



Sponsor GrameenPhone's head of marketing Ghalib Ahmed Ansari (R) talks to reporters during a press conference organised in connection with the Corporate Cricket League at a city hotel yesterday.

Chittagong TT

FROM PAGE 13 the last four while Rigan, Tanmoy and Shripankar booked third round berths in the in boys' under-16 event.

In the boys' doubles, Shoaib-Asif, Avi-Shripankar and Sharif-Tanvir pairs advanced to the next round.

Manash Chowdhury, Arman, Shalil Chowdhury and Mahtab Uddin won their matches in the men's competition.



Did U Know?

Football's World Cup was played in Asia for the first time when Japan and South Korea co-hosted it in 2002.

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 wkts	50 runs	33
runs		

2. Who won the China Open tennis title?

Serena	Sharapova	Hingis
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3. How many times was Pavel Nedved capped before announcing his retirement?

83	84	81
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Name .....  
Class..... Roll No.....  
School Address .....  
Phone: (If any) .....

We want to dominate

FROM PAGE 13 of limiting Test matches for the Tigers in the future, Fleming inevitably faced questions regarding his views on the matter and refreshingly enough, he begged to differ with those who doubt the potential of Bangladesh at the highest level.

"I think they (Bangladesh players) are approaching crossroads in their careers. We all appreciate the development stage Bangladesh are going through. There are signs of improvement. You have got a very good coach. You are starting to develop a core of players and it is going to take time.

"What the cricket community is looking for is that progress to be placed on to the field and improvement shown. They are probably more competitive in the Test arena. We hope that it will be after this series but coming from New Zealand we do appreciate that it does take time. I know that there are some areas in the world that are growing a little bit impatient with the way Bangladesh are playing. But for the sake of the global game, it is important that they are patient and allow Bangladesh time to develop."

Coach John Bracewell, a former Test off-spinner with valuable experience of the subcontinent, expected his slow bowlers to make an impact.

"When I toured India and Pakistan, I noticed that your batters tend to make you want to bowl like the opposition. I think the best way is to actually bowl where you bowl and

not try and change on a short tour. So we'll get Paul (Wiseman) and Daniel (Vettori) to keep throwing the ball up and try and get the opposition to use their feet and to beat them in the air.

"We are not great spinners of the ball off the wicket. In fast terms, we don't produce things that come out of the Asian continent but we do have guile, flight and we do get our guys to drift the ball away from or into the bat and that's what we'll be encouraging them to do."

The New Zealand coach also believed that they have to guard against any surprises.

"My understanding through talking to the English players and management last year was that Bangladesh's strength was their stickability, the ability to take the game to its length and not necessarily individuals involved in it. They want to hang in there for as long as possible forcing the pace of the opposition to make errors.

"Talking to our Under 19 coach who came over here for the World Cup, he was quite impressed with the youth of Bangladesh cricket. He said that if some of the younger players get picked, especially some of the pace bowlers, 'Watch out! They can bowl and they will learn to bowl.'"

"We are weary of that and won't be complacent."

New Zealand will have their first training session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium this morning.

Armstrong inspires India

FROM PAGE 13 innings in Bangalore and off-spinner Harbhajan Singh's third successive 10-wicket haul against the Australians helped lift the gloom.

India slipped to 136-6 in the first innings before the last four wickets added 110 runs. In the second, as many as 153 runs came from the tail after six wickets were lost for a mere 86.

Harbhajan, nicknamed the "Turbanator" by the Australian media after he claimed 32 wickets in three Tests in 2001, returned to haunt his favourite rivals with 11 wickets in his first Test since a finger surgery last December.

The 24-year-old now has 43 wickets in the last four home Tests against the world's leading Test team at a staggering average of 17 apiece.

"They're big numbers," Ganguly said. "There is a lot of cricket left in this series. There's a huge opportunity for us to come back and win the series."

Australia's champion leg-spinner Shane Warne managed only 4-193 at Bangalore and was stranded one short of Sri Lankan Muttiah Muralitharan's world record of 532

wickets after failing to take any of the last four wickets on Sunday.

Warne is almost certain to overtake Muralitharan in the second Test, but Australia's hopes will be pinned again on the pace trio of Glenn McGrath, Jason Gillespie and Michael Kasprovicz who took 15 of the 20 Indian wickets at Bangalore.

Australia, meanwhile, raised the stakes by accusing Harbhajan of "abusive" behaviour during the first Test.

"Damien Martyn said at one stage he was just screaming abuse," McGrath said.

"You don't mind getting sledged but he seems to be going non-stop all day. Whether that's the way he works at his best I'm not sure, but he seems to get himself fired up."

Ganguly defended his star bowler. "He is young and gets carried away sometimes," the captain said. "He will learn as time goes by."

Harbhajan, who also hit 42 in the second innings, applauded Warne when the leg-spinner was hit for his 100th run in the second innings at Bangalore.

Aussies turn to ex-pacemen!

AFP, Perth

Former Australian fast bowlers Geoff Lawson and Tony Dodemaide were Tuesday named in an invitational side to play Pakistan in the traditional Liliac Hill cricket game here on December 7.

Cricketer Australia said Lawson, 46, and West Australian Cricket Association (WACA) chief executive Dodemaide, 41, will come out of retirement to spearhead the Cricket Australia Chairman's XI for the annual match played against a touring side.

Lawson was a regular member of the Australian Test and one-day teams throughout the 1980s and took 180 wickets in 46 Tests and 88 wickets in 70 one-day internationals.

Dodemaide played 10 Tests for Australia and took 34 wickets with a career-best of 6-54 on debut.

Pakistan will spend more than three weeks in Perth with a four-day match starting on December 9 against Western Australia before the first of four Tests against Australia commences at the WACA Ground here on December 16.

Mind-boggling

FROM PAGE 13 occasion. The largest mobile operator struck a two-year deal with the BCB worth Tk 40 lakh in April this year.

TEAMS

GROUP A: CityCell, Epyllion Group, Robin Tex, Acme Laboratories, AKTEL, Partex Group  
GROUP B: Araf Apparels, Gazi Tank, GrameenPhone, Beximco, Biman Bangladesh and MM Ishpani.

A separation

FROM PAGE 13 "We have always sought to be active throughout the year. But lack of a ground has denied us this opportunity. Footballers have suffered during the long gap that has seen us away from this ground. Now, the BNS is ours the clubs and the federation cannot make excuses for not holding enough domestic competitions on a regular basis," said the tall central defender.

Talented left-back Masud Rana reminded that the Bangabandhu Stadium has always been a crowd-puller for domestic football.

"The feeling is different to play in front of a full house. I think return of football here will bring back more crowds and the federation must use this opportunity to develop the game. Footballers and cricketers are all players and I hope both prosper in the days ahead," Masud Rana said.

Sachin almost

FROM PAGE 13 apist Andrew Leipus to strengthen the muscles in his left hand and even bowled to teammates before play in the first Test.

He said he was pained to see India collapse for 246 and 239 in the game at Bangalore.

"They need to score more runs," Tendulkar said.

"We need more runs on the board if we are to bounce back in this series. We can bounce back. The boys need to concentrate more on staying at the wicket for a little longer.

The tail-enders are functioning like a well-oiled machine, so are the bowlers.

"Now is the time for the batsmen to realise that they are the ones falling behind.

"We have a good track record against the Australians. It is not that we cannot beat them. All we need is to concentrate, time our shots and get some good opening stands."

Coaches on the edge

AFP, Paris



Some of Europe's top coaches put their reputations and well-paid jobs on the line Wednesday as the pressure begins to tell on the long road to the 2006 World Cup finals.

With fifty-one teams in Europe chasing just eight guaranteed places in Germany in two years' time, the qualifying tournament was never going to be for the faint-hearted.

Just ask Luiz Felipe Scolari, whose Portuguese team were held to a 2-2 draw in Liechtenstein on Saturday, or Marcelo Lippi, who saw his Serie A superstars of Italy lose 1-0 to Slovenia.

Then there's poor Berti Vogts whose tenure as Scotland boss looks doomed should he fail in Moldova.

Portugal have the chance to redeem themselves on Wednesday when they face Russia in Lisbon where they will have a media, scenting blood, eyeing their every move after Saturday's draw in Vaduz.

"The joke of Europe," headlined sports daily A Bola the day after Portugal, Euro 2004 runners-up, had squandered a 2-0 lead to hand Liechtenstein their first ever World Cup point.

"National team humiliated," headlined the top-selling daily tabloid Correio da Manhã.

Vogts, a World Cup winner with

Germany, will be the subject of similar headlines should Scotland lose to Group 5 basement side Moldova.

The Scots, beaten 1-0 by Norway in Glasgow on Saturday, are already six points behind leaders Slovenia with their dreams of qualifying fading quickly.

To make matters worse, Vogts has been given the dreaded vote of confidence by the Scottish Football Association (SFA).

"We'll honour his contract while qualification is possible," said SFA chief executive David Taylor.

"He has a contract to take us to the World Cup finals. If we reach the point where that is not possible, then I think that would be the end of the road."

Italy, who share the same group as the Scots and face Belarus in Parma, were beaten by Slovenia on Saturday but Lippi refuses to press the panic button.

Lippi's team have suffered two defeats in four matches since he took over from Giovanni Trapattoni, but the former Juventus coach is happy with the performances and refuses to panic after Saturday's blip.

"We are at the beginning of constructing a team and what pleases me most is that the players believe in this project and try to apply what we work on during training," he said.

"We lost against Slovenia and we cannot make excuses and say we were unlucky, but we played with concentration and determination and

that confirms the progress this group has made."

Striker Francesco Totti was heavily criticised by the Italian media for a toothless performance against the Slovenians, but Italy keeper Gianluigi Buffon is backing the Roma captain to rediscover his goalscoring touch.

"He is a decisive player and I'm sure he will find his form," Buffon said.

However, one man free of such pressures is Sven-Goran Eriksson whose England side are top of Group Six and face Azerbaijan in Baku looking to build on Saturday's 2-0 win against Wales which sent them clear at the top.

England are without suspended skipper David Beckham which will mean even more attention on boy-wonder Wayne Rooney.

"It doesn't matter where he plays. First striker, second striker, wherever, he will always create problems for opponents," said Eriksson.

French coach Raymond Domenech, although not under pressure, needs his 1998 world champions to start finding the goal in Group Four where they have scored just twice in three games.

They should cure that problem in Cyprus on Wednesday.

"We have to go to Cyprus to win - that's what we're going to do," said Domenech whose side were held to a 0-0 draw by Ireland in Paris on Saturday.

FIXTURES

World Cup 2006 European zone qualifiers on Wednesday:

Group One  
At Andorra  
Andorra v Macedonia  
At Yerevan  
Armenia v Czech Republic  
At Amsterdam  
Holland v Finland

Group Two  
At Copenhagen  
Denmark v Turkey  
At Almaty  
Kazakhstan v Albania  
At Lviv  
Ukraine v Georgia

Group Three  
At Riga  
Latvia v Estonia  
At Luxembourg  
Luxembourg v Liechtenstein  
At Lisbon  
Portugal v Russia

Group Four  
At Nicosia  
Cyprus v France  
At Dublin  
Rep of Ireland v Faroe Islands

Group Five  
At Parma  
Italy v Belarus  
At Chisnau  
Moldova v Scotland  
At Oslo  
Norway v Slovenia

Group Six  
At Baku  
Azerbaijan v England  
At Belfast  
Northern Ireland v Austria  
At Cardiff  
Wales v Poland

Group Seven  
At Vilnius  
Lithuania v Spain  
At Belgrade  
Serbia v Montenegro  
At San Marino

Group Eight  
Bulgaria v Malta  
At Reykjavik  
Iceland v Sweden

Aragones sorry for racist remark

AFP, London

Spanish national football coach Luis Aragones has said he is ready to apologise to French international Thierry Henry over an alleged racist remark.

Aragones, 62, insisted he was trying to motivate Henry's Arsenal team-mate Jose Antonio Reyes when he made the remark during training with the national team last week.

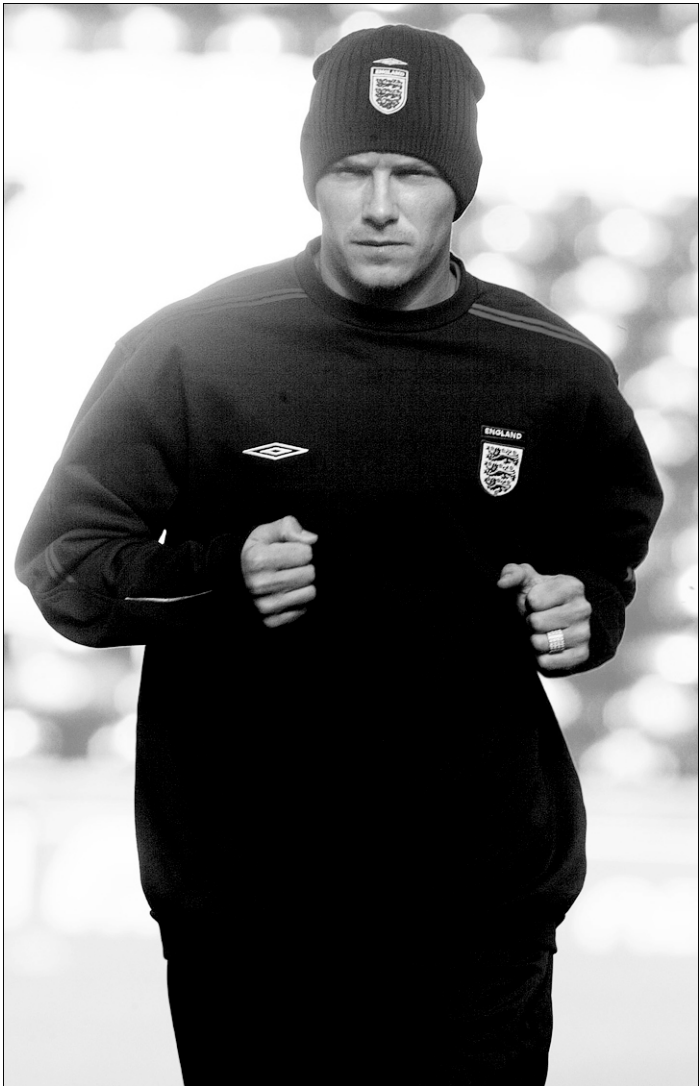
"If necessary I will go to London to clarify everything," Aragones told the Daily Mirror newspaper on Monday.

"I don't want Reyes to be harmed by the story. In England they don't understand my techniques to inspire my players."

Aragones said his comments, which were broadcast on Spanish TV, were intended to make Reyes believe he was better than Henry.

And he said he had been particularly hurt by reaction to his comments in England. "The English have criticised me unjustly," he said.

"They do not know how I am personally with the players. I do not want to have any problems with Henry or with Arsenal."



DAVID BECKHAM

Onus on South Korea

AFP, Hong Kong



The proudest World Cup record in Asian football will be in jeopardy on Wednesday when powerhouses South Korea travel to Beirut for a crunch 2006 qualifying tie with Lebanon.

The Koreans' Group 7 clash with the Lebanese is the pick of the latest round of qualifying games for the finals in Germany, which sees 28 teams in action across the continent.

All eyes will be on Beirut's Sports City Stadium for what promises to be a nerve-jangling contest. Defeat for South Korea, who lead the group by one point from Lebanon, will almost certainly see them eliminated.

A loss would leave Lebanon needing only to beat Vietnam at home in their final match to be sure of qualification. South Korea paying the price for their shock 0-0 draw against the Maldives in early qualifiers.

Korea's elimination would also represent one of the biggest upsets in Asian footballing history, coming just two years after

South Korea turned logic on its head by reaching the semi-finals of the 2002 World Cup on home soil.

It would also end South Korea's marvellous record of appearing at every World Cup since the 1986 finals in Mexico.

Korean coach Jo Bonfrere's team still has the look of a work in progress about it with the priority on strengthening midfield and an error-prone defence.

But the Dutch coach looks to have plenty of options in attack, led by World Cup 2002 start Ahn Jung-Hwan, even if striker Park Ji-Sung is ruled out.

"I have not decided yet, but whichever strikers shows up with the best condition on that day will get picked," Bonfrere said.

While South Korea face a nervous night in Lebanon, Asian champions Japan can clinch their place in the next round if they secure a victory over Group 3 rivals Oman in Muscat. A draw would also virtually guarantee qualification.

But the Japanese will take nothing for granted against youthful Oman and are suffering an injury crisis as they prepare to play a team who have caused them problems in recent matches.

The Omanis were unlucky to lose 1-0 in Tokyo in their earlier qualifying game, when a late goal saved Japan's blushes.

The Japanese also struggled to beat Milan Macala's men when the two sides met at the Asian Cup in China in July, again winning by a single goal.

An upset victory for Oman would put them level on points with the Japanese, meaning the group would in all probability come down to goal difference with the two sides facing Singapore and India in their final matches next month.

Japan will again be without Italy-based former skipper Hidetoshi Nakata, who has not represented his country since March because of a groin injury.

Though Nakata is back playing, he has yet to find his best form and Zico is happy to let the talented playmaker find his feet.

Japan have prospered during Nakata's absence, losing only two matches and retaining the Asian Cup in China last month.

Japan coach Zico said 10 of his 21-member squad are carrying knocks, with Italy-based midfielder Shunsuke Nakamura among the shunned.

In addition to the injuries, Japan missed a day of practice

and had to experience a 22-hour journey to Oman after a powerful typhoon hit central Japan Saturday, grounding the flight they were originally scheduled to take.

But Japanese spirits have been lifted by the return to training of inspirational midfielder Shinji Ono.

The typhoon gave Ono much needed time to recuperate, Zico said.

"One day's rest gave him rest ... things are improving. (Ono's) physical and mental conditions are getting better," Zico said.

Japan lead Group 3 with four straight wins for 12 points, followed by Oman with nine points, India with three points and winless Singapore.

Asian World Cup qualifying sees 32 countries split into eight groups of four. The eight group winners advance to final qualifying, where they are divided into two groups of four.

The final group winners qualify for the 2006 finals with the runners-up meeting in a play-off for the third berth. The loser of that match then advances to a further play-off against a European side.

FIXTURES

Asian football qualifiers on Wednesday for the 2006 World Cup in Germany:

Group 1  
At Vientiane  
Laos v Jordan  
At Doha  
Qatar v Iran

Group 2  
At Amman  
Iraq v Uzbekistan  
At Taipei  
Taiwan v Palestine

Group 3  
At Muscat  
Oman v Japan  
At Singapore  
Singapore v India

Group 4  
At Hong Kong  
Hong Kong v Malaysia  
At Kuwait City  
Kuwait v China

Group 5  
At Bangkok  
Thailand v United Arab Emirates 19:00  
At Pyongyang  
North Korea v Yemen

Group 6  
At Dushanbe  
Tajikistan v Kyrgyzstan  
At Damascus  
Syria v Bahrain

Group 7  
At Beirut  
Lebanon v South Korea  
At Male  
Maldives v Vietnam

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37 Savion Glover's specialty	DOWN	1 Noted Olympic swimmer	11 Rap music's Dr.
1 Fitness center	38 Body-shop concern	2 Salk vaccine's target	17 Stable area	21 Oust
4 Mono-gram of "Old Blue Eyes"	39 Train component	3 First	23 Fishbowl dweller	24 "Norma"
7 Scandinavian inlet	41 Vacillate	4 Datum	25 Grecian vessel	26 Layer of lettuce
12 D.C. personage	45 Hard as a rock	5 On TV, e.g.	28 Expert	30 Sine-non link
13 Have a bug	47 Wield a needle	6 Nickelo-deon gunk	31 Recipe verb	32 Last letter
14 Rod of tennis fame	48 Radio type	7 Show off the biceps	33 Stannum	36 Garbage barge
15 "—bel"	52 "2001" computer	8 Chatter power	37 "Jeep-ardly" stock-in-trade	40 Frighten
16 Problem for the police	53 Pound	9 Eventual aves	42 Actor Milo	43 Long
18 Dead heat	54 Tease	10 Clerical addr.	44 Young hooter	45 Branch
19 Watch brand	55 Prior to		46 Chapter	47 11 reason
20 Region	56 Fulton's power		48 "Mayday"	49 Islander's dwelling
22 Fresh rebuker	57 Wrestling surface		49 Islander's dwelling	50 Indivisible
23 Comestibles	58 Grass-hopper's rebuker		50 Indivisible	51 Nipper's co.

Solution time: 25 mins.

CRYPTOQUIP  
R B B L N D T M Z M R B B G I R V  
Z M F D Z L T R I D P L T F Z R G  
Y R X T R Z M M X D P S N L D  
T Y R M Z D T D B I D V M R L N  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SUPPOSING AN ACCUSED TAILOR HAD DONE NOTHING WRONG, WOULD HE PLEAT INNOCENT?  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals L

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.