



STEALING THE SHOW: Abul Hossain (R) of Brothers Union is ecstatic as he starts celebrating his winning goal while dejected Mohammedan defenders Nazrul (L) and Mahmudul Hassan look on during the second semifinal of the Independence Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

## Strong display by England, Italy

AP, undated



England scored four goals in a 15-minute span to beat Northern Ireland 4-0 while Italy held off Scotland in a 2-0 victory on Saturday, when 30 qualifiers were played for the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

The Netherlands won 2-0 at Romania. Freddie Ljungberg scored twice as Sweden won 3-0 at Bulgaria. Ireland played a 1-1 tie at Israel and Switzerland gained a 0-0 tie at France. The Czech Republic came back to beat Finland 4-3 and European champion Greece edged Georgia 3-1.

In the North and Central American and Caribbean region, Guatemala routed visiting Trinidad and Tobago 5-1. Costa Rica beat visiting Panama 2-1 in a game played in an empty stadium, a punishment ordered by FIFA because of fair misbehavior during a qualifier against Mexico last month. The United States plays at Mexico on Sunday.

### EUROPE

At Manchester, Joe Cole celebrated his first competitive start with England's opening goal in the 46th minute. Michael Owen scored his 29th international goal, Frank Lampard added another and England got an own goal from Chris Baird.

"We had total control of the game," England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson said.

England (4-0-1) leads Europe Group Six with 13 points, one more than Poland (4-1), which routed

visiting Azerbaijan 8-0. Austria (2-1-2), which topped Wales 2-0, is third with eight points. The eight European group winners qualify along with the top two second-place teams, while the other second-place teams go to playoffs.

Tomas Frankowski scored a hat trick for Poland, and Marek Saganowski had two goals. Kamil Kosowski and Jacek Krzynowek also scored, and Azerbaijan's Attalid Hadzhev put in an own goal. Austria got late goals from Ivica Vastic and Martin Stranzl.

At Milan, Andrea Pirlo scored off free kicks in the 35th and 85th minutes for Italy (4-1), which leads Group Five. Scotland (0-2-2) has only a remote chance of qualifying for the 32-nation final.

Scotland's defense was confused on the first goal when Pirlo took the free kick from the top of the penalty arc instead of Francesco Totti, who also was lined up. Pirlo put a curving shot through the defensive wall and past goalkeeper Rob Douglas.

"The goalkeeper didn't know who was going to shoot. It worked well," Pirlo said.

At Tel Aviv, substitute Abas Suan beat goalkeeper Shay Given with a 25-yard shot one minute into second-half injury time for Israel. Clinton Morrison had put the Irish ahead in the fourth minute off a pass from Damien Duff. Morrison twisted around defender Shimon Gershon to curl the ball into the net at an acute angle. Ireland, Israel and France are all 2-0-3 in Group Four.

France coach Raymond Domenech believes his team can still earn a World Cup berth despite being held to by Switzerland. "We are still in the race," Domenech said. "But now, we know that we will have to win away to qualify. The penultimate match against the Swiss in Basel will be decisive."

It was the third home draw for the French in the qualifying campaign, a result which leaves them level on nine points with Ireland and Israel after five matches in Group Four.

"We can be disappointed with tonight's outcome as we created a load of chances to score while the Swiss only had a couple of chances," he added. "But we failed again to find the net."

"We must not let ourselves get upset, though."

Domenech said the 1-1 draw between Israel and Ireland in Tel Aviv was good news for France.

"Teams are taking points off each other and I'm certain it will remain a very tight group until the very end," he added.

On Wednesday, Switzerland welcome Cyprus to Zurich for their next match while France travel to play Israel in Tel Aviv.

At Bucharest, Philip Cocu and Ryan Babel scored to keep the Netherlands (4-0-1) in first place in Group One with 13 points, three ahead of Romania (3-2-1).

The Czech Republic (4-1), one point behind the Dutch, needed an 87th-minute goal from Vratislav Lokvenc to beat Finland at Teplice. Milan Baros, Tomas Rosicky and Jan Polak also scored for the Czechs.

### NORTH & CENTRAL AMERICA

At Guatemala City, Carlos Ruiz and Dwight Pezzarosi each scored twice after Guillermo Ramirez got the opening goal for Guatemala (1-0-1). Trinidad and Tobago (0-2) scored on a distant shot from nearly midfield by Carlos Edwards that Guatemala's Nestor Martinez accidentally knocked in.

At San Jose, Wayne Wilson converted a penalty kick for in the 39th minute for Costa Rica, which played a man short after Jose Luis Lopez was ejected in the 46th for receiving his second yellow card. Roberto Brown tied the score with a penalty kick in the 58th for Panama (0-1-1).

### AFRICA

In Africa, World Cup quarterfinalist Senegal crushed Liberia 6-1 as two-time African player of the year El Hadji Diouf scored twice, and South Africa beat Uganda 2-1. Only the five African group winners qualify.

### FRIENDLIES

In an exhibition game, Germany won 1-0 at Slovenia on a 28th-minute goal by 19-year-old Lukas Podolski. Fifty German fans were arrested, 38 downtown during a pregame riot and 12 at the match. Portugal beat visiting Canada 4-1 at Barcelos on goals by Manuel Fernandes, Pedro Pauleta, Helder Postiga and Nuno Gomes. At Salamanca, Spain warmed up for next week's qualifier against Serbia & Montenegro with a comfortable 3-0 win over China in a rain-soaked friendly.

## First the pylon collapses and then the bees!

REUTERS, Chingola, Zambia

One spectator was taken to hospital and 17 needed treatment after a lighting pylon collapsed during Saturday's World Cup qualifier between Zambia and Congo at Chilimbwabe, officials confirmed on Sunday.

Spectators had taken up a viewing position on the pylon and it collapsed under their weight when Zambia scored their second goal in a 2-0 win at the stadium on the country's northern Copperbelt.

To compound matters, a swarm of bees was dislodged from a hive on the pylon, stinging several spectators who fled the stands. One spectator jumped the perimeter fence and ran onto the pitch to escape the bees.

Zambia's win kept them joint top of African zone Group One with Senegal.

## Independence Day basketball from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Independence Day Basketball Championships will begin today at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium.

Seven teams split into two groups will take part in the competition.

Bangladesh Navy, Dhumketu Club, Bangladesh Air Force and BKB have been placed in group A while group B comprises of Bangladesh Army, Josephites Club and Bangladesh Rifles.

### Abul shows

FROM PAGE 12  
Hicham and Edwards both shot wide off the mark while Bipblal pulled off another fine save to deny substitute Monwar's volley from the top of the box.

Mohammedan's best chance to get back into the game came ten minutes from time when Matiur Munna met a pass from Korean midfielder Tae Young Kim but the national footballer shot the ball onto a defensive wall inside from the box.

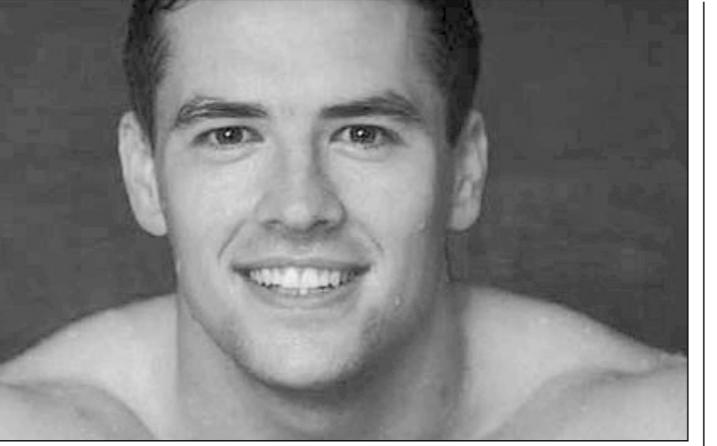
Yellow cards: Parvez Babu (Brothers) and Faisal, Rony (Mohammedan).

### TEAMS

BROTHERS: Tariq, Siraj, Sujan, Jewel Rana, Masud Rana, Parvez Babu, Pranotosh (Monwar), Inani, Abdul (Liton), Edward and Khokon.

MOHAMMEDAN: Bipblal, Arafat (Kamal and Rony), Nazrul, Hassan, Faisal, Munna, Young Kim, Manju (Kaiser), Aliaz, Kim Zeu and Nakib.

Referee: Ramkrishna Ghosh.



MICHAEL OWEN

## Bangalore Test

FROM PAGE 12  
his opening over.

Leg-spinner Danish Kaneria grabbed two of the four wickets to fall on Sunday to finish with 5-127, his 10th haul of five or more wickets in an innings in 26 Tests.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the third and final Test between India and Pakistan at the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore on Sunday:

**PAKISTAN:** First innings 570 (Younis 267, Inzamam 184; Harbhajan 6-152).

**INDIA:** Second innings

Gambhir not out 19 Sehwag not out 6 Total: (For 2 wkt in 50 overs) 261

Final of wickets: 1-91, 2-183

**Bowler** O M R W

Pathan 5 0 45 0

Balaji 3 0 26 0

Kumble 21 1 88 1

Tendulkar 15 1 62 1

Harbhajan 6 0 35 0

**PAKISTAN:** Second innings

Hameed b/w b Kumble 76

Afridi st Karthik b Tendulkar 58

Younis not out 84

Inzamam not out 31

Extras: (b-5, nb-2, w-5) 12

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**INDIA:** First innings (overnight 37-6)

Gambhir c Younis b Sami 24

Sehwag c and b Kaneria 201

David b/w b Kaneria 22

Tendulkar c Younis b Afridi 41

Laxman not out 79

Ganguly st Akmal b Kaneria 1

Pathan c Youhana b Sami 10

Balaji c Akmal b Kaneria 2

Kumble b Afridi 22

Extras: (b-5, lb-17, nb-18, w-1) 41

Total: (All out in 28.4 overs) 449

Fall of wickets: 1-98, 2-172, 3-257,

4-337, 5-343, 6-374, 7-386, 8-388

**Bowler** O M R W

Sami 34 5 106 3

Razzaq 17 0 77 0

Kaneria 39 7 127 5

Arshad 28 3 87 0

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