

4 9

days to

WORLD CUP

2002



Did U Know?

For the first ever World Cup there were no qualifying rounds -- participation was by invitation only. Because of recession and the long voyage to Uruguay by ship, lots of European teams declined to take part. In Romania, a decree from King Carol gave the players three months off from their jobs and a guarantee that they would be re-employed on their return. The King himself was also active as coach, but after a great performance from the host country, his men had to pack their bags for an early trip home.



What to WATCH

BTV
Pakistan vs Sri Lanka
Sharjah Cup Tri Series (D/N)
Live at 5:00 pm

ESPN
World Cup Soccer Mix
Repeat at 11:30 am
South Africa vs Australia
Seventh OD
Repeat Highlights at 12:00 pm



TALK TURKEY



Roberto Carlos
(Brazilian soccer superstar)
"Every year, people talk about how Brazil is having a difficult time, but at the end of the day we are going to get to the final."

Star WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION 169

Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm April 12, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who clinched the Indian Wells Masters Series tennis title?
Hewitt Henman Agassi
- Who won the Bangladesh Games hockey title?
Dhaka BDR BJMC
- How many balls did Nathan Astle face to score Test cricket's fastest double century?
212 1532 0
- Who lifted the Bangladesh 'Games football' title?
Chittagong Dhaka Army
- How many gold medals did Doly Akhter win in Bangladesh Games?
Nine Seven Ten

Name: _____

Class: _____ Roll No. _____

School Address: _____

Phone: (If any) _____



AN ANCIENT SPORT: This early drawing confirms that a game similar to soccer was played in a confined area as early as the sixteenth century.

Beckham's fate in the balance



England captain David Beckham was said to be "devastated" by the foot injury which was threatening to torpedo his and England's World Cup plans.

The 26-year-old Beckham was stretched off in tears shortly into Manchester United's European Champions League semi-final, second leg tie against Deportivo La Coruna at Old Trafford on Wednesday night.

With England coach Sven Goran Eriksson in the stands, he was left with a broken bone in his left foot the result of a brutal two-footed tackle from the Spanish side's Argentine defender Pedro Duscher.

Beckham will be out of action for up to eight weeks with England's opening World Cup game against Sweden seven and a half weeks away on June 2.

Beckham's father father, Ted, told GMTV his son had been "very, very upset" in a telephone call last night.

He said: "David called me from hospital just to let me know how he was.

"To be honest he was devastated. He was very, very upset and he said he was in a lot of pain and that he was in plaster.

"He said he was more upset because of what games were coming up."

Beckham snr added: "I really feel sorry for him. It's a terrible thing to have happened. But, fingers crossed, he'll be OK."

United officials feared the worst at the time and the extent of the injury was revealed after the game by Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson who said he was doubtful for the World Cup.

"He has a broken metatarsus bone in his foot. It's six to eight weeks."

The metatarsus bones are between the ankle and the toes.

Ferguson continued: "He will be disappointed - you saw the pain he was in. The quarter-finals have been an unfortunate round for him, but he's young and there will be other campaigns.

"He will play in the World Cup again and he will play in the European Cup again."

He added: "I've not spoken to him yet, but I'm sure he's obviously disappointed."

However, Football Association (FA) chief executive Adam Crozier refused to rule Beckham out of this summer's World Cup finals in Japan and South Korea.

"I have spoken to Manchester United this morning and clearly the first 48 hours are always crucial. Already people have revised things to about six weeks," said Crozier.

"It sounds a little bit more hopeful this morning and hopefully things will improve. We have plenty of time to take stock of the situation.

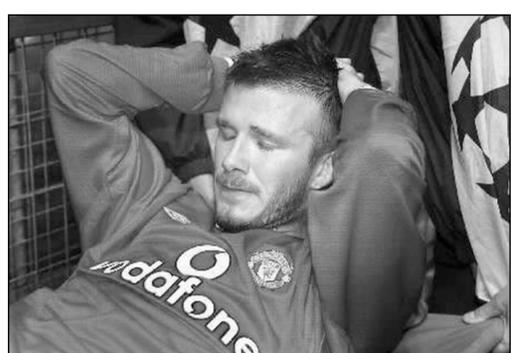
"Obviously we have a worry about the World Cup but we are hopeful that it can all be sorted out. If at all possible, you would want a player like David Beckham with you."

Eriksson has until May 21, the FIFA deadline, to name his 23-man squad for the World Cup.

A six week lay-off would see Beckham in a race against time to be match fit for the match against Sweden in Saitama.

Were he to be sidelined for eight weeks, Beckham would miss Sweden and be extremely unlikely to face Argentina in Sapporo on June 7.

But he could play in England's third Group F game against Nigeria in Osaka on June 12.



NOTHING TO DO BUT PRAY: A distraught Manchester United superstar David Beckham being taken off the field on a stretcher at Old Trafford on April 10.

Yet Proteas promise a lot

world record 400 one-day international runs without being dismissed during the 1999 World Cup, is also battling to get back into Test contention after his 21b 11oz bat lost most of its heavy-duty clout.

Coach Graham Ford, to cap it all, is on a yellow card from the United Cricket Board after being warned about deteriorating results, while officials continue to bicker over how best to apply the policy of positive discrimination in team selection.

As Donald himself put it at the start of the year: "Without a doubt, this is the lowest we have ever been ... We're beginning to wonder whether I'll ever get better."

But reports of the death of South African cricket have been greatly exaggerated.

Few sides, after all, have avoided a hammering when coming up against the current Australian side.

And before going to Australia last year, South Africa had the enviable record of not losing a series in 11.

Nor were their performances against the world champions a disgrace. Indeed, they showed commendable guts in the home series, while unearthing some interesting new talent, 21-year-old Graeme Smith to the fore.

After being decimated by an innings and 360 in the first Test in Johannesburg, the heaviest runs defeat of their history, they went close in the second only for Australia to score 334 for six in their last innings. In the third, the South Africans themselves scored an impressive 340 for five for victory.

Similarly, in the one-dayers they managed one tied result and scored 326 for three in a losing cause against the likes of McGrath, Gillespie and Warne before winning the last game.

Hardly the stuff of a team in freefall.

If you can't be a winner yourself, there's always the delightful consolation available of giving a good kicking to a rival on an even sharper losing streak.

Today offers a fine -- if rare -- opportunity to aim a large hobnailed boot at the South Africans. Every cricket fan burdened with supporting a dismal national team of no-hopers should seize the chance at once.

The statistics tell the story. The once-proud Proteas have been defeated in five of their last six Tests, all against Australia, and also lost a home one-day series against the same opponents by the thumping margin of 5-1.

A few months ago, their meeting was being billed as the World Championship decider. Now the question is more whether South Africa will be able to hold off the challengers below them.

The team, after years of success under Hansie Cronje, appears to be disintegrating faster than Allan Donald's brittle frame.

Cronje, his pockets stuffed full of bookmakers' rupees, may have prompted the South African decline by betraying the very point of playing sport.

Since then, several leading players have lost form or focus. Donald's retirement from Test cricket in February was perhaps the most significant departure, as the only South African to have taken 300 wickets at the top level.

But the sidelined Daryll Cullinan has also as good as been pensioned off while the mercurial Jonty Rhodes no longer features in Tests. Seasoned opening batsman Gary Kirsten, axed from the one-day side, is also on borrowed time.

All-rounder Lance Klusener, meanwhile, the man who reached a

nothing to do but pray: A distraught Manchester United superstar David Beckham being taken off the field on a stretcher at Old Trafford on April 10.



Norwegian IM Leif Erlend Johannesen (L) and Syed Ruhul Kabir Shiplu get ready for their Sixth United Insurance International Masters' Chess Tournament game at the NSC Chess Room yesterday.

Maksud makes Usha's day

Forward Maksud Alam Habul scored two goals as Usha Krira Chakra came from behind to register a narrow 2-1 win over Dhaka Railway in the lone Metro Premier Hockey League clash yesterday.

In a keenly contested match at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium, promotes Railway took a shock 14th minute lead when Salam scored a field goal.

However, it took the gigantic Usha only a minute to restore parity as Habul netted a spectacular field goal. He then scored the winner with yet another field goal 21 minutes into the second session.

It was Usha's second win in a row that raised their tally to six points.

On the other hand, Railway, who suffered a crushing 0-8 defeat at the hands of defending champions Mohammedan in their first match, tasted their second defeat.

In the First Division, Azad Sporting Club beat Victoria Sporting Club by four goals to nil.

The winners led the first half 3-0. Striker Russell struck twice while Mubarak and Asad were the other scorers.

Kathalagan U-17 champs

Sonargaon Cricket Club emerged champions in the Dhaka zonal qualifying round of BCB under-17 cricket tournament with an exciting seven-run win over Sonargaon Cricketers in the final at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

One-down Omi scored a fine 77 to help Kathalagan, who opted to bat first, score 192 in 44 overs. Omi hammered one six and seven boundaries in his 93-ball knock.

Yaad (42), Shiplu (22) and Michel (13) were the other notable run getters.

Sonargaon's opening bowler Sunny rattled the Kathalagan batting line-up with five for 30.

In reply, Sonargaon were restricted to 185 for nine in the stipulated 45 overs with lower order Tanveer hammering highest 41.

Int'l Masters' Chess begins

The Sixth United Insurance International Masters' Chess Tournament began at the NSC Chess Room yesterday.

Thirty-three players from India, Norway, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh including five International Masters, four FIDE Masters and two International Women Masters, are taking part in the eleven-round Swiss League meet.

In the opening round, IM Reefat-bin-Sattar beat Saptarshi Roy of India, IM Leif Erlend Johannesen of Norway beat Syed Ruhul Kabir Shiplu, Enamul Hossain Rajib beat FM Rezaul Haque, Roktim Bandyopadhyay of India beat MS Jayasinghe of Sri Lanka, IM Neelotpal Das of India beat Manjur Alam, Sheikh Nasir Ahmed beat Mehdi Hasan Porag, FM Abu Sufian Shakil beat Md. Kawser Ali, Shafiq Ahmed beat P Jayalaxmi of India, Deep Sengupta of India beat Saifuddin Luvlu and Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Emon beat Sub-Junior Champion Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar.

IM Abdullah Al-Rakib drew with Shawkat Hossain Pallab, Chanchal Kumar Ghosh drew with IM Neeraj Kumar Mishra of India, FM Taibur Rahman Sumon drew with Aminul Islam Palash and Yanur Rahman Royel drew with PDS Girinath of India.

The games between Arman Monir and IWM Nisha Mohota of India and IWM Rani Hamid and Khandokar Aminul Islam were still on when this report was being filed.

The second round games begin today (Friday) from 3 pm at the same venue.

Pakistan pile up 288

new man Abdul Razzaq caught behind two balls later.

Styris also had Nazir and Yousuf Youhana caught behind by Nevin as Pakistan slipped from 98-0 to 146-4 in the 26th over.

But Inzamam and Younis prevented further trouble with their century stand, before veteran Wasim Akram smashed an unbeaten 28 off 16 balls to set the Kiwis a challenging target.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of Pakistan innings against New Zealand in the Sharjah Cup on Thursday:

PAKISTAN					
Nazir c Nevin b Styris	47				
Afridi b Styris	56				
Razzaq c Nevin b Styris	0				
Inzamam c Nevin b McMillan	68				
Youhana c Nevin b Styris	15				
Younis b Tuffy	56				
Akram not out	28				
Latif not out	7				
Extras: (lb-3, w-3, nb-5)	11				
Total: (For 6 wks in 50 overs)	288				
Fall of wickets: 1-98, 2-98, 3-115, 4-146, 5-251, 6-253					

Did not bat: Waqar Younis, Shoab Akhtar, Saqlain Mushtaq

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Tuffy	9	0	53	1
Franklin	4	0	28	0
Butler	4	0	30	0
Oram	6	0	36	0
Styris	10	0	30	4
Harris	7	0	35	0
Astle	4	0	27	0
McMillan	6	0	46	1

NEW ZEALAND: Craig McMillan, Nathan Astle, Matthew Sinclair, Matt Horne, Chris Harris, Chris Nevin, James Franklin, Scott Styris, Daryl Tuffy, Jacob Oram, Ian Butler.

Umpires: David Shephard (England) and Srinivas Venkataraghavan (India).

Styris bowled Afridi as the batsman went for a big shot and then

Squeaky flight for Biman

The sixth win for the national airline outfit from seven games and their second within 24 hours was fashioned by Pakistani all-rounder Shahed Mehmud.

Shahed, an experienced campaigner in Dhaka cricket, struck a breezy 37 off 22 balls as Biman posted a fighting 231 for eight in the stipulated 50 overs after opting to bat first.

He then captured two vital wickets with his leg spin to restrict City Club for 218 for eight.

The defeat, their fifth on the trot, diminishes City Club's chances for a place in the Super Six.

Although Hasan Raja, a Pakistani Test cap, struck his second successive half-century, it was just not

enough for City Club to topple an ever-increasing required run-rate.

Hasan scored a 79-ball 55 before being smartly stumped by Sajjad Kadir off young left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak.

Opener Azam Iqbal with a gritty 45 off 86 balls was the notable run-getter for City Club.

National middle-order batsman Tushar Imran was again a major disappointment making only 18 before being bowled by veteran left-arm paceman Anisur Rahman.

Anis in terrific form with the ball finished with figures of two for 43 in ten overs.

Earlier, the Biman total was built around some useful contributions from their top-order.

Skipper Faruque Ahmed, although having the misfortune of losing his wicket in the 40's for a third successive time, laid the foundation with an aggressive 42 that included six boundaries.

Hasanuzzaman also kept up the good work with the bat scoring a 76-ball 45. He put on 88 runs for the fifth wicket with Khaled Mahmud, who made a workmanlike 37.

But the Biman innings picked up the pace when Shahed arrived at the crease in the 47th over. The stout right-hander clubbed two sixes and three fours in his blazing knock as Biman clobbered 38 runs from the last 17 deliveries.

YOUNG PEGASUS V YOUNG CRICKETERS

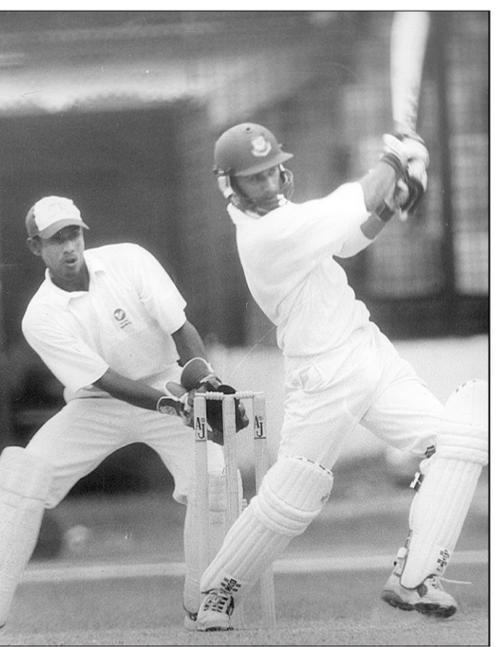
Batting first on winning the toss, promotes Young Pegasus scored an impressive 241 for eight with their opener Uzzal hammering a superb 92.

Uzzal featured in an absorbing 112 run second-wicket stand with Bidyut, who notched up 59 off 78 balls.

Uzzal struck six fours in his 133-ball vigil at the crease before being dismissed in the 43rd over with his side comfortably placed at 210 for four.

Young Cricketers, in their chase, were bundled out for 189 in 44.1 overs. Pakistani Wahid Murad and slow left-arter Saifullah captured three wickets each for Pegasus.

Nayan Kumar with a swashbuckling 70 off 88 balls fought a losing



Biman's Hasanuzzaman pulls one during his innings against City Club in a GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Thursday.

Aussie youngster joins Muktis

Jonathan Ison, a 20-year old Australian attacking midfielder joined Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra yesterday to play in the forthcoming Nitol-Tata 2nd National Football League, scheduled for a April 16 start in Chittagong.

Ison, who represented Australia's under-16 team a few years ago, had played for Blue Devils-Aft Football Club in Sydney before arriving in Bangladesh.

His registration formalities were completed yesterday afternoon.

Meanwhile, with only five days to go, only Bangladesh Army have submitted their full players list to Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) till last evening.

Srinath gets WI in trouble

Paceman Javagal Srinath grabbed three wickets in his seven testing overs to rattle the West Indies in the opening Test against India at Bourda here on Thursday.

The veteran fast bowler took 3-31 as the West Indies lost prolific run-getter Brian Lara for no score before reaching 86-3 at lunch after electing to bat on the opening day.

Skipper Carl Hooper was batting on 21 after surviving a first-ball caught behind chance off Srinath, while Ramnaresh Sarwan was 27 not out as India began the five-Test series on a positive note.

Srinath, playing his first ever Test in the Caribbean having been forced home from the 1997 tour because of a shoulder injury, wrecked the West Indian top order during his fiery opening spell.

Roberto Carlos (Brazilian soccer superstar) "Every year, people talk about how Brazil is having a difficult time, but at the end of the day we are going to get to the final."

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 169. Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star. Win attractive prizes. Competition closes at 8 pm April 12, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards.



Action from yesterday's Metro Premier Division Hockey League encounter between Usha Krira Chakra and Dhaka Railway at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium.