

PEPSI VOLLEYBALL
Army, BDR
in semis

SPORTS REPORTER
Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Rifles moved into the men's semifinals of the Pepsi National Volleyball Championships winning their respective quarterfinal matches at the Shaheed Suhrawardi National Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Army beat Bangladesh Navy 3-1 and BDR trounced Khulna 3-0.

In the women's competition, Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC), Rajshahi, Pabna and Rajbari booked their places in the last four.

BJMC will take on Rajshahi in the first semifinal while Pabna meet Rajbari in the second semis.

Khulna outplayed Gazipur 3-0 and Pabna defeated Rajshahi by same margin in the day's matches.

Riquelme starts
to rule

AFP, Nuremberg



Juan Roman Riquelme continues to shine as the midfield general of Argentina and manager Jose Pekerman's faith in the Villareal playmaker was justified further in the 2-2 Confederations Cup Group A draw with Germany here on Tuesday.

Former Argentina coach Marcelo Bielsa claimed Riquelme was "too slow" to make an impact at international level but the playmaker looked a class above against Germany with his radar passing and vision.

Riquelme scored an exquisite 32nd minute free-kick to cancel out Kevin Kuranyi's opener three minutes earlier and was a pivotal figure as Argentina came from behind to level at 2-2 winning the man-of-the-match accolade.

"It is great to be named man of the match and I feel we deserved to turn the match around in the second half," said Riquelme. "We are improving and have a good chance in the semi-finals."

Gunning for prizes with Argentina is a new experience for Riquelme who was ignored by Bielsa, sacked after the disastrous 2002 World Cup exit at the first hurdle, but has been given a new lease of life under Pekerman.

"It is just a joy to play in this team and we believe we are heading in the right direction," Riquelme declared.

"Germany are a great team and made it difficult but we are proud to have turned in such a good performance."

Coach Pekerman worked with Riquelme when an outstanding crop of Argentina youngsters, including Pablo Aimar and Javier Saviola, won the 1997 Under-20 youth world championships in Malaysia.

Since taking charge Pekerman has made Riquelme a key player and indicated he would stick by his policy for the World Cup in 12 months' time.

"We want to improve a lot with this exciting team," said Pekerman. "Then we hope to have an impact on the competition here in Germany at the 2006 World Cup."

The 26-year-old Riquelme was the undoubted star of the match and Germany coach Jurgen Klinsmann singled him out for praise.

"It was a good experience for a lot of the players to learn how to deal with players like Riquelme," said Klinsmann.

"He is a real handful and hardly gives the ball away. We have to learn to concentrate all the time when players like Riquelme are in the opposing team."



Argentina's star midfielder Juan Riquelme (C) curling a freekick over the German wall to scores at the Frankenstadion in Nuremberg on Tuesday.

PHOTO: REUTERS



Did U Know?

Australia have now lost two out of three matches played at Cardiff. Australia had lost to New Zealand by five wickets in the inaugural match played at this venue on May 20, 1999. Australia's only win at Cardiff is against Pakistan by 7 wickets on June 9, 2001.

Faria Alam again!

Football

REUTERS, London

The English Football Association has revealed a series of e-mails it says were sent by former employee Faria Alam in which she boasts of her relationships with senior figures in the organisation.

Alam, 39, had an affair with both England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson, 56, and the FA's chief executive Mark Palios, 52. Palios resigned in mid-2004 after the affairs became public.

The former secretary is suing the FA for unfair dismissal.

She resigned from her post last August following newspaper revelations of her affairs, later selling her story to the press for 300,000 pounds.

Alam said that she felt forced to resign because of media pressure, which she added had been created in part by leaks about her private life from within the FA.

However, in Wednesday's employment tribunal hearing she was questioned by the FA's barrister Jeffrey Bacon, who suggested that it was her own "boasting e-mails" on the FA's e-mail system, some of which were sold to a newspaper by the recipient, that had allowed the story to emerge.

Bacon said that one mail said: "I'm 36, unmarried and loving it. My social life is amazing and I date famous people although I can't say who."

Bacon said that Alam was aware of the risks of writing such mails on the FA's system and used the code names "Sugar" for Eriksson and "PP" for Palios.

Other alleged Alam e-mails Bacon read out to the hearing included her saying: "I haven't been naughty yet but the guy I will see tomorrow night is the more famous one. Let's call him Sugar, he's very sweet and he's the coach."

"Sugar is brilliant. I want to be happy and very, very rich and successful and I will be."

"If all goes well, I suppose Sugar will have to announce it to the papers."

Alam said that once the affair became public she felt she had to resign and said she wrote her letter of resignation from the office of publicist Max Clifford.

"By that evening you were 300,000 pounds richer," Bacon said, to which Alam replied: "Yes."

"You resigned so you could sell your story," he said, which she denied, claiming her position had

become "untenable."

On Tuesday, Alam said she had been sexually harassed by FA executive director David Davies, her immediate boss.

Davies, who denied the allegations later on Tuesday, was at the tribunal on Wednesday, sitting a few feet from Alam, and is expected to give evidence later in the week.

The hearing continues later on Wednesday.



PHOTO: REUTERS

Former English Football Association secretary Faria Alam leaves her employment tribunal in London on Tuesday.

Chappell will
welcome tech

PTI, Bangalore

Indian cricket coach Greg Chappell on Wednesday visited a software firm and familiarised himself with technologies that are available for use that can help find a batsman or bowler's weaknesses.

The 56-year-old former Australian captain, who assumed charge earlier this week, spent some time at TCS-BTS Inc and was introduced to the E-Cric Pro technology developed by the company.

Former India medium-pacer Javagal Srinath, himself an engineer, was at hand and he, former cricketer Jayurendra Singh and the company's computer experts explained its features to the batting great. Chappell also watched a demonstration of the technology. "If these high-end data mining information can help us identify and correct the weaknesses of a batsman or bowler, why not? We can use it," he said.

The technology enables storing of minute details of batsman or bowler in action, company officials said.

Full of Ashrafal

FROM PAGE 12
batsmen in contemporary cricket however looked sad for not getting his second hundred.

"I should have completed my hundred. But I could not time the ball well and perhaps gone a bit forward while trying to go over the short fine leg fielder. Still, I'm happy that I have overcome the bad reputation of not scoring runs after a big innings," he said.

The otherwise soft-spoken 21-year-old with a strong personality protested the claim that he followed England opener Strauss' style of shot making over the vacant fine leg.

"I did not follow his style. He might have seen me playing that before and executed it against us yesterday," said the hottest property of Bangladesh cricket at the moment.

Ashrafal however is in pain with the state of his trusted bat that he got as a gift from Mohammad Rafique.

"I liked this bat very much but I'm afraid I may not be able to use it again because there is a crack developing in it."

Bangladesh skipper Habibul Bashar also missed Ashrafal 94 as one of the best-ever one-day innings.

"It was an unbelievable innings. It is simply out of the world. But I want him to try to repeat that because it is almost impossible for him to play this kind of innings everyday," said Bashar.

They now fancy Brazil

AFP, Berlin



The German media was in a more positive mood on Wednesday as it reflected on Germany's 2-2 draw with Argentina in the Confederations Cup match 24 hours ago.

The draw sees Germany reach the semi-finals as winners of Group A, with Argentina also qualifying for the last four as runners-up, and the performance finally silenced the sceptics.

"After the 90 minutes in Nuremberg we know we do not need to hide from anyone," declared Bild daily. "We should not fear the favourites for the World Cup as Argentina crushed Brazil 3-1 in the qualifying campaign."

Germany twice went in front at the Franken-Stadion through Kevin Kuranyi (29min) and Gerald Asamoah (51) but surrendered the initiative with Juan Roman Riquelme (32) and Esteban Cambiasso (74) pegging the hosts

back. "National team shine without (Michael) Ballack," said the Frankfurter Allgemeine.

Captain Ballack was rested for the match, with Germany having already qualified for the semi-finals, and his country disapproved the theory that they are mediocre without him.

"It was not a risk to rest Ballack as we knew this side could do the job," said Germany coach Jurgen Klinsmann.

Yet the job was not quite completed and the search for a win against a top nation goes on.

"Germany made to wait for big win," headlined the Berliner Morgenpost. "But Klinsmann's side can be proud of reaching the semi-finals as group winners after a determined display."

Not since the 1-0 win over England in October 2000 have Germany defeated a recognised top team.

"Perhaps we miss that extra touch of class against the top sides," admitted Bastian Schweinsteiger. "Sometimes we need to use our heads more."

Schweinsteiger will miss the

semi-final after picking up a yellow card and must hope his teammates can give him the opportunity to play in the final on June 29 in Frankfurt.

World champions Brazil are one possible opponent for Germany, as are Japan and Mexico, but Klinsmann prefers to face the big guns.

"We would prefer to play against a big team in the semi-finals," insisted Klinsmann. "Perhaps Brazil in the next round and, if we beat them, Argentina again in the final."

Mexico lead Group B and are the only team to secure a spot in the last four with Brazil and Japan fighting it out on Wednesday for the right to join them.

"Can we now expect the mighty Brazil?" asked daily Bild.

In September last year Germany drew 1-1 with Brazil in Berlin but the memory of the 2-0 defeat in the 2002 World Cup final in Yokohama still lingers.

Ballack sat out that game due to suspension but he will have his chance in Nuremberg on June 25 if the two are paired together.

Some cheers
for Tunisia

AFP, Leipzig

African champions Tunisia ensured they departed the Confederations Cup with one win after a 2-0 victory over Australia in both nations' final group game here on Tuesday.

Australia leave Germany without a point and bottom of Group A but hope to be returning next year for the World Cup finals after their younger players acquired valuable experience.

The tough-tackling Tunisians also expect to return in 12 months' time and deserved their win after defeats to Germany and Argentina, the two nations who will contest the semi-finals from Group A in this eight-team tournament.

Tunisia broke the deadlock after 26 minutes when Santos tapped in Australia's number two keeper Michael Petkovic dropped a cross from Hatem Trabelsi under pressure from one of his own defenders.

Santos got his second goal on 70 minutes when a pass from Hamed Namouchi was mistakenly directed into the striker's path by Australian captain Craig Moore as he tried to intercept, allowing the Brazilian-born naturalised Tunisian to crash a shot into the net.

Australia came close to scoring when substitute Tim Cahill's volley from Scott Chipperfield's cross was narrowly off-target.

John Aloisi clipped the bar with an audacious long-range lob but he had few opportunities to add to his four goals in this tournament.

Tunisia created by far the greater number of chances. Before opening the scoring, they had had a free kick curled in by Adel Chadli fly into the net but it was disallowed, apparently because Haykel Guemmadia had interfered with play in an offside position.

Both teams had made wholesale changes for this match and it showed in a ragged first half.

Australia showed more bite at the start of the second half, Mark Viduka playing in Archie Thompson whose shot was blocked by Tunisian keeper Hamdi Kasraoui.

But with Viduka short of match sharpness, he was unable to help his team who will now turn their attention to a World Cup playoff against the Solomon Islands in September before an expected two-match showdown against the fifth-placed South American team in November with a place in the finals at stake.

Federer moves on



AFP, London

Top-seed and title-holder Roger Federer coasted into the third round at Wimbledon on Wednesday with a routine 6-4, 6-4, 6-1 win over Ivo Minar of the Czech Republic.

Federer will play the winner of the tie between Germany's Nicolas Kiefer and Alessio di Mauro for a place in the last 16.

The Swiss star was in a different class to the overmatched Minar, and the Czech player's rapid style of play between points had Federer shouting in frustration at times.

Marat Safin won a bruising battle

A satisfying

FROM PAGE 12
the right but Luciano Figueroa headed over.

Argentina then had a controlled spell of possession but gave the ball away cheaply at the back and were made to pay in the 29th minute.

A Thomas Hitzlsperger free-kick took a series of pinball deflections in the penalty area and the ball fell to Kuranyi who prodded in.

The lead lasted just three minutes as Villareal star Riquelme curled a delightful free-kick past Hildebrandt to restore parity.

"It is great to be named man of the match and I feel we deserved to turn the match around in the second half," enthused Riquelme.

Hildebrandt was making a rare start between the German posts but could do nothing about the exquisite strike.

The interval seemed to benefit Germany and in the 51st minute they retook the lead through Asamoah.

Kuranyi saw the run of Schalke star Asamoah and the powerful front-man drilled a shot low into the corner.

The two teams met in Dusseldorf back in February and Germany twice led only to be pegged back late on at 2-2.

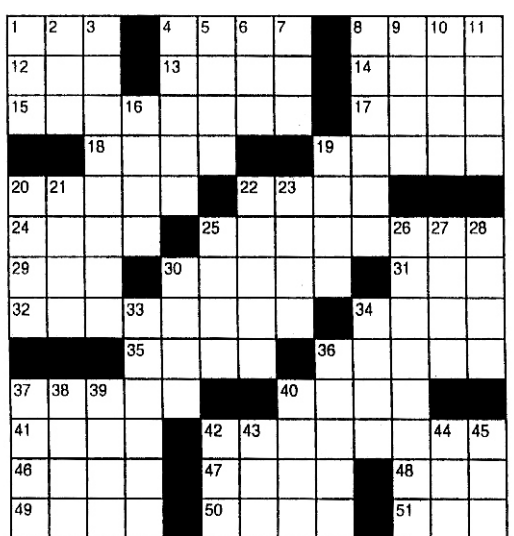
History was to repeat itself as Cambiasso rifled in a 74th minute equaliser after great work from Tevez.

"We have seen that Germany can play without Ballack and win without him - but not tonight," said Argentina coach Jose Pekerman.

"We plan to continue improving all way up to 2006 World Cup and then have an impact on the competition here in Germany."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Regis' illness
4 Yalies
8 Hemingway sobriquet
12 Exist
13 Put together
14 Teensy bit
15 Jewelry container, often
17 Monologue piece
18 Happy-hour trayful
19 Puzzle-page offerings
20 Sandy's mistress
22 Decorous
24 Fashion
25 Pest
29 Writer
30 Harbor cities
31 Discoverer's cry
32 Zimbabwwe, once
34 Kukla's human companion
35 Particular
36 Childhood
37 Tumbler
40 Tibetan monk
41 Rafter attachment
42 Became less slack
47 Advantage
48 "CSI" evidence
49 Rick of radio
50 Serves the purpose
51 Longing
5 Some retrievers
6 "not choose to run"
7 Driver's license datum
8 Type of site
9 The gamut
10 Pig holder?
11 "My Cup Runneth Over" singer
16 Nastase vapor of tennis fame
19 "Congeniality"
20 Eastern potentate
21 Ham's old man
22 Throwing bouquets
23 Comic Rudner
25 Winning margin, maybe
26 D-Day product
27 Fellow
28 Oodles of time
30 Household members
33 Post-prandial chore
34 Noxious
36 Kaspárov's victories
37 Pleasured
38 Chantilly product
39 Where not to throw bouquets
40 Olympic coaster
42 Brother of Jack and Bobby
43 Commotion
44 Away from WSW
45 Steely



CRYPTIQUIP

T DUG XITZYTZW U ITWIDUF
X K S M Y G X E O M E S P C
O E G G T N P F N Q M U P P Q C U

G Q B T - K Q X T K Q B Q Z X U K Q U .
Yesterday's Cryptiquip: IF A HOT DOG NEEDS TO BE REALLY CANDID, I RECKON IT MIGHT ASK "MAY I BE FRANK?"
Today's Cryptiquip Clue: G equals S

The Cryptiquip 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.

A forgettable day

FROM PAGE 12
at 154, the rest should have tried to put up a decent total.

It was also said that they could not even bat their share of 50 overs.

The team left for Manchester on Wednesday where they will play their second match against Australia on June 25.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the day-night one-day international of the NatWest Series between Bangladesh and England at Trent Bridge in Nottingham on Tuesday:

ENGLAND
Trescothick c Nafees b Nazmul 85
Strauss lbw b Nazmul 152
Vaughan b Nazmul 0
Flintoff c Bashir b Aftab 17
Collingwood not out 112
Jones not out 2
Extras: (b-1, lb-4, w-9, nb-9) 23
Total: (For 4 wkts in 50 overs) 391
Fall of wickets: 1-141, 2-148, 3-179, 4-389
Did not bat: Pietersen, Giles, Lewis, Tremlett, Harmison

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mortuza	10	0	71	0
Baisya	7	0	87	0
Nazmul	10	0	83	3
Rafique	10	0	54	0
Aftab	10	0	65	1
Imran	3	0	26	0

BANGLADESH	O	M	R	W
Omar b Collingwood	59			
Nafees b Tremlett	10			
Imran c Jones b Tremlett	0			
Ashrafal b Collingwood	94			
Bashar c Strauss b Collingwood	16			
Aftab c and b Collingwood	0			
Mashud c Jones b Collingwood	8			
Rafique b Tremlett	19			
Mortuza b Collingwood	0			
Baisya b Tremlett	3			
Nazmul not out	2			
Extras: (w-6, nb-6)	12			
Total: (All out in 45.2 overs)	223			
Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-30, 3-155, 4-181, 5-181, 6-196, 7-201, 8-201, 9-205				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Lewis	5	1	23	0
Tremlett	8.2	1	32	4
Harmison	8	1	55	0
Flintoff	4	0	30	0
Giles	10	0	52	0
Collingwood	10	1	31	6

Result: England won by 168 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Paul Collingwood.

Toss: England.
Umpires: Billy Bowden and David Shepherd.

POINTS TABLE

Triangular series table after Tuesday's match (played, won, lost, no result, tied, bonus points, total points, net run-rate):	England	Bangladesh	Australia				
England	3	3	0	0	2	17	+2.400
Bangladesh	3	1	2	0	0	5	-2.225
Australia	2	0	2	0	2	2	-0.184

HIGHEST ODI TOTALS

AFP, Nottingham

England's 391 for four against Bangladesh here on Tuesday was the second highest innings total in one-day international cricket history. The top ten totals are as follows (all 50 overs, WC = World Cup):
398-5 Sri Lanka v Kenya at Kandy (WC) 1995-96
391-4 England v Bangladesh at Nottingham 2005
376-2 India v New Zealand at Hyderabad 1999-00
373-6 India v Sri Lanka at Taunton (WC) 1999
371-9 Pakistan v Sri Lanka at Nairobi 1996-97
363-3 South Africa v Zimbabwe at Bulawayo 2001-02
363-7 England v Pakistan at Nottingham 1992
360-4 West Indies v Sri Lanka at Karachi (WC) 1987-88
359-2 Australia v India at Johannesburg (WC final) 2003-04
359-5 Australia v India at Sydney 2003-04