

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

2 3

days to go



Did U Know?

In 1966, the Jules Rimet Trophy was stolen while on display in London. It was recovered by a dog called Pickles under a bush in a suburban front garden in south London a few days later.



What to WATCH

ESPN
Football Focus
Repeat at 9:00 am
Pakistan vs New Zealand
Second Test, Day One
Live at 9:55 am
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
UEFA Champions League
Feyenoord vs Borussia Dortmund
Live at 12:30 am (Thursday)
STAR Sports
Gillette World Sports Special
Int'l Sports News



Pele
(Brazilian soccer legend)
"I believe they can win the Cup. But, it's very difficult to make predictions now. There are Italy, England, Portugal and, of course, France."
On Brazil's chances in the

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 AIBU 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).....

Mosharraf the fall guy

Fake swimmers sent to South Korea

SPORTS REPORTER

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman yesterday expressed his sheer dissatisfaction over the latest swimming team scandal and vowed to bring those involved in it to book.

The grim-faced state minister promised he would soon disclose names of the culprits who sent a fake swimming team to South Korea in March with an attempt of human trafficking.

Speaking to reporters at a view-exchange programme at the National Sports Council (NSC), Rahman revealed that he has already formed a three-member probe committee with NSC director Maj (ret) Enam as its chairman. The committee would submit its findings 'as soon as possible'.

The initial investigation and the clues gathered so far suggested the plan of human-smuggling was masterminded by none other than former Bangladesh Swimming Federation (BSF) general secretary and ace swimmer Mosharraf Hossain Khan.

Rahman however declined to single out Mosharraf, who was also accused of trafficking people to the USA in the name of swimming teams for a long time, as the chief culprit.

Mosharraf, who lost his post of BSF general secretary a few months back following a court



State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman talking to sports reporters at the National Sports Council yesterday.

battle, has reportedly fled to America on May 5, soon after the scandal spread.

Eight fake Bangladesh swimmers and officials went to Korea on March 18 with the endorsement of the Bangladesh Swimming Federation (BSF) and the NSC. The members of the contingent were Matiuir Rahman (manager), Kamal Hossain (coach), Jashimuddin, Abdus Sattar, Abdul Haque Nayan, Anwar Hossain and Moshed Alam.

The team sneaked through the Zia International Airport reportedly by paying hefty kickbacks to the immigration officials as they were understandably travelling without any Government Order (GO).

One of the six swimmers, Moshed Alam, who did not know how to swim even, let the worms out of the can when he almost drowned while competing in the 50meter freestyle event.

Six fakers, who could not defect for lack of opportunity, were immediately caught red handed and handed over to police by the tournament organisers. Specific charge of fraud was labelled against them, who are now languishing in a jail of Korea.

The two others however managed to flee the scene immediately after Moshed's identity was disclosed.

Suspect mastermind Mosharraf designed this trip allegedly after taking huge amount of money from

the eight desperadoes. The former organiser accepted an official invitation from the oblivious Korean organisers on March 1 without informing BSF president and Bangladesh Navy Chief Rear Admiral Abu Taher.

All the correspondence was made through two fax numbers from Dhaka. One number (9560361) belongs to the Mosharraf Swimming Centre adjacent to the Bangabandhu National Stadium while the other number is 9567550 owned by the Motijheel-based travel agent Asia Travels.

"If required I will seek help from all the government agencies to have a proper investigation into the matter. What I want is to let all know about the matter. And I am going to do it within a very short time. I will make sure that the culprits do not go unpunished," vowed Rahman.

Rahman, who had a meeting with presidents and general secretaries of all the national sports federations before the briefing, also revealed that Bangladesh would send three teams -- shooting, athletics and swimming -- in Manchester next August for the Commonwealth Games.

He also disclosed that a decision has also been made primarily about sending football, athletics, shooting, Kabaddi and weightlifting teams to the next Asian games in Pusan, Korea, in September.

BLAST FROM THE PAST



GREAT FEELS FOR THE GREATEST: Portuguese superstar Eusebio consoles the legendary Pele (on the ground) of Brazil who is in tremendous pain after being tackled by a Portuguese defender during their clash at the 1966 FIFA World Cup finals. Just as in 1962, Pele would not stay the distance in this World Cup, after being badly affected by repeated fouls from defenders, the main culprits being Bulgaria and Portugal. Portugal won this group match (3-1) and Brazil exited the competition in the first round.

Pakistan aiming higher

Cricket

AFP, Karachi
Pakistan skipper Waqar Younis believes his side will be recognised as the world's best by the end of this year.

On the eve of the second Test against New Zealand, Waqar said he believes his squad are now good enough to beat the current top dogs in world cricket, Australia and South Africa.

"We would like to wrap up the series and prove that we are the best team in the world after our home series against Australia in October this year and then a series in South Africa," Waqar told reporters here on the eve of the second Test against New Zealand.

Led by an awesome 329 by Inzamam-ul Haq, Pakistan downed the Black Caps by an innings and 324 runs in the first Test at Lahore last week after their one-day series triumph by 3-0.

"People do try to demean our recent victories by saying that we have beaten Bangladesh, West Indies and New Zealand but (we) would also beat Australia and South Africa," said Waqar.

Fortunes changed dramatically for Younis when he came in from the sidelines to be handed Pakistan's captaincy in April last year.

"I have learnt a lot and am satisfied with whatever results we have achieved; the only thing is to improve our consistency and record on home grounds," he said.

Pakistan has not won a home series since whitewashing the West Indies in 1997-98 and has lost six of their last seven home series since losing to Sri Lanka in 1995-96.

England recorded their first series win in Pakistan for 38 years when they won 1-0 in 2000-2001, the last series played in Pakistan.

Pakistan have since beaten

minnows Bangladesh at home last year and lost their Asian Test champions title to Sri Lanka in March this year.

"We want to make our own people happy who have been disappointed with our home series losses and it would mean a lot to us," he said.

Experienced opener Saeed Anwar returns to the Pakistan squad after being sidelined since November last year due to a wrist

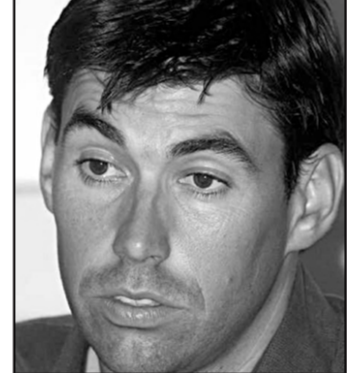
home after suffering a back injury. "Injuries to key players have been a major worry for us and Walker has dislocated a finger in his hand," captain Stephen Fleming said.

"We know we have a mountain to climb after a big defeat in the first Test but I hope we finish the tour on a high note with an improved performance in this Test," he said.

New Zealand lost all-rounders Chris Cairns (knee injury) and Dion



WAQAR YUNIS



STEPHEN FLEMING

Nash (back problem) before the tour began and opener Nathan Astle returned home after injuring his knee in the first one-day match in Karachi last month.

TEAMS
PAKISTAN (from): Waqar Younis (captain), Inzamamul Haq (vice-captain), Shahid Afridi, Saeed Anwar, Imran Nazir, Younis Khan, Yusuf Youhana, Rashid Latif, Abdul Razzaq, Saqlain Mushtaq, Wasim Akram, Shoaib Akhtar, Danish Kaneria, Shoaib Malik, Misbahul Haq and Mohammad Sami

NEW ZEALAND (from): Stephen Fleming (captain), Craig McMillan (vice-captain), Mathew

H o r n e

Green Delta hockey Big win for holders

UNB, Dhaka

Holders Mohammedan Sporting Club maintained their winning run in the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League outplaying Bangladesh Sporting Club 7-1 at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

Bangladesh Sporting took the lead with a Zahid Biswas field goal in the 11th minute.

Anifal Haq equalised for the celebrated Motijheel outfit in the 30th minute while Rafiqul Islam Kamal netted another goal in the first half to double the margin.

Moududur Rahman struck twice while Sharafat, Shahidullah Titu and Musa Mia scored apiece in the second half.

In the day's First Division match, Dhaka Wanderers Club defeated Bangladesh Police AC 3-1 at the same venue.

Rashed Hasan Rony scored two goals and Fazlul Islam one for the winners while Zahir netted one for the losers.

CityCell Digital National Youth Cricket from May 17

SPORTS REPORTER

The final round of the CityCell Digital 21st National Youth (under-19) Cricket Championship begins in Bogra and Natore from May 17 under the auspices of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

Ten qualifiers -- Tangail, Narayanganj, Comilla, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Satkhira, Khulna, Jhalakathi and Sunamganj, Jessore Education Board and holders BKSP are taking part in final round which will be played in a knock-out format. The final is scheduled for May 23 at the Natore Stadium.

A total of 63 districts and four Education Boards took part in the qualifying round that concluded on April 19 at different zonal venues.

A press conference in this connection was held at the BCB's Bangabandhu National Stadium office yesterday with the Board's tournament committee chief Shah Nurul Kabir MP in the chair.

Mesbaul Haque, the chief marketing officer of sponsors Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Limited and tournament committee secretary Mahmud Jamal were also present.

Kabir revealed that the BCB has struck a three-year contract worth Taka 60 lakh with CityCell for sponsoring the national youth championship for the next three seasons.

NBL v'ball

UNB, Dhaka

Sonali Bank defeated East End Club 25-12, 25-15, 20-25, 25-22 in the NBL First Division Volleyball League yesterday.

Dhaka Sabuj Club beat Abhijatrik Club 25-22, 25-17, 25-11 in the day's Second Division League.

Oh! No Romario

Scolari's roster final

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AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Veteran Brazil striker Romario's dream of a World Cup swansong was dashed on Monday when he was not included in coach Luiz Felipe Scolari's 23-man squad for the finals.

The 36-year-old Vasco da Gama player - the hero of Brazil's 1994 World Cup campaign - had harboured hopes of playing in Japan and South Korea after a superb season at club level.

But coach Scolari, who has not picked Romario since a World Cup qualifying match against Uruguay in July last year, has refused to bow to public pressure and excluded the forward here Monday.

Scolari said he understood why fans had demanded Romario's

inclusion - but delivered a typically blunt response.

"The supporters have to realize that the Brazilian team has a coach," said Scolari, known here as 'Big Phil'. "On the other hand, we seem to have 170 million Brazilians as coach of the side. And that cannot be."

He has cited technical and tactical reasons for not picking Romario, although many believe a possible act of indiscipline in Montevideo might have been the cause.

"I just want to say that I picked these players because I think they're right for this job -- nobody will make me change my mind."

"I'm sorry for those athletes who have been left out but I can only pick 23. Win or lose it's my choice -- I prefer to be the scapegoat and do it my way than do it someone else's way," said Scolari.

Scolari dismissed Friday's incident, in which he was insulted, pushed and shoved by an angry

mob of around 50 fans as he walked a short distance from the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) headquarters to a waiting car.

"There wasn't any physical violence," Scolari added. "I understand the supporters but I make the decisions which I think are in the best interests of the team."

He also brushed aside suggestions of hiring bodyguards.

"I don't have protection when I go to the bank, when I take my family out and everybody knows where I live and which places I go to," he said.

Scolari, who took over eleven months ago with Brazil in danger of failing to qualify, said he was aware that anything less than a fifth world title would be dubbed a failure -- with or without Romario.

"If I don't win, I'm dead meat in any case," he said.

"My duty is to win. We don't have

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Marcos (Palmeiras), Dida (Corinthians), Rogério (Sao Paulo)

Defenders: Cafu (AS Roma/Ita), Beleti (Sao Paulo), Junior (Parma/Ita), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid/Spa), Lucio (Bayer Leverkusen/Ger), Roque Junior (AC Milan/Ita), Anderson Polga (Gremio), Edmilson (Lyon/Fra)

Midfielders: Gilberto Silva (Atletico Mineiro), Kleber (Atletico Paranaense), Emerson (AS Roma/Ita), Vampeta (Corinthians), Ronaldinho Gaucho (Paris Saint Germain/Fra), Juninho Paulista (Flamengo), Kaka (Sao Paulo)

Attackers: Edilson (Cruzeiro), Denilson (Real Betis/Spa), Rivaldo (Barcelona/Spa), Luizao (Gremio), Ronaldo (Inter Milan/Ita)

Cricket-wise old Anwar

AFP, Karachi

Dashing Pakistani opener Saeed Anwar Tuesday dismissed fears that his new commitment to religion after the death of his daughter last year would affect his cricket.

Anwar is likely to open the batting in the Karachi Test against New Zealand starting Wednesday after almost six months out of the game following the death of his three-year-old daughter and a wrist injury.

The 33-year-old computer engineer became a devout Muslim after his only daughter died following a brief illness in September, and now sports a long beard.

"Turning to religion doesn't mean I can't play cricket. I am ready to strike a balance between cricket and religion and want to play at least until next year's World Cup," he told this news agency after a training session.

"My whole life has changed after my beloved daughter Bismah died last year and I have turned to religion for solace."

A veteran of 55 Tests with 4,025 runs and 230 one-day internationals with 8,348 runs, Anwar holds the record for the highest one-day score

of 194 made against India at Madras in 1997-98.

But cricket and his social life have taken a back seat since his personal tragedy and an injury to his left wrist in November, the last time he represented his country.

"The whole meaning of my life



Shah Nurul Kabir, MP, (C), chairman of the CityCell Digital 21st National Youth Cricket Championship, listens to a query by a reporter during a press conference at the BCB office at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

CUP CORNER

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

AFP, Osaka

A group of Japanese football fans on Tuesday presented England with an origami St George's Cross flag intended as a World Cup goodwill message to the squad, their fans and injured captain David Beckham.

Representatives of the Osaka Supporters' Club, based in Japan's second city, handed in the English flag made of 6,000 folded paper cranes to the British Embassy in Tokyo 24 days before the World Cup finals kick off.

"It's half a get-well for Beckham and half wishing the England team all the best for the World Cup," an embassy spokeswoman said.

Beckham broke a bone in his left foot during a Champions League quarter-final against Deportivo La Coruna last month but looks set to be fit to captain England in the World Cup.

"To give support to the England team and also to English fans, we made 6,000 cranes (birds)... to be given to the FA as a present," said the organisation's chairman Koichi Takeuchi, 36.

BCB team in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A five-member survey team of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) reached Khulna yesterday to assess the feasibility of turning the Khulna Divisional Stadium into the country's third Test venue.

The team, comprising three BCB directors Alam Chowdhury, Mobbasher Hossain, Ahmed Sajjadul Alam, assistant director of the Board's development committee Shafigul Haque Hira and an architect Sharif Ahmed, later visited the Stadium.

They saw the existing facilities, the under construction galleries and had a discussion with local cricket officials on how to develop the venue into an international standard one.

The team also called on the Khulna Divisional Commissioner M Nazmul Ahsan and exchanged views on different issues in connection with the development of the Khulna Stadium.

"Unfortunately there are many people in Osaka and all over Japan who are worried about England supporters possibly turning to hooligans, but I, as one of the football lovers, am hoping to change such an uneasy atmosphere," Takeuchi wrote.

"Not everyone in Japan holds bad images against England. There are

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