



## Did U Know?

A total that is not likely to be equalled ever again is the 174,000 crowd in the Maracana Stadium in Rio on 16 July 1950 for the World Cup final (unofficial sources quote the figure as over 200,000). With the score at 1-1, Ghiggia broke the hearts of the home supporters by scoring the winning goal eleven minutes from time. Apart from 1958, it was the only World Cup in which the home team reached the final and failed to win the title.



**BTV**  
Pakistan v Sri Lanka  
Sharjah Cup Final  
Live from 5:00 pm

**ESPN**  
Serie A  
Highlights at 11:00 am  
Football Focus  
Football Magazine  
12:00 pm



**Sven-Goran Eriksson**  
(England football manager)  
"Of course I'm willing to take a chance. It's extremely important. He's the captain, he's one of the best footballers in the world today, so of course if there's a small chance that he can play we will take him with us."

**About David Beckham's**  
chances of playing in the World Cup.

**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**

- 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 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) .....

## Day sees no upset

SPORTS REPORTER



Mohammedan Sporting Club got back on track with a 9-wicket thrashing of Dhanmondi Club in a GrameenPhone Premier League match at the BKSP in Savar yesterday.

On a day of no upset Surjo Tarun Club and Kalabagan Krira Chakra also registered easy wins.

Surjo Tarun defeated Young Cricketers by four wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium while Kalabagan posted an imposing 165-run victory over Uttara Sporting Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Mohammedan, smarting under a stinging five-wicket defeat at the hand of Kalabagan Krira Chakra on Saturday, showed signs of improvements in every department to roll up a hapless Dhanmondi.

Sent in to bat, Dhanmondi were bundled out for 146 runs in 49 overs. Mohammedan, in their chase, rattled up 149 for one in only 24.1 overs with in-form opener Ehsanul Haq hammering an unbeaten 88. Ehsanul struck 14 boundaries and a six in his 84-ball enterprising knock.

But Mohammedan's ploy to promote Sanwar in the batting order did not click. Starving for runs, the national middle-order batsman scored only while opening the innings with Ehsanul.

Mohammedan cruised to their seventh victory without further damage with Habibul Bashar notching 37 runs. The top batsman of the country shared 132 runs for the undefeated second wicket with Ehsanul.

Earlier, left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique claimed three wickets for Mohammedan. Dhanmondi wicketkeeper Anisul Hakim scored 51.

A youthful Surjo Tarun rode on the brilliance of left-arm pacemen Shafaq-al-Zabir and middle-order batsman Mazharul Huq to post their

fifth victory.

Shafaq captured three wickets with the new ball to dismiss Young Cricketers for 187 runs.

A portly Mazharul then struck a swashbuckling 98 as Surjo Tarun reached the victory mark (198) with more than two overs to spare. He struck fourteen boundaries.

It was a superb innings from the right-hander after Surjo Tarun were reduced to 40 for three.

Tarun skipper Hannan Sarker failed for a change with a duck after his back-to-back centuries.

But Mazharul and an experienced Selim Shahed took Tarun close to victory putting on 89 runs for the fifth wicket. Shahed scored a patient 43 off 82 balls.

Kalabagan was the most outstanding team on the day.

They amassed 305 for six in the stipulated 50 overs with their hero against Mohammedan Rafiqul and Pakistani Ziaur Rahman scoring half centuries.

Opener Rafiqul followed up his match winning 88 against Mohammedan with a 78-ball 76. The right-hander hammered six fours and a couple of sixes.

Ziaur struck a breezy 78 off 68 balls that included seven hits across the rope and a six.

Uttara, in reply were shot out for 140 in 44.1 overs. Only Narayan offered some fighting quality with 41.

Kalabagan captain Mushfiqur Rahman captured three for 28 runs. His new-ball partner Talha Jubair and Anisur Rahman took two wickets each.

### SCOREBOARDS

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

Mohammedan SC v Dhanmondi Club	
Venue: BKSP	
DHANMONDI CLUB	
Monirul cAnwar b Taposh	8
Hasibul c Sanwar b Ashiq	3
Monir c Anwar b Shafiuddin	3

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PHOTO: STAR

Rafiqul of Kalabagan whacks one through off-side during their GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League encounter against Uttara Sporting Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

## Asian rivals to face off again



AFP, Sharjah

Pakistan and Sri Lanka clash in the Sharjah Cup one-day final here on Wednesday determined to provide a batting spectacle between two evenly-matched teams.

The Asian giants ousted injury-hit New Zealand in the three-nation preliminary league to set up an exciting tussle worth 120,000 dollars to the winners.

Sri Lanka have the psychological edge after beating Pakistan both times in the league, but skipper Sanath Jayasuriya is wary of taking victory for granted.

"You can never predict how a final goes, it all depends on how well the teams take the pressure of a crunch match," Jayasuriya said.

The Sri Lankan captain knows victory is never a certainty. Six months back, his team lost the Champions Trophy final here to Pakistan despite being the favoured team after the league stage.

"We have not forgotten what happened here last October," he said. "That defeat still hurts and we are determined to make up for it."

Despite both league matches

going Sri Lanka's way this time, there is little to separate the two teams, especially in the bowling.

While Pakistan have a star-studded line-up of captain Waqar Younis, Wasim Akram, Shoaib Akhtar and Saqlain Mushtaq, Sri Lanka are banking on seamers Chaminda Vaas and Nuwan Zoysa and versatile off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan.

Little wonder then that the bowlers have dominated the proceedings in the two league matches between the finalists.

In the first game, Jayasuriya hit 87 off 78 balls, but found no support at the other end and were restricted to 242-9 from 50 overs.

Batting under lights, Pakistan were shot out for 201 with Muralitharan taking three for 27 from 10 overs.

The second match was much closer, Pakistan losing by nine runs as Vaas and Zoysa conceded just nine runs in the last three overs.

Five of the six league matches were won by sides batting first and both Jayasuriya and Waqar conceded winning the toss could be crucial.

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## BLAST FROM THE PAST



PHOTO: STAR FILE

THE GOAL THAT KILLED BRAZIL: Uruguay's winning goal, put past Brazilian keeper Paulo Victor Barbosa by Alcides Ghiggia in the final of the 1950 FIFA World Cup. The diminutive Uruguayan forward was just 23 years old and as yet largely unknown prior to that goal which put hosts Brazil in an eight-year mourning before they won the Cup in 1958.

## Abahani held

NITOL-TATA NAT'L FOOTBALL LEAGUE

SHAHIDUL ISLAM, Chittagong

Jumman Lusa's tactical move paid dividend as Sylhet Chaturanga held defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra to a goalless draw in the opening encounter of the Nitol-Tata National Football League here at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

The Chaturanga boys, resorting to a purely defensive strategy, snatched one valuable point away from the Dhaka giants in a match that turned out as a disappointment for a nearly five thousand crowd of a 25,000-capacity venue. Abahani did dominate the proceedings, but lacked the penetrative skill and creative midfield work. Besides, the two strikers -- Mojibur Rahman Ritu and Rokonzaman Kanchan -- were hardly allowed to run into the tight Chaturanga defence manned by Kingshuk, Riad, Shuvra and Kamal.

Yet, Abahani might consider themselves unlucky in at least three occasions during the second half of the match. The easiest chance they got in the 70th minute when Iqbal found himself only to beat a hapless Chaturanga custodian Munna.

But Iqbal was denied to have a crack at the goal by Kingshuk, who pulled the jersey of the mid-fielder in the danger zone. Referee Mansur Azad however awarded a free kick on the edge of the box and Kingshuk escaped with a yellow card.

Abahani captain tried his luck from the free kick, but the ball missed the target by few inches.

Abahani's last chance to win the match dashed when Ritu failed to head home a good cross from Hasan five minutes away from the final whistle.

Chaturanga, who remained busy defending their own citadel for most of the time, however had a golden chance to pull off an intriguing finish when their striker Masud Khan ran into the forbidden zone. But Abahani defender Nazrul stopped the dangerous-looking Masud with a tough tackle that Monsur overlooked.

Chaturanga's diminutive midfielder Abdul Kaiyum Sentu was

adjudged man-of-the-match.

The second match between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Mohsin Club of Narayanganj will be played at the same venue on Thursday.

### TEAMS

**ABAHANI KC:** Apel, Titu, Nazrul, Hasan, Iqbal, Biddyt, Arman, Tanvir (Asad), Ritu (Malai Barman) and Kanchan

**CHATURANGA:** Munna, Kingshuk (YC), Shuvra, Kamal (Rana), Riyad (YC), Quyeem, Rahel, Jahid, Haider, Jonny and Prantosh

**Referee:** Mansur Azad



PHOTO: STAR

Chaturanga goalkeeper Munna foils an Abahani attempt during the inaugural clash of the Nitol-Tata National Football League at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

## Albertini's WC dream over



AFP, Carnago, Italy

Italy midfielder Demetrio Albertini, ruled out of the World Cup with an Achilles tendon injury, says he knew the moment he was hurt that he was out of the tournament.

Albertini, who has won 79 caps for Italy, suffered the injury during his club AC Milan's 1-0 Serie A defeat at Juventus on Sunday and club doctors have ruled him out of action for 2-3 months.

"I realised what it meant straight away. I felt a sharp pain and I knew

that I had done my tendon and that I wouldn't make it to the World Cup," Albertini said in comments reported by the Italian daily Giornale on Tuesday.

"I didn't cry because there are other things in life to cry about but it is a terrible blow," added Albertini.

The 30-year-old had been a part of Giovanni Trapattoni's Italy squad in their unbeaten qualification campaign for the World Cup but his regular starting place had been threatened by poor form and persistent injuries.

Albertini underwent a knee operation last May which kept him out for six months and although he returned to action in September his progress was frequently restricted by injuries.

But his hopes of a place in Trapattoni's final squad of 23 were raised when he was recalled for last month's friendly against England in which he made a substitute appearance and he was also selected for Wednesday's friendly with Uruguay before suffering his injury.

A cultured central midfielder, Albertini was part of the successful Milan side of the early 1990's which dominated Italian and European competition.

He made his Italy debut in 1991 against Cyprus and was a regular in Arrigo Sacchi's side which lost to Brazil in the 1994 World Cup finals.

Four years later he was a member of Cesare Maldini's team which reached the quarter-finals before losing to hosts and eventual winners France and he played in the final of Euro 2000 in which Italy lost, again to France, on a 'golden goal'.

## CUP CORNER



AFP, Saitama, Japan

A 63,700-seat stadium here was given the go-ahead Tuesday to be used without renovation as one of the 10 football World Cup venues in Japan, only weeks before the tournament kicks off.

The Japanese World Cup organising committee JAWOC and the national football association determined that there was no need to dig up the Saitama Stadium 2002 pitch and lay down new turf.

The pitch, hit by an unusually hot summer and a rainy autumn, was criticised by the Italian team for being like a "beach volleyball court" with large divots last November when they battled to a 1-1 draw with Japan in a friendly.

The pitch at the 35.6 billion-yen (270 million dollar) stadium, which opened last October, has since been provided with ground temperature control and air stimulation to help the roots.

"It may not be perfect yet. But its improvement is clear to all," said Toyoyi Takada, who heads the facilities committee at the Japanese Football Association. "Even resurfacing involves risks and we are convinced it is not necessary."

Saitama prefecture deputy governor Miyao Suzuki said, "We will do our best to nurture the turf in time for the World Cup opening."

The month-long World Cup finals, to be co-hosted by Japan and South Korea, open on May 31.

Saitama, located outside the northern city limits of Tokyo, will play host to four matches -- England vs Sweden on June 2, Japan vs Belgium on June 4, Cameroon vs Saudi Arabia on June 6 and a semi-final on June 26.

### COSTA RICA TO TASTE ASIA

Yokohama

Unfancied Costa Rica plan to lap up an early taste of Asian football in friendlies against Japan Wednesday and South Korea Saturday as they fine tune for the World Cup finals.

"When we received offers from Japan and South Korea, we accepted them right away, because we will play China in our first match in the World Cup," said Costa Rica's head coach Alexander Guimaraes.

"It is also a good chance for my players to know the stadiums and the circumstances and learn what they have to improve before the finals. "These friendly matches are the final chances for them to impress themselves to qualify for the final team. It's the same for the Japanese, too, and I'm sure my players will give 100 percent."

Guimaraes played in Costa Rica's only other appearance in the World Cup finals -- in Italy in 1990 under the wing of Bora Milutinovic.

It is ironic that Milutinovic is now in charge of China and has eased the sleeping Asian giants into the finals for the first time.

The Costa Ricans will be without injured striker Paulo Wanchope, who helped Manchester City to promotion to the English Premiership, defensive backbone Jervis Drummond and skipper Reynaldo Parks.

"I brought here 70 percent of our final team. The injured players are rehabilitating now. I think they will be back to the team as we have still time before announcing the final list on May 21," said Guimaraes.

### 265,000 UNSOLD TICKETS!

REUTERS, Seoul

South Korea still has over 265,000 World Cup soccer finals tickets left for games in their 10 venue cities, prompting concern about a lack of enthusiasm.

Around 807,570 tickets were made available for sale in South Korea and a further 607,358 outside the country. But Korea's World Cup organising committee (KOWOC) says 265,717 or about 20 percent of the total remain unsold.

South Korea is co-hosting the May 31-June 30 World Cup finals with Japan.

Authorities in South Korea are concerned about the ticket figures and the issue was raised at a meeting on Tuesday between Culture and Tourism Minister Namkung Jin and the country's President Kim Dae-jung.

In contrast, Japan's World Cup organisers said last week they received applications for 1.72 million tickets in the third and final stage of sales and allocations will be by ballot.

Of the total ticket pot left in South Korea, 6,081 are for three matches involving China. KOWOC has been trying to persuade Koreans to give up their tickets to Chinese fans desperate to see their side's first appearance in the finals.

Tickets are available from South Korean post offices, some financial institutions and via the Internet.

### LOUTS TO BE INFORMED!

London

The British Government said Monday that England fans who are unlikely to be allowed into Japan for this summer's World Cup finals are set to be notified in advance.

The move is designed to stop trouble at the tournament with the English and Japanese authorities sharing information in order to keep out potential hooligans who might cause problems.

Those likely to fall foul of the new crackdown are supporters who have been involved in past incidents of hooliganism but who are not KRo nly subject to Government banning orders preventing them from travelling to England away matches.

Currently, there are 932 bans in operation but the figure is expected to rise in the last few weeks before the tournament.

"We are encouraging police to seek more orders," a Government spokesman said.

"We are publicising this because the implications of travelling half way round the world and being refused entry to a country are more serious than if you just go across the Channel, and can potentially create problems for the carriers who have taken people there."

England's opening group matches are all due to be played in Japan who are co-hosting the tournament with South Korea.

## Skipper Owen



AFP, London

Liverpool striker Michael Owen on Tuesday was named as stand-in England captain for Wednesday night's international friendly against fellow World Cup qualifiers Paraguay at Anfield.

Owen, 22, replaces England

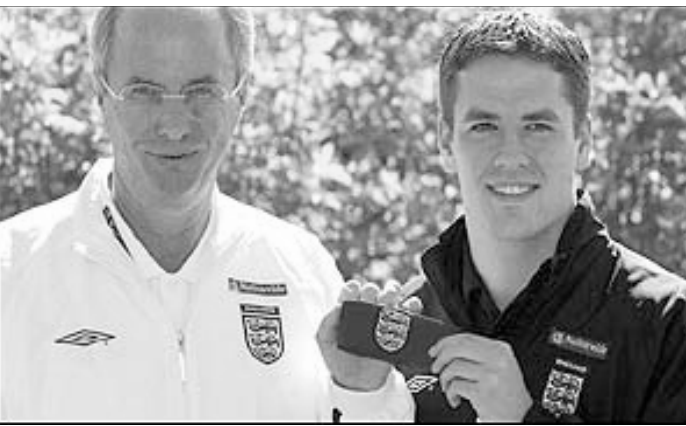


PHOTO: INTERNET

Michael Owen (R) poses with England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson after being handed over the captain's armband at Liverpool yesterday.