

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-117

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
July 16/99 and draw shortly
afterwards

1. How many matches have been scheduled for the World Cup 99?	40	41	42
2. Pakistan beat New Zealand in the semifinal by	9 wks	10 wks	53 runs
3. How many wickets did NZ bowler Geoff Allott capture in the World Cup	18	21	20
4. Saqlain Mushtaq scored his hat-trick against which country?	Kenya	Zimbabwe	Bangladesh
5. How many runs did Minhazul Abedin score in the World Cup	120	140	140

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Nasser Hussain
(England cricket captain)
"Every one who now plays under me will be there to win for England."

BOA chief Nepal bound

Secretary General of Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) Zafar Imam leaves Dhaka today for Katmandu to attend the meeting of the South Asian Sports Federation (SASF), reports BSS.

The SASF meeting will be held in the Nepalese capital from July 16-17 to review the final preparations of the eighth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games.

The regional games will take place in Katmandu from September 25 to October 4.

The SASF officials will also visit different venues of the Games.

Bangladesh will take part in all the 12 events - athletics, boxing, football, kabaddi, karate, swimming, shooting, taekwondo, table tennis, volleyball, wrestling and weightlifting.

Kenya to stage quadrangular cricket tourney

NAIROBI, July 14: South Africa, India and Zimbabwe will join Kenya in a four-nation tournament starting on September 24, the Kenya Cricket Association (KCA) said today, reports Reuters.

The 50-overs one-day matches will end on October 5.

Rivaldo vows to be less selfish

FOZ DE IGUAÇU, Brazil, July 14(Reuters/Internet): Brazilian midfielder Rivaldo promised on Tuesday that he would be less greedy in Wednesday's Copa America semifinal against Mexico.

The Barcelona player, not for the first time, was criticized for not passing the ball enough in his team's 2-1 win over Argentina Sunday.

"I admit I lost the ball a lot, but I have my head in the right place and it will all be different against Mexico," he promised.



Mohammedan Sporting Club's Askar Babu (L) is under pressure from a Farashganj defender during their Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Mohammedan's handy sub

Sports Reporter

A 78-minute strike from Abdullah al Mujahid Shoaib gave title aspirants Mohammedan Sporting a hard-fought lone-goal win over Farashganj 'sporting in the Keya Premier football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The super sub of the black and whites scored the all-important goal with a scorching right-footer, but not before Farashganj custodian Shimul played a part in Mohammedan's cause.

The otherwise dependable Shimul, who had earlier made some spectacular saves to keep Mohammedan afloat, committed the decisive blunder when he let loose the hot stuff from his grip. The loose ball first hit the crossbar before bouncing outside the goal line, prompting referee Golam Mostafa to buzz the whistle amidst a roar of applause from a strong ten thousand MSC crowd at the big bowl.

The squeaky passage enabled Mohammedan to join defending champions Muktiyoddha at the top of the table, both having collected 13 points from five games.

Shoaib, who switched to Mohammedan this season from Arambagh, came in place of Askar Babu shortly after the breather. The introduction of the diminutive midfielder completely changed the face of the game with Mohammedan taking the attack to Farashganj.

Although Mohammedan forced the Farashganj defence against the wall with a series of offensives after Shoaib was introduced into the attack, the absence of their prolific striker Alfaz Ahmed almost denied them a victory as their efforts turned futile.

Alfaz, the dapper national striker and the linchpin of Mohammedan triumphs in their previous League matches, missed the encounter due to a

fever. The absence of Alfaz was sorely felt when makeshift striker Anwar missed as many as three sitters from close.

Although Mohammedan eventually won the cracker-of-a-match by the skin of their teeth, it was Farashganj who gave the League's highest crowd this season their money's worth in the way the old town outfit fought against their more colourful opponents.

Thereafter Mohammedan took firm control with a terrific onslaught. The black and whites, however, had a frustrating moment when their goal-bound stalwarts engaged in an unwarranted competition of missing those easy chances before Shoaib saved the day.

A never-say-die Farashganj, however, made a desperate effort to pull off a late equaliser when Kanchan came up with a header from a goal-mouth scramble, but only to be rejected by an ever alert Ponir, who saved the ball diving to his right.

It was Farashganj's second defeat in a row after Abahani ended their honeymoon at the top flight with also a lone-goal win in the previous match. Farashganj had earlier won their first three games.

Kanchan of Farashganj was cautioned with the yellow card.

TEAMS
MOHAMMEDAN SC: Ponir, Ruhul Amin, Faisal, Monwar Munna, Motiur Munna, Rakib Hossain, Jahangir, Anwar, Kamruzzaman Selim, Askar Babu (Shoaib) and Rashedul Hasan Shamim (Rezaul Karim).

FARASHGANJ SC: Shimul, Shaheer Ashraf, Nazrul, Aziz (Sohe), Chanchal, Azimuddin (Mithul) Apu, Kanchan, Monir and Farhad (Polash).

Referee: Golam Mostafa.

TODAY'S MATCH
Abahani vs Brothers' Union
Bangabandhu National Stadium
Time: 5:30 pm

chance in the match three minutes into the second half when Apu won a ball from Mohammedan's central defender Monwar Munna and lobbed it deep inside the box from where Kanchan fired a left-foot volley. The ball beat Ponir fair and square, but only to be denied by the metalwork, much to the relief of Mohammedan.

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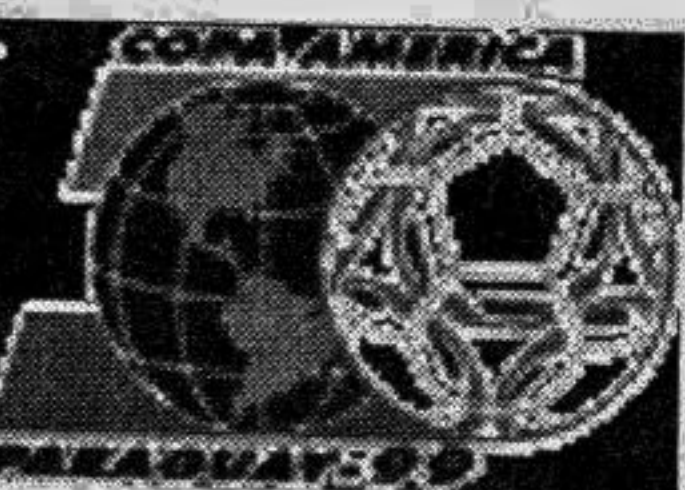
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Shootout takes Uruguay to final



"Instead of protecting you, they try to remove you from the field of play."

"I'm very bitter. They were trying to attract attention by doing something which is not part of their job," Acosta charged.

A red card for a soccer coach means he is banned from sitting on the team bench and has

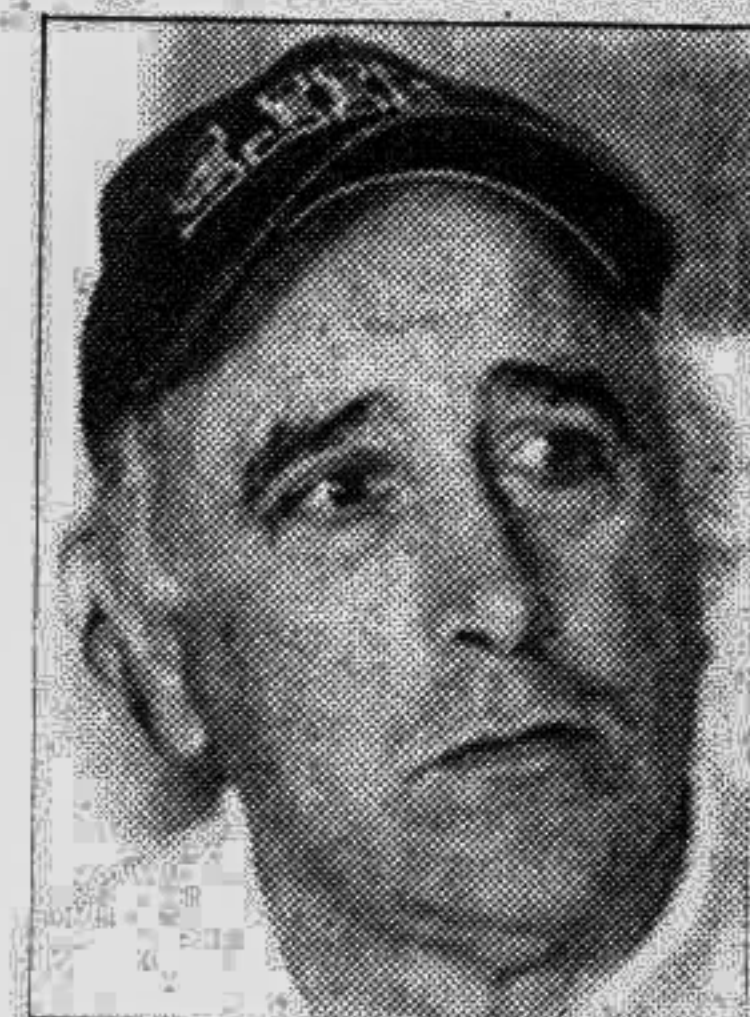
ASUNCION, July 14: Uruguay reached the Copa America final on Tuesday with a penalty shootout win over Chile, whose coach Nelson Acosta accused Paraguayan police of mistreating him and abusing their power after he was sent off, reports Reuters.

The police treatment of Acosta overshadowed a dreary, dismal semifinal which ended 1-1 before Uruguay won 5-3 on penalties.

Alejandro gave Uruguay a first half lead with Ivan Zamorano equalising in the second half with his third goal of the tournament. His striking partner Marcelo Salas completed a wretched tournament by missing a penalty.

Uruguay will play either Brazil or Mexico, who meet in the second semifinal in Ciudad del Este today.

Acosta was shown the red card in the second half but instead of being allowed to go quietly to the stands, he was immediately surrounded by five armed officers who led him away.



NELSON ACOSTA

to watch the game from the stands. The reserve referee and federation officials may help persuade him to leave if he protests, but police generally intervene only in exceptional circumstances, such as if he turns violent.

Twenty to thirty years ago, when away teams in South America were subject to tremendous 'pressure', it was common for police to intervene in fights on the pitch. The pressures were so great that European teams eventually refused to travel to the continent for the traditional meeting of the European and South American club champions.

Uruguay reached the final despite resting their European-based players after a long season with their clubs. They are also playing for caretaker coach Victor Pua, who will hand over the reigns to Argentina's Daniel Passarella after the tournament.

The game, played in a near-deserted Defensores of the Chaco stadium, was possibly the worst of a tournament, which has generally provided excellent entertainment.

Play was scrappy and the number of serious scoring chances could be counted on one hand. Uruguay were happy to defend and their opponents were too disjointed to break them down.

Both sides had finished third in their first-round groups, going through under the rule which allows two third-placed teams to progress. The mediocrity of Tuesday's encounter appeared to confirm that their respective quarter-final wins over Paraguay and Colombia were flukes.

Uruguay won only one game inside 90 minutes on their way to the final, needing penalties to get through both their quarter-final and semifinal ties.

Leombo headed goal in 23rd minute came when he out-jumped his marker to connect with a corner by Walter Coelho in Uruguay's first real attack.

Three minutes later, Chile's Jose Luis Sierra hit the crossbar with a 30-metre free kick. In the melee that followed, Chile were awarded a penalty for a foul on Salas as he was challenged by a defender.

Wari pip Agrani

Wari Club notched up their second victory in the Keya Metropolis First Division Football League beating Agrani Bank Club by a solitary goal at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday, reports UNB.

Atish scored the match-winner for Wari in the 77th minute.

Wari have so far earned eight points from five outings while the bankers' team remained on their previous two points, also after playing five matches.

The day's other match between Dhanmondi Club and Prantik KC ended in a goalless draw at the same venue.

Both the teams have so far secured three points, playing four matches each.

TODAY'S MATCH
Victoria SC vs East End Club
Bangabandhu National Stadium
Time: 3:30 pm

Quader calls for school competitions

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader yesterday directed the concerned officials to start inter-school cricket and football tournament immediately in cooperation with the education ministry. He gave the directives during his meeting with the officers and employees of the Sports Directorate, reports BSS.

The arrangement of such competition would help develop sportsmen from the grassroots level, the minister added.

The State Minister also directed the Sports Directorate to complete the construction of Bagerhat and Chittagong physical colleges as soon as possible.

Shaheen, Rajarbagh set up final

Rajarbagh Police Line High School and BAF Shaheen School moved into the final of the BATA School Handball Tournament winning their semi-finals at the handball ground yesterday.

Rajarbagh Police Line High School beat Motijheel Model High School and College 36-21 after leading the first half 16-9.

Hanif and Nazmul scored 13 and 11 goals respectively for the Police Line High School while Kaiser netted six while Tanzid got five goals for Motijheel Model.

In the other semi-final, BAF Shaheen school defeated Bangladesh Ansars and VDP High School 28-24.

Saiful scored 16 goals for the Shaheen School while Ruhul Amin scored nine goals for the Ansars and VDP school.

The final will take place on July 16 while the third place play-off between the two losing semi-finalists - Motijheel Model High School and Bangladesh Ansars and VDP High School will be held at 4 pm today.

Minister for Science and Technology M Noor Uddin Khan will be the chief guest in the final.

Div II hockey

Bangladesh Police and Combined Sporting Club won their respective matches in the Second Division Hockey League at the Moulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday, reports BSS.

Bangladesh Police outplayed East and Green Club 6-1.

Luthfur and Asaduzzaman scored two goals each while Rafique and Shishir netted one goal apiece for the Police.

In the other match of the day, Combined Sporting Club beat Dilkusha Sporting Club 2-0.

Mohammad Ali and Mohammad Hares were the scorers.

REFLECTIONS- 3

Gordon Greenidge affair

Yousuf R Rahman from the States

The day I checked into the hotel in Edinburgh on May 23, I ran into Gordon in the Manager's room. I wished him and extended my hand to him. Although we greeted each other, his was expressionless.

There was something noticeably wrong with him that caught my eye right away. I knew right then that things were not going well with him and the BCB. Gordon's difference of opinion with the BCB was nothing new. In fact, the two were poles apart in their thinking and it went back as early as 1997.

During my stay with the team in the UK, it was quite obvious that Gordon was never a part of the team. Physically, he was there. Mentally, he was far away and did not hesitate to speak about the team's faults openly to whoever wanted to know about Bangladesh cricket. On the eve of the Scotland game, the team Manager, Captain and the Board President (who may not have too much to say due to his limited technical knowledge about the game) did the selection of the team. Apparently, Gordon did not have any role to play. He was simply a passenger.

Soon after the win against Scotland, I ran into him again in the evening at the hotel lobby. I, like a few others, congratulated him. He did not respond.

What the BCB did on the eve of the match against Pakistan may not have been the courteous thing to do but Gordon simply did not belong. I am not condoning the act of the BCB, and I think the proper thing to do would have been to bring him to Dhaka and then quietly remove him from his assignment.

What bothers me is that the friction between the BCB and Gordon for whatever reasons did not happen in England. It was carried from Dhaka.

Under the circumstances, I fail to understand why he was taken to England as the Coach when he was an unwilling partner in Bangladesh's World Cup endeavour.

The BCB could have saved this embarrassment for themselves and the players.

Gordon is not the only one who thinks that Bangladesh need to wait for entering the Test match arena. Several others with the slightest cricketing mind will agree with him, just as I am agreeing with him. He was simply more vocal and,

somewhat, not very diplomatic than the others. Bangladesh should not forget that the ICC Trophy was won with Gordon as an active part of the Bangladesh squad in Kuala Lumpur. Many may disagree with me now but I still believe that he played a major role in Bangladesh's win in Kuala Lumpur in 1997.

TEST MATCH STATUS
This subject has been a matter of discussion amongst the ICC members and millions of Bangladeshis are hoping that we would get the Full Membership of the ICC after our victory against Pakistan. The ICC in their meeting in June has decided to shelve Bangladesh's application for another year and rightfully so. It will be reviewed again in the 2000 meeting.

We do not have the domestic infrastructure to support our

ready staking claims as to how they have contributed to the development of the game and how they had "dreamt" of Bangladesh's win in the World Cup. Yet, not only did they fail to condemn the destruction of our cricket pitches at the Dhaka Stadium by the Football Federation but they also failed to return the Dhaka Stadium (Cricket Stadium) back to our cricketers.

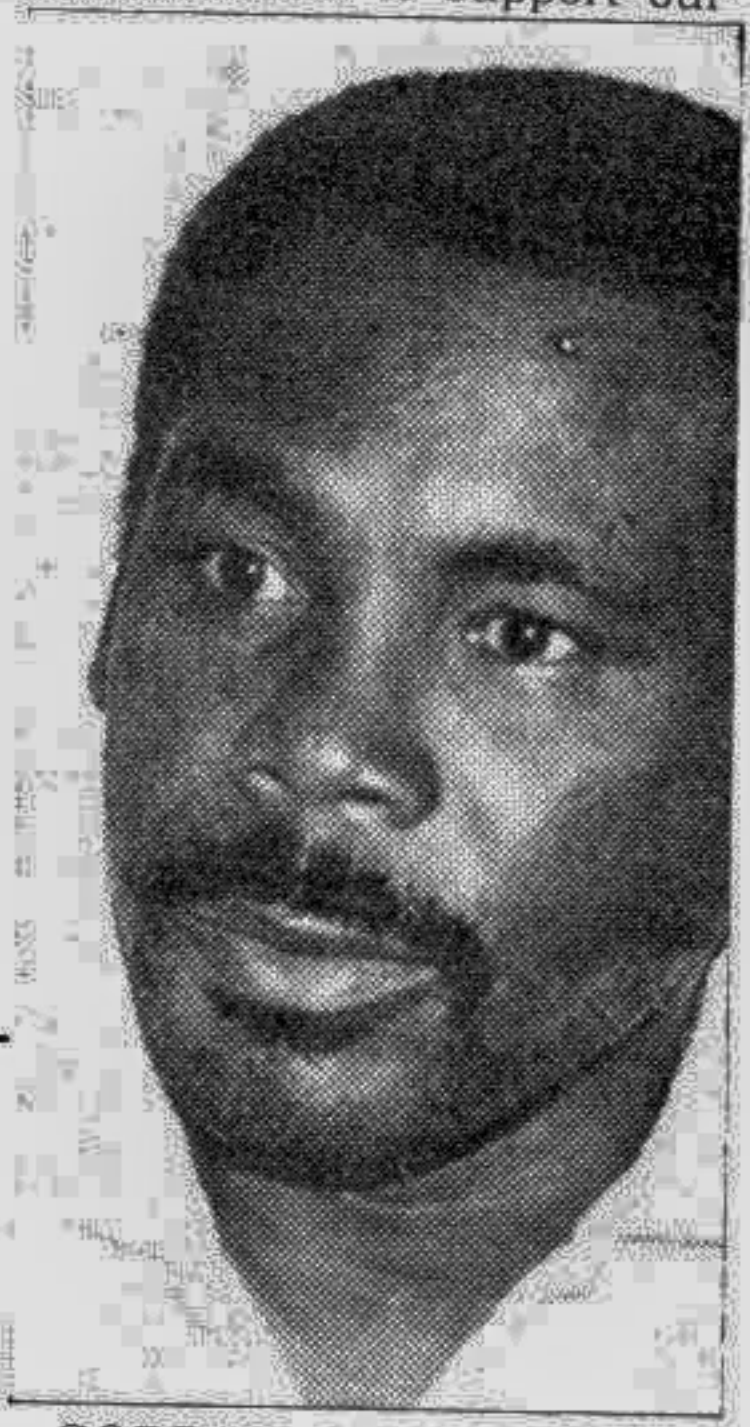
The politicians have even compared the victory against Pakistan to that of the spirit of 1971. Masoodul Haque, of the Dhaka jazz-rock band DHAKA put it very well. "What happens when we play Pakistan the next time and lose as we most probably will? Does the spirit of 1971 disappear? Are we to equate the next defeat as a defeat of our Liberation War?"

Bangladesh must create a very strong and successful 4-day domestic competition. For this grounds must be created with good pitches. They must play 4-day matches in the sub-continent. We have three World Cup Champions in the region and we do not need to travel to the west to improve our cricket. The best fast bowlers and spinners are our neighbours and we should capitalise on the situation. Cricket is phenomenal in Bangladesh and all we need is the competitive hardness that one can only acquire by playing at the highest level.

I have said in the past and I am saying it again, Bangladesh will be the next Test match nation. We should focus on winning matches against Test teams. There is no substitute to winning. It is a great habit to pick. In my opinion, our wait, depending on our performance over the next year or two should be over in the year 2001. We will be fortunate if we can make it in 2000, which will be a welcome entry into the Test match arena.

Simon Hughes of the Daily Telegraph puts it very well when he writes, "the future of cricket is in the sub-continent, no doubt about it. Bangladesh have made some tentative steps towards the summit in their matches in this World Cup. The more experience they get at the top level, the better they will get. Soon they will be beating England in a Test match at Lord's. It is inevitable."

The writer was known as Yousuf Babu when he played with much aplomb for Bangladesh in the 70s. The former national cricketer now works in the States.



GORDON GREENIDGE

Pakistan ready to play India

KARACHI, July 14: Pakistani cricket chief Khalid Mahmood said his country was still prepared to play against India despite the conflict between the neighbouring states over Kashmir, reports Reuters.

Mahmood, chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board, also blasted supporters who criticised the team's performance in losing to Australia in the recent World Cup final in England.

He said Pakistan would tour Australia next year as planned, when they are also due to take part in a triangular tournament involving India.

And he said Pakistan would still be ready to play in a one day series against India in Toronto in September which was scrapped earlier this month because of the border fighting between the two countries.

Organisers cancelled the series after several Indian players said cricketing links between the two countries should be severed.

"The Pakistan Cricket Board stands by all of its international commitments, and that includes Toronto," Mahmood said after a rowdy news conference where he defended his team against accusations of match-fixing in the lopsided final which Pakistan lost to Australia by eight wickets.

"There were a number of reasons for losing after playing so well during the tournament," he said.

"Conditions were not very conducive for batting in the morning and if the Pakistan team had bowled first I think the result of the match would have been different," Mahmood said.

Pakistan were dismissed for just 132 after electing to bat first, setting a target which Australia reached in 20.1 overs.

"Also there was tremendous pressure because there were a number of inexperienced players in the side," he said.

Vice-captain Moin Khan, one of the few players not criticised after the tournament, called on the public to support

the team. "They should appreciate the team, because after all we are number two in the world right now," he said.

Mahmood said he expected the judge conducting an inquiry into alleged match fixing in Pakistani cricket to finalise his report in a month or two.

Australian cricket officials said earlier this month they were looking at other options for the triangular one-day series in January and February in case the problems over Kashmir prevent India or Pakistan playing each other.

Jhalakati soccer

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, July 14: Abahani Club beat Lankat at other options for the triangular one-day series in January and February in case the problems over Kashmir prevent India or Pakistan playing each other.

The meet organised by the Jhalakati District Sports Association (JDSA), was inaugurated by BK Kundu, Deputy Commissioner of Jhalakati.

Milon and Nayeem of Abahani scored one goal each in the 45th and 80th minutes respectively.

England A tour Bangladesh in October

Sports Reporter

The England A cricket team will arrive in Dhaka on October 18 to a play series of exhibition matches against different Bangladesh selections.

The second string England team will play limited-over matches as well as four and three-day matches during their 19-day visit.

TOUR ITINERARY OF ENGLAND A

October 17	Depart UK
October 18	Arrive Bangladesh
October 19 to 21	Practice
October 22	Limited-over match against Bangladesh U-19
October 23	Limited-over match against Bangladesh A
October 24	Rest/Practice
October 25 to 27	Three-day match against Bangladesh
October 28	Practice
October 29	Limited-over match against Bangladesh (day/night)
October 30	Rest
October 31	Practice
November 1-4	Four-day match against Bangladesh
November 5	Departure for New Zealand



Alejandro Lambo (C) is engulfed by euphoric Uruguay teammates after putting his team in front against Chile on July 13. — AFP photo