

## Big boys' battle

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The two teams were in the same qualifying group, with the Czechs coming out on top thanks to a 1-1 draw in Amsterdam and a 3-1 win in Prague, and they are also in the same qualifying section for the 2006 World Cup.

The Czechs have slight injury worries over defenders Rene Bolf (knee) and Zdenek Grygera, who went to hospital with swollen glands on Thursday, but both are expected to be fit to play.

The hot weather has also taken its toll, with playmaker Pavel Nedved and fellow midfielder Tomas Rosicky suffering from headaches, while Koller needed an intravenous drip after losing five kilos in the win over Latvia.

Dutch midfielder Clarence Seedorf has returned to full training after recovering from an injury and may well go straight back into the side.

Coach Dick Advocaat sprung a surprise by selecting Bouleuwijn Zenden ahead of youngster Wesley Sneijder in midfield against Germany, and Sneijder should start against the Czechs after impressing as a second-half substitute.

Edgar Davids was also taken off at halftime against the Germans after failing to impose himself but his experience should be vital in trying to curb the rich creative talents of Nedved and Rosicky.

## PROBABLE TEAMS

**Netherlands (4-3-2-1):** 1-Eduwin van der Sar; 18-Johnny Heitinga, 4-Wilfred Bouma, 3-Jaap Stam, 5-Giovanni van Bronckhorst; 14-Wesley Sneijder, 8-Edgar Davids, 6-Philip Cocu; 7-Andy van der Meyde, 11-Rafael van der Vaart; 10-Ruud van Nistelrooy.

**Czech Republic (4-4-1-1):** 1-Petr Cech; 2-Zdenek Grygera, 21-Tomas Ujfaluysi, 5-Rene Bolf, 6-Marek Jankulovski; 4-Tomas Galasek, 8-Karel Poborsky, 10-Tomas Rosicky, 11-Pavel Nedved (captain); 15-Milan Baros; 9-Jan Koller

**Referee:** Manuel Enrique Mejuto (Spain)  
**Linesmen:** Oscar David Martinez (Spain), Rafael Guerrero Alonso (Spain)

## A sad day

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brain had stopped functioning.

It is believed Bashir while on vacation in Rangamati after the Corporate Cricket League, contracted the malaria.

Coach Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury, who had been working with the young cricketer for the last eight years, broke the news of Bashir's death.

"It was too late when he was rushed to Renal Hospital," said Jalal, who was almost speechless at the death of his beloved player.

In fact some of Bashir's had apparently asked the doctors at the Holy Family to send him elsewhere for better treatment.

Some of Bashir's mates pointed fingers at the coaching staff of the Bangladesh Cricket Board's High Performance Unit for allowing him to train despite having a fever.

"He had been suffering from fever from June 8 and still was allowed to take part in training. Obviously they didn't realise how ill he was," said a distraught friend of Bashir.

In his short career, he appeared in 15 first-class matches and had been a loyal player for Dhamondi Club in the Dhaka league.

## Shantoo's

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practice matches before the tournament starts and I have outlined my plans to the BFF."

The no-nonsense coach also wants a sports medicine specialist to accompany his side.

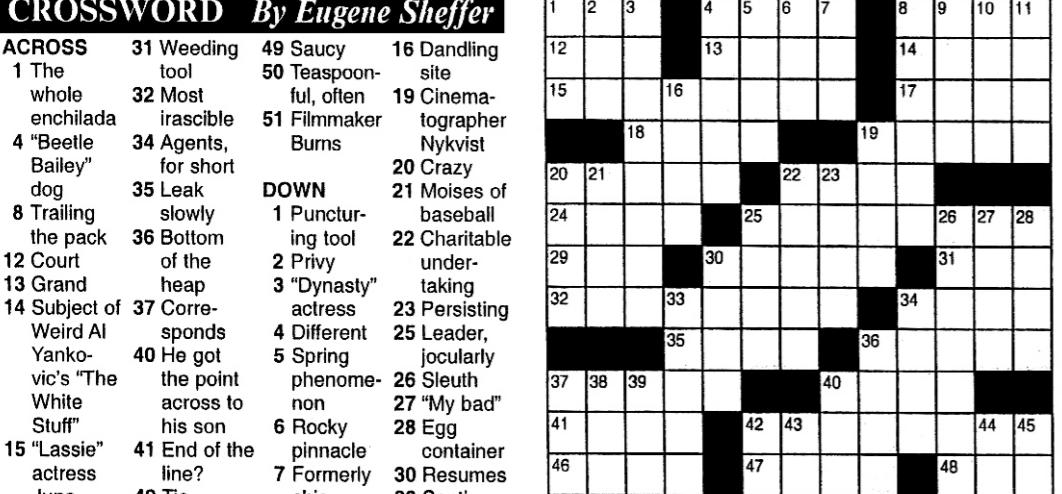
"A sports medicine specialist is very essential. I have underlined the need in my development proposal which was submitted to the BFF recently."

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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**Solution time:** 25 mins.

**Solution:** Ireland won by six wickets.



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