

Michel Platini holds the competition record for consecutive scoring. He scored at least once in five successive European





George Best

(Manchester United great) "He's a strong lad and defenders don't hurt him. He can take a battering and hand one out." On Wayne Rooney.



STAR Sports

UEFA Euro 2004 Preview Show Live at 12 am (Saturday) UEFA Euro 2004 2nd quarterfinal France vs Greece Live at 12.40 am (Saturday) Sports News Live at 4.30 pm

Live at 5 pm **ESPN** UEFA Euro 2004 Portugal vs England 1st quarterfinal Repeat at 3.15 pm NatWest cricket tri-series England vs New Zealand

Highlights, repeat 6.30 pm Football Focus Extra Repeat at 8 pm Sportscentre Sports News Live at 8.30 pm



The Haily Star Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm June 25, 2004 and draw

1. Who became man-of-the match in the second and final

Test between Bangladesh and West Indies? Sarwan

2. How many Test matches has

3. What was the result of the WC qualifier between lapan and India?

4. What is the name of the Euro 2004 ball? Roteiro Futi Euroca

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

Phone: (If any)

Jessore third

SPORTS REPORTER

AFP. Lisbon

Republic side.

Three-time European champions Germany became the latest big

names to exit the Euro 2004 finals

after going down to a 2-1 defeat against a second-string Czech

Substitute Milan Baros struck

the decisive goal, his third in the

competition, 13 minutes from time after Marek Heinz had cancelled

out Michael Ballack's first-half

The 2002 World Cup finalists

Jessore clinched third place in the . 21st National Youth Hockey Championship with a solitary goal win over Rajshahi in the play-off at the Maulana Bhashani National Hockey Stadium vesterday.

Shisir Imran slammed the allimportant goal in the 28th minute.

The final between holders BKSP and Dhaka is today at the same

Show kicks off today

SPORTS REPORTER



Uncertainties and threats of postponing the top football tournament of the country over, the fourth Nitol-Tata N a t i o n a l Football League finally kicks off today across the

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), which was deter-mined to stage the final phase of the competition in the capital to avoid financial losses, decided to go ahead with the prestigious tournament after they were assured of holding the six-team second phase in Dhaka.

They will not get the Banga-bandhu National Stadium (BNS) --the number one choice of the deration and sponsors Nitol-Tata -- but they are happy to get the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur for the show in September.

The finals in the first two edi-ions were held at the BNS but firpur hosted the competition last

The budget of the tournament is just over Tk one crore. The title sponsor, which has a three-year contract with the BFF, will provide Tk 50 lakh and the government Tk

Forty-five teams will compete for the qualifying berths in the 12team finals where the six zonal champions join the automatic

WIMBLEDON

Third-seeded Guillermo Coria of

Argentina survived a five-set, four-

day marathon to defeat South

Africa's Wesley Moodie 6-4, 6-7, 6-

3, 6-7, 6-3 in a Wimbledon first

The tie started on Monday

afternoon, but was held over to

Tuesday due to fading light with

It was then pushed back again to

Wednesday because of rain with

Coria serving for the match at 5-3 in

the deciding set and at 30-30 on his

As no play was possible at all on

Wednesday because of the rain, the

never-ending tie went into a fourth

the scores level at two sets all.

AFP/REUTERS, London

round match.

Coria can smile

This is the first time that 12 teams will play in the final rounds instead of ten.

Defending champions Muktijoddha Sangsad and fellow Dhaka clubs Mohammedan Sporting Club, Brothers Union, Abahani Krira Chakra and Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra and Chittagong Mohammedan Sporting Club have won direct entries to the final rounds, which is due to start on July 10 in Jessore.

The 12 participating teams, split into two groups, will play at four venues including Chittagong and Mymensingh. The BFF has yet to choose the fourth venue with Rangpur and Pabna both in conten-

However, organisers all but ruled out Pabna because of its lack of accommodation facilities.

Meanwhile, five matches will be played on the opening day with home side Najirpara KC face Bhabaniganj Players Welfare Association of Laxmipur at Chandpur, Jhenaidah Mohammedan host Raipur Jagarani Club of Meherpur, Bagerhat's Unmochon Club entertain Barguna Abahani Krira Chakra, Mymensingh Abahani meet Narshingdi Kararchar Krira Chakra at Narshingdi and Padma Krira Chakra of Natore play visiting Panchagarh Brothers Union.

The services zone matches, however, will begin on June 27 with Bangladesh Rifles taking on Bangladesh Police at the Kamlapur Stadium in Dhaka.

The qualifiers will be played on

And it was Coria who finally put the match out of its agony in little over one minute as Moodie flapped

He will next play Germany's Florian Mayer who defeated Wayne Arthurs of Australia 7-6

The French Open runner-up, a clay-court specialist, was playing at the All England club for the third

time and he was seeking his first

After his heart-break, five-set

loss to compatriot Gaston Gaudio

in Paris last month, Coria had been

expected to head home to recharge

his physical and emotional batter-

grass-court tournament at

S'Hertogen-bosch in the Nether-

lands where, against the odds, he

made it through to the final before

losing to France's

N THE THICK OF THINGS! Referee Terje Hauge is getting floored after going too close to a tangle between

Germany's playmaker Michael Ballack (L) and Czech Republic captain Tomas Galasek at the Jose De Alvalade sta-

followed Italy and Spain out of the

tournament in a recurrence of their Euro 2000 nightmare when they

exited at the group stage without

means Germany have not won in the European championships for

eight years - their last triumph

coming against the Czechs in the

had failed to capitalise on their

Coach Rudi Voller said his team

"It is a big disappointment. Two

years ago we were celebrating reaching the World Cup final. Tonight we had a great chance to qualify, but we

"The scoring chances were

Euro 96 final at Wembley.

many scoring chances.

Two draws and this defeat

winning a match.

Mercedes sent for repairs

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But instead he made for the

two forehands long.

(7/4), 7-6 (7/5), 7-6.

win in the tournament.

Run today SPORTS REPORTER

The Olympic Day Run will be observed throughout the country today.

Olympic Day

Apart from Dhaka, the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) will orgainse the regular event at divisional headquarters Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Sylhetand Barisal.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman will declare the programmes open at the Army Stadium in Dhaka at 7 am.

The Run will end at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Zia leaves for **USA** today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Grand Master Ziaur Rahman will leave Dhaka tonight to participate in the World Open Chess tournament in the USA.

The Swiss League tournament, a regular event of the Philadelphia chess calendar, takes place from

Bangladesh Biman provided Zia's air fare for Zia while State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman contributed 500 dollars as expenses for the Biman

there but we didn't take them.

"We have only scored two goals

The Czechs, the only side to win

Having already qualified, the

in three matches which isn't

all their group matches, face Denmark in the quarter-finals

while the Netherlands face Sweden

Czechs rested Pavel Nedved, Tomas Rosicky and Jan Koller amongst

others prompting the bookmakers to

make Germany firm favourites to

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after defeating Latvia 3-0.



QTR PREVIEW

Tigers to play in **Eng tri-series**

Ashes' Twenty 20 opener

Cricket

AFP, London

Australia will open next year's Ashes tour of England with the first ever Twenty20 international, the BBC website said Wednesday.

The touring Australians have agreed to the first ever 20-overs match between two international teams at The Rose Bowl on June 13.

The 20-over format will act as a curtain-raiser for the triangular NatWest Series that will also involve Bangladesh. Bangladesh will also contest a

two-match Test series, the first time they have played Tests in England, at Lord's and Chester-le-Street in late May and early June. Australia will also face England in a three-match NatWest Chal-

lenge that starts July 7 at Headingley.

England have failed to win the

Ashes since 1987, and they will hope to reclaim the fabled urn when the two sides contest the five Tests series which begins at Lord's

The two teams will also contest three Test matches in August at Edgbaston, Old Trafford and Trent Bridge, before the final Ashes Test match at The Oval on September 8.

The one-off fixture follows a hugely successful county competition in England last summer, which was watched by 250,000 spectators.

Each game lasts just two-and-a-half hours with both teams facing 20 overs and the emphasis is placed

on high-speed cricket. Bowlers jog back to the start of their run-ups and batsmen wait in a baseball-style dug out at the side of the pitch in a bid to speed up the

South African cricket has also taken up the 20-over format, launching the Pro20 Series earlier

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FRANCE v GREECE

A minnow with nothing to lose



REUTERS, Lisbon

Champions France and surprise package Greece will be subject to very different expectations when they meet in their Euro 2004 quarter-final on Friday. France are still on track to

become the first nation to retain the European title after surviving a tricky first phase along with runners-up England from Group B. The Greeks, though, have

reached the last eight of a major tournament for the first time after finishing second to hosts Portugal but ahead of Spain on goal difference in Group A. If France went out now it would

go down like a lead balloon in a country that badly needs to restore its pride after the shock first-round exit in the 2002 World Cup. A semi-final place for Greece,

however, would be beyond the wildest dreams of Otto Rehhagel's team and their supporters.

Greece took part in the 1980 European Championship and the 1994 World Cup and were twice

knocked out in the first round. "We have already won everything we could have dreamed of.

We don't have anything to lose now," said the shrewd Rehhagel. Since Greece beat hosts Portugal 2-1 in the opening match,

the German has come up with new ideas to motivate his players and now they are bidding to take the scalp of the champions. That is not a prospect the

French are ready to accept. "We came here to win the title,"

said coach Jacques Santini. "We played three matches and I hope there are three more to go." The odds clearly favour France, who have never lost to Greece in their six previous meetings

although Santini gives short shrift to such statistics. The France coach said once again that his players are well and there are no major problems but despite Santini's confidence his team's form is far from that of the

They current edition have conceded four goals in three matches and have often looked clumsy in front of goal.

side who won the trophy four years

ago beating Italy with a golden goal

"I must admit there are things which could be improved in this part of our game," said Santini.
"We're going to work this out. I'm
confident. We're getting better in

every game.

On the injury front Willy Sagnol's broken arm has ruled him out of the tournament and his replacement William Gallas is nursing a twisted ankle. If he is not fit in time, the French coach will have to reshuffle his backline

In midfield, Patrick Vieira has strained a thigh muscle and could make way for Benoit Pedretti while striker Louis Saha is almost certain to replace the disappointing David Trezeguet.

Rehhagel is expected to revert to his favourite 4-4-2 formation after playing three forwards in the 2-1 defeat to Russia on Sunday.

Striker Zisis Vryzas is suspended and will most likely be replaced by the experienced Demis Nikolaidis instead of the younger Dimitrios Papadopoulos who started against

Midfielder Giorgos Karagounis will be back after a one-match ban to add some much-needed steel and pace in midfield.

"We have to control the ball

game's pace," says Rehhagel. "We didn't do it against Russia and that's why we found ourselves stuck in our half all the time."

Midfielder Stelios Giannakopoulos is still recovering from a calf injury and is not fully fit but he is eager to play.

Live on STAR Sports at 12:40 am (Saturday)

PROBABLE TEAMS

Greece (4-4-2): 1-Antonis Nikopolidis: 2-Yourkas Seitaridis. 19-Michalis Kapsis, 5-Traianos Dellas, 14-Takis Fyssas; 20-Giorgos Karagounis, 21-Costas Katsouranis, 7-Theodoros Zagorakis, 6-Angelos Basinas; 9-Angelos Haristeas, 11-Demis

France (4-4-2): 16-Fabien Barthez, 5-William Gallas; 15-Lilian Thuram, 13-Mikael Silvestre, 3-Bixente Lizarazu; 18-Benoit Pedretti, 6-Claude Makelele, 7-Robert Pires, 10-Zinedine Zidane: 12-Thierry Henry, Saha.

Referee: Anders Frisk (Sweden) Linemen: Kenneth Petersson and Peter Elstrom (Sweden)

Six in Asian basketball

BSS, Dhaka

Six teams including Bangladesh have confirmed their participation in the qualifying round of the FIBA-Asia fourth Basketball Champion-ship that will be held in Dhaka from

Federation under the guidance of the Middle-Asia Zone-A subcommittee of FIBA-Asia will organise the meet.

Lanka, Nepal, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan. Turkmenistan and hosts Bangladesh will be taking part in the biggest ever international basketball tournament in the

possible for them to take part, while Nepal and Bhutan failed to give any reply to the invitations of B B F

because it will be cost-effective. But the condition of this court is in bad shape.

"Renovation of the court has just begun. After lifting the wood we will be able to know the real condition."

third win

Title aspirants Chittagong Abahani edged minnows Kallol Sangha 2-1 in an exciting CJKS-Elite Paint Premier Football League match at the MA Aziz Stadium here yester-

were stuck on one point from the same number of outings.

Who says Langer's injured

AFP, Darwin Australian Test opener Justin Langer made light of a foot injury to flail the Sri Lankan bowlers for 151 and lead the Northern Territory Chief Minister's XI to a solid

Langer's innings lifted the invitational side to 364 for seven at the close of the first day of the

four-day lead-up tour match to next week's first of two Tests here. The captain for the NT side had been in doubt after badly bruising

his left foot at training on Wednes-

Langer showed little effect of

the painful injury as he scampered between wickets and smashed several fours and a six around Darwin's huge Marrara Oval.

The little left-hander steadied

the innings after Ian Redpath (0) and Australian middle order batsman Simon Katich (0) were dismissed with just four runs on the board. Locals Martin Brown and

Darren Treumer's seventh wicket stand of 94 late in the day ensured the home team was well on top at the close of play. Treumer was not out on 49 with

Anthony Dent the next batsman to

come in. The best of the Sri Lan-

kan bowlers was 20-year-old Sri

Lankan newcomer Lasith Malinga who took 4-75, dismissing three

Langer took up the challenge, and built a 181-run partnership with Rhett Bowden, before Bowden was caught off from Upul Chandana (2-104) for 75.

order collapse before tea as the NT side slumped to 213 for five.

Langer was the sixth wicket to fall after tea when the side's total was on 274.

Dropped when he was on 90, Langer was eventually bowled by Farveez Maharoof after 300 min-

Pioneer soccer

Results of Shinepukur Ceramics Pioneer Football League matches held at different venues in the city West zone (Dhanmondi Club ground):

Uttaran JS beat Ramjan Football KishoreXI4-0 Dhaka Mahanagari Kishore Sangha beat RNDKC3-1

Abdul Hadi Lane beat Jatrabari Jhotika 1-0 Red Sun KC beat Najira Bazar KC 2-0 South zone (Mirpur Outer Sta-

DiptaTarunyaFAbeatMSPCC5-1

Maghbazar Kisholoy and Chaitali Club were scratched after both failed to appear.

players for ducks.

Malinga made the initial breakthroughs, picking up the early wickets of Katich and local Ian

The wicket sparked a middle

SPORTS REPORTER

Central zone (Basabo ground): Painadi Agrajatra beat Khilgaon JS 1-

Manik Smriti Sangsad received walkover against Shaheed Nur HossainKC Eastzone (Dhupkhola ground):

BS Coalition beat Dragon KC2-0

North zone (Kamlapur Stadium): Mohammed Ali SC received walk-over against National Football Training Centre

CU CORRESPONDENT

But the second-string Czech outfit almost took the lead on four After a barren first half, Biddyut put Abahani ahead with a spectac-ular header in the 56th minute minutes when a cross from the left wreaked havoc in the German

The Bangladesh Basketball

Secretary of the Bangladesh Basketball Federation (BBF) Salim Chowdhury said that India, Sri

Salim said, "We want to hold this international meet at our Dhan-mondi Woodenfloor Gymnasium

Abahani's

score here on Thursday.

Pakistan said that it was not

With three wins in four games, local giants Abahani pushed their collection to 10 points while Kallol

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Cricket