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SOUTH AFRICA 2010
FIFA
WORLD CUP



5-STAR SHAHADAT: Bangladesh pacer Shahadat Hossain (R) celebrates with teammate Mohammad Ashraful after taking the wicket of England's James Anderson (not in picture) on the second day of the first Test at Lord's in London yesterday.

Italy to rely on catenaccio

AFP, Rome

The country that gave the famous catenaccio (door-bolt) tactics to the world will be staying true to their roots in South Africa.

Italy centre-back Giorgio Chiellini revealed on Friday that the world champions will be relying on their traditional style to try to retain their title at the World Cup.

According to Chiellini, coach Marcello Lippi has made it clear how he intends to guide his team to glory.

"Italy's defence has always been the foundation of this team," said Chiellini from the team's altitude base in Sestriere.

"The boss wanted to emphasise this point: the defence must also be our foundation in South Africa.

"Without that we won't be able to get great results."

Concentrating on matters closer to home, the Juventus player said there will be many changes ahead for the fallen giants.

Juve have just suffered their worst ever season in Serie A, losing 15 matches and conceding 56 goals, both records.

And Chiellini is expecting new coach Luigi Delneri to ring the changes.

"I don't know what the team will be like, if the coach sticks to his habits we'll be tight and aggressive," he said.

"As for the rest, everything's changed. Many people with whom we've worked these last few years won't be there any more."

Penalties of fame

This was, in truth, a poor World Cup. It's a saying among Dutch football fans that poor quality tournaments are always won by the Germans and, while Dutch-German enmity ought to be borne in mind, this tournament most definitely added weight to the notion. West Germany, soon to become plain old Germany after reunification, hit the ground running in the group stages with a 4-1 thrashing of Yugoslavia and a 5-1 thumping of the United Arab Emirates. Lothar Matthäus had been released from his marking role of 1986 and was leading the attacking charge. He grabbed three goals in those first two games, setting out his stall for a finals of immense personal achievement.

Holders Argentina were not the side of 1986, with Diego Maradona carrying a knee injury and his colleagues, with the exception of Claudio Caniggia, not up to the standards of the previous tournament.

In an amazing opening game, African football arrived on the world stage when Cameroon defeated the holders with a goal from François Omam-Biyik. Despite having two men sent off for some disgraceful tackling, Cameroon held on.

Argentina eventually qualified in third place from their group behind Cameroon and Romania, a skin-of-the-teeth approach that would continue through the tournament.

The other surprise packages were Costa Rica, who had come second in their group behind Brazil after wins over Scotland and Sweden.

Of the other favourites, hosts Italy looked strong. However, converting the vast number of chances they created was a problem. Enter Salvatore 'Toto' Schillaci, a late addition to the squad who burst on to the scene with a winner against Austria and another against the Czechs. The other goal against Czechoslovakia was a tremendous solo run by Roberto Baggio, the new prince of Italian football.

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Madan Mohan Sylhet champs

SPORTS REPORTER

Madan Mohan College prevailed in a penalty shootout against Jalalabad Cantonment Public College, to be Sylhet divisional champions of the inter-college Clear Men Confidence Cup at the local stadium yesterday.

Both teams were locked at 2-2 at the end of regulation and extra time and in the dreaded penalties, Madan



Tamim leads the fightback

Cricket

AFP, London

Tamim Iqbal's typically dashing 42 not out led a Bangladesh counter-attack on the second day of the first Test against England at Lord's here on Friday.

At tea, Bangladesh were 67 without loss but still 438 runs behind an England first innings 505 that featured Jonathan Trott's Test best 226 and the Tigers needed a further 239 to avoid the follow-on in the first of a two-match series.

But left-hander Tamim, who had left the field earlier Friday after appearing to aggravate a wrist injury while diving into a boundary rope, was undaunted, his runs coming off 47 balls with six boundaries.

He hit through the line against Tim Bresnan for an impressive offside four.

Bresnan's five overs cost an expensive 25 runs and he was replaced by 6ft 7in tall fast bowler Steven Finn, playing his first Test in England.

But, on his Middlesex home ground, Finn's third delivery was driven straight down the ground by Tamim.

Fellow left-hander Imrul Kayes was unbeaten on 22, with the nearest Bangladesh came to losing a wicket a couple of potential run-outs.

Tamim's approach was in contrast to that of Trott, whose maiden Test innings at Lord's spanned over eight hours and featured 349 balls with 20 fours.

It was also Trott's second century in as many Test innings in England after his 119 on debut against Australia in the second innings at the Oval last year.

Trott was one of five wickets for fast bowler Shahadat Hossain, whose return of five for 98 runs in 28 overs was the best by a Bangladesh bowler in a Test innings against England.

A match that had been meandering along, sprang into life after lunch with Shahadat taking three wickets for 12 runs in 21 balls.

Shahadat, 23, had Bresnan (25) taken at slip by Junaed Siddique before inducing a rare aggressive stroke from Trott, who guided him to Kayes at gully.

Trott's innings saw the former South Africa junior international become only the seventh England batsman and 14th overall to make a Test double century at Lord's.

Trott's exit left England 478 for eight but new batsman Swann, straight driving Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan for six, revived the innings with a brisk 22 before he holed out.

Anderson eventually took England past 500 with a cheeky reverse sweep four off left-arm spinner Shakib before he was bowled by a jubilant Shahadat -- a wicket that secured the bowler a coveted place on the Lord's honours boards. Bangladesh, who have won just three out of their 66 Tests and lost all six against England, were a much improved bowling side from the lacklustre unit that took the field on Thursday after Shakib won the toss.

England were 362 for four overnight, with Trott already a Test-best 175 not out and Middlesex left-hander Eoin Morgan, on his Test debut, 40 not out.

But the former Ireland batsman had added just four runs when he edged

PHOTO: AFP

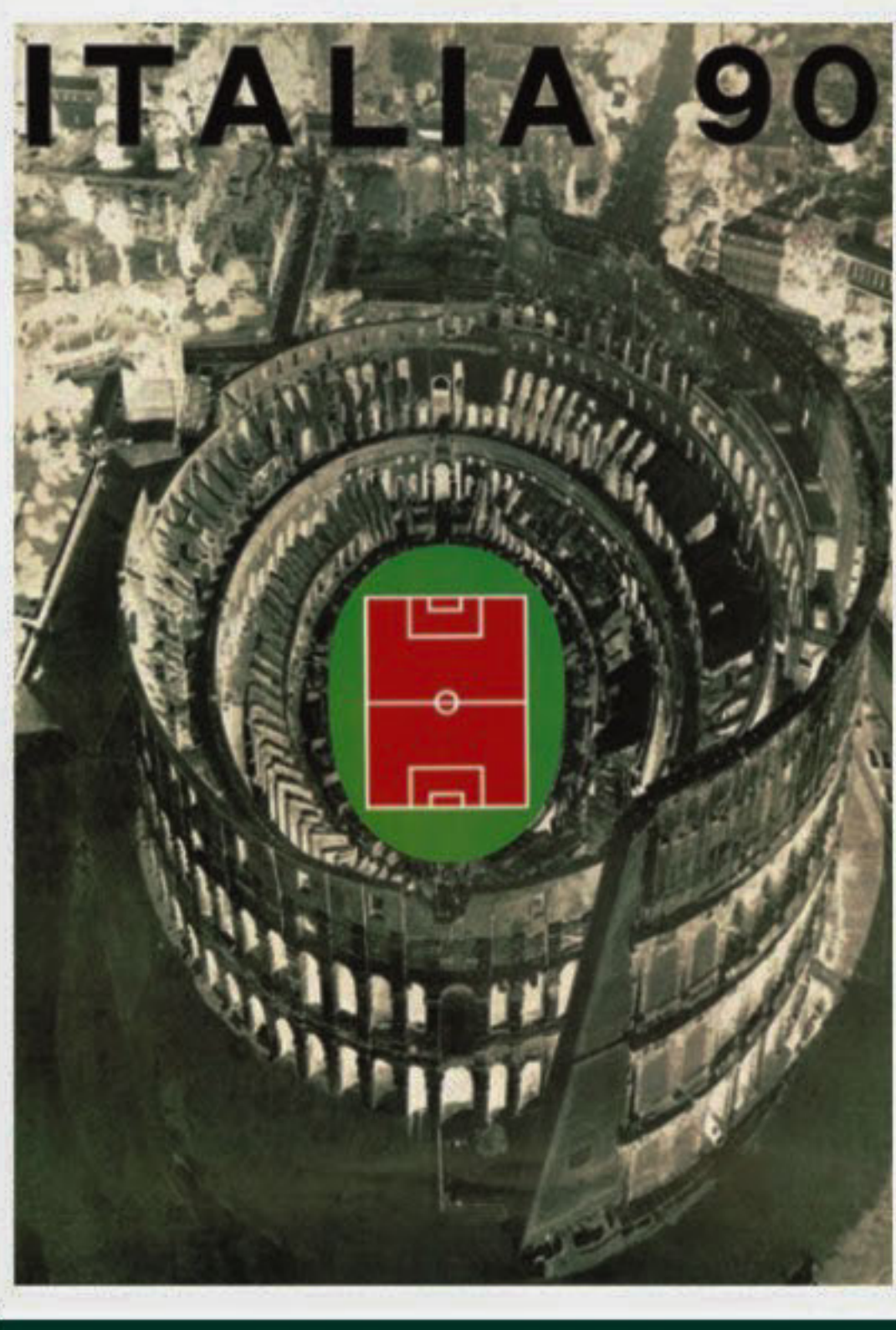
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What to WATCH

STAR Cricket & SuperSport7
England v Bangladesh
First Test, Day Three
Live from 4:00pm

Star Sports & SuperSport1
French Open
Third Round
Live from 3:00pm

SuperSport3
Int'l Friendly
Spain v Saudi Arabia
Live from 9:30pm
Hungary v Germany
Live from 11:55pm



Messi fears England

INTERNET, undated

Argentina forward Lionel Messi believes England are among the leading contenders to lift the FIFA World Cup starting in South Africa next month.

Many people's favourites for the tournament are Spain and Brazil, but the 22-year-old puts Fabio Capello's side in the same category.

"I think that right now, the strongest sides going into the World Cup are Spain, England and Brazil," he told CNN International.

"They had a strong, easy qualifying and are very tough."

"Messi was a little more coy about his own side's chances.

"Hopefully, it will be my World Cup, Argentina's World Cup and that we hit the ground running and play up to people's expectations and win the World Cup," he said.

Messi has had another stellar season with Barcelona, winning another Primera Division title under Pep Guardiola and playing at a consistently high level which has seen him hailed as one of the greatest players in history.

There is still a feeling in Argentina, however, that he does not reproduce that form at international level.

Messi tries not to pay too much attention to that.

"People have an opinion and I respect it," he said. "I'm the first person who wants to do well with my national team and perform like I do with Barcelona.

"I know that this is a really good opportunity for me and I'm going to try to do it."

He continued: "They are different systems and different styles and everything.

"At Barcelona, Guardiola decided to use me more in the middle and that's when I had more touches on the ball and played more around the front of the area.

"And well, I've had the luck to be able to score more goals."

Messi said he and his Argentina team-mates were getting used to being coached by Diego Maradona, someone they idolised as youngsters.

"At first, it was strange to have him as our coach," he said. "The truth is he was a little imposing.

"But afterwards, we started getting used to him and he's been our coach for a while, so now it's normal.

"Also, he's really close to the players, he's

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

3-star Mezbah

Athletics

SPORTS REPORTER

Mezbah Ahmed stole the show on the opening day, winning three gold medals in the 26th National (Age-Group) Athletics Championship at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Mezbah, a student of Class IX of BKSP, bagged gold in 200m sprint, long jump and high jump and compete in his pet event of 100m sprint today, the concluding day of the two-day meet.

Apart from his treble, teammates Papia Rani Sarkar (200m sprint), Shirin Akter (high jump in U-15 group) Firoz Hossain (200m sprint in U-15 group) and Jakia Sultana (200m sprint in U-15 group) also won gold to join the party and helped BKSP lead the medal table with seven gold, seven silver and one bronze medal.

Second-placed Noakhali were far behind BKSP, winning one gold and three silver as Noakhali brought a strong 18-member squad in the meet after sending a weak outfit in the national championships last month.

Bagerhat-born Mezbah faced little challenges in his respective events before emerging eventually as the winner and the teenage athlete believed he could have delivered better than his performance had the championship been more competitive.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

India lose to Zim

Cricket

CRICINFO

This wasn't really an upset. Zimbabwe were the stronger side of the two, which showed in the assured manner of a tall chase, set up by fliers from Brendan Taylor and Hamilton Masakadza and finished off with 10 balls to spare by a cool-debut Charles Ervine. The return of high-profile cricket to Zimbabwe put smiles on the faces of a spirited crowd, built mostly of school children, as they meticulously beat India for the first time in eight years. A weakened India side's only creditable spell came when Rohit Sharma scored 69 off the last 36 balls he faced to score his maiden ODI century and give India a fighting total on a flat track.

That Rohit assault and a wayward bowling start aside, Zimbabwe dominated the rest of the game. India's real weakness showed when their three debutant medium-pacers proved to be no match for Zimbabwe's batting. Zimbabwe, though, could only have played against the side

their opponents sent over, and that they did fantastically.

Taylor and Masakadza were brutal against the new ball. None of the medium-pacers looked like creating a chance, and the openers duly punished them, reaching 88 in 13 overs. The first over of the chase was indicative of the effort of both sides. Ashok Dinda finished with one pitched up too far, and Taylor drove it wristsily for four. It remained the case in the first 10 overs: whenever the Indian bowlers bowled too full or too short, they were hit. The in-between lengths induced respect, but never bothered the batsmen. Neither the pitch had the bounce, nor the bowlers the pace to trouble them with the bouncers. Umesh Yadav, the fastest of the three, and R Vinay Kumar were both pulled away for sixes.

If Masakadza unleashed raw power, Taylor brought a sense of calm with the way he went about scoring. Two balls after Dinda failed to collect cleanly and missed his run-out in the eighth over, Masakadza made room and smashed him through extra cover. That was the

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PHOTO: AFP

DHAKA ROUND

30 May 2010 Match 1
Mohammadpur Kendriyo College VS Dhaka State College
Time: 10:30am - 11:30am

30 May 2010 Match 2
Dhaka Imperial College VS Dhaka College
Time: 12:00pm - 1:00pm

30 May 2010 Match 3
R. K Chowdhury College VS Dhaka Residential Model College
Time: 1:30pm - 2:30pm

30 May 2010 Match 4
Siddheshwari Boys' Higher Secondary College VS Notre Dame College
Time: 3:00pm - 4:00pm

Army Stadium

Media Partner: **ATN**
Radio Partner: **radio TODAY**

CLEAR men CONFIDENCE CUP
inter college football tournament - 2010