SPÖRT

BRAC BANK CUP

HSBC win a thriller

SPORTS REPORTER

Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) won by the odd goal in nine against Group 4 in the BRAC Bank Cup five-a-side football tournament at the International School Dhaka (ISD) indoor facilities yesterday.

Scholastica put seven past a hapless Securex, who had earlier lost badly to Beximco Pharma 20-0. Nestle also wen a closely fought

battle against Trade Excel 3-2 while mobile phone operators Banglalink won 3-1 against the Royal Danish Embassy.

Sachin back with a ton

AFP, Cambridge

Sachin Tendulkar marked his return from three months out of cricket by smashing a quickfire 155 for the Lashings World XI in a match against Cambridge University on Wednesday.

Tendulkar, who underwent shoulder surgery in March, needed just 91 balls to bring up his 100 and powered on to reach 155 from 119 balls before being caught at mid-on while trying to pull a full toss from medium pacer Ben Jacklin.

The spectacular knock included 25 boundaries and three sixes.

The 33-year-old had been greeted back to cricket with a large cheer from the 300-strong crowd as he walked out at Fenner's, the University's cricket ground.

That was as long as the hospitality lasted however with the legendary batsman on the receiving end of a bouncer for his first ball back at the crease.

It was not however a good enough delivery to trouble a player of Tendulkar's quality and he was able to duck out of the way with ease before setting about the students' attack in robust fashion.

The shoulder surgery forced Tendulkar to miss seven onedayers at home against England as well as the ongoing tour of the West

Asked how his recovery was progressing before the start of the match, Tendulkar told AFP: "It is getting better.

But he would not be drawn into predicting that he would definitely be ready for a triangular series in Sri Lanka in August, where India will face their hosts and South Africa.

"I'll try (to be ready)," was as much as he would say on that



Before each match in the 1998 World Cup, French captain Laurent Blanc planted a big kiss on Fablen Barthez's bald head in the hope that it would bring the team good fortune. Blanc still found the opportunity to perform the ritual before the final, despite not taking part in the game himself.





Andriy Shevchenko

(Ukraine star player) "I'm happy for the whole of Ukraine. We can be proud of ourselves again after the bitterness of our defeat to Spain. We had to do well on Monday and we didn't let ourselves down. After beating Saudi Arabia 4-0 in the World Cup.



TEN Sports West Indies v India Third Test, Day One Live at 8:00 pm



General secretary of Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) Jamilur Rahman (2nd from R) signs the memorandum of understanding to hold the Begum Laila Alam Women Chess Competition while Begum Laila Alam looks on during a ceremony at the BCF recently.

Sanath show at Lord's

Cricket

AFP, London

Sanath Jayasuriya's 122, his 20th one-day international century, provided the platform for Sri Lanka's 46-run victory against England here Tuesday that saw them go 2-0 up in the five-match England, see a record 319 to win

their best innings victory chase had been the 306 for five, needing 305, they achieved against Pakistan at Karachi in 2000-01 -- were bowled out for 273 as they went down to a twelfth defeat in 16 onedayinternationals

Together with Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene (66), opener Jayasuriya put on 160 for the second-wicket as the visitors built on their 20-run series-opening victory at Lord's on Saturday.

And Jayasuriya then cemented his man-of-the-match status by bowling England top scorers Kevin Pietersen (73) and Paul Collingwood (55), taking three for 51 in all with his left-arm spin as Sri Lanka won with 20 balls to spare.

"Sanath batted really well up the order, we wanted one of the guys to bat through and make a big score," Jayawardene told reporters. "He did that job brilliantly. Jayasuriya said "The thing is to

settle in. Today, I settled in for the first 10 overs and after that tried to play my normal game."

England stand-in skipper Andrew Strauss added: "It was tough. You've got to give some

credit to Sri Lanka. "Jayasuriya is a very experienced, high-quality opening batsman and he was ably supported.

England, who conceded a record 42 extras at Lord's, gave away 33 this time.

Chasing 320 was always going to be

"If you are giving away that number of extras you are asking for trouble," Strauss added.

Stephen Harmison led the attack well with three for 31 from 10 overs but fellow quick Sajid Mahmood saw his seven overs cost

Sri Lanka's score was their best against England in a one-day international, surpassing the 303 for nine they made at Adelaide in 1999.

Hopes England had of chasing down 320 suffered when openers Marcus Trescothick (nine) and Strauss (18) both fell cheaply to leave them 48 for two in the 10th

Just as at Lord's, England admittedly still without six injured senior players including regular

heartbreaking of circumstances as

a possible knee ligament tear saw

him leave the field after less than a

minute into their clash with

The remaining eighty-nine

put in a solid performance. But the

star of the show was Joe Cole, a man

Pele had described as 'Brazilian'.

The Chelsea man ran the show

from the start as his intelligent

running troubled the Swedes. He

capped his performance with what

must certainly be contender for

goal of the tournament. A volleved

30-yard strike that nestled into the

pace bowling all-rounder Andrew Flintoff -- were paying the price for wayward bowling, too many extras and losing early wickets. Pietersen drove Ruchira Perera

over long-on for six and carried on to a 48-ball fifty before, trying to sweep Jayasuriya, he was bowled to end a stand of 60 with all-rounder Paul Collingwood, who himself went on to complete a 55-ball half-century.

However all-rounder Collingwood was bowled advancing down the pitch to Jayasuriya and, with 10 overs left, England needed 98 to win. Sri Lanka emphasised their

fielding superiority by taking the last three wickets with run-outs. Earlier Upul Tharanga, manof-the-match at Lord's with 120, edged Harmison to first slip

But Jayawardene, who had won the toss, got off the mark with a whipped legside six off Mahmood. Jayasuriya, 37 later this

month, continued to take a toll of Mahmood, picking him up for six over deep square leg England then had a lucky break when a mix-up saw Jayawardene, who faced 62 balls with one six and

five fours, run out. SCOREBOARD

Trescothick for 17.

captain Michael Vaughan and Scoreboard in the second one-day international between England and Sri Lanka at The Oval on Tuesday

SRI LANKA: 319 (Jayasuriya 122, Jayawardene 66, Sangakkara 51; Harmison 3-31) ENGLAND

Trescothick c Dilshan b Malinga 9 Strauss c Muralidaran b Maharoof

Bell c Muralidaran b Malinga Pietersen b Javasuriya Collingwood b Jayasuriya Dalrymple st Sangakkara b Jones c Sangakkara b Muralidaran 8 Bresnan not out Mahmood run out Plunkettrunout Harmison run out

Extras: (lb-5, w-5, nb-2)

Total: (All out in 46.4 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-48, 3-116, 4-176, 5-222, 6-238, 7-253, 8-258, 9-263, 10-273. Bowler 0 42 Vaas 0 45 Malinga Maharoof 0 39 Perera 51 0 51 Javasuriya

Result: Sri Lanka won by 46 runs and lead five-match series 2-0. Man-of-the-match: Sanath

Sentiments take

FROM PAGE 21

or Emerson who has a yellow card. could fill in for cautioned skipper

But the coach said he would start Real Madrid superstar Ronaldo as "he needs to get his rhythm" although he is "not ready for 90 minutes.

Zico said he would try to boost Japan's infamous lack of firepower up front as his squad focused on shooting in the Tuesday evening session with frustrated Japanese supporters booing at missed shots.

In the Croatia game, former Messina striker Atsushi Yanagisawa wasted Japan's best opportunity, slicing wide of an open goal from just three metres. He also bungled a chance in front of goal when Japan were 1-0 up against the Socceroos. His frontline partner, Hamburg

second-string forward Naohiro Takahara, has failed to hit the mark since scoring twice in a 2-2 warmup draw against hosts Germany. "Brazil are awesome up front.

But their defence can be beaten in the centre and that is where I would Cicinho, impressive at the like to attack," said supersub Confederations Cup last year. Masashi Oguro, who played briefly in the final minutes of the two group matches. The Grenoble forward scored in

Japan's impressive 2-2 draw against Brazil at the 2005 Confed

Japan have drawn the last two games against Brazil after having lost the first five. They have never fought in the World Cup finals

With their backs to the wall, the Japanese are hoping for a repeat of the "miracle" 1-0 win over Brazil in the first round of the 1996 Atlanta

"I will give it all I have. Never mind if I'd get cramps and col-lapse," said goalkeeper Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi, who repelled a barrage of shots -- including a Roberto Carlos freekick -- in the under-aged Olympic contest. He was also the hero against

Croatia saving a first-half penalty

AFP, Berlin

World Cup top scorers after Wednesday's Group D matches: 4: Klose (Germany)

3: Fernando Torres (Spain) Bosacki (Poland), Bravo (Mexico), T Cahill (Australia), Crespo (Argentina), Delgado (Ecuador), Gerrard (England), Maxi Rodriguez (Argentina). Rosicky (Czech Republic), C Tenorio (Ecuador), Villa (Spain), Wanchope (Costa Rica) 1: Adriano (Brazil), Ahn Jung-

hwan (South Korea), Al Jaber (Saudi Arabia), Al Kahtani (Saudi Arabia), Allback (Sweden), Aloisi (Australia), Bakhtiarizadeh (Iran), Barnetta (Switzerland), Cambiasso (Argentina), J. 'Cole (England), Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal), Crouch (England), Cuevas (Paraguay), Deco (Portugal), Drogba (Ivory Coast), Flavio (Angola), Fonseca (Mexico). Fred (Brazil), Frei (Switzerland), Frings (Germany), Gilardino (Italy), Golmohammadi (Iran), R Gomez (Costa Rica), Gyan (Ghana), Henry (France), Iaquinta (Italy), Jaidi (Tunisia), Jaziri (Tunisia), Kaka (Brazil), Kalinichenko (Ukraine) Kaviedes (Ecuador), Koller (Czech Republic), B Kone (Ivory Coast), Lahm (Germany), Larsson (Sweden), Lee Chunsoo (South Korea), Ljungberg (Sweden), Maniche (Portugal), Messi (Argentina), Mnari (Tunisia), Mohamed Kader (Togo), Muntari (Ghana), Nakamura (Japan), Neuville (Germany), Park Ji-sung (South Korea), Pauleta (Portugal), Pirlo (Italy), Podolski (Germany), Raul (Spain), Rebrov (Ukraine), Robben (Netherlands), Rusol (Ukraine), Saviola (Argentina), Shevchenko (Ukraine), Simao Sabrosa (Portugal), Tevez (Argentina), Van Nistelrooy (Netherlands), Van Persie (Netherlands), Xabi Alonso (Spain), Zinha (Mexico)

'Brazil no monster' FROM PAGE 24

angrily told reporters, asking if the Australian conduct deserved to be called "fair play."

Zico will at least be more satisfied with the kick-off time as the game will start at 9pm local time after complaining vociferously that Japan's first two games were played in the blistering mid-afternoon sun to accommodate television schedules back home."The next game is in the evening so I don't think it will be as taxing as it was today," said Junichi Inamoto.

"But maybe Brazil will have hit their top form for the third game so it will be very difficult. We will just go for win.

WC BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 24

who scored nine goals during their bestever tournament in 1966.

"We have Eusebio with us. He was the main guy from the 1966 World Cup and he also helps us to give confidence and trust to the players to get on with it and do the best they can in the next round," said coach Luiz Feline Scolari.

Eusebio's goals led Portugal to the 1966 semifinals, where they lost to eventual champions England.

Owen England's

we have Steven Gerrard. Both of

them scored fantastic goals. So I'm not that worried about it at all." Rooney played against Sweden,

starting his first game since breaking a bone in his foot on April 29. He came through unscathed, and looked sharp and dangerous whenever he got the ball.

Meanwhile, there was better news on the injury front for England defenders Rio Ferdinand, who came off at half-time in Cologne, and Gary Neville, who started the opening game against "Rio Ferdinand and Gary

Neville's injuries were scanned at the team's base camp in Baden Baden. Both scans provided positive news," said a spokesman. "Rio picked up a groin injury

during the match with Sweden. "However, the scan result was

clear. Rio will now continue to be assessed by the medical staff on a daily basis ahead of Sunday's match with Ecuador. "Gary Neville's scan was also

positive. His calf injury which has kept him out of the past two games showed significant improvement. Gary will continue his rehab under the supervision of the physio."

Juninho expects FROM PAGE 24

"I'm prepared to get in, we just need to wait for Parreira's decision," Juninho said. Juninho, who helped Lyon win

its fifth consecutive French league title earlier this year, was a member of Brazil's squad that won the Confederations Cup last year in Germany.

Playing in his first World Cup, Juninho has scored six goals in 40 matches with Brazil.

Another draw or a result Third Windies-India Test starts today

Cricket

AFP, Basseterre

International Cricket Council pitch consultant Andy Atkinson has a reputation for producing resultoriented surfaces, and West Indies and India would love nothing better when they face each other in the third Test, starting on Thursday at Warner Park.

Ricky Skerritt, the St. Kitts and Nevis Sports Minister and former West Indies manager, flew Atkinson into the island last week to ensure that the surface for the crucial match would be up to standard.

Atkinson has supervised the preparation of pitches at 18 venues worldwide, and his arrival came against the backdrop of a strong request from West Indies captain Brian Lara for livelier pitches for the last two Tests at Warner Park and Sabina Park in Kingston, Jamaica, to suitthehometeam's fast bowlers.

The four-Test series is level at 0-0. after two tension-filled draws at St. John's Antigua Recreation Ground and Gros Islet's Beausejour Cricket

Angola going FROM PAGE 17

second half after suffering a knock.

Just as he had done against Mexico, Joao Ricardo kept his side in the game, leaping to save low shots from Andranik Teymourian and Rasoul Khatibi. Iran had the best chances of the

first half but were let down by poor finishing in a stadium where for once in this well-attended World Cup there were empty seats.

Angola had lived dangerously in the first period when Vahid Hashemian's header from a corner was cleared off the goalline by Mendonca's hip and Joao Ricardo also punched away a well-directed Daei freekick after 20 minutes.

IRAN: Ebrahim Mirzapour; Hossein Kaabi (Arash Borhani 67), Sohrab Bakhtiarizadeh, Rahman Rezaei, Mohammad Nosrati (Masoud Shojaei 13); Medhi Mahdavikia, Anderanik Teymourian, Mehrzad Madanchi, Ferydoon Zandi; Ali Daei, Vahid Hashemian (Rasoul Khatibi 39). Yellow card: Madanchi (37

Teymourian (55), Zandi (90+1) Angola: Joao Ricardo; Loco, Jamba, Kali, Delgado; Ze Kalanga, Mateus (Love 23), Mendonca, Figueiredo (Rui Marques 72), Miloy; Akwa (Flavio 51).

Yellow card: Loco (22), Mendonca (45+1), Kalanga (67)

Referee: M Shield (Australia) Attendance: 43,000

Ground in which the Indian batsmen have had their fill on easy-paced pitches, much to Lara's annoyance.

"Our strength is in our fast bowling, and our batsmen are well equipped to handle the Indian fast bowlers, so make the pitch fair," he

"Make it so the fast bowlers can enjoy the first two or three days, and if it deteriorates and the spinners come into their own, so be it. We are buoyant that we are still level in this series, and so we are looking forward to the next 10 days of cricket.

Lara had appealed to the West Indies selection panel for a fast bowler of genuine pace to keep the Indian batsmen on the back foot. His pleahowever, fell on deafears, and he has been left to find a way of shutting the opposition with a brood of medium-fast bowlers.

The selectors took the joke even further when they excluded unorthodox left-arm spin bowler Dave Mohammed from the squad of 13 chosen for the match.

He would have at least added some variety to the attack. Instead, they have brought back Marlon Samuels to fortify the batting, and force Lara to rely on him, Chris Gayle, and possibly Ramnaresh Sarwan to add the slow bowling element to the attack, if West Indies find themselves

in a tight spot. India, similarly, have some hard, tough decisions to make, but skipper Rahul Dravid was confident that the good time would continue to roll for

The Indians spent the last few days oddly enough mixing light training with relaxation, rather than being engaged in a tour match.

Bashar

FROM PAGE 21 BCB chief executive officer Mahmudur Rahman said, "the venues in Dhaka have not been finalised, but one match might be held in Mirpur (Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium) and one in Fatullah."

After the tours to Zimbabwe and

Kenya and the Champions' Trophy in India, this will be the final series before the Tigers travel to the Caribbean islands for their third World Cup campaign in March The meeting also condemned

the incident in which several journalists were injured in Chittagong during the second Test against Australia in April. The meeting also approved all the standing committees.

However, the Board is expected to

make some adjustments in the

Logistics Committee and the

BITS AND BOBS

Tender & Purchase Committee.

Reflecting on the first two Tests, Dravid was satisfied with the way his side has performed, although they have not been able to seal a victory.

"We have played really well, and this is something about which we can be very happy," he said. "What we have done well, we will try to carry on with it in this Test match.

TEAMS

WEST INDIES (from): Brian Lara (captain), Ian Bradshaw, Dwayne Bravo, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Pedro Collins, Corey Collymore, Daren Ganga, Chris Gayle, Runako Morton, Denesh Ramdin, Marlon Samuels, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Jerome Taylor.

INDIA (from): Rahul Dravid (captain), Mahendra Dhoni, Wasim Jaffer, Mohammed Kaif, Dinesh Karthik, Anil Kumble, Venkatasai Laxman, Munaf Patel, Irfan Pathan, Ramesh Powar, Suresh Raina, Virender Sehwag, Harbhajan Singh, Vikram Singh, Yuvraj Singh, Shantha

Mexico thru

FROM PAGE 17

Mexico closed the half strongly with Fonseca putting a header wide and Pavel Pardo testing goalkeeper Ricardo from distance.

However, Mexico's revival lost momentum after the penalty miss and sending-off within minutes of each other in the second half. Portugal will play the runner-up

in Group C, whose leaders Argentina and the Netherlands were meeting later on Wednesday, while Mexico will take on the win-

Mexico have now qualified for the knockout stages in four consecutiveWorld Cups while Portugal are in the second phase for the first time since 1966 under World Cupwinning coach Luiz Felipe Scolari.

PORTUGAL: Ricardo; Miguel (Paulo Ferreira 61), Fernando Meira, Ricardo Carvalho, Caneira; Petit, Maniche, Tiago; Figo (Luis Boa Morte 80); Helder Postiga (Nuno Gomes 69), Simao Sabrosa. Yellow card: Miguel (26), Maniche (69), Morte (88).

MEXICO: Oswaldo Sanchez; Ricardo Osorio, Francisco Rodriguez (Zinha 46), Carlos Salcido; Mario Mendez (Guillermo Franco 81), Luis Perez, Rafael Marquez Alvarez, Pavel Pardo, Gonzalo Pineda (Jose Antonio Castro 69); Jose Fonseca, Omar Bravo. Yellow card: Francisco Rodriguez (22), Perez (27) Red card: Luis Perez (61)

Referee: Lubos Michel (Slovakia)

Chilavert jerseys banned

INTERNET, undated

A referee prohibited the use of tshirts that said, "Chilavert, you were right" in a Paraguayan rural league, in reference to the national team's failure in the World Cup.

located about 30 kilometres outside of Asunción, decided to use these shirts prior to their match, much to the disapproval of referee Roberto Torres. This act of dissent was looked

Two clubs from Ypané, a town

upon in a positive light as Mayor Juan Carlos Pereira described it as the people expressing their "displeasure toward the early elimination of the albirroja from the World Chilavert mentioned that the national team would not be suc-

cessful because of the bad decisions made by members of the Paraguayan Football Association president Oscar Harrison, head coach Aníbal Ruíz, and several former teammates especially team captain Carlos Gamarra. Chilavert is presently working as an analyst for Spanish-speaking network Univision in the United States.

Chinese students protest

AFP, Beijing

Students at a Chinese university shouted obscenities and hurled bottles after school authorities cut electricity during a World Cup match, a student and security staff saidWednesday.

Electricity was cut from the Jiangan campus of the Sichuan University in southwest China at midnight on June 12, prompting a rowdy protest from students, a security official with the university "Some students living in dormi-

tories were not happy about the

electricity being cut because they

wanted to watch the World Cup," a

student surnamed Xi told AFP by telephone. "Many started shouting, whistling and throwing bottles, but the

numbers were not large." Xi said the electricity was cut because school administrators wanted the students, who are preparing for exams, to go to bed

rather than watch television. A security officer confirmed the

protests took place, ending when school officials agreed to allow students to watch the World Cup on television sets in the school canteen, he told AFP.

"Between 2,000 and 3,000 students watched the matches," the officer said, but dismissed reports that 9,000 students had rioted as exaggerated.

Hong Kong news reports said that up to 9,000 students began rioting, vandalizing and setting fires on campus after the electricity

Swedes celebrate **England tie**

AFP, London

Delirious Swedish expatriates in London celebrated late into the night Tuesday after their national side denied England victory in their World Cup match in Germany.

Some 180 fans packed themselves into the basement Nordic bar near Oxford Street, central London, to cheer on the Scandinavian side, their enthusiasm lubricated by pints of Swedish

"Komigen Sverige, komigen," they cheered in their native tongue; 'come on Sweden, come on." The bar erupted in cheers when

Henrik Larsson netted a late 'I have never been that happy ever. I started to cry and scream. I didn't know what to do," said jubi-

lant Tina Lehman, 20, a masseuse. Stefan Berg, a 39-year-old researcher, said: "I'm very satisfied we made it to the next round. Also, we haven't lost to England in 38 years and we still haven't.'

The Nordic bar was specially decked out in the yellow and blue Swedish colours, alongside the odd Abba poster. Some Scots were also on hand to cheer on the Swedes and, in particular, former Celtic hero Larsson.

Some England fans in the crowd quickly made their excuses as the game ended.

Before the match Swedish fans said how important it was for them. Marie Westin, 30, an IT manager, said: "It means a lot. I have

but I am still completely Swedish. It would be so nice if we got further in the competition and beat

England." In west London, meanwhile, more than 4,000 households in the Hammersmith Grove district missed Joe Cole's spectacular goal for England because of a 13-minute blackout, blamed by energy supplier EDF on a "high voltage fault".

Catastrophe for Dudek

AFP, London

Liverpool goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek has had his 2005 Champions League winner's medal and final shirt stolen in a burglary at his British home while he was visiting his native Poland, the club said The break-in happened at some

England. Hundreds of thousands of pounds (euros, dollars) worth of other football memorabilia were "A lot of this stuff which has been stolen is irreplaceable and you can't put a price on it. Jerzy is

obviously devastated," a Liverpool

point last week at the 32-year-old

player's house in Caldy, northwest

spokesman said on the club's "We are talking about the memorabilia of someone's career and also a lifetime. Jerzy was made famous by what he did in the Champions League and for someone to have gone into his house and

The items stolen include more than 100 international and English Premiership goalkeeper shirts, a Champions League final shirt, World Cup 2002 shirt, and a 2005 League Cup final shirt. His 65,000-pound (95,000-euro,

120,000-dollar) black Porsche

Carrera car was also taken. Merseyside Police confirmed

stolen it is despicable.

the break-in and said Dudek returned home from holiday on Dudek played a key role in Liverpool's 2005 Champions

League final win over AC Milan. saving two penalties in a nail-biting shoot-out. However, he has since slipped down the pecking order at Liverpool and was left out of lived in England for about 12 years Poland's World Cup squad.

FROM PAGE 21 Rooney was back as well and the striker, playing in his third World wonder-kid showed plenty of Cup, exited this one in the most

Sweden.

minutes saw a wonder goal from Joe Cole, a superb header from Marcus Allback, England's very own 'Hand of God' and a dramatic late equaliser from the Swedes that followed sub Steven Gerrard's headed goal. It was an eventful match played at high tempo reminiscent of EPL matches. Frank Lampard looked far sharper than he had starting in the head of an attacking diamond. The midfield was ushered by the muchmaligned Owen Hargreaves who

assured touches. He was not totally match-fit and it showed but he was still hugely disappointed to be subbed off for Gerrard. The Swedes though showed plenty of resilience and twice came back to equalise. Marcus Allback with a fine near post header, which was incidentally the 2000th goal in the World Cup and Henrik Larsson very late on after a comedy of errors from Sol Campbell who had replaced Rio Ferdinand. They could even have snatched a win had they not been denied a clear penalty when Jamie Carragher handled inside the box: an infringement that the referee inexplicably failed to see. All in all though, the English played well enough to win the group though not the match. They will be glad to have avoided the hosts and now leave the Scandinavians to pass that hurdle.

On the topic of the hosts, the

Germans turned in a largely

assured performance against an

Ecuador side that never really

played for the win. In spite of that,

the Germans looked pretty com-

fortable all through the match after

top left hand corner, Wayne Miroslav Klose had given them a

fourth minute lead. With 70,000 screaming fans roaring them on in the stifling heat of Berlin, the Germans added to the tally through Klose (again) as he raced on to delightful chipped pass from Ballack to score. Lukas Podolski, much criticised in recent weeks, came back strongly with a good goal on the counter-attack after a pinpoint pass from Bernd Schneider. The Ecuadorians looked strangely content with the result and now they must face a tough test of their credentials against England in the round of

It would be unfair to the other teams involved yesterday to not mention them at all, Trinidad and Tobago deserve more than a mention with a stolid display in a 2-0 loss to Paraguay that saw them leave the World Cup with heads held high. No such luck for Poland as they face a roasting in the national press following their exit and for Costa Rica, taking part was almost as important as winning. No more Roque Santa Cruz. Less

eye candy for the women. Much

more exhilarating clashes in pros-

pect. The World Cup has only just

really begun!

LEADING SCORERS