

## Senegal singing

### Holdings France go down in the opener

INTERNET, Seoul

Debutants Senegal shocked holders France and the footballing world by snatching victory in the opening game of the World Cup. Midfielder Pape Bouba Diop upstaged France's cast of star names to score the decisive first goal of the tournament after 30

minutes. France now need to beat both Uruguay and Denmark to keep their World Cup challenge alive. They play the South American team on Thursday and the Danes on June 11.

It was the first defeat suffered by defending world -- and also European -- champions in the opening World Cup match since Cameroon upset Argentina 1-0 at the 1990 tournament in Italy. Also it was France's first defeat at the finals since 1986 when they lost 0-2 in the semis to the former West Germany, although they failed to qualify for the tournaments in 1990 and 1994.

The tiny West African nation of Senegal, whose team all play their club football in France and are coached by Frenchman Bruno Metsu, proved they are capable of getting past the first round at least.

The athletic Senegalese, whose odds to win the tournament were

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### Grameen Phone Match report



PHOTO: AFP

French midfielder Patrick Vieira (L) and Senegalese defender Papa Bouba Diop, who scored the winner, fight for the ball during the opening match of World Cup Korea/Japan in Seoul, yesterday. Senegal stunned France 1-0.



PHOTO: AFP

Fireworks light up the top of Seoul World Cup Stadium during the opening ceremony of the 2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan in Seoul yesterday.

### Over the moon

AFP, Dakar

Senegalese football fans, including President Abdoulaye Wade, took to the streets yesterday to noisily celebrate their team's stunning victory over defending world champions France in the opening round of the 2002 World Cup in Seoul.

"Incredible, incredible," a young student named Sall repeated over and over again, minutes after the final whistle in the match between the Senegalese Lions and France's Blues had sounded and hundreds of Senegalese fans poured onto the streets.

Jubilant Lions' fans gathered in the central Place de l'Independance in the capital, Dakar, sounding their car horns in a cacophony of joy.

One overjoyed fan in the central square was brandishing a chicken and a cooking pot, in a humorous

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### Cup wave hits country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The World Cup fever has gripped the people of all social strata here.

Seventeen-year-old Juboraj, a newspaper hawkker, likes to resemble the Brazilian football player, Ronaldo, as he wishes Brazil championship in the World Cup-2002. And as a mark of his support for the country, Juboraj had his head shaven like Ronaldo's.

The Khulna city has turned into a city of flags. Tailors and hawkers are now busy making money, as the sale of flags has hit an all-time high. Bishwanath, 28, a hawkker, said that he was surprised by the demand for flags of favourite teams. The Argentine flag outsells others, closely followed by the Brazilian one, he said.

Many makeshift shops have sprouted at the roadside to meet the increasing demand for flags.

The Khulna University (KU) and all its residential halls put on a festive look, as the halls and campus walls have already been decorated with posters, portraits of favourite

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## Spectacle opens first World Cup in Asia

REUTERS, Seoul

South Korea opened the first World Cup of the 21st century with a spectacle of music, fireworks and dance at a ceremony marked by boos and jeers for the president of soccer's world governing body, Sepp Blatter.

Blatter, re-elected FIFA president at a stormy congress in Seoul this week despite allegations of corruption and financial mismanagement, had to appeal for "fair play, please" as catcalls and whistles from the crowd continued into his welcoming speech.

It was the only sour note of a ceremony that mixed 5,000 years of Korean culture with the marvels of hi-tech and sent a message of reconciliation to co-hosts Japan.

About 2,300 performers, half of them soldiers in traditional costume, took part in the 8-million-dollar show in Seoul's new World Cup Stadium, filled to less than capacity with some empty seats for the opening game between champions France and Senegal.

Thirty-two triangular drums, as many as there are nations in the World Cup, came together in the centre of the pitch. "Digital dancers" with LCD video monitors on their heads symbolising South Korea's cutting-edge technology cavorted in the arena.

Thirty-two huge banners descended from the stadium rafters over the heads of the crowd to cover the pitch in white cloth before a 10-metre (33-foot) high bell rose from the centre of the pitch and was sounded in a sign of peace.

The 2002 World Cup is the first in Asia and the first time sport's biggest event has been staged in two countries.

"Through these football matches,

humanity will become one, transcending racial, cultural, ideological and religious differences," South Korean President Kim Dae-jung said in an address that formally opened the tournament.

Japanese Prime Minister

Junichiro Koizumi also addressed the ceremony, watched by an estimated worldwide television audience of 500 million.

Dignitaries present included

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### Protect national interest, PM tells Bangladesh mission in UN

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia asked the officials concerned to work hard to uphold the country's real image in international forums and protect national interests.

Her directive came when officials and employees of Bangladesh Permanent Mission in the United Nations met her at her hotel suite in New York Thursday evening, according to a despatch sent by the PM's press secretary.

Officials and employees of

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## Gas tariff likely to go up from next month

SHARIER KHAN

After four years, gas tariff is likely to go up from July 1.

Petrobangla is now preparing a revised price structure for domestic, industrial, commercial, power and fertiliser sector consumers. The new tariffs have not been spelled out, but competent sources confirmed that the prices would go up.

"We are compelled to rationalise the domestic market gas price now," said one source. "In this process, we have to adjust the local gas price with the international fuel price and price of gas being produced by interna-

tional oil companies."

He said the new pricing was being considered keeping in view both economic rationalisation and people's purchasing power. "We cannot just shoot the prices up. On economic consideration, the prices should be much higher than what we are going to recommend."

Excepting the gas price for domestic consumers, the prices were restructured in December 1998. Domestic price for double burner was raised earlier this year and set at Tk 350. The previous rate was Tk 330.

Petrobangla now charges Tk 1.93

per cubic metre gas (one unit) for power plants and Tk 1.68 per unit for fertiliser plants. It directly bears subsidy of Tk 0.412 per unit for power sector consumers and Tk 0.388 per unit for fertiliser sector consumers as it has to pay as high as 55 per cent excise and duty to the National Board of Revenue.

Presently, the tariff for industrial consumers is Tk 4.20 per unit (with a subsidy of Tk 0.64 per unit), seasonal consumer tariff is Tk 5.2 per unit

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TODAY'S GAME	
Rep. of Ireland v Cameroon	Venue: Niigata
Time: 12:30pm (BST)	
Uruguay v Denmark	Venue: Ulsan
Time: 3:00pm (BST)	
Germany v Saudi Arabia	Venue: Sapporo
Time: 5:30pm (BST)	

### Transshipment to benefit Dhaka: Tripura CM

UNB, Agartala (Tripura)

Permitting India to carry her goods through Bangladesh's territories will give Bangladesh an economic benefit worth Rs 600 crore annually, Tripura chief minister said yesterday in support of the proposed trans-border haulage.

"A significant need and opportunity for Bangladesh is to permit smoother movement of Indian goods through that country," Manik Sarkar said, while inaugurating a seminar on "Promotion of Investment and Trade between Tripura and Bangladesh". (See also page 6)



PHOTO: STAR

This BRTC double-decker killed one person and injured 30 others when it overturned on braking sharply to a halt at the Farmgate traffic signal in the city yesterday.

### FM urges Ottawa for quota free access of items

BSS, Dhaka

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan has urged the Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien to include Bangladesh along with other African LDCs for granting quota-and duty-free concession during the forthcoming G-8 summit.

He made the request by explaining the adverse impact on the Bangladesh garments sector due to quota system and high tariff during a meeting with the Canadian Prime Minister at his office in Ottawa on Thursday, according to a message received here yesterday.

The foreign minister also conveyed the greetings and best regards of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to the Canadian Prime Minister. He handed over a letter of Khaleda Zia to Jean Chretien inviting him to visit Bangladesh, which the Canadian prime minister warmly accepted, added the message.

Morshed Khan briefed the Canadian Prime Minister about various socio-economic programmes of the present government led by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for poverty alleviation and women empowerment in

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## 'Use of children in camel race must be stopped'

### IOM promises assistance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Geneva-based International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has promised assistance in stopping the use of children as camel jockeys in some Middle Eastern countries.

"The use of children as jockeys in camel race should be stopped immediately," said visiting Director General of the IOM Brunson McKinley at a press conference in the city yesterday.

If the Bangladesh government or any other organisation takes initiatives, the IOM will provide necessary assistance in curbing the problem, the director general said.

Several hundred children from Bangladesh and some other developing countries are being victimised every year, as they are trafficked to some Middle Eastern countries for this purpose.

Also, McKinley underscored the strengthening of institutional capacity for providing training and other assistance to migrant workers.

The IOM is working on training up the Bangladeshi migrants, mostly labourers, enhancing their efficiency and social position. The migrant workers cannot use their technical knowledge and money after coming home due to lack of necessary logistic support, said McKinley. There should be some incentives so that they can invest money and knowledge for the economic development of their home country, he told newsmen.

During his three-day visit to Bangladesh, McKinley inaugurated an IOM-

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