

NAT'L V'BALL
Final round starts in June

SPORTS REPORTER

The final round of the National Youth Volleyball Championship begins on June 2 at the Mirpur Shaheed Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium.

Ten teams split into three groups will take part in the four-day meet.

Earlier nine teams qualified from three different zones where 21 teams took part in the regional phases while Rajshahi got direct entry as defending champions.

Comilla, Tangail and Sherpur moved into the final round from Dhaka Zone, Khulna, Jessore, Narail and Chudanga earned berths from Khulna zone and Dinajpur and Naogaon came from Dinajpur zone.

City Bank has provided Tk two lakh out of a total expenditure of Tk 2.97 lakh. The Bangladesh Volleyball Federation disclosed this at a press conference at the National Sports Council (NSC) conference room yesterday.

Trescothick's technique

REUTERS, London

The secret to Marcus Trescothick's dramatic return to form, it turns out, is nothing to do with a tweak in technique, equipment or training method. It's all about sleeping as far away as possible from his new-born daughter.

The England opener put a poor start to the season behind him on Friday by scoring 194 out of England's 528 for three declared at Lord's against Bangladesh.

"I was batting the other week and yawned as the ball came down," he told a news conference.

"I told my wife I needed a little more sleep so I went up to the top of the house - fortunately it has three storeys, so you can't hear anything - a week before the Test.

"Having a daughter is fantastic but having disjointed nights at home has obviously not helped my cricket."

The 29-year-old left-hander, whose daughter was born last month, was on the brink of a second Test double-century when he snicked a catch behind off spinner Mohammad Rafique to end his six-hour, 259-ball marathon.

"I thought I played really well," he added. "It's nice to spend time in the middle. I wanted to make the most of it."

Third day

FROM PAGE 12
Thorpe 42 not out; Mortuza 2-107, Rafique 1-150

BANGLADESH: Second innings (overnight 90-5)

Omar c Thorpe b S Jones	25			
Iqbal c Flintoff b Hoggard	3			
Bashar c Hoggard b S Jones	16			
Aftab lbw b Hoggard	32			
Ashraf ul c Harmison b Flintoff	2			
Rahim c G Jones b Flintoff	3			
Mashud c Thorpe b Flintoff	44			
Rafique c G Jones b Harmison	0			
Mortuza b Harmison	0			
Anwar c Trescothick b S Jones	13			
Shahadat not out	2			
Extras: (b-1, lb-4, nb-14)	19			
Total: (All out in 39.5 overs)	159			
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-47, 3-57, 4-60, 5-65, 6-96, 7-97, 8-97, 9-155				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hoggard	9	1	42	2
Harmison	10	0	39	2
Flintoff	9.5	0	44	3
S Jones	11	3	29	3

Result: England won by an innings and 261 runs and take 1-0 lead in the 2-Test series.

Man-of-the-match: Marcus Trescothick.

Second Test: Riverside, June 3-7. Toss: England.

Sehwag Chappell's

FROM PAGE 12
knock with an average of 20.

He also classified spinners Kumble and Harbhajan as match-winning bowlers.

"World class and complementary spinners, they have carried the workload admirably for a number of years," said the former Australian captain.

Chappell praised his predecessor John Wright of New Zealand for taking the team to a good level in the international arena.

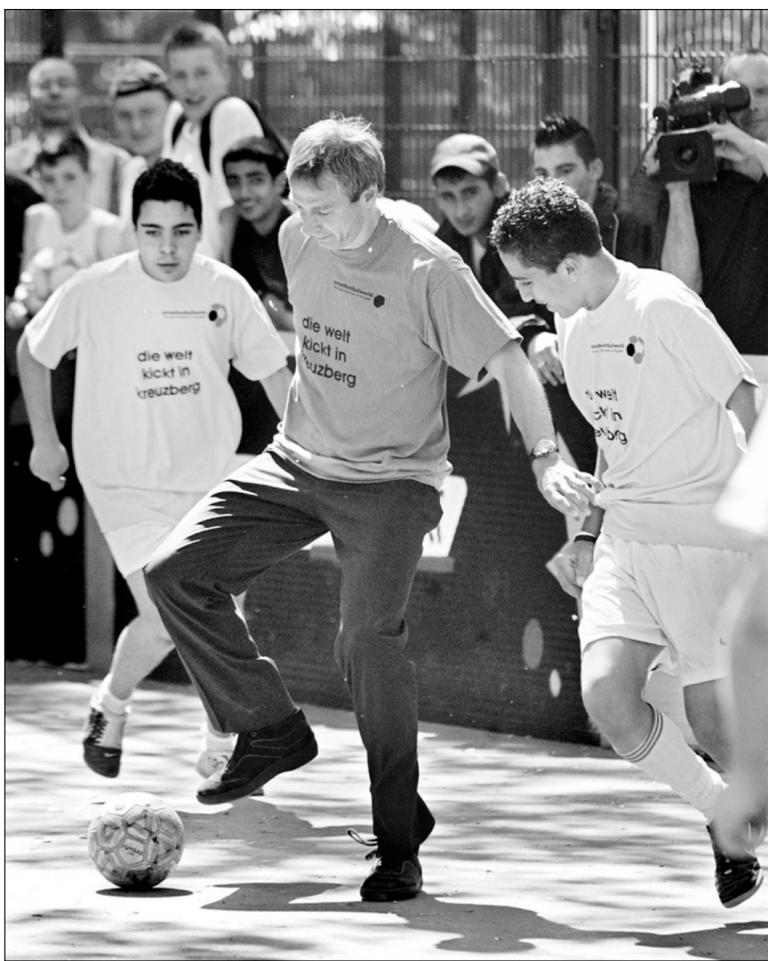
"The highlight of this period (with Wright as coach) was the greatly improved performance of India away from home," he said.

Among the issues that are of immediate concern to 56-year-old Chappell are Tendulkar's tennis elbow, slump in the batting form of Ganguly and Laxman, Kumble's bowling in limited-over matches and the chucking controversy involving Harbhajan, said the sources.

Referring to India's new ball bowlers Ashish Nehra and Zaheer Khan, the coach admitted that of late they lacked the penetration to give India the breakthrough needed early in the innings and also pointed to their being prone to injuries often.

He said young medium pacer Irfan Pathan has to get back his ability to swing the ball.

Chappell has suggested that India, like Australia, should develop a set of reserve players who should be ready to prove themselves whenever an opportunity comes.



German national coach Juergen Klinsmann (C) plays football with two young boys during the "Streetfootball World Festival 2006" in Berlin yesterday. The festival is part of the official cultural and sports programme of Germany 2006 World Cup.

Sharapova sails, Henin crawls



REUTERS, Paris

Top contenders Maria Sharapova and Justine Henin-Hardenne advanced to the last 16 of the French Open with contrasting displays on Saturday, the glamorous Russian striding on while the combative Belgian was forced to grind out victory.

Second seed Sharapova needed just 74 minutes to sweep aside compatriot Anna Chakvetadze 6-1, 6-4 on the Suzanne Lenglen court before she could head for the shade on another scorching day in the French capital.

Henin-Hardenne, playing her third-round match on Court One, sweated it out for over two hours before moving past Spanish baseliner Anabel Medina Garrigues 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Wimbledon champion Sharapova, chasing a second

'Lord's a letdown'

FROM PAGE 12
the practice matches. Shahadat and Anwar on the other hand bowled really well in the lead-up games and to be frank Shahadat bowled really fast."

But Bashar said that their biggest mistake was thinking that the wicket would behave like it did in the practice matches.

"Believe me the ball did not move that much in all those three practice games. But here at Lord's it did really something that upset our mindset. It would have been better for us had we won the toss and got some time to adjust."

G14 stands by Liverpool



AFP, London

Liverpool's campaign for a Champions League place next season has received heavyweight backing from Europe's top clubs.

On Friday, G14, the group of elite European clubs, threw its weight behind Liverpool's bid to defend their title.

G14 was the body that forced UEFA to expand the Champions League in 1998 by threatening to set up a breakaway competition and now they have thrown their weight behind Liverpool, one of their founder members.

A G14 spokesman said: "We support the desire to see Liverpool defend their trophy and the matter will be raised at our management board meeting next month. We believe UEFA should look at ways of allowing this to happen." The organisation is made up of 18 powerful clubs including Real

Grand Slam crown as well as the number one spot, goes on to meet Spain's Nuria Llagostera Vives, who upset 13th seed Nathalie Dechy of France 7-6, 6-3.

Henin-Hardenne, the 2003 champion, will face tougher opposition for a place in the quarterfinals when she meets U.S. Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova.

Russian Kuznetsova, seeded sixth, recovered from a lapse of concentration in the second set to beat American Marissa Irvin 6-1, 2-6, 6-0.

Irvin's defeat means Lindsay Davenport, the top seed, is the only American left in either singles draw.

Twelfth-seeded Elena Bovina and seventh seed Nadia Petrova completed a Russian charge. Bovina beat France's Tatiana Golovin 6-3, 7-5 and Petrova overcame Israeli Shahar Pe'er 6-3, 6-1.

Including Elena Dementieva and Elena Likhovtseva, who won on Friday, there are six Russian women in the last 16.

OPEN TENNIS seeds progress to next round

SPORTS REPORTER

All seeded players won their respective matches to move into the second round of the Scandex Bangladesh Open Tennis Championship at the National Tennis Complex yesterday.

A total of 16 matches were decided on the second day.

In the day's matches, Amol Roy thrashed Dilip Pashia 6-1, 6-2, Tazmul Islam beat Mizan 7-6, 6-4, Nakul Babu beat Sohel 7-5, 2-0 (ret), Kanchan Ram beat Anwar Hossain 7-5, 6-4, Hira Lal defeated Mojahidul Islam 6-2, 6-4, Akhter Hossain thumped Mofazzal Hossain 6-1, 6-0, Sadir Hossain defeated Zakir Hossain 6-0, 6-4, Alamgir Hossain beat Shahnewaz 6-1, 6-2, Ranjan Ram beat Nammi 6-2, 6-0, Kabir Hossain got walkover against Fazley Rabbi Khan, Khandokar Mamun beat Taslim 6-1, 6-1, Henry Pritul Mandol beat Mazharul Islam 7-6, 6-3, Laxman Ram beat Monir Hossain 6-2, 6-2, Delwar Hossain beat Bashir Gazi 6-1, 6-4, Javed Hossain beat Channu Lal 7-6, 4-2 (ret), Dipu Lal beat Milon 6-2, 6-1.

Rangamati soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Sadar Upazila Sporting Club defeated Winstar Sporting Club 2-0 in the inaugural match of the Zila Parishad Junior (Under-14) Gold Cup Football Tournament at local stadium yesterday.

Masud Parvej and Abdul Rahim scored once each for the winners in the second half.

Earlier, Deputy Minister for CHT Affairs Moniswapo Dewan inaugurated the meet at 4 pm.

guaranteed should the champions come from 49 countries in Europe but not for the other three - England, Italy and Spain.

"We are saying that there should be a level playing field and that every country should have the same opportunity."

Liverpool will have to wait three weeks before they will know one way or another - the issue will be decided by UEFA's 15-man executive committee at their meeting in Manchester on June 17.

There is some hope for Liverpool because UEFA president Lennart Johansson is understood to be broadly supportive, and his influence is extremely important though not necessarily decisive.

Mario Lefkaritis, a Cypriot member of UEFA's executive committee, said he would approach the meeting with an open mind.

He told the Press Association: "It is very dangerous to pre-judge anything. If the issue is raised in Manchester we have to listen to all sides and then make a decision."

Figo not on speaking terms

REUTERS, Madrid

Real Madrid coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo's relationship with Luis Figo has cooled since he dropped the Portuguese winger, the Brazilian said on Friday.

"We used to talk to each other but since he has been out of the team he has stopped greeting me. I speak with him on a professional basis but on a personal level it is something different," Luxemburgo told a news conference.

Figo has not started a game for Real since being relegated to the bench in early April, prompting speculation that the 32-year-old could be on his way out of the club in the close season.

"If he returns next year I will have no problems working with him. I am the boss and he is my player and he has to respect that, but I don't have any problems with him or anyone," Luxemburgo said.

"His reaction to being dropped is understandable. He has been professional, but on a personal level I would have reacted differently."

Figo's contract at Real expires in June 2006.

Chelsea keen to get Essien

AFP, London

English Premiership champions Chelsea are in pole position to land Lyon's Mikael Essien, according to the player's agent.

He also claims that Real Madrid are out of the running to sign the Ghanaian midfielder who is one of the most sought-after players in Europe after another impressive campaign for Les Gones, which culminated in Lyon clinching their fourth successive Ligue 1 title.

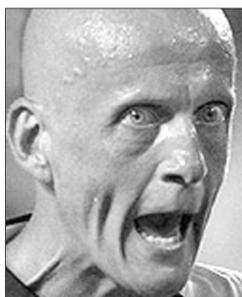
The 22-year-old's agent, Fabien Piveteau, told Spanish sports daily Marca: "We have spoken with Madrid after they showed an interest in the player but they stated that, at this time, they don't have a place for a non-European."

"Right now he is closer to Chelsea but both clubs have to keep on talking."

But Marca claim that Madrid have not yet given up and are waiting to see the size of Chelsea's offer before deciding whether or not to enter a bidding war.

Collina's final whistle today

BBC ONLINE, undated



PIERLUIGI COLLINA

Legendary referee Pierluigi Collina makes his final appearance in Italy's Serie A in the relegation tie between Fiorentina and Brescia on Sunday.

The 45-year-old retires in the summer and he could become the "designatore" - the man who appoints referees to fixtures every weekend in Serie A.

Collina is widely regarded as the best official in the world and has become famous too for his unusual appearance.

He refereed at the 2002 World Cup final and the 1999 Champions League final.

The match at Florence, which Fiorentina must win to stay in the division, may not be the last of Collina's career, however.

If two teams vying to avoid relegation or to qualify for Europe finish level on points at the end of the season there will be a two-legged play-off between those sides and Collina could be chosen.

He may also be considered for the two-legged Coppa Italia final between Inter Milan and Roma.

Valencia chasing Baros?

AFP, London

Liverpool's Czech Republic striker Milan Baros has confirmed he is a target for Spanish first division club Valencia.

The 23-year-old, who started for Liverpool in their Champions League final victory over AC Milan, is one of a number of players from that team who may move on this summer, and Valencia look to be favourites for his signature.

There have also been suggestions that Fiorentina, whose interest would probably wane should they be relegated to the Italian second division this weekend, and a number of Premiership clubs are keen on the player who finished as top scorer at Euro 2004.

Parreira rebukes Ronaldo

Superstar gets Confeds Cup warning



AP, Rio de Janeiro

Three-time FIFA player of the year Ronaldo could be replaced on the Brazilian national team if he refuses to play in the Confederations Cup.

Coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said Friday that all Brazilian players must be willing to make personal sacrifices if they want to play in the 2006 World Cup in Germany. Otherwise, he'll find someone else.

"No one is irreplaceable," Parreira said Friday.

The warning was seen as a response to Ronaldo, who complained this week that he wants to rest this summer instead of playing in the Confederations Cup on June 15-29 in Germany.

"It would be very prejudicial to me," the Real Madrid striker said in an interview Wednesday with the Brazilian newspaper Folha de S. Paulo.

"There will be a World Cup next year. That means I'll be without vacation for two years."

But the argument doesn't sway Parreira.

"I don't accept 'rest' as an excuse," he said.

"If you want to be world champion, you have to go through all this sacrifice."

Parreira knows what it takes to win a World Cup. In 1994, he coached Brazil to its fourth Cup title, the first since the Pele era ended in 1970.

The 1994 squad also featured Ronaldo, a 17-year-old phenom making his World Cup debut. Ronaldo went on to star for Dutch side PSV Eindhoven, Italy's Internazionale and Spain's Real

Madrid, and was the World Cup's high scorer when Brazil won its fifth title in Japan in 2002.

But he also needed two operations for a serious knee injury that sidelined him for nearly two years. Many Brazilians thought his career was over until his triumphant return at the '02 Cup.

The 28-year-old striker thinks he's entitled to a summer vacation after the Spanish league season, which is played in the winter. And he's not the only Brazilian player



RONALDO

looking for time off.

Inter Milan striker Adriano reportedly asked to be released from the Confederations Cup, and striker Ricardo Oliveira of Spain's Betis could be tied up in tournament play until the eve of the Cup.

Some players think Ronaldo deserves a rest.

"Ronaldo had a demanding season and needs to rest so he doesn't run the risk of injury," teammate Roberto Carlos said in an interview with the Rio daily O Globo on Friday.

"I'll try to talk to Parreira... to give him a rest."

Unlike Ronaldo, Roberto Carlos and team captain Cafu weren't called for the Confederations Cup. Parreira said it wasn't a question of favoritism, but a search for eventual replacements for the aging wingers.

"Nobody asked for anything," he said.

"We decided to take advantage of the Confederations Cup to observe in competition two players we have to decide on for the World Cup. It was a technical and tactical decision. It has nothing to do with what a player wants."

Brazilian soccer officials don't want to repeat the disastrous showing in the 2003 Confederations Cup, when Brazil fielded a mixed squad and was eliminated in the first round. And Parreira says it's simply one more hurdle on the long road to the World Cup.

"It would be great to want to play just in the World Cup. I'd like to be national team coach just for the World Cup," Parreira said.

"We wouldn't have to go through these friendly games, or the Cup qualifiers. It's really grueling."

Brazil are in second place in the South American qualifying race for a spot in the '06 Cup. The top four teams qualify for Germany, and the fifth-place team faces the Oceania champion for another spot.

Parreira said he understands Ronaldo's physical and emotional condition, following a messy separation from Brazilian TV announcer Daniela Cicarelli. But that doesn't excuse him from the team.

"We're human, we understand. Ronaldo is coming off a series of personal situations, but 'rest' is not an excuse," he said.

"If you want to play, fine. If you don't, stay home."

Campbell alive 'n' kicking



REUTERS, Chicago

Sol Campbell will be proud to captain England against the United States on Saturday and aims to prove he is still first choice for club and country.

The central defender missed much of last season with ankle and Achilles tendon injuries and was an unused substitute when Arsenal beat Manchester United to win the FA Cup last weekend.

Having seen his England place alongside Rio Ferdinand under threat from Chelsea's commanding captain John Terry, Campbell is determined to show he remains one of the world's top defenders.

England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson has made Campbell captain for the match in Chicago in the absence of David Beckham, who will join the squad along with Michael Owen after Real Madrid's final fixture of the season this weekend.

Campbell said: "It has been a frustrating season for me, being injured and having a stop-start time, but for the last couple of months training has been much better and much sharper and I've been more happy within myself."

"To be England captain is a great honour. It's nice to have that with the kind of season I've had through the frustration of not being able to play and do the things I know I can do."

Campbell's Arsenal team mates won the FA Cup thanks to a 5-4 victory in the first penalty shootout held in the competition's history after a goalless draw at the end of extra time.

"It hurt to be on the bench for the Cup final. It's not the same as playing and of course I was frustrated," he said.

"The manager (Arsene Wenger) told me the day before the game that I would not be playing and he probably had his own reasons for it."

"It was difficult but we managed to win the FA Cup and I enjoyed it for the lads. You've got to be part of the team regardless of whether you are on the bench or in the stands. We win together and lose together."

"It's not the same as playing, of course, and I was frustrated but you've got to put those things behind you and look to the future and that's what I am doing."

The injuries also meant Campbell has played only twice for England in the past season and in the meantime Terry has mounted a serious challenge to his place in the side.

"It is only normal that if you've been out of any job for near enough a year, of course you've got to get back to the way you can play and back into people's minds, and that comes from good performances and digging deep," said Campbell.



PHOTO: REUTERS

England's Sol Campbell smiles while answering a question during a joint news conference with United States captain Landon Donovan in Chicago in May 27.

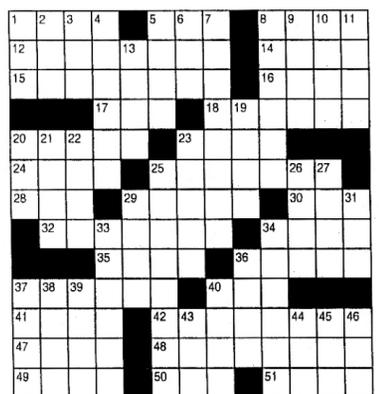
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Beer ingredient
5 Pump purchase
8 Streetcar
12 Extremely anxious
14 Houston university
15 Seclusion
16 Radius neighbor
17 Two, in Tijuana
18 Caught red-handed
20 "The Crucible" setting
23 Science shops
24 Finished
25 Wyoming city
28 Franklin or Stein
29 Send payment
30 Recyclable item
32 Unkempt sleuth
34 "Whip It!" band
35 Grandson of Eve
36 "The House Rules"

DOWN
1 Possessive pronoun
2 Lennon's lady
3 Crony
4 Arachnophobia's worry
5 Wilde-beests
6 Succor
7 Gript
8 Self-evident statement
9 Streamlet
10 Dermatology subject
11 "Coming of Age in Samoa" writer
13 Teeny bit
19 Blind as —
20 Turn on the water-works
21 Opposite of "sans"

Solution time: 24 mins.

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