

Star SPORT

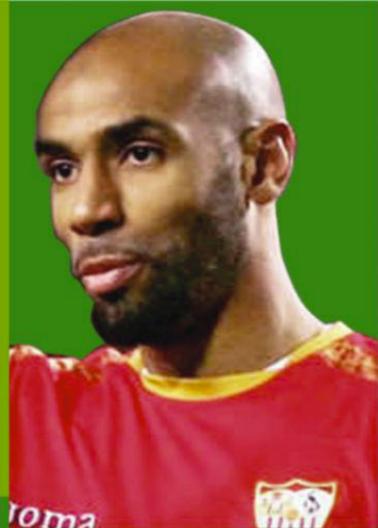
DHAKA SATURDAY MAY 19, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Kanoute bound for Iran

French-born former Mali striker Fredi Kanoute could prolong his career with Iranian club Mes Kerman, based in the southeastern city of Kerman, it was reported on Friday.

Kanoute brought his career with Sevilla -- whom he joined in 2005 from Tottenham Hotspur -- to an end last Sunday, hinting that he would continue playing outside of Spain.

And a Mes Kerman official told the English-language Tehran Times on Friday: "We've held discussions with the 35-year-old striker and reached agreement with him to sign him on a one-year contract."



LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

UCB First Women's Hockey started at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday. In the opening match, Narail thrashed Nahar Academy 12-0 with Shompa Biswas scoring 7 goals including a hat-trick. In the other match of the day, Municipal High School of Dinajpur outplayed Anandomoyi School of Dhaka by 8-0 goals, thanks to a treble by Selina Mayandi.

Earlier, additional managing director of UCB M Shahidul Islam inaugurated the event where Bangladesh Hockey federation's general secretary Khwaza Rahmatullah was present among others.

Manikganj cricket

Dashara Palli Mangal Samity (DPMS) registered their first win in three matches in the Colonel Malek Smriti Premier Cricket League with a one-run victory over Provat Sangha at Shahid Miraz Tapan Stadium in Manikganj yesterday.

Batting first, DPMS were all out for 181 runs in 35.3 overs with Anwar smashing 52 off 39 balls while Shuva scored 50 runs from 36 balls. Musa took four wickets while Jilani took two for Provat Sangha.

In reply, Provat Sangha were all out for 180 runs in 40 overs. Biddut picked up four wickets for the winning side. Jilani scored 37 while Shovon made 30 off 22 balls.

Munshiganj football

Kalma UP Ekadosh emerged champions in the Munshiganj Inter-union Chairman Cup Football Tournament

Eager to make amends

Bayern Munich face Chelsea in final tonight

AFP, Munich



Bayern Munich host Chelsea in Saturday's Champions League final with both sides looking to erase painful memories of recent defeat at the last hurdle on Europe's top domestic stage.

The Blues arrived in the Bavarian capital eager to end their long wait to be crowned kings of Europe at Munich's sold-out Allianz Arena, four years after their misery in Moscow.

The last time Chelsea reached the Champions League final in 2008 they lost on penalties to Manchester United in the Russian capital with striker Didier Drogba dismissed in extra time for a slap on United defender Nemanja Vidic.

Despite an erratic season which saw Chelsea finish sixth in the Premier League, the Blues lifted the FA Cup and beat holders Barcelona on the way to the Champions League final.

After Andre Villa-Boas was sacked as manager in March, new boss Roberto Di Matteo has breathed new life into the team and Drogba says the Blues have earned the right to be here.

"After Moscow, most of us thought we were going to get into the final the next year. But you can see it's very difficult to reach a final," said Drogba.

"It shows how much we deserve to be there this time because it's been a few years.

"We did a great job to get past Barcelona but we have to do one more. Now it's one more game to win."

Likewise, Bayern wing Franck Ribery knows the pain of missing out: in the 2010 campaign, his red card in the semi-final against Olympique Lyon saw him suspended for the final as the Bavarians lost 2-0 in Madrid to Inter Milan.

"It wasn't a good situation for me two years ago and I felt bad about it," said the Frenchman.

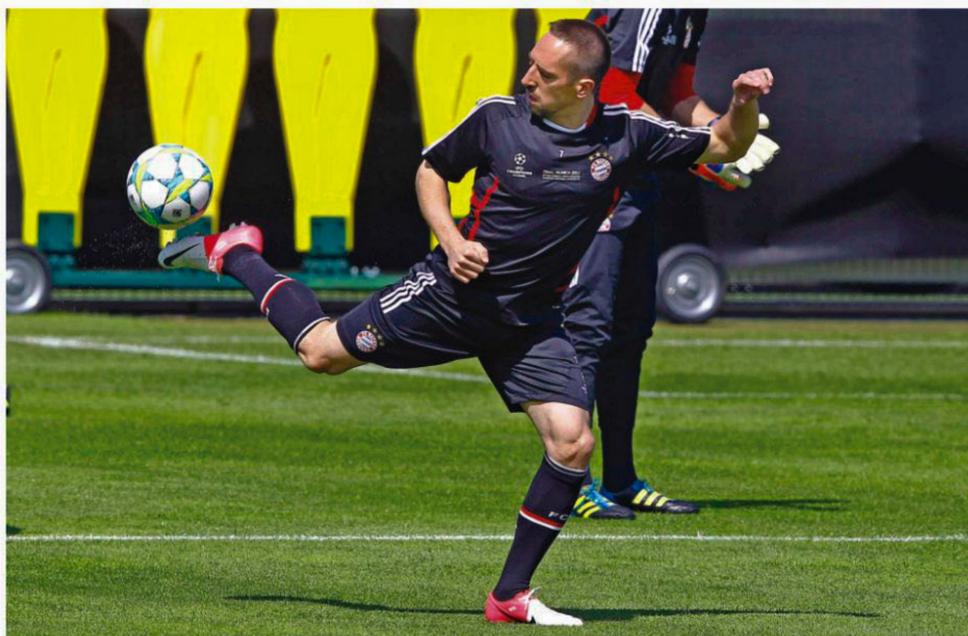
"I've often thought back to 2010. I can make up for the missed final because I have a second chance.

"The final in Munich means I can finally banish the memory of Madrid."

The Bavarian giants have now reached two of the last three Champions League finals and Ribery is eager to lift the title after missing out two years ago.

"I didn't think I'd get this second chance so soon," Franck told magazine Kicker magazine.

"I wanted us to get as far as possible this season, but I never thought we'd really battle through to the final.



Bayern Munich star Franck Ribery controls the ball during a practice session at the club's training ground in Munich yesterday on the eve of their Champions League final against Chelsea.

PHOTO: REUTERS

"The final in Munich, it's unbelievable, but I think we deserve to be there.

"I hope we all join forces, turn in a great performance against Chelsea, and win the cup. That would be terrific."

However, Bayern are licking their wounds after being hammered 5-2 by league champions Dortmund in last weekend's German Cup final and finished second in the Bundesliga.

The Bavarian giants are bidding to become the first team since Inter at San Siro in 1965 to win the European title on home soil.

"I'm already 29, so who knows whether I'll appear in another final," added Ribery, with Bayern aiming to lift their fifth European title overall and second Champions League

victory since 2001.

"If we win on Saturday it would be historic, so we have to give everything. We should be exhausted afterwards."

Both teams upset the odds to take their place in the final with Chelsea stunning holders Barcelona in the semi-finals while Bayern won a penalty-shoot-out in Spain to beat Real Madrid in the last four.

Bayern will be without suspended defensive trio Holger Badstuber, David Alaba and Luiz Gustavo who all picked up yellow cards against Madrid.

Chelsea will be missing captain John Terry, who was sent off against Barcelona, while midfielders Raul Meireles, Ramires and defender Branislav Ivanovic are also suspended.

Shah Rukh gets five-yr stadium ban

AFP, Mumbai

Mumbai cricket officials on Friday announced a five-year ban on Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan from the city's main stadium after a late-night row with staff at the grounds.

The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) has filed a police complaint against Khan, co-owner of the Indian Premier League (IPL) team Kolkata Knight Riders, over the heated altercation on Wednesday night at Wankhede stadium.

"The ban was a unanimous decision," MCA president Vilasrao Deshmukh told reporters in the city. "Action will be taken against whoever breaks the law."

The MCA says Khan should not have entered the ground after the game, saying he misbehaved and used foul language when officials asked him to leave. They also tried to stop a group of children including Khan's daughter from playing on the field.

"Even for us, there are rules of who should come in and who cannot," said Deshmukh.

Khan, one of the biggest names in Bollywood, has denied accusations he was drunk or behaving illegally, saying he became angry when officials at the stadium abused him and "physically manhandled" the children.

The MCA's parent body, the Board of Control for Cricket in India, will look into the "unprecedented case", said its chief administrative officer Ratnakar Shetty.

"Never have we seen this kind of behaviour at any time on any (cricket) ground in India," he said.



Mohammedan striker Mohammad Rony (C) heads past Brothers Union goalkeeper Uttam Barua to score the equaliser in their Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

MSC-BU share points

SPORTS REPORTER



Mohammedan and Brothers Union shared points in their Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League match as they played out a 1-1 draw at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

After a barren first half, Nigerian recruit Victory Anthony gave Brothers Union the lead in the 59th minute before substitute striker Mohammad Rony cancelled it in the 71st minute to give the Black and Whites their fifth draw in 11 matches.

The outcome also helped Mohammedan climb up to sixth on the table by virtue of goal difference with Farashganj SC, who also have 14 points in 12 outings. Brothers Union stayed at fifth position with 15 points from 12 matches.

All eyes were on the foreign recruits of Mohammedan who were signed in the mid-term transfer win-

dow after the club released their seven earlier recruitments. It was a test for them against a spirited Brothers Union, who had stunned teams like Muktijoddha Sangsad and Sheikh Russel and snatched points from title contenders Abahani.

A good number of spectators at the Mohammedan gallery also turned up to watch the performance of the new-signings and Nigerian midfielder Udeh Damian Chigozie, Beninian midfielder Oladikpiko Wassiou Olalawon and Nigerian hitman Udeh Damian Chigozie looked better compared to the earlier recruits.

Mohammedan brought changes in their starting eleven after drafting three foreign players along with veteran striker Alfaz Ahmed, who returned to his old club from Team BJMC in the mid-term transfer and Mohammedan dominated the game initially but it turned into an equal battle as the game progressed.

Alfaz, who is planning to call time on his career after this season, could have made his return to his old club a memorable one had he not squandered two easy chances from inside the box.

Motiur Munna put a defence-splitting through pass for Alfaz, who drove miles off the target from the right-hand side of the box despite getting the opposition goalkeeper alone on 22 minutes.

Afterward Brothers re-organised to step up the attack and came close twice to taking a lead, even Kingsley Chigozie found the back of the Mohammedan net on 32 minutes but it was cancelled due to foul on defender Rajani Kanta Barman as the Nigerian pushed Rajani while attempting to head a Javed corner.

Mohammedan were deprived of a goal in 41st minute when defender Khan Mohammad Tara made a goalline clearance off an Okalawon shot.

After resumption, both sides played attacking football and Mohammedan

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Nadal surges to semis

Tennis

AFP, Rome

Second seed Rafael Nadal got the better of Tomas Berdych on Friday, grinding out a 6-4, 7-5 win to seal his place in the semifinals of a Rome Masters event which he has won five times before.

The king of clay will face off in the final four against compatriot and sixth seed David Ferrer, who beat French 15th seed Richard Gasquet 7-6 (7/4), 6-3.

Nadal and Ferrer went toe-to-toe less than three weeks ago, with Nadal winning the final to take his seventh trophy on home clay in Barcelona.

Nadal showed he has regained his blistering form after a dissatisfying third-round loss a week ago on blue clay in Madrid, beating Madrid finalist

Berdych for the 11th time in succession in a struggle lasting just over two hours.

He produced 34 winners and just ten unforced errors in a superlative display, while Berdych went for broke throughout, posting 28 winners and 24 unforced errors and losing serve three times.

The world number three has now won all but two of his 36 matches at the Foro Italicco and has emerged victorious in all three clay meetings with a player he also beat in the 2010 Wimbledon final.

Meanwhile, Ferrer needed an hour and three-quarters before putting out Gasquet, who played the Estoril final on clay earlier this month.

The gutsy Spaniard, who is still seeking his first title this season, is through to the quarterfinals in Rome for the first time.

Serena Williams solidified her return to the top-five ranking on Friday as the American ninth seed advanced to the semifinals when opponent Flavia Pennetta withdrew with a right wrist injury.

The Italian and her fans at the Foro Italicco had been hoping for an upset.

Instead, Williams won her 17th consecutive match on clay as the former number one continues to power back into the WTA elite.

"No-one wants to win like that, but I'm happy to get half a day off," said Williams. "I've been playing a lot of days in a row. I even practised on Sunday."

"It's a shame it had to end because I was really getting into the match."

The American said that her form going into the French Open, which starts a week on Sunday, is good.



Girls of Dinajpur Municipal High School are beside themselves in joy as they won their first competitive hockey match. The Dinajpur girls thrashed Anandomoyi School of Dhaka 8-0 on the opening day of the UCB First Women's Hockey at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Clarke returns for IPL

THE TELEGRAPH, Pune

Australia's Test and ODI captain Michael Clarke, who married Kylie Boldy rather quietly earlier in the week, reunited with the Pune Warriors India on Friday evening.

Well in time for Saturday night's match against the Kolkata Knight Riders, the Warriors' concluding fixture in a hugely disappointing IPL-V.

"Clarke is coming back for the last match... He's expected here on Friday evening," a member of the Warriors' team management told The Telegraph on Thursday night.