

B'desh A secure one-day series in Zimbabwe

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A rode on yet another Nazmus Sadat heroics to clinch the one-day series against their Zimbabwean counterparts with two matches in hand when they handed a six-wicket defeat on the home team in the third one-dayer at the Queen's Sports Club ground in Bulawayo on Sunday.

The young opener, who smashed an unbeaten hundred in his team's 26-run victory in the first game, Sadat scored 90 and shared a 106-run stand with Mehrab Hossain Jr as Bangladesh A raced to 214 for four in 46.3 overs after restricting Zimbabwe A to 210 in 50 overs.

Bangladesh took an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match series as they won the second match by four wickets.

Right-handed Sadat smote eight boundaries playing 111 balls while left-hander Mehrab was unbeaten on 65 off 95 balls that featured three fours and a six. Nafees Iqbal made 28 off 61 deliveries.

Earlier seamer Forhad Reza continued his good work on the tour claiming three wickets for 29 while left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak and skipper Tushar Imran took two wickets each to deny the hosts put up a challenging total.

Hamilton Masakadza was the top scorer with an 87-ball 45.

The fourth match will take place tomorrow at the Kwekwe Sports Club ground.

Camoranesi reveals Maradona call

INTERNET, undated

Mauro Camoranesi received a surprise call from Diego Armando Maradona on the eve Italy's unforgettable World Cup Final win.

The Napoli legend got in touch with the Argentine-born midfielder to wish him well in the Berlin finale, an act which surprised the Juventus winger.

"I was moved on the night before the game because I had the opportunity to speak with Diego Armando Maradona on the phone," said Camoranesi.

The South American was convinced to play for Italy by previous boss Giovanni Trapattoni and he's definitely not regretting that decision this morning.

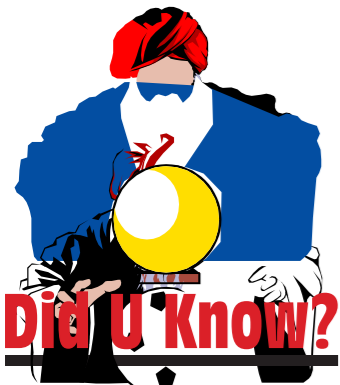
"I'm very happy and proud of what we have achieved," added the former Hellas Verona midfielder.

"In this whole experience I've felt indescribable emotions and must thank everyone who has put their faith in me, from the Coach to the players and the Federation."

Camoranesi chose to celebrate in hair-raising fashion when he had his ridiculously long ponytail cut off on the pitch after the game.

He was placed in a chair and surrounded by the Azzurri squad who danced round him in a circle, Red Indian style.

Lazio defender Massimo Oddo, the side's unofficial barber on the trip, was handed the honour of chopping it off.



Portugal's Joao Pinto was suspended for 6 months and ordered to pay a fine of 34,000 euros for punching the referee in the stomach during the first round match of the 2002 World Cup against South Korea.



Luis Figo (Portugal's star player)

"It is hard for me to end my international career in this way. I did everything I could and the team gave their all, but Germany deserved their victory. After losing the World Cup third place play-off match to Germany."

After losing the World Cup third place play-off match against Germany.



Italian central defender Marco Materazzi thanks the heavens as he scores the equaliser against France in the World Cup final in Berlin on Sunday night.

Naved blow for Pakistan



AFP, Canterbury

Pakistan suffered a major blow just days before the first Test at Lord's when pace bowler Navedul Hasan was ruled out of their tour of England.

"He's going home today (Monday) and leaving the tour because of a groin injury," Pakistan tour manager Zaheer Abbas told AFP by telephone. "We are not expecting him to return."

Naved's exit left Pakistan's pace reserves at breaking point with Umar Gul and Abdul Razzak the last men standing amongst their frontline seamers.

Spearhead fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar is currently out with an ankle injury and, during their drawn warm-up match with England A, concluded at Canterbury on Sunday, fast bowler Mohammad Asif needed an injection into his right elbow and sat out the last day's play when Mohammad Sami sustained a knee injury while fielding.

"It's a big disappointment for Pakistan because he's done so well when he's over here," Pakistan batting great Zaheer added of the 28-year-old Naved's absence from the four-Test and five-match one-day series.

Naved sustained the injury while bowling for Sussex where his 34 wickets in five matches at a cost of just over 15 apiece played a major role in the south coast side's climb to second place in England's County Championship.

But his injury led Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul-Haq to accuse Sussex of over-bowling Naved although the county insisted they had "done all we can" to ensure he stayed fit while he was with them.

Zaheer was unable to confirm press reports from Pakistan indicating Naved would need surgery, saying: "He's going to see the doctors. Maybe (he will undergo an operation) in Australia or South Africa, but I just don't know."

Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer said last week that Naved would miss the first Test, which starts at Lord's on Thursday, but the tourists had hoped the seamer would feature at some stage during the series.

Meanwhile Zaheer confirmed that uncapped 23-year-old left-arm medium pacer Samiullah Niazi was being flown in as cover but added it was too early to say if further replacements would be needed.

Although Woolmer was hopeful of Asif, who has taken 25 wickets at an injection into his five Tests, being fit in time for the first Test, a cautious Zaheer said: "The players have practised very hard but we still do not know if some of them will be fit."

England too have a depleted pace attack with star all-rounder Andrew Flintoff (ankle) and Matthew Hoggard (hand) out of the first Test while fellow Ashes-winner Simon Jones (knee) is set to miss the entire series.

"Both teams are missing key players, it's a problem," Zaheer admitted.

Naved has played eight Tests, taking just 16 wickets although not

because of lack of effort and, after his start to the season with Sussex, many were predicting that the conscientious seamer, who never lacks for effort, would play a major role against England.

Zidane fan dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A Zinedine Zidane fan died early Monday in Borongail village of Shivalaya upazila in the district during the World Cup final between Italy and France.

Rajib, son of Zomat Ali Master, died of a cardiac arrest following the sending off of the French captain.

A 28-year-old student of Borongail Degree College, Rajib was shouting in disapproval of referee Horacio Elizondo's decision to give the French maestro marching orders 20 minutes into the extra time and soon he collapsed to death.

Lippi wants

FROM PAGE 17

gained in strength with each round of the tournament.

Lippi said his players had realised they could win the World Cup once they topped their first-round group.

"We said 'We are not going to let this opportunity pass us by'. And once we got into the semifinal we knew everything was possible," Lippi said.

kick and although Buffon didn't come close either it was left for David Trezeguet to hit the bar and consign France to the runners-up spot.

Fabio Grosso, the surprise hero of the Italian campaign, stepped up to send Italy into cloud nine and did so with aplomb.

So yet again! Congratulations to the World Champions of 2006 - Italy lifted their fourth World Championship crown.

In summary, it was a World Cup of few goals but no shortage of action or drama. Much may have been negative, but as far as big teams go, most of them made the quarterfinals. There were plenty of red cards and a plethora of yellow although not nearly as many goals as the opening match may have suggested, an average of 2.3 makes it the second lowest scoring World Cup. Much of it is due to the reluctance of coaches to using more than a single forward in their lineups preferring instead to use a more mobile 5-man midfield with a link up player. The days of attacking football may well and truly be gone.

Tactics as always played a crucial part and Marcello Lippi, arguably the best tactician won out in the end.

For a final word, you may ask: Did the best team win?

This is not the place for answers but as far as this World Cup went, it was about right that the team that played the strongest defensive game and did enough in attack in crucial times, almost always prevailed. History has shown us that much. Italy did that the best in this edition and for that they are just champions.

Anyhow, hope you enjoyed the World Cup as much as we did here! Adios!

Till South Africa 2010!

WORLD CUP SCORERS

AFP, Berlin

Final list of scorers at 2006 World Cup after the final on Sunday:

5: Klose (Germany) 3: Crespo (Argentina), Fernando Torres (Spain), Henry (France), Maxi Rodriguez (Argentina), Podolski (Germany), Ronaldo (Brazil), Villa (Spain), Zidane (France)

2: Adriano (Brazil), Bosacki (Poland), Bravo (Mexico), Cahill (Australia), Delgado (Ecuador), Dindane (Ivory Coast), Frei (Switzerland), Gerrard (England), Maniche (Portugal), Materazzi (Italy), Rosicky (Czech Republic), Schweinsteiger (Germany), Shevchenko (Ukraine), C Tenorio (Ecuador), Toni (Italy), Vieira (France), Wanchoppe (Costa Rica)

1: Ahn Jung-hwan (South Korea), Al Jaber (Saudi Arabia), Al Kahtani (Saudi Arabia), Allback (Sweden), Aloisi (Australia), Appiah (Ghana), R Ayala (Argentina), Bakhtiarzadeh (Iran), Barnetta (Switzerland), Beckham (England), Cambiasso (Argentina), J Cole (England), Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal), Crouch (England), Cuevas (Paraguay), Deco (Portugal), Del Piero (Italy), Dempsey (United States), Dramani (Ghana), Drogba (Ivory Coast), Flavio (Angola), Fonseca (Mexico), Fred (Brazil), Frings (Germany), Gilardino (Italy), Gilberto (Brazil), Golmohammadi (Iran), R Gomez (Costa Rica), G Grosso (Italy), Gyan (Ghana), Iaquinta (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), Marquez Alvarez (Mexico), Messi (Argentina), Mnarri (Tunisia), Mohamed Kader (Togo), CA Moore (Australia), Muntari (Ghana), Nakamura (Japan), Neuville (Germany), Nuno Gomes (Portugal), Park Ji-sung (South Korea), Pauleta (Portugal), Pirlu (Italy), Raul (Spain), Rebrov (Ukraine), Ribery (France), Robben (Netherlands), Rusol (Ukraine), Saviola (Argentina), Sendros (Switzerland), Simao Sabrosa (Portugal), Srna (Croatia), Tamada (Japan), Tevez (Argentina), Toti (Italy), Van Nistelrooy (Netherlands), Van Persie (Netherlands), Xabi Alonso (Spain), Zambrotta (Italy), Ze Roberto (Brazil), Zicic (Serbia-Montenegro), Zinha (Mexico).

The last bows

FROM PAGE 24

the final only to gift Ronaldo one of Brazil's goals in their 2-0 win.

Brazil full-back Roberto Carlos announced that at the age of 33 he would not pull on the famous yellow shirt again, although he went out on a low note when the 1-0 defeat against France brought the reigning champions' challenge to a premature end in the quarter-final.

Hidetoshi Nakata, Japan's best-known player in two World Cups, surprised his fans by ending his playing career at the relatively young age of 29.

The midfielder, who was powerless to stop Japan crashing out in the first round, said he was considering studying business instead.

David Beckham resigned the captaincy with an emotional speech after England went out at the quarter-final stage, but said he wanted to continue playing for his country. New England coach Steve McClaren may have different ideas.

And Germany captain Michael Ballack hinted it was probably his last World Cup after leading his team to the semi-finals on a wave of home support, although at 29 that seems a premature prediction.

One for all

FROM PAGE 24

"I know something was said by Materazzi but I don't know what."

France's most capped player, who was the bedrock of the France defence at the World Cup, will discover along with Trezeguet and the rest of the Juventus players this week whether the Italian champions are to be relegated over the Serie A match fixing scandal.

Asked about his future Thuram replied: "I'm going on holiday and don't know which division Juventus will be playing in next season."

The World Cup in numbers



INTERNET, undated

1. Sweden's Markus Allback scored the 2,000th goal in FIFA World Cup history. It was Sweden's first goal in the 2-2 draw with England in a Group B match. Goal No. 1,000 was scored by Rob Rensenbrink of the Netherlands in 1978.

2. Ronaldo scored his 15th World Cup goal to become the tournament's all-time leading goalscorer, topping German Gerd Mueller's previous record by one goal.

3. Switzerland is the first team to be eliminated from a World Cup without conceding a single goal. The Swiss lost on penalties in the second round against Ukraine.

4. Portugal's Ricardo is the first goalkeeper to save three shots in a penalty shootout at a World Cup.

5. Germany is the only team to have been involved in four World Cup penalty shootouts, winning every one.

6. At 18 years 357 days, Lionel Messi became the fifth-youngest goalscorer in the history of the tournament when he scored Argentina's sixth goal against Serbia and Montenegro in Gelsenkirchen.

7. Iran's Yahya Golmohammadi became the fifth-oldest goalscorer (36 years, 84 days) in the history of the World Cup when he scored against Mexico on June 11.

8. Against Ukraine, Tunisia's Ali Boumnijel became the fifth-oldest player (40 years, 71 days) to play in a World Cup game.

9. Togo's Otto Pfister (68 years, 211 days) became the second-oldest and Spain's Luis Aragones (67 years 334 days) the third-oldest coaches in World Cup history.

10. French goalkeeper Fabien Barthez recorded five shutouts to increase his career total at the World Cup to 10, a record jointly held with England's Peter Shilton.

11. Portugal's quarterfinal draw after extra time with England ended Luis Felipe Scolari's streak of 11 consecutive World Cup wins as coach. However, his 12-match unbeaten stretch is a record.

12. With four wins to start this competition, 2002 champion Brazil set a record of 11 consecutive victories at the FIFA World Cup.

13. Going into the final, Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon has not conceded a goal in 453 minutes. This is already the fifth longest span.

14. Horacio Elizondo is the first referee to be assigned to the opening game as well as to the final. He is the second referee after Mexico's Benito Archundia to officiate five games at a World Cup.

15. Archundia became the first referee to officiate five matches in one competition.

16. With 12 single cautions and four indirect ejections, the Portugal-Netherlands game set a record for most disciplinary measures in a single World Cup game.

17. Cafu became Brazil's most capped player at the World Cup with a total of 20 matches. At the same

time Cafu also became the player with most World Cup wins to his name (16).

18. Guus Hiddink qualified for the second stage of the competition for the third consecutive time, and with three different teams: the Netherlands in 1998, South Korea in 2002 and Australia in 2006.

19. Brazil's Carlos Alberto Parreira became the first coach in World Cup history to face national teams from all six confederations.

20. Parreira equaled Bora Milutinovic's record of five World Cup participations.

21. Parreira celebrated his 20th World Cup match as coach, equalling Mario Zagallo and Bora Milutinovic. Helmut Schoen leads with 25 matches.

22. The second-round match between France and Spain was the 700th World Cup match.

23. The penalty shootout between Switzerland and Ukraine (won 3-0 by Ukraine) was the lowest-scoring tiebreaker in World Cup history. Switzerland became the first team not to convert a single penalty in a penalty shootout.

24. Italy's 11 goals going into the final were scored by no fewer than 10 different scorers - a record now jointly held together with France (1982).

25. The average attendance of roughly 52,500 is the second-highest in World Cup history. Only USA 1994 drew larger crowds.

26. The World Cup Final was decided for only the second time on a penalty shoot-out following USA'94 where also Italy were involved along with Brazil.

Italy's road to glory



AFP, Berlin

Italy won the World Cup for a fourth time here on Sunday, beating France in a penalty shootout after the match ended 1-1 following extra-time. Following is a round-by-round recap of Italy's progress through the tournament:

QUALIFICATION

Italy stuttered at times, such as with a 1-0 defeat away to Slovenia and draws with Norway and Scotland. They recovered to win the group with five points to spare over second-placed Norway. The influential Francesco Totti returned from a broken ankle in the pre-World Cup friendlies.

GROUP STAGE

A 2-0 win over Ghana got the ball rolling before a brutal 1-1 draw with the United States, which saw Italian

defender Daniele De Rossi sent off and then banned for four matches for elbowing Brian McBride in the face. But an efficient 2-0 win over injury-hit Czech Republic saw Italy through as Group E winners thanks to goals from Marco Materazzi and substitute Filippo Inzaghi.

LAST 16

A spirited Australia team kept the Italians at bay but deep in injury-time Fabio Grosso collided with Australian defender Lucas Neill in the area and the referee awarded a disputed penalty. Totti, who had come on as a substitute in the 75th minute, kept his cool to slot the crucial spot-kick past Mark Schwarzer.

QUARTERFINAL

Gianluca Zambrotta opened the scoring and two goals from Luca Toni wrapped up a straightforward 3-0 win over surprise quarterfinalists Ukraine.

SEMIFINAL

Host nation Germany and their dashing young team stood in the

way. An absorbing match went into extra-time and coach Marcello Lippi threw on two forwards - Alessandro Del Piero and Vincenzo Iaquinta - late in the game. The pressure finally told, with Fabio Grosso scoring in the 119th minute with a curling shot and Del Piero adding a second two minutes later for a 2-0 win.

FINAL

Italy won 5-3 in a penalty shootout after the match ended 1-1 following extra-time. France opened the scoring after Florent Malouda went down with Materazzi in close attention, and Zinedine Zidane scored with an odd chipped penalty which bounced over the line off the crossbar. Materazzi's bullet header from Andrea Pirlo's corner levelled the scores in the 19th minute. Zidane was sent off for headbutting Materazzi in the chest before the shootout drama. Every one of Italy's five penalty takers scored, while David Trezeguet missed for France. Grosso converted the decisive spot-kick.

Defence is the best Chirac hails

FROM PAGE 17

exhausted and were bundled out early; four years later and the benefits of a proper rest for 'Les Bleus' were plain to see as they swept into the final.

So a World Cup that was expected to be dominated by a new breed of young tyros ended up with a final contested by two of the oldest teams in the tournament.

That the final's protagonists were France and Italy reflected the dominance of Europe, as the football world was put back on its axis after the 'Cup of Shocks' in 2002.

The South American challenge ended when both holders Brazil and Argentina were dumped out at the quarterfinal.

Brazil's campaign proved to be a disappointment. With world player of the year Ronaldinho a strangely peripheral figure, the Brazilians failed to live up to the sum of their parts. "We made some silly mistakes and that cost us," said Brazil's glum coach Carlos Alberto Parreira after his side's exit to France.

Argentina looked better equipped to carry the torch and produced some scintillating football in the first phase. The 24-pass masterpiece that culminated in Esteban Cambiasso's goal against the Serbs will go down as among the finest ever scored at a World Cup.

Yet when it mattered most, Argentina's adventure deserted them and they were dumped out on penalties to Jürgen Klinsmann's energetic Germany.

The penalty curse was also to account for England's attempt to win the World Cup for the first time since 1966.

"Massively, ridiculously overrated by their media, always involved in some sort of comic downfall, insane injuries, woeful management. A car crash waiting to happen, at which stage the local media go berserk."

That was how the Boston Globe newspaper assessed England's chances before the tournament and as predictions go it proved to be impossibly accurate.

Sven Goran Eriksson's inept squad selection and tactics came

back to haunt England and the Swede ended his five-year reign with a disastrous quarterfinal exit to Portugal, beaten on penalties once more.

Yet while Eriksson departed under a hail of tabloid abuse, it could not disguise the fact that when it came down to it England's so-called 'Golden Generation' turned out to be tin men.

Naturally, the resurgence of football's super-powers spell trouble for the minnows. While upsets were the story of the 2002 finals, the emerging nations found the going far tougher in Germany.

Ghana and Australia were probably the best of the sides from Africa and Asia, advancing to the last 16 from tricky first round groups.

Ghana's Black Stars exited in the second round after stretching Brazil before losing 3-1.

Australia, playing in the World Cup for the first time in 32 years, were desperately unlucky to lose 1-0 to Italy in the last 16, the decisive goal coming from the penalty spot in the fifth minute of stoppage time.

While the tournament may have ended for Germany at the last four stage, the World Cup was a dazzling triumph for the host nation.

Pre-tournament fears of hooliganism scarring the quadrennial fiesta proved unfounded, with crowd trouble restricted to a handful of isolated incidents involving relatively small numbers of fans.

"A time to make friends," was the slogan for the World Cup. Germany's population, and the estimated one million foreign fans who descended on the 12 venue cities, took up the challenge with gusto.

Hundreds of thousands crammed into 'fan zones' set up in venue city centres, bringing a carnival atmosphere as Germany cast off its staid image.

The slogans on banners seen among one million fans gathered at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate on Sunday celebrated Germany's footballers but could just as easily have been directed at the organisers of a memorable tournament: "Danke Schoen!"

Chirac hails

FROM PAGE 24

Goalkeeper Fabien Barthez was the only absentee from the reception, having been excused for family reasons.

Chirac said there was obviously "a certain sadness and disappointment" but that "you have given us some unforgettable moments, you have given us huge joy and immense pride."

He also praised Domenech and the French management staff.

The president, whose mandate expires next year, said the team had shown the nation how to act together for the common good.

"Over and above your exploits, you showed that France is strong when it is united in its diversity and when it is confident in itself."

Scandal Italy's

FROM PAGE 17

"I'm convinced that if it wasn't for the scandal, we wouldn't have won the World Cup," said midfielder Gennaro Gattuso.

"It gave us an extra push." Italy captain Fabio Cannavaro agreed the squad had been galvanised by their off-field problems.

"For me this is the highlight of my career," he said. "The lads were great. This victory tastes even sweeter given all that's happened over the past few weeks."

Striker Luca Toni said winning the World Cup went some way to restoring Italian football's battered image.

"We will celebrate all summer," said the Fiorentina striker.

"I don't know what to say, its indescribable. I could never have imagined anything like this."

"We've united Italy, from Lombardy to Sicily, who are celebrating in the piazzas."

"We came here with a lot of problems and nobody believed we could do it. Now we are champions of the world."