

Age Africa Cup of Nations, SOUTH AFRICA 2013



Nigeria players celebrate with the 2013 African Cup of Nations trophy after winning the final against Burkina Faso at the Soccer City Stadium in Johannesburg on Sunday.

PHOTO:
AFP

Nigeria end 19-yr drought

Football

AFP, Soweto

Nigeria ended a 19-year Africa Cup of Nations title drought Sunday with a 1-0 final victory over Burkina Faso at Soccer City thanks to a late first-half goal from Sunday Mba.

It was a result that took winning coach Stephen Keshi into the record books as he equalled the feat of late Egyptian Mahmoud El Gohary by winning gold medals as a player and a coach.

Among the rewards for the Super Eagles was a \$1.5 million first prize and a place at the FIFA Confederations Cup in Brazil, where they will face world and European champions Spain, Tahiti and Uruguay.

Nigeria were forced into a late pre-match change when striker and four-goal leading scorer Emmanuel Emenike was ruled out by a hamstring injury sustained in the semi-final rout of Mali and experienced Ikechukwu Uche took his place.

Burkina Faso were able to retain the team that started against Ghana in a semifinal settled by a shoot-out after the red card given to midfielder Jonathan Pitroipa was rescinded when the referee admitted he erred.

It was only the third time the countries have met in the 56-year competition with Nigeria beating

then-Upper Volta 4-2 in 1978 and Burkina Faso snatching a stoppage-time 1-1 draw in a Nelspruit group game last month.

The Mba goal gave the Super Eagles a deserved 1-0 half-time lead after 45 minutes that followed a predictable script with Nigeria dominating possession and scoring chances while the Burkinabe relied largely on counter-attacks.

Mba, one of two home-based stars

PAST WINNERS

2000: Cameroon
2002: Cameroon
2004: Tunisia
2006: Egypt
2008: Egypt
2010: Egypt
2012: Zambia

in the starting line-up, struck on 40 minutes with a penalty-box flick over Mohamed Koffi and a left-foot shot into the far corner past helpless goalkeeper Daouda Diakite.

It was an opportunist goal by Mba and his second of the tournament, having struck a superb match-winner in the 2-1 quarterfinal defeat of pre-tournament title favourites Ivory Coast.

Nigeria should have taken the lead much earlier as Diakite spilled a cross on 10 minutes into the path of Brown Ideye, whose shot at an

unguarded goal was just too high.

A combination of Nigerian midfield creativity and a couple of defensive howlers by the Burkinabe offered several half chances to the Super Eagles that were squandered.

The early second-half exchanges mirrored the first period with the Nigerians pressing for a second goal that would leave opponents fielding a lone striker in Aristide Bance with a mountain to scale.

Diakite did well to push away a hard, low Ideye cross-cum-shot and Moses should have done better in a two-on-one situation that favoured the Eagles only to timidly surrender possession with the Burkinabe goal in sight.

Although Spain-based Uche was a goal-scoring star of the qualifying campaign, he was making no impact on the final and gave way to Ahmed Musa nine minutes after half-time.

There was another Nigerian substitution not long after -- this time enforced -- with full-back Elderson Echiejile limping off to be replaced by Juwon Oshaniwa, while the Burkinabe introduced Wilfried Sanou for Florent Rouamba.

As the game moved into the final quarter there were chances at both ends with unmarked Musa slipping as he was poised to shoot inside the box and a Sanou drive at the other end finishing just wide of the far post.

Mamun, Mithun banned

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Russel KC will miss the services of Mamunul Islam and Mithun Chowdhury in their crucial encounter of the Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League against Mukti-joddha KC on Wednesday as the BFF disciplinary committee yesterday handed them one-match ban for misbehaviour with the assistant referee.

According to BFF press release, Mamun and Mithun were handed one-match ban as they hurled abuse toward the assistant referee following their 1-0 defeat at the hands of Mohammedan SC on Saturday.

Sheikh Russel official Shahjahan Kabir and ball-boy Kalam have also been given stadium ban during the ongoing league as Shahjahan hurled abuse and hit the door of referees' dressing room after the match while Kalam assaulted the referee physically.

Sheikh Russel have also been fined for Tk 20,000 for the misdemeanour.

Rangpur

FROM PAGE 16
caught off Taijul Islam in the eighth over where as Shamsur departed in the 13th. Rajshahi's Mukhtar was the pick of the bowlers as he ended with figures of 3 for 25.

School chess

FROM PAGE 16
Govt High School shared the third position with five points each.

In Group B, Fahad Rahman of Gemcon Group beat Mawla to secure six points from as many matches while Jamim Al Hamid of Maulovibazar Lily Children Academy was in second position with five points after beating Prottoy Chowdhury.

In Group C, Tani of Motijheel Central Govt. Girls School beat Zannatul Ferdous to maintain her winning run and secured maximum six points from six matches. Shraboni Fatimatuzzohora of Bibi Marium School and Tasnim Rahman Mishel of Natore Chess Academy shared the second position with five points each.

Farashganj

FROM PAGE 16
Abahani goalkeeper Salimulla, but Pintu was there to pounce on the rebound and he slotted the back right at the back of the net.

Earlier, State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker declared the eight-team league open where BFF's senior vice-president Abdus Salam Murshedy and sponsors Premier Bank's officials were also present.

Zeballos denies Nadal

Tennis

AFP, Vina del Mar

Horacio Zeballos denied Rafael Nadal a fairytale finish to his comeback tournament on Sunday, rallying to hand the Spaniard a rare clay-court defeat in the 410,200-dollar ATP event here.

Zeballos, ranked 73rd in the world and playing in just his second ATP Tour final, rallied to beat the former world number one 6-7 (2/7), 7-6 (8/6), 6-4.

He became just the third player -- along with Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer -- to beat Nadal in a clay court final, quite an achievement for the Argentinian despite the fact that Nadal was playing his first tournament in seven months.

"It's a dream for me," said Zeballos. "To be able to play a final against Nadal was already good enough for me. It's a moment that will stay in my memory for the rest of my life."

Nadal was back in action this week for the first time since a surprise second-round exit at Wimbledon in June.

Since then he had been sidelined by a torn tendon and inflammation in his left knee, with his return this year further delayed by a virus.



Spain's Rafael Nadal cuts a forlorn figure after losing the ATP tournament final against Argentina's Horacio Zeballos in Vina del Mar on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

Ash burns bright

FROM PAGE 16
intentions clear right from the very first over when he dispatched Forhad Reza for two boundaries. In the next over, Ashraful went one better as he smashed Zadran for two consecutive boundaries towards the midwicket region and smacked asix over long on off.

Despite Ashraful's brilliance the match was evenly balanced in the first half as Dhaka lost three crucial wickets -- Tillakaratne Dilshan, Shakib Al Hasan and Anamul Haque -- in three overs. It seemed the stage was set for Ashraful -- captaining the side in place of the rested Mashrafe Bin Mortaza -- to play a special hand after quite some time.

With Jason Cobb, he shared a 61-run stand for the fourth wicket, which took Dhaka to across the 100-run mark by the 12th over. Cobb scored a fluent 31 off 18 balls before being caught at deep mid-wicket in the 13th over. However, an unbeaten 74-run fifth-wicket partnership

between Stevens and Ashraful ensured that there were no further hiccups.

Earlier, the Khulna Royal Bengals overcame a horrible start to post a formidable 176. After crumbling to 10 for two in the second over -- including the loss of in-form Shahriar Nafees -- they rode on a third-wicket partnership worth 120 off just 74 balls between Travis Birt and Jehan Mubarak, the only batsmen in the Khulna camp to make double figures.

Birt, who scored six fours and six sixes in his 56-ball unbeaten innings, played to his strength and scored most of his runs down the ground. He frequently used the slog sweep against Dhaka's left-arm spinners and relied on his timing against the pacers. He found an able ally in Mubarak, who hit 65 off 43 and actually outscored Birt during their stand.

Alfonso Thomas was the pick of the bowlers for Dhaka as he ended with figures of three for 34. Shakib chipped in with 2 for 24.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Rajshahi take title

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi became unbeaten champions in the Walton Inter-District Women's Volleyball Championship with a 3-0 sets victory over Rajbari in the final at the Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex in Dhanmondi yesterday.

Women's cricket from Feb 16

SPORTS REPORTER

The 6th Women's National Cricket League will get underway from February 16.

Seven divisions -- Khulna, Sylhet, Dhaka, Barisal, Rangpur, Chittagong and Rajshahi -- will take part in the competition.

The matches will be held at two different venues -- the Shahid Kamruzzaman Stadium and the Rajshahi District Stadium.

The final will be held on March 9.

Suspected

FROM PAGE 16
driving license. When contacted, Dr Mallick, member-secretary of the Bangladesh Premier League's governing council said, "We will discuss the matter in detail. I can only comment on the matter after a thorough investigation."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 See 12-Across
5 Scoundrel
8 Mine entrance
12 With 1-Across, have trouble
13 Bullring cheer
14 Pianist Peter
15 Fermi's bit
16 Time on Earth
18 Summer-house
20 Deviating off course
21 Albacore, e.g.
23 — Aviv
24 Help on "... Millionaire"

28 Pealed
31 Commotion
32 Nuptial announcement
34 Dead heat

35 Legal wrong

37 Shipwreck aid
39 Bill and —
41 Sea eagle
42 Cover the cost up front
45 Adjective modifier
49 Organism
51 Concept
52 Finished
53 Regret
54 Whirlpool
55 Marries
56 Conclude
57 Back talk

DOWN
1 Carpet style
2 Silents actress
3 The gamut
4 Reproductive cell
5 House style
6 Boxer Muhammad
7 Challenge
8 Reply
9 Remove hair
10 Persia, now
11 China-town gang
17 Dine
19 Closed-up tulip

Solution time: 24 mins.
T O T A S A S I M O V
E N M E S H M E N A G E
S T E P P E M I N U E T
P O N E P R O S N E O
E C H O M O A
A G A H E A L A L A N
T O B E O R N O T T O B E
E V E N D O V E A C T
R E D K E L P
T A R E Y E S A C E D
S C A R C E I N S U R E
A N N U A L C U S T O M
R E T E L L K N E E S
Yesterday's answer 1-7

22 Sandy's mistress

24 Long. crosser
25 "What can — for you?"
26 Made to consume
27 Put in a border, as a photo
29 Zero
30 Obtain
33 Remit
36 Drunkards
38 Groups of quail
40 Lum-mox
42 Winter truck attachment
43 Split
44 Bygone times
46 Icelandic epic
47 Cincinnati team
48 Chesapeake et al.
50 Scoot

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13			14		
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52					53				54	
55					56			57		

CRYPTOQUIP

F S J B S B I J R Z N X B A O U J N J A O

U A Q A C N S J O M N A Z U P F A C I U

I A A M T A Y F Z Y U N A N S X

R A P N ? T Y A W W Q F X Z N S X Y .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE SHE HAS A

REAL KNACK FOR GETTING FOLKS HOOKED

ON POKER, IS SHE PRODUCING ANTE-BODIES?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals O