

Mukti-Ctg MSC to open Zia soccer meet

SPORTS REPORTER

Star-studded Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra will take on Chittagong Mohammedan in the opening match of the Shaheed Ziaur Rahman International Football Tournament that begins at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong from July 1 under the auspices of Chattagram Zela Krira Sangstha.

A total of seven teams including three foreign selections will participate in the 11-day meet organised for the first time in the port city.

GROUPS
Group A: Dhaka Mohammedan, Chittagong Abahani, Nepal national team and Myanmar youth team.

Group B: Muktiyoddha, Chittagong Mohammedan and Mohun Bagan Club.

Turk heads

FROM PAGE 13
Gunes said he felt that Brazil were tiring near the end of the semi-final and that his side could have equalised but failed to take their opportunities.

"Brazil are a good side with many talented players, but I think they were a bit intimidated by our strength," he said.

"The final against Germany will be relatively easy for them."

Meanwhile, disappointment and gloom hung over Berlin's Turkish community, one of the biggest outside of Turkey, after their national team was beaten.

In the Kreuzberg quarter, where many of the German capital's 200,000 Turks live, morose groups of football fans milled around television sets in restaurants and cafes draped in red flags and banners after the final whistle.

Superstar Ronaldo's 49th minute strike, the only goal of the match, was greeted with stoney silence by the crowd clad in red in the smoky cafe of local football club Tuerkiyemspor Berlin.

Mustafa, a 42-year-old shop owner, was unable to hide his disappointment as his one wish was to see his native Turkey play in the final against Germany, his home away from home.

"The Germans are going to be world champions, that will help. We could have beaten Brazil right up until the last moment," said Zayde, 26.

Selcuk, aged 18, was already looking to the future. "We played really well and we'll win the next final in Berlin in 2006," he said.

Oliveira sacked

FROM PAGE 13
for a Portuguese national coach (26) and the most games (43).

In other fallout from Portugal's poor World Cup showing, federation vice-president Antonio Boronha submitted his resignation last week.



What to Watch

- ESPN**
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 6:00 pm
England vs Sri Lanka
First ODI
Live at 7:30 pm
- STAR Sports**
World Cup Today
Repeat at 7:30 am
Futbol Mundial
Taped Version at 8:00 am
Wimbledon C'ships
Day Four
2nd/3rd Round
Live at 5:00 pm

Star Whizz Kid COMPETITION 174

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

Competition closes at 8 pm
July 5, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who scored the first goal of the World Cup 2002?
Bouba Diop | Zidane | Klose
- Who is Brazil captain?
Cafu | Rivaldo | Ronaldo
- Pakistan won the last ODI against Australia by
91 runs
9 wks | 17 runs
- Who will lead Bangladesh in the two-Test series against Sri Lanka?
K'Mashud | A Khan | A Islam
- Who won the French Open title?
Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (if any)

England hope to shine

NatWest tri-series starts today



AFP, London

England captain Nasser Hussain will be hoping his side's domination over Sri Lanka will continue when the two sides contest a one-day international at Trent Bridge on Thursday.

England completed a 2-0 Test series victory over Sri Lanka earlier this month and Hussain will hope to translate that form into the limited-overs arena where India will complete the line-up for the triangular trophy.

Hussain will however be worried by England's limited-overs form after his side crashed to an eight-wicket defeat to Wales at Sophia Gardens on Monday.

England struggled to score 189 runs and couldn't snare more than two Welsh wickets as they slumped to defeat.

The defeat to Wales showed how much Darren Gough and Andrew Caddick withdrawals through injury have depleted the England bowling attack.

Gough is doubtful to take part in the series after injuring his knee, while Caddick is ruled out after suffering a side strain in last week's

Test match at Old Trafford.

The withdrawal of the strike pairing will benefit Ronnie Irani and James Kirtley who make their returns to the international arena.

All-rounder Irani has not played international one-day cricket for five years but he was drafted into the squad after a string of impressive performances for Essex this season.

While Sussex pacesman Kirtley was recalled after his bowling action was scrutinised by the International Cricket Council (ICC) when questions were raised on England's one-day tour of Zimbabwe last year.

England's chairman of selectors David Graveney is pleased to have both players back for the one-day series.

The Sri Lankan selectors meanwhile made several changes ahead of the triangular series, replacing six players for the limited-overs trophy.

One-day specialists Avishka Gunawardena, Chamara Silva, Naveed Nawaz, Pramody Wickremesinghe and Romesh Kaluwitharana will replace Aravinda de Silva, Hashan Tillekeratne, Prasanna Jayawardena, Ruchira Perera, Thilani Samaraweera and Erik Upasanthana.

However, Samaraweera is staying back in England because the Lankan officials have named him

as Muttiah Muralitharan's replacement.

The new additions helped Sri Lanka clinch confidence-boosting victories over Gloucestershire and Northamptonshire ahead of the Trent Bridge clash.

However, the 1996 world champions will struggle to overcome the loss of off-spinner Muralitharan, who was sent home earlier this month after aggravating a shoulder injury.

Yet with Muralitharan out injured, Chaminda Vaas will lead the wicket-keeping Sri Lankan attack which will aim to frustrate their opponents and hope their explosive batting line-up led by Sanath Jayasuriya can save the day.

India will play their first match of the triangular series against England at Lord's on Saturday.

The tourists are struggling for form, losing by 21 runs to Kent on Monday.

The defeat showed that the Indians lack a fearsome strike bowler after Javagal Srinath's unexpected retirement after the West Indies tour earlier this year.

Left-arm seamers Zaheer Khan and Ashish Nehra will share the new-ball but India's thin-bowling attack was exposed by Kent who feasted on the punchless attack for 284 runs.

Indian coach John Wright will once again have to rely on the glittering middle order of Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid and Venkatesh Laxman to bludgeon India to victory.

However, the tourists will have to overcome a mental barrier in order to win the June 27 to July 13 triangular series as India have earned the dubious reputation of choking under big-match pressure after losing nine one-day finals involving three or more teams since April 1999.

SCHEDULE

Date	Match	Venue
June 27	England v S Lanka	Trent Bridge (D/N)
June 29	England v India	Lord's
June 30	India v Sri Lanka	The Oval
July 2	England v S Lanka	Leeds
July 4	England v India	Chester-le-Street (D/N)
July 6	India v Sri Lanka	Eggbaston
July 7	England v S Lanka	Manchester
July 9	England v India	The Oval
July 11	India v Sri Lanka	Bristol (D/N)
July 13	FINAL	Lord's

Captain content



INTERNET, Bridgetown

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming said his team's historic Test victory over the West Indies was especially satisfying given their lack of success on three previous tours.

The win was New Zealand's first ever in the West Indies after 11 Tests produced three losses and eight draws.

"I rate it highly because of where we are," Fleming said after the Black Caps sealed a comprehensive 204-run win in the opening Test late on the fourth day.

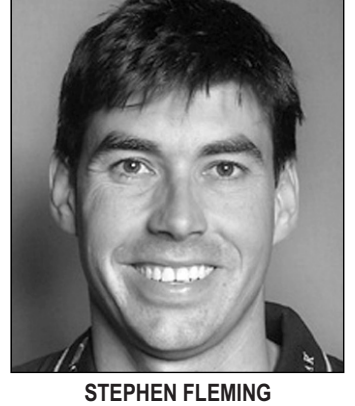
"There's been a lot of New Zealand teams that have been battered and bruised at this ground and in the West Indies before," Fleming said.

"That provides motivation." It was only the home team's fourth loss in Barbados in 39 Tests, and the win gave the visitors a 1-0 series lead.

"The guys have gained a lot of

confidence from this performance, so as captain I take a lot of satisfaction from it," said Fleming.

The skipper led from the front with his 130 in the first innings, earning him the man-of-the-match award.



STEPHEN FLEMING
But he got good support from his team, especially left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori and fast-bowler Shane Bond.
Fleming warned: "The team is very young in key areas, but they

have talent, and sometimes when talent gets the taste of success that can be a very dangerous thing.

Fleming said the key to victory was skittling the West Indies for 107 on day two to take a huge first-innings lead of 230.

"We went at the West Indies with an intensity," he said.

"I don't know if they were expecting it, but mentally they weren't with us and they paid the price."

His opposite number Carl Hooper put the West Indies' loss down to poor batting.

"The point is I don't think we batted well. Our shot selection was very poor in the first innings," Hooper said.

But coach Roger Harper said: "I don't think this was a case of technical deficiencies -- it was poor application."

"I don't think we applied ourselves well enough in the first innings in particular and in some cases in the second innings as well."

The final game of the two-match series starts at St George's, Grenada, on Friday.

Looking ahead already

FROM PAGE 13
Chosun Ilbo in an editorial.

Perhaps the abiding image of this World Cup will be the millions of red-shirted fans who gathered in Seoul and across co-host South Korea for each of their team's matches.

"The spontaneous party culture created by the younger generation has opened the floodgates of change for the whole of Korean society," the Chosun Ilbo said, referring to high-spirited but orderly parties that brought out millions. There were only minor incidents and accidents on Tuesday, police said.

"The task ahead will be about how our society will satisfy that searching happiness, overflowing confidence, and future possibilities."

South Korea officials were already working at the presidential Blue House on Wednesday on how to harness the power felt on the streets -- and broadcast around the globe -- to raise the country's economic game.

"I think there is a national consensus that we should make this passionate atmosphere a driving force to boost the country's fortunes," President Kim Dae-jung said in a statement.

South Korea's defeat had little impact on the country's financial

markets, which were buffeted by news of improper accounting at U.S. long-distance carrier WorldCom Inc.

Beyond the economy, South Korea will be looking at what effect the event could have on domestic politics in a presidential election year, ties with co-host and long-time rival Japan as well as on North Korea, which has said little about the event and not reported the defeat.

It may be too early to draw too many conclusions, but few doubt the month-long tournament has put South Korea more firmly on the investor map than any amount of public relations and had a cathartic effect on a society long hung-up on history.

"I think our national football team and our people did their best," Kim said through his spokeswoman, Park Sun-sook. "They proved to the world we are qualified to have a bigger dream."

He urged South Koreans to get behind their team and the event with the same passion until the third-place playoff in the South Korean city of Taegu on Saturday and the end of the month-long tournament the following day. South Korea will face the losers of Wednesday's Brazil-Turkey match in the playoff

Rely always on Ronaldo

FROM PAGE 13
Scolari paid a handsome tribute to Turkey after they pushed his side all the way before losing.

He said: "We expected Turkey to be a very hard opponent. They play hard, they play different. From midfield to attack they are a very good team."

"They created a lot of opportunities. They are a dangerous team but we have learned the way they play."

"We expected to win by more but I would like to congratulate Turkey. To be among the best four of the World Cup is a great achievement." Scolari is looking forward to renewing his acquaintance at the

final on Sunday with German coach Rudi Voller after the pair met at the World Cup draw last year.

"The Germans are a strong team with a great tradition. They have a fantastic record at the World Cup," he said.

"Rudi and I had the world hanging round our necks during qualifying - but I said to him at the draw 'maybe we'll meet in the final.' And here we are."

"I'll give him a hug!" Scolari believes a fifth triumph is now within reach - even if Germany will pose a formidable obstacle in Yokohama.

third straight final. There is a good atmosphere in the dressing room and from the fans," he said.

"We felt their energy. Now they are content. I am sure they are happy to have been patient," said Scolari.

The Brazilian coach has defied his critics who before the tournament accused him of turning the South Americans into a defensive team during a difficult qualifying campaign.

Yet since arriving in Asia, the Brazilians have displayed their finest traditions of attacking football.

Kournikova the trouble-maker

AFP, London

Women's Tennis Association (WTA) officials on Tuesday lodged a complaint with the BBC over its showing of an interview in which Russian pin-up Anna Kournikova threw a tantrum.

The 21-year-old, who has never won a WTA tournament, was beaten on the opening day of this year's Wimbledon in three sets by compatriot Tatiana Panova and then threw a tantrum during an interview with the BBC's Garry Richardson.

When Richardson suggested that Kournikova's confidence must be low after yet another defeat and asked about suggestions by former star Chris Evert that she should drop down a level to rediscover her form, the Russian threatened to walk out of a live interview and then requested that it be restarted.

Kournikova sat down again and the interview resumed but the BBC showed it in full and repeated it several times during the evening as it were live.

A WTA spokesman confirmed that the tennis player had been upset and had spoken to them about the incident and that a complaint had been lodged to the BBC about the interview.

"A complaint has been made, but the affair is now considered to be closed and no further action will be taken," added the spokesman.

Kournikova was criticised immediately after the interview by BBC commentators and former tennis stars John Lloyd and Pam Shriver, who described her actions as horrible and unacceptable.

Ahn says no thanks

AFP, Seoul

Ahn Jung-Hwan is refusing to return to Perugia, his agent said Wednesday, even though the Italian club claims to have patched up a bitter row with the South Korean World Cup hero over his match-winning goal against Italy.

The pin-up boy of Korean soccer is instead lining up a move to another European league with clubs in England, Germany, Scotland and Spain all interested, said Ahn's agent ePlayers.

Ahn is one of a host of Korean players now hoping to secure a contract with a top European club after South Korea reached the semi-finals of the World Cup.

But the player is still angry with his former Italian club, said ePlayers.

"He will never play again for Perugia," said a statement released by the agent. "We will never consider his transfer to Perugia, which mounted a character assassination against Ahn just because he scored against Italy."

ePlayers said Perugia had failed to keep to FIFA's rules on extending a contract and was also four months in arrears on Ahn's wages. His annual salary at Perugia is about 400,000 dollars.

Platini plans French future

INTERNET, Paris

French football federation (FFF) vice-president Michel Platini confirmed on Tuesday that Roger Lemerre will be replaced as coach of the national team and admitted he has already identified his successor.

"The [FFF] president Claude Simonet will make his decision official on July 5, even before if he wants to," Platini explained.

"We met last week and I informed him of my choice [of new coach]. He answered that it was an excellent idea."

Simonet has not made any official announcement regarding Lemerre's future, but on Tuesday Platini was already looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead for the new coach.

"The new national coach's main mission will be to build a team ahead of competitions that are approaching fast, especially the Euro 2004 qualifying phase and the 2006 World Cup in Germany," continued the former Juventus playmaker.

"What the French team has achieved over the past six years is remarkable but a World Cup often represents the end of a cycle. A change is needed but it does not mean everything has to be changed."

"Of course, [Zinedine] Zidane still has his place as well as [David] Trezeguet or [Thierry] Henry. Most of the players who were at the World Cup want to continue but it is not their place to decide."

"It will be the coach's decision, he will call up whoever he wants, he will be the one to decide on this puzzle."

Lemerre, who guided France to Euro 2000 glory, has been widely criticised for failing to bring more young players into the France set-up in the last two years, and Platini admitted the new coach will have to take a tougher stance with some of the older players.

"The players have been over-protected because no one ever dared saying that Les Bleus' level was going down," he continued.

"The team has not been that good for a year. Their defeat in Chile, a draw with Russia and another defeat to Belgium prove it."



Belgian Kim Clijsters in action against US Samantha Reeves in the first round of Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London on June 25. Clijsters won 6-2, 7-6.

Easy sail for favourites



AFP, London

Australia's Lleyton Hewitt and Britain's Tim Henman, joint favourites for the Wimbledon title, showed on Tuesday that the faith being shown in them is not misplaced as they eased confidently into the second round.

Top seed Hewitt showed no signs of the stomach bug which forced him to retire from the Hertogenbosch event last week as he dismantled the challenge of veteran Swede Jonas Bjorkman 6-4, 7-5, 6-1.

Henman, seeded four, looked just as at ease seeing off Frenchman Jean-Francois Bachelot 6-1, 6-3, 6-2.

In the women's event, defending champion and top seed Venus Williams shrugged aside the challenge of outclassed Briton Jane O'Donoghue to reach the second round.

It took the 22-year-old top seed and world number one just 45 minutes to see off the 34th ranked O'Donoghue winning 6-1, 6-1 in an awesome display of power hitting which would have won the admiration of world heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis who was watching

from the centre court players' box. Williams now takes on Spain's Virginia Ruano Pascual for a place in the third round.

Belgium's Kim Clijsters, seeded five, beat Samantha Reeves of the United States 6-2, 7-6 to book a second round match-up against Russia's Elena Likhovtseva.

Clijsters has been dogged by a right shoulder injury all season and is working with a new coach but she found herself on Tuesday denying press stories that boyfriend and world number one Lleyton Hewitt had proposed to her on the top of the Eiffel Tower during the French Open.

"It's not true. I have never been to the Eiffel Tower. I don't know where they get the stories from -- according to some stories we've been engaged, married, divorced. You get used to it," said Clijsters whose best performance here came last year when she reached the quarterfinals.

"It was a little bit strange because all of these people kept coming up to me and congratulating me. I thought it was because it was my birthday (she was 19 during the French Open)."

Clijsters was joined in the second round by fellow Belgian, and last year's runner-up, Justine Henin with the number six seed beating

another American Bri Rippner 6-2, 6-7, 6-1. She now takes on Denisa Chladkova of the Czech Republic.

Veteran US star Monica Seles took just 38 minutes to destroy Spain's Eva Bes winning 6-0, 6-0 to set up a second round clash with Rossana Neffa-De Los Rios of Paraguay.

"I played well but she struggles on grass," said Seles of her 29-year-old opponent.

"I have been suffering from a cold on and off since the French Open so I didn't really want to sweat too much on there today," added Seles who, despite having nine Grand Slam titles to her name, has never managed to end her drought here coming closest in 1992 when she lost in the final to Steffi Graf.

"I think I struggle here because it's a surface which favours players who can move well."

In the men's event, Spain's Tommy Robredo seeded 20, was the first major casualty of the day.

He lost to Raemon Sluiter of the Netherlands 6-1, 6-4, 6-4, but there were no such problems for Dutch 18th seed Sjeng Schalken who beat Denmark's Kristian Pless 6-3, 6-3, 7-5.

Morocco's Younes El Aynaoui, seeded 13, also made a first round exit losing to Georgia's Irakli Labadze 4-6, 7-6, 6-3, 7-6.

WIMBLEDON GOSSIPS



AFP, London

British tennis legend Fred Perry's 1934 Wimbledon trophy has failed to find a buyer in an auction of tennis and cricketing memorabilia.

The Renshaw Trophy, the first of three consecutive Wimbledon men's singles wins for Perry, carried an estimated selling price of between 35,000 and 45,000 pounds, but was left on the shelf Tuesday.

Wimbledon winner Arthur Ashe's 1975 World Champion tennis trophy -- two solid golden tennis balls -- also failed to find a buyer at the Christie's auction in South Kensington, London.

The balls, which both weigh just under one kilogramme, were expected to fetch between 70,000 and 90,000 pounds.

Lucy Clark, tennis and cricket specialist at Christie's, said: "I am surprised they did not sell, especially as Fred Perry was the last British man to win Wimbledon."

Maybe people are at Wimbledon instead today."

NO DUCHESS

The Duchess of Kent will not present the Wimbledon women's champion with the Venus Rosewater Dish this year because of a prior engagement, officials confirmed. Her husband, the Duke of Kent, who usually presents the men's trophy, will now take over the duty of presenting the women's trophy as well.

When asked whether the Queen may pay a surprise visit in light of it being her Golden Jubilee year, a Wimbledon spokeswoman said: "An invitation has gone out to the Queen, as everybody knows but we have not received any notification that she is due to appear."

SELES HAS FAITH IN KOURNIKOVA

Nine-time Grand Slam champion Monica Seles believes struggling Russian glamour girl Anna Kournikova has what it takes to make it to the top despite never winning a title, and her embarrassing first round exit from Wimbledon which culminated with a tantrum live on television.

"Anna is definitely going through a difficult period. I think she'll get through it. She's a very strong personality. Each one of us has a crisis in our careers," said Seles, who was stabbed in the back by a fanatical Steffi Graf fan in 1993.

"It's a tough one she's going through. She had a tough injury. You know, she's going to have to have a few matches, win, to get her confidence back and I think start playing better."

"I think she has the right ingredients. Hopefully that will pay off for her," added the American.

VENUS DOESN'T DARE

Defending champion Venus Williams has admitted she could not even dream of attempting to emulate Martina Navratilova's record nine Wimbledon titles, but would be happy with a third straight in this year's championships.

"I know, that's an unbelievable achievement. I don't know if I could get that far, or even if I'd have the motivation or would stay around so long. Maybe I didn't start winning early enough either," said the world number one.