

## Blatter's call for ending racism

REUTERS, Johannesburg

FIFA president Sepp Blatter called for an end to racism and discrimination in football on the eve of the first World Cup finals to be held in Africa at FIFA's 60th annual Congress on Thursday.

Blatter, 74, who is due to stand for a fourth term of office next year, did not deliver a passionate, electioneering-style address to delegates from 207 of FIFA's 208 member countries.

Instead he concentrated on the aim of world football's governing body to eradicate society's vices that blight the game, especially racism and discrimination.

"Football is a mirror of our society and is touched by its vices. Violence, cheating, doping, betting, discrimination and racism, these are all in our game.

"We have started to eliminate them, one is practically eliminated -- this is doping.

"But here in this World Cup in South Africa, and specifically through this Congress, we declare we are against discrimination."

## Queen's Baton Relay on June 22

SPORTS REPORTER

The Queen's Baton Relay ahead of upcoming 19th Commonwealth Games in New Delhi will be held in the capital on June 22 and some fifty prominent athletes of the country will carry the torch on the day.

The relay will start from the Army Stadium in Banani and complete at the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban as the relay will include horse-carriage, rickshaws and bicycles in a bid to keep the procession pollution free.

The Baton will arrive in the capital on June 20, lead by Louis Rosa, team leader of event operations of Queen's Baton Relay.

Meanwhile, on the same day, the Bangladesh Olympic Association will hold the Olympic Day Run at all six divisional headquarters.

The Commonwealth Games will get underway in New Delhi from the first week of October.

## LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Sunrise SC came from behind to play out a 1-1 draw against Mohakhali XI in the Senior Division Football League at the Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

Mohakhali went ahead with a 38-minute strike from Mukhles before Atique pulled back to level the margin in the 75th minute for the last year's runners-up, who with three draws in five matches raised their point tally to nine, four less than leaders Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club.

## JUNIOR CHESS

Abdullah Al Saif maintained his hundred per cent winning record in the BASIC Bank 31st National Junior Chess Championship at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall-room yesterday.

Saif extended his unbeaten run to eight games as he beat Zoar Haque Pradhan to raise his points tally to eight points.

Ikrumul Haque Siam was in second position with seven points after beating Sharif Hossain.

## Reputation

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takes over from Napoli's Walter Gargano in a 3-4-1-2 formation.

"The system we have chosen can adapt to the different things we could face against France," said Tabarez, nicknamed 'El Maestro'.

Up front, star striker Diego Forlan will be partnered by Luis Suarez, who scored 35 goals for Ajax in the Dutch championship last season.

## No feed from South to North

AFP, Seoul

South Korea will not provide North Korea with TV coverage of the World Cup, as tensions over the sinking of one of Seoul's warships continue to simmer, a television station confirmed Thursday.

The impoverished communist state, which has qualified for the event for first time in 44 years, wanted the South to provide free footage as it did for the 2006 tournament in Germany.

Four years ago, the then-liberal government in Seoul -- which practised a "sunshine" engagement policy with Pyongyang -- spent 150 million won (132,600 dollars) subsidising the broadcasts.

The current conservative government has not followed suit amid worsening relations.

SBS TV, which bought exclusive broadcasting rights for the whole Korean peninsula from FIFA, had demanded a fee from the North, a spokesman for the station said.

"Talks have made little progress, especially after the sinking. Now we cannot bring the talks to a conclusion in time for the Cup," he told AFP.

South Korea concluded last month that a North Korean submarine fired a heavy torpedo that sank a 1,200-tonne warship with the loss of 46 lives, one of the deadliest incidents since the 1950-53 Korean War.



**SWEETS FOR THE HERO:** Imrul Kayes's mother (C) feeds Tamim Iqbal (R) after Bangladesh arrived at the Shahjalal International Airport yesterday. Imrul and Tamim had a wonderful time in England, adding more than hundred runs for the opening stand in both Test matches.

# Shakib lays blame on middle-order

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Shakib Al Hasan blamed the Tigers' inexperience and constant chopping and changing for their recent uninspiring performances in the longer-version of the game.

The Bangladesh skipper was speaking to the reporters upon their arrival at the Shahjalal International Airport from London after yet another 2-0 loss in a two-Test series, this time in England. The Tigers' only achievement was to push the game to tea on the fifth day in the first Test at Lord's but the batting debacle in Manchester exposed their frailty.

"We have been a young side for the last ten years. The players have not been given a chance to settle down," said Shakib.

"You should take a look at Zimbabwe, how they are getting results having persisted with one set of players for the past 4-5 years," added the Magura-born captain of the national team.

Keeping improvement in the forefront of his views on the tour, Shakib took the blame upon himself but also found the form of the bowlers wanting. "Everyone knows that we did well in the first Test but not the second game. Not just avoid the follow-on, we were in a position to score big in the first innings but we failed. The bowling wasn't too good in the series either," he said.

But one man who can lay claim to be the lone shining light in the series would be Tamim

Iqbal. The left-handed opener struck back-to-back centuries and a fifty, runs that helped hush some of the critics. "From my point of view it was a good series. Two centuries and a half-century in English conditions is not a simple task but as far as the team is concerned, it wasn't such a good series," said Tamim who praised Imrul Kayes and Junaid Siddiqui but pointed out the lack of runs from the middle-order.

"It is quite sad that the middle and lower order didn't perform and this became our problem (in England), making our performance in the two Tests inconsistent," added Tamim, who was Bangladesh's man-of-the-series with 268 runs.

"Ever since bhaiya (Nafees Iqbal) told me that there is an honour board in Lord's where the centurion's name is etched forever, I wanted to score there," said Tamim who confirmed that his gesture after reaching his hundred was towards Pete the dressing-room attendant.

Shakib, who thought the Tigers' World Twenty20 show was encouraging, seemed optimistic about their prospects in the upcoming Asia Cup. The skipper thinks that a win against either India, Pakistan or Sri Lanka is not impossible.

The national team players will only get a day's break at home as they are scheduled to fly for Colombo tomorrow to take part in the Asia Cup which will kick off from June 15 in Dambulla.

# Lara, Ganguly to star for MCC

Cricket

AFP, London

Sourav Ganguly will captain Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) in a side featuring cricket great Brian Lara when they face the touring Pakistanis in a Twenty20 fixture at Lord's on June 27.

The match will be the first time that MCC, which owns Lord's, has played a Twenty20 fixture.

It will also be the first time Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi has played at Lord's since his man-of-the-match winning display in last year's World Twenty20 final win against Sri Lanka.

Lara, the former West Indies captain and one of cricket's greatest batsmen, will be playing for MCC for the first time.

Former India captain Ganguly, also a left-handed batsman, is currently skippering the Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League.

Among those also confirmed to play for MCC are Sri Lanka left-arm pace bowler Chaminda Vaas and Australian one-day specialist Ian Harvey.

"MCC is delighted to welcome to Lord's a Pakistani side who have a proven track record in Twenty20 cricket," said John Stephenson,

MCC's head of cricket and himself a former England batsman, in a statement.

"Shahid Afridi's men will face an exciting MCC team comprising world class performers and up-and-coming talent.

"Brian Lara is one of the finest batsmen to have ever played the game and Sourav Ganguly is a world-leading Twenty20 cricketer," added Stephenson, who helped select MCC's team.

"The match will provide spectators with a fantastic opportunity to see wonderful cricket and great cricketers."

The Twenty20 match forms part of the sponsorship agreement between MCC and the Pakistan Cricket Board which will see Pakistan play Australia in the MCC Spirit of Cricket Test and Twenty20 Series in England throughout July, with both Twenty20 matches at Birmingham's Edgbaston ground.

The two Tests between Pakistan and Australia, at Lord's and Headingley will be the first 'neutral' Tests to be played in England in nearly a century since the 1912 triangular tournament featuring England, Australia and South Africa.

Pakistan will also play four Tests and five one-day internationals against England starting in July.

England face Australia in five one-day internationals, with the first at Hampshire's Rose Bowl ground on June 22.

# Nepalese

FROM PAGE 17

"We will only be able to do so when the monsoon arrives."

Football has become hugely popular in impoverished Nepal in recent years as television viewing has taken off.

Some wealthier Kathmandu neighbourhoods have clubbed together to buy generators for the World Cup, but many fans fear missing the games altogether, and blame the government for their predicament.

# Viera backs

FROM PAGE 17

Inter Milan star picked out Franck Ribery as a key man and said Thierry Henry, the sole survivor from the 1998 World Cup-winning squad, still had a crucial role to play despite falling out of favour at Barcelona.

"It's hard to pick out one player who'll be really important for the team. I would say Franck Ribery because in 2006 he was fantastic and I think he will be important for the French team," he said.

## Lio not sole recipe for success

REUTERS

A brilliant World Cup for Lionel Messi would be good for Argentina's chances of victory although it is preferable to rely on the team and not one man however great, according to defender Gabriel Heinze.

"I personally think it's the team that makes you win these very difficult championships," Heinze said three days before Argentina's opening Group B match against Nigeria.

"Lionel is the best in the world, the player who today is in his best form, but Argentina do not depend on Lionel," the battle-hardened 32-year-old told a news conference.

"Argentina depend on each one of the players who go onto the pitch. We don't need to put any pressure on Lio or anyone," he said after a team practice.

## THE DAILY STAR-RANGS TOSHIBA WC QUIZ

### Second round draw today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Draw of the second-round of The Daily Star-Rangs Toshiba World Cup quiz will be held today at the Muslim Institute Hall in the port city.

Illustrious former national footballer Satyajit Das Rupu will be present as the chief guest at the ceremony that will begin at 3.30pm.

The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam, Rangs Industries Limited managing director Rumeed Hossain will also attend the occasion.

To mark the draw ceremony, a colourful procession was brought out in the city yesterday afternoon.

An 8-cft Toshiba refrigerator, a Toshiba 24" LCD TV, a Toshiba 21" TV, a Toshiba 21" TV and Toshin micro-wave oven are the top five prizes up for grabs.

The audiences of the function will also be given a raffle coupon each and they can win four attractive prizes through an instant draw.

# Who will shine brighter?

AFP, Paris

They are widely acknowledged as the best players in the world. But who will shine brighter at this year's World Cup finals -- Argentina's footballer-of-the-year Lionel Messi or previous accolade winner Cristiano Ronaldo?

The two starlets ply their trade on opposite sides of the Spanish footballing divide and for the most part it has been the Argentine who has come out on top.

First, Messi landed in the clincher in the 2009 Champions League final to see off his rival's then club Manchester United.

Then, Messi landed another Spanish league crown with 34 league goals enough to see him crowned champion and top marksman as Ronaldo had to settle for runner-up with Real Madrid after his 80 million euro move from Old Trafford.

It was the same story as Messi carried off the FIFA world footballer of the year award.

The two stars can only meet if both sides reach the final -- but the form of both players will be instrumental in how their respective nations do.

A curious facet of both countries' qualifying was that both players struggled to shine in the way they do for their clubs.

Argentina limped through in the fourth and final regional qualifying spot while Ronaldo did not even score throughout a campaign which only saw Portugal's tickets secured via a playoff success over Bosnia.

Now the stakes are high for Messi's gauchos and Ronaldo's Portuguese as they try to click in the national shirt.

The Argentine has a point to prove after coach Diego Maradona publicly anointed

Messi as his successor, then saw the man they nickname "the flea" fail to create much buzz during a qualifying campaign which reached its nadir with a 6-1 hiding away to Bolivia.

But Messi is focused and has fixed his eyes on the prize -- which would add to the unprecedented six trophies he won in 2009 with Barca.

"The year I had (in 2009) I can only top off by winning the World Cup and I hope I can raise my game in the national team, the player who is modest to a fault recently said.

Certainly the man who can cause defenders to have sleepless nights has the talent to win matches almost on his own -- if the Barcelona version shows up.

"I hope to produce the same form as for Barcelona," Messi noted before arriving in South Africa while explaining that it was difficult to put his finger on the difference between the club game and the international version.

I will give the answer to that one out on the pitch," he promised.

Likewise Ronaldo, who won a full set of domestic honours with United, must hope that donning a red shirt once more -- this time of his country -- will help him to step up a gear and revive the national side.

His role, both for providing goals but also supplying them, is now enhanced by the absence through injury of former clubmate Nani.

The 25-year-old, like Messi, is totally focused on the prize.

"When I hang up my boots I want to be remembered as having been an example and a fantastic player. I want to go down in history."

Having come off second best in his contests to date with Messi, Ronaldo will gain scant consolation from the knowledge that he has just been unveiled in wax form at Madame Tussauds museum in London -- joining Pele, David Beckham and Steven Gerrard, while Messi has yet to feature at the top attraction.

# Sanath, Ajantha dropped

## SL name Asia Cup squad

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's new cricket selection panel on Thursday left veteran batsman Sanath Jayasuriya out of the 15-man squad for next week's Asia Cup.

Selectors also dropped spinner Ajantha Mendis and included fast bowling all-rounder Farveez Maharoof for the four-nation limited-overs tournament against India, Pakistan and Bangladesh in Sri Lanka from June 15 to 24.

Left-arm spinner Rangana Herath returns after playing his last limited-overs game in 2004 to join specialists spinners Muttiah Muralidaran, 38, and newcomer Suraj Randiv.

Muralidaran, the world's leading Test and one-day wicket-taker, returns to the squad after recovering from a groin injury picked up during the Caribbean World Cup.

Jayasuriya, at 40 the world's oldest player in

the international arena, continues to show poor form in the national side. He scored an average 3.75 runs in six matches during the Caribbean World Twenty20 in April.

Jayasuriya, who was rested for the just concluded tri-nation Zimbabwe tour, had been left out of the national squad for the tri-series in Bangladesh earlier this year.

The team management dropped him as a specialist opener and moved him down to the middle-order in the limited-overs game last year.

Sri Lankan sports minister Chandrasiri Bandara last month sacked the national selectors and appointed a fresh panel under batting great Aravinda de Silva.

Squad: Kumar Sangakkara (captain), Muttiah Muralidaran, Mahela Jayawardene, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Upul Tharanga, Thilan Samaraweera, Angelo Mathews, Farveez Maharoof, Chamara Kapugedara, Nuwan Kulasekara, Chanaka Welegedara, Lasith Malinga, Suraj Randiv, Rangana Herath, Thilina Kandamby.



A rally was brought out in Chittagong yesterday ahead of the second round draw of The Daily Star-Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz competition to be held today at the port city's Muslim Hall.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- Prohibit
  - Harvest goddess
  - Heady potato
  - Moby Dick's pursuer
  - Joan of —
  - Taj Mahal city
  - Letter after alpha
  - Mauna —
  - Standard
  - In the midst of
  - Cattle drive item
  - Beaver's construct
  - Least fettered
  - Wrapped
  - Sacha Baron Cohen portrayal
  - State with certainty
  - Moo goo gai pan
  - Press
  - Parson's home
  - Gracefully tall and slender
- DOWN**
- Ali —
  - Throat-clearing sound
  - Org. HO'd in Brussels
  - Erstwhile acorn
  - Get ready, for short
  - Muffler
  - Matador's aide
  - Freudian concept
  - Misstep
  - Aries
  - Lewis Carroll's "frumious" beast
  - Needle-fish
  - Sphere
  - Kitten's comment
  - Continental coin
  - Winter forecast
  - Danza or Curtis
  - Rotating parts
  - Elliptical
  - "—, vidi, vici"
  - Wall Street statistic, with "The"
  - Relatives
  - Early bird?
  - Figure out
  - Nerdy sport
  - Emancipation
  - Dressed (in)
  - Maintained
  - Couric's network
  - Cousin of 7-Across
  - Deteriorate
  - Chewed and swallowed
- Solution time: 24 mins.**
- BRIDGE GROOM  
PLACER RADIAL  
LAWYER ARGENDAY  
ARE MORNS KAY  
ZEST RUN MEME  
ASTIR TIMIDER  
HANG DOG NERVY  
ERIE PEP DOSE  
LAC BEERS TIS  
PREPAY OLDA GE  
SATIRE MOURNS  
TYPED OBEYS

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56			57		58				
59			60			61			

## CRYPTOQUIP

NV R QGR TT ZARWL DALN WTA  
TARMQ NXQ MSNDAS XP RU  
KULRBBC VRXA, CPK GNFLX  
QRC NX'Q R MPPG ZKFFC.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: WONDERING WHETHER OR NOT YOU SHOULD TAKE A NAP? I REALLY DON'T KNOW. THE REST IS UP TO YOU.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals I

**DAY'S EVENT**

Premier Div Hockey League  
Usha KC v Police AC  
Time: 4:30pm  
Venue: Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium