

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP
KOREA JAPAN

3 2

days to go



Did U Know?

In sporting terms, France '98 will go down in history as a successful World Cup. For the first time 32 teams took part in a tournament. Besides, this version of the quadrennial event enabled the world to discover such fresh young talents as Ariel Ortega (Argentina), Thierry Henry (France) and Michael Owen (England). Owen earned the distinction of scoring one of the most breathtaking goals of the whole World Cup, where 171 hit the target in a total of 64 matches. Davor Suker (Croatia) was the top scorer with six goals.



Hernan Crespo
(Lazio's Argentine int'l)
"I would really like to see a player like Baggio at the World Cup."

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 170

Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
May 10, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

- How many Test tons has Tendulkar scored so far?
30 25 29
- Who won the Standard Chartered Bank National School Cricket Championship?
Comilla High Scholastica BKSP
- Who became champions in the AUB Cup inter-private university cricket tournament?
AUB NSU ATUB
- Who clinched the New White Plus GM chess tournament title?
Zia Rezaat Sermek
- Which sport does Paolo Maldini play?

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (if any)

What to WATCH

Dear readers, We are sorry that we again could not give you television timings today. In fact, it is happening due to some technical difficulties.

- Sports Editor

Pabna cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Jugantar Club defeated Shikharthi Club by five wickets in the Pepsi First Division Cricket League at the Pabna Edward College ground

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'Super Six' starts today

SPORTS REPORTER



The 'Super Six' phase of the GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League begins today with leaders Victoria Sporting Club taking on promotees Young Pegasus in the opening match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Six out of 12 teams have moved in to the main race for the title after the first round ended on April 24 and the others are now fighting in the relegation league that has already started from April 26.

The 'centenary team' of Victoria Sporting Club staked their strong claim for the glory as they finished the first round top with highest ten wins out of eleven matches. The oldest club among the six teams formed a formidable side this year by roping in four leading national players. They further bolstered their strength by signing Kenyan all-rounder Thomas Odoyo ahead of the

'Super Six'.

Co-aspirants Biman rounded up their first round campaign with nine wins against two defeats while defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club finished third with eight wins.

Mohammedan's arch-rivals Abahani disappointed their fans succumbing to four defeats in the first round.

In a desperate bid to revive their

Team	M	W	L	Pts
Victoria	11	10	1	20
Biman	11	9	2	18
Mohammedan	11	8	3	16
Abahani	11	7	4	14
Kalabagan	11	6	5	12
Y Pegasus	11	6	5	12

fortune in the Super League, the Dhanmondi outfit had flown in former Zimbabwe captain and all-rounder Heath Streak.

Kalabagan Krira Chakra and Young Pegasus are the other two teams in the top flight, with each

having managed six wins.

The 'Super Six' matches will be played with white ball and teams wearing colourful dresses. Holders Mohammedan will don jersey with a combination of black and ash colours while Abahani would wear sky-colour dress with navy blue shade.

Victoria would wear green and yellow while Kalagan have selected yellow and green. Biman would put on royal and navy blue combination, same as Young Pegasus'.

WEEK'S FIXTURE

Date	Match
April 29	Victoria v Y Pegasus
April 30	Biman v Kalabagan
May 1	Mohammedan v Abahani
May 2	Victoria v Kalabagan
May 3	Biman v Abahani
May 4	Mohammedan v Y Pegasus
May 5	Victoria v Abahani

*All the matches would be played at the Bangabandhu National Stadium

Faisal flair goes awry

SPORTS REPORTER



Faisal Hossain hammered an electrifying unbeaten century in a GrameenPhone Premier Relegation match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday but still his side Uttara Sporting Club failed to avoid a 28-run defeat against City Club in the high scoring drama.

The Comilla left-hander blasted 144 off 139 balls as Uttara finished at 254 for seven in reply to the City Club's commanding 282. It was the highest individual score in the Premier League so far surpassing Mohammedan's Pakistani recruit Taufeeq Omar's unbeaten 134 against Kalabagan in the first round.

A strong on-side player, Faisal led a spectacular recovery operation with Sri Lankan Nilanth Tilkeratne after his side lost four wickets for 16 runs. Together they added 124 runs for the fifth wicket in which Nilanth contributed 57 off 82 balls.

Though the fall of Nilanth exposed a fragile Uttara tail but Faisal entertained the crowd with exciting stroke play. He clobbered 24 runs in the last over of the innings bowled by left-arm spinner Suja Irfan. He smashed three sixes in that eventful over.

The 25-year-old hammered 11 boundaries and five sixes in his undefeated knock.

Earlier, the imposing City Club total was built a superb 88 by national middle-order batsman Tushar Imran.

Tushar shared 106 runs for the fifth wicket with Nayeem after opener Wasim laid the foundation with a 61-ball 58.

The young right-hander struck ten boundaries and a six in his 94-ball knock before being dismissed in

the 42nd over, leaving City Club comfortably placed at 234 for five.

Former national right-arm pace-man played a little cameo of 20-ball 23.

With this win, City Club raised their tally to 10 points from 12 games. Uttara on the other hand suffered their ninth defeat to stay jointly second from bottom along with Dhanmondi Club with six points.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the GrameenPhone Premier Relegation Cricket League match between City Club and Uttara Sporting Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

CITY CLUB
Wasim c Nilanth b Neaz 58

Azam c Sumon b Mahfuz	21
Salim c Sumon b Faisal	10
Tushar lbw b Faisal	88
Halim c Rashed b Lablu	2
Nayeem run out	42
Hasibul c Moin b Mahfuz	23
Sajib b Faisal	3
Jamal c Ashfaq b Sumon	4
Tariq c Faisal b Mahfuz	1
Suja not out	2
Extras: (lb-5, nb-1, w-22)	28
Total: (All out in 49.3 overs)	282
Fall of wickets: 1-52, 2-66, 3-117, 4-128, 5-234, 6-263, 7-274, 8-276, 9-278	
Bowler	O M R W
Ashfaq	5 0 38 0
Sumon	4.3 0 23 1
Mahfuz	8.5 0 41 3

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Abahani's star Zimbabwe pace bowler Heath Streak (R) discusses something with skipper Akram Khan during a practice session at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Eyeing a parting kiss on Cup

Cricket

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan's celebrated pacer Wasim Akram Sunday said he would retire after next year's World Cup, adding he hoped to help Pakistan win as a parting gesture.

"I have decided to call it a day after next year's World Cup and hope that I get the highest reward in cricket as my farewell gift," Akram told reporters.

"I have been around for 18 years now and that's fairly a long period and have enjoyed the game to the hilt."

The 36-year-old has claimed 414 wickets in 104 Tests and a world record 459 in 331 one-dayers since his distinguished career began in 1984.

In his second Test he fetched 10 wickets against New Zealand, and is still the youngest bowler ever to achieve the feat in a Test.

The left-armed would be the longest-surviving player if he makes it to the quadrennial cup to be held in South Africa in February 2003.

"It is always tough to decide leaving something you love to the care of your life, and for the next few years it would be tough not to be playing cricket," he said.

Akram helped Pakistan win their only World Cup in 1992 in Australia with a total of 18 wickets and some useful runs that earned him player-of-the-tournament award.

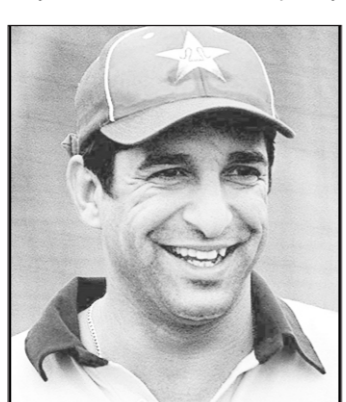
"I led my country with distinction and played my part in a number of wins which is very, very satisfying,"

he said.

Akram said he would always cherish memories of his career, although he has been hit by allegations of match fixing and other off-field problems.

"You have ups and downs in every field, mine had too many but I still feel more than satisfied with what I have achieved in the game."

He was fined 300,000 rupees (around 5,000 dollars) after a match fixing inquiry was made public in May 2000. He was subsequently



WASIM AKRAM
censured and barred from leading Pakistan.

"My wife Huma, my parents and my millions of fans supported me through thick and thin and that's something I can never pay back."

Last year fitness problems forced him to remain in the dressing room.

"Injuries are part and parcel of the game and since I missed a few games I lost on some precious wickets but taking the highest

number of wickets, hat-tricks in both forms of the game and many other achievements are great."

He also paid tribute to Pakistani cricketing legend Imran Khan.

"I would always owe a great deal to Imran Khan who kept me under his tutelage all the time and help me learn the art of bowling."

Akram said he had yet to decide what retirement would have in store.

"I need time to decide that and for a year I would relax with my family and would try to enjoy life without cricket."

"I know it would be really tough," he said.

U-13 team for India meet

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday named a 17-member Dhaka metropolis squad to take part in a under-13 tournament in Shiliguri, India.

The age-group tournament starts from May 1. The Dhaka boys would leave for Shiliguri on April 30.

Wahidul Ghani will coach the team.

TEAM

Ifthikhar Nayeem Ahmed (captain), Nadimuddin (vice-captain), Al-Mohammadul Islam, Ali Hossain, Simon Ahmed, Nuruzzaman, Jahidul Islam, Noor Hossain, Sakib Khan, Delwar Hossain, Moazzem Hossain, Tasamul Haque, Abul Bashar, Shams Arefin, Ali Noman, Ishan Ali and Nazmul Haque

BLAST FROM THE PAST



A proud France coach Aime Jacquet holds aloft the World Cup as he is surrounded by photographers after the final against Brazil at the Stade de France in St Denis on July 12, 1998. After semifinal win Jacquet stated: "Nothing can stop us now." It was the first ever final for France as three times in previous tournaments their way was blocked in the semifinal stage. The hosts won the final 3-0 and they became the first team since 1970 to win the Cup without losing a match.

Asian U-20 football Bangladesh need a draw

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh require a draw to win a place in the final round when they face hosts Pakistan in the last qualifying Group Five match of the Asian under-20 football championship in Karachi today.

Bangladesh won their previous two games against Sri Lanka 2-0 and Maldives (4-0).

Though both Bangladesh and Pakistan have scored six goals and managed six points, but the visitors conceded no goal against the hosts' one.

The winners of this round will move to the final round to be held in Qatar later this year. The date is yet to be finalised.

Div I cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Indira Road Krira Chakra, riding on two half-centuries from middle orders Rajib Ahmed and Nadim Ahmed, beat Nabin Sangha by four wickets in a First Division Cricket League match at the Jagannath Hall ground of Dhaka University yesterday.

Rajib scored 70 and Nadim 50 as Indira Road, chasing Nabin Sangha's 222 in 50 overs, reached home in 49 overs with four wickets in hand.

Rajib hit half a dozen four in his 87-ball knock.

Earlier, electing to bat, Nabin Sangha put up a decent 222 for eight in the stipulated 50 overs with one-down Murad hammering highest 55. Opener Reshadur Rahman (54) was the other notable run-getter.

SCORES IN BRIEF
Nabin Sangha: 222 for 8 in 50 overs (Murad 55, Reshadur 54, Uttam 35; Tarun 2-39)

Indira Road KC: 223 for 6 in 49 overs (Rajib 70, Nadim 50, Masud 30, Ferdous 26 no; Kowshik 2-29)

Result: Indira Road KC won by four wickets.



GrameenPhone Premier Cricket League
Super League
Victoria SC v Young Pegasus
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium
Relegation League
Brothers Union v Dhanmondi Club
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium
Green Delta Premier Hockey League
Mariner Youngs Club v Dhaka Railway (4 pm)
Venue: Maulana Bhasani Stadium

Full house frustration for hosts Sylhet

NITOL-TATA NAT'L FOOTBALL LEAGUE

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Hosts Chaturanga Juba Sangha and Bangladesh Army played to a 2-2 draw in a highly contested match of the Nitol-Tata National Football League at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday afternoon.

It was the second draw for the home team after their creditable show against defending champions Abahani Krira Ckakra in the inaugural match at Chittagong last week that ended goalless.

The outcome however trimmed chances down for Chaturanga to have a place in the Super Four.

The last match in the 'city of saints' turned out to be a disappointment for a 30,000 partisan crowd as Chaturanga muffed up a number of good chances because of their lack of understanding and poor marksmanship.

While the stadium was packed like sardines, several thousand football fans were driven away by the police while some tired to enter the ground.

Midfielder Sentu gave Chaturanga a 19th minute lead with a powerful shot from outside the box. But their joy could not last long as Army drove in the equaliser through Nasiruddin in the 38th minute.

Nasiruddin doubled the margin in the 53rd minute taking advantage of a sloppy defending from Chaturanga.

But when the visitors were about to run away with a victory substitute Azim emerged to give Chaturanga some cheers striking home eight minutes away from the final whistle.

The exciting match was held up for three minutes after players of

both teams engaged themselves in a brawl following a tough tackle. However, it was resolved soon and the match ended peacefully. Nasiruddin of Army won the man-of-the-match award for his double strike.

Yellow cards: Altaf Hossain and Ashish Banwari (Bangladesh Army).

TEAMS

CHATURANGA JUBA SANGHA: Mustafuzir Rahman, Kingshuk, Amit Khan Shuvro, Kamal Hossain, Riad Mahmud, Jahid Hossain, Prantosh Kumar, Abdul Qaiyum Sentu, Rahel, Saiful Islam Khokan, Masud Khan Johnny, Masud Rana and Azim Hossain.

BANGLADESH ARMY: Bivash Kanti, Rezaul Karim, Masum Kamal, Kabirul Islam, Mujibur Rahman, Faruque Hossain, Altaf Hossain, Rashedul Hassan, Billal Hossain, Nasir Uddin, Ashish Banwari and Didarul Haque.
Referee: Maruf Sikder.

Green Delta hockey Abahani roll up Wari

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani Krira Chakra registered their fourth win in the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League with a 3-0 win over Wari Club in one of the two matches held at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 2-0. The sky-blues took the lead with Nabil scoring a field goal in the fifth minute of the match. Nabil then doubled the margin six minutes later.

Forward Shamim Reza added one more at the stroke of the final whistle to seal the fate of the match.

Earlier, Usha Krira Chakra drew with Sonali Bank 1-1 in the day's first match.

Taufiqul Islam Rana put Usha ahead with a field goal in the 34th minute and Mamun (Jr) pulled off the equaliser in the 69th minute.

Proteas to get new selectors

AFP, Johannesburg

South Africa's much-maligned cricket selectors will be replaced by a four-man panel within the next two weeks, the head of the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCB) said Saturday. UCB chief Gerald Majola said the newly formed National Cricket Committee (NCC) would make a recommendation to the Board's general council after the country's nine provinces had submitted their nominations for the panel.

Majola made the announcement as the UCB was formally split Saturday into a professional and amateur wing.

The NCC was formed following a brainstorming session on Monday to address the problems that have blighted the national side's game and prepare for the 2003 World Cup.

The NCC, which includes former Test players Andrew Hudson, Craig Matthews, Omar Henry and Pat Symcox as well as Haroon Lorgat and Imraan Munshie, will also review the structure of the national management team that includes the coaching staff.

"Once the new panel has been approved, they will select within a week approximately 25 players as part of an initial training squad for next year's World Cup," said Majola.

The management structure will, however, only be reviewed completely by the beginning of June meaning that the training squad will be in the care of the current management structure.

South Africa's incumbent six-man selection panel convened by Rushdie Magjet has attracted some vehement criticism from various quarters, including former players.

World Cup off to Kolkata

SPORTS REPORTER

The FIFA World Cup left Dhaka for Kolkata yesterday after spending almost 29 hours in Bangladesh.

The trophy was flown in Dhaka on Sunday morning under the arrangement of Gillette, a co-sponsor of the World Cup, to give Bangladeshi football buffs a rare glimpse of it.

Bangladesh Football Federation assistant general secretary Badal Roy (3rd from right) handing over the FIFA World Cup trophy to Gillette officials at the Zia International Airport on the eve of its departure for Kolkata yesterday.

CUP CORNER

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

AFP, Zagreb

The high cost of a trip to Japan for next month's World Cup finals is expected to keep Croatia's fans away in droves, it was reported here Saturday.

The Vечernji List newspaper reported that thousands of tickets allocated to Croatia for the World Cup remained unsold, declaring that only the country's super-rich supporters would travel.

According to the paper, only 2,000 tickets out of an allotted 7,500 had been sold so far, with the finals in Japan and South Korea little more than a month away.

Most fans were priced out of the footballing extravaganza, with Croatian travel agencies charging between 1,300 and 3,300 euros (1,000-3,000 dollars) for a one or two week stay -- excluding tickets.

MEXICO TO PREPARE MENTALLY

Mexico coach Javier Aguirre has said he will be coaxing his players along to be in the right frame of mind for the World Cup finals as well as being prepared physically and technically.

The Latin American side, who meet Italy, Ecuador and Croatia in Group G at the May 31 to June 30 finals, are likely to be fit in body and mind should Aguirre's mission be successful.

The country are finalising their preparations at the Pegaso training centre to the south of Mexico City.

Aguirre said he will take psychological factors into account so that his team do not lose their nerve during the showcase event in Korea and Japan.

"I have told them that feigning injury to earn a freekick is a yellow card offence," Aguirre said who also warned his players not to get cautioned for dissent or for intimidating gestures to the referee.

Aguirre knows he has several hot-blooded players in his side like Johan Rodriguez who got himself sent off needlessly in one of the qualifiers.

"We need to maintain discipline and one way is to keep our heads in pressure situations," he added without explaining exactly what his methods would be to keep his team in a calm frame of mind.

MALDINI NOT AFTER MONEY

Paraguay coach Cesare Maldini of Italy said he had not taken the job for money, explaining to the country's demanding press he was sufficiently rich already.

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PHOTO: COURTESY

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) assistant general secretary Badal Roy (3rd from right) handing over the FIFA World Cup trophy to Gillette officials at the Zia International Airport on the eve of its departure for Kolkata yesterday.