

The Braga Municipal stadium.

### WI players' fee crisis lifts

REUTERS, Berbice

The West Indies Carib Beer semi-final matches will go ahead on Saturday after the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) and West Indies Players Association (WIPA) ended their stand-off over players' fees.

The dispute over increased fees for players in senior domestic competitions resulted with the team members from the semi-finalists in the Carib Beer series refusing to take the field for their scheduled matches on Friday.

The games featuring Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago at Kensington Oval in Barbados and Guyana versus Jamaica at the Albion Sports Complex in Berbice are now due to start on Saturday.

The WICB and WIPA resumed talks on Friday after discussions broke down on Thursday evening and have agreed on a way to address the outstanding issues, including increased fees to players in senior domestic competitions.

### Martyn setback

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The injury was probably numbed by the joy of winning the match, but going into another long campaign, I want to be as fit as possible," Martyn said.

Once the results of Martyn's medical review were known, the ACB said a decision would be made as to whether a replacement player was needed.

### Rajib, Reefat share lead

UNB, Dhaka

Two International Masters - Enamul Hossain Rajib and Reefat bin Sattar - jointly led the table with 2.5 points each after the third round games in the Professor Abdur Razzak 29th National Championship at the NSC chess room yesterday.

In the day's matches, Rajib beat Monjur Alam, Reefat defeated FM Sheikh Nasir Ahmed, GM Niaz Murshed beat FM Rezaul Haque, Khandakar Aminul Islam beat IM Abdullah Al Rakib, Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Emon drew with Mehdi Hasan Parag and Shawkat Hossain Pollab drew with FM Taibur Rahman Sumon.

## Mountain stadium



AFP, Braga

Portugal has flattened the top of a mountain outside the northern city of Braga to make way for a landmark new stadium officials hope will be an architectural showcase for the Euro 2004 football finals.

"We did not want to build just one more stadium, we wanted to build a model stadium," the mayor of Braga, Francisco Mesquita Machado, told reporters on Friday during a tour of the stadium construction site.

"There is no other stadium in the world that looks like this one," he added.

Before work on the stadium began, construction crews removed more than one million square metres of granite rock from Mount Castro, a mountain overlooking this city of just 80,000 located some 360 kilometres north of Lisbon which will host two of the tournament's 31 matches.

The stadium, which is expected to cost 40 million euros by the time it is completed in June, will feature no seats behind either goals.

The northwest side of the stadium will instead be left wide open offering a view of the surrounding countryside while the opposite end of the stadium will face a huge wall of granite belonging to the exposed mountain.

On that wall builders will place a 270 square metre television screen -- the biggest in Europe -- to allow fans to see replays of key moves.

The stadium's 30,000 seats will all be along the two sides of the field, with half falling along a side being being built into the side of the mountain.

"Football was meant to be seen on the side of the pitch not behind the goalpost," said Machado.

The pitch will not be covered but both sides of seats will be protected by a 60-metre concrete roof. The two roofs will be linked by 64 giant cables which will stretch above and across the field.

The stadium, which was designed by Eduardo Souta Moura,

one of Portugal's best known architects, will also feature a three metre gap between the field and the seating which will allow natural light to flood the floor beneath the pitch which will be used as a commercial area.

Officials also boast the gap will prevent rowdy fans from invading the football field.

"We are convinced the stadium will become an important architectural masterpiece," said Machado.

The city of Braga, which is known for its white-walled hilltop sanctuary, is also building an Olympic swimming pool and a diving pool, as well as two football training fields, tennis courts and a jogging trail, in the area surrounding the new stadium. The stadium is one of 10 which Portugal is building or renovating at a cost of roughly 400 million euros in order to host Euro 2004, which will be played from June 12 to July 4.

The 10 new stadiums will have a capacity of 380,000 people, or almost four per cent of Portugal's total population.

### Euro 2004 website

AFP, Lisbon

Organisers of the Euro 2004 football finals to be held in Portugal next June 12-July 4 launched an official competition website on Saturday.

The site on www.euro2004.com is available in eight languages - English, French, Spanish, German, Portuguese, Italian, Russian and Japanese, giving information on stadia, host towns, accommodation, accreditation, tickets and qualifying results.

The site will be reconfigured in November when the draw is made for the finals with the 16 qualified countries.

### Nat'l school hockey

UNB, Dhaka

Khalilur Rahman High School of Dhaka and Nasirabad Govt High School of Chittagong won their respective matches in the Metro Group National School Hockey Tournament final round that began at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

Khalilur Rahman High outplayed Arjan Atarjan High of Kishoreganj 5-0 after leading the first half by 2-0 while Nasirabad Govt High beat Armanitola Govt High of Dhaka 3-2.

### Premier Div

FROM PAGE 8

The limited-overs relegation league also starts today with the Indira Road KC taking on Surjo Tarun at the Fatullah Stadium.

#### FIXTURES

- Mar 30-Apr 2: Victoria vs BU (BKSP)
- City Club vs Uttara SC (DCS)
- Apr 4-7: Abahani vs MSC (BKSP)
- Apr 5-8: Victoria vs Uttara (DCS)
- Apr 10-13: City Club vs MSC (BKSP)
- Abahani vs BU (FCS)
- Apr 16-19: Victoria vs MSC (BKSP)
- City Club vs Abahani (FCS)
- Uttara vs BU (DCS)
- Apr 22-25: Victoria vs Abahani (FCS)
- City Club vs BU (DCS)
- MSC vs Uttara (BKSP)
- Apr 28-May 1: Victoria vs City Club (BKSP)
- Abahani vs Uttara (DCS)

### Back to boycott

FROM PAGE 8

The two teams, however, clashed in the multi-nation World Cup in South Africa early this month, with India beating Pakistan by six wickets in a preliminary league match at Centurion.

There were hopes however that the World Cup match would lead to a resumption of normal cricket relations.

It attracted huge interest in both India and Pakistan and among Asian cricket fans living overseas.

The tour would have been a much-needed money-spinner for the PCB which has suffered heavy losses as a result of cancelled series over the past couple of years.

They were forced to play 'home' series against West Indies and Australia at neutral venues, and a Test against New Zealand was cancelled last April after a bomb explosion in Karachi.

### AIUB inter-varsity cricket champs

SPORTS REPORTER

American International University Bangladesh (AIUB) won the AIUB-Pepsi Cup inter-varsity cricket tournament title beating Asia Pacific University (UAP) by 150 runs at the Mirpur City Club ground yesterday.

Winning the toss, AIUB decided to bat first and scored 303 runs for seven wickets in 40 overs.

In reply, UAP were all out for 153 runs in 34 overs.

#### SCORES IN BRIEF

AIUB: 303 for 7 in 40 overs (Faisal 71, Hannan 43, Rajin 30, Mustadr 56, Mushfiqur 49, Shakil 3/30, Asadullah 1/24, Humayun 1/60, Mushfiqur 1/54).  
UAP: 153 all out in 34 overs (Saifuddin 42, Ashikur 33, Humayun 16, Naimul 11, Saikat 4/25, Monjurul 2/16, Mustadr 2/21).

## Of football and bombs

AFP, Baghdad

British and US bombs may be pounding Baghdad every day but they failed to disrupt this weekend's fixtures in the Iraqi league.

In a country whose national federation is run by President Saddam Hussein's elder son Uday, football has always been more than just a game.

Uday gave orders that Friday's fixtures go ahead and that stadiums around the country open their gates for free, in line with the Iraqi authorities' attempt to maintain a veneer of normality amid the coalition onslaught.

A major game in Baghdad on Friday gave the capital's Zawra White Eagles a home game -- last weekend they eked out a 1-1 away draw against Basra just as British armour arrived on the outskirts of the southern port city.

Some 5,000 fans turned out at the Stadium of the People to cheer their heroes on against a side from Samarra, 100 kilometres (60 miles) north of the capital.

Many in the crowd said they had leapt at the chance of a brief respite from the war.

Ibrahim al-Mafarji, a 40-year-old businessman, said he had brought his three children, aged three, 11 and 14, "to forget the war

for a little bit".

"It is relaxing and gives the kids some excitement," he said.

Another father, Mofad Luwai, 44, was also watching the game with his children.

"They're the ones who forced me to come. The schools have been closed all week, so they've been stuck at home."

Saad Kazem, a 34-year-old food wholesaler, echoed the enthusiasm but pointed out that just 5,000 of the stadium's 50,000 seats were taken.

"It's the first chance I've had to enjoy myself all week. Usually the stadium's full for a match. Maybe people didn't know today's game was still on."

The reticence of less committed fans is perhaps not surprising -- throughout the game, reminders of the war were never far away.

Black smoke hovered over the battered pitch as it has the rest of the Iraqi capital for days, the result of the army's igniting of fuel trenches in a bid to deny coalition warplanes a clear view of the city.

And on the terraces, chants of "Bush, your days are numbered!" and "Hello, hello! Saddam is still strong!" rang out alongside more traditional football songs.

Throughout the game, Imad

Gargan, a 38-year-old printer, clutched a poster portrait of the Iraqi strongman.

"I'm not parting with it," he said. "I'm sure the presence of my beloved leader will help my team win."

The war even played into hands of the home team, currently lying third in the league.

In the second half, already 2-0 up, Zawra centre-forward Hossam Fawzi burst into the Samarra six-yard box just as a huge explosion shook the stadium.

The coalition bomb or missile rattled the Samarra defence just long enough for Fawzi to hammer home a third.

For some in the crowd, the periodic dangers of attending matches here are taken of the dedication of the Iraq soccer fan.

Waddah Hallas, 34, proudly recalls a game in December 1998 when the Iraqi capital was being pounded by four days of British and US airstrikes.

"The planes were crossing the sky to bomb and no-one moved," he said. "Everyone just wanted to see the end of the match."



ZINEDINE ZIDANE

## Captain Zidane unchanged



AFP, Lens

Real Madrid midfielder Zinedine Zidane said Thursday he will not change his style after being handed the captain's armband for Saturday's Euro 2004 qualifier against Malta.

Coach Jacques Santini plumped for Zidane in place of Chelsea defender Marcel Desailly, who has been left out of the squad because of injuries and poor form, saying the man whose two goals in the 1998 World Cup final brought global stardom exudes a natural authority.

"My responsibilities will be the same as ever," smiled Zidane, adding he might like to stay as skipper "when Marcel has finished his career."

He explained: "I am very happy to be able to be skipper for at least two games (France also play Israel on Wednesday in Palermo). When I was small I used to watch France matches on television when (Michel) Platini was skipper."

"He wore the number 10 shirt - and tomorrow it'll be Zidane! But my tasks will not change - I need to perform, try to score and create goals too. I will just be wearing a little extra bit of material on my sleeve. That doesn't alter the fact you have to play well and win."

France are already as good as through having won their opening three games in a Group One they are dominating and Zidane believes he does not need to tell the players their job.

"I won't be out there shouting - I don't go in for that. As for the behaviour of the other players towards me, the old heads or the younger ones, that will stay the same."

"Everyone respects me - as I respect everyone else. The most difficult thing is to be here at the pre-match press conference speaking about it. That doesn't usually happen!"

Zidane, who said he expected Desailly to return for a French record 104th cap against Egypt on April 30, insisted France have several leaders.

"For these two matches the skipper could have been Patrick Vieira, Fabien Barthez or Titi (Thierry) Henry. But the captain's armband is best left with the number 10," laughed Zidane, in allusion to Platini's long run at the fulcrum of the side which lifted the 1984 European Championship.

"I have happy memories of Lens," he added, referring to the second round of the 1998 World Cup where Laurent Blanc's golden goal saw off Paraguay at the city's Stade Bollaert.

Santini meanwhile refused to confirm if Vieira, who is carrying a knee injury, would start.

### Sharjah goes

FROM PAGE 8

Pakistan on the other hand have been forced to drop batsman Saleem Elahi after competition organisers refused to waive a player limit. Elahi was included in the 16-member squad announced last week, but the tournament organisers have told the Pakistan Cricket Board they would not bend the 15-player limit and Pakistan would have to pay the expenses of any additions.

Sri Lanka squad: Sanath Jayasuriya (captain), Marvan Atapattu, Avishka Gunawardene, Kumar Sangakkara, Hashan Tillakaratne, Prasanna Jayawardena, Jehan Mubarak, Chaminda Vaas, Dilhara Fernando, Prabath Nissanka, Buddika Fernando, Kumar Dharmasena, Kaushal Lokurachchi, Muttiah Muralitharan, Michael Van Dort

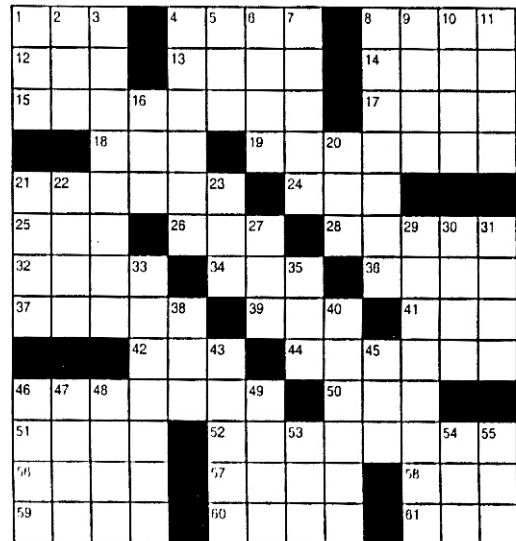
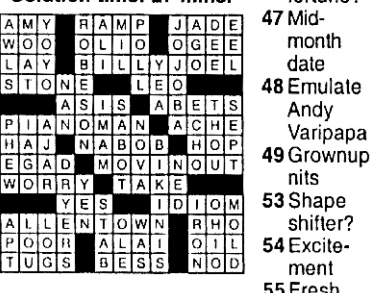
#### SCHEDULE

- April 3: Pakistan vs Zimbabwe
- April 4: Pakistan vs Sri Lanka
- April 5: Zimbabwe vs Kenya
- April 6: Sri Lanka vs Kenya
- April 7: Sri Lanka vs Zimbabwe
- April 8: Pakistan vs Kenya
- April 9: Rest day
- April 10: Final

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 42 That guy's
  - 4 Company
  - 8 Buy stuff
  - 12 Mr. Baba
  - 13 Jacob's brother
  - 14 Com-mo-tion
  - 15 Maliciously defam-atory
  - 17 Press
  - 18 Kia model
  - 19 Researcher's venue
  - 21 1970s SALT talks site
  - 24 Train compo-nent
  - 25 Fornicary
  - 26 Puppy's bark
  - 28 Dies, Wicked Witch-style
  - 32 Groovin' on
  - 34 Unruly hairdo
  - 36 Losing proposition?
  - 37 Ransacks
  - 39 Snapshot
  - 41 Street address?
- DOWN**
- 1 "My — Sal"
  - 2 Yalie
  - 3 Operatic text
  - 4 Crime
  - 5 Equi-
  - 6 Actor
  - 7 Beetho-ven's
  - 8 Unlike
  - 9 Circle
  - 10 Blood-
  - 11 Express
  - 16 "Ich bin —"
  - 20 Emeril's expletive
  - 21 Skiers' mecca
  - 22 —
  - 23 Intention
  - 27 Burst
  - 29 Drink
  - 30 Semester
  - 31 Greek porch
  - 33 The Moor of Venice
  - 35 "Great Expectations"
  - 38 Boot camp address
  - 40 Sway
  - 43 Deli side dish
  - 45 Mayo holder
  - 46 Wheels of fortune?
  - 47 Mid-month date
  - 48 Emulate
  - 49 Grownpup
  - 53 Shape shifter?
  - 54 Excite-ment
  - 55 Fresh

Solution time: 27 mins.



#### CRYPTOQUIP

F Y V S R O J C Y G N R O R F W  
X D V H Y D H O Y J R W X G  
Q Y E H D F C G D B Q D V B N O O E :

" B N V E N F C Y S S Y B G ."  
Yesterday's Cryptokuip: WE FINALLY HAD TO FIRE OUR NEW GARDENER. THE GUY WAS TOO ROUGH AROUND THE HEDGES.

Today's Cryptokuip Clue: O equals L

The Cryptokuip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.



#### ESPN

- English Premier Football League  
Newcastle United vs Tottenham Hotspur  
Repeat at 7:00 am
- Western Union World Football  
Repeat at 11:00 pm
- STAR Sports  
Gillette World Sports Special  
Int'l Sports News  
Repeat at 11:00 am



State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman handing over the winner's trophy to the AIUB cricket team yesterday.

**Star WHIZZ KID**  
COMPETITION 192

Tick the correct answers, post to  
**The Daily Star**  
Win attractive prizes

**Competition closes at 8 pm**  
April 11, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who was the man-of-the-tournament in the Cricket World Cup?  
Tendulkar      Ganguly      Lee
- Who was the man-of-the-match in the World Cup final?  
Ponting      Bichel      McGrath
- What was the lowest score in the World Cup?  
36      40      43
- What was the highest score in the World Cup?  
359      345      394

Name .....

Class .....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....