

Samba boys arrive home



REUTERS, Brasilia

soccer hero Pele. He put two goals past German goalkeeper Oliver Kahn, who won the Golden Ball award for best World Cup player

blazed streets of Brasilia and bouncing fans clamored for a wave or a wink from the man they call "the phenomenon."



STATE WELCOME: Four Brazilian airforce fighter jets escort the Boeing 767 carrying the World Cup champion squad in the skies over Brasilia yesterday.

PHOTO: INTERNET

and also was named the best keeper. Ronaldo's name was splashed across giant banners lining the sun-

Brazil won the 1958, 1962, 1970 and 1994 cups although they had never met Germany in the final.

Escorted by four air force fighters, Brazil's victorious World Cup team landed in the capital on Tuesday as thousands of fans exploded into shrieks of delight with their returning soccer heroes.

Dressed head-to-toe in the green and yellow of the national flag, fans jostled to get a glimpse of the World Cup champions as the beaming players emerged from a chartered plane after flying half way across the globe from Japan.

Their plane, with Brazilian soccer players painted on the sides, circled the clear blue sky above the futuristic capital several times before landing.

The teams' captain, Cafu, and coach, Luiz Felipe Scolari, leaned out of the cockpit's windows, waving Brazilian flags, as the plane came down the runway to the terminal.

Cafu stepped off the plane, raising the World Cup trophy in the air, as horns and hooters blasted and a brass band played.

After beating Germany 2-0 in Sunday's final, Brazil became the only country in the world to win the World Cup five times.

Fans lined the highways, hoping to catch a glimpse of the players as they prepared to ride a fire truck to the presidential palace, where President Fernando Henrique Cardoso would receive them.

Thousands of fans descended on the huge square in front of the palace, where 4,000 police officers were stationed.

It was a triumphant homecoming for the team and for coach Scolari, or "Big Phil," after being ripped apart by the national media before the championship and virtually written off after struggling to qualify.

Instead, they returned to the jubilant South American nation as World Cup record breakers.

Ronaldo ended the tournament as top striker with eight goals, equaling a Brazilian record of 12 goals at World Cup finals set by



Did U Know?

Alf Ramsey, manager of England's World Cup winners in 1966, ran out on the field immediately after the final whistle after his team beat Argentina in the quarterfinal. But not in celebration, but to prevent his players to swap shirts with the Argentinians. Ramsey said: "We don't swap shirts with animals!"



Diego Maradona
(Soccer legend)
"I've always said, and I repeat it, that I'd coach my country's team without being paid a single real."
Speaking after Argentina's first-round exit.



ESPN
England vs Sri Lanka
Fourth ODI
Repeat at 8:00 am
Western Union World Football
Repeat at 8:00 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports
Wimbledon C'ships
Day 8
Highlights at 8:30 am
Wimbledon C'ships
Day 9, Men's Singles Qtrs
Live at 5:00 pm

School Sports

SPORTS REPORTER

The five-day long Dawn Grammar School Sports Competition began in the city yesterday.

Following are the results of three first round events held on the opening day:

Table Tennis: Sunny Dale beat Shahin School 2-0 in the under-17 and Green James by an identical margin in the under-15 group. Green James meanwhile beat Dawn Grammar School 2-0 in another under-15 match.

Chess: Jubayer Idris of Sunny Dale beat his teammate Shafat in under-13. Saad of Green James beat Asif of Dawn Grammar School

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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
9 wickets | 17 runs | 91 runs
- Who will lead Bangladesh in the two-Test series against Sri Lanka?
K Mashud | A Khan | Atislam
- Who won the French Open title?
Costa | Ferrero | Sampras

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

Srinath's mind made up

AFP, New Delhi

India's pace spearhead Javagal Srinath on Tuesday rejected an appeal by captain Sourav Ganguly to make himself available for next month's Test series against England.

Srinath, 32, retired from Test cricket after the West Indies tour in June, saying he wanted to concentrate on next year's limited-overs World Cup in South Africa.

The Indian selectors, however, snubbed the lanky seamer by ignoring him for the ongoing NatWest tri-series against Sri Lanka and England.

Ganguly, who had earlier made an unsuccessful attempt to persuade Srinath to reconsider his retirement from Test cricket, pleaded once again for his strike bowler to return to the fold.

"I've seen a lot of people come back from retirement and I have my fingers crossed with Jav," Ganguly said.

"He's still got a lot of cricket to offer and I hope he changes his mind."

But Srinath, whose 232 wickets in 64 matches make him India's second most successful fast bowler behind Kapil Dev's tally of 434, refused to take the bait.

"I have taken a stand and I should stick to it," Srinath said from his home in Bangalore.

"I will talk to Ganguly if he calls, but I doubt I will come back from retirement. I have made up my mind to quit."

India are due to play four Tests against England at the conclusion of the tri-series.

Srinath's absence has left India short of experience in the new ball attack with Ajit Agarkar, Ashish Nehra, Zaheer Khan and Tinu Yohannan having a combined tally of just 37 Tests.

Ganguly's men, however, made a promising start in the tri-series, defeating both England and Sri Lanka in their opening matches over the weekend.

Bye Miller

AFP, Melbourne

Former Australian Test spinner Colin Miller on Tuesday announced his retirement from first-class cricket.

Miller made his Test cricket debut at the age of 34 but called it quits four years later when new Victorian state coach David Hookes made it clear there was no place for him in next season's team.

"David and I had a long talk about it," Miller said on Tuesday. "I was pleased because I knew David would either say yes or no to me on whether I was going to play or not."

"He wouldn't make me hang around for two or three games a season, which is what happened to me last year."

Miller started his first-class career as a medium-pace bowler in Victoria in 1985-86 and without making much impression on the first-class scene, Miller moved to South Australia in 1988-89 and then to Tasmania four years later.

The turning point came when he started doubling in off-spin.

He finally came to the attention of the national selectors when he took a record 67 Sheffield Shield wickets for Tasmania in 1997-98 with a mixture of spin and medium pace.

Miller made his Test debut against Pakistan the following season, claiming a wicket with his fifth delivery.

"Certainly the last four years exceeded all expectations, from the time I turned 34 it all changed for me for the better," said the 38-year-old Miller.

Miller claimed 69 Test wickets at an average of 26.15 with his mixture of off-spin and medium pace and was voted the Australian Test player of the year in 2001. He also took 446 first-class wickets at 30.97.

Bond going to Warwickshire

REUTERS, Auckland

New Zealand fast bowler Shane Bond has signed to play for English county Warwickshire next month during the brief absence of South African all-rounder Shaun Pollock, New Zealand Cricket has announced.

Bond, who is currently touring the West Indies with New Zealand, will play for Warwickshire between August 5 and 25 while Pollock is in Morocco for a tri-nation one-day competition involving South Africa, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Before Bond goes to Edgbaston he will undergo a thorough assessment of his fitness and, under his contract with Warwickshire, will have a managed workload which will restrict him to bowling a maximum of 20 overs per day.

The Kiwi paceman has only recently recovered from a stress fracture of his right foot.

Format changed again



SPORTS REPORTER

After experimenting two futile formats -- Super Four and Super Three, the Dhaka Mahanagarai Football League Committee (DMFLC) has decided to go back to its old one, the Super League, for the forthcoming National Bank Premier Division League championship, starting from July 15.

And once again the decision of changing format was taken in a meeting of the DMFLC on late Monday night having been failed to prevent match-fixing.

According to the latest format, all the ten teams would now face each other in the first round, from where top five finishers would move into the Super League and fight for the title. And the five bottom-dwellers would play in the relegation league. The organisers are however

willing to accept the fact they have totally failed to stop match-rigging, a practice that went unabated for years.

"I don't want to say that we failed with our previous two formats. This just a new idea of playing five top teams in the Super League to make it more attractive," said DMFLC secretary Shawkat Ali Khan Jahangir to The Daily Star Sport yesterday over his cell phone.

When asked what was the reason behind not to continue with Super Four or Super Three formats, Jahangir said the meeting opted to adopt a new format.

Apart from changing format for the sake of a change, there is one minor change in foreign players' quota.

According to the new by-laws, each team would be allowed to register indefinite numbers of foreign booters instead of last year's four. And teams would also be able to field four foreigners in a match instead of last year's three.

However, they can also field another three through substitutions. Jahangir, who declined to elaborate over telephone, said it would take about two months to finish the league this time.

The First Division League will commence simultaneously.

TEAMS

PREMIER DIVISION: Abahani Krira Chakra, Mohammedan Sporting Club, Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra, Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society, Farashganj Sporting Club, Arambagh Krira Sangha, Dhanmondi Club, Brothers Union, Badda Jagarani and Victoria Sporting Club

FIRST DIVISION: Agrani Bank, Youngmen's Club Fakirpool, Wari Club, BRTC, Mirpur Chalanika, Sadharan Bima, Prantik Krira Chakra, Sheikh Russell Krira Chakra, East End Club and Dhaka Wanderers Club

Last session gives WI hopes



AFP, St. George's

West Indies grabbed two late New Zealand wickets to reduce them to 139 for two at the close, giving them the sniff of a last-day victory in the second and final Test match on Monday at Queen's Park.

Batting steadily towards a series-winning draw and drawing ahead of the West Indies at 117 for none, New Zealand first lost opener Lou Vincent for 54 and then captain Stephen Fleming for five just 16 balls later. The day closed with New Zealand 42 runs ahead with eight wickets in hand.

With his pacemen getting no joy, Hooper called on occasional off-spinner Ramnaresh Sarwan, who bowled two very slow deliveries before pushing through a 100 kilometres per hour yorker that bamboozled Vincent and clean bowled him for 54.

Just 16 balls later Hooper persuaded Fleming to play his bat too far in front of his body and he edged the ball to Brian Lara for five: New Zealand were looking nervous at an effective score of 35 for two.

The match ended with fielders clustered around the bat, but opener Mark Richardson, who scored 95 in the first innings, was 69 not out accompanied by Chris Harris, on six.

West Indies were bowled out in their first innings for 470 just before lunch, losing five wickets in the first session of the day as they sought to build a big lead over New Zealand's first innings 373.

The West Indies' 97-run first innings lead was gradually whittled away by Kiwi openers Mark Richardson and Lou Vincent, who batted slowly through one and a half sessions in a 117-run stand.

The day started with the West Indies on 394 for five and looking to score around 550 to try to force a last-day victory and level the two-match series after New Zealand won the first Test in Barbados by

204 runs. Opener Chris Gayle was dismissed late on Sunday evening after scoring a career-best 204 but

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PHOTO: INTERNET

HANDS-UP: New Zealand's Lou Vincent shoulders his arms while trying to get out of the way of a Mahendra Nagamootoo delivery on the fourth day of the second Test against West Indies in Grenada on July 1.

Patience pays Gayle off



AFP, St. George's

Patience is one of the greatest virtues in an opening batsman.

West Indies opener Chris Gayle knew that, but it was only on Sunday that he learned how to resist temptation and was rewarded with a career-best 204 in the second Test against New Zealand that helped his team to 394 for five.

"New Zealanders do not think I am a patient batsman," the 22-year-old said after his double ton.

"I played a patient role and it paid off for me, but I think they kept bowling outside off-stump wanting to lure me into making an error. I was determined not to fall into their trap."

The left-handed Jamaican has acquired the reputation of a big-hitting, if somewhat rash, young batsman and has been targeted by

bowlers who spotted a tendency to cut loosely outside off.

Fielders began to pack the guilty and point positions to snap up the



CHRIS GAYLE

catches from him.

But on Sunday Gayle resisted virtually everything bowled there as he started the day on 23 and ended

it a few overs from the close when he got the finest of edges to the wicketkeeper for 204.

He left the field shaking his head in frustration at being prevented from pursuing the even bigger target that team-mate Brian Lara has set the world, that of scoring 375 in a Test match.

Gayle confessed that impetuous youth had got the better of him in the past.

"I missed out on a number of opportunities to make big scores in previous matches, but it is time for me to make up for all that lost time and try not to look back, only look forward," he said.

"I guess at the start of my career I lacked the experience. As time passes and you play more matches, you get to learn much more from playing and from the senior players in the team. This along with hard

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Mandela may mediate

ICC plans to step into Indo-Pak crisis



AFP, New Delhi

Former South African president Nelson Mandela may be asked to persuade India and Pakistan to resume cricket ties amidst border tensions between the South Asian neighbours, officials said on Tuesday.

India's refusal to play cricket against Pakistan in protest at Islamabad's alleged support of insurgency in the disputed region of Kashmir has quashed the most sought-after rivalry in the sport.

It has also played havoc with the International Cricket Council's (ICC) ambitious 10-year Test calendar, besides causing millions of dollars of lost revenues from sponsorship and television rights.

The ICC first mooted the idea of roping in Mandela to mediate three months ago, and the proposal was taken up by the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) meeting in London on Sunday.

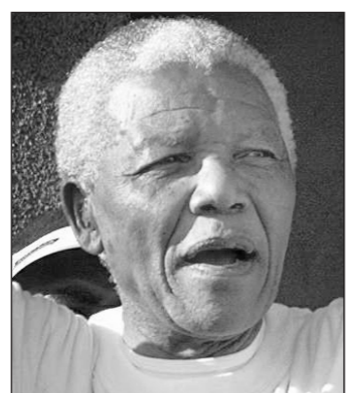
"We will try through Nelson Mandela to convince India to end its cricket boycott of Pakistan," said the ACC's newly-elected president, Ali Asghar of Bangladesh.

"The resumption of cricket between India and Pakistan is an issue of immense importance for the

ICC and the ACC."

ICC's media manager Mark Harrison confirmed that overtures had been made to Mandela, but it was not clear if the octogenarian Nobel Peace Prize winner had agreed to mediate.

"Yes, this was discussed in the ICC meeting but I cannot update it



NELSON MANDELA

further. The ICC is doing its best to get cricketing ties resumed between India and Pakistan," he said.

An estimated one million troops are currently massed on the India-Pakistan borders, although the threat of war receded in recent weeks.

India and Pakistan last played cricket against each other in

Bangladesh two years ago, but the Indian government rejected subsequent proposals to play Test and one-day series.

Two years ago when India refused to tour Pakistan for a scheduled Test series, the Pakistan Cricket Board said it was deprived of 15 million dollars in revenue.

At last week's ICC meetings in London, Pakistan declined to accept the 10-year Test calendar till the governing body persuaded India to end its cricketing boycott of Pakistan.

India's sports minister Uma Bharti said last month she had no objection to India playing against Pakistan at multi-nation events like the World Cup, but ruled out bilateral Test and one-day matches.

Bharti confirmed that India will take part in the International Cricket Council's Champions Trophy in Sri Lanka in September and the World Cup in South Africa early next year.

India are scheduled to play a league match against Pakistan in the World Cup in February-March next year.

The two countries have, however, been drawn in separate groups in the Champions Trophy, but will have to face each other if they make the final.

India and Pakistan played each other in the 1999 World Cup in England even when the Kargil conflict was at its height in Kashmir.

Pakistan turns to Trevor



AFP, Karachi

Pakistan has hired three Australian coaches -- Trevor Chappell, Daryl Foster and Dennis Waight -- to boost its national team and improve the standard of cricket in the country.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said Foster and Chappell will train future hopefuls at regional and national academies while Waight is set to help boost the fitness levels of the national team.

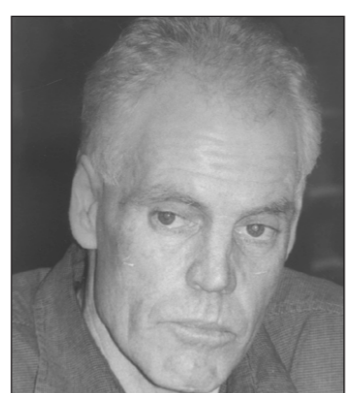
"The trio of Australian professionals are all highly qualified in their areas and are likely to make a major impact in enhancing the competence level of Pakistani cricketers," PCB said.

Pakistan's hiring of former England opener Geoff Boycott in February this year came under heavy criticism because he was paid a hefty 30,000 pounds sterling (46,000 dollars) for a two week training session at the national academy in Lahore.

Pakistan last month beat world

champions Australia in a one-day series in Australia but their fielding and fitness levels have nevertheless come under flak.

President General Pervez Musharraf will honour the team for



TREVOR CHAPPELL

their series win next week, the PCB announced.

Chappell had coached Bangladesh but was sacked after Test cricket's newest entrants lost 10 out of their 11 games since gaining Test status in 2000.



PHOTO: STAR

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman leads a rally, brought out on the occasion of World Sports Journalists' Day organised by Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association, in the city yesterday.