

4

5

days to go

Did U Know?

It's 16 June 1938 and the game between Italy and Brazil in the Stade Velodrome in Marseilles has been under way for an hour. Italy are leading 1-0 and now they are awarded a penalty. The man for such situations is normally Giuseppe Meazza, but he has a problem. The elastic holding up his shorts has broken and they are very loose about his hips.

Meazza is not deterred, however - with his left hand he holds the shorts up, with the right he places the ball on the spot and gives the Brazilian goalkeeper no chance with his shot. Italy win the game and go on to the final and a successful defence of their title.

What to WATCH

**BTV**  
Nitol-Tata National Football League  
Dhaka Abahani vs Chaturanga Shanga  
Live at 5:30 pm

TALK TURKEY



**Marcelo Bielsa**  
(Argentine soccer coach)  
"He's a great player, I'd be sorry if he couldn't play. Rivalry is good and it's even better if your opponents are as strong as you. That's what we're looking for. It would be better with Beckham than without him. I hope he's there."  
**On injured England superstar David Beckham.**

**Star WHIZZ KID**  
**COMPETITION 169**

Tick the correct answers, post to

**The Daily Star**  
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm  
April 26, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who clinched the Indian Wells Masters Series tennis title?  
Hewitt    Henman    Agassi

2. Who won the Bangladesh Games hockey title?  
Dhaka    BDR    BJMC

3. How many balls did Nathan Astle face to score Test cricket's fastest double century?  
212    1532    0

4. Who lifted the Bangladesh "Games football" title?  
Chittagong    Dhaka    Army

5. How many gold medals did Doly Akhter win in Bangladesh Games?  
Nine    Seven    Ten

Name.....

Class..... Roll No.....

School Address.....

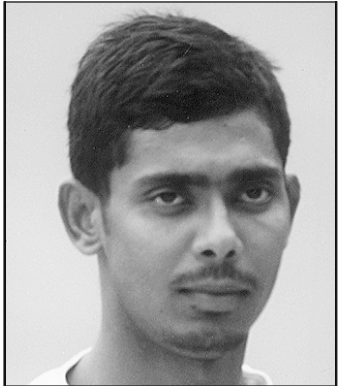
Phone: (If any).....

# Monjurul mauls Brothers

SPORTS REPORTER



The 'centenary' team of Victoria Sporting Club took the solo lead in the GrameenPhone Premier League crushing traditional giants Brothers Union by six wickets at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.



MONJURUL ... 4 for 18

Stadium yesterday.

While a mediocre team-turned-title contenders Victoria sized the opportunity to claim the top spot

before being all out in 47.5 overs.

The Pakistani made sure that his team reached the 200-mark after his captain Hasan struck 57 off 57 balls.

Majed then captured three important wickets to restrict Biman to 206 for nine in 50 overs.

He swung the pendulum in the Pegasus' way by dismissing a menacingly poised Sajjad Kadir, who struck 24 off 22 balls, and Abdur Razzak in successive overs.

Biman needed eight runs from the last over to win the match but could manage only five.

It was Biman's second defeat from eight games.

On the other hand the exciting victory, their fifth from eight games, brightened Pegasus' hopes for a passage into the Super Six.

## SCOREBOARDS

Scoreboards of the two Grameen-Phone Premier Division Cricket League matches at different venues on Monday:

**Victoria SC v Brothers Union**  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium.

**BROTHERS UNION**  
Sajjadul c Kapali b Monjurul 0  
Harun c Al-Shahriar b Monjurul 1  
Athar Ali c Jahangir b Monjurul 29  
Mahbub c Masud b R Hanif 30



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Victoria's Test opener Al-Shahriar cuts while Brothers Union's veteran Pakistani star Moin Khan (who came to Dhaka on April 14 and made just six runs with the bat yesterday) follows the path of the ball at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Bangladesh Biman suffered a stinging two-run defeat at the hands of promotes Young Pegasus to find themselves in company of holders Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani Krira Chakra at the second position.

A dream spell from national left-arm paceman Monjurul Islam gave Victoria their seventh win from eight games in an interesting battle where former Pakistan captain Moin Khan played for Brothers Union.

Moin scored only six runs in an unimpressive Brothers total of 156 for eight before being clean bowled by a beautiful in swinger from Monjurul.

Brothers brought in the discarded Pakistan wicketkeeper-batsman on Sunday in desperate bid to ensure a place in the Super Six.

But the match as a contest was all but over when the left-arm ripped the Brothers hearts out with four for only 18 runs in ten overs. His new-ball burst saw Brothers reduced to 48 for four from where they had never recovered.

Victoria, in their chase, reached the victory target of 157 for four in 33.3 overs with opener Al-Shahriar hammering a swashbuckling 87.

The run-a-ball of the right-hander included 14 boundaries and a six. At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Young Pegasus brought Biman down to earth, thanks to a brilliant all-round show from their Pakistani recruit Majed Jafri.

Majed scored a polished 53 as Pegasus recovered from a disappointing start to put up a decent 208

Moin Khan b Monjurul 6  
Mustadir lbw b Enamul 36  
Ziauddin c Parvez b Masud 15  
Aslam c R Hanif b Enamul 9

POINTS TABLE				
Team	M	W	L	Pts
Victoria	8	7	1	14
Mohammedan	8	6	2	12
Abahani	8	6	2	12
Biman	8	6	2	12
Y Pegasus	8	5	3	10
Brothers Union	8	4	4	8
Surjo Tarun	8	4	4	8
City Club	8	4	4	8
Kalabagan	8	3	5	6
Uttara SC	8	2	6	4
Dhanmondi	8	1	7	2
Y Cricketers	8	-	8	0

Shamsul not out 7  
Morshed not out 1  
Extras: (b-1, lb-4, w-17) 22  
Total: (For 8 wickets in 50 overs) 156  
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-22, 3-41, 4-48, 5-85, 6-114, 7-145, 8-150.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Monjurul	10	4	18	4
Saiful	6	0	34	0
Enamul	10	0	30	2
Masud	10	0	32	1
R Hanif	10	0	21	1
Kapali	4	0	16	0

**VICTORIA SC**  
Parvez c Moin b Shamsul 7  
Al-Shahriar c & b Imran 87  
Jahangir c Moin b Imran 9  
Sajjad lbw b Imran 17  
R Hanif not out 23  
K Mashud not out 7  
Extras: (b-2, lb-1, nb-1, w-3) 7  
Total: (For 4 wickets in 33.3 overs) 157

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# BLAST FROM THE PAST



PHOTO: STAR FILE

The jubilant Italy team celebrates its 1938 World Cup triumph and becomes the first team to win two consecutive FIFA World Cups.

## Nitol-Tata NFL kicks off today

# Abahani face Chaturanga

SHAHIDUL ISLAM, Chittagong

The final round of the Nitol-Tata National Football League 2002 kicks off at the MA Aziz Stadium with little or no preparation from the local organisers Chittagong Jela Krira Sangstha (CJKS).

Defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra will take on 'minnows' Chaturanga Jubo Sangha of Sylhet in the opening encounter, which is scheduled to commence at 5.30pm.

Bangladesh Television will cover the match live. State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman will declare the meet open.

The two teams arrived in the port city on Sunday night and warmed themselves up yesterday afternoon.

Abahani had a light practice session but Chaturanga looked very serious in their training to pull up an upset after a disappointing last season.

Captains and coaches of the two teams meant it they were serious-

ness about the business in hand. All of them echoed that they were not, by any means, undermining each other.

Abahani captain Arman, who had sweet and nostalgic memories centring this very venue, said, "Winning every match is our only headache now. So, our ultimate target is no less than the title you know."

"This is almost the same group that won the Dhaka League last year," said Arman, admitting that his team had some problem with the mid-field.

Coach Amalesh Sen hoped that his team would face no problem to beat the team from Sylhet since he has two lethal strikers in Rokonzammam Kanchan and Mojibur Rahman Ritu.

Chaturanga captain Rahel said that they were not overawed by the reputation of Abahani.

"We have nothing to lose against

Abahani. If we can play good football winning the match would not be difficult," said a relaxed Rahel.

Coach Jumman Lusa said that his boys are fit and kicking to do something special.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) and CJKS organised a press briefing in the afternoon yesterday.

BFF assistant general secretary Sirajul Islam, who is also the League secretary, BFF executive member Shamsul Haq Chowdhury, CJKS vice president Dastagir Chowdhury and joint secretary Hafizur Rahman spoke on the occasion.

## TEAM PROBABLES

**ABAHANI KC** (from): Apel, Titu, Sujun, Nazrul, Hasan, Iqbal, Asad, Arman, Bidyut, Ritu and Kanchan

**CHATURANGA JS:** Munna, Kingshuk, Riad, Shuvro, Kamal, Rahel, Sentu, Jahid, Prantosh, Jonny and Khokan, (Sadeq)



PHOTO: STAR

A combo photo shows (L) Chaturanga players doing some stretching and (R) Abahani coach Amalesh Sen briefing his charges during the teams' respective training sessions at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

# Akram in action again

SPORTS REPORTER



Title aspirants Abahani Krira Chakra returned to winning ways with a comprehensive 64-run win over lowly rated Dhanmondi Club in one of the

two GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League matches held on

Sunday, the Bengali new year's day.

Skipper Akram Khan maintained his good form with the bat and scored yet another fifty as the Dhanmondi based giants posted a commanding 256 for eight in the allotted 50 overs after being asked to bat at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The big man from Chittagong smashed 71 off 84 balls including a pair of sixes and as many boundaries to lead from the front after the

Abahani openers failed once again to lay a decent foundation for a defendable total.

Akram's scored six half-centuries including a hundred off the seven innings he played so far.

Together with Pakistani all-rounder Mohammad Hossain, Akram produced a very productive 119-run for the fifth wicket to help

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## CUP CORNER



AFP, Tokyo

The Japan Football Association said Monday it has set up an official website for fans of the Japanese national team.

The site, including pictures and comments of the players, match reports and analysis, and interviews, is the first about the team authorized by the JFA. The web address is www.nippondaihyo.com.

The JFA is setting up a free site, and members' site, which will cost one thousand yen (7.6 dollars) per month, or 10,000 yen per a year.

"This site lines up as much information as possible from every angle about the national team to meet the enthusiasm and cheer of football supporters," said JFA president Shunichiro Okano. Okano has announced he will retire after the World Cup, which begins May 31.

## TRAP ADDS FOUR

Rome

Italy coach Giovanni Trapattoni on Sunday evening called up four players to join his squad for the World Cup warm-up friendly against Uruguay in Milan on Wednesday.

Brescia defender Daniele Bonera, AC Milan midfielder Massimo Ambrosini, Juventus midfielder Alessio Tacchinardi and Lazio's Stefano Fiore have all been added to the squad for the match with the Uruguayans.

Trapattoni was forced into the move after injuries on Sunday forced Inter Milan defender Marco Materazzi, Juventus defender Mark Iuliano and AC Milan midfielder Demetrio Albertini to withdraw from the squad.

Inter Milan forward Christian Vieri, AS Roma forward Marco Delvecchio and Atalanta player Cristiano Doni are also carrying knocks but will be looked at by Italian doctors before a decision is made.

Parma forward Marco Di Vaio has been put on standby in case either Delvecchio or Vieri can't make it.

## REVISED SQUAD

**Keepers:** Gianluigi Buffon (Juventus), Francesco Toldo (Inter Milan)

**Defenders:** Fabio Cannavaro (Parma), Alessandro Nesta (Lazio), Christian Panucci (AS Roma), Daniele Adani (Fiorentina), Daniele Bonera (Brescia)

**Midfielders:** Gianluca Zambrotta (Juventus), Gianluca Pessotto (Juventus), Francesco Coco (Barcelona/Spa), Damiano Tommasi (AS Roma), Gennaro Gattuso (AC Milan), Christian Zanetti (Inter Milan), Luigi Di Biagio (Inter Milan), Cristiano Doni (Atalanta), Massimo Ambrosini (AC Milan), Alessio Tacchinardi (Juventus), Stefano Fiore (Lazio)

**Strikers:** Christian Vieri (Inter Milan), Marco Delvecchio (AS Roma), Vincenzo Montella (AS Roma), Filippo Inzaghi (AC Milan), Alessandro Del Piero (Juventus)

## FRANCA REPLACES LUIZAO IN BRAZIL SQUAD

Rio de Janeiro

Sao Paulo striker Franca has replaced ill Luizao in the Brazil squad for the World Cup warm-up match against Portugal in Lisbon on Wednesday, Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari said on Saturday.

Scolari, who could have called up Washington who plays for Brazilian club Ponte Preta, or Sporting Lisbon's Mario Jardel, instead plumped for Franca to join the squad which was due to fly to Portugal on Sunday.

## BPL RELISHING THE PROSPECT

Bangalore

India's largest television maker, BPL Ltd., said Monday it expected sales in the three states where football is popular to double in the run up to the World Cup finals.

"There are three key states where football is popular in India," said Ajay Bajjal, chief of BPL's Entertainment Electronics Business Group.

"In these three states, West Bengal, Goa and Kerala, we expect sales to jump between 75 percent to 100 percent."

India bowed out of the World Cup qualifiers in May and the game is not played in most parts of the country, but is popular in the eastern state of West Bengal and southern states of Goa and Kerala.

"In northern India (where cricket is more popular) I do not expect the sales to jump at all," Bajjal told AFP. "In the three football-crazy states sales must double from the 25,000 television sets to about 50,000 by June," he said.

BPL makes about 1.2 million television sets annually and has a market share of about 20 percent in India.

The month-long World Cup finals beginning May 31 are being co-hosted by Japan and South Korea.

## FERGIE CONFIDENT ABOUT BECKHAM

London

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson believes David Beckham will be fit to lead England at this year's World Cup finals.

Beckham broke a bone in his left foot during last week's Champions League quarter-final win over Deportivo La Coruna at Old Trafford after a lunging two-footed tackle from Argentinian defender Pedro Duscher.

And while Ferguson fears the injury will mean an end to the midfielder's season for United, he is still hopeful of a recovery in time for Japan and South Korea.

Ferguson told The Mail on Sunday newspaper: "He has a good chance of going to the World Cup."

"At this moment I'd have to say it is very doubtful he will wear a United shirt again this season."

"The World Cup is that little bit further away and he has a better chance of recovering in time for that."

"There is a lot of swelling on his foot but that will gradually go away. He's having treatment twice a day. It will take time but he will be all right."

## 24-HOUR PROTECTION TO TEAMS

Tokyo

Japan will provide round-the-clock protection for each team participating in the football World Cup finals, a report said Sunday.

At least two policemen will be assigned to each national squad, the Mainichi Shimbun said.

"(The assigned officers) will constantly report the locations and the status of players and teams to local police authorities and the National Police Agency (NPA) until they leave Japan," it said.

Police declined to comment on the report.

The month-long finals beginning May 31 are being co-hosted by Japan and South Korea.

# Dravid draws it for India



REUTERS, Georgetown

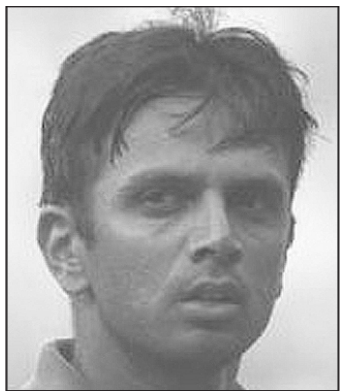
The first Test between West Indies and India has ended in a draw after heavy overnight rain forced the fifth and final day's play to be abandoned without a ball being bowled.

Umpires Asoke de Silva of Sri Lanka and Daryl Harper of Australia abandoned the match at 9:45 am (1345 GMT) after inspecting the huge puddles that had formed at the Bourda cricket ground.

Rahul Dravid hammered an unbeaten 144 and shared in a record 120-run stand for the eighth wicket with Sarandeep Singh, who was 39 not out, to push India's score from 275 for seven to 395 before rain intervened in the second session on Sunday.

Captain Carl Hooper had earlier

struck 233 for his maiden Test double-century and Shivnarine Chanderpaul added a career-best



DRAVID ... 144 n.o

140 as West Indies scored 501 in the first innings.

Earlier on Sunday, Dravid sal-

vaged India's batting pride with his brave knock on a rain-curtailed fourth day.

His 10th Test century ensured that India would not lose the match as the tourists avoided a follow-on to reach 395-7 in reply to the hosts' 501 when play was called off due to rain with 52 overs to go before the day.

Sarandeep batted for 165 minutes for his defiant 39 to compile his highest score in three Tests.

Their partnership was India's highest for the eighth wicket stand against the West Indies in 71 Tests, the previous best being 107 between Yashpal Sharma and Balwinder Singh Sandhu at Kingston in 1992-83.

India faced a follow-on when they were reduced to 275-7 after resuming at 237-4, but Dravid received valuable support from

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GrameenPhone Premier Cricket League

**Kalabagan KC v Uttara SC**

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

**Mohammedan v Dhanmondi Club**

Venue: BKSP

**Surjo Tarun v Young Cricketers**

Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

**Nitol-Tata Nat'l Football League**

**Dhaka Abahani vs Chaturanga**

Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Ctg

**Metro Premier Hockey League**

**Abahani KC v Dhaka Railway (4 pm)**

Venue: NSC Chess Room.

# NZ restricted to 213



AFP, Sharjah

New Zealand wasted an explosive start to be kept down to 213-9 from 50 overs by Pakistan in a must-win match of the Sharjah Cup here on Monday.

Nathan Astle and Matt Horne hammered 75 for the first wicket off just 11.5 overs before Pakistan grabbed four wickets in the space of four runs to ruin the bright start.

Chris Harris (35) and Scott Styris (43) boosted the total, but the advantage lay with Pakistan as off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq and seamer Wasim Akram grabbed three wickets each.

The winner of the last league match in the three-nation tournament will qualify for Wednesday's

final against Sri Lanka.

New Zealand have lost all their nine encounters against Pakistan at this desert venue, but teams batting first in this particular event have successfully defended their totals in the five matches so far.

New Zealand's injury woes continued as frontline batsman Craig McMillan joined wicketkeeper Chris Nevin on the sidelines with a foot injury.

The Kiwis are already depleted by the absence of six injured players, including star all-rounder Chris Cairns, batsman Lou Vincent and main spinner Daniel Vettori.

Horne (27) and Astle (36) came good for the first time in the tournament, tearing apart the dreaded pace attack of Akram and captain Waqar Younis.

Saqlain put an end to the mayhem by removing both openers in successive overs.

Saqlain took a low return catch to get rid of Horne, while Waqar judged a skier superbly at mid-on to remove Astle.

Tearaway Shoaib Akhtar knocked back Matthew Sinclair's stumps and when Jacob Oram was run out due to skipper Stephen Fleming's hesitation, New Zealand were reduced to 79-4.

Fleming himself was trapped leg-before by Abdul Razaq for 12, while Akram ended Harris' effort by having him trapped leg-before.

Andre Adams, making his first appearance in the tournament, hit 20 off 28 balls, including a six into the stands at long-on off Waqar.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the New Zealand innings against Pakistan in a Sharjah Cup one-day international on Monday:

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