



There were ugly scenes ahead of the second leg of the Copa Libertadores final as River Plate fans led an assault on the visiting Boca Juniors' team bus, pelting the vehicle with stones. Police were called in to control the situation and managed to calm things down, but not before (Inset) Boca captain Pablo Perez suffered a debilitating eye injury.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



'It seemed like a war'

Boca Juniors captain says after bus attack

AGENCIES, Buenos Aires



Boca Juniors captain Pablo Perez compared incidents before the Copa Libertadores final to "war" after the second leg was postponed.

Boca Juniors players were hurt on Saturday when their bus was attacked by River Plate fans outside the stadium, ruining what was supposed to be a landmark day for Argentine football.

The all-Buenos Aires clash, the first time Argentina's two biggest clubs had met for the title, was billed as the greatest final in the competition's 58-year history but will instead be remembered for the violence that left players bleeding and almost all the windows on one side of the Boca bus shattered.

Boca's bus was showered with projectiles, with some smashing windows of the vehicle, before the clash was eventually pushed back by 24 hours.

Perez, who was reportedly one of three players taken to hospital for assessment, was unhappy with the pre-game incidents.

"I'm feeling hurt," he said. "This was

supposed to be a party and it seemed more like a war."

Perez, whose team were held to a 2-2 draw in the first leg at home, confirmed he had suffered an eye injury.

"I've got an irked eye. They told me I have some injured spots in my eye," he said. "That could be caused by the glass splinters they got out from there."

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PABLO PEREZ
BOCA CAPTAIN

South American football's governing body twice rescheduled the kick-off in the hope of getting the game played but with a capacity 62,000 crowd waiting for the players to emerge they eventually decided to postpone the final.

"One can't play in these conditions," Conmebol president Alejandro Dominguez told reporters.

The final of the competition, South America's equivalent of Europe's Champions League, was rescheduled for Sunday but it was again postponed, with a new date yet to be announced when this report was filed. A statement confirmed the match would not take place on Sunday, adding: "Conmebol president Alejandro Dominguez recognized Boca Juniors can't play today."

3 Fed Cup semifinalists in group of death

SPORTS REPORTER



With the flavour of the Federation Cup still fresh, another tournament -- the Independence Cup -- is set to roll on December 1 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium with three of the semifinalists of the just-concluded tournament being placed in 'Group of Death.'

Big-spending Bashundhara Kings, former Independence Cup champions Sheikh Russel KC and former runners-up Sheikh Jamal DC -- the three semifinalists-- have been placed in Group D, with two teams from each group slated to advance into the quarterfinals. Bashundhara Kings became runners-up after losing to Abahani in an entertaining final of the Federation Cup on November 23.

It is mentionable that Bashundhara Group, one of the largest business conglomerates of the country, is patronising all the three clubs. Defending champions Arambagh KS were, however, pitted in a relatively easy Group A along with Saif SC and Team BJCM while Federation Cup's hattrick champions Abahani were pitted against Brothers Union and Muktiyoddha Sangsad in Group C.

Season's curtain-raiser Federation Cup was very competitive and the final between

Abahani and Bashundhara Kings was exciting one except for unsavoury incidents towards the end of the match which resulted in four players getting marching orders and hundreds of spectators entering the ground, posing risk to the security of the players.

"Many may feel hurt watching the brawl among the players during the Federation Cup final but applying physical force is part of the game. I think this time the standard of the tournament was very high and the final was entertaining," BFF senior vice-president Abdus Salam Murshedy opined during the ceremony.

"However, the BFF Disciplinary Committee is working on punishing the guilty players and the decision will be made before the start of the Independence Cup. We will also try to have more

members of law enforcement at the Independence Cup to ensure utmost security of the players," added Murshedy.

The last edition of the Independence Cup was held without foreign players but this time the foreign players are eligible to play.

The matches of the group stages will be held between December 1 and 9 while the quarterfinals will take place from December 11 to 14. The tournament will be suspended from December 15 to 18. The final will be held on December 24 after the semi-finals taking place on December 19 and 20.

GROUPS

- Group A:** Saif SC, Arambagh, Team BJCM
Group B: Chittagong Abahani, Mohammedan, Rahmatganj, NoFeL
Group C: Abahani, Brothers Union, Muktiyoddha Sangsad
Group D: Sheikh Jamal DC, Sheikh Russel KC, Bashundhara Kings

Sohail, Azam put Pak on top

AFP, Dubai

A career-best hundred from Haris Sohail and a maiden century from Babar Azam helped Pakistan post a big total to boost their chances of a series-levelling win against New Zealand in the second Test in Dubai on Sunday.

Sohail knocked a snail-paced 147 in nine hours and 34 minutes while Azam made an unbeaten 127 to steer Pakistan to an imposing 418 for 5 declared on day two at Dubai stadium.

New Zealand negotiated nine overs without losing a wicket for 24 under lights in overcast conditions before umpires called off the day with two overs remaining.

Opener Jeet Raval was unbeaten on 17 with three boundaries while Tom Latham was five not out.

With the Dubai stadium pitch starting to turn ace leg-spinner Yasir Shah could be the key to Pakistan gaining a big first innings lead.

SCORES IN BRIEF
PAKISTAN: First innings 418 for 5 decl (Azhar 81, Sohail 147, Azam 127 not out, Sarfarz 30 not out; Grandhomme 2-44)
NEW ZEALAND: First innings 24 for no loss.

Australia clinch fourth title



AFP, North Sound



All-rounder Ashleigh Gardner starred with bat and ball as Australia cruised to an eight-wicket victory over England in the final of the Women's World T20 in Antigua on Saturday.

Gardner and teenage leg-spinner Georgia Wareham combined for five wickets to restrict the English to 105 all out off 19.4 overs after they had chosen to bat first at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

Gardner then featured in an unbroken third-wicket partnership of 62 with her captain Meg Lanning as the Aussies reached the target with almost five overs to spare to lift their fourth World T20 crown.

Given her significant contributions

in both innings the 21-year-old was the obvious choice as Player of the Match.

The Player of the Series honour was also a predictable selection with opener and wicketkeeper Alyssa Healy taking the title although the final represented her least accomplished performance.

After winning three consecutive Player of the Match honours in Australia's group matches, Healy dropped England topscorer Danielle Wyatt in the third over off Ellyse Perry.

Wyatt contributed a breezy 43 off 37 balls to her team's effort but only England captain Heather Knight managed any other score of note in getting to 25 as wickets continued to tumble.

Any chance of England defending such a modest total depended on removing Healy cheaply. She was bowled by Ecclestone for 22 - her lowest

score of the tournament - and although opening partner Beth Mooney departed shortly after, Gardner and Lanning ensured the result was never in doubt.

"We did not have our best day in the field but the bowlers did a good job," said Lanning after receiving the trophy from West Indies batting legend Sir Vivian Richards. "The last two World Cups really hurt and we had to change a few things and move it forward."

SCORES IN BRIEF

ENGLAND: 105 all out in 19.4 overs (Wyatt 43, Knight 25; Gardner 3-22, Wareham 2-11, Schutt 2-13)

AUSTRALIA: 106 for 2 in 15.1 overs (Healy 22, Gardner 33 not out, Lanning 28 not out; Ecclestone 1-12)

Result: Australia won by eight wickets.
Player-of-the-match: Ashleigh Gardner
Player-of-the-tournament: Alyssa Healy.



Barcelona forward Ousmane Dembele continued to play the role of a saviour for the Blaugrana, netting a 90th-minute equaliser against hosts Atletico Madrid in their top-of-the-table La Liga clash on Saturday night.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Dembele turns up late again

AGENCIES, Madrid



Atletico Madrid came within a whisker of their first league win over Barcelona in eight years on Saturday only for Ousmane Dembele to dash their hopes with a dramatic equaliser in injury-time.

Diego Costa looked to have decided the contest at the Wanda Metropolitano when he headed in his first La Liga goal since February with 13 minutes left.

Atletico would have gone top of the table but instead, Barca produced another fightback as Dembele, on as a substitute, slid home a cool finish in the 90th minute to earn a 1-1 draw.

Diego Simeone was asked after the match what his team had lacked. "Four minutes," he said, grinning.

Dembele, who has been under constant scrutiny for turning up to training sessions late, found redemption with a clinical strike when it mattered most.

For all the noise surrounding him

off the pitch, his goals have now given Barcelona seven points this season, more than any other player in La Liga.

"He's a great player and has a lot of talents, among them goals," Valverde, who dropped Dembele for the defeat to Real Betis before the international break, said. "The media talk about him far too much. The last game he wasn't called up, it's true. He's a player that we have to help so that things work for him and he can help us as a team. We expect a lot of him because he is a great talent."

Falcao gives Henry first victory

AFP, Paris

Radamel Falcao secured Thierry Henry his first win as Monaco boss with a free-kick that would have made his manager proud, netting a dipping set-piece nine minutes after the break in a Ligue 1 match against Caen on Saturday night.

"I'm happy for the team, all the fans, we needed that, even if it was not a match for the purists," Henry said afterwards. "Style is important, in general, but... we can think about style later."

It was Monaco's first win in any competition since the opening day of the league season, a miserable run of form that has left them second-bottom.

ERRATUM

On Saturday's issue of The Daily Star Sport, we incorrectly printed '2,000 Test runs and 3,000 Test wickets' in the story 'Shakib achieves greatness'. The correct numbers are: 3,000 Test runs and 200 Test wickets. We regret overlooking this incorrect statistic and apologise for any confusion it may have caused.

-- SPORTS EDITOR

SHORT CORNER

V-Day hockey from tomorrow

SIBL Victory Day Hockey tournament gets underway tomorrow at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium with Bangladesh Navy aiming to seal a third consecutive title.

Defending champions Navy will take on Bangladesh Police in the first game before last edition's runners-up Bangladesh Army lock horns against Bangladesh Air Force. The other team are BKSP. The teams will play in round-robin format and top two teams will play the final on December 5.

-- SPORTS REPORTER

Rifat draws in second round

Grandmaster Rifat Bin Sattar drew his second round board of the Omicon 44th National A Chess Championship yesterday after having lost his first round game on the previous day. The GM, who is participating in the national championship after six years, drew against Showket Hossain Pollab in the second round at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall-room yesterday. He has 0.5 point from two rounds.

FM Mehdi Hasan Parag shared the joint lead with two other players after beating GM Ziaur rahman, the only other GM in this championship, in the second round. FM

Abu Sufian Shakil and Tahsin Tajwar Zia were alongside Parag on top with two points each. -- SPORTS REPORTER

College rugby final tomorrow

Kabi Nazrul College and Haimchar Govt College set up a final clash in the FSIBL 9th U-20 College Rugby Championship after winning their respective semifinals at the Outer Stadium in Paltan yesterday.

Kabi Nazrul College blanked Govt Bangla College by 10-0 points in the first semifinal while Haimchar Govt College beat Cambrian School & College by 5-0 points in the second semifinal.

The final will be held at 11:00am at the same venue tomorrow. -- SPORTS REPORTER

Hornets keep winning

Hornets SC beat The Greggs Club by 68-56 points in the Unimed Unihealth Premier Division Basketball at the Dhanmudi Indoor Gymnasium yesterday. The winning team led the first half by 33-24 points. Rasha scored 24 points while Masud caged 21 points for Hornets SC.

This was a second consecutive defeat for The Greggs, who lost their previous match by 80-72 points against Rangers Club. -- SPORTS REPORTER



Virat Kohli hit a sparkling unbeaten 41-ball 61 as India chased down Australia's 165 with two balls to spare, levelling the T20I series at one apiece with a six-wicket victory in the third and final game yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP