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SOUTH AFRICA 2010
FIFA
WORLD CUP

Milito shoots Inter to glory

AFP, Madrid

Diego Milito scored both goals as Inter Milan beat Bayern Munich 2-0 in the Champions League final at the Santiago Bernabeu on Saturday as charismatic coach Jose Mourinho engineered an historic treble.

Argentine striker Milito embarrassed each of Bayern's centre-backs in turn as the Bavarians' vulnerable defensive core was ruthlessly exposed.

In their first Champions League final since 1972, Inter won their third European title and first since 1965.

They also became the first Italian team to achieve the treble of Serie A, Italian Cup and Champions League.

But the celebrations were tempered by Mourinho

admitting that the match would almost certainly be his last as he seeks new challenges having become only the third coach to win the European title with two different clubs.

"I want to be the only coach to win the Champions League with three different clubs," he said. "It's more likely that I will leave rather than stay."

Real Madrid are widely expected to be Mourinho's new employers.

Bayern coach Louis Van Gaal, who once worked with Mourinho at Barcelona, was not impressed by the Italian side's tactics.

"Inter are a hard team to play and I think we played attractive football," said the Dutchman.

"We tried to attack in tight spaces. We choose to play offensively. Inter won and they have every right to play the way they want."

Milito said: "I'm 30, I had to



A CUP FOR A CAP: Inter Milan captain Javier Zanetti (C) lifts the Champions League trophy on top of his head after their 2-0 win over Bayern Munich at the Santiago Bernabeu in Madrid on Saturday.

wait a long time to win a trophy like this but this is football and football always gives you a chance to make amends.

"I thank Jose Mourinho and the president for bringing me here last summer, tonight was just fantastic."

Inter's Samuel Eto'o became only the fourth player to win the competition in successive seasons with different clubs having been on the Barcelona winning team a year ago.

Bayern came closest early on as Arjen Robben beat Cristian Chivu and Walter Samuel with some wing wizardry down the right but Ivica Olivic prodded his cross wide of the near post.

Hamit Altintop then created space on the edge of the Inter box on 13 minutes but his shot was deflected for a corner.

Bayern had a decent penalty shout when Daniel Van Buyten's header hit Maicon's arm.

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ROLL OF HONOUR

2010 Inter Milan (ITA)
2009 FC Barcelona (ESP)
2008 Manchester United (ENG)
2007 AC Milan (ITA)
2006 FC Barcelona (ESP)
2005 Liverpool (ENG)
2004 FC Porto (POR)
2003 AC Milan (ITA)
2002 Real Madrid (ESP)

BAYERN MUNICH 0 - 2 INTER MILAN
MILITO 34, 70

Bayern Munich (4-4-2): Hans-Jorg Butt, Daniel van Buyten, Martin Demichelis, Philipp Lahm, Holger Badstuber, Hamit Altintop (Miroslav Klose, 63), Arjen Robben, Mark van Bommel, Bastian Schweinsteiger, Ivica Olivic (Mario Gomez, 74), Thomas Muller

Inter Milan (4-3-3): Julio Cesar, Lucio, Maicon, Walter Samuel, Cristian Chivu (Dejan Stankovic, 68), Javier Zanetti, Wesley Sneijder, Esteban Cambiasso, Samuel Eto'o, Diego Milito (Marco Materazzi, 90), Goran Pandev (Sulley Muntari, 79)

Venue: Santiago Bernabeu

Arambagh leap three places

SPORTS REPORTER

Sylhet's Beanibazar recorded their third victory in the Bangladesh League, but could not avert the relegation zone while Arambagh leapfrogged from ninth to sixth position through their sixth triumph yesterday.

Hosts Beanibazar handed a lone-goal defeat to Chittagong Abahani at Sylhet Stadium with Abid Hossain striking the all-important goal as early as the sixth minute. With the third victory in 21 matches, Beanibazar with 17 points toppled Shuktara Jubo Sangsad to take the 12th place in the 13-team points table.

At the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Arambagh beat Rahmatganj MFS 2-1, despite going a goal down to the old Dhaka outfit.

Kabir gave Rahmatganj a nine-minute lead before Sharif cancelled the advantage in the 57th minute.

Veteran Alfaz Ahmed ensured Arambagh's sixth victory with a 60th minute strike.

Arambagh now have 26 points from 22 matches to climb to sixth position while Rahmatganj slipped to ninth from eighth with 20 points from 22 matches.

ENGLAND ANNOUNCE SQUAD FOR FIRST TEST

Colly, Broad rested

Cricket

CRICINFO

Andy Flower's stated determination to rest his key players in a bid to avoid burn-out ahead of this winter's Ashes and World Cup became apparent when the squad for next week's first Test against Bangladesh at Lord's was unveiled on Sunday morning. Stuart Broad, the fast bowler with an integral role in all three forms of the game, has been given a break from the front line, while Paul Collingwood -- the man who last week lifted the World Twenty20 trophy in Barbados -- also gets a rest in order to begin rehabilitation on a long-term shoulder injury.

"We were all delighted and extremely proud of the way the Twenty20 squad performed at the ICC World Twenty20; their success is testament to a great deal

of hard work," said national selector Geoff Miller. "The focus now shifts back to the longer form of the game and we look forward to the first Test against Bangladesh. We believe we've selected an exciting squad and, with Paul Collingwood and Stuart Broad taking no part in this series, the opportunity arises for a number of younger players to make a mark at Test level."

One of those players is Eoin Morgan, who should make his Test debut for England next week after being included in the squad. Morgan, the rising star of England's limited-overs sides, is a player whose temperament would appear, from his ice-cool approach to one-day run-chases, to be perfectly suited to the cauldron of Test cricket. His first-class record, though, implies a player who hasn't yet transferred his talents to the long-form game, and he has been a virtual stranger to Championship cricket for the past 12 months. His performances in the Tests

will thus be an important marker in his development.

"Eoin Morgan has impressed everyone since his inclusion in England's one-day squad and he now has the opportunity to play a role in the Test team," explained Miller. "He has always held ambitions of playing across all forms of the game and we believe he has earned his place in this Test squad."

With Andrew Strauss returning to lead the side for the first time since the tour of South Africa in January, and James Anderson also back in the reckoning having sat on the sidelines during the Caribbean tour, England have been presented with a range of options against a Bangladesh side that, to judge from their ineffectual efforts against the Lions in Derby this week, are unlikely to prove the same sort of obstacle that they were in their own conditions in Dhaka and Chittagong in March.

No pools for swimming tourneys

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Swimming Federation has postponed this month's long-range swimming competition, talent hunt programme and next month's national swimming championship following the unavailability of the swimming pools.

"We took this decision at a sub-committee meeting on Friday because the National Sports Council (NSC) did not renew the contract of pools after a three-year deal expired on May 15," said BSF general secretary Mahbubur Rahman Shaheen yesterday.

The long-range swimming competition was supposed to be held on May 29 and on the same day, the hunt was scheduled to get underway while the national swimming championship was scheduled for June 22 to 26.

The federation had used the practice pool at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur commercially to teach the newcomers besides their regular training programme.

"Last year we have earned Tk 40 lakh using the pool and met the expenditure of the office as well as running different training programme for the budding swimmers. If the NSC does not allocate it again, then we will suffer financially because we have been organising different competitions without sponsors in the last two years," added Mahbubur.

There is also a whisper in the sports arena that the NSC may lease the pools to the CBA of the NSC in return of handsome money, but NSC secretary Shafiq Anwar ruled out any possibility to lease the pools to any third party.



Two faces of Argentina's World Cup. The captain and other ranks.

Stand against evil acts: Salahuddin

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president Kazi Salahuddin yesterday made an emotional appeal to the national footballers to raise a campaign from their respective positions against the evil acts of 'compromised and fixed matches'.

"I urged them to be united against any evil act and not to get involved in any compromised or fixed match if they want to keep their self-esteem up and increase their value in the next transfers," said Salahuddin after a meeting with the players at the BFF House yesterday.

The BFF boss sat with 24 national booters to know whether they were facing any problems and the players informed him that they did not face any.

It has been reported that a few clubs have been playing out 'compromised or fixed matches' in the ongoing Bangladesh League that not only led to poor turnouts at the Bangabandhu National Stadium but also left the game's governing body wobbling to rope in new sponsors.

Salahuddin believes that it is not possible to play any compromised or fixed match without the help of the players and he appealed to the players to keep themselves free from it.

What to WATCH

Star Sports & SuperSport 1
French Open
First Round
Live from 3:00pm

SuperSport 2
West Indies v South Africa
Second ODI
Live from 7:30pm

SuperSport 3
England v Mexico
Int'l Friendly
Live from 1:00am (Tuesday)



LOOKING AT THE RIGHT DIRECTION? Something draws the attention of Argentina superstar Lionel Messi and superstar coach Diego Maradona during a training session at Ezeiza in Buenos Aires on Saturday.

Diego's tryst with destiny

APP, Paris

Having already etched his name into World Cup folklore as a player, Diego Maradona's next challenge is to silence the doubters by leading Argentina to glory in South Africa as a coach.

Silky as his playing skills may have been, cast in the role of coach Maradona has presided over a team that has at times looked to be as leaden as the one he played in was fleet of foot.

A surprise choice to replace Alfio Basile, who quit in October 2008,

Maradona endured a humiliating series of losses -- the nadir being a 6-1 hiding in Bolivia -- before Argentina ultimately came through with victory against Uruguay in their final qualifying match.

There are now two questions on the lips of the Albiceleste's fans.

The first: has Maradona got what it takes to emulate Mario Zagallo and Franz Beckenbauer by winning World Cup glory for the nation as both player and coach?

The second: can he get the best out of the world's best player, Lionel Messi, who has yet to consistently replicate his sparkling Barcelona form in the sky blue and white of his country?

Maradona says that Messi himself

holds the answer to the second question.

"He must be the owner of the team. He knows it. We have the best player in the world in our team," says the coach.

"We will give him lots of responsibility."

Messi, a junior world champion in 2005, was left on the bench by former coach Jose Pekerman for the 2006 World Cup quarter-final exit to Germany and he knows that to enter the all-time hall of fame he has to cut it beyond club level.

"To become a legend, to become great, you have to also win the World Cup," he said in a recent interview with El Mundo newspaper.

Agrani take early lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Agrani Bank maintained their winning run in the Bashundhara Senior Division Football League as the bankers defeated Victoria 2-0 in the day's lone match at the Bishreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

With two straight victories, Agrani is at the top with six points while Victoria have three points from two matches.

Agrani went ahead in the 13th minute with a strike from Atiqur while Sifat doubled the advantage and confirmed the victory in the 38th minute.

Shuvo, Rasel stifle WI A

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Sohrawordi Shuvo's four-wicket haul was the perfect foil for Syed Rasel's opening burst that propped Bangladesh A on the opening day of the second and final unofficial Test against West Indies A at BKSP in Savar yesterday.

Deciding to bat first, the visitors were 230 for seven from 84 overs after a one-hour delay due to overnight rain. Bangladesh A had one of their best days of the last month as they kept the West Indians tied down throughout the day.

Left-arm paceman Rasel struck in the day's second ball when he had Omar Phillips caught by Farhad Hossain for a duck. He followed that up with the wicket of the other opener Justin Guillen for 15.

One-drop Kirk Edwards and skipper Travis Dowlin resurrected the innings somewhat before both fell to the left-arm spin

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh League
Sheikh Russel v Feni Soccer Club
Time: 4:00pm
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Bangladesh A v West Indies A
Second Four-Day Match, Day 2
Time: 9:15am
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Mirpur