

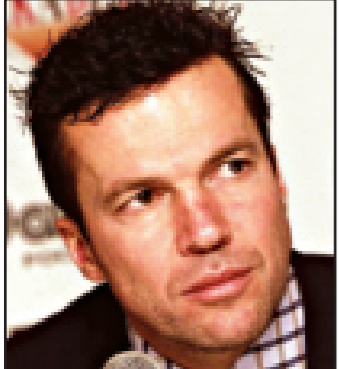
Did U Know?
The FIFA World Cup 2006 in Germany will mark the 10th time that the tournament is being hosted by a European nation.

What to WATCH

ESPN
South Africa v New Zealand
2nd Test, Day Four
Live at 2:00 pm

STAR Sports
English Premier Football League
Tottenham Hotspur v Bolton Wanderers
Live at 8:55 pm

TEN Sports
West Indies v Zimbabwe
Second ODI
Live at 7:30 pm



Lothar Matthaus
(West Germany's 1990 World Cup winning captain)
"I don't think Brazil will win this World Cup. They may have the best players but I don't think they have the best team. I think Brazil have defensive problems to sort out and my tip to win the World Cup is Argentina."

Al Muharrag arrive today
SPORTS REPORTER

Brothers Union will play their final home match in the AFC Cup on Tuesday when they host Bahraini football club Al Muharrag. The match will kick off at 4pm at the Bangabandhu national Stadium. Group-A leaders Muharrag are expected to arrive in Dhaka this morning. Muharrag, who defeated Brothers 2-0 in their home game, are still unbeaten and have ten points from four games. Bottom-table Brothers, already out of contention for a place in the quarterfinals, have only one point from a 2-2 draw at home against India's Mahindra United. The Dhaka Premier League and Federation Cup winners, who conceded a 6-2 defeat to Al Ahed last week in Lebanese capital Beirut, will wrap up their campaign with the match against Mahindra in Mumbai.

Nafees fined for dissent
CRICINFO, undated

Shahriar Nafees, the Bangladesh opener, has been fined 20 per cent of his match fee for dissent during the third one-day international against Australia at Fatullah. Nafees was found guilty by Jeff Crowe, the match referee, for breaching the ICC Code of Conduct that relates to "Showing dissent at an umpire's decision by action or verbal abuse". After he was given out leg before to Mitchell Johnson, Nafees shook his head and gestured with his bat in the direction of the Bangladesh dressing-room as he walked back. He was reported by Ian Howell and Nadir Shah, the on-field umpires, and AFM Akhtaruddin, the third umpire. "The player admitted what he had done was wrong and I took this, together with his previously exemplary conduct, into account," said Crowe. "However, it is important to show that dissent of any sort at an umpire's decision is unacceptable and the player's punishment for his actions illustrates that fact."



THE FASTEST MAN: Teammates celebrate with Masudul Karim (top) of Bangladesh Army after he won the 100m sprint in the 31st National Athletics Championships at the Army Stadium on Saturday.

ARMY TOP THE TABLE Beauty, Masudul rule

Athletics
SPORTS REPORTER

Masudul Karim and Abdullah Hel Kafi spent an anxious hour to know about their fate after the most prestigious event of the 31st National Athletics Championships ended yesterday at the Army Stadium. There was no electronic device to judge the timing and both the sprinters had a photo-finish in the 100m sprint. And the agony was over when the jury board, after taking the manual timing from the judges, announced Bangladesh Army sprinter Masudul - winner by a whisker - the fastest man of the championships. Masudul clocked 10.50s to beat BJMC's Kafi, who finished the race in 10.60s to remain satisfied with his second successive silver medal. The bronze went to BKSP's Mohan Khan. Masudul, who also won the 200m gold and the 4x100m relay, was a relieved man. Originally a hurdler, Masudul for the first time competed in the shortest distance run in absence of last year's gold medalist and teammate Abu Abdullah, who is now on duty in the UN Mission in Ivory Coast. Masudul, who returned from

Ivory Coast a few months back, said that he never thought success would come in this fashion. "I took it as a challenge and had I



NAZMUNNAHAR BEAUTY
not won a gold medal here, I would have quit the tracks. But now things are going to be different. I trained for a very short time and now look to work hard," said Masudul. The lady to rule the track was BJMC's Nazmunnahar Beauty with three gold medals including two new national records. Having broken the old 200m record on Friday, she became the fastest woman of the track on the final day winning the 100m in a record 11.70s. The old record belonged to Shamsunnahar Chumki in 11.80s in 2003. Beauty, arguably the best athlete in the country now, also won the 4x100m relay. "I quit the 400m run for the sake of the 100m today. When I won the title last year, many told that it was a fluke because Ishrat Jahan Eva did not take part in the competition. But this year, I proved my worth by beating Eva," said Beauty. "Now my focus is on the SA Games. If I get better facilities, I think have a hope to win a medal," she added. BKSP's Eva, a winner two seasons back, finished second in 12.80s in a tight race while the bronze went to Noakhali's Jasmin Akhter. Bangladesh Army topped the medal table with 17 gold, eight silver and ten bronze while BJMC were runners-up with 12 gold, 12 silver and seven bronze, followed by BKSP (3-1-3), Bangladesh Navy (2-3-3), Bangladesh Air Force (2-2-0) and BDR (0-3-1).

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will take on Tajikistan in one of four matches on the opening day of the 15th Asian Games hockey qualifiers at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium on May 11. In the other matches, Chinese Taipei face Iran, Hong Kong meet Oman and Singapore are pitted against Indonesia. Nine nations, split into two pools, will take part in group stage with the winners playing in the final. Six top teams of the tournament will join automatic qualifiers India, Pakistan, South Korea, Japan, China and Malaysia in the Games, scheduled for this December in Doha. Bangladesh are drawn in Pool-A with Sri Lanka, Singapore, Indonesia and Tajikistan while the Pool-B comprises of Hong Kong, Oman, Chinese Taipei and Iran. Bangladesh have already started their residential camp at BKSP in February and the 24-member preliminary squad is now in Cox's Bazar on a two-day tour.

BITS AND BOBS

Rooney an injury doubt
BBC ONLINE, undated

England striker Wayne Rooney may be a doubt for the World Cup after suffering a foot injury for Manchester United in their loss at Chelsea on Saturday. Rooney was stretched off at Stamford Bridge six weeks to the day before England's opening game of the World Cup against Paraguay on 10 June. The 20-year-old was left clutching his right foot in agony after a challenge by Paulo Ferreira. He broke the same foot against Portugal in the Euro 2004 quarter-final. Rooney is seen as being key to England's hopes at the World Cup in Germany and any concerns over his fitness would add to England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson's injury worries.

Blatter in racism u-turn?
REUTERS, Brussels

A European Union lawmaker has accused FIFA president Sepp Blatter of making a u-turn on his promises to kick racism out of this year's World Cup. "Mr Blatter has failed to live up to his earlier promises," Dutch MEP Emine Bozkurt said on Friday. Last month world soccer's governing body announced draconian punishments to tackle racism ranging from match suspensions to points deductions and Blatter said the sanctions would be used against offending nations at the World Cup in Germany. However, FIFA said on Tuesday that teams at the World Cup will not be docked points for racism by fans and the sanctions would only apply to players, coaches or team officials. "Yes, (the sanction applies) if it (racism) is on the field of play, yes if it is on the technical bench or identified around the football pitch," said Blatter. "But, when it comes to the World Cup public, you have an international audience and you don't know

where they are sitting. How do you then identify if someone will or won't be in favour or against (a team)?" "Mr Blatter now regards the new measures as too difficult to implement before the World Cup, but I appeal to FIFA to live up to its earlier promises," said Bozkurt. "Racism is a crime. Racism during World Cup matches is a crime with millions of witnesses. This should be punished," added Bozkurt. A final choice will be made when the 23-man squad is named on May 15.

Lehmann wants Kahn's number
INTERNET, undated

Jens Lehmann may have won the battle with Bayern Munich's Oliver Kahn to be Germany's first choice goalkeeper at this summer's World Cup, but now he wants the number to reflect that decision. The 36-year-old Arsenal goalkeeper has recently worn the number nine jersey, but he expects to be given the number one shirt during the World Cup. "I want to talk to Jurgen

Spurs confident on King
INTERNET, undated

Tottenham are confident injured England centre-half Ledley King will be fit for this summer's World Cup finals in Germany. Both coach Martin Jol and assistant Chris Hughton believe the defender will have recovered sufficiently from a fractured metatarsal



Portugal coach Luiz Felipe Scolari cuddles the 2006 FIFA World Cup mascot 'Goleo' after his tour through the sports hotel of 'Hotel Klosterpforte' where he will be staying along with his team during the tournament.

Aussies fly back home
SPORTS REPORTER

A jaded Australian cricket team left Dhaka yesterday morning after a 23-day tour of Bangladesh. Four of the players who hail from Western Australia, left the capital on Friday night. Fast bowler Brett Lee and batsman Simon Katich went to India for personal reasons. The world champions have been on tour for the last three months, during which they toured South Africa before arriving in Bangladesh on April 6. Australia won all their matches in Bangladesh, starting from the two Test matches as well as the three one-day internationals. The final match at Fatullah was a cakewalk for the tourists as they beat Bangladesh by nine wickets.

NATIONAL SCHOOL SOCCER Azimuddin win big
SPORTS REPORTER

A brace by Faruk helped Azim-uddin High School of Kishoreganj trounce Rajurbarar College 5-1 in the banglalink tiger trophy National School Football Championship at the Mymensingh Stadium yesterday. Lincoln, Rafiqul and Tofael added the rest for the Kishoreganj outfit while Baharul reduced the margin for the losers. In another match at the same venue, Islamia Government High School beat Shaheed Ramijuddin Cantonment School 2-0. At Patuakhali, Government Boys High School blanked Bhola South Alinagar High School 2-0 while Gachani High School beat Kakora High School by same margin.

ASIAD HOCKEY QUALIFIERS Bangladesh meet Tajikistan in opener
BDNEWS, Dhaka

Bangladesh will take on Tajikistan in one of four matches on the opening day of the 15th Asian Games hockey qualifiers at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium on May 11. In the other matches, Chinese Taipei face Iran, Hong Kong meet Oman and Singapore are pitted against Indonesia. Nine nations, split into two pools, will take part in group stage with the winners playing in the final. Six top teams of the tournament will join automatic qualifiers India, Pakistan, South Korea, Japan, China and Malaysia in the Games, scheduled for this December in Doha. Bangladesh are drawn in Pool-A with Sri Lanka, Singapore, Indonesia and Tajikistan while the Pool-B comprises of Hong Kong, Oman, Chinese Taipei and Iran. Bangladesh have already started their residential camp at BKSP in February and the 24-member preliminary squad is now in Cox's Bazar on a two-day tour.

Nat'l youth cricket to resume
BDNEWS, Dhaka

After a gap of three years, the National Youth U-19 Cricket Championship, sponsored by Dhaka Bank Ltd, will begin at different venues across the country on May 10. Sixty-one district teams will take part in the 23rd edition of the championship, split into 10 zones. The knockout basis first-round matches will take place at 10 venues. Later, 10 more venue champions will join the last edition champions Comilla and the winners between BKSP and Jessore Education Board in the 12-team final phase at four Dhaka's venues. The first-round venues are Mymensingh and Faridpur (Dhaka division), Bogra and Natore (Rajshahi), Comilla and Chandpur (Chittagong), Khulna and Magura (Khulna), Habiganj (Sylhet) and Borguna (Barisal division). Participating each team will receive Tk. 10,000 for participation money while the champions and runners-up will get Tk. 50,000 and Tk. 30,000 respectively.

Mehrab shines for Maroon
SPORTS REPORTER

Mehrab Hossain scored an unbeaten 75 as Maroon struggled on the first day of the BCB BRAC Bank Academy Cup cricket tournament at the Sher-e-Bangla Cricket Stadium at Mirpur yesterday. Mehrab hit one six and eight hits to the boundary in a 126-ball knock. Opener Tamim Iqbal scored 57 off 78 balls, with seven fours and two sixes. Shamsur Rahman scored 43. Dollar, Mosharraf, Riyad all took one wicket each.

Chelsea keep the crown

Football
AFP, London

Imperious Chelsea were crowned champions of England once again when they emphatically crushed the distant title hopes of closest rivals Manchester United, beating them 3-0 at Stamford Bridge on Saturday. The Blues retained their English Premiership title thanks to a fifth-minute close-range header from France defender William Gallas, an excellent individual goal from man-of-the-match Joe Cole in the 61st and an end-to-end move from Portugal defender Ricardo Carvalho 11 minutes later. "It's a fantastic feeling," said Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho. "We know one day we will have to lose the championship but successive Premierships is difficult. Manchester United have been magnificent and today doesn't show how difficult they made it for us. Of course, we deserve to win the title." United needed to win to delay Chelsea's inevitable coronation but there was no stopping the party as the Blues stamped their authority all over English football. The match was marred by injury to England striker Wayne Rooney who was stretchered off late on with

a right foot problem. United manager Sir Alex Ferguson paid tribute to Mourinho's men. "All credit to Chelsea, they deserve to win the title, their home record was sensational. "The 3-0 scoreline today was harsh though, but when you let in goals as soft as we did you have to take the medicine." Chelsea were crowned champions for only the third time in their 101-year history. It was the 11th time that the English title had been retained, and the fifth occasion in the Premiership -- United having successfully defended the Premiership crown four times. The win took Chelsea's unbeaten league run at Stamford Bridge to 44 matches, meaning they had gone Mourinho's two seasons in charge undefeated at home in the Premiership. Mourinho made four changes from the side that lost the FA Cup semi-final 2-1 to Liverpool. Petr Cech, Carvalho, Joe Cole and Arjen Robben came in for Carlo Cudicini, Asier Del Horno, Geremi and Hernan Crespo. Louis Saha, back from an ankle injury, replaced top scorer Ruud van Nistelrooy in the United attack. Chelsea got the match off to a flying start when Gallas nodded in from a right-wing corner, all forced by a crunching Frank Lampard tackle on Cristiano Ronaldo. The England midfielder curtailed the Portugal winger's dribble which allowed Didier Drogha to surge forward and the Ivory Coast striker forced a corner. Lampard floated into the penalty box and Drogha rose through the pack and headed the ball goalwards, where Gallas, left unmarked and onside by the defender on the line, directed the ball in. That brought Chelsea fans leaping to their feet but Mourinho remained motionless on the bench before urging his players to likewise stay calm. The title was not yet won. The visitors struggled to fashion any clear chances before Rooney wasted an excellent opportunity to level matters in the 22nd minute. He surged through the Blues defence, nutmegging last man Paulo Ferreira to leave him clean through with only goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar to beat -- but the England striker pulled his shot wide. The Red Devils launched wave upon wave of attacks, but resolute defending from Gallas and Terry, aided by Claude Makelele dropping deep to help bring the ball out of defence, kept the League Cup winners at bay.



Chelsea players Didier Drogha (L) and Claude Makelele celebrate with the Premiership trophy after defeating Manchester United 3-0 at Stamford Bridge on Saturday.