Rain the spoiler Sports Reporter

Unplayable ground condi tion resulting from heavy overnight downpour prevented any play in the 19th Gold Leaf national cricket championship final round at both the Dhaka Stadium and the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The matches will now be held today. Last year's runnersup Sylhet DSA will take on Narayanganj at the Dhaka Stadium while reigning champions Chittagong meet Kushtia at the DCS.

The remaining matches of the fixture will be shifted accordingly.

BSWA function Sports Reporter

A programme to mark the Bangla new year 1400 was held at the National Sports Council conference room yesterday under the aegis of the Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association (BSWA), says a press release

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka attended the programme as chief guest.

The winners of the recently concluded BSWA indoor sports competition were also awarded their prizes on the occasion.

The programme was rounded off with a cultural function.

Pioneer soccer Sports Reporter

Swadesh Samai Kalyan Sangha edged past Kashaituli Samai Kalyan Parishad by a solitary goal in the Janata Bank Pioneer football league at the Outer Stadium. Ripon was the scorer.

The other match of the day between Rayshaheb Bazar Tarun Sangha and Sabujbagh Muktijoddha Sangsad ended in a scoreless draw.

Schools kabaddi gets under way

Sports Reporter

Dholairpar High School and CA Staff Welfare High School made good starts by winning their inaugural matches of the fourth schools kabaddi tournament at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court yesterday.

Dholairpar School who collected two lonas, beat Bangladesh Rifles School by 34 points to 31 in the first match of the day.

Staff Welfare School trounced Mirpur Bangla High School by 30 points to 10 in the other match of the opening day.

Staff Welfare School like the winners of the first match scored two lonas

Twenty city schools in four groups are participating in this year's schools kabaddi tournament. They are Maniknagar Primary School, Gandaria High School, Notre Dame High School, KL Jubilee High School and Haider Ali High School in Group A: Bangladesh Rifles Public School and College, Dipshikha Primary School, Kamalapur High School, Motifheel Govt Primary School and Wari High School in Group B: Bangladesh Rifles School, CA Staff Welfare High School, Mirpur Bangla High School, Dholairpar High School and Ramkrishna High School in Group C and Segun Bagicha High School, Maniknagar Junior School, Motifheel Model High School, Dhaka Residential Model School and Bangladesh Ansars and VDP School in Group D.

The group champions will play in the semifinals.

Secretary in charge of Youth and Sports Ministry M Azizul Haq who is also the president of the Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation, inaugurated the meet as chief guest.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Segun Bagicha School vs Residential Model School (3:00 pm)

Maniknagar Jr School vs Motifheel Model School (3:30

Y'slavia banned from world TT

LONDON, Apr 16: Yugoslavia have been banned from the world table tennis team championships but their players will be allowed to compete in the singles events, the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

They will take part as independent federation players in the championships to be played in Gothenburg, Sweden from May 11 to 23.

A record 87 men's and 71 women's teams will take part, including players from wartorn Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Slovenia.

North and South Korea have each submitted independent, provisional entries as a stopgap measure although negotiations are underway to create a unified team.

The ITTF advised the two countries to do so to avoid either team being excluded if talks were unsuccessful. If agreement is reached before teams are drawn next Thursday, a unified Korean team will be substituted.

Windies skittled for 127 Lineker honoured For Norwich fight isn't over yet

Sports Reporter

Courtney Walsh with the last two balls of the innings, spent 32 runs for his two scalps. The ball with which he dislodged Walsh's stumps was a beauty. Mushtac gave away 21 for his

A dramatic colla

ose after lunch

saw the West

Indies crumble to

127 all out in the

first Test against

Pakistan at Port of Spain,

Trinidad, according to the Star

TV monitored in Dhaka late

son's decision of batting first

after winning the toss seemed

to have worked fine when the

opening pair of Desmond

Haynes and Phil Simmons put

on 63 runs for the first wicket.

Both of them, however, were

victims of the Ataur Rehman-

Moin' Khan combination.

Haynes made 31 and Simmons

when

Richardson and Brian Lara,

pushed down the order, came

in to resume the innings the

Pakistan bowlers took over.

Mushtaq Ahmed, the diminu-

tive leg-break and googlie

bowler who along with his

skipper Wasim Akram, Waqar

Younis and Aaqib Javed were

charged in Grenada with

'constructive possession' of

marijuana a few days back, and

later set free, had the West

Indian skipper bowled round

his legs for seven with only

two runs added to the teams

lunch score. In the next over,

on the same score, Brian Lara

was sent back by Wagar Younis

after the in-form West Indian

batsman offered a catch to

That dismissal signalled the

Amir Sohail. He made only six.

downfall of the innings. West

Indies lost their next six wick-

ets for only 42 runs - and

eight wickets for 44 after

lunch. Only Anderson

Cummins played defiantly

among the tailenders, remain-

old Pakistani paceman, bowled

superbly to end with the fan-

tastic figures of three wickets

for 28 while his more illustri-

ous teammate Wagar Younis,

who was on a hattrick after

sending back Carl Hooper (9)

secutive deliveries, finished

with three for 37. Their skip-

per Akram, who himself is now

on a treble after taking the

and Junior Murray (0) in con-

Ataur Rehman, the 18 year-

ing not out on 14.

At lunch the score read 83

Richie

Skipper Richie Richard-

last night.

for two.

But

b Ataur Rehman Richardson b Mushtaq Ahmed Lara c Schail b Wagar Younis Arthurton run out Hooper 1bw Waqar Younis



Phil Simmons, the other West Indies opener, square-cuts during the first day's play of the first Test against Pakistan at Port of Spain, Trinidad yesterday. Simmons made 27. -Star TV photo

prized scalp.

English umpire Dickie Bird, standing in his 53rd Test, and West Incian Steve Bucknor are officiating in this match.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the West Indies first innings on the opening day of the first Test against Pakistan at Port of Spain, Trinidad yesterday:

WEST INDIES: First innings Haynes c Moin b Ataur Rehman Simmons c Moin

Murray 1bw Wagar Younis Bishop c Inzamam b Ataur Rehman Ambrose Ibw Akram Cummins not out Walsh b Akram Extras Total:

Fall of wickets: 1-63; 2-76; 3-85; 4-85; 5-95; 6-95; 7-102; 8-102; 9-127. Bowling Wasim Akram 10.2 2 32

Wagar Younis 11 Ataur Rehman 9 Mustaq Ahmed 8

referee as someone who might

have another occupation but

whose primary profession was

the rather poor refereeing in

Italy in 1990," said Tognoni.

There is no time limit. We

have to be realistic as for some

leagues it's a very new idea and

perhaps one they never

and we don't want them to be

"Italy have been successful

FIFA had hoped to have

enough professional referee to

choose from for next year's

World Cup finals in the United

States and still intends to se-

fessional referees this season,

with the leading 10 and FIFA's

international list receiving up

to 2.5 million lire (1,600 dol-

lar) a match and another 27 in

charge of serie A and B games

Football Federation had also

shown them advanced propos-

als and hoped they would have

professional referees next sea-

son or the following year.

FIFA said the Spanish

Italy introduced semi-pro-

thought would happen.

lect some from Italy.

getting much less.

the only ones."

"This is FIFA's reaction to

refereeing.

scalps of Curtly Ambrose and FIFA for professional refs



ZURICH, Apr 16: Soccer leagues across the world have been told by FIFA they must introduce prof-

essional referees following their successful debut in Italy this season, reports Reuter. The sport's world governing

body has told all national football associations with professional leagues to follow Italy's lead and asked them to draw up a transitionary plan. "FIFA would like all national

associations with professional leagues to follow Italy's lead and have professional referces," spokesman Guido Tognoni said on Friday. He added that FIFA would like to see most top leagues employing professional referees by the turn of the century... "We can't accept, any more,

professional football being refereed by amateurs. We have to move with the times and we have to encourage all the national associations," Tognoni added. "It will be hard but FIFA has

stopped appealing to national associations, we now want them doing something and working on that project. It's a service to the game.

Austria revive WC chances

VIENNA, Apr 16: Austria produced a rare fighting display to inflict a surprise 3-1 defeat on Bulgaria in a World Cup European Group Six qualifier on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Austria were 2-0 up within 25 minutes after goals on the counter-attack against the run of play from Heimo Pfeiffenbeger, in the 11th minute, and Dietmar Kuhbauer.

Bulgaria pulled a goal back through Trifon Ivanov in the 53rd, but Austria's experienced striker Toni Polster sealed victory with their third goal a minute before time.

Austrian favourite Polster took a pass in midfield and went past three defenders before sliding the ball past Borislav Mikhailov. A minute earlier he went close when he hit the post from 20 metres with the keeper beaten.

The result barely kept alive Austria's slim chances of qualifying, but severely dented Bulgaria's hopes, leaving them third, level on points with Sweden, who have two games in hand.

Austria are fourth, two points behind Bulgaria with a game in hand.

The Austrians, showing a fighting spirit not seen for some time by their home crowd, were lifted by their early goals and outplayed and outran the Bulgarians.

General secretary Sepp Blatter has been campaigning for their introduction since the poor refereeing performances in the last World Cup finals three years ago.

"Referees are an important part of football, but they are



SEPP BLATTER

not envoys from god. They must become as professional as players to bring the game into line with society," he said. FIFA's referees committee

gave their full support to Blatter's plans for the first time on Thursday.

They agreed to ask national associations to draw up plans for training, pay social security benefits and envisaged referees being supervised by the national associations.

They defined a professional

England oppose FIFA's moves

LONDON, Apr 16: England will resist FIFA's efforts to require professional referees for all major soccer leagues, reports AP.

Soccer's world governing body Thursday formally asked national association with professional leagues to draw up pians for having professional referees.

The move was rebuffed by Colin Downey, the referees' officer of the Football Association, English soccer's governing body.

"We do OK in this country with things as they now stand," he said Friday. "That is because most of our referees adopt a very professional attitude. We don't believe that making them full-time and paying them a very large salary will make them any better."

"I don't think many would want to change," Downey said. "Most of them do not reach the highest level until they are in their 40s and by then they are well established in their chosen first profession."

Premier League referees receive 165 pounds (dlrs 250) per match, plus expenses and up to 18 pounds (dirs 27) in meal allowances.

England captain Gary Lineker will be make a freeman of Leicester, his home city, when he returns next week with his new Japanese team to play a

friendly against Leeds United,

reports Reuter. Lineker's Japanese team Nagoya, Grampus Eight said on Friday the 32-year-old striker would be awarded the Freedom-of-Leicester on Monday before joining up with his new teammates for the

game at Leeds on April 24. Freedom of the city is an honorary award recognising a person's contribution to the community.

Lineker, who was born in Leicester and began his professional career at Leicester City before going on to Everton, Barcelona and Totenham, signed for Grampus Eight last year in a three million pound (4.64 million dollar) deal.

The new Japanese league kicks off on May 15.

Aaqib to return home

PORT OF SPAIN, Apr 16: Paceman Aagib Javed is to return home early from Pakistan's Caribbean tour because of a back injury, reports Reuter.

Manager Khalid Mahmood said Aaqib had sustained the injury during the first one-day international against West Indies and aggravated it in the match against a President's XI in Guyana.

He said no replacement was being sought.

Aagib, 20, was one of four players charged with possession of marijuana last week in Grenada. The charges were later dropped.

The first Test against West Indies begins here today.

Australia edge past Kuwait

SINGAPORE, Apr 16: Australia scored a narrow 1-0 victory over Kuwait in a friendly football match at the Woodlands Stadium here Thursday, reports AFP.

Paul Trimbali scored the decisive goal in the 10th minute after picking up a cross from the right and weaving his way past two defenders.

But the match was marred by a heavy downpour mid-way which made the pitch soggy and reduced the players to plodding around in the midfield having problems in just passing the ball let alone trying anything more exciting.

The Australians had most of the ball but could make nothing of it, while their defence spent most of the game looking on, being barely tested. Australian manager Peter

Gray said he was happy with the narrow win but hoped fine weather for the return game on Monday would enable his players to give a better show. Coach Eddie Thompson also

blamed the weather for the poor showing

"This is the softest pitch we have played in. Our players just could not get going, Thompson remarked.

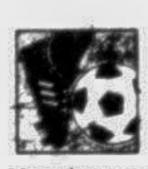
Kuwait's Brazilian coach Gildo Rodrigues said he was not disappointed with the result and added that his players were cautions about getting injured on the slippery field.

"They dared not go in for close tackles, we have to bear in mind the important matches we have in Kuala Lumpur next month," he said.



afternoon. skipper Wasim Akram on the opening day of the first Test at Port of Spain, Trinidad yesterday. Haynes made 31 in his side's first innings total of 127.

- Star TV photo by TA Khan



LONDON, Apr 16: Everyone assumes the race for English soccer's Premier League title is between Manchester United and Aston

Villa. Everyone, that is, except Norwich. With four games left in the season. United and Villa are

separated by just one point as they chase the championship trophy, reports AP. This weekend, United play at home against Chelsea on Saturday and Villa host Manchester City on Sunday. In

the weekend's other main fixture. Arsenal and Sheffield Wednesday meet in the League Cup final at Wembley on Sunday. After 38 games, Manchester United have 72 points and Villa have 71. United remain

title in 26 years. But still lurking in the picture in Norwich, with 68 points in 39 games.

the slight favourite, having won

three straight games as they

close in on their first league

Norwich, who are idle this weekend, kept their slim title hopes alive with a 4-2 win Wednesday night over last year's champions Leeds. The victory followed two heavy defeats - 3-1 to Manchester United and 5-1 to Tottenham

Norwich manger Mike Walker said Wednesday's victory showed his team's strength of character.

"We keep getting written off, but we keep coming back", he said. "I'm pleased because we had two hammerings and we had a word with the players and this is how they responded. We have shown we are not going to lie down." Walker insisted that

Norwich remain a title con-

We have just got to keep on and try and win as many of our last three games as we can", he said. "If we can keep snapping at the heels of United and

Villa, we can keep the pres-



sure on. And you never know what could happen. We are certainly not giving up."

Apart from the title race, the focus of the Premier League is on the relegation struggles at the bottom of the standings.

Next-to-last Nottingham Forest, whose hopes were raised with a victory over Tottenham last Monday, face a tough task Saturday against Wimbledon. Oldham, one point ahead of Forest, play at

Tottenham.

Other Premier League games this weekend: Leeds vs. Crystal Palace, Liverpool vs Coventry, Sheffield United vs. Blackburn and Southampton

vs. Everton. In Division One, first-place Newcastle play at Millwall. Second-place Portsmouth, two points behind with one extra game played, travels to Notts County and third-place West

Ham host Brentford In Scotland, Glasgow Rangers will elinch their fifth straight league title this weekend if they defeat Partick and Hearts take a point off Aberdeen Rangers lead

The Arsenal-Sheffield Wed nesday match at Wembley on Sunday is the first of two Cup finals between the teams this year. They will also meet in the more prestigious FA Cup final on May 15.

"The League Cup is very important to us but it can't compare with the FA Cup," said Arsenal defender David O'Leary. That has always been the No. 1 and always will be."

Sunday's game features Arsenal striker lan Wright, who leads the league in goals with 26. It's uncertain who will team up front with Wright,

Although he has scored only six goals. Smith believes he deserves the starting spot based on his productive partnership with Wright.

"It seems to me that almost every time I've been on the pitch with lan he has scored", Smith said. "Ian has the strongest desire and will-towin of any player I've known. His pace and finishing ability is frightening."

No change in cast of characters equaliser saved them from de-



Benfica can take a huge step towards regaining the Portuguese title by beating FC Porto in Lisbon on Sunday,

reports AFP. The championship has been won by one of the two clubs

every year since 1982 and once again looks like being a two-horse race. The two teams are level on points at the top of the table,

seven clear of Bobby Robson's Sporting Lisbon. Victory for either side would represent a major psychological advantage as the season approaches its One of the crucial battles in the match will be between

Vasily Kulkov and Porto's Bulgarian striker Emil Kostadinov. The two players had sharply differing World Cup experi-

Benfica's Russian defender

ences on Wednesday. Kostadinov was part of the Bulgarian side beaten 3-1 in Austria while Kulkov scored in Russia's 4-0 win in Luxem-

AC FACE JUVENTUS

In Italy, AC Milan are rapidly squandering the massive lead they built up early in the season and the seven point gap between them and closest rivals Internazionale could be cut even further this weekend.

Fabio Capello's side had an 11 point lead a month ago but have failed to win a league match since they beat Fiorentina 2-0 on March 7. Only a late Ruud Gullit

Holland on April 28 but the Milanese are starting to get concerned that Van Basten won't have recovered his fit-

ness in time for the European

Cup final at the end of next

England manager Graham

Taylor as he prepares for the

World Cup qualifier against

month. PARMA PARALYSED Parma, Italy's current form team, have also had bad injury

The forward is out of at least a month a harsh blow to third-placed Parma's chances of clinching a UEFA Cup place and winning the European Cup Winners' Cup.

They entertain mid-table Foggia on Sunday, four days before their Cup Winners' semifinal second leg against Atletico Madrid, who they lead 2-1 from the match in Spain.

Paul Gascoigne's Lazio, who have lost third place to Parma, are on derby duty against Roma in the Italian capital.

Internazionale should maintain their challenge with a win at lowly Brescia. Dutch champions PSV

German World Cup fullback Andreas Brehme, who was sacked this week after walking out before last Sunday's league match against Tenerife in a dispute over his role in the

Sporting Gijon, hovering only four points above the relegation zone, will play host to fellow strugglers Logrone

Zimbabwe hold on to WC hopes



Thursday when

Zimbabwe took full advantage of FIFA's decision to order a replay on neutral territory of Egypt's 2-1 victory in Cairo in February to take the point they needed to go through to the second phase of African quali-

World Cup finalists Cameroon and unfancied Guinea in Group Two in the second round, with the winners qualifying for next year's finals. FIFA ordered a replay of the

some of their players. Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar, who had a brain scan after he was struck by a

left the stadium calmly after watching a dull but trouble free match on a cold and rainy

"This result means a lot to me," said out-of-favour Liverpool goalkeeper Grobbelaar. "We are a small country with no money but now we have a good chance of making it to

ists in Italy in 1990. Zimbabwe created a few scoring opportunities in the

feree Joel Quiniou disallowed

Agent Sawu was offside. The Egyptains dominated the second half as their fans, beating drums and waving flags, urged them on until the final minute in hope of the winning goal that would have confirmed their place in the

fair game.

cent animosity between the two sides and a report in a Cairo magazine which called the Zimbabweans black, slaves, he said. "The work rate of slaves can be very high.

Zaragoza. Zaragoza will be without

Holland's Bert Jacobs was sacked on Thursday. He was the ninth coach from the 20club top flight to lose his job this season.

"I would like to congratu-

late my team for a brilliant

fighting performance. They

have shown a very strong char-

acter against a strong Egyptian

Egyptians who played fair and

Romania scrape

through

yprus turned Romania's World

Cup dreams into a brief

nightmare when they took a

shock lead in their Group Four

qualifier on Wednesday before

eventually succumbing 2-1, re-

scored twice either side of

halftime to keep Romania on

course for one of the two

World Cup qualifying places,

but the home side had to fight

absence of four key players

through injury and suspension,

fell behind in the 23rd minute

against the run of play when

Cypriot striker Andros

Romania, weakened by the

hard to claim both points.

Midfielder Ilie Dumitrescu

ports Reuter.

BUCHAREST, Apr 16: C-

good football," he added.

"I'm full of praise for the

team.



ypt out of the World Cup on

they held them to a 0-0 draw in a controversially-ordered replay of the original match marred by crowd violence, reports Reuter.

Zimbabwe will join 1990

Group C game after Zimbabwe lodged a protest over stonethrowing by sections of the 120,000 Cairo crowd, injuring

lump of concrete during the Cairo match, made a couple of brilliant saves in the second half to help his side through. The noisy, mostly Egyptian, 5,000 crowd, carefully watched by 200 policemen,

Zimbabwe survived a scare in the 65th minute when Hani Ramzi's free kick from just outside the penalty area

ball onto the post. "I knew I could expect a save like that from a world class goalkeeper like Bruce," said Zimbabwe's German coach

America."

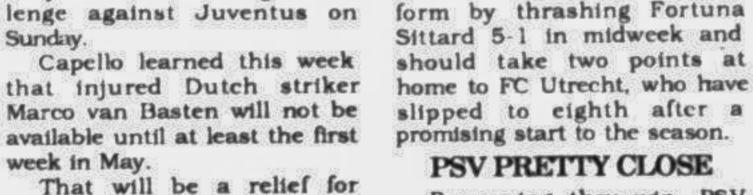
first half, mainly through the efforts of Peter Ndlovu, the fast

said the Egyptians had played a But in reference to the re-

Aberdeen by 12 points, 65-53.

Alan Smith or Kevin Campbell.

on top of the league by the end feat against Inter last weekend. of the weekend. PSV demonstrated their They face another tough chalform by thrashing Fortuna



Feyenoord can beat Ajax in Amsterdam - a task of legendary difficulty. In Spain, second-from-bottom Cadiz, are likely to feel the backlash from Real Madrid's heaviest defeat of the season. The capital outfit were beaten

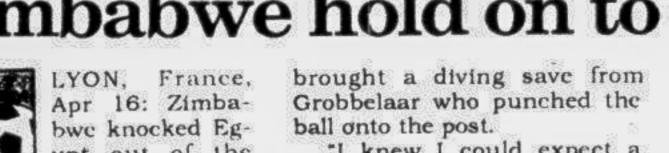
Presuming they win, PSV

will go top unless leaders

4-1 by John Toshack's Real Sociedad in Spanish Cup quarter-final on Wednesday. It didn't stop Real, 4-0

without a coach.

Eindhoven could well be back



Reinhard Fabisch.

Egypt were World Cup final-

winger who plays with English Premier League side Coventry. Ndlovu had the ball in the net in the eighth minute after he dribbled through the Egyptian desence, but French re-

the effort because teammate

next round Fabisch praised his team's fighting performance but also

The goal silenced the 17,000 crowd as Cyprus threatened to go one better than their surprise 1-1 draw at home to Czechoslovakia last month. But despite putting up some

stiff resistance, their lead lasted only 12 minutes before Steaua Bucharest midsielder Dumitrescu dribbled past two players to score from 12 metres.

Soteriou headed in a corner from George Savvides.

