

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

2 1

days to go



Did U Know?

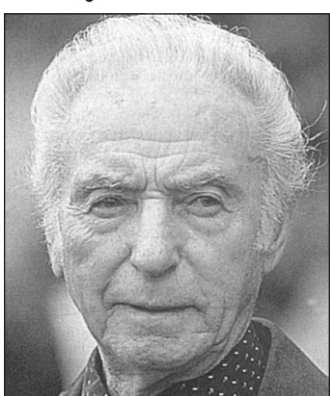
Zaire, who qualified for the 1974 FIFA World Cup finals in Germany, became the first sub-Saharan African nation to reach the World Cup proper.



BTV
Nitol-Tata National Football League
Dhaka Abahani vs Bangladesh Army
Live at 5:30 pm

ESPN
World Cup Soccer Mix
Repeat at 9:30 am
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
Cricket Programming

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Sir Stanley Matthews
(England soccer legend)
"You just cannot tell star players how they must play and what they must do when they are on the field in an international match. You must let them play their natural game, which has paid big dividends in the past. I have noticed that in recent years these pre-match instructions have become more and more long-winded while the playing ability of the players on the field has dwindle."

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
- Who clinched the New White Plus GM chess tournament title?
Zia Rezaat Sermek
- Which sport does Paolo Maldini play?
AUB NSU

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

Victoria close in on title

SPORTS REPORTER



A magnificent century partnership between skipper Khaled Masood and opener Parvez Ahmed gave Victoria Sporting Club an exciting four-wicket win against Abahani Krira Chakra in a GrameenPhone Premier League Super Six match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Parvez and Masood produced 155 runs for the fifth wicket to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat, placing the 'centenary team' of Victoria only two points away from lifting the coveted title.

The duo led a spectacular recovery operation after Victoria, chasing a commanding Abahani total of 258 for six, lost four wickets for 66 runs.

Parvez scored a career-best 102. It was a refreshingly fluent knock under pressure by the right-handed batsman from Sylhet that included eight sweetly-timed hits across the rope.

Masood played a captain's knock of 78 off 86 balls to give Victoria their thirteenth win from 14 games. The joint effort of Parvez and Masood overshadowed a brilliant performance from Abahani's Zimbabwean all-rounder Heath Streak.

After a disappointing first two games Streak returned to his devastating best with the bat, smashing a whirlwind 72-ball 93. The giant right-hander struck five towering sixes and four boundaries in his blazing knock. The marauding Zimbabwean clobbered 22 runs in the last over bowled by former national right-arm seamer Saiful Islam. The former Zimbabwe captain was also in thick of Abahani's last five overs that produced 56 runs.

Streak also dismissed the menacing Victoria pair of Parvez and Masood in successive overs of his second spell to give Abahani a sniff of victory. But all his hard work went down the drain due to the wayward bowling from others and some bizarre fielding.

Abahani had played only for pride after being thrown out of the title race and the popular Dhanmondi outfit showed little motivation to avenge their first round defeat. Victoria won that bittersweet first round battled by

an identical margin at the Fatullah Stadium. It was also a fateful day for Victoria when they lost their beloved coach Dautaluzzaman.

But since then it was a fairytale run for the mourning boys of Daulat. Victoria are now leading the table with 26 points, six points clear from their nearest challengers Mohammedan Sporting Club and Bangladesh Biman.



PHOTO: STAR

Parvez of Victoria Sporting Club follows through on a back-foot stroke on way to scoring a match-winning 102 against Abahani in the GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League Super Six encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Rajshahi Abahani send Muktis packing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

NITOL-TATA NAT'L FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Surprise package Rajshahi Abahani Krira Chakra continued to impress when the Nitol Tata National Football League 2002 resumed at the floodlit Rajshahi Stadium yesterday.

The local team downed Dhaka Premier League powerhouse Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra 2-1 in the opening Group B match of the Rajshahi leg of the tournament to go atop the standings and in the process, brightened their chances of a Super-Four berth.

Muktijoddha Sangsad had taken the lead through Ariful Kabir Farhad in the 13th minute but Sofiqul Islam Tota drew level in the 25th minute to the cheer of the packed house.

Man-of-the-match Maksud Alam Bulbul then sent the home crowd into ecstasy by slamming home the winner nine minutes from time.

Rajshahi Abahani, who are unbeaten in the League, have seven points from three group matches. They are followed by Dhaka Mohammedan and Chittagong Abahani who both have five points from three outings.

Muktijoddha, who needed to win to have any hopes of progressing further, made an ignominious exit from the League with just three points from four games.

Dhaka Abahani will take on Bangladesh Army in a Group A fixture today at the same venue.

All-Bengal U-13 cricket Dhaka boys reach final

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Metropolis cricket team booked their berth in the Chad Ballav Memorial All-Bengal under-13 cricket tournament final with an exciting four-run win over Baghajatin Athletic Club in their penultimate first round match in Shilguri, West Bengal, yesterday.

Batting first, the Dhaka boys scored 122 for six in the allotted 25 overs with Nadimuddin hammering an unbeaten 70. Simon and Iftekhar were the other notable scorers with 14 runs each.

Mahmud then took three wickets for 18 runs to restrict Baghajatin to 118 for six.

Prior to the May 11 final, Dhaka Metropolis will face home side Shilguri Agragamee in the last group match today.

SCORES IN BRIEF
DHAKA METRO UNDER-13: 122 for 6 in 25 overs (Nadimuddin 70, Simon 14, Iftekhar 14, Gupta 2-17)
BAGHAJATIN SC: 118 for 6 in 25 overs (Roy 25, Mandal 17, Salman 18, Mahmud 3-18)
Result: Dhaka Metro won by four runs.

Green Delta hockey Wari beat F'ganj

UNB, Dhaka

Wari Club beat Farashganj Sporting Club 5-2 in the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League at Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 2-0. Bipul struck twice while Jhunu, Rahat Sarwar and Suranjit Singh scored apiece for the Wari Club. Rana Das and Emran netted for the losers.

In the day's First Division match, Sadharan Bima KS earned a solitary goal victory over Muktabihanga at the same venue.

Rajib netted the all-important goal from a penalty corner in the sixth minute.



GrameenPhone Premier Cricket League
Biman v Mohammedan SC
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Green Delta Premier Hockey League
Mohammedan SC v Mariner Youngs Club (4pm)
Venue: Maulana Bhasani Stadium

Nitol-Tata National Football League
Dhaka Abahani v Bangladesh Army (5:30 pm)
Venue: Rajshahi Stadium

BLAST FROM THE PAST



PHOTO: STAR FILE

First minute of the FRG-Holland final in the 1974 FIFA World Cup in Germany. Uli Hoernes flattens Johan Cruyff inside the penalty box after a burst of acceleration from the Dutch midfielder. The English referee Jack Taylor signals a penalty, which is converted by Johan Neeskens. At that point, the Germans were yet to touch the ball. However, at the end of the day, that did not prevent the hosts from winning their second world title.

McManaman not in Eriksson's list



AP, London

Goodbye Steve McManaman. Hello Joe Cole.

England coach Sven Goran Eriksson will plunge a complete rookie into World Cup action in next month's finals after naming the 20-year-old West Ham midfielder in his 23-man squad Thursday.

The Swede bypassed Real Madrid star McManaman, which may be a surprise to followers of the game outside England. Instead, he preferred Cole, who has been



STEVE McMANAMAN

playing Premier League soccer since he was 16, to provide the team with "fantasy football."

Cole may not make the starting lineup in the group games against Sweden, Argentina and Nigeria, but he is likely to play some part later in the matches.

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: David Seaman (Arsenal), Nigel Martyn (Leeds), David James (West Ham);

Defenders: Danny Mills (Liverpool), Sol Campbell (Arsenal), Rio Ferdinand (Leeds), Gareth Southgate (Middlesbrough), Martin Keown (Arsenal), Ashley Cole (Arsenal), Wayne Bridge (Southampton), Wes Brown (Manchester United);

Midfielders: David Beckham (Manchester United), Paul Scholes (Manchester United), Nicky Butt (Manchester United), Steven Gerrard (Liverpool), Kieron Dyer (Newcastle), Owen Hargreaves (Bayern Munich), Joe Cole (West Ham);

Forwards: Michael Owen (Liverpool), Emile Heskey (Liverpool), Robbie Fowler (Leeds), Darius Vassell (Aston Villa), Teddy Sheringham (Tottenham).

On standby: Danny Murphy (Liverpool)

Another surprise is the inclusion of another West Ham player, goalkeeper David James, who appeared to throw away his chance with the latest of a well-documented series of blunders in a league game against Newcastle last month.

Neither Neville brother makes the squad -- Gary through injury and Philip because of a lack of form -- but there is the return of another Manchester United defender, the versatile Wes Brown, who was out of the Reds starting lineup for several months because of injury and poor form.

Arriving in England against a tide of criticism from people complaining that the team should be coached by an Englishman, Eriksson won over most of his critics by producing an amazing turnaround.

Eriksson lifted England from last to first in its qualifying group with performances that included a 5-1 victory over three-time champion Germany in Munich.

Now all he has to take another big step and win the trophy. That may be just a dream but, whatever happens next month, England fans will be debating the squad he chose on Thursday until the first game against Sweden at Saltama, Japan, June 2.

The question is: how many of the

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Control, not abstention!



AFP, Rio de Janeiro

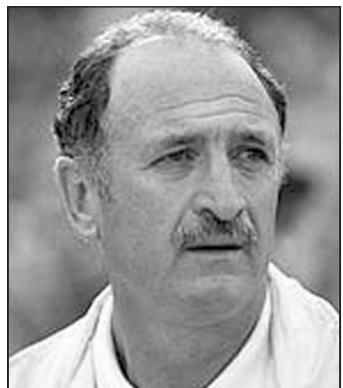
Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari has denied he has ordered his players to abstain from sex during the May 31-June 30 World Cup finals in South Korea and Japan.

"In their off-duty days, they are free to do whatever they want," said Scolari, who added that his earlier comments had been misinterpreted.

"I am simply not interested in what they do in their own time, but when they are on team duty they have to look after their state of fitness," he said.

Last week Scolari said that he

favoured "sexual abstention" during the World Cup finals on the grounds



LUIZ FELIPE SCOLARI

that "any individual who cannot control this aspect of his life is not a

human being, but an irrational animal."

He said he had made those comments to "give an idea of what it means to defend the Brazilian colours at the World Cup finals."

Squad member Edilson said that Scolari's views could complicate things for the Brazilian players in Asia.

"We all have active sex lives and it's clear that 50 days without sex will not be easy," he said.

Scolari has also warned his players to curb their physical approach at the World Cup.

The four-time world champions, who only just sneaked into an event they have never missed, were accused through the qualifying stages of roughhouse tactics.

The physical style of AS Roma's Emerson in particular has come under the microscope for his continual fouls which often border on violence.

Several Brazilian referees have predicted football's showcase event will be marked by on-pitch violence, but Scolari told television station GloboNews on Wednesday: "I think, on the contrary, that World Cup referees will stamp down on violence right from the start."

"Players know football is a physical, contact sport however and in Europe tough tackles are not always considered a foul. My players will just have to be careful."

Many football fans find the attractive, silky skills of Brazil's 1970 world-championship-winning midfield at the other end of the spectrum from the tough-tackling style of their contemporary counterparts.

Brazil's tough, 1994 World Cup-winning captain Dunga, who had continual criticism for his physical style, was a forerunner of the current trend of midfielders who destroy rather than create.

The South America country's domestic league has an incredibly high number of fouls per game, even though many are not penalised, and it is generally regarded as one of the most violent championships in the world.

CUP CORNER

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

AFP, East Rutherford, New Jersey

Forward Agustín Delgado scored in the 69th minute to give World Cup-bound Ecuador a 1-0 victory over Yugoslavia in an international friendly on Wednesday night.

Delgado put in a rebound of a side-volley by midfielder Alex Aguinaga from the top of the penalty area. Goalkeeper Dragoslav Jevric knocked away the shot, but Delgado swept in to slot the ball home from six yards.

The game, however, will be better remembered as a chippy and physical affair as referee Rich Grady awarded five yellow cards and three red cards, including a pair to Yugoslavia, in front of a crowd of 36,540 at Giants Stadium.

Yugoslavian midfielder Dejan Stankovic was given his marching orders after fouling midfielder Edwin Tenorio from behind at midfield in the 41st minute.

Ecuador's man advantage, however, was short-lived as they had substitute Carlos Tenorio red-carded themselves.

Yugoslavia had their second player ejected in the 69th minute as defender Dejan Stefanovic was awarded his second yellow card, this one for dissent, immediately after the goal.

The game was not without some comedy. While taking a free kick some 28 yards out on the left side, Yugoslavian defender Sinisa Mihajlovic shanked his attempt to the left side, coming nowhere near the goal in the 38th minute.

TUDOR OUT FOR SIX WEEKS

Split

Juventus defender Igor Tudor has undergone on Wednesday a surgery of

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PHOTO: STAR

A colourful procession was brought out in the industrial city of Khulna yesterday to mark the occasion of the draw of The Daily Star-Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz Round 2. The rally started from the Khulna Press Club and went round the city. The draw will be held at the Zia Hall this afternoon.