

2

8

days to go



## Did U Know?

In the third FIFA World Cup in 1938 played in France, the clouds of World War Two gathered throughout Europe and politics kept away a number of top nations. Austria qualified, but withdrew — though some of their players appeared in the colours of Germany — and Spain was ravaged by civil war. Argentina and Uruguay also stayed away.



### ESPN

Serie A  
Highlights  
Repeat at 9:00 am  
**Pakistan vs New Zealand**  
First Test, Day Three  
**Live at 9:55 am**  
World Cup Soccer Mix  
Taped Version at 7:00 pm

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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 AIUB Cup inter-private university cricket tournament?  
AUB      NSU      AUB
- Who clinched the New White Plus GM chess tournament title?  
Zia      Rezaat      Sermek
- Which sport does Paolo Maldini play?  
Maldini play?

Name .....

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

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....



### George Weah

(Liberian international)  
"We have nothing to do in Africa, so we all go to the street and play ball just to make ourselves happy. It was not something that I was looking up to as a career. I only played for fun, but luckily for me I could play. I got really interested when I started growing up, you know, then I knew that football was something else."

## Al-Shahriar's chancy century

SPORTS REPORTER



Al-Shahriar scored a timely century as Victoria Sporting Club crossed a major hurdle in their quest for a maiden league title with a 66-run win over Kalabagan Krira Chakra in a Super Six match of the GrameenPhone Premier League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The tall national opener struck 124 off 155 balls, his first ton in this year's League, to post an imposing Victoria total of 282 for seven after his captain Khaled Masood won the toss and decided to bat first.

Kalabagan, in their chase, could manage only 216 for eight before exhausting their quota of 50 overs.

With this win the 'centenary team' of Victoria maintained an impressive four-point lead with three matches to go.

The defeat on the other hand pronounced Kalabagan's title race all but over. The youthful side paid the penalty of dropping so many catches after showing a spectacular recovery

fielders dropped Al-Shahriar four times to let Victoria off the hook.

Dropped on nought by Rafiqul in slips, Al-Shahriar survived another two close calls while on 43. The culprits on those occasions were Pakistani Ziaur Rahman (at long off) and Mosaddek Hossain (at deep square leg).

The right-hander got another lease of life in his highly chancy innings at the score of 71. This time Anisur Rahman floored a simple catch at mid-wicket.

Al-Shahriar was eventually out in the penultimate over, but by that time the damage had already been done with Victoria strongly placed at 264 for five.

Al-Shahriar hammered seven fours and a six in his match-winning knock. He shared 85 runs for the

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SUPER SIX TABLE				
Team	M	W	L	Pts
Victoria	13	12	1	24
Biman	12	9	3	18
Mohammedan	12	9	3	18
Abahani	12	7	5	14
Kalabagan	13	7	6	14
Y Pegasus	12	6	6	12



PHOTO: STAR

Victoria's Al-Shahriar straight-drives during his century knock against Kalabagan Krira Chakra in their GrameenPhone Premier Division Super Six fixture at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

act in the league. It was their first defeat after five straight wins.

The butterfingers of Kalabagan

## Abahani out of title race

SPORTS REPORTER



Abahani's bid to regain the Premier Division Cricket League title was over on the May Day when holders Mohammedan Sporting Club thrashed them by eight wickets in their Super Six opener at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

With four matches in hand, Abahani are behind leaders Victoria by 10 points.

In-form opener Ehsanul Haque hammered an unbeaten 65 as Mohammedan, chasing a moderate 184, cruised home in 41 overs losing only two wickets.

He laced his 109-ball knock with half a dozen boundaries. The leading run-scorer in the league totaled 654 runs so far from 12 innings at an average of 72.66.

Earlier, put in to bat, Abahani total revolved round a fine 65 from former national skipper Naimur Rahmn. Akram Khan (30) and Moniruzzaman (24) were the other notable run-getters for the sky-blues.

Right arm seamer Taposh Baishya and off-spinner Sabbir Khan took three wickets each for Mohammedan.

With this win, Mohammedan joined Biman in the second position of the six-team championship race. Both have collected eighteen points from 12 matches.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League match between Abahani KC and Mohammedan SC at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Wednesday:

ABAHANI KC	
Nafees lbw b Taposh	0
Mehrab c Shafayet b Taposh	1
Moniruzzaman c Ehsanul b Sabbir	24
Naimur c Basharb b Sabbir	64
Akram c Rafique b Tikolo	30
H Streak b Sabbir	13

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PHOTO: STAR

Mohammedan's Ehsanul Haque gets to the pitch of the ball during their GrameenPhone Premier Division Super Six match against arch-rivals Abahani at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Wednesday.

## BLAST FROM THE PAST



PHOTO: STAR FILE

FIFA chairman Jules Rimet carries out the draw for the 1938 FIFA World Cup on 5 March 1938. He is helped by his grandson Yves, standing on the table to select the balls from the urn. In the centre of the picture, the French government's under-secretary for foreign affairs, François de Tesson, oversees the draw procedure while the press take notes.

## Dhaka MSC, Ctg Abahani draw

### NITOL-TATA NAT'L FOOTBALL LEAGUE

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club shared points with Chittagong Abahani Krira Chakra in a goalless drawn match as the Nitol-Tata National Football League moved to Jessore yesterday.

The result of the match held at the Jessore Stadium left both the sides atop Group B each having five points from three matches.

Last year's runners-up Dhaka Mohammedan, who drew goalless with Narayanganj Mohsin Club in Chittagong and beat star-studded Dhaka Muktiyoddha Sangsad in Sylhet, will play Rajshahi Abahani in their remaining match on May 12 in Rajshahi.

On the other hand, Chittagong Abahani, who dominated the group beating Dhaka Muktiyoddha 1-0 in their own backyard and drawing 1-all with Rajshahi Abahani in Sylhet, will face Mohsin Club in their last match on May 11 in Rajshahi.

## U-19 cricketers win them all

UNB, Dhaka

An all-round show by Iftekhar enabled Bangladesh youth team beat FOS by 66 runs in their last Group B match in the All India Under-19 Invitational Inter-State Cricket tournament in Kolkata on Wednesday.

Iftekhar hammered 31 runs and grabbed four wickets for 25 runs to guide Bangladesh to a comfortable victory, according to a message received here.

In the match, Bangladesh batted first to score 174 runs for seven in the stipulated 30 overs and later bowled their opponents for 108 runs in 27.4 overs.

Nazimuddin contributed 45, Naeem 25 and skipper Kamrul 23 runs for the visitors.

Ziaul also captured four wickets conceding 19 runs and Arafat bagged one for 10.

In their previous three group encounters, Bangladesh Under-19 side beat Hyderabad by four wickets, Assam by 83 runs and lost to Uttar Pradesh by two wickets.

## CUP CORNER



INTERNET, Paris

Nicolas Anelka won't travel to the World Cup in Japan and South Korea, the French daily Le Parisien reported. France coach Roger Lemerre decided to break the news on the striker himself, the manager called Anelka, who joined Liverpool on loan from Paris Saint-Germain, and briefly stated the reasons for such a choice. Nicolas didn't say anything. He wasn't surprised. In fact the striker was prepared for such a twist ever since France's penultimate World Cup warm-up against Russia. The striker who was replaced in 81 minutes was jeered and hissed while leaving the pitch by 80,000 supporters who believed that the former Arsenal striker failed to rise up to the challenge.

Nicolas did not score the goal that would have changed the odds.

In the aftermath of the friendly Lemerre commented rather enigmatically on his striker's performance: "God helps those who help themselves."

Meanwhile his decision is clear: 23-years-old Anelka will miss his second consecutive World Cup. The troubled striker was on the list of those 6 payers, who failed to secure a France World Cup spot in 1998 together with Martin Djetou, Sabri Lamouchi, Pierre Leigle, Ibrahim Ba and Lionel Letizi.

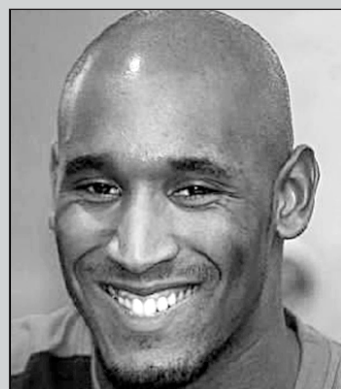
Roger Lemerre who was Aime Jacquet's assistant back in 1998 kept recollections of that episode and decided to refrain from playing with his players' hope this time around.

"Nico should have scored to help us name him in the squad," revealed a France management representative. "His absence on the list is quite logical."

AFP, Bangkok

Football fans who happen to be behind bars in Thai jails will be allowed to watch the World Cup finals which kick off later this month — provided they are on their best behaviour, reports said Thursday.

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NICOLAS ANELKA

### WATCH IT IN JAIL!

## Dazzling Inzy, fast Shoaib



AFP, Lahore

Inzamamul Haq became only the 15th batsman to score a triple-century Thursday as Pakistan brought New Zealand to their knees on Day Two of the first Test at Gaddafi Stadium.

Inzamam reached the milestone in sweltering heat at Lahore before eventually being caught by Daryl Tuffey off the bowling of Brooke Walker for 329, as he tried to slog his fourth six of the over.

The last man out, his total of 329 was more than half of Pakistan's huge first innings score of 643, their highest Test score against New Zealand.

"I am delighted and not disappointed at not been able to break Brian Lara's record because Almighty Allah wrote 329 for me," the unassuming Inzamam said after the match.

Lara holds the record for highest Test score with the 375 he made against England at St John's in Antigua in 1994-95.

After Inzamam it was speedster Shoaib Akhtar's turn to wreak havoc on the luckless Kiwi batsmen.

In a devastating if sometimes wayward spell of searing pace, Akhtar ripped through the top order with a series of unplayable yorkers.

Brimming with confidence after breaking the 100-mile barrier last week, he wrecked the wickets of openers Mathew Horne (4) and Mark Richardson (8), then captain Stephen Fleming (2) and veteran Chris Harris (2) to leave New Zealand reeling at 58-6 at the close, needing a further 386 to avoid the

follow-on. Craig McMillan (15) and Lou Vincent took the total to 53 before McMillan was caught by Shahid Afridi at silly point off Saqlain Mushtaq just two overs before stumps.

But despite Akhtar's fireworks, the second day belonged to Inzamam.

It was only the 16th triple-century in Test cricket's 127-year

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PHOTO: INTERNET

ANOTHER ONE TO COME: Pakistan's Inzamamul Haq acknowledges the crowd's applause after reaching his double century on the second day of the first Test against New Zealand in Lahore yesterday. The star batsman went on to score a triple century and became the 15th player to achieve the feat.

## Star Sport smells a rat



SPORTS REPORTER

The relegation league of the GrameenPhone Premier Division League has turned into a farce as most of the teams seemingly indulged in freestyle match-fixing.

Heading the list of culprits is none other than traditional giants Brothers Union. It is understandable that Brothers lost their appetite once they failed to catch the Super Six bus due to their inferior run-rate. But it was equally surprising to see them losing matches against struggling teams like Uttara Sporting Club.

Brothers scored 169 for six against Uttara yesterday. They probably would have even beaten a snail with the pace they scored those runs.

For instance hard-hitting batsman Mahabubur Rahman played 50 balls to score an unbeaten 12. Borthers were also without their regular captain Athar Ali Khan, the former national opener who apparently had considered not getting into controversy anymore after batting at number ten in the previous match.

The other regular player missing

in the Brothers line-up was opener Harunur Rashid.

The Surjo Tarun Club and City Club are the other two suspect clubs to rig matches.

Like always, the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) has remained completely indifferent about the match-fixing syndrome, which has also caught the First and Second Division Leagues.

As a mark of protest against match-fixing, The Daily Star Sport has decided not to publish scoreboards of the relegation league matches until proper measures are taken by the Bangladesh Cricket Board to stop this unholy practice. —Sports Editor

## Green Delta hockey Shuvo hattrick downs Ajax

SPORTS REPORTER

A brilliant hattrick from forward Moududur Rahman Shuvo guided Mohammedan Sporting Club to a 6-0 win over Ajax Sporting Club in a

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## Nowotny's worst fears realised



AFP, Leverkusen

German defender Jens Nowotny will miss the World Cup finals after a scan on Thursday confirmed that he had torn knee ligaments, his club doctor said.

Bayer Leverkusen captain Nowotny was taken off on a stretcher during the Champions League semi-final second leg against Manchester United here on Tuesday.

The scan on Thursday revealed a tear to ligaments in his right knee, an injury which will put him out of action for up to six months, said Leverkusen club doctor Dieter Trzolek.

The World Cup finals in Japan and South Korea begin on May 31.

Nowotny will also miss his club's appearance in the final of the Champions League against Real Madrid at Hampden Park, Glasgow, on May 15.

German coach Rudi Voller said: "This is a serious loss for him but also for the national team."

"Jens played a very important role in my plans, as both the chief of my defence and as my right-hand man on the pitch. It will be hard to replace him."

Nowotny, 28, who has played 37 times for his country, is the second key player to drop out of Rudi Voller's squad after Bayern Munich

midfielder Mehmet Scholl ruled himself out because of fitness concerns.

A host of other potential German squad members are struggling with injuries.

Hertha Berlin midfielder Sebastian Deisler is trying to recover from torn groin muscles, his team-mate Marko Rehmer has an ankle injury and Tottenham defender Christian Ziege is struggling with a leg injury.



JENS NOWOTNY

The German press speculated on Wednesday that Werder Bremen defender Frank Baumann could be called into the squad to fill Nowotny's spot.

Nowotny suffered the injury in a clash with United's Dutch striker Ruud van Nistelrooy in the ninth minute of a tie that ended 1-1 on the night and 3-3 on aggregate, sending Leverkusen through to the final on away goals.

## Myanmar meet BD Army beat Malaysia

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Army beat Perak province of Malaysia 3-0 in their second Myanmar Olympic Committee President Trophy men's hockey tournament league match in Yangon on Tuesday, according to a faxed message from Embassy of Bangladesh last night.

Army, who beat the Assam state team in their opening match 1-0, were scheduled to face Myanmar national hockey team yesterday. They would meet Malaysian youth team in their last match on Thursday.

Top two teams from the five-team robin league fixture would feature in the May 4 final.



GrameenPhone Premier Cricket League  
Super Six  
Abahani KC v Bangladesh Biman  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium  
Nitol-Tata National Football League  
Dhaka Abahani vs Khulna Abahani  
Venue: Jessore Stadium  
Green Delta Premier Hockey League  
Farashganj SC v Dhaka Railway  
Maulana Bhasani National Stadium