

SPORTS LETTERS

WATCH THIS PAGE FRIDAYS

Double-wicket cricket

Pakistan, NZ in final

Star Sport Monitor
Pakistan and New Zealand reached the final of the Pepsi double-wicket cricket tournament in Lahore yesterday.

In the first semifinal, the hosts defeated South Africa by 92 runs, while the Kiwis overcame neighbours Australia by 20 runs in the other.

The final was scheduled to start at 1700 GMT last night.

Kiwis call up Spearman

WELLINGTON, Apr 29: Aggressive batsman Craig Spearman has won a surprise recall to the New Zealand squad for the three-Test tour of Sri Lanka next month, reports AP.

The Kiwis will also play a limited-over series against Sri Lanka and India, which is the key to Spearman's selection.

Following the late withdrawal of one-day specialist Lorne Howell through injury, Spearman edged out promising Wellington opener Matthew Bell and proven Test performer Blair Pocock for the vacant top order batting berth.

Chief selector Ross Dykes said a desire to continue its old attacking policy in the early stages of the one-day game was in Spearman's favour.

The other top order batting positions went to Matthew Horne and Bryan Young.

Three spinners were chosen with veteran left-arm Mark Priest and right-arm off-spinner Paul Wiseman in the team to back up teenage star Daniel Vettori.

The selectors rested Vettori for this month's Sharjah tournament in a bid to have him refreshed and near his peak for Sri Lanka.

SQUAD

Stephen Fleming (captain), Bryan Young, Matthew Horne, Craig Spearman, Nathan Astle, Craig McMillan, Chris Cairns, Chris Harris, Adam Parore, Dion Nash, Daniel Vettori, Mark Priest, Paul Wiseman, Simon Doull, Shayne O'Connor.

Bicknell bowls Surrey to victory

LONDON, Apr 29: Pace bowler Martin Bicknell captured his Benson and Hedges Cup best of four for 38 as Surrey launched their trophy defence with a 48-run win over Hampshire on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Bicknell improved on his four for 41 against Leicestershire in the semifinals during Surrey's cup-winning campaign last season.

Yorkshire and Durham also made winning starts in the opening round of group games, from which the top two in each group of four qualify for the quarterfinals.

Rain hit the day's other contest between Somerset and Kent at Taunton which was abandoned without a ball being bowled.

Mark Butcher (67) was Surrey's top scorer in their 267 for eight off their 50 overs at Southampton, putting on 95 for the fourth wicket with fellow England batsman Graham Thorpe (48).

Hampshire were in the hunt until captain Robin Smith played on to his opposite number, Adam Hoolioake, for 45. They subsided from 116 for two to 219 all out in 48.4 overs.

SIX NO TRUMPS

A K Sayeedul Huq
A VERY COMPETITIVE AUCTION (Hand # 27)

West	North	East
S: QJ10XX	S: XX	S: K9XX
H: XX	H: AQ109X	H: X
D: Q	D: 10XXXX	D: AX
C: AKXXX	C: Q10	C: J9XXXX

Bidding (Neither side vulnerable)

South (Mohsin)	West (Mizan)	North (Saveed)	East (Mazumdar)
1D*	1S	2H	2S
3D	4C	4D	4S
5H	5S	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

* Artificial

South with a two-suit hand opened 1D (artificial opening), West holding both the Spade and Club suits intervened with one Spade while North showed his 5-carder Heart. East overcalled 2S. With a good fit in Hearts South wanted to show his six-carder Diamond at this stage. West bid 4C, North 4D while East seeing game in Spades bid 4. South now came up with his strong Heart support at 5 level, but West pushed on to 5S which was doubled by South.

The Play

North opened the Ace of Heart and was somewhat disappointed to see a singleton Heart and the Ace of Diamond in the dummy. He then thought for a while and assumed that Partner must have the Ace of Spades for his double. But where is the setting trick? Could it be Ace of Club or is he void in the suit. The latter was most likely in view of Club bid by West and six cards in dummy. He led a Club which was ruffed by South. A very good defence for down one.

Sweden 1958 World Cup Brazil conquer Europe

Tawfiq Aziz Khan

Brazil, when they finally settled down, gave Europe a lesson in tactics as well as in football. All their players displayed a complete mastery of the ball, and their stars entertained with outstanding skills, from Didi's midfield genius to Pele's precocious finishing. The home countries were pedestrian by comparison, light-years behind in technique.



Ungainly but effective, Just Fontaine (France) digs another one in against West Germany. — Star file photo

Although England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales all reached the finals in Sweden, it was George Raynor, the English-born manager of the host nation, who almost achieved the impossible with a team packed with aging exiles brought back from Italy. Against any country other than Brazil, who had been perfecting a 4-2-4 system, the Swedes might have succeeded.

But by stealing the ball rather than tackling for it, and plundering opposing defences, the Brazilian emerged as the first team to win the competition outside their own continent.

It was the most representative series staged to date. 46 of the 53 original entries played in 89 qualifying games, watched by four million spectators. For the first time no team other than the host nation and the holders had a bye to the finals and when no opponent could be found for politically isolated Israel, Wales made the most of their second-chance ballot success as promising runners-up in the preliminary rounds.

Though Scotland again disappointed, Wales, Northern Ireland and England — despite the Munich air disaster the previous February in which they lost Roger Byrne, Duncan Edwards and Tommy Taylor — were not disgraced.

The French tandem of Just Fontaine, who was the leading scorer with 13 goals, and Raymond Kopa impressed, but was overshadowed by a Brazilian trio consisting of a teenage prodigy called "Pele", a devastating right-winger in Garrincha, and Didi an inside forward of rare talent.

There were four groups, with each comprising a team from South America, Eastern Europe, Britain and Western Europe. Teams level on points had to play-off.

Northern Ireland defeated Czechoslovakia 2-1 in a play-off to go through with West Germany, who had drawn 2-2 with the Irish.

Yugoslavia went through on merit in Group 2 after beating the talented French 3-2 while in Group 3, Wales edged out Hungary 2-1 in a play-off.

But in Group 4 England put up a splendid performance against Brazil drawing 0-0, thanks chiefly to some superb handling by goalkeeper Colin McDonald. But USSR beat them in the play-off by a solitary goal.

The Brazilians took full advantage of an injury to a key French defender in the semi-final when the score was still 1-1 to win 5-2 in a match of free flowing attack at both ends. In the other game Sweden defeated holders West Germany 3-1, but it was a close run thing.

It rained in the final and it

FINAL SCORE												
Group 1						Group 4						
West Germany	3	Argentina	1	USSR	2	England	2	USSR	0	Austria	0	
N.Ireland	1	Czechoslovakia	0	Brazil	3	Austria	0	Brazil	0	England	0	
West Germany	2	Czechoslovakia	2	USSR	2	Austria	0	Brazil	2	USSR	0	
Argentina	3	N.Ireland	1	Brazil	2	USSR	0	Brazil	2	USSR	0	
West Germany	2	N.Ireland	2	England	2	Austria	2	England	2	Austria	2	
Czechoslovakia	6	Argentina	1									
P W D L F A P												
W.Germany	3	1	2	0	7	4						
Czech	3	1	1	1	8	4						
N.Ireland	3	1	1	1	4	5						
Argentina	3	1	0	2	5	10						
Play-off												
N.Ireland	2	Czechoslovakia	1									
Group 2												
Yugoslavia	1	Scotland	1									
France	7	Paraguay	3									
Paraguay	3	Scotland	2									
Yugoslavia	3	France	2									
France	2	Scotland	1									
Paraguay	3	Yugoslavia	3									
P W D L F A P												
France	3	2	0	1	11	7						
Yugoslavia	3	1	2	0	7	6						
Paraguay	3	1	1	1	9	12						
Scotland	3	0	1	2	4	6						
Play-off												
Wales	2	Hungary	1									
Group 3												
Sweden	3	Mexico	0									
Hungary	1	Wales	1									
Mexico	1	Wales	1									
Sweden	2	Hungary	1									
Sweden	0	Wales	0									
Hungary	4	Mexico	0									
P W D L F A P												
Sweden	3	2	1	0	5	1						
Wales	3	0	3	0	2	2						
Hungary	3	1	1	1	6	3						
Mexico	3	0	1	2	1	8						
Play-off												
Wales	2	Hungary	1									

appeared to give the hosts a better chance. Indeed they went ahead when the intrepid Liedholm contrived an opening for himself after only four minutes.

Undeterred, Brazil kept their heads as well as they had lost them in 1954 and playing with even more style than the 1950 side, were soon in control. It took them just three minutes to draw level (1-1).

Garrincha, the 'Little Bird' flying on the wing who had only been put into the side following a deputation of players to coach Vicente Feola, destroyed Sweden's left flank. His acceleration and swerving runs led to crosses and Vava supplied the finish, equalising and then putting Brazil ahead. After the break Pele, and Zagalo made it 4-1 before Sweden, shut down on the wings, managed a goal through Agne Simonsson (4-2).

But Pele had the last word with a header to make it 5-2. It had been a remarkable triumph for instinctive innovation in a 4-2-4 formation which was to be adapted elsewhere as the shield of the unskilled.

— Source: The World Cup

FRANCE '98 SIDELINES

UNDATED, Apr 29 (AP/Reuters): The soccer field isn't the only place where Norwegians battle for World Cup-related glory.

About 30 of the country's leading musicians have been vying for the honour of writing the World Cup '98 anthem for the Norwegian national team.

With the clock running out, the Oslo newspaper Dagbladet reported Tuesday that the Norwegian Soccer Federation was having trouble making the final cut. It's between Jørn Hoel, with an English-language suit tone, and the pop group Di Derre's "Her kommer Norge," which means "here comes Norway."

"I can confirm that we sent two artists home to polish their song. We gave them a deadline of Thursday," said Tom Skaara, of the federation.

The song whichever wins, will be released May 20 and will be performed live the same day when Norway meet Mexico for a World Cup warm-up in Oslo.

NOBLE
Dutch soccer internationals have an added incentive to score during the World Cup finals: for every goal 10,000 guilders (5,000 dollars) will be donated to a foundation funding the fight against muscle diseases.

A group of Dutch internationals already has pledged 200,000 guilders (100,000 dollars) to the fund and is taking part in a fund-raising television show June 3 before starting the World Cup campaign.

HOPE FOR HASSELBANK
High-scoring Leeds striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbank could fill one of the last remaining spots on the 22-man Dutch World Cup final roster, national coach Guus Hiddink said.

Hasselbank has scored 16 goals for Leeds in the English Premier league — the same

Rajiv Gandhi tourney AIFF invites U-19 booters

Sports Reporter

The All-India Football Federation (AIFF) has invited Bangladesh to take part in the Rajiv Gandhi memorial youth (under-21) tournament which will be held in Goa from May 5 to 11, Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) general secretary Harun-ur-Rashid, MP, said yesterday.

According to Harun, the under-19 team, which is now preparing for the Asian youth qualifying round to be held in Sri Lanka from May 23, has accepted the invitation. It is reported that the Indian federation invited Bangladesh after failing to confirm Iran as the fourth country of the meet also involving Egypt, Iraq and the hosts.

"The tournament organiser has planned for an arduous bus journey of over 1500 miles to take the players from Calcutta to Goa instead by air. It would be ridiculous to accept the proposal."

"If the Indian federation agrees then our team will go," said the BFF official.

Meanwhile, Sirajul Islam Bachchu, joint-secretary of BFF, has been appointed as the match commissioner for the four-nation tournament by Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

Bachchu leaves for Goa tonight.

Sami Saudis' hit man

RIYADH, Apr 29 (Reuters): Saudi Arabia's light-weight striker Sami Al-Jaber holds the key to his country's hopes of repeating their surprising 1994 World Cup run.

The diminutive 25-year-old, slimly built and standing at just 1.75m, is one of the best forwards in Asia and will relish the chance to pit his skills against French, Danish, and South African defenders in Group C in France.

Al-Jaber's scoring ability has already carried his Saudi club side Al-Hilal to the top of the Kingdom's First Division.

A regular member of Asian select teams, Al-Jaber is feared for his speed and deft dribbling skills as well as his unselfishness and bravery. He often throws himself about the pitch like a rugby player, prompting teammates to joke that he spends more time on the ground than running after the ball.

Dexterity is the key to his game, for although he has been weight-training to improve his muscle bulk, Al Jaber poses little threat physically to a defence.

He has undoubtedly benefited from the fact that the oil-rich kingdom boasts some of the best soccer infrastructure in Asia.

Al-Jaber came through Saudi Arabia's well-funded youth programme and is often touted by Saudi soccer federation officials as an indigenous success story.

He has also been trained by some of the world's top coaches, lured to the kingdom with generous pay cheques from the government.

Saeed Owalran received most of the plaudits for Saudi Arabia's surprisingly successful 1994 World Cup, when they reached the second round after wins over Morocco and Belgium. But a young Al-Jaber was arguably just as influential.

The challenge for France in the World Cup is that you're at home, you have to take the game to your rivals, you have to take risks," Jacques, 56, said.

A perfectionist who will hand over the reins of the national team after the finals, he has worked hard on drafting his 22-man squad to make sure he has the right men for the job.

"Since January, my sole thought has been not to make a mistake with the 22," Jacques said.

Only the months of June and July will tell if he has succeeded.



Former greats — Bobby Charlton of England and French Alain Giresse having some fun while visiting the Toulouse Stadium in southwestern France on April 28. Charlton is now in that country to visit the venues where England will play their World Cup matches. — AP/UNB photo

'Welcome to Paris' starts

PARIS, Apr 29 (Reuters): Paris will welcome visitors this summer whether they like soccer or not.

City Mayor Jean Tiberi, while kicking off the 'Welcome to Paris' campaign on Tuesday, said the French capital could accommodate everyone during the World Cup — but prices would be higher than usual.

There are still rooms available in Paris during this period," Tiberi said. He said that with 73,000 rooms, the hotel capacity was "far superior to that of every other major European city."

Christian Mantel, director general of the Paris tourism office, estimated that the number of traditional tourists would fall by about five per cent during the tournament because of the influx of football fans.

Between the middle of June and the middle of July Paris usually welcomes 1.2 million visitors and has an average hotel occupancy rate of 70 per cent. The tourism office estimates that the World Cup will bring in between 300,000 and 350,000 victories just to the French capital.

"Between June 15 and July 15 Paris will be neither saturated nor deserted," Tiberi said. The tourism office said the average cost of hotel rooms in Paris has risen by 20 per cent between January and June. Mantel said this was "higher than normal."

A survey published in the April edition of Consumer Choice magazine Que Choisir, estimated that hotel room prices in Paris would rise 37 per cent.

Fans in Paris without tickets for games will be able to watch the action on five huge screens. One will be in the Charley Stadium in the south of Paris, famous as a meeting place during the student uprising in 1968, another will be erected at the Trocadero Espalanade directly opposite to the Eiffel Tower and a third outside the Ormate Town Hall in the vibrant Marais district.

City authorities plan to set up 15 information kiosks for the World Cup in the most frequently visited areas of the capital. The old fashioned style kiosks will be manned by young, multilingual staff.

A telephone information service will be set up by France telecom to give visitors practical information, details of cultural events in Paris and specific information linked to the World Cup.

On June 9, eve of the finals, four separate processions will converge on Place de la Concorde, a large square at the east end of the Champs Elysee, where a show will take place.

A widespread poster advertising campaign has also been launched to encourage Parisians to be as nice as possible to visitors coming to see the World Cup.

The campaign features hotel employees, taxi drivers and cafe waiters who are not renowned for their welcoming smiles.

Attention Round 1 Winners
1st, 2nd & 3rd prize winners of Round 1 are requested to receive their prizes from the Jatiya Press Club auditorium today at 5 pm. — Sports Editor

The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '98

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!

ROUND 3

1st Prize: Whirlpool Gas Cooker
2nd Prize: PHILIPS CD RCR AZ 8051
3rd Prize: PHILIPS Blender with Chopper
4th Prize: 6 Dozen Philips Bulbs
5th Prize: Caps & T-Shirts

All Prizes Courtesy: Transcom Electronics Ltd.
Official licensee of Philips Electronics N.V. for lighting products, radio and TV sets.

Competition Information, Prizes and Rules

Information

A. The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '98 is a series of competitions on World Cup Soccer being held in France from June 10 to July 12, 1998.

B. There will be nine rounds of competition.

C. Each round will have a separate draw with attractive prizes from the house of Transcom Electronics Ltd. as per announcement.

D. Participants of all the nine rounds will automatically qualify for the Bumper Draw, which will have even bigger prizes.

E. For each round, sets of questions will be published in The Daily Star Sport Pages.

F. Names and addresses of all prize winners will be published in The Daily Star.

G. Winners will have to collect their prizes from The Daily Star office after satisfactory authentication of their identity.

H. Any taxes or levies, as per law, for all the above prizes will have to be borne by the prize winners.

Prizes for Round Three

Prize	Nos.	Item
1st	One	Whirlpool Gas Cooker
2nd	One	CD player
3rd	One	Blender with chopper
4th	Ten	5 dozen Philips Bulbs
5th	25	T-shirt and cap

Rules

1. Residents of Bangladesh are eligible to participate in The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '98. Employees of The Daily Star and Transcom Electronics Ltd and their immediate family members shall not be eligible to participate.

2. All entries must be submitted in the original form printed in The Daily Star. Photocopies or reproductions in any form will not be accepted.

3. Forms will have to be cut along the dotted lines.

4. Participants are to put a tick (✓) mark in the box alongside their answer to each question.

5. A person may send numerous entries.

6. Entry forms should be completed with a ballpoint pen.

7. Name, address, father's name and particulars of participants must be clearly written. Each entry form must also bear the signature of the participant and date.

8. Incomplete forms will not be accepted.

9. Entries must reach the office of The Daily Star on or before the closing date marked on the entry form. Late entries will not be accepted.

10. Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "Star Quiz 3."

11. Entries may be hand delivered or posted to The Daily Star, House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka 1205.

12. Entries will be placed in a sealed box for the draw to be held on a notified date in public in presence of invited guests and Quiz participants, if any.

13. Winners will be decided on the basis of correct entries drawn out from the box.

14. Entering this Quiz competition shall be construed as the respective agreement by each participant to abide by all rules, instructions and guidelines as may be issued by The Daily Star.

15. Any decision of The Daily Star in the conduct of the Quiz competition including the answers selected as correct shall be deemed final and binding on all participants and shall not be called in question and/or challenged in any manner whatsoever.

16. The Daily Star management, in their absolute discretion, reserves the right to amend, modify substitute any of the above rules and/or change or reschedule any and all dates of the Quiz competitions under any circumstances.

The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '98, Round Three Ends May 13, 1998

Tick (✓) the correct answers

1. Which WC championship was decided in a penalty shoot-out? 1986 1990 1994

2. In the 1950 WC, the hosts lost the final to Uruguay England Argentina

3. Highest goals in any WC finals match was by Soviet Union Algeria Hungary

4. All-time highest scorer Fontaine is a Frenchman German Brazilian