagh ahead again in the 61st minute and Nicodemus made it 3-1 in the 72nd minute while Shakawat Ronny reduced the margin for Chittagong Abahani in the 80th minute.

Nigerian recruit Subair Mohammed ensured the Chittagonians' 11th defeat scoring in the 87th minute though the losers pulled another goal back one minute from time.



Golam Quddus Chowdhury (C), managing director of Transcom Beverages Limited, takes questions from the audience during a press conference in connection with the launch of 'Pepsi Football Mania' at the National Press Club yesterday.

The immortals of Brazil

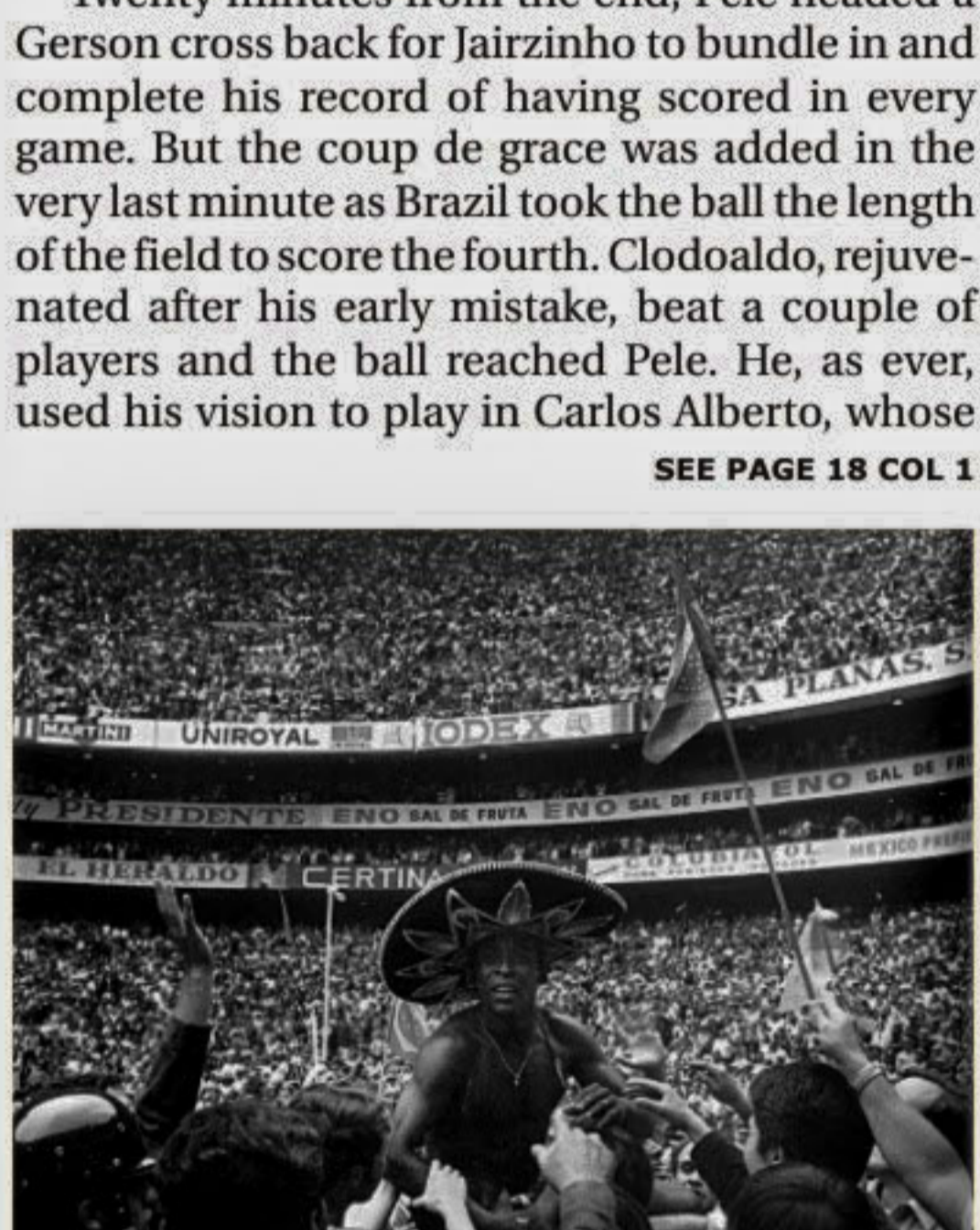
WORLD CUP 1970 CONTINUED

Brazil, meanwhile, rolled over the unsung Peruvians, led by the mercurial Teofilu Cubillas, and now faced old enemy Uruguay in the semis. An early goal from Uruguay's Luis Cubilla saw the Brazilians rocked but a pep talk from Pele and a fantastic strike from Clodoaldo brought them level. The samba football soon returned and Jairzinho and Rivelino's late strikes planted them in the final.

Germany, exhausted by their efforts in Leon, now faced Italy, then fully in the bloom of the catenaccio era. But when Karl Schellinger cancelled out a Roberto Boninsegna goal in the very last minute, luck looked to be with the Germans. However, Beckenbauer injured his shoulder and, though he played on with one arm in a sling, the Italians won out. The score changed no less than five times in extra-time before Gianni Rivera, the golden boy of Italian football, scored a 112th-minute winner.

The superhuman efforts in the last four perhaps did for Italy as Brazil overpowered them in the final. Pele pulled the strings for the South Americans as first he leapt, in the proverbial fashion of a salmon, to head in a Rivelino cross on 19 minutes. Italy got back in the game when Boninsegna seized on a mistake from Clodoaldo to beat keeper and sometime clown Felix, and the crowd, almost all of them cheering for the Brazilians, began to worry. But up stepped chain-smoking midfielder Gerson to clutter in a goal from the edge of the penalty area.

Twenty minutes from the end, Pele headed a Gerson cross back for Jairzinho to bundle in and complete his record of having scored in every game. But the coup de grace was added in the very last minute as Brazil took the ball the length of the field to score the fourth. Clodoaldo, rejuvenated after his early mistake, beat a couple of players and the ball reached Pele. He, as ever, used his vision to play in Carlos Alberto, whose



The pinnacle of the greatest career. After the final, some local headgear costs Pele the shirt off his back.

Victoria victors

SPORTS REPORTER

Victoria Sporting Club made a winning start in the Senior Division Football League with a lone-goal victory over Wari Club at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

Zahed struck the all-import goal four minutes before half time.

Badda Jagarani Sangsad take on Agrani Bank while Jatrabari KC play against Purbachal Parishad in today's matches.

Div I b'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

Flame Boys registered a comprehensive 71-35 points win over Mohammadpur Basketball Club in the Premier Bank First Division Basketball League at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

Flame Boys led the first half 33-17.

Rangers Club posted a 66-40 win over Wraiths Club after dominating the first half 30-17.

What to WATCH

SuperSport2
West Indies v South Africa
Second Twenty20 Int'l
Live from 11:30pm

ESPN
Sportscentre India
Sports News
Live at 8:30pm

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh A v West Indies A
Four-Day Match, Day 4
Time: 9:30am
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur