

Streakers question security

AFP, Hannover

Two pitch invasions in two days at Confederations Cup matches in Germany have prompted security concerns for next year's World Cup finals.

A man ran on to the field during Brazil's match with Mexico in Hannover on Sunday and had time to embrace Brazilian midfielder Ze Roberto before stewards caught up with him.

The incident was further embarrassment for the organisers who had promised to tighten security around the pitch after a man jumped out of the crowd to congratulate German goalkeeper Jens Lehmann during Germany's 3-0 defeat of Tunisia in Cologne.

The spectator told German newspapers he had won a bet of 500 euros for his stunt, but he has now been banned from the Cologne stadium.

Army, Police BDR in last 8

SPORTS REPORTER

Favourites Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Rifles moved into the men's quarterfinals on the opening day of the Pepsi National Volleyball Championships, winning their respective matches yesterday.

Army blanked Rangpur 25-7, 25-5, 25-7 while Rifles defeated Dhaka 25-15, 25-11 and 25-15 at the Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium in Mirpur.

Bangladesh Police also reached the last eight with a 25-13, 25-19, 25-19 defeat of Kushtia.

Aussie premier hails Tigers

UNB, Dhaka

Australian Prime Minister John Howard congratulated the Bangladesh cricket team on their historic victory over their country's world champion squad.

Howard and Leader of the Opposition Kim Beasley felicitated the Bangladesh High Commissioner to Australia Ashrafuddoula on the Tigers' success at a reception hosted by the Aussie PM and his wife to honour those Australians who contributed to the Asian tsunami disaster relief on Monday.

Howard told the high commissioner to convey his "very sincere and heartfelt felicitations" to Bangladesh counterpart Khaleda Zia on the success.

Bright start for Rahmatganj

SPORTS REPORTER

Leaders Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society got off to a bright start in the second leg of the First Division Football League yesterday with a 3-1 win over Dharmundi Club at the Birsreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalpur.

Mithu opened the account for Rahmatganj after 12 minutes in the return-leg opener while Zakir and Kachi sealed the their seventh victory in eight games with second half goals. Rahmatganj, the only unbeaten team in the 8-team fray, pushed their collection to 21 points while Dharmundi, who reduced the margin through Biplob in the 77th minute, stuck to the bottom of the table with three points.

Shame, Shane

FROM PAGE 12
THE UK PRESS," said a statement issued by Warne's manager and brother Jason.

"We are not prepared to continually defend ourselves against publicity seeking individuals whose purpose is to gain notoriety for themselves at Shane Warne's expense."

"Shane Warne is in England with his family enjoying playing for Hampshire and is focused on defending the Ashes with Australia."

Laura said she hopes Warne's marriage survives.

"At the time I didn't know he was married. Had I known it never would have happened. I feel sorry for his wife and the effect this had had. Hopefully they will work it all out," she told the Mirror.

Laura met Warne in the West End of London when he was on a night out with Hampshire teammates and England rival Kevin Pietersen and his girlfriend.

The four went back to Pietersen's flat where the bowler made his move.

"He was persistent. He took off all his clothes and I asked him if he had a condom. I guessed he didn't, so I thought that would be the end of it." But he disappeared and returned with one. Laura confessed: "I gave in."

In 2000, Warne was stripped of the Aussie vice captaincy after pestering nurse Donna Wright with explicit calls. Three years later married stripper Angela Gallagher claimed she had a three-month affair with him.



PHOTO: AFP

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN! A streaker runs on the pitch during the Confederations Cup match between Mexico and Brazil at the Hannover stadium on Sunday.

A strong new Mexico

AFP, Hannover

Mexico's stock rose sharply in the heat of a Hannover night, Sunday's a day's entirely justified victory over

Brazil a vital step on the road to next year's World Cup finals.

"It's satisfying to see how we're growing and able to beat great teams. We're getting better all the time," said coach Ricardo Lavolpe after this 1-0 win earned them a Confederations Cup semi-final date against Germany or Argentina.

Oswaldo Sanchez' heroics in goal earned him the man of the match award and he said: "This proves that Mexican football is on the way up. It shows we're very strong."

Jared Borgetti's second half header stretched Mexico's unbeaten run to 20 games.

One of the architects of the five time world champions' downfall was Ramon Morales who said: "We had

play without any complexes, to be able to enjoy it.

"We had to defend well, but with so many good players in the Brazil side we couldn't just sit back, we had

to dominate the ball and go on attack whenever we could.

"We have to get used to winning, make it a habit. To beat the champions of the world will give us great confidence in our own ability."

'Professor' Lavolpe is a renowned reader of the game and the Argentinian's tactics of closing down Brazil's strikers Adriano and Robinho and making life hard for Ronaldinho in midfield worked a treat.

A member of Argentina's 1978 World Cup winning squad he is not averse to spending hours at dinner in a restaurant mapping out tactics on the back of a cigarette packet, the contents of which can often be seen dangling from his lips at a training session.

For Mexico's midfield master Zinha meanwhile the result had extra special significance given he was taking on his fellow countrymen.

The diminutive Sao Paulo-born playmaker, who switched nationalities at the urging of Lavolpe, had promised to defend the Mexico colours to the hilt, and he kept his word.

"I gave 110 percent," he said.

"It was special and a little difficult for me.

"But I am Mexican. And I feel like

one. The truth is that I never imagined I'd be taking on players wearing the yellow colours of Brazil that are my colours."

For Borgetti the game was a fairly nerve racking experience as he found himself at the centre of a farcical episode in the first half when he had to retake a penalty not once, but twice.

Awarded a spot kick after being felled by Roque Junior Borgetti duly scored, only to be told by Italian referee Roberto Rosetti to retake it after teammate Jose Foncetti entered the box illegally.

His second effort hit the cross bar but this time Emerson crossed the line.

Borgetti stepped up for a third attempt only for Dida to save.

Each time he crossed himself and looked skyward, explaining later the significance of his pre-penalty ritual.

Little did he know at the time that things were going to work out just fine when he outjumped Roque Junior to head home a corner in the 59th minute.

Mexico will be counting on stretching their unbeaten sequence to 21 against Greece in their final Group B fixture in Frankfurt on Wednesday.

"Credit must, of course, go to Bangladesh and in particular to Mohammad Ashraf, whose euphoria at raising his maiden limited-overs hundred was one of sport's more uplifting moments," Saltau wrote.

"Meanwhile, Australia must put their Ashes tour back on the rails. Could the little urn slip into the ambitious grasp of Michael Vaughan and his England team?"

Ponting replied: "I wouldn't go that far just yet. We're a week and a half into a three-and-a-half month tour, so it's not that bad just yet."

It has not been all doom for the

GERMANY V ARGENTINA

LIVE ON ESPN 12:40AM

Old foes renew rivalry

AFP, Nuremberg

Germany and Argentina, having qualified for the semi-finals of the Confederations Cup, vie for the right to top Group A when they face off here on Tuesday.

Both nations have picked up a maximum six points after wins over Australia and Tunisia and this match was always billed as the group decider to avoid playing world champions Brazil in the last four.

Klinsmann obviously planned on Brazil finishing first in Group B, as Argentina probably did, but Mexico's surprise 1-0 win over Brazil on Sunday has blown the group wide open, and it is possible that the Group A winners could be paired with the world champions.

A draw would see Germany finish at the summit on goal difference while Argentina must win to leapfrog the hosts.

After two hard-fought wins Germany are in the semi-finals but their fragile defence - exposed in the 4-3 victory over Australia - will come under closer scrutiny against Argentina's impressive attack.

Just four months ago the two teams played a friendly match in Dusseldorf when AC Milan striker Hernan Crespo scored twice to secure a 2-2 draw after Germany had twice gone ahead.

Argentina have rested Crespo for this competition but have still scored six times in two matches with Luciano Figueroa netting a hat-trick in the 4-2 win over Australia.

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Klinsmann continues to rotate his goalkeepers but the selection of Hildebrand ahead of Oliver Kahn and Jens Lehmann is a major surprise.

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