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DAYS TO GO

WORLD CUP SPECIAL
Star sport
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"I haven't lost any sleep"
"I have given priority to the players who suit the way we play. We can't put the interests of individual player (Fernando Morientes) before those of the team and its stability. I've had to think about it very carefully but I haven't lost any sleep over it."
--Luis Aragones, Spain coach.
REUTERS, Madrid
FERNANDO MORIENTES

No surprises in Brazil squad

REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira avoided any major surprises as the champions named their 23-man World Cup squad on Monday.

Sao Paulo captain Rogerio Ceni, who has scored more than 50 goals from free-kicks and penalties in his career, won a place as a third-choice goalkeeper as Marcos, the previous selection, failed to regain fitness.

There was no place for central defender Roque Junior while Germany-based Gilberto won a spot as reserve to Roberto Carlos at left back.

Brazil are grouped with Croatia, Australia and Japan at the finals in Germany which begin on June 9.

SQUAD
Goalkeepers: Dida (AC Milan), Julio Cesar (Inter Milan), Rogerio Ceni.
Defenders: Cafu (AC Milan), Cicinho (Real Madrid), Lucio (Bayern Munich), Juan (Bayer Leverkusen), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid), Gilberto (Hertha Berlin), Cris (Olympique Lyon), Luisao (Benfica).
Midfielders: Edmilson (Barcelona), Juninho Pernambucano (Olympique Lyon), Emerson (Juventus), Ze Roberto (Bayern Munich), Gilberto Silva (Arsenal), Kaka (AC Milan), Ricardinho (Corinthians).
Forwards: Ronaldo (Real Madrid), Robinho (Real Madrid), Ronaldinho (Barcelona), Adriano (Inter Milan), Fred (Olympique Lyon).



Germany head coach Juergen Klinsmann walks among card board reproductions of German players Miroslav Klose (L) and Michael Ballack (R) prior to announcing his squad for the World Cup at a press conference in Berlin on Monday.

Klinsmann pulls a surprise German squad named



REUTERS, Berlin

Germany coach Juergen Klinsmann included Jens Nowotny in his World Cup squad on Monday despite the defender's near two-year absence from international football.

Klinsmann also added surprise choice David Odonkor from Borussia Dortmund, picking the uncapped 22-year-old midfielder over a trio of experienced rivals for a spot in the hosts' 23-man squad.

Nowotny, 32, has long been recognised as one of Germany's finest defenders, but has only recently recovered from serious injury and got back in the Bundesliga after a long legal row with his club, Bayer Leverkusen.

Capped 45 times, his inclusion was seen as a tacit acceptance by Klinsmann that his young defence needed a more experienced anchor, especially in the light of a 4-1 defeat by Italy in March.
"Jens is a player who brings a lot

of experience to the team," Klinsmann told a news conference in Berlin, where Germany will be based for the June 9-July 9 tournament.

"He'll be an important part of the framework."
Nowotny last played for Germany in a 2-1 defeat by Czech Republic that knocked them out of the group stages at Euro 2004.

His return for Leverkusen in the latter stages of the past season were an immediate reminder of his class and were a key factor in his team's strong finish to the campaign.

Odonkor was the other surprise member of Klinsmann's squad.
"He's a huge talent," said Klinsmann, adding that he had not picked him before to avoid putting pressure on the pacy attacking midfielder.

"He was obviously thrilled when I called him," said Klinsmann. "He's a fine lad. We're going to have fun with him."

Odonkor effectively took the place of injured Bayern Munich winger Sebastian Deisler.
Out-of-form Schalke 04 striker Kevin Kuranyi failed to make the cut

and there were two surprising omissions in Schalke midfielder Fabian Ernst and Werder Bremen full-back Patrick Owomoyela.
Striker Mike Hanke of VfL Wolfsburg won a place despite the fact that he will be suspended for the first two matches because of a sending-off in last year's Confederations Cup.

Klinsmann reaffirmed Germany's goal of winning the World Cup.

"It's everyone's goal and dream," he said. "We're three times champions. We know it will be a difficult goal to achieve but, with a lot of commitment, we're going to aim for that."

Germany play the opening match of the World Cup against Costa Rica in Munich on June 9. They play their other Group A games against Poland in Dortmund on June 14 and against Ecuador in Berlin on June 20.

The squad will meet up on Tuesday and play a 60-minute friendly against amateur club FSV Luckenwalde in Mannheim before

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

School soccer

SPORTS REPORTER

Imran Hossain grabbed a hat-trick as Lohagara Pilot High School of Narail blanked Boira Madinabad High School & Technical College of Khulna 3-0 in the bangalink tiger trophy National School Football Championship at the Narail Stadium yesterday.

Shreefalta High School of Bagerhat outplayed Keukandia High School of Pirojpur 4-0 with Chinmoy striking twice and Raisul Islam and Shariul Islam scored one each at the same venue.

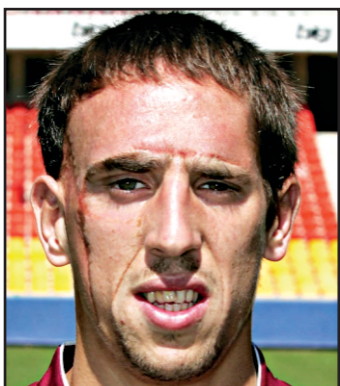
At Kurigram Stadium, Burungamari Pilot High School of Kurigram defeated Durgapur Pilot High School of Rajshahi 2-0 with Sabuj and Rupchand netting one each for the winners.

Madrassa Darul Islam Mohammadia of Tangail thrashed Emarat Hossain High School of Dhaka 3-0 with Raisul, Rakib and Atik each striking one goal at Tangail Stadium.



Did U Know?

For the first time, the host nation France and the reigning champions Italy were given automatic places in the 1938 World Cup and did not have to qualify.



Franck Ribery
(Mercurial French midfielder)
"For any professional player the chance to play in a team like France with players like Zinedine Zidane would be a dream come true. I will do all I can to get the team into the final."
After his inclusion in the French squad for the World Cup.

DAY'S EVENT
Asian Games Hockey Qualifier
Sri Lanka v Hong Kong (12:00 pm)
Chinese Taipei v Iran (2:00 pm)
Bangladesh v Oman (4:00 pm)
Venue: Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium

Morientes, Baraja out of Spain squad



REUTERS, Madrid

Liverpool striker Fernando Morientes has been left out of Spain's squad for the World Cup after Luis Aragones preferred to bolster his side's defence.

Valencia centre-back Carlos Marchena was included despite a mediocre season, while Morientes was ignored after failing to find his scoring form at Liverpool.

Morientes has found the net just nine times for Liverpool this season, but has an impressive record when he has played for Spain, scoring 26 times in 43 games.

The former Real Madrid striker went to both Euro 2004 and the last

World Cup, but missed out on Euro 2000, an omission that then-coach Jose Antonio Camacho later admitted was a mistake.

Valencia striker David Villa, who has scored 24 Primera Liga goals this season, is now the favourite to lead the line with support from either Raul or Atletico Madrid's Fernando Torres.

"I've given priority to the players who suit the way we play. We can't put the interests of individual players before those of the team and its stability," a tense Aragones told a news conference.

"I'm not taking Marchena just because he helped us before. It is a question of taste and I like him as a player."

Marchena's Valencia team mates Ruben Baraja and Vicente were left out, as were defenders Joan Capdevila and Javi Venta who had both been invited to last week's

World Cup get-together.

Baraja was a regular in the team during Spain's qualifying campaign, but Vicente has been struggling with ankle problems throughout the season and has only recently recovered full fitness.

"I've had to think about it very carefully but I haven't lost any sleep over it," said Aragones. "It isn't always a case of just taking the 11 best players."

Raul and Barcelona midfielder Xavi were both included despite missing much of the season with serious knee ligament injuries.

"I believe in Raul completely and I think he will have a good World Cup," said Aragones.

The Real Madrid striker has not scored since returning to action in the middle of February.
In midfield, Villarreal's Marcos Senna has been included at the

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6

Booters' transfer for Pro League Jul 15-Aug 31

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The much-awaited inter-club transfers for the first ever Professional Football League will be held from July 15 to August 31.

The 12-team Pro League will kick off in September but the organisers have yet to finalise the date.

The decision was taken at the executive committee meeting of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) on Monday.

The meeting decided that the Pro League will feature seven teams from Dhaka, two from Chittagong and one each from Sylhet, Khulna and Faridpur.

The teams are Abahani Limited, Mohammedan Sporting Club, Brothers Union, Muktiyoddha Sangsad, Sheikh Russel, Farashganj SC, Arambagh KS, Chittagong Abahani Krira Chakra, Chittagong Mohammedan, Khulna Abahani and Faridpur District Sports Association.

The BFF has yet to receive any papers from the representatives from Sylhet.

"We have selected 12 teams who are capable of making good teams and spend about Tk 60 to 70 lakh," said BFF general secretary Anwarul Hque Helal after the meeting.

Helal informed that the Faridpur DSA have confirmed that they have five to six big donors to help build their team.

The BFF in cooperation with a AFC delegates will hold a workshop among the participating teams on May 29.

The meeting also formed a 10-member Professional League committee headed by former national captain Kazi Salahuddin.

The meeting also discussed the enquiry committee report on the national team's failure in the AFC Challenge Cup at home.

The report said that several BFF

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Colour is the key to success



AFP, Paris

Fancy making an outside bet for the World Cup?

How about Spain? South Korea? Costa Rica? Trinidad and Tobago? What unites all these teams is that they wear red, a colour that some scientists say gives such an advantage in sport that it should even be regulated.

Anthropologists at the University of Durham, northeastern England, looked at the results of contests in four disciplines in the 2004 Olympics Games -- boxing, taekwondo, Greco-Roman wrestling and freestyle wrestling -- where competitors were randomly assigned red or blue outfits.

Contestants wearing red won 16 out of the 21 rounds in these competitions and 55 percent of all matches overall.

They also looked at the Euro 2004, looking at the outcome when teams wore shirts of different colours in different matches.

Teams scored more goals and had more wins when they played in red than when they played in the other colour.

The scientists, Russell Hill and Robert Barton, believes there is a subliminal link between red and aggression and male dominance.

In nature, red is linked with the male hormone testosterone. Anger among humans often causes a reddening of the skin and can be a prelude to violence, whereas fear is associated with pallor, as the body reacts to a threat.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

4 Bangladeshis in Rest of the Asia squad

SPORTS REPORTER

Four Bangladesh cricketers will represent Rest of the Asia against Pakistan in two limited-overs exhibition matches to be held in Jeddah.

Chief Bangladesh selector Faruque Ahmed informed that they have selected Shahriar Nafees as the organisers requested them to send an opener for the matches.

"Now Shahriar Nafees, Mohammad Rafique, Aftab Ahmed and Shahadat Hossain will represent Rest of the Asia," said Faruque yesterday.

Meanwhile, the matches, scheduled for May 18 and 19, have been deferred to May 25 and 26.

VVS Laxman, Anil Kumble, Gautam Gambhir and Ajay Jadeja have been included from India along with Sanath Jayasuriya, Romesh Kaluwitharana and Kumar Dharmasena from Sri Lanka.
Inzamamul Haq will lead a full-strength Pakistan team.

Khulna ride on Bishaw

SPORTS REPORTER

A five-wicket haul by Bishaw took Khulna to the group final with a three-wicket victory over Sathkira in the Dhaka Bank Under-19 National Youth Cricket tournament at the Magura Stadium yesterday.

Bishaw picked up five for 28 runs as Sathkira were bundled out for 147 in 43.3 overs after deciding to bat first. Shahriar top-scored with 34.

Khulna thrived on two half-centuries by Amit (51 not out) and Imran (52) to reach 149 for seven in 44.1 overs.

At the Comilla Stadium, Feni defeated Brahmanbaria by five wickets.

Anful and Imtiaz shared six wickets as Brahmanbaria were dismissed for 101 in 40 overs while Feni, in reply, scored 102 for 5 in 32.3 overs.

Day of SEAs



SPORTS REPORTER

Arif Ali slammed the second hattrick of the meet as Hong Kong returned to winning track with a 3-1 victory against Singapore while Chinese Taipei came from a goal down to beat Oman by the same margin in the Jamuna Bank Asian Games Qualifying round yesterday.

Anif, a leading marksman in the meet and a dead-ball specialist in the Hong Kong side, scored all his three goals from penalty corners to complete a treble after Bangladesh striker Mamunur Rahman Chayan did it against Iran at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium on

Sunday.

The victory of the pre-tournament favourites after their stunning 5-4 defeat against Oman in the previous game put them in an advantageous position to clinch one of the four slots up for grabs for the finals of the 15th Asian Games.

On a day where the South East Asians reigned supreme, Chinese Taipei brought a high-flying Oman down to the earth with a 3-1 triumph. It was the Gulf nations first defeat in three matches.

Oman's loss however game hosts Bangladesh the solo lead in the seven-team meet with three straight wins. The home side now needs to win their next game against Oman today to confirm their passage into the finals of the

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

SL tail keeps Eng at bay



AFP, London

Tail-enders Chaminda Vaas and Nuwan Kulasekara gave Sri Lanka hope of engineering one of the great escapes in Test history and a chance of one of its most astonishing wins with an unbroken ninth-wicket stand of 89 on the final day of the first Test at Lord's here Monday.

At tea Sri Lanka, on the backfoot for most of this match, were 510 for eight, a lead of 151, after being made to follow-on in reply to England's first innings 551 for six declared.

Vaas was 34 not out and the 23-year-old Kulasekara, in only his third match at this level, a Test-best 55 not out as England were yet again left to rue a dropped catch.

Only off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, who could yet play a decisive role with the ball, remained to bat in an innings that had already lasted nearly 13 hours.

History was against Sri Lanka as only three times in the 129-year-history of Test cricket had a team won after following-on, with

Australia the losing side on each occasion - against England at Sydney in 1894/95 (lost by 10 runs), England again at Headingley in 1981 (12 runs) and India at Calcutta (Kolkata) in 2000/01 (171 runs).

And with a minimum of 47 overs left, there was still time for England to chase a victory target.

However, after rain had delayed the start and forced an early lunch, grey skies overhead meant the weather might have the final say in the opening match of this three-Test series.

Sri Lanka had been just 62 runs ahead when they lost their eighth wicket before Vaas, better known as a left-arm pace bowler and fellow quick Kulasekara came together.

England didn't help themselves by once more dropping a catch with Alastair Cook, in the gully, putting down a routine chance for Kulasekara, on 14, off debutant Sajid Mahmood, with the total on 449.

It was Cook's second drop of the match and England's eighth in total. Kulasekara stylishly drove Sajid Mahmood to the cover-boundary as Sri Lanka went past their previous best ninth-wicket stand against

England of 83, set by Hashan Tillekeratne and Muralitharan at Colombo in 1992-93.

England captain Andrew Flintoff, formulaic in his field-settings, didn't bring left-arm spinner Monty Panesar on until the 29th over of the day.

Kulasekara, looking increasingly assured against the quicks, then swept Panesar for six before repeating the stroke to go to a 92-ball fifty, also featuring five fours, as Sri Lanka reached 500.

Sri Lanka resumed Monday on 381 for six. Tillakaratne Dilshan was 39 not out and Chamara Kapugedera unbeaten on five.

England, who'd dropped slip catches on Sunday, put down another in Monday's third over when debutant Kapugedera edged Matthew Hoggard and Flintoff, at second slip, floored the chance despite getting both hands to the ball.

Fortunately for England, Kapugedera did not make the most

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



Juventus captain Alessandro Del Piero (C) holds aloft the Serie A title at the San Nicola stadium in Bari on Sunday. Juventus beat Reggina to claim their second consecutive league championship.

PHOTO: AFP