

Abahani reach Super Four

UNB, Dhaka

NITOL-TATA NAT'L FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Holders Dhaka Abahani Krira Chakra reached the Super Four phase of Nitol-Tata National Football League after eliminating Bangladesh Army at the Rajshahi Stadium yesterday.

MSC, Biman fight today

UNB, Dhaka

The GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League Super Six match between holders Mohammedan Sporting Club and

The crucial match ended in a goalless draw which enabled Abahani to pip Army on goal difference after both teams ended their Group A campaign on eight points from four matches.

Abahani have scored nine goals and haven't conceded any while the Army team have scored five but swallowed three goals.

Chaturanga Jubo Sangha of Sylhet who too have eight points, had already confirmed their Super Four berth by finishing group champions. They have a 11 - 4 goal aggregate.

Bangladesh Army custodian Bivashi, who made a number of stunning saves to deny Abahani victory was later adjudged man of the match.

Chittagong Abahani Limited take on Mohsin Club of Narayanganj in today's Group B match at the same venue.

Green Delta hockey Mohammedan 2, Mariners 0

UNB, DHAKA

Holders Mohammedan Sporting Club blanked Dhaka Mariners Youngs Club 2-0 in the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League at Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

The celebrated Motijheel outfit led the first half by 1-0 goal. Mohammed Issa Miah scored the first goal from a penalty corner in the 29th minute.

Issa doubled the margin also from a penalty corner in the 64th minute.

In the day's First Division match, Dhaka Wanderers Club beat Barnak Samaj 2-0 after leading the first half 1-0 goals.

Nayan and Fazlul Islam scored field goals in each half for the winners.

BLAST FROM THE PAST



The 71,483 fans present at River Plate's stadium in Buenos Aires manifest their boundless excitement at the end of the 1978 World Cup final between Argentina and Holland which the home team one 3-1. The celebrations amid the oceans of banners and streamers is understandable-- This is the Argentina's first World Cup title.

Ronaldo dreaming

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Brazilian superstar Ronaldo is dreaming of knocking world champions France out of the World Cup this summer in revenge for their final defeat four years ago.

The 1996 and 1997 FIFA World Player of the Year, who had a seizure hours before that 3-0 defeat at the Stade de France and played well under par, said a victory against the champions would give him satisfaction.

"I would like to knock out France," Ronaldo said.

"The match in 1998 really stuck in my throat and a chance for revenge would be excellent," added Ronaldo, whose team could meet France in either the semi-finals or the quarter-finals of this year's competition.

Ronaldo made his return to competitive football in Inter Milan's UEFA Cup semi-final, first leg against Feyenoord on April 4 after an injury-ravaged two years.

He said he was confident his long-standing knee problems were now behind him.

"I have had treatment on it and it feels good. I just hope I won't have any more physical problems and have a great World Cup."

Ronaldo, who was in the squad for the 1994 finals but never got on the pitch, however did not tip his own country for the title, believing the 2002 winners would be either Argentina or France.

He was initially downcast when he arrived in Brazil on Monday, a day after Inter had lost 4-2 against Lazio when a win would have won the Italian championship.

He was in more optimistic mood however when he said: "I want to prepare seriously so that I will explode into action at this World Cup. It will be important to win the first match so that the team gains confidence."

Nitol-Niloy b'ball Saint Gregory in last four

UNB, Dhaka

Saint Gregory High moved into the semifinals of the Nitol-Niloy Boys School Basketball Competition crushing European Standard School by 112-19 points at Dhanmendi basketball gymnasium yesterday.

Saint Gregory, who finished unbeaten champions in the Group-B, commanded the first half 55-10.

Bablu was the top scorer for the winners caging 46 while Shakil caged 29 and Shaon 24. Munas scored 8 for the losers.

Scholastica beat Residential Model School 55-45 after leading the first half 29-12 at the same venue on Thursday.

Jaffer, Dravid steady India

AFP, St John's

Opener Wasim Jaffer hit an impressive 48 not out to help India recover from an early blow in the fourth Test against the West Indies here on Friday.

Jaffer put on 60 for the unfinished second-wicket stand with Rahul Dravid (21 not out) as India reached 73-1 at lunch on the opening day at the Antigua Recreation Ground.

West Indies skipper Carl Hooper put India in to bat for the third successive Test, but his four fast bowlers rarely troubled the batsmen on a wicket that had neither bounce nor

The Daily Star Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz Round 2 winners

- 1. First Prize**
Sudhangshu Sekhar Roy
Circuit House Road
Dhaka
- 2. Second Prize**
Abdullah Al-Mamun
Bagmara, Khulna
- 3. Third Prize**
Abdul Khaleque
Banshbari, Mohammadpur
Dhaka
- 4. Fourth Prize**
Wahidur Rahman
Tejknipara, Dhaka
- 5. Fifth Prize**
Sheahan Bhuiyan
Naya Paltan, Dhaka

1. First World Cup was played in Ans: Uruguay
2. Maradona scored his 'Hand of God' goal in Ans: 1986
3. Pele played his last World Cup in Ans: 1970
4. How many World Cups were held from 1938-1950 Ans: 2
5. Who is this? Ans: Valderrama

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

2 0

days to go



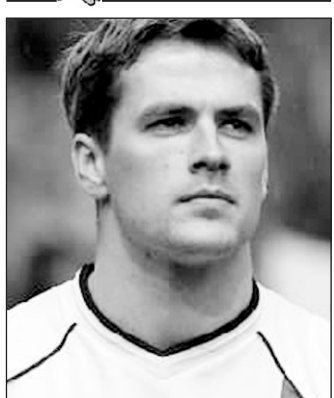
Did U Know?

Dutch legend Johan Cruyff, who was in red-hot form, turned his back on the 1978 World Cup as he refused to travel to Argentina because of the chaotic political situation in the South American country.



What to WATCH

- BT**
Nitol-Tata National Football League
Chittagong Abahani vs Mohsin Club
Live at 5:30 pm
- ESPN**
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
Repeat at 5:00 pm
World Cup Soccer Mix
Repeat at 6:30 pm
- English Premier Football League**
Liverpool vs Ipswich Town
Live at 7:55 pm
- STAR Sports**
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
Repeat at 11:30 am
Primeria Liga
See page 15



Michael Owen
(England ace striker)
"I want to be a top class footballer so I live the life that tries to enable me to be that type of player."

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 171

Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm May 24, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

1. West Indies won the third Test against India by
8 wickets 10 wickets 19 runs
 2. Who will lead Bangladesh A team in the Malaysia Cricket Challenge?
Akram Amiful K Mashud
 3. Who won the man-of-the-match award in the first Test between Pakistan and New Zealand?
M c
 4. Who are the English Premiership champions?
Man United Arsenal Liverpool
 5. Who clinched the Hamburg
- Name
- Class. Roll No.
- School Address
- Phone: (If any)



Mohammedan paceman Ashique entertains the players of both camps in front of the dressing room at the Bangabandhu National Stadium after their GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League Super Six match against Bangladesh Biman was called off yesterday.

Sourav questions umpiring

Cricket

AFP, St John's

India skipper Sourav Ganguly said Thursday he hoped the umpiring would be better in the remaining two Tests against the West Indies.

"There were a few decisions which made a lot of difference in the last Test," Ganguly said ahead of Friday's fourth Test at the Antigua Recreation Ground here.

"When you watched the TV, some decisions (of the last Test) looked very different. I hope such things don't happen again in the last two matches," he said, referring to the two umpire decision that ruled West Indies skipper Carl Hooper not out in the third match at Bridgetown.

Hooper was on 15 when he received the benefit of the doubt from the TV umpire after left-arm fast bowler Ashish Nehra had deflected a straight-drive from Shivnarine Chanderpaul on to the stumps at the

non-striker's end, with the West Indies captain appearing to be out of his crease.

Hooper went on to make 115, sharing a 215-run stand for the fifth wicket with left-handed



SOURAV GANGULY
Chanderpaul. The partnership enabled the hosts to post 394 for a big lead of 292.

The West Indies eventually squared the five-match series 1-1 as they bowled India out for 296 in the second innings and scored the five runs needed for victory to romp home with 10 wickets.

"The Hooper decision proved a bit costly as he was batting on 15 and went on to put on a stand of 215 with Chanderpaul," Ganguly wrote in his column in an Indian newspaper.

"One can understand the mistakes made by the umpires in the centre, because they've a fraction of second to decide. But not when you have 50 TV replays for something that was so obvious."

Ganguly, however, denied the Bridgetown defeat had affected the team's morale, saying India still had a chance to win the series.

"We've been playing well abroad for nearly two years and won quite a few matches but I think we'll have to bat really well to beat the West Indies

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Flemo on the horror show

Cricket

REUTERS, Auckland

Half of the New Zealand squad were missing when the players assembled moments after a bomb exploded outside their Karachi hotel on Wednesday, captain Stephen Fleming has said.

The bomb blast occurred 15 minutes before the Kiwis were due to travel to the ground for the start of the second and final Test against Pakistan. A decision was made to abort the tour after 14 people, including 11 French submarine technicians, were killed. "I saw things people shouldn't see," an emotional Fleming told reporters on the New Zealand squad's arrival back in Auckland.

"I saw one guy with a limb missing walking around. It was harrowing and the noise he was making was horrific. Then, when we got outside, half the team was missing. That was pretty tough to take."

The bomb went off alongside a navy bus parked near two major city hotels.

Fleming fought to hold back the tears as he described the carnage. He had been with a group of seven players having breakfast.

"The explosion is something you

can't describe," he said. "It reverberated through your whole body."

All the New Zealand players were safe but physio Dayle Shackel, who was already on the team bus, received a cut to his elbow as a window on the vehicle shattered.

New Zealand Cricket (NZC) are to make counsellors available to the squad. Fleming said the players had been safe in the team environment after the experience, but that the full

horror of the events could come out when they went their separate ways.

"My scariest moment was when we reached the car park -- we huddled in a group of about eight -- that left a lot of players unaccounted for," he said.

Coach Denis Aberhart said suggestions that the New Zealand team might have been the target had been

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New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming fights to hold back his tears during a press conference in Auckland yesterday.

Shirt clue for starters!

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

REUTERS, London

England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson has revealed the shirt numbers of his World Cup squad but denies they indicate which players would start the opening game against Sweden.

With the exception of number nine Robbie Fowler, numbers one to 11 are almost exactly the team expected to line up against Eriksson's homeland in Japan in their opening group F game on June 2.

But Eriksson told the Football Association's website on Friday: "This is the way that the shirts have been allocated."

"As for my starting XI to face Sweden, we will wait and see on that one, but I can say for sure that squad numbers will certainly not play a part in my team selection."

There are few surprises in the allocation of the numbers in the 23-

man party, with Eriksson handing goalkeeper David Seaman the number one jersey and striker Michael Owen his favoured number 10.

At the 1998 World Cup, 18-year-old Owen wore number 20, and together with 19-year-old number 21 Rio Ferdinand, enjoyed the rare

SQUAD NUMBERS

1-David Seaman, 2-Danny Mills, 3-Ashley Cole, 4-Steven Gerrard, 5-Rio Ferdinand, 6-Sol Campbell, 7-David Beckham, 8-Paul Scholes, 9-Robbie Fowler, 10-Michael Owen, 11-Emile Heskey, 12-Wes Brown, 13-Nigel Martyn, 14-Wayne Bridge, 15-Martin Keown, 16-Gareth Southgate, 17-Teddy Sheringham, 18-Owen Hargreaves, 19-Joe Cole, 20-Darius Vassell, 21-Nicky Butt, 22-David James, 23-Kieron Dyer.

privilege of having an age lower than his shirt number.
Owen's Liverpool team mate, number 11 Emile Heskey, is favourite to partner him in the England

attack against Sweden.

Number 23 Kieron Dyer of Newcastle, the only player likely to be in the first XI without a corresponding shirt, is favourite to start in the left midfield position.

Fowler prefers wearing the number nine jersey. When he joined Leeds from Liverpool earlier this season he opted for 27, treble nine, because Mark Viduka already had the nine shirt.

Fowler's Leeds team mate Danny Mills gets the right-back's traditional number two jersey, with Arsenal left-back Ashley Cole number three.

Central defenders Rio Ferdinand of Leeds and Sol Campbell of Arsenal have numbers five and six.

Liverpool midfielder Steven Gerrard has the number four shirt, with captain David Beckham and his Manchester United club mate Paul Scholes seven and eight respectively.

West Ham United's 19-year-old midfielder Joe Cole, a surprise inclusion in Eriksson's squad, will wear the number 19 -- the same number worn by inspirational midfielder Paul Gascoigne at the 1990 World Cup.

CUP CORNER

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

AFP, Seoul

Ten South Korean World Cup players will probably escape military service if the team reaches the second round -- giving a valuable new incentive to play well.

Top players such as Ahn Jung-Hwan who is based with Perugia in Italy and up-and-coming striker Cha Doo-Ri, son of Korean soccer legend Cha Bum-Keun, are among 10 in the national squad of 23 who still have to carry out military service of about two and a half years.

But Chung Mong-Joon, Korean World Cup Organising Committee co-chairman and a FIFA vice president, met Prime Minister Lee Han-Dong on Thursday to urge him to waive military service if the team meets the national goal of second-round qualification, officials said.

Lee hinted the government was ready to act. He told Chung "if we receive a written recommendation we will consider it and we hope that you will submit it very quickly," according to the officials.

The World Cup starts on May 31 and South Korea's soccer authorities have set a target of reaching the second round for the first time in the country's fifth appearance at the finals. South Korea have yet to win a match at a World Cup finals tournament.

The military service waiver is normally given to winners of any Olympic medal and Asian Games gold medal winners.

The footballers would escape national service on top of getting a cash bonus of several hundred thousand dollars.

NO FREE DOG TASTING!

AP, Seoul
A group of dog meat restaurant owners said Friday that it has scrapped a

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Mariner Youngs custodian foils a Kamal attack during their Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League encounter at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.