

INT'L KARATE C'SHIP Bangladesh win 2 gold

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh women's karate team won two gold medals in the 8th NSKA International Martial Art Karate Championship in Nepal yesterday.

In the women's kata team event, Bangladesh team comprising Munni Khanam, Nasima Akter Jui and Mariam Khatun Bipasa won gold beating Nepalese team of Krisa Sherpa, Renuka Pandey and Rojina Kamal.

In the women's singles' kumi event (above 18), Nasima Akter Jui of Bangladesh secured gold medal beating Ramila Nagorkot of Nepal.

Arambagh beat Agrani Bank

SPORTS REPORTER

Arambagh Krira Sangha defeated Agrani Bank SC 2-1 in the only match of the Premier Bank Bangladesh Championship League at Birshrestha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Arif and Kanchan scored one goal each for the winners before Rabbi netted a consolation goal for the losing side.

Madrid set for biggest derby

AP, Lisbon



There will be little love between neighbours when Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid play in the Champions League final on Saturday.

The Spanish teams make up the first Champions League final between city rivals in history, with the match to be played in nearby Lisbon.

Real Madrid are the competition's most successful club and bidding to end a 12-year wait for "La Decima" -- their 10th European Cup title. But Atletico are proving to be quite a spoiler this season, winning the Spanish league title over Barcelona last weekend and now one win away from completing the greatest season in the club's 111-year history.

Cristiano Ronaldo is expected to return from injury to play Saturday. Ronaldo has been burdened by leg injuries over the past two months but said Tuesday he would be available to play in his first Champions League final for Madrid. Costa has also endured leg setbacks and, after hobbling off against Barcelona on Saturday, sought treatment from a specialist in Belgrade using horse placenta.

Ronaldo's return will bolster Madrid's already potent attack with Gareth Bale set to start. But striker Karim Benzema appears to be doubtful with a hamstring



Atletico Madrid forward David Villa

injury. Madrid centre back Pepe is also a game-time decision.

Xabi Alonso's absence deals an important blow to Madrid's midfield. The Spain international has been one of Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti's most important players this season, but a yellow card in the semifinal win over Bayern Munich has left him suspended.

Either Sami Khedira, Asier Illarramendi or Casimiro is likely to fill the void and take responsibility for opening up Madrid's attack and breaking up Atletico's buildups.

Illarramendi is the natural successor to Alonso, but he has had a never debut season at Madrid.

"It will be a very equal match

and I imagine the midfield will be determinant in setting up play," Atletico coach Diego Simeone said.

Madrid can count on more experience as Cristiano Ronaldo won the title while at Manchester United and goalkeeper Iker Casillas was part of Madrid's winning teams in 2000 and 2002.

Madrid can also draw on the experience of assistant coach Zinedine Zidane, who scored an iconic goal in Madrid's 2-1 win over Bayer Leverkusen in its last Champions League final appearance.

Carlo Ancelotti has been able to get Real Madrid where Jose Mourinho never could, and now the Italian coach is one win away from matching Bob Paisley with



Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo

his third European Cup.

Ancelotti, who also won two European Cups as a player, secured the Champions League at AC Milan in 2003 and '07, leaving him on the verge of matching the former Liverpool manager's record number of titles.

"There's no pressure on me, just the joy of living this moment of happiness," Ancelotti said. "A lot of (teams) have to watch this game in front of the TV and we're lucky to be able to play it. I've watched this game on TV a lot of times and I didn't enjoy it."

Diego Simeone could become just the third non-European coach to win the trophy. The only other two were also Argentine -- Real Madrid's Luis Carniglia in 1958

and '59 and Helenio Herrera of Inter Milan in 1964 and '65.

Saturday's match represents the most important Madrid derby after 194 league and Spanish Cup games.

Madrid have the advantage with 102 victories to Atletico's 46. Atletico only ended a 14-year winless run against Madrid in all competitions last season when it won the Copa del Rey at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

Atletico have won and drawn the two league encounters since, while Madrid easily won a pair of Copa del Rey matches against Atletico en route to the domestic cup title.

"There are no secrets for this game," Ancelotti said. "The two teams know each other well."

Messi, Neymar in Shakira's new WC video

INTERNET

The official 2014 World Cup song is "We Are One (Ole Ola)" by Pitbull, Jennifer Lopez and Claudia Leitte. The samba-enthused tune, however, is bombing because some are finding it "generic and clichéd." Listen closely and you'll also notice that the song makes absolutely no references to football or the World Cup. It's just about flags.

Thankfully, Shakira -- the Colombian songstress with the truth-telling hips who produced the official 2010 World Cup song -- has stepped in with her own effort.

"La La La (Brazil 2014)" is a reworking of one of her recent singles with added beautiful game references and a new music video boasting some of the biggest stars in the game.

During one part of the song, Shakira sounds like she's repeating the word "Lego," perhaps as a means of enticing Barcelona superstar and building blocks advocate Lionel Messi to participate.

Other Blaugrana players in the video include Neymar, Cesc Fabregas and Shakira's baby daddy and PDA partner Gerard Pique.

Also joining in on the fun are Radamel Falcao, Eric Abidal and Sergio Aguero, but the show is thoroughly stolen by Shakira and Pique's son Milan, who kicks a ball and gets dangerously close to an elephant. Both of which are very fun things to do.

Klose ready to break records

AFP, Berlin

Germany's veteran striker Miroslav Klose has said he will be "100 percent" ready for next month's World Cup in Brazil, where he aims to break the tournament's goal record.

With 14 goals at three previous World Cup finals, the 35-year-old Klose is just one short of Brazil striker Ronaldo's record of 15 for the all-time goal-scorer.

As one of only two strikers in the squad, the veteran says he will be ready when Germany open their Group C campaign against Portugal in Salvador on June 16 after being blighted by injury at his Italian club Lazio from the end of March until the start of May.

"I assume I will be 100 percent ready for the tournament," said the ex-Bayern and Werder Bremen star from the German team's training camp in north Italy on Friday.

"I feel good and I'm on the right path." "The fitness coaches know me very well and they know exactly what I need, so everything is moving in the right direction."

Klose said his priority is to the team, rather than claiming goal records.

"For me, the main thing is to be fit and the most important thing is the team," he said.

"I am convinced that when the team plays well, then the striker will also get his chances."

"But anyone who knows me is aware that the goal record is a target of mine."

Germany play the USA and Ghana in their other Group G matches.

While Klose has always played as a striker, but says he can just as easily slot into the attacking midfield if needed.

"Basically, I can play the 'False Nine', but regardless of who has experience, at the end of the day the coach makes the decision," said Klose.

"I just want to train so that the World Cup doesn't pass me by."

No room for Donovan

AFP, Los Angeles



Landon Donovan, the United States' all-time leading scorer, was left off the 23-man squad named by Jurgen Klinsmann on Thursday for the 2014 World Cup.

Donovan, with 57 international goals, was among 30 taken into training camp but didn't make the final cut for what would have been a fourth World Cup.

The 32-year-old had insisted he wasn't a lock to make the squad for the finals in Brazil.

He didn't figure prominently in the qualifying campaign, playing in just three of 10 matches in the final round after taking a nearly four-month sabbatical from the game.

But once the veteran -- the face of football in the United States -- was included in the 30-man preliminary squad many fans were certain he'd be going to Brazil.

Klinsmann, who helped Germany win the 1990 World Cup as a player and coached Germany to the 2006 semifinals, said it was one of the toughest coaching decisions of his

USA SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Brad Guzan (Aston Villa/ENG), Tim Howard (Everton/ENG), Nick Rimando (Real Salt Lake)

Defenders: DaMarcus Beasley (Puebla/MEX), Matt Besler (Sporting Kansas City), John Brooks (Hertha Berlin/GER), Geoff Cameron (Stoke City/ENG), Timmy Chandler (Nuremberg/GER), Omar Gonzalez (LA Galaxy), Fabian Johnson (Borussia Moenchengladbach/GER), DeAndre Yedlin (Seattle Sounders FC)

Midfielders: Kyle Beckerman (Real Salt Lake), Alejandro Bedoya (Nantes/FRA), Michael Bradley (Toronto FC), Brad Davis (Houston Dynamo), Mix Diskerud (Rosenborg/NOR), Julian Green (Bayern Munich/GER), Jermaine Jones (Besiktas/TUR), Graham Zusi (Sporting Kansas City)

Forwards: Jozy Altidore (Sunderland/ENG), Clint Dempsey (Seattle Sounders FC), Aron Johannsson (AZ Alkmaar/NED), Chris Wondolowski (San Jose Earthquakes)

career.

"To tell a player like him, with everything he's done and what he represents, to tell him 'you're not

part of those 23 right now ..." Klinsmann said. "I just see some other players slightly ahead of him."

"His disappointment is huge," Klinsmann added. "He took it very professional because he is an outstanding professional player," he added.

"But I had to make decisions as of today ... I just think the other guys right now are a little ahead of him."

Klinsmann takes a relatively inexperienced squad for a World Cup campaign that sees the United States drawn in Group G along with Ghana, who reached the quarter-finals in the 2010 edition, Euro 2012 semi-finalists Portugal and one of the favorites for the trophy Germany.

They will kick off their campaign on June 16 against Ghana.

Also left off the squad was midfielder Maurice Edu. In naming the 30-man squad, Klinsmann said he saw Donovan as a pure forward rather than a midfielder. The forwards selected include young playmaker Aron Johannsson and 31-year-old Major League Soccer veteran Chris Wondolowski.



LANDON DONOVAN

Dummett gets death threats

REUTERS, London



Newcastle United defender Paul Dummett has received death threats from angry Uruguay fans who blame him for the injury that has put striker Luis Suarez's World Cup campaign in doubt, British media reported on Friday.

Liverpool striker Suarez had keyhole surgery on his left knee on Thursday and faces a race to be fit for the World Cup in Brazil, with Uruguay playing Costa Rica in their opening Group D game on June 14 and England in their second match on June 19.

Suarez complained about the problem during his first day of training with the Uruguay squad.

The country's FA (AUF) said he first suffered the injury in the final Premier League game of the season at home to Newcastle as Liverpool chased the title.

Dummett was sent off for fouling Suarez late in the match.

"It should be highlighted that the player received a direct blow to his left knee in the

last game of the Premier League season with Liverpool, on Sunday May 11, with pain which eased with rest from sporting action after the season had ended," the Uruguayan FA said on Thursday.

Dummett, whose red card in the 82nd minute of Newcastle's 2-1 defeat was later rescinded on appeal, on Thursday was the victim of death threats on social media from local fans as the AUF seemed to blame Newcastle for Suarez's operation.

The 22-year-old Newcastle defender, who was called up by Wales on Thursday for a friendly against the Netherlands on June 4, has referred the threats to soccer authorities.

Suarez will need up to 20 days to recover but Uruguay team doctors have not ruled him out of the June 12 to July 13 finals.

"The challenge was inadvertent. I hit him and the ball with my left foot and he went down under the challenge," Dummett told the Daily Mirror on Thursday.

"I hope he makes the World Cup because he is one of the best players in the world so he should be there."

"Having said that, I injured my meniscus three years ago and I was out for three months, so it will depend on the injury and exactly where it is on the knee."

Schwarzer wins elite award

AFP, Sydney

Chelsea goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer won the Alex Tobin Medal recognised as the Australian players' highest honour on Friday.

Schwarzer, 41, who has retired from international level but still plays for Chelsea in the English Premier League, is the sixth recipient of the medal. He joins elite company from Australia's national team -- the Socceroos -- past and present, including the late Johnny Warren, Joe Marston, Craig Johnston, Mark Viduka and Frank Farina, who are all Tobin medalists.

The medal, presented to Schwarzer on Friday in Sydney by the Professional Footballers Australia (PFA), is awarded to a player who has demonstrated leadership, achievement as a player, commitment to one's fellow professionals, and service and dedication to the game.

Pele statue won't grace World Cup

AFP, Rio de Janeiro



A life-size statue of football legend Pele commissioned for the stadium hosting the World Cup final in Brazil will not be installed in time for the tournament, the artist said Thursday.

The piece by renowned Brazilian sculptor Ique was originally due to be installed inside Rio de Janeiro's Maracana stadium last year -- a deadline that was pushed back to this year and now appears to have been put on hold indefinitely, the artist told AFP.

"Pele had just had hip surgery so the inauguration was pushed back from December 2013 to March 2014. Then in March the state secretary for sport who commissioned the project (Marcia Lins) left her job. Since then, I haven't heard anything," said Ique, whose given name is Victor Henrique Woitschach.

"The project's been politically abandoned. It shows a lack of respect for me and for Pele."

Asked if he had been paid for his work, he said: "I prefer you put that question to the governor."

The state secretary for sport's press office did not respond when contacted by AFP. But it told O Globo newspaper that the artist needed to sign a contract for the statue to be installed.

The 300-kilogram (660-pound) bronze is based on photos of a goal Pele scored in Brazil's 4-1 win against Czechoslovakia during the 1970 World Cup in Mexico. Ique, who rose to prominence during his 30-year career as a caricaturist for Rio-based newspaper Jornal do Brasil, said it was now too late to install the statue before the World Cup kicks off on June 12.