

1

2

days to go



## Did U Know?

This year Japan and South Korea will co-host the World Cup, the first time it has been held in two countries in its 17-tournament history. In principle the World Cup is held in one country; 13 different nations have hosted the 16 tournaments so far: France, Italy, and Mexico (twice each), and Argentina, Brazil, Chile, England, Germany, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States, and Uruguay (once each).



**ESPN**  
Cricket Programming  
Super Selector  
Repeat at 11:00 am  
Western Union World Football  
Repeat at 12:30 pm  
**England vs Sri Lanka**  
First Test, Day Four  
**Live at 3:58 pm**  
World Cup Soccer Mix  
Repeat at 6:00 pm  
Cricket Programming

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### Jared Borgetti

(Mexico striker)  
"We need to play more together to become more of a unit, but I think we are on course to have a good finals."

On World Cup prospects.

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

Competition closes at 8 pm May 24, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

- West Indies won the third Test against India by  
8 wickets 10 wickets 19 runs
- Who will lead Bangladesh A team in the Malaysia Cricket Challenge?  
Akram Amiful K Mashud
- Who won the man-of-the-match award in the first Test between Pakistan and New Zealand?  
M C Millan Inzamam Afridi
- Who are the English Premiership champions?  
Man United Arsenal Liverpool
- Who clinched the Hamburg

Name.....

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

School Address.....

Phone: (If any) .....

# Sky-blues prevail

## NITOL-TATA NAT'L FOOTBALL LEAGUE

SPORTS REPORTER

An early strike from Mojibur Rahman Ritu gave Abahani Krira Chakra a lone goal victory over Mohammedan Sporting Club in the Nitol-Tata National Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Ritu volleyed home a rebounder in the 42nd minute to settle the issue of the first meeting between the two bitter-rivals this season.

It was also the only defeat for Mohammedan on a day where their hockey and cricketing brothers posted wins.

Although the match drew nearly five thousand spectators, both teams appeared not to waste their energy in their dress rehearsal for semifinal. But there was no doubt two teams played for pride.

Abahani dominated the first half and could have scored more than one had Ritu not missed two sitters in the first quarter of the game.

The young attacker fired a sudden thunderous side volley from the edge of the box that Mohammedan reserve custodian Bijon fisted away for corner in the tenth minute.

Eight minutes later a terrible defensive error from Masud Rana left Ritu only to beat a hapless Bijon. But he wasted the opportunity blasting the ball miles over the bar.

Ritu however made amends for his previous blunder when he drove a loose ball into the net after Bijon partially parried off a scorching left-footer from Bidyut.

Mohammedan got the only realistic chance to equalise when midfielder Arif Khan Joy headed an Alfaz corner 24 minutes into the second half but only to be denied by an airborne Abahani custodian Apel, who tipped the ball over the cross-bar.

The match of the two giants however could not be finished without controversy where referee Abdur Rakib played a part. The man-in-uniform mistakenly showed a second yellow card to Abahani

## Cricket, soccer feds annulled in Kenya

AFP, Nairobi

Kenya's Sports Minister Francis Nyenze on Friday dissolved the country's football and cricket governing bodies and appointed caretaker committees to oversee new elections in three months.

Nyenze formed an investigative team last August to probe the Kenya Football Federation (KFF) following a financial scandal in which top officials were implicated.

After six months of investigations, the probe was handed to the anti-corruption unit of the police, but none of the officials has been arrested.

Nyenze said his directive was not against the rules world football governing FIFA, which do not allow government interference.

Kenya is set to host two matches of the 2003 cricket World Cup in South Africa in March next year, but Nyenze said the current officials of the Kenya Cricket Association (KCA) were unlikely to make proper preparations due to internal wrangles.

The government and the KCA have been at loggerheads over the running of cricket in the country during the past two years.

KCA officials have been accused of grossly mismanaging the association's finances.

left-back Mahmudul Hasan five minutes away from the final whistle. He however revoked his decision after a strong protest from Abahani players, who demanded that it was not Hasan but Nazrul committed the foul.

Although Hasan returned to the field without little opposition from Mohammedan players, but it could have been different situation if the match had any title factor attached to it.

It was Abahani's second win from as many matches in the four-team final round. They blanked Sylhet



PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka Mohammedan's Joy (L) is under pressure from two defenders of arch-rivals Abahani during their Nitol-Tata National Football League clash at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

## Green Delta hockey MSC win rivals' war

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club once again showed their unmatched superiority on the hockey field when they came from behind to notch a 3-1 win against their bitter-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra in a Green Delta Premier League match at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

The outcome put Mohammedan, the four times winners on a trot, at the top of the table with eight straight victories under belt.

On the other hand it was Abahani's first defeat after seven consecutive wins.

The first big match of the League saw all the four goals get scored in the second session.

Abahani drew the first blood seven minutes after the break when Ashraf Islam sounded the board from a combined attack.

Chaturanga 2-0 in the first match.

On the other hand it was Mohammedan's first defeat after their 3-0 thrashing of Chittagong Abahani.

Meanwhile, in the other match of the day, Chittagong Abahani defeated Sylhet Chaturanga 3-1.

Chittagong Abahani's Nepalese recruit Hari Khadka scored twice while compatriot Renedy Singh struck the other.

The winners led the first half 2-0. Saiful scored the only goal from Chaturanga.

## CityCell U-19 cricket BKSP, Satkhira post wins

UNB, Dhaka

Holders Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) eliminated Sunamganj with a nine wicket victory in the final round of the CityCell Digital 21st National Youth U-19 Cricket Competition at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium at Bogra yesterday.

The winners take on Rangpur in their next match today at the same venue.

Sent in to bat first, Sunamganj scored paltry 82 runs all out in 33.1 over with Ranjan making 18 and Sohag 11 runs.

Rumon picked up three wickets for 15 runs while Nadip took two for 12 and Shafaq two for 24 runs.

In reply, BKSP reached the target of 83 runs for one wicket in 12.5 overs with Dhiman making team highest 56 runs. Imran captured the only wicket conceding 10 runs.

In another match, Satkhira beat Jhalakathi by 41 runs at Natore Stadium. They will play their next match today against Comilla at the same venue.

Satkhira scored 114 runs for all in 45.4 overs after deciding to bat first. Shariful made 30 and Tareq 20 runs. Azad claimed two for 14, Ripon two for 19 and Nandi two for 15 runs.

In reply, Jhalakathi were bundled out for 72 runs in 32.1 overs with Mahmudur Rahman making 12 runs. Hasan picked up four wickets for 20 runs and Tareq Zaman four for 21 runs.

## England series De Silva's last

AP, London

Veteran Sri Lanka batsman Aravinda de Silva Friday said, he will quit international cricket at the end of the ongoing three-Test series against England.

The 37-year-old, recalled for the tour after 15 months out of the game, came agonising close to scoring his 20th Test century before swing bowler Dominic Cork removed him for 88 in the tourists' formidable 555 for eight declared on Friday.

After discarding him because he was over weight and too slow on the field, the 90-Test veteran was given a new lease of life when asked to get fit for the current tour.

"It was a pleasant challenge for me to come over. When I got the opportunity, I thought I'll take the challenge," de Silva recalled.

## Pacy encounter?

AFP, Kingston

India and the West Indies are pinning their hopes on fast bowlers in the vital fifth and final cricket Test, that started at Sabina Park here on Saturday.

West Indies skipper Carl Hooper said he would like to go into the match with four pacemen on a grassy pitch expected to favour fast bowling, while India named seamer Tinu Yohannan in a 12-member team.

"It looks a good, sporting track. I hope it'll be a good Test match," Hooper said on Friday.

"We didn't include a spinner even in the last Test at Antigua, so I feel we should play with four fast bowlers. But the selectors will decide the playing 11."

The fourth Test on a batsmen-friendly wicket at Antigua ended in a tame draw, with the West Indies posting 629-9 declared in reply to India's 513-9 declared.

The opening match of the five-Test series was also drawn at Georgetown last month, but India won the second at Port-of-Spain by 37 runs and the West Indies squared the series with a 10-wicket win in the third at Bridgetown.

"I think we'll have a result in this match. I hope the Test lasts five days and doesn't end in three," said Hooper, whose first win as captain came at this venue against South Africa last year.

"We played with three fast bowlers and one spinner against South Africa last year. We've that option, but the four quickies have been doing well for us this season," said Hooper.

The West Indies owed their lone success of the series to fast bowlers, with Mervyn Dillon finishing with an eight-wicket match-haul to

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## Pabna cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Ekok Sangha defeated Sangram Club by 22 runs in the Pepsi First Division Cricket League at the Pabna Stadium yesterday.

Winning the toss, Ekok batted first and made 149 runs all out in 49.5 overs.

In reply, Sangram were all out for 127 runs in 48 overs.



PHOTO: INTERNET

A South African soccer supporter sings and dances at the Johannesburg International Airport during the national team's departure for the World Cup on May 17.

## CUP CORNER



REUTERS, Tokyo

High-tech Japanese military planes will patrol the skies over stadiums and jet fighters will be on standby to prevent any September 11-style attacks targeting the World Cup, a Japanese newspaper has said.

The government has drawn up an action plan for the military, or the Self-Defence Force (SDF), outlining its role in providing security for the tournament which kicks off on May 31 in co-hosts South Korea, the daily Asahi Shimbun said.

While the police will be mainly responsible for security, the SDF will provide support, such as a state-of-the-art airborne warning and control system (AWACS) plane to guard the skies over the matches, the paper said.

Japanese authorities have already said they will implement no-fly zones over the stadiums but should there be any risk of an attack like the ones on New York and Washington, F-15 jet fighters would be mobilised to "remove" such a threat, the Asahi said.

Army units of the SDF have concluded agreements with the local police at match venues to help out in case trouble involving hooligans escalated into a riot, the paper reported.

Japanese police have said there will be zero tolerance for troublemakers and plan to mobilise the most manpower ever for the tournament, which

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## Simon switches to NSW

AFF, Sydney

One-time Australian Test batsman Simon Katich will play his cricket for New South Wales from next season, Cricket NSW said Saturday.

Katich, who has played one Test, comes to Sydney from Western Australia after losing his Australian Cricket Board contract last month.

"We're extremely pleased Simon has decided to join the Blues," NSW chief executive David Gilbert said in a statement.

"He's an outstanding batsman and all-round cricketer, who will be a major asset for NSW cricket."

Katich will play for English county side Yorkshire for three weeks, replacing Darren Lehmann, who is returning to Australia for the one-day winter series against Pakistan.

NSW coach Steve Rixon preferred the move earlier this week when he said he had lost patience with local talent and wanted to recruit players from interstate.

# Slovenia blank Ghana



INTERNET/AFP, undated

A free-kick from Benfica star Zlatko Zahovic and a rare goal by Džoni Novak ensured Slovenia's World Cup build-up continued on the right track with a 2-0 victory over Ghana at the Za Bezigradom Stadium, Ljubljana, on Friday night.

The home side started without skipper Ales Ceh (rested) and Milan Osterc, while Ghana missed Bayern Munich defender Samuel Kuffour and Otto Addo.

Slovenia produced some fine attacking football in the first half and had the first chance in the tenth minute when Zahovic's free-kick was headed wide by Pavlin.

The best Ghana opportunity followed when Michael Essien found himself unmarked at the far post from a corner. He headed the ball into the ground but it bounced just wide of the post.

Zahovic then opened the scoring from 20 yards and Slovenia took control. The same player had another great chance when he was unmarked in the box, but could only head over after a fine cross from Amir Karic, named skipper in the absence of Ceh.

Just before the break came the best move of the game. Sasa Gajser gave the ball to Sebastjan Cimerotic, who dribbled past a defender and made a defence-splitting pass for Džoni Novak, who finished through the legs of the keeper.

It was only Novak's third goal in 68 appearances for his country and the first for five years.

In the second half, Slovenia sat

back and threatened on the counter-attack, while Ofori-Quaye and Essien wasted half-chances for Ghana.

Meanwhile at Copenhagen, hosts Denmark overcame fellow World Cup finalists Cameroon 2-1 in a warm-up match on Friday.

A Lucien Mettommo own-goal and Jon Dahl Tomasson's penalty gave Denmark a 2-0 lead before Sedan defender Modeste Mbami pulled one pack for the visitors in the Parken Stadium.

The two World Cup participants produced a poor game as Denmark said goodbye to their own fans by inflicting the first defeat on Cameroon coach Winfried Schafer since his appointment in September.

The game started tepidly and there had not been a shot on goal when Cameroon defender Mettommo

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PHOTO: STAR

Action from yesterday's Nitol-Tata National Football League encounter between Chittagong Abahani and Sylhet Chaturanga at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

# Mohammedan maul Bagan

## Ehsanul star of the year

SPORTS REPORTER



Mohammedan Sporting Club rounded up their GrameenPhone Premier League campaign with a nine-wicket win against Kalabagan Krira Chakra at the Fatullah Stadium yesterday.

The victory however meant a little to the popular Motijheel outfit, who lost the crown to Victoria Sporting Club only the previous day. Victoria lifted a major League title after 26 years with an exciting 93-run victory over Bangladesh Biman at the BKSP ground in Savar on Friday.

However, the easy sail of the runners-up against their first round conquerors was fashioned by their two new-ball bowlers Safiuddin Ahmed and Taposh Biashya.

The duo captured nine wickets among them to shot Kalabagan out for a paltry 90 in 25.5 overs.

Safiuddin finished with five for 24

in his venomous spell that yielded three maidens. His less illustrious partner Taposh mopped up the Kalabagan tail to return with four for 32.

Experienced left-arm spinner Mohammed Rafique grabbed the



EHSANUL HAQUE

other wickets in a match that finished before the lunch break.

Opener Rafiqul Islam and Manzarul with 21 each were the only

two Kalabagan batsmen who could reach the double-figure mark.

Chasing an easy target Mohammedan racked up 94 for one in 15.3 overs with opener Ehsanul hammering a scintillating 51 off 48 balls.

Although it was a near-miss for Mohammedan this year despite winning all their five Super Six matches, Ehsanul has every reason to claim the League of his own.

The young right-hander finished as the top-scorer, an achievement that Pakistani players reserved for the last few years.

With this win the last year's champions finished on 26 points, two points behind Victoria.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of GrameenPhone Premier Super Six match between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Kalabagan Krira Chakra at the Fatullah Stadium yesterday.

**KALABAGAN**  
Rafiqul lbw b Safiuddin 21

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