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DAYS TO GO

WORLD CUP SPECIAL
Star Sport
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FIFA WORLD CUP GERMANY 2006

'We've to step forward'
"We are a better team and squad with him. What we have to remember is we have other great players and other captains - great midfielders, defenders and forwards in our team. We've got players who have played in big games so we have to step forward now."
--David Beckham
INTERNET, undated

DHAKA FRIDAY MAY 12, 2006

Bangladesh win shakily



Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh recovered from a wobbly start to launch their Jamuna Bank Asian Games qualifying round campaign with a 3-2 victory against Chinese Taipei at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

Rasel Mahmud Jimmy, Mahmunur Rahman Chayan and Zahidul Islam Rajan shared the goals for the hosts while skipper Jung Chen and Yao-Oen scored one apiece for Chinese Taipei. With the seven-team meet, players returned to action in competitive field after a long-break and it was evident in their fickle performance as the home team had to struggle in edging past their East Asian opponents.

Bangladesh came from behind to level the score 1-1 in an unimpressive first half and then they showed

some character in the second session to manage full points thanks to Chayan and Rajan.

Chinese Taipei started with great pace and kept the inexperienced Bangladesh defence under constant threat. They struck in the 12th minute when captain Jung-Chen converted a penalty corner. Bangladesh felt the absence of experienced players like Isha Mia in the defence line.

Striker Rasel Mahmud Jimmy however restored parity before the lemon break when he romped the ball home after a one-two with Maksud Alam Habul to equalise in the 28th minute.

Bangladesh could have taken the lead before the break if Ashraf Islam had not sent the ball wide from a vintage position in the 32nd minute.

They however regrouped in the second half to put pressure on the opponents' fort but their forward line-up failed to capitalise on some good chances to take the early lead

in the half.

Finally defender Chayan elated some one thousand home spectators when he produced a fierce hit off a penalty corner taken by Ashraf to put Bangladesh ahead 2-1.

The hosts then took only seven minutes to extend the lead (3-1) through Rajan's close range field goal, which came his way from a Habul pass.

The visitors reduced the margin in the 69th minute as Yao-Oen of Chinese Taipei sent the ball into the Bangladesh net by converting a penalty corner (3-2).

Bangladesh custodian Rasel Khan Bappi was adjudged the best player of the match for making some wonderful saves.

The home team will play their second match against Sri Lanka today at 2 pm.

Earlier in the day's first match in the morning, Oman also managed

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Bangladesh striker Rasel Mahmud Jimmy tries to dribble past two Chinese Taipei players during their opening match of the Asian Games Hockey Qualifying Round at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium on Thursday.

PHOTO: STAR

Marcus anchors England



Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Marcus Trescothick eased himself back into international cricket with an unbeaten 95 as England coasted through the second session of the first day of the first Test against Sri Lanka at Lord's here Thursday without losing a wicket.

At tea, England were 199 for one with Alastair Cook, in his first Test in England, 44 not out in the opening encounter of a three-match series.

The two left-handers had shared an unbroken stand of 113 after Andrew Strauss (48) fell to the last ball before lunch, caught by Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene off Muttiah Muralitharan.

In four hours at the crease Trescothick, who missed the 1-1 drawn series in India for personal reasons, had faced 165 balls with one six and 15 fours. Cook, a 21-year-old Essex batsman, had scored a century as an opener on his Test debut against India in Nagpur in March.

Despite the change, he survived the five balls remaining from off-spinner Muralitharan's incomplete

fourth over and got off the mark with a leg-glanced four off left-arm quick Chaminda Vaas.

Cook then had a narrow escape when, taking a single off Nuwan Kulasekara, on 17 he just beat mid-on Muralitharan's direct hit on the bowler's end stumps.

Meanwhile Trescothick, 30 not out at lunch, went to his fifty in grand style with a swept six off Muralitharan.

Murali, in the first Test at Lord's of his long career, was switched to the Nursery End but both batsmen coped well enough, even against the 'doosra'.

Cook though was fortunate when an edged cut off Murali flew past Jayawardene at slip when he'd made 31, the first four the bowler had conceded.

At the toss Andrew Flintoff, continuing as England captain in the ongoing absence of Michael Vaughan with a knee injury, chose to bat despite the fact that no Sri Lankan had made a fifty in the team's final warm-up match, a 10-wicket defeat by England A, last week.

However, in what was the earliest Test ever played in England and the home side's first on their own turf

since they regained the Ashes against Australia last year, blue and sunny skies promised ideal batting conditions.

Vaas and Farveez Maharoo, who at tea was going for more than five an over lacked menace, as did first change Kulasekara.

And, with no sign of a breakthrough, Muralitharan was brought on shortly before lunch.

His first ball just missed Strauss's off-stump and in his second over Trescothick, on 28, appeared fortunate to survive a confident lbw appeal although the Somerset star, the only player in the England team aged over 30, was on the front foot.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard at tea on the first day of the first Test between England and Sri Lanka at Lord's on Thursday:

England: First innings	95
Trescothick not out	95
Strauss c Jayawardene	48
b Muralidaran	44
Cook not out	12
Extras: (lb-1, w-1, nb-10)	12

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BKSP become champions



Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The lone sports institution of the country Bangladesh Krira Shikha Pratisthan (BKSP) continued their dominance of school cricket when they emerged champions beating Kalindi High School by five wickets in an all-Dhaka final of the Standard Chartered Young Tigers National Schools cricket tournament at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Hundreds of students from the Kalindi school travelled to the Dhanmondi ground and created a colourful atmosphere but were then stunned by their school's poor performance.

Kalindi won the toss and elected to bat, but were soon reduced to 24 for in the ninth over.

Only Noor Hossain offered some resistance with a patient 26, while tail-ender Alamgir struck 22, with the help of one six.

BKSP spinner Shakil Ahmed grabbed four wickets as a lacklustre Kalindi High struggled all along.

With threats of imminent rain, BKSP started off badly losing Asif in

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Tahir Zaman arrives here



Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Former Pakistan international Tahir Zaman said that he would look upon some special features during his stay as an advisory coach of Bangladesh team in the ongoing Asian Games qualifying round hockey tournament.

Tahir Zaman, who was appointed as a technical advisor of the home side by the International Hockey Federation (FIH), arrived here yesterday and witnessed Bangladesh and Chinese Taipei match at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium.

"Bangladesh looked nervous in the match. It's not possible to change everything within a short time, that's why I cannot touch upon every aspect of the game... I will look upon some special features," he told the reporters.

"Bangladesh still lack in the modern techniques of the game. If there is a good training method, Bangladesh will really improve," hoped the Pakistan great.

School soccer



Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Shudeb struck twice as Alfadanga AZ Pilot High School of Faridpur thrashed Rajoir Gopalganj KJS Pilot High School of Madaripur in the banglalink tiger trophy National School Football tournament at the Faridpur Stadium yesterday.

In the zonal final, Chagalnaiya Pilot High School beat Sonagazi Saber Mohammad Pilot High School by a margin of 2-0 at the Feni Stadium. Waizul and Riaz scored one each in the second-half.

The Feni school now qualify for the final round of the competition.

Inter-district v'ball begins



Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The NCC Bank inter-district volleyball tournament began at the Kushtia Stadium with Patuakhali and Jessore winning their matches yesterday.

In the opening match, Patuakhali beat Chuadanga in straight sets, but later lost to Jessore by the same margin.



German number two goalkeeper Oliver Kahn bites into a burger during an advertising campaign in Munich on Thursday. Kahn is promoting a well-known fast food company during the 2006 World Cup.

PHOTO: AFP

Kaka eager to show his mettle



AP, Sao Paulo

SPORTS REPORTER

Buried deep on the bench, Kaka had little chance to show his ability in his first World Cup appearance for Brazil. Now he's ready to make a big impact.

Kaka was a member of the squad that won the 2002 World Cup. But as a 20-year-old, he was more spectator than competitor.

Kaka was the 23rd man on Brazil's roster, summoned by coach Luiz Felipe Scolari mostly to gain experience. He played only 18 minutes in Brazil's seven matches.

Four years later, he's a star. Kaka has turned into an indisputable starter for coach Carlos Alberto Parreira - and one of Brazil's biggest weapons for the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

"It was very important to have participated in 2002, I learned a lot just by being there," Kaka said. "I've matured since then, and today I'm more prepared to play for Brazil."

The 24-year-old, a standout with Italy's AC Milan, is one of the reasons Brazil is heavily favored to win its second consecutive world title and sixth overall.

Kaka was chosen the best midfielder in last year's Champions League, and the best player in the

Italian league in 2004, when he helped lead Milan to the title. He will play in the World Cup alongside two-time FIFA player of the year Ronaldinho, forming a dangerous 1-2 punch.

"Kaka has the potential to be the World Cup's most valuable player," Brazilian teammate Juninho said.

In 2002, Kaka's only appearance came at the end of Brazil's 5-2 rout of Costa Rica in the last opening-round match. He replaced Rivaldo in the 72nd minute, when the game

was all but over and Brazil had already qualified for the next round.

Kaka was on the sideline preparing to enter the final match in which Brazil beat Germany 2-0 to capture its fifth championship, but the whistle blew before he could get in.

Since then, he has been a constant presence on the national team. Twenty-nine of his 33 appearances with Brazil have come

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KAKA

Ad

Finals' venues yet to be fixed



Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

A decision on the venues for the semifinals and final of the 2011 World Cup -- to be held jointly in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh -- will be made over the next three to four months, the Pakistan Cricket Board said on Thursday.

Addressing reporters at the National Stadium, in Karachi, the chairman Shaharyar Khan denied that a decision had already been taken for Pakistan to host the final and for India to host the semi-finals. "During the next few months together we will decide where opening ceremonies, super eight

venues, semis and the final will be held."

Reports had previously suggested Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium may play host to the final, as it had done in the 1996 World Cup but Shaharyar said that wasn't certain yet. In India meanwhile, it was reported that the BCCI were keen on hosting the final, given that Pakistan had held the last one.

Shaharyar also lauded the efforts of the co-hosts in putting together a successful bid, claiming that the one-month grace period they received having failed to hand in the bid on time, helped them in the end. And he reconfirmed that had it not been for the board's reminder to their Indian counterparts about the compliance book -

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