

Army inter-service basketball champs

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Army clinched the title of the inter-service basketball competition with a 77-75 victory over Bangladesh Navy at the Khulna Indoor Stadium on Thursday.

Rasheduzzaman of Navy was adjudged the best player of the meet.

Zim aim to bounce

FROM PAGE 13 middle order crumbled against Pakistan.

"We had a slump in the middle of our innings so we must avoid that when we play Zimbabwe as our aim is to qualify for the final," said the Sri Lankan captain.

If Sri Lanka wins this match with a bonus point they will qualify for the final, making inconsequential their second match against Zimbabwe on Monday and the last league game against Pakistan on October 14.

TEAMS

**SRI LANKA (from):** Marvan Atapattu (capt), Sanath Jayasuriya, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Saman Jayantha, Avishka Gunawardene, Farveez Maharoof, Chaminda Vaas, Upul Chandana, Nuwan Zoysa, Dilhara Fernando, Thilina Kandamby, Rangana Herath, Kaushal Lokurachchi.

**ZIMBABWE (from):** Tatenda Taibu, Brendon Taylor, Vusumuzi Sibanda, Dion Ebrahim, Mark Vermeulen, Stuart Matsikenyeri, Alestar Maregwede, Muleki Nkala, Elton Chigumbura, Edward Rainsford, Tawanda Mupariwa, Prosper Uteya, Douglas Hondo, Tinashes Panyangara, Alexander Graeme Cremer.

**Umpires:** Simon Taufel (Australia) and Aleem Dar (Pakistan)

Court bars BCCI

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A two-judge Madras High Court said it was taking a "serious view" of the elections held in Kolkata on September 29, which local media then described as a coup by outgoing president Jagmohan Dalmiya.

"We feel that an undertaking given before the court, pertaining to the conduct of the election, has been violated. We are satisfied there is a prima facie case for granting interim orders," the judges in an order said.

Controversy over the elections erupted after a representative of the regional Maharashtra Cricket Association was barred from voting and Dalmiya used his casting vote to decide the winner of a tie.

Dalmiya's protegee, Ranbir Singh Mahendra, was declared the winner against Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar with the election results hung at 15-15 before Dalmiya's decisive vote.

Pakistan clinch

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create two good chances for India in the first session.

Indian forwards failed to come in line of a cross from Halappa on the right flank with the defenders out of position, while Ignace Turkey's reverse-flick went wide after a move from Halappa down the centre.

"We deserved to win this match as we played better from the beginning. India were not too bad but we managed to dominate. It's a great feeling to win the series and the whole team needs to be congratulated," Waseem said.

The last match of the series, played in two legs of four matches each in Pakistan and India, will be held under floodlights on Sunday in the southern Indian city of Hyderabad.

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 217

Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm Oct 15, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards

1. West Indies defeated England in the ICC Champions Trophy final by:	2 wks	50 runs	33 runs
2. Who won the China Open tennis title?			
Serena	Sharapova	Hings	
3. How many times was Pavel Nedved capped before announcing his retirement?	83	84	81
4. Who became man-of-the-tournament in the ICC Champions Trophy?	Sarwan	Hirtoff	Lara
5. Who clinched the AKTEL school basketball girls' crown?			



Australia pace bowler Glenn McGrath (back to camera) celebrates taking the wicket of Harbhajan Singh with teammates on the third day of the first Test against India in Bangalore yesterday.

Indian cops quiz SA duo

Cricket

REUTERS, Durban

Indian police have sent questions to South Africa's Herschelle Gibbs and Nicky Boje as part of their investigation into alleged match-fixing, a United Cricket Board (UCB) South Africa statement said on Friday.

The questions, sent to the UCB, relate to the investigation into alleged match-fixing and corruption during South Africa's tour of India in 2000.

South Africa begin another tour of India next month, and the UCB has sought assurances from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the International Cricket Council (ICC) that opening batsman Gibbs and spinner Boje will not be detained in the country.

The statement said the players would answer the questions in affidavits which will be handed to the Indian high commission in South Africa.

"We are keen to assist in this matter, and we hope the affidavits will complete the process," UCB chief executive Gerald Malola said. Gibbs and Boje will be represented by Tony Irish, a lawyer who is the chief executive of the South African Cricketers' Association.

"The UCB has referred to us whatever it has received from India,

and we are advising the players," Irish told this news agency from Cape Town on Friday.

Irish said the BCCI and the ICC had told the UCB that they could not guarantee that Gibbs and Boje would not be held in India.

"Both parties have said that assurance could only be obtained from the Indian police," Irish said.

In 2000, the Delhi police exposed former South Africa captain Hansie Cronje's involvement in match-fixing.



NICKY BOJE

Gibbs, who was recruited by Cronje to under-perform in a one-day international in 2000, was fined and suspended from cricket for six

months.

Gibbs agreed to be dismissed for less than 20 in exchange for 15,000 dollars. He scored 74, later telling the King Commission, South Africa's investigation into the Cronje affair, that he "forgot" about the deal.

Boje testified at the King Commission but was not implicated in match-fixing.

Cronje, who was banned from cricket for life, died in a plane crash in 2002.

South Africa are scheduled to



HERSCHELLE GIBBS

play India in two Tests, at Kanpur, starting on November 20, and Kolkata.

More marks

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seconds. However, it was to be a Dolly day as she captured two gold medals with new national records later on.

She set the first record in the 200m breaststroke with a timing of 3:01.39sec, which is 3.86sec better than the previous one, and then went on to conquer the 100m freestyle, clocking 1:08.82sec. The previous bestwas 1:10.24.

She then contributed in the 4x100m medley relay along with Sabura, Tania Afrin and Merina Akhter to break another new national record. They clocked 5:21.94sec to surpass the previous best of 5:30.59sec.

Laboni Akhter Jui had the day's last laugh when she won the 400m individual medley with a timing of 6:15.53sec. The previous mark was 6:27.77sec.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Army dominated the diving events winning all three events on the day - 1-metre springboard, 3-metre springboard and 5-metre platform. They also became champions in water polo.

Team	G	S	B
Navy	17	6	5
BJMC	12	6	6
Army	5	14	5
Ansars	5	14	5
BKSP	3	9	16
Police	0	0	1
Jessore EB	0	0	1
Jessore	0	0	1
Kushitia	0	0	1

Aussies dictate terms

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champions for three-and-a-half hours to make 46.

Patel added 60 runs for the seventh wicket with Pathan and 31 for the eighth with Kumble before he was bowled by Jason Gillespie with the second new ball.

Pathan contributed 31, while Kumble was last man out for 39. Glenn McGrath was Australia's most successful bowler with four for 55. Gillespie, Michael Kasprovicz and Shane Warne shared the remaining six wickets.

Warne, with 529 wickets in the bag, is now four away from surpassing Sri Lankan Muttiah Muralitharan's world record of 532.

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**SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the first cricket Test between India and Australia at the

Brazil, France face different battles

REUTERS/AFP, London



World champions Brazil will seek to make it 16 wins out of 16 against Venezuela on Sunday and taking another step towards the increasingly lucrative World Cup finals in Germany in 2006.

Brazil, top of the South American qualifying group with four wins and four draws from eight matches, have won all 15 meetings with Venezuela since their first in 1969.

They have scored 70 goals and conceded just two and will expect to extend that record in the sweltering Venezuelan oil city of Maracaibo.

The Brazilians are boosted by the news that ace striker Ronaldo has made a full recovery from a calf injury and will be available for the match.

Ronaldo has spent the last three days training on his own in a bid to concentrate on regaining match fitness for the double header, which includes the home game Wednesday against Colombia.

The Real Madrid forward emerged unscathed from a 50-minute training session and kickabout with the squad which appeared to give him back the appetite for what he does best.

"I almost scored with a low drive but Julio Cesar (number two Brazil keeper) blocked it," Ronaldo joked with reporters.

The Brazil squad left for Venezuela following Thursday's training session.

Coach Carlos Alberto Parreira could hand debut caps to Germany-based defender Juan, who plays for Bayer Leverkusen and Spain-based midfielder Renato who plays with Betis Seville.

While Brazil, having to qualify as champions following a change in the rules in 2002, should make it through, their predecessors France are not quite as certain of their place among the elite as they once were.

The French are going through a period of transition following the international retirement of many of the players that brought them their double success.

New coach Raymond Domenech urged his players this week to "turn the page" on the past and has also named an experimental midfield for their Group Four match against Ireland in Paris on Saturday.

Ireland have not won any of their four matches in Paris since 1937 but the men in green are likely push the French all the way.

Victory is not beyond the visitors - especially as their 30,000 fans are likely to be more inspirational than

the unusually reserved home crowd at the Stade de France.

While the Irish are making the short trip to the French capital, many of their English Premier League colleagues will be doing battle in an intriguing match at Old Trafford where England play Wales in the 98th full international between the old British rivals - but their first since 1984.

The former United men include current Wales boss Mark Hughes, who scored the winner when Wales beat England 1-0 20 years ago.

A similar result will re-ignite the debate about Swede Sven-Goran Eriksson's position as England boss after two draws in their opening Group Six games.

unscathed amid fears he could be unavailable due to a back injury picked up last week while playing for Real against Deportivo La Coruna.

Arsenal striker Henry, meanwhile, leads the French against the Irish stuck on 27 goals and having found the net just twice in his last 10 outings.

Should they fail to impress, Eriksson and Domenech have the luxury of calling up the cavalry in the second installment of double-headers with England travelling to Azerbaijan and France heading for Cyprus on the following Wednesday.

Owen, having come through Thursday appearing fit and untroubled, should start alongside

England are second in Group Six on goal difference behind Austria.

France are third in Group Four but have the same points (4) as Switzerland and the Republic of Ireland and face the Irish in Paris on Saturday.

All eyes will be on Henry especially with a serious doubt over strike partner David Trezeguet who is injured.

"Thierry is going through a bad phase with the national team," conceded Domenech.

"It's a problem which will be settled. But Thierry isn't indispensable. He is not the only scorer."

Another striker looking to improve is Manchester United's Ruud van Nistelrooy who hopes recently-installed Dutch national coach Marco van Basten can add more edge to his game.

He will get his chance when the Dutch face Macedonia on Saturday before a home clash against Finland in Amsterdam next Wednesday in Group One.

Romania lead that group with a maximum nine points from three matches while the Dutch also face competition from the Czech Republic for the sole qualifying spot for the finals in Germany in 2006.

Italy, who lead Group Five with six points from two games, travel to Slovenia on Saturday before entertaining Belarus in Parma next Wednesday. They have recalled Francesco Totti, another man with plenty to prove.

The 28-year-old striker was banned for three matches for spitting at Danish defender Christian Poulsen at Euro 2004 and his recall is timely as coach Marcello Lippi is without Alessandro Del Piero and Christian Vieri because of injuries.

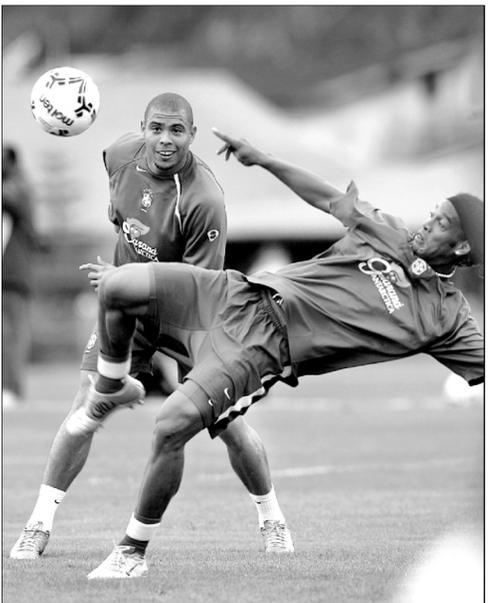
The forthcoming double-headers could also be make-or-break for Spain and Greece.

The Spaniards, bristling with talent, were held to a disappointing 1-1 draw in their Group Seven opener by Bosnia and face Belgium in Santander on Saturday before a tricky trip to Lithuania on Wednesday.

But it is Greece, European champions just four months ago, who have the biggest headache of all with just a point from their two games in Group Two and who go to joint group leaders Ukraine on Saturday.

Otto Rehhagel's team have lost 2-1 to Albania and drawn 1-1 with Turkey but the Greeks are not ready to panic.

Elsewhere there are full programmes of qualifiers in the African and CONCACAF zones while a full programme of Asian matches will be played next Wednesday.



TRY THIS IF YOU CAN: Brazilian superstar Ronaldinho (R) practises a scissor-kick while his teammate Ronaldo watches at the team's training base in Teresopolis, outside Rio de Janeiro on October 7. The world champions play Venezuela in a South American qualifier on Sunday.

Also of concern for both coaches will be the goal-scoring potency of their two deadliest hitmen - Michael Owen and Thierry Henry.

Owen, whose summer move from Liverpool to Real Madrid is rapidly turning into a nightmare, looks to add to his 27 goals.

Owen completed a session at Manchester United's training ground on Thursday and emerged

wonderboy Wayne Rooney. But waiting in the wings is Tottenham's Jermain Defoe who scored his first England goal in the win in Poland last month.

"Michael is mentally very strong. He has always been the man for the big games and although he might sometimes not play to his best, he will still score goals for you," said Eriksson.

Goodbye to tradition

Football

REUTERS, Milan

To many in European football the English are the preservers of the sport's traditions, the custodians of the true spirit of the 'People's Game' they gave to the world.

But it is now time that myth, along with the falsehood that football somehow belongs to 'the people', was ditched?

If there are any traditions worth keeping in the world's most popular sport they are certainly not safe in English hands.

London - where the world's first Football Association was formed in 1863 - was always regarded by the rest of the world as the one place where the history of the game was respected.

If that notion did not crumble with the collapse of Wembley's Twin Towers, then it should finally be laid to rest with the news that Arsenal, that most traditional of English clubs, have named their new home the Emirates Stadium.

The Arab airline, whose deal includes becoming the club's new shirt sponsors, has paid 100 million pounds (\$178.7 million) for the naming rights over a 15-year period. Tradition has died another death as Arsenal have cashed in on their illustrious name.

They are not the first major club to go down such a route - Middlesbrough gained that dubious honour when they moved from Ayresome Park to the Cellnet Riverside Stadium in 1995 - but Arsenal are certainly the biggest club to sell their stadium's name. It is unlikely they will be the last.

The history of sports sponsorship shows that once a taboo has been broken there is no turning back.

Now stadium sponsorship will no longer be considered an unusual step taken by clubs in need of private cash for their new venues but will be viewed as one more opportunity.

Sports marketing companies will soon have 'venue name' among the portfolio of options for their clients. How much would it cost to persuade a hard-up founder member of the Football League such as Burnley to end more than a century of tradition and play their games not at Turf Moor but at the 'Holland's Pie Arena'?

Don't laugh. After all, Leicester City already play their games at the

Walkers Stadium - named after the local producers of potato crisps.

Now that Arsenal have sold out, it will only be a matter of time before some continental clubs - aspiring to emulate the Gunners cash injection - follow their example.

Will the Italians soon look forward to a Milan derby played at the 'Stadio Giorgio Armani' rather than the San Siro?

How will Bayern Munich fans feel if their club decides to cover the cost of their new venue by unveiling the 'BMW Stadium'?

It sounds ridiculous but it is any more odd than the Emirates Stadium?

After all, Highbury is actually in north London. The Emirates are in the Middle East.

Shirt sponsorship has also blossomed with Barcelona and Athletic Bilbao among the few teams in Europe's big leagues who do not have a company name splashed on their players' chests.

With even referees now sporting the names of corporate backers on their shirts what remains free from the hands of sponsorship?

Only the names of the clubs themselves have been left largely untouched, although a few have already gone down that route in parts of Europe. Some have retained their integrity, like Bayer Leverkusen and PSV Eindhoven, others have not.

One of the few Hungarian teams not to have their name changed by the most interfering sponsors of all, communist dictators, was Budapest club Vasas.

A team rooted in a working class area and named after the local iron workers, they avoided being renamed Dynamo or Red Star during the Stalinist era.

When the sponsors came knocking later they changed their name to Vasas Danubius Hotels and others quickly followed.

It's not only Eastern European clubs struggling in an emerging economy who have sold their names. The Welsh Premier League features matches this season between Total Network Solutions and Airbus UK Limited.

That might be fine in a local parks league but this is a competition - albeit a semi-professional one - that presents itself as its country's national league with its champions taking part in the qualifying round of the Champions League.

The really big teams are unlikely to follow suit, of course, but now

football's bubble has burst there are plenty of clubs in England and across Europe who are in desperate need of cash.

The fans don't like such developments.

People raised on going to Highbury on a Saturday afternoon are not keen on the idea of strolling down to the Emirates on a wet Tuesday night for a Carling Cup match against Coca Cola League One side MK Dons (previously known as Wimbledon for the odd reason that they were from that part of south London).

But who, despite all the rhetoric, really listens to the fans? After all, they only give clubs 30 pounds (\$53.62 dollars) for a ticket every other week. And what kind of money is that?

Jurgen's test in Tehran

AFP, Berlin

German coach Jurgen Klinsmann has already shown that he is not afraid to give youth a chance and he is set to throw several of his twenty somethings into the intimidating atmosphere of Tehran's Asadi Stadium for Saturday's friendly match with Iran.

Over 100,000 passionate fans are expected in Tehran to watch Iran face 2002 World Cup finalists Germany and Klinsmann will hope his charges can swim rather than sink without a trace.

Klinsmann, 40, has once again put his faith in youth with the 2006 World Cup in mind with Aston Villa's 22-year-old midfielder Thomas Hitzlsperger the most interesting inclusion.

Hitzlsperger is tipped to make his debut in the benefit match, with proceeds going to victims of the earthquakes in Iran, alongside Chelsea's Robert Huth, 20, VfB Stuttgart's Philipp Lahm, 20, and 22-year-old Andreas Hinkel.

The quartet have just over 20 caps between them.

"They will get a taste of what awaits them and will see whether they can come through it," said Klinsmann.

Off the field, Klinsmann has come under fire from Bundesliga managers, notably Werder Bremen's Thomas Schaaf and VfL Bochum's Peter Neururer, but on the pitch it has gone according to plan.

SOCCER BRIEFS

BBC ONLINE, London

FIFA has suspended Niger from international football. The sanction imposed on the West African country was the consequence of "repeated interference from political authorities" in the affairs of the Niger Football Federation.

FIFA's executive board took the decision on Wednesday, following a recommendation from their committee for national associations.

Warnings were also issued to Ethiopia and Nigeria to resolve their internal problems or face similar consequences.

Under FIFA rules, national football associations must not be subject to government control.

BLATTER FOR GERMANY IN 2006 OPENER

REUTERS, Berlin

FIFA chief Sepp Blatter thinks hosts Germany should feature in the opening match of the 2006 World Cup finals because the defending champions are no longer guaranteed to feature in world soccer's showpiece event.

"I would propose that the host play in the opening match," Blatter said at a news conference in Berlin on Thursday.

Either the hosts or the defending champions have traditionally played in the opening match of the World Cup but, under new rules for the 2006 edition, Brazil will become the first champions to have to qualify for the finals.

That leaves the hosts Germany but their coach Juergen Klinsmann has said he would rather not play the opening match in Munich on June 9, 2006 because he believes his team will already be under enough pressure.

DROGBA GOES UNDER KNIFE

AFP, London

Didier Drogba is to undergo minor surgery as part of his recovery from the groin injury that forced him out of Sunday's game against Liverpool, Chelsea said Friday on their website.

The 24-million-pound summer signing from Olympique Marseille has begun every game so far this season.

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho said: "He has an injury that the medical department found the best way to solve will be with a little surgery, but we think in four or five weeks he can be back."