DHAKA SUNDAY DECEMBER 2, 2001, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com





Wagar Younis

(Pakistan cricket captain) "It is a shame that we haven't really produce a fast bowler who can take our place and keep it, too. So many youngsters, who could bowl really quick, came in and suddenly disappeared. Like Mohammed Zahid, Mohammed Akram and some

On the state of pace bowlers in Pakistan.



ESPN

English Premier Football League Chelsea vs Man United 6:30 am

Arsenal vs Ipswich Town 8:30 am

Liverpool vs Derby County Serie A

Perugia vs Juventus 4:00 pm World Cup Soccer Mix 6:00 pm

English Premier Football League Leeds United vs Fulham Live at 7:50 pm

> Southampton vs Everton Live at 10:00 pm

STAR Sports Australia vs New Zealand

Third Test, Day Two Highlights at 7:30 am Australia vs New Zealand Third Test. Day Three Live at 8:27 am Cricket Programming Super Selector 8:30 pm Australia vs New Zealand

Third Test, Day Three Highlights at 10:30 pm Primera Liga Villareal vs Celta De Vigo Live at 1:00 am (Monday)



The Haily Star Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm Dec 14, 2001 and draw

shortly afterwards

Who won the man-of-the-series award in the Bangladesh and Zimbabwe one-day internationals? Al-Shahriar H Bashar

Who became Inter-Continental Cup champs?

3. How many runs did Habibu Bashar score in the first innings of the second Test against Zimbabwe'

108 Which number Test venue is the MAAziz Stadium?

Class. Roll No.

Phone: (If any)

Group F spells fear

Argentina, England in same boat



REUTERS, Pusan

World Cup favourites Argentina have been drawn in what is bound to be dubbed the "group of death" with arch-rivals England, as well as Nigeria and Sweden, at next year's finals in South Korea and Japan.

The first ever finals in Asia have thrown up a classic with Argentina meeting England in Group F in a continuation of their series of dramatic World Cup encounters.

Nigeria generally rated as the strongest of the African challengers, and Sweden complete the group.

Holders France, joint favourites for the title with Argentina, play the opening match of the tournament on May 31 in Seoul against Senegal. appearing in the finals for the first time. Uruguay and Denmark complete Group A.

China, also making their debut in the finals and expecting to bring up to 100,000 fans to South Korea, play in Group C with four-times winners Brazil and also with Turkey and Costa Rica

The two host nations both have chances of progressing into the second round. The South Koreans are seeded in Group D where they

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP play Poland, Portugal and the United States.

Japan play in Group H with Belgium, Russia and Tunisia

The top two teams from the eight groups of four go into the second round where the knockout phase of

the competition starts. The final will be played in Yokohama, Japan on June 30.

Germany, three times winners, have a relatively easy looking Group E with Saudi Arabia, Ireland and Cameroon while Italy will probably not complain about meeting Ecuador, Croatia and Mexico in Group G.

Spain are seeded in group B to play Slovenia, Paraguay and South But the focus will inevitably be on

group F which looks by far the

Ronaldo delighted

AFP, Milan

Brazilian striker Ronaldo said Saturday he was pleased with his country's draw for the 2002 World Cup.

Brazil were drawn alongside

Turkey, China and Costa Rica in Group C which will be disputed in

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Argentina and England will play each other in their second match in group F in Sapporo, Japan, on June 7, resuming where they left off from one of the most thrilling matches of the last finals in France four years

Then the South Americans won on penalties in the second round after England midfielder, and now captain. David Beckham was sent

It was the third sensational encounter between the two countries in World Cup finals. England beat Argentina 1-0 in the quarterfinals in 1966 on their way to winning the trophy at home. It was a bad-tempered contest in which the South Americans' captain Antonio Rattin was sent off.

In Mexico in 1986 Argentina beat England 2-1 at the same stage of the competition on their way to winning the title, this time thanks to two goals from Diego Maradona, one of them a clear handball, forever dubbed the "Hand of God" the other one of the greatest goals ever scored in the finals.

In another interesting quirk of the draw, England's Swedish coach Sven Goran Eriksson will find himself up against his native country.

Eriksson said: "We are in the most difficult group. No doubt about



Seogwipo

Daejeon

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP

President of the International Football Federation (FIFA) Sepp Blatter speaks during the draw ceremony of the World Cup 2002 while FIFA general secretary Michel Zen-Ruffinen looks on at the Pusan Exhibition and Convention Centre in South Korea on Saturday.

In the eyes of coaches



Reuters/AFP/AP, Pusan

Following are the reactions of some of the coaches after the draw ceremony for the 2002 World Cup: LUIS SCOLARI (BRAZIL)

Brazil's coach Luis Felipe Scolari preached caution after his team was drawn in Group C with Turkey, China and Costa Rica for next year's World Cup finals in South Korea and Japan.

Scolari said: "It is an excellent group for Brazil but we have to keep it that way by qualifying from it. We suffered in the qualifiers and Honduras also taught us a lesson in the Copa America.

Brazil qualified for the finals only by beating Venezuela in the last of their South American group games after suffering six defeats. They also lost to Honduras in this year's South American championship

"We have to change our way of thinking and realise that every opponent has their qualities even if we are not playing Argentina or England," Scolari, known as 'Big

"We will now sit down and consider the different approach of the three other teams. But the most important thing for me is that we don't leave it until the last match to qualify as we did in the preliminaries. "I want to go into the last game

calm and secure. SVEN GORAN ERIKSSON (ENG-LAND)

England coach Sven Goran Eriksson said there would be no easy games after his team were drawn in the World Cup's "group of death" with Argentina, Nigeria and "We are in the most difficult

group, no doubt about that at all," he told BBC television. "There are no easy games. They are all very good teams. It is interest-

ing, it is difficult but everything is

hope we can go on and not only have three games at the World Cup.

"I think we can beat any team in

the world on a good day. "They have a very good team of course. They always do. They won the South American group very easily. They are the best team in South America

"It's not been a lucky evening, but the luck will come in June. At least we will play all our qualifying games

GIOVANNI TRAPATTONI (ITALY) Italy coach Giovanni Trapattoni was a happy man Saturday as the threetimes World Champions were given a relatively easy draw for the 2002

Drawn alongside Ecuador, Croatia and Mexico, Italy have avoided the teams Trapattoni had identified as potential tough, firstround opponents - the veteran coach had said before the draw that as long as he avoided England, Portugal, Denmark and Poland he would be happy.

"I am happy - at least half happy, "We have to be prepared and said Trapattoni. "It could have been **SEE PAGE 14**

Pele scores for Brazil!



AFP, Pusan

Pundits writing off Brazil for next year's World Cup do so at their peril, the country's most famous player, Pele, warned on Saturday. Despite an unprecedented

struggle to reach the finals, Brazil will still be a force to be reckoned with in Japan and South Korea. The player who led Brazil to three of their four World Cup triumphs admitted that his country's perfor-

mances in South American qualifying, in which they were beaten six times, had been terrible. But he insisted that things would be different by the time the action kicks off in Seoul on May 31.

"Brazil did not play well in the eliminators," Pele said. "But the real problem of Brazil, everybody knows, is that they had

no time to train because the players, they are the best in the world. "Now we have six or seven months to prepare and then there is no doubt that Brazil will be one of the teams who could be a force, no

doubt.'

Pele said defending champions France were still the team to beat in the finals but tipped Portugal and England to reach the last four. "Of course you can't forget

France, who are for me the best team in Europe, still. "But besides France, England

and Portugal are the two teams that have improved a lot this year." The Brazilian legend said the

globalisation of football in the past two decades had created a much more level playing field in which traditional forces like Germany, Italy and Brazil could no longer take anything for granted. "You have big names but the

teams are very even," he said. Pele also denied that the sport he

famously christened "the beautiful game" was no longer the spectacle "In the last eight months Brazil

the people the beautiful game," he "But throughout the world it is still a beautiful game. You see Portugal

and France still play a beautiful

played very bad. They did not show

game and even England, who used to play a very hard, tough game, now play very good. "The game is like that, some

countries go down and some go up." Pele also thought FIFA's decision to oblige World Cup winners to qualify for the next tournament was

"It took everyone a little by surprise," Pele said a day after the unexpected decision was



announced by football's governing body

"It (automatic qualification) was like a gift, like a present for the champion. Now the decision does not give this opportunity.

Pele said the best solution would

have been to allow World Cup winning sides to decide whether they wanted to enter the qualifying competition. "Some coaches say to me that when you participate in the prelimi-

naries you have time to prepare, to train your team but some coaches do not want to play "So I think you should let the

coaches decide, this is the best decision.' Announcing the decision, FIFA

president Joseph Blatter said making the champions qualify would open up an extra slot in the finals for regional confederations.

It would also bring the World Cup into line with competitions like the European Championships and enable champions to be better prepared to defend their titles.

FIXTURES

Match Date

The complete schedule of 2002 World Cup finals (all times local):

31 May 20:30

01 Jun 18:00

08 Jun 20:30

14 Jun 20:30

48

Time



06 Jun 15:30 France: Uruguay Busan 06 Jun 20:30 Denmark: Senegal Daegu 11 Jun 15:30 Denmark: France Incheon 15:30 11 Jun Senegal: Uruguay Suwon Match Date Time Teams Venue Paraguay: South Africa 02 Jun 16:30 Busan 02 Jun 20:30 Spain: Slovenia 07 Jun 18:00 Spain: Paraguay South Africa: Slovenia

Gwangju Jeonju 08 Jun 15:30 Daegu 12 Jun 20:30 South Africa: Spain Daejeon 12 Jun 20:30 Slovenia: Paraguay Seogwipo Grou Match Date Time Teams Venue Brazil: Turkey 03 Jun 18:00 Ulsan 04 Jun 15:30 China PR: Costa Rica Gwangju

Brazil: China PR

09 Jun 18:00 Costa Rica: Turkey Incheon 13 Jun 15:30 Costa Rica: Brazi Suwon 13 Jun 15:30 Turkey: China PR Group D Match Date Time Teams Venue Korea Republic: Poland 04 Jun 20:30 Busan 05 Jun 18:00 USA: Portugal Suwon 10 Jun 15:30 Korea Republic: USA Daegu 10 Jun 20:30 Portugal: Poland Jeonju Portugal: Korea Republic 14 Jun 20:30 Incheon

Poland: USA

Grou Match Date Time Teams Venue Republic of Ireland: Cameroon Niigata 01 Jun 15:30 Germany: Saudi Arabia 01 Jun 20:30 Sapporo Germany: Republic of Ireland 05 Jun 20:30 Ibaraki 06 Jun 18:00 Cameroon: Saudi Arabia Saitama 11 Jun 20:30 Cameroon: Germany Shizuoka Saudi Arabia: Republic of Ireland Yokohama 11 Jun 20:30

Match Date Time **Teams** Venue England: Sweden 02 Jun 14:30 Saitama 02 Jun 18:30 Argentina: Nigeria Ibaraki 07 Jun 15:30 Sweden: Nigeria Kobe Argentina: England 07 Jun 20:30 Sapporo 12 Jun 15:30 Sweden: Argentina Miyagi Osaka 12 Jun 15:30 Nigeria: England

Match Date Time Venue Teams 03 Jun 15:30 Croatia: Mexico Niigata 03 Jun 20:30 Italy: Ecuador Sapporo Italy: Croatia 08 Jun 18:00 Ibaraki 09 Jun 15:30 Mexico: Ecuador Miyagi 13 Jun 20:30 Mexico: Italy Oita

13 Jun 20:30 Ecuador: Croatia Yokohama Match Date Teams Venue Time 04 Jun 18:00 Japan: Belgium Saitama 05 Jun 15:30 Russia: Tunisia Kobe 29 09 Jun 20:30 Japan: Russia Yokohama 31 10 Jun 18:00 Tunisia: Belgium Oita 45 14 Jun 15:30 Tunisia: Japan Osaka 46 14 Jun 15:30 Belgium: Russia Shizuoka

Match Date Venue 15 Jun 15:30 Seogwipo 15 Jun 20:30 1stA: 2nd F Niigata 16 Jun 15:30 1st F: 2nd A Oita 16 Jun 20:30 1st B: 2nd E Suwon 53 17 Jun 15:30 Jeonju 1st G: 2nd D 54 55 17 Jun 20:30 1st C: 2nd H Kobe 18 Jun 15:30 1st H: 2nd C Miyagi

56 18 Jun 20:30 Daejeon 1st D: 2nd G Match Date Time Teams Venue 1st 50: 1st 54 21 Jun 15:30 Shizuoka 58 59 21 Jun 20:30 1st 49: 1st 53 Ulsan 22 Jun 15:30 1st 52: 1st 56 Gwangju 60 22 Jun 20:30 1st 51: 1st 55 Osaka

Match Date Time Teams Venue 25 Jun 20:30 1st 58: 1st 59 Seoul 26 Jun 20:30 1st 57: 1st 60 Saitama Third Place Match Date

2nd 61: 2nd 62

1st 61: 1st 62

Teams

Daegu

Venue

Yokohama

29 Jun 20:00

30 Jun 20:00

Time

Date

Match

PHOTO: STAR



Sorry BTV viewers

SPORTS REPORTER

Television viewers around the country were deceived not to see the 'promised' live telecast of the World Cup 2002 football draw. The ceremony was held in the

South Korean city of Pusan and was watched by a global audience of more than one billion people on Saturday. But Bangladesh Television showed the historic event more than

two hours after it actually started at

10.55 GMT (3.55 pm BST). The country's leading newspapers including The Daily Star had earlier been informed by a press release of an advertising firm, Matra, on November 27, that the 32team draw would be shown live by the state-run BTV

But in reality, when the draw **SEE PAGE 14**

unprecedented ninth League crown.



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Biman finished unbeaten in the Mercantile Bank First Division Chess League.

The national airline outfit. who regained the title on Friday, comnleted their fantastic run in style, with a thumping 4-0 defeat over Nakhalpara Jubo Kalyan Sangha in the 15th round at Bangladesh Chess Federation Auditorium yesterday.

Biman took an unassailable lead before going into the final round. But the quartet of Grand Master Ziaur Rahman, International Master Reefat Bin Sattar, FIDE Master Enamul Hossain Rajib and IWM Rani Hamid meant business though the game against Nakhalpara was of academic interest only.

With this win Biman finished with a total of 53 points and secured an

Titas Club, who won their first League title last year, finished runners-up with 46.5 points. The dethroned utility side defeated Anu Memorial Club by 3-1

It was a disappointing end for fancied Titas since their key player GM Niaz Murshed failed to live to expectations Niaz, who has not been a regular

Yanur Rahman in the final round. Bangladesh Ansars bagged the third position with 43 points. They trounced Anirban Chess School 3.5-Sonali Bank Sports & Recreation

Sangha. The collected 37 points. **ROLL OF HONOUR SEE PAGE 14**

feature in local chess, drew with Club finished fourth with 38.5 points followed by Nakhalpara Jubo

THE BIMAN CREW: Champion Bangladesh Biman team members (R-L) Grand Master Ziaur Rahman, International Master Reefat-bin-Sattar, FIDE Master Enamul Hossain Rajib and International Women Master Rani Hamid during their fifteenth and last round engagement against Nakhalpara Jubo