

Ajax have handed a two match ban to captain Luis Suarez after the Uruguayan international bit the neck of a PSV player in a league match at the weekend.

Suarez, who will be allowed to play in Ajax's Champions League tie against Real Madrid on Tuesday, attacked PSV's Osman Bakkal on Saturday.

The referee failed to spot the incident but the Dutch federation has launched its own investigation.

As well as the two match ban, Suarez has been hit with a "heavy fine", reported Ajax who added that despite the affair Suarez would keep his captain's armband.



SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 24, 2010, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Central, stamp for WC

SPORTS REPORTER

A commemorative coin will be issued to mark the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 to be co-hosted by Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka.

Bangladesh Bank is going to release the coin valued at Tk 10 to mark the mega event.

The opening ceremony of the showcase event will take place at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka on February 17 next year while the competition will kick off with the match between Bangladesh and India on February 19 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

"The central bank and International Cricket Council are now sorting out things like the shape and logo, we hope everything will be finalised within two-three days," said Ali Ahsan Babu, host tournament director.

The Postal Department is also taking similar type of initiative for the big occasion as it is going to issue special stamp, postcard and envelope. Bangladesh will host eight matches in Dhaka and Chittagong including two quarter-finals.



MALAYSIAN SEALS! Even this spectacular effort was not enough for Leong Mun Yee and Pandelela Rinong of Malaysia to win the gold. The pair performs in the women's synchronised 10m platform diving final to clinch the silver at the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou yesterday. Story on Page 18

Tigers end Ctg sojourn

MOHAMMAD ISAM from Chittagong

"Only the coach and Nasir bhai are left now [to get injured]," chirped Mashrafe Bin Salam after his shot struck trainer Grant Luden's leg. The South African was not the only one on the casualty list as three players sustained training at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium yesterday.

Paceman Rubel Hossain (side strain) and batsman Juaed Siddiqui (groin) did not take part in the action as the Tigers had a centre wicket practice. Later, Shafiqul Islam too hurt his right shoulder after trying to back up a throw during training.

Bowling coach Ian Pont, however, brushed aside these slight niggles as part of the job. "You're going to get niggles and injuries. These are just small things, it's not big, like a Mashrafe. We have got plenty of time before the series against Zimbabwe," said Pont.

The Tigers left Chittagong in the afternoon after three days of training on a sloughy outfield and a wicket that offered more turn than any of the wickets at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka. The lack of cricket at the venue makes it more alien than a usual home ground for the Tigers and Pont said that it was important that the players got used to conditions as fast as possible.

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Women's SAFF football c'chip deferred

SPORTS REPORTER

The inaugural Women's SAFF championship has been deferred by a week, and is set to get underway from December 12 in Cox's Bazar with the participation of all eight members of South Asian Football Federation.

The decision was taken at the SAFF meeting in Kuala Lumpur on Monday, said Bangladesh Football Federation general secretary Al-Musabbir Siddiqui yesterday.

The championship was originally scheduled for December 4-12 and it has been learnt that the regional meet has been deferred in order to give the participating teams more time to be prepared.

For the first time all South Asian countries - Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Maldives, Bhutan and Afghanistan will meet in women's football as Afghanistan, Maldives and Bhutan did not participate in the recently concluded South Asian games.

Venues behind schedule

ANISUR RAHMAN

As the start of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 draws closer, the renovation and modernisation works at five different venues in Bangladesh, co-hosts of the landmark event, have been ramped up.

The final ICC (International Cricket Council) inspection team is due to arrive here in the second week of December. Though reality shows that work will not be completed by that time, the host tournament director Ali Ahsan Babu is confident that the venues will meet the specific requirements of the world governing body.

"During the inspection, the ICC team is supposed to check some mandatory things like wickets, outfield, players' dressing rooms, press boxes, scoreboards, floodlights and accommodation facilities for the players and officials," explained Babu. "These mandatory requirements are on the verge of completion, and I am confident that they will be ready by the time the

inspection team arrives."

Two of the five venues -- the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) and Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium -- will be completed in their entirety only in mid-January, mainly because of additional demands made by local organisers.



While the deadline is not far away, the construction of the extended seating area at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium is only in its early stage. The venue will host two 2011 Cricket World Cup matches.

though all five venues were supposed to be handed over to the BCB by the end of this month.

"As per the tenders, all works at those five venues have almost been completed but we have been forced to extend the

work because of additional demands made by local organisers."

AP, Colombo

West Indies fast bowler Kumar Roach grabbed two quick wickets in a lively opening spell to put Sri Lanka under pressure on the first day of the second Test on Tuesday.

Bench removed openers Tillakaratne Dilshan and Tharanga Paranavitana before the hosts struggled to reach 84-3 in their first innings at stumps on a new pitch helping the fast bowlers.

He conceded just 18 runs in his disciplined eight-over opening spell.

Skipper Kumar Sangakkara was unbeaten on 25 and Thilan Samaraweera was on 26 not out when bad light stopped play just after tea.

Men's kabaddi team won, defeated for 15 as Malaysia got bowled out for 80 in 19.4 overs.

The victors set up a mouth-watering

semifinal clash between the boys of Ashrafal and Pakistan on Thursday.

Bangladesh women's kabaddi team almost ensured a semifinals place beating South Korea by 28-19 points in a group match at the Narsaha Gymnasium yesterday. Bangladesh led the first half 16-10.

They are now in the second position in the group with four points from 3 matches. Favourites India lead the group with same number of points having played one match less. If India manage to beat South Korea in the last group match, Bangladesh will be automatically through to the last four which will ensure a medal according to the new tournament rules.

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SL struggle on shortened day

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ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP HISTORY

1983: Indian Summer

The 1983 World Cup, the third consecutive Cup held in England, saw a few changes in the tournament's format. The number of teams were the same, as well as the group divisions; two groups of four with the top two from each group going through to the knockout stage, but to counter the disruptions of England's summer weather, each team would play each other twice in the group stage. The only non-Test playing nation was Zimbabwe, with Sri Lanka being awarded Test status in 1981.

Umpires were told to apply a stricter interpretation of wides and boundaries. The result? More than twice as many wides per match as in 1979 (6.59 to 4.64). A fielding circle (actually an oval) was introduced, 30 yards away from the stumps. Four fieldsmen needed to be inside it at all times.

CHAMPIONS: INDIA India emerging victors was possibly the biggest upset in World Cup history. Although they were a decent Test side, it was popularly thought at the time that the Indians did not take the newer version of the game too seriously. Whatever the reasons, the results leading up to the tournament betrayed their ineptitude; in 40 games dating back to their first in 1974, India lost 28 and won 12. They had lost all matches in the previous edition. On the other hand, tournament favourites and two-time champions West Indies came into the Cup with 38 victories from their first 52 matches in the format, and emerged victors in every single match in the first two editions.

India could not match West Indies man-for-man for talent. Sunil Gavaskar, the opener who had not yet found his feet in one-day cricket and Kapil Dev, the captain and talismanic all-rounder, were the only players in their line-up who are today remembered as great, whereas West Indies had several such names.

Even with such disparity in ability, India inflicted the first World Cup defeat on the mighty West Indians on the opening day of the Cup, a result that would have raised more eyebrows if India had been considered serious title contenders. At that point it was treated as an upset, just as Zimbabwe's win against Australia on the same day.

In the final analysis they won six of their eight games; if all at

Cricketers start brightly

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh had another day of mixed results in the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou yesterday as the men's cricket team reached semifinals by beating Malaysia comfortably while women's kabaddi team were on the verge of a semifinals spot which would ensure a medal in the women's event.

Besides, FIDE Master Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar brightened his chances of becoming an International Master after training the secretary of the men's team edged Mongolia. But the women happily lost against India.

Hockey team lost against China in a

place-deciding match while two female archers were beaten comprehensively in their respective bouts.

Captain Mohammad Ashrafal led Bangladesh to the cricket semifinals with a comprehensive 70-run victory over Malaysia at the Guangdong Cricket Stadium.

Bangladesh chose to bat and put up 150 for seven in their allotted 20 overs, with wicketkeeper-batsman Mithun Ali scoring highest 39 runs while the skipper himself contributed with 29 before falling to run out.

Ashrafal, the former Test skipper, then claimed three wickets for five runs while all-rounder Sohrwardi Shuvo took three for 15 as Malaysia got bowled out for 80 in 19.4 overs.

The victory set up a mouth-watering

semifinal clash between the boys of Ashrafal and Pakistan on Thursday.

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India take series in style

SPORTS REPORTER

India rode on some inspired spin bowling through New Zealand by taking 198 runs in the third and final Test on Tuesday and claim the series 1-0.

Spinners Harbhajan Singh, Pragnan Ojha and Suresh Raina shared seven wickets before paceman Ishant Sharma finished off the tail, bowling out New Zealand for 175 early into the second session on the second day of the match.

New Zealand started the day needing 349 runs to avoid an innings defeat after conceding a huge 373-run lead to India who made 56-6 in their first innings, built around a 191-run knock by Rahul Dravid.

The visitors, weighed down by the enormity of the task at hand, crumbled without much resistance to a gift top-ranked India one of their biggest Test wins in recent times.

"We did not expect the game to end so early," said India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni. "It was important to start well. We knew the track was turning so we wanted to capitalise on that and take some early wickets."

"Our spinners got turn and bounce with the new, hard ball in the morning. It was one of those days when everything went to our plans."

India owed their success as much to the pacemen who struck early blows on the first day of the match at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium to bowl out New Zealand for 193 and set the stage for victory.

New Zealand, placed at number eight in Test rankings, suffered their second batting collapse in the match after running the day on 24-1.

Ojha (2-67) picked off his first victim in the second over of the morning, trapping overnight batsman Brendon McCullum (25) leg before wicket with a ball that pitched on the middle stump.

McCullum, who came in to open the second innings after his appeal for a leg

golden duck in his next over to leave New Zealand tottering at 38-3.

The bowler, however, missed out on a third wicket after his appeal for a leg



India paceman Ishant Sharma (C) picks his piece of souvenir after finishing off the New Zealand tail on the fourth day of the third and final Test in Nagpur yesterday. India won the match by an innings and 198 runs and took the series 1-0.

PHOTO: AFP