

Sport

U-19 handball

Goran Young Star and Dakkhin Banasree Jubo Sangha won their respective matches in the Dhaka District Commissioner under-19 handball league at the court near to Dhaka Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

In the first match, Goran Young Star defeated Mansoor Sporting Club by 21-9 goals after leading the first half by 9-4 goals.

Uzzal netted highest seven for the winners while Mohibul three for the losers.

In the second match, Dakkhin Banasree outplayed Dolairpar Sporting Club by 28-16 goals. Winners led the first half by 12-9 goals.

Apu of Dakkhin Banasree scored nine goals while Hanif of Dolairpar highest ten.

Five hundred athletes for Milk Vita national Sports Reporter

The two-day long Milk Vita national junior athletics championship will begin at the National Stadium in Mirpur from June 7.

Five hundred athletes, including 150 girls, are expected to take part in the meet, which will be held in two age groups, under-14 and under-16.

There will be seven events — 100m, 200m, 400m, 4x 100m relay, discus, high jump and long jump — for the under-14 boys and girls while an additional event — javelin — has been included in the under-16 competitions.

2nd Army judo from Sunday

The second judo competition of Bangladesh Army begins Sunday at Mirpur Hossain Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium, reports UNB.

Nearly 200 Judokas from 11 teams are to take part in the 10 weight category meet.

Brazil saving their best?



LESIGNY, France, June 4 (AP): How ready is Brazil for the World Cup? Coach Mario Zagallo frankly doesn't know — and the final warm-up game before tournament did little to dispel the doubts.

A 3-0 victory Wednesday over tiny Andorra, with barely enough professional players for three teams, was no test for the four-time world champions. For Zagallo, it wasn't even a



Brazil's Roberto Carlos (R) battles to gain control of the ball during a World Cup warm-up match against Andorra at Saint Ouen, Paris on June 3. Brazil won 3-0. — AFP photo

real game. "It was a practice, not a game," he admitted. "It was positive mainly from the midfield forward, (but) the defense wasn't tested at any time."

That's the problem. Brazil won the 1994 World Cup with tough defense, leaving Romario and Bebeto to handle the goal-scoring chores. The current generation is a rich mixture of attackers, but the defense remains a question mark.

Dunga and Aldair, two mainstays of the '94 squad, are over 30 and slower than four years ago. The upfield charges by defenders Roberto Carlos and Cafu are a key to Brazil's offense, but there's not always coverage for the holes they leave.

Against Andorra, Brazil attacked with as many as nine players. That was too much even for Zagallo, and he ordered his fullbacks to return to the backfield where they belong.

Eternally optimistic, Zagallo plays down the danger of an untested defense. He thinks no team dares to go toe-to-toe with his — least of all Scotland, which faces Brazil in the Cup opener next Wednesday.

"We expect them to play in counterattacks," Zagallo said. "Scotland plays with five defenders. That gives you an idea."

The offense, meanwhile, is adjusting to life without Romario. The 32-year-old hero of the '94 Cup was cut from the team on Tuesday, when it became clear that a calf muscle injury wouldn't heal in time for the tournament.

Against Andorra, Bebeto replaced Romario in the front line alongside two-time FIFA Player of the Year Ronaldo. But both seemed to miss the presence of Romario in the penalty area, for years a point of reference for the offense.

Ronaldo, despite some brilliant runs, was repeatedly thwarted by Andorra's keeper Koldo Alvarez. Bebeto showed good movement but blew his best scoring chance, a pass from Ronaldo that he shot high and wide from inside the area.

Giovanni and Rivaldo, teammates on FC Barcelona, scored a minute apart in the first period, while Cafu concluded the scoring on an individual end-to-end run.

For Zagallo, the result shows that Brazil has a greater offensive arsenal than four years ago. And the team's patient, ball-control offense will be the key to success at the Cup.

Both sides agreed the atmosphere was not as tense as Tuesday, when Corbet and airline representatives had exchanged hostile rhetoric and pilots warned of a long dispute.

French President Jacques Chirac made no bones about the risk to strike-prone France's international image when he issued an appeal to all sides in the pilots' dispute on Wednesday.

The road towards an agreement is still a very long one, but it does exist and that is the essential thing," pilots' union leader Jean-Charles Corbet told reporters after the talks broke up.

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Rigid Air France

PARIS, June 4: France edged closer to transport gridlock today just six days from the start of the World Cup as rattled soccer bosses and politicians urged striking airline pilots not to wreck the host country's image, reports Reuters.

Negotiations between state airline Air France and pilots on ending a pay strike were suspended after seven hours with no visible signs of a breakthrough late on Wednesday. But an airline spokesman called them "serious and constructive."

Talks were set to resume at 1630 GMT today, the fourth day of disruption. Meanwhile Air France said only 30 to 40 per cent of short and medium haul flights would be operating out of Paris' two main airports.

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Brown's bright dreams



PARIS, June 4 (Reuters): It has taken a long time for Scotland to accept their place in the world of soccer.

Twenty years ago, their manager, Ally MacLeod, claimed his side could actually win the game's biggest prize. Now Craig Brown believes getting past the first round of the World Cup finals for the first time will be a fine achievement.

Whereas MacLeod wound the Scots fans into a state of high expectation, everything about Craig Brown and his squad is low key. But that does not mean they are not ambitious.

"I think we are ready to peak at the right moment," said Brown after a 0-0 draw with the United States on May 30.

Scotland open with the toughest match of them all, the tournament's opening game against champions Brazil, but hope to squeeze past Morocco and Norway into second spot in Group A.

Scotland left for the 1978 World Cup in Argentina cheered by more than 30,000 people who paid money to come to Hampden Park just to watch MacLeod and his players travel round the track on an open-top bus.

In contrast, Brown's side have spent the vital few weeks before the finals in France tucked away in a quiet corner of New York state far from the Tartan Army.

Only once have they hit the headlines during their preparation, when veteran goalkeeper Andy Goram walked out of their training camp late last month.

The 34-year-old Goram flew back home, saying he was retiring from international soccer because of publicity about his private life, leaving the number one position to Jim Leighton, the oldest man at the World Cup

finals at 39. "We'll really shake them up, when we win the World Cup," blared out MacLeod's "Ally's army" record for the 1978 campaign.

The reality was defeat by Peru and a draw with Iran, the shame of Willie Johnston being sent home in disgrace after testing positive for drugs and then the glorious, but futile, defeat of eventual finalists the Netherlands.

This year the Scots are playing in their sixth finals out of seven (the only qualifying failure was in 1994), which is a remarkable record for a nation of just five million people.

However, Brown is fed up with the heroic failures of the past. He realises it's pointless beating the Netherlands if you can't beat the likes of Iran.

"I don't think too many countries will relish playing our defence," he points out, "but I do admit we have some worries about where our goals will come from."

MacLeod had players like Joe Jordan (Manchester United and AC Milan), Graeme Souness (Liverpool and Sampdoria) and Kenny Dalglish (Celtic and Liverpool) at his disposal, whereas Brown has few squad members who set the pulse racing.

Players such as John Collins and Paul Lambert have played for Monaco and Borussia Dortmund and enjoyed success, while Blackburn pair Colin Hendry and Kevin Gallacher are the envy of every English Premiership side," Brown points out.

"But it is the team which is important, not the individual and the players we have recognised that and work for the team. We have no prima donnas. Our collective spirit is what gets us results."

In 1974, 1978, 1982, and 1990, the Scots went out of the

tournament on goal difference. This time they are hoping that for once the dice rolls in their favour.

Yet luck does not appear to be on their side with that opening fixture against Brazil. The Scots lost to Brazil in 1982 and 1990 but if they could match the 0-0 draw in 1974 they would have a platform to work from.

Brown hopes his defence — which has conceded only seven goals in 23 competitive matches since 1994 — can frustrate Morocco and Norway and enable his midfield to create a few chances for striker Kevin Gallacher and Gordon Durie.

Scotland lack punch up front but Gallacher is a striker on form right now as his 19 goals for Blackburn in the English league prove.

Jamaicans made landlords

KINGSTON, Jamaica, June 4: No matter what their fortunes in this month's World Cup playoffs, Jamaican national soccer team players all will have plots of land to call home when they return to the Caribbean, reports AP.

Jamaican Prime Minister Percival Patterson presented sales agreements for parcels of land to each of the team's 22 players Wednesday during an official send-off.

Called the Reggae Boyz, it is the first Jamaican team to win a berth in the international competition, and the first from an English-speaking Caribbean nation.

"We have created history and excitement but we are going to create even more history and excitement by what we achieve by our performance in France," Patterson said. "There are more miracles yet to be revealed."

Organisers seek to balance the books

France '98 is a huge financial project. More than 9 billion francs will have been spent on the occasion of the World Cup for football, in particular for the sports facilities and transport infrastructures. The Stade de France stadium alone cost 2.6 billion francs, 47 per cent of which was financed by the state and 53 per cent by the Bouygues-GTM Entreprense-SGE consortium. The French Organisation Committee of the World Cup has set itself the ambitious goal of balancing its budget.

In the financing plan for the World Cup, France '98, public funding amounts to 57 per cent of the overall investment. The rest is shared out among various partners, local authorities (1.6 billion), the Stade de France consortium (1.4 billion) and various firms (0.6 billion). The budget of the French Organisation Committee amounts to 2.4 billion francs.

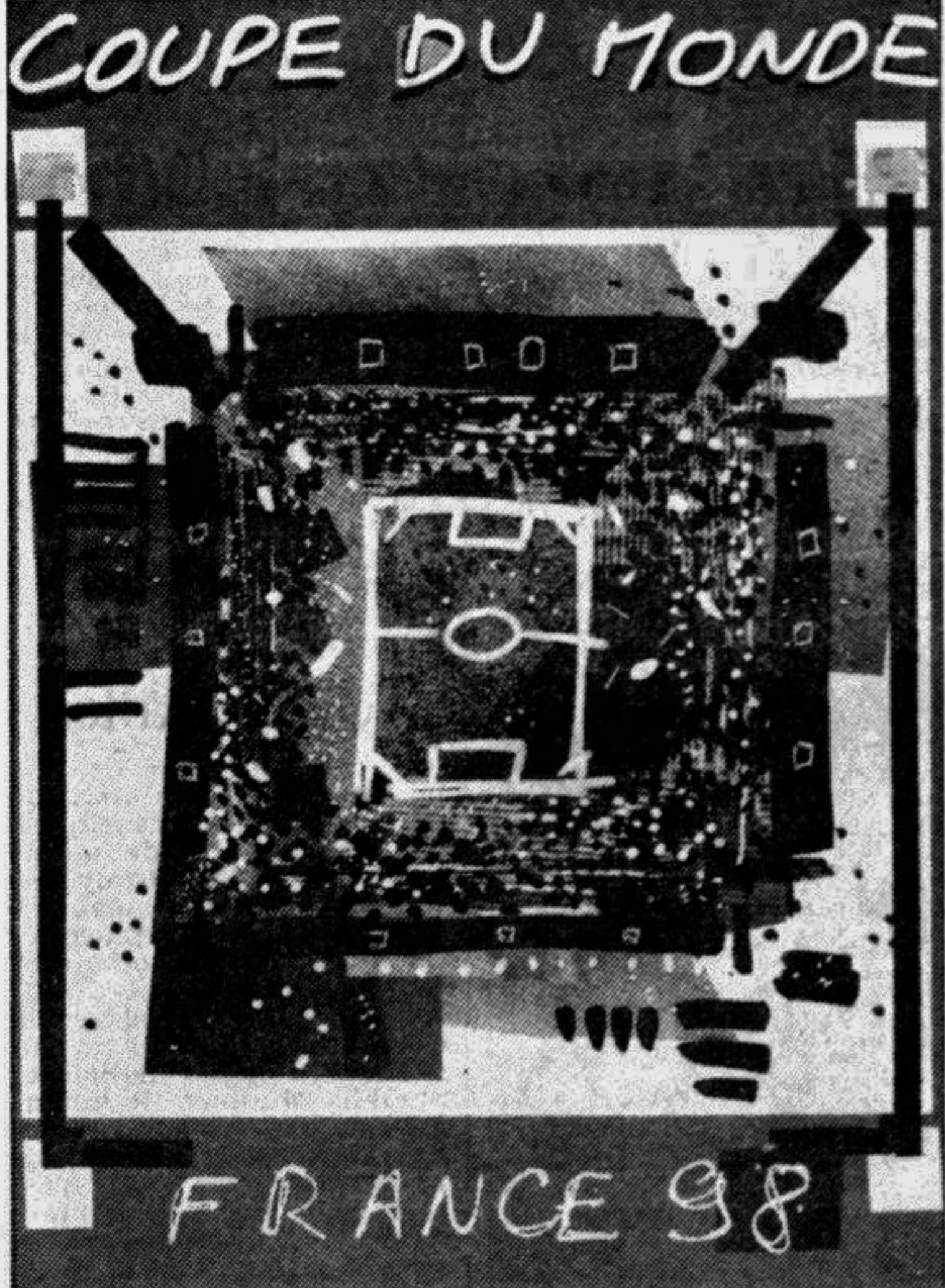
The Organisation Committee manages the receipts and expenditures alone. Bruno Travade, the head of the promotion department of the French Organisation Committee, explains: "Expenditures were blocked according to the receipts from contracts." Fernand Sastre and Michel Platini, the two co-presidents of the French Organisation Committee, clearly established their aims in this area. "While confirming our ambition to organise a World Cup worthy of France's international rank, we also firmly intend to ensure its financial success by making it a priority to balance of the budget."

From the point of view of receipts, the Committee has largely succeeded in meeting its objectives. The French Organisation Committee has signed contracts with 45 partners, which account for more than a quarter of its budget.

The partners are divided into four categories. The "official partners" have signed a contract directly with the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). The French Organisation Committee is not directly concerned by these financial arrangements even if certain partners contribute "products or services in kind."

The "official suppliers" are managed directly by the French Organisation Committee. They made a financial contribution of 600 million francs, i.e. two thirds of the Committee's marketing budget. In addition to these privileged partners of the

French Organisation Committee, there are nine "official products and services" and sixteen "approved suppliers of services". For the programme of licensed products, the Committee receives a "flat fee" from a total turnover in the order of 8 bil-



Photo— Nathalie Le Gall

lion francs. Sales on the sites, official coins, special issues of stamps and the programme of official villages are also part of this category.

The second source of the French Organisation Committee's revenue comes from the sale of tickets. There too, it seems that the Committee can be satisfied. With 1.4 billion francs in receipts expected from the sale of 2.5 million tickets, the French Organisation Committee has to finance 50 per cent of the organisation costs of the World Cup. Ticket sales from the group boxes alone in the ten stadiums hosting the matches will, for example, contribute 248 million francs. Demand is very high, especially for the most important matches. There were more than a million applications for the 227,000 tickets available for the nine most prestigious matches (the opening match, the quarter-finals, the semi-finals, the "little final" and the final).

The French Organisation Committee's price policy aims to make the tickets "accessible." 500,000 tickets are for sale at less than 150 francs and one ticket in two costs a maximum of 250 francs. More than 20 per cent of the tickets have been reserved for the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) (15 per cent at earlier World Cups), 8 per cent for selected travel agencies and 12 per cent for firms which are partners.

The largest expenditure is the cost of all the staff of the Committee (there are nearly 500 people on the payroll), financing the programme of voluntary workers (12,000 people who will help out with the organisation of the event) and taxation (235 million francs paid to the state in taxes).

Information technology is the second largest expense. It cost 225 million francs to set up 2,000 computers and 200 data services in the 10 towns hosting the World Cup as well as to create the Internet site (www.FRANCE'98.com).

Antennites for the media and telecommunications cost 211 million francs. It took an investment of 186 million francs to set up the stadiums in a World Cup configuration, to fit out the "villages" and the restaurant centres. The hiring of the Stade de France stadium cost 1.8 million francs per match (multiplied by 9), but the building of the Stade de France, the renovation of the other stadiums and the improvements to the transport infrastructures, for instance, were paid for by public funding and not by the French Organisation Committee.

The events organised in the framework of the French Organisation Committee's domain, the big ceremonies held for the opening and closing of the World Cup and the football fete which is to be held in the Paris area just before the beginning of the World Cup will cost about 115 million francs. Other events being held on this occasion will be paid for by the towns hosting the matches. The French Organisation Committee has decided to allocate then 2.5 million francs in aid (except for Paris and Saint-Denis).

Security is the last big budget in which the committee has invested more than 100 million francs. The French Organisation Committee's area of responsibility for security is limited to the stadiums and the state is in charge of maintaining order outside the stadiums. Moreover, the measures set up by the French government benefit from a contribution of 40 million francs from the committee organising the event.

Rajshahi soccer

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, June 4: Ambagan Club defeated Sepoy Para Sporting Club 2-0 in the Metropolitan Gold Cup football tournament at Madrasa playground today.

Mohammed Hossain slammed home two goals in the 15th and 18th minutes for the winners.

Meanwhile, Kriya O Sangskritik Sangha beat Ushar Sporting Club 2-0 in the Rajshahi First Division football league played today at Rajshahi Stadium.

Somar opened the account for Kriya O Sangskritik in the 50th minute by penalty. Rana scored another goal in the 53rd minute.

U-19 kabaddi begins today

The Deputy Commissioner under-19 Kabaddi tournament begins at the court near Dhaka Stadium today, reports UNB.

Shaheed Nabi High School will meet Manda Haider Ali School and College in the inaugural match at 4.30 pm.

A total of eight teams are taking part in the week-long knock-out basis meet.

The final will be held on June 11.

China hold S Korea

SEOUL, June 4: World Cup-bound South Korea played to a 1-1 draw against China on Thursday in a tough warm-up match that sent one of their key players off the field with injury, reports AP.

Midfielder Lee Sang-yeon scored South Korea's first goal in the 16th minute when he dribbled through two Chinese defenders and fired the ball past goalkeeper Jiang Jin.

China's Ma Mingyu equalised in the 52nd minute, firing from just outside the penalty area and narrowly beating South Korean goalie Kim Byung-ji.

Both sides played aggressive soccer. South Korean star forward Hwang Sun-hong was carried off the field on the stretchers after colliding with the Chinese goalies in the 20th minute.

South Korean coach Cha Bum-keun said Hwang was under treatment in hospital for a knee injury but refused to give further details.

NZ 122 for 5 on Day Two

GALLE, Sri Lanka, June 4: New Zealand were 122 for five on the second successive day's rain curtailed play in the second cricket Test against Sri Lanka at the Galle Cricket Stadium today, reports AFP.

The tourists resumed from an overnight 96 for four and, in less than an hour's play, lost the wicket of Craig McMillan, bowled by left arm spinner Niroshan Bandaratilleke for 13.

More than two sessions of play were lost due to a wet square of the wicket following overnight heavy rains. New Zealand batted for only 55 minutes before bad light stopped play.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the second day of the second Test between Sri Lanka and New Zealand at the Galle Cricket Stadium on Thursday:

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Balls, Fours, Sixes, Extras, Total. Includes names like Young c Jayasuriya b Bandarattilleke, Home c Kaluwitharana b Bandarattilleke, Fleming lbw b Dharmasena, Astle not out, Vettori c Tillekaratne b Bandarattilleke, McMillan b Bandarattilleke, Parore Not Out, Extras: (lb 2, nb 1), Total: (for 5 wkts) 122.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Active one 36 Every-thing, with "the" 8 Wear out 12 What — mind- reader? 13 Inlet 14 Waterloo is there 15 Former talk-show bigwig 16 Shade source 17 Futelide refrain 18 Stermulation 20 Support 22 Odds 26 Vultures do 29 With 27 Down, an irremov-able stain 30 Through 31 Site of activity 32 Girton's " — for 33 Homicide" 34 Crumple 35 — armed bandit 35 Johnny's band.

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions. Includes sections for 'CRYPTOQUIP' and 'Solution time: 23 mins.'.

The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '98 advertisement. Features 'ROUND 5 HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO SCORE AGAIN!' and lists prizes: 1st Prize: Sanyo Microwave Oven, 2nd Prize: PHILIPS CD RCR AZ 8051, 3rd Prize: PHILIPS Rice Cooker, 4th Prize: 4 dozen Philips Bulbs, 5th Prize: Caps & T-Shirts (25 prizes). All Prizes Courtesy: Transcom Electronics Ltd.

Competition Information, Prizes and Rules. Information: 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. Rules: 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.

The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '98, Round Five. Ends June 10, 1998. Tick (✓) the correct answers. 1. Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) was formed in 1902 [] 1904 [] 1910 [] 2. How many nations have won the WC in their own countries? Four [] Five [] Six [] 3. Besides Argentina, which country did Luisito Monti play for in the WC Finals? Italy [] Brazil [] Chile [] 4. Bangladesh played against which finalist in the qualifiers? S. Arabia [] S. Korea [] Iran [] 5. Of which World Cup finals was this the emblem? 1962 [] 1970 [] 1978 [] Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms) ... Age ... Father's name ... Occupation ... Address ... Telephone (if any) ... Signature ... Date ... Write with a ballpoint pen in clear BLOCK letters. Cut along the dotted lines and mail to QR drop in the Quiz Box at The Daily Star. You may send as many entries as you like. Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "Star Quiz 5."