

BD A make solid start

SPORTS REPORTER

Centuries by Mehrab Hossain Jr and Alok Kapali put Bangladesh A in a strong position on the opening day of the second four-dayer against Zimbabwe A at the Mutare Sports Club ground yesterday.

The visiting side, who won the first four-dayer against the same opponents by seven wickets last week, rode on a 176-run fifth wicket partnership between Mehrab and Kapali to finish the day on 307-6.

Young left-handed opener Mehrab hit 120 off 241 balls while right-hander Kapali contributed 111 from 166 deliveries. Nazmus Sadat added 31 off 44 balls.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH A: First innings 307-6 in 90 overs (Nafees 4, Mehrab 120, Sadat 31, Tushar 5, Sakib 26, Kapali 111, Sahagir 3 not out, Sharif 2 not out; Garwe 4-59)

LEADING SCORERS

FROM PAGE 37 Al Khatani (Saudi Arabia), Allback (Sweden), Alopi (Australia), Appiah (Ghana), Bakhtiarzadeh (Iran), Barmetta (Switzerland), Cambiaso (Argentina), J Cole (England), Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal), Crouch (England), Cuevas (Paraguay), Deco (Portugal), Dempsey (USA), Dramani (Ghana), Drogba (Ivory Coast), Flavio (Angola), Fonseca (Mexico), Fred (Brazil), Frei (Switzerland), Frings (Germany), Gilardino (Italy), Gilberto (Brazil), Golmohammadi (Iran), R Gomez (Costa Rica), Gyan (Ghana), Henry (France), Iaquineta (Italy), Ilic (Serbia-Montenegro), F Inzaghi (Italy), Jaidi (Tunisia), Jaziri (Tunisia), Juanito (Spain), Juninho (Brazil), Kaka (Brazil), Kalou (Ivory Coast), Kalinichenko (Ukraine), Kaviedes (Ecuador), Kewell (Australia), Koller (Czech Republic), B Kone (Ivory Coast), N Kovac (Croatia), Lahm (Germany), Larsson (Sweden), Lee Chun-soo (South Korea), Ljungberg (Sweden), Maniche (Portugal), Materazzi (Italy), Messi (Argentina), Mnarri (Tunisia), Mohamed Kader (Togo), CA Moore (Australia), Muntari (Ghana), Nakamura (Japan), Neuville (Germany), Park Ji-sung (South Korea), Pauleta (Portugal), Pirlu (Italy), Podolski (Germany), Raul (Spain), Rebrov (Ukraine), Robben (Netherlands), Rusol (Ukraine), Savola (Argentina), Smao Sabrosa (Portugal), Sma (Croatia), Tamada (Japan), Tevez (Argentina), Van Nistelrooy (Netherlands), Van Persie (Netherlands), Xabi Alonso (Spain), Zlgic (Serbia-Montenegro), Zinha (Mexico)

Japan have

FROM PAGE 17 from opponents," said Zico, whose career as head coach started with Japan's national side.

"I may move to Europe and I wish to serve a football club as head coach," he confirmed. "Even a great coach makes a small start at a small team."



Did U Know?

Russia's Oleg Salenko set a new record for the number of goals scored in a single match when he put five of the best past Cameroon in his country's 6-1 victory in the 1994 World Cup. His goal feast helped make him equal top scorer in the tournament with Bulgaria's Hristo Stoichkov.



Talk Turkey



Justin Gatlin

(American sprinter) "I'm supporting World Cup. Without World Cup, a lot of people look past soccer - like they do track and field until the Olympics come around."



What to Watch

TEN Sports West Indies vs India Third Test, Day Three Live at 8:00 pm



Sammilito Krira Paribar, an organisation of sports organisers, formed a human-chain in the city yesterday to protest Bangladesh Football Federation and government's dubious stance on Bangladesh Television's FIFA World Cup coverage.

THIRD EYE

FROM PAGE 17

Juninho and Gilberto and the master striker himself, who was twice earlier denied by the brave Kawaguchi's excellent saves. Now in a clash of style and power, Brazil have an exotic date with Ghana in the knockout stage.

Do we hear more noises in Africa or Down Under, after Socceros' qualification -- they showed glimpses of their cricketing colleagues' fighting spirit -- following a 2-2 draw against Croatia? Surprise! surprise! Ghana advance from their group at the expense of world's second-ranked Czech Republic. But alas! The black stars will be without their star Chelsea midfielder Michael Essien, already booked twice. However, the World Cup first-timers' presence in the Round of 16 confirms that at least two non-European teams, if not more, will reach the quarterfinals at Germany 2006 as South and Central American sides Argentina and Mexico are pitted against each other for a berth in the last eight.

Ghana's 2-1 win over USA sparked wild celebrations not only back home but also throughout the continent after their west African neighbours Ivory Coast and Togo and Angola bowed out. After Cameroon's successful run to the quarterfinals in 1990, no African side have made it to the last eight. They have been on a decline in recent times with only one team - Senegal making it to the knockout stage four years ago. It seemed that the World Cup in Germany would end as the worst for Africa, which stages the world's showpiece event in 2010 after their best two prospects Ivory Coast and Ghana were drawn in tough groups. Ivory Coast defeated Serbia to go out with their heads high after losses to Argentina and Holland but the Black Stars' success in a group involving three-time champions Italy and the potential Czechs have written

WC BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 24 Germany's number one forward is, "Bild wrote.

Call of nature The Fan-Mile in Berlin is proving a little too popular with more than 700,000 fans watching action on giant screens and then streaming to post-match parties.

There are only around 300 mobile toilets in the area stretching away behind the Brandenburg Gate and with the Tiergarten Park handily nearby some fans are answering calls of nature there. Says urologist Frank Christoph: "The body produces between 1.5 and three litres of urine daily. Beer boosts production."

That means the Tiergarten is absorbing an estimated 100,000 litres a day, prompting warnings from wardens that plant growth may be affected. Every night, the area has to be washed down with some 3,000 cubic metres of water from the River Spree.

Crucifixion! There's been plenty of blood and thunder on the pitch in the opening phase but off it as well there has been controversy over a gory advert starring England's Wayne Rooney.

The striker, just back from a broken metatarsal, is being portrayed by a clothing firm with arms outstretched, in English red and white, his mouth open in a cry of triumph -- after all, he has won his battle to get fit. According to the advertisers, the red part of the advert is meant to symbolise the

Phenomenon touches Bomber

FROM PAGE 24 Selecao's physical trainer Moraci Sant'anna revealed the forward weighs in at 90.5 kilos (198 pounds).

Sant'anna told Globo News TV that Ronaldo had hit 95 kilos but "now he is close to his ideal weight."

He insisted that Ronaldo had "lost 3.2 kilos from the day he arrived (in Germany) through to the Australia match, then one more."

Bangladeshis protest for more coverage

AFP, Dhaka

Members of a Bangladesh sporting association formed a human chain Friday demanding that the state-owned television station show more World Cup matches.

"Most of the districts in Bangladesh do not have satellite cable connection. They cannot see all the matches of the World Cup, so we want all the matches shown on the national terrestrial television," said former national goalkeeper and protest organiser Kaiser Hamid.

The protest was staged by the Combined Sports Family, an association whose members include former sports professionals and officials such as referees, coaches.

About 100 members formed a human chain outside the government secretariat in the capital to urge the government to boost the number of matches being shown on the state-owned BTV.

"We also demand that the power officials do not cut the power during the matches so that everyone in the villages can live and breathe football," Hamid said.

The World Cup is attracting massive interest in sports-obsessed Bangladesh.

Flags of the two most popular teams -- Brazil and Argentina -- can be seen flying everywhere from rickshaws to office buildings.

In the southeastern city of Chittagong big screens put up to show matches have been attracting so many people from outlying villages that the city is regularly brought to a standstill.

Aussies acclaim

FROM PAGE 24

so far in my career. If it wasn't going to be me, I'm sure it was going to be someone else," he said.

Kewell, who was named FIFA's official man of the match, said he was relishing the task of facing Italy for a last eight spot.

"It's perfect for us," he said. "A lot of people didn't think we were going to get through the group stage, we were very confident about qualifying from this group, obviously we left it a little bit late."

"But we got there and now we have to concentrate on Italy, it's going to be a great game."



Kofi Annan to attend WC final

AFP, Berlin

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan will attend the World Cup final in Berlin on July 9, a spokesman for German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Friday.

Annan will hold talks with Merkel while he is in Germany and visit the new UN campus in the western city of Bonn, the spokesman said.

The UN chief will also pay a visit to the headquarters of the German-led European Union force that will police the July 30 elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The command centre is based in Potsdam, outside Berlin.

Annan's home country, Ghana, on Thursday qualified for the last 16 of the World Cup by beating the United States 2-1.

Togo to face sanctions

AFP, Berlin

Togo face disciplinary action for disrupting the World Cup with squabbles over bonuses and a threatened strike in their first appearance at the finals, FIFA President Sepp Blatter said on Friday.

"The Togolese football federation will, I am quite sure, be hearing from the disciplinary committee," Blatter said at a press conference.

"We cannot tolerate a situation where an association participating in a World Cup causes the kind of kerfuffle that they have."

Togo's German coach Otto Pfister stormed out of the team camp on the eve of their first match against South Korea, only to return.

The players then threatened not to play against Switzerland in their second match until they received unpaid bonuses. They eventually got their money after FIFA intervened.

Togo were eliminated after losing both matches and were facing France in their final Group G game on Friday.

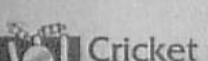
Kezman banned for Euro 2008 qualifier

AFP, Berlin

Serbia and Montenegro striker Mateja Kezman will be suspended for the first match of the Euro 2008 qualifying campaign after his red card in the World Cup, FIFA said on Friday.

Kezman was given a two-match ban by the FIFA disciplinary committee after he was sent off for a lunging, two-footed challenge on Javier Mascherano in Argentina's

Gs give WI solid start



AFP, Basseterre

Chris Gayle and Daren Ganga hit half-centuries to help West Indies make a confident start to the third Test against India on Thursday at Warner Park.

Gayle was dismissed for 83 and Ganga was unbeaten on 64, as West Indies, choosing to bat, reached 207 for one in their first innings when stumps were drawn on the rain-marred opening day.

Gayle was typically belligerent and Ganga batted doggedly to share 143 for the first wicket, after play commenced two-and-a-half hours later than scheduled.

After Gayle was dismissed about a half-hour after tea, Ganga and Ramnaresh Sarwan, who is not out on 44, continued to defy the Indian bowlers and added an unbroken 64.

Not a ball was bowled before lunch which was taken 10 minutes earlier than scheduled, after overnight and early morning showers drenched the outfield and left several areas close to the boundaries sodden.

After a series of inspection during the morning, umpires Rudi Koertzen and Brian Jerling indicated that play would commence immediately after lunch, and a minimum of 70 overs were to be bowled in the day.

The number of overs was further reduced to 64 when there was a 25-minute stoppage for rain about a half-hour after play started, but this could not stop the West Indies onslaught.

Gayle raced to a half-century before tea to help West Indies reach 108 without loss at the break.

The left-handed Gayle drove off-spin bowler Harbhajan Singh through extra cover for the fourth of his eight fours to reach 50.

When on five, Gayle lofted Shantha Sreesanth over long-on for the first of his five sixes onto the roof of the Media Centre to reach 4,000 runs in his 60th Test.

Ganga, who was fortunate to have retained his place in the side following a string of insignificant scores in the series, was a passenger for most of the way, although a straight drive for four off Munaf Patel was memorable.

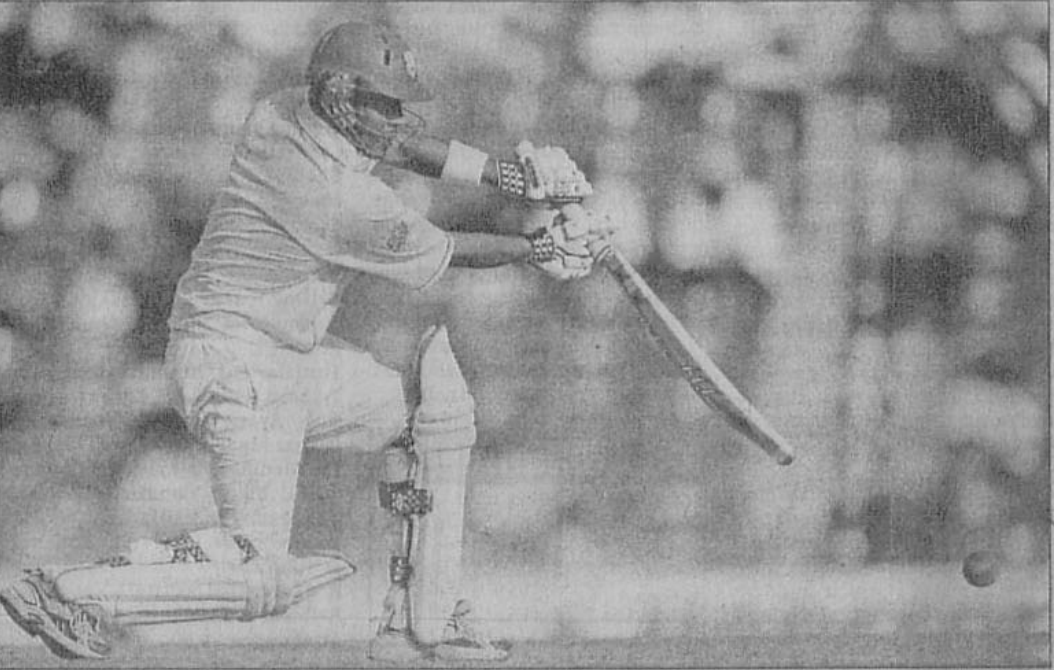
After tea, Gayle continued on his merry way and was eyeing his eighth

Test hundred when he miscalculated the length and line of a delivery from Munaf Patel, and was bowled offering no stroke to his 128th ball.

Ganga was then 47 and spent what seemed an eternity on that score before reaching his half-century when he turned a delivery from Anil Kumble into the fine leg region for a single.

SCOREBOARD

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, Overs. Includes scores for Gayle, Ganga, Sarwan, Extras, Total, and individual bowler stats.



West Indies batsman Ramnaresh Sarwan drives one on the first day of the third Test against India at St Kitts on Thursday. Sarwan paced to 113 not out as Windies reached 362 for three at lunch on the second day Friday.

BITS AND BOBS

6-0 Group C romp on June 21.

The Atletico Madrid player, who failed to make the grade at Chelsea, sat out the match against Ivory Coast and so will only now be suspended for his country's first Euro 2008 qualification match on September 2 against Azerbaijan.

Nedved scores against me in training: Buffon

INTERNET, undated

The Italian national keeper was one of the big Azzurri heroes on Thursday afternoon against the Czech Republic.

Gianluigi Buffon hailed his performance against the Czechs, which allowed the Italians to keep a clean sheet and reach the second round of the competition.

"Up till now I did not have the possibility to show off, finally it was my day."

"Nedved tried many times because in training he always scores against me. But he doesn't know that the match is something else and I transform myself."

Buffon has so far conceded just one goal in three matches, which came from an unlucky own goal by Zaccardo during the match against USA.

Totti to quit after WC

INTERNET, undated

The Roma captain admitted that if the Azzurri had been eliminated on Thursday, then he would have retired from international football.

This will most likely be the last world cup where we shall see Francesco Totti wearing the Italian national team shirt.

The Giallorosso forward confirmed that the rumours he would have quit the Azzurri if eliminated from the tournament were true.

"At 90% it's true, but now I'll think about the World Cup and I hope to go as far as possible. We shall talk about it again at the end of the tournament. Let's hope after the 9th of July..."

Barnetta: "Our first goal is not to lose"

INTERNET, undated

Switzerland midfielder Tranquilo Barnetta has hailed Korean football but is determined that the Red Devils will not be celebrating victory after the Swiss meet Korea in a Group C decider in Hannover today.

Barnetta told Goal.com: "Our first goal is not to lose against Korea. But if we win 2-0, it'll be best for us."

make us struggle throughout whole match, so every player must be careful the whole time.

"Korea didn't allow any space against France, their pressing was great. But Switzerland is good enough to beat Korea. We have a great defence, and are quick at pressing [the game] into a small area. And we'll make efficient use of aerial attacks. But if we can't score against Korea, I think we can reach the last 16."

"But I don't think we'll play defensive football the whole time. Our goal is to overcome the limit of ourselves. So we'll play our own game."

"The key to this match is pressing. Switzerland is stronger than France is physical, so I think we can beat Korea. I'm confident."

Barnetta scored a goal in the last minute against Togo. Thanks to that goal, Switzerland are now top of Group G. He will lead the Swiss attack with Gigax in today's 21:00 (local) kick-off against Korea.

Barnetta plays his club football for Bayer Leverkusen, and made his name at the 2005 World Youth Championships.

I may drop Ruud: Van Basten

INTERNET, undated

Holland coach Marco van Basten says he is tempted to drop Ruud van Nistelrooy for the second round clash with Portugal.

The Manchester United star has performed below expectations at the World Cup, and has scored just one goal against Ivory Coast.

Dirk Kuyt started the match against Argentina on Wednesday and Van Basten says he may get the nod again.

"I expect more from a player of his (van Nistelrooy) standard," said Van Basten.

"Ruud is training well but I just feel he needs to show a little bit more."

"The central position up front is a point of discussion and the chance that Dirk will start on Sunday has increased."

'Red Devils are great supporters, but...'

INTERNET, undated

Switzerland's 21-year-old defender Philippe Senderos of Arsenal is confident of his country's chances ahead of their clash today against South Korea in Hannover, though he knows the AWD-Arena will be a sea of red and a cauldron of noise when the fanatical Korean support gets into full swing.

Senderos, though, told reporter Minji Seo: "I'll think all the red fans

in the stadium as all Switzerland's fans."

The captain of Switzerland's U-17 team showed impressive form in the Euro U-17 tournament before moving to the Gunners in the English Premiership, where since 2004/05 he has played first team football regularly.

He said: "Korea are a good team, so we can't score 2-0 like the match against Togo. But I'm sure we can win."

"If Switzerland go into the 2nd round as runners-up in Group G, they will have to face Spain. So Senderos will try his best against Korea. "Frankly speaking, we don't want to face Spain in last 16. Anyway we have to win first [against Korea], then we can go into the last 16."

But he added: "If we draw with Korea, or a worse situation occurs, then we must face Spain. That'll be a great experience too, anyway."

Regarding the Red Devils, Korea's famed supporters, Senderos said: "I haven't seen them on the street, but I've seen them a lot on TV. They're well organized and super supporters."

Dindane forfeits hatrick for friendship

INTERNET, undated

Many observers of the ongoing World Cup would continue to wonder why Aruna Dindane passed up the chance to get the first hat trick at this year's Mundial, but the attacker puts it down to friendship.

The 26-year-old, who bagged the man-of-the-match award in a pulsating encounter against Serbia and Montenegro, opened up that he would have taken the penalty if he had insisted.

But Dindane, who was the tormentor-in-chief against the Serbians, added that the Ivorian team is not about individual achievements, but group.

"Though he knew that if he had stepped to take the spot kick and scored he would have taken away the match ball as well as the silver tankard awarded to the FIFA player of the match."

"I think my friend wanted to score. We are a team and we are all friends and that's the way it is with us."

"The group of players is much more important than individuals and he wanted to take it so it was right to let him have a go," he said.

In the end it was Ivory Coast who registered their first ever win at a World Cup in what is their maiden appearance in the world's biggest tournament.