

## 2 Bangladeshis to take part in WCG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the first time two Bangladeshi youths are going to participate in the World Cyber Games (WCG) Championship 2005 to be held in Singapore from November 16-20.

Zakaria Ibne Hossain and Sarkar Rahat Rousseau were selected through a nationwide competition held in August this year, which was organised by djuce, a popular brand of leading cellular operator GrameenPhone.

Prior to their departure, a press conference arranged by PR firm F1 Management was held at Pizza Hut in Gulshan yesterday.

Galib Ahmed Ansari, assistant general manager (Marketing) of GP said the WCG was a unique opportunity for Bangladesh to participate with the world's best gamers.

Zakaria, who is a student of Rifles Public School and College and Sarkar, a student of Bangladesh University of Science and Technology, revealed their feelings to The Daily Star.

"We are not technologically developed like the other countries but we will do our best."

About 800 gamers from 70 countries are expected to take part in the World Cyber Games Championship.

## Proteas win tour opener

AFP, Hyderabad

Graeme Smith's South Africa warmed up for the five-match limited-overs series against India with an eight-wicket romp in a practice match here on Monday.

Rookie spinner Johan Botha claimed 3-54 and fast bowler Andre Nel chipped in with 2-14 as the tourists skittled out Hyderabad XI for 127 and then surpassed the modest target in the 26th over.

Smith led from the front with a blistering 44 off 45 balls including one six and six boundaries while Abraham de Villiers made 55.

The first one-dayer against India will be played at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium here on Wednesday, followed by day-night games in Bangalore (November 19), Chennai (Nov 22), Kolkata (Nov 25) and Mumbai (Nov 28).

South Africa have been unbeaten for 19 matches that include two no-results due to bad weather and a tied game.

Rahul Dravid's India are fresh from a 6-1 drubbing of Sri Lanka in the recent series at home.

### BRIEF SCORES

**HYDERABAD XI:** 127 all out in 42 overs (Daniel Manohar 20, Arjun Yadav 21; Johan Botha 3-54, Andre Nel 2-14)  
**SOUTH AFRICA:** 132 for 2 in 25.5 overs (Graeme Smith 44, Abraham de Villiers 55)  
**Result:** South Africa won by eight wickets.

## Another BCB

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 Has accepted one of our top members' resignation or not but I think it should be discussed in the board meeting before taking a final decision," said Titoo.

Titoo, who was an influential member of the now defunct advisory committee of Ali Asghar and chairman of the marketing committee, also expressed his ignorance about the alleged secret deal that Asghar struck with Aston Moore in July.

"I'm not aware of such deal. If such deal was struck then it is certainly a big issue. I know Aston Moore but to be honest the company is not experienced enough to handle such a big matter," he said.

"We should form an inquiry committee to bring out the truth," demanded Titoo.

## Setback for

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 "Ganguly's exclusion and the manner of it is unbefitting of the part of Indian cricket officialdom. Wish as anyone might, nobody can take away his record or the esteem in which he is held worldwide.

"Seniors could play a stabilising influence and Ganguly could play a bigger role than just being held up for being a slow mover and runner between the wickets."

Ganguly and coach Chappell were involved in a bitter row in September, with the coach saying in a leaked e-mail to Indian cricket chiefs that the captain was unfit to lead the team.

The Indian board brokered a truce, but an elbow injury which forced Ganguly to miss a trial tournament in Mohali last month cost him both the captaincy and a place in the one-day side.

Ganguly returned to score a century in the first Duleep Trophy match but the two ducks in the final of the same tournament could not have been more ill-timed.

Ganguly contributed just 48 in three home Tests against Pakistan early this year and even a painstaking six-hour century in the first Test against Zimbabwe in September did not satisfy critics.

The Indian team for the first Test against Sri Lanka will be picked after the last one-dayer against South Africa in Mumbai on November 28.

# Aussies upbeat at home



AFP, Sydney

Australia claimed a psychological edge over their Uruguayan rivals by enjoying the comforts of a charter flight home Monday from Montevideo ahead of their decisive World Cup play-off here on Wednesday.

The two-time World Cup-winning Uruguay are taking a 1-0 lead into the second leg at the Olympic stadium after Dario Rodriguez's first-half goal at Estadio Centenario on Saturday.

The Uruguayan contingent arrived here early Monday travelling in economy class on a commercial flight two hours ahead of the Australian party, which flew home on a specially chartered plane equipped with massage tables and medical staff.

Football Federation Australia (FFA) chief executive John O'Neill said the

Australian team's easier flight may prove decisive in their chances of ending a 32-year wait to qualify for next year's World Cup finals in Germany.

"I think it worked perfectly. Qantas should be congratulated -- the whole trip went unbelievably smoothly," O'Neill told reporters upon arrival at Sydney airport.

"The players were well rested and they'll be very prepared for Wednesday night. The charter flight could really be the difference between Australia getting there and not getting there."

As well as the extra massage and video facilities, two doctors, a physio-therapist and massage expert accompanied the squad on the charter flight for the 11,865-kilometre (7,373-mile) journey.

O'Neill said players' sleep patterns and meal times were set to Sydney time.

"We knew Uruguay's plane would get here earlier because of the nature of the plane they were on," O'Neill said.

Uruguay's commercial flight was a 747 jumbo jet while the Socceros' charter was on a smaller-capacity 767 aircraft.

"It's a bigger aircraft and they (Uruguay) took a different route. It wasn't so much about timing, it was about comfort," O'Neill said.

"Our blokes certainly didn't fly economy. We had the whole plane to ourselves, a very big plane."

Uruguay, bidding for their 11th World Cup finals' appearance, arrived without injured striker Diego Forlan, who played just 17 minutes of Saturday's match after struggling with a thigh injury.

Both teams are expected to have their first training session here later Monday.

Uruguay have not won in three previous games in Australia.

The South Americans drew 0-0 and lost 2-0 in 1974, and went down 1-0 to a late penalty in the 2001 World Cup qualifying game in Melbourne.

## Maradona a miser

AFP, Dortmund

Argentina's 1986 World Cup winning hero Diego Maradona was depicted as a mercenary in the German media after snubbing Sunday's testimonial match for former Brazil star Julio Cesar.

The 44-year-old Maradona initially claimed he would be delighted to turn out at Borussia Dortmund's Westfalen Stadium for Cesar but then demanded a 200,000 dollars match fee.

The demand fell on deaf ears and Maradona did not jet into Dortmund. "Maradona no longer has a place in my heart," said a disappointed Cesar.

Cesar, 42, won Bundesliga titles with Borussia Dortmund in 1995 and 1996 before lifting the Champions League in 1997.

The Brazilian defender finished his career at Rio Branco, Sao Paulo in 2001.

## Maldini plans to quit next year

REUTERS, Rome

AC Milan captain Paolo Maldini has announced he intends to quit football at the end of next season.

"I'll stop in 2007, when my current contract expires," the 37-year-old defender was quoted as saying in La Gazzetta dello Sport on Monday.

He also revealed he had turned down a move to Spanish side Real Madrid.

"Three years ago (Real Madrid president) Florentino Perez made me an offer, but I didn't want to leave Milan," he said.

Maldini, who made his Serie A debut in Milan's 1-1 draw against Udinese in January 1985, set a new record of 571 appearances in the division earlier this season, surpassing the mark of Italy's 1982 World Cup-winning captain Dino Zoff.

During 20 years with the club, Maldini has won seven Serie A titles and four European Cups.

He was also a pillar of the Italian national side, making 126 appearances for the Azzurri between 1988 and his retirement after Italy's elimination by South Korea at the 2002 World Cup.

## WC tickets too expensive

AFP, Berlin

While millions of football fans are desperate to get their hands on tickets for the 2006 World Cup in Germany the reality of financial cost has forced many to forfeit their tickets.

The World Cup organising committee (OK) has confirmed that 40,665 tickets from the first sales period had not been claimed as a result of non-payment.

"It is just five percent of the total 800,000 tickets," explained OK vice-president Horst R. Schmidt. "Perhaps some people did not think it would work out to be so expensive."

"If you buy five or six tickets you are quickly close to paying 1,000 euros. Not all football fans have that sort of money available."

The 40,665 tickets that were returned have been re-allocated in a ballot to guarantee an equal chance of success to all applicants.

In total 2.93 million tickets are on sale for the 2006 World Cup finals in Germany, running from June 9 to July 9, with prices ranging from 35 euros to 600 euros.

## Turkey condemns Swiss insults

REUTERS, Istanbul

The Turkish Football Federation has condemned the treatment of its national side in Saturday's World Cup playoff against Switzerland, fuelling tension ahead of the return leg in Istanbul this week.

Switzerland took the driving seat in the tie when it secured a deserved 2-0 home victory with goals from Arsenal defender Philippe Senderos and Lazio midfielder Valon Behrami.

Turkey's federation (TFF) complained Swiss supporters had whistled and jeered during the Turkish national anthem and that Swiss security officials had shouted at Turkey's players on their way to the dressing room after the match.

"The actions towards our national squad before the match kickoff had a very negative impact on the match atmosphere. We in the TFF condemn these actions," it said, adding the Swiss Football Federation had not shown the required sensitivity.

Monday's statement also said force was used to prevent Turkey coach Fatih Terim from entering the room where the post-match news conference was held.

# 'We deserve a place'



AFP, Sydney

Uruguay have a divine right to play in the World Cup finals, match-winning playmaker Alvaro Recoba said Monday ahead of their decisive play-off with Australia.

The Inter Milan star, who set up Uruguay's only goal with a deftly-

placed free kick in the 1-0 win over the Aussies in Montevideo last Saturday, played up his country's standing in world football.

"We're a big country with a big past and we've got a right to play," he told reporters after his team's first training session here before Wednesday's return match at Sydney's Olympic stadium.

"Uruguay has a divine right to play. Uruguay is Uruguay," Recoba, 29, told reporters in Italian and Spanish and translated into English by visiting



PHOTO: AFP

THE KEY MAN: Uruguay's star playmaker Alvaro Recoba comes out of Sydney airport on Monday ahead of their crucial World Cup playoff match against Australia.

# Still being dictated by Gen Franco

## Football

AFP, Madrid

The omnipotent reach of former Spanish military dictator General Francisco Franco, who died 30 years ago on Sunday, stretched as far as football stadiums, such as the extent of his grip on Spanish society.

And the influence lingers on, at some venues, including Real Madrid's Santiago-Bernabeu stadium, where the club voted top dog in the game today by FIFA still has on display in its trophy room the silverware it received at the dictator's hand during a bygone era.

Francisco liked football. He even had a competition named after him, the Generalissimo Cup, which became the King's Cup (Copa del Rey) on the restoration of the monarchy following his demise.

Real Madrid also enjoyed his support as a fan.

Santiago Bernabeu, chairman of the club during the dictator's reign, was not openly a supporter of the man known as the "Caudillo," but was "sociologically" a convert, in the opinion of Spanish historian Angel Bahamonde.

Bernabeu, according to Bahamonde in his book "Real Madrid in the history of Spain", mistrusted the mixing of the political world and the sporting equivalent, his attempts to ensure they remained apart paradoxically protecting the club thanks to

political links ... to avoid politics entering the club.

Bernabeu was chairman right through the glory years, taking the helm in 1943 and staying on until 1978, thereby in situ for virtually the whole of the Franco period (1939-1975).

But "Bernabeu and Franco did not have a fluid relationship, they saw little of one another," according to Bahamonde in his 2002 tome.

That, however, did not mean that top regime figures did not pass through the stadium's portals on a regular basis.

Bernabeu tried throughout to retain a certain margin for independent manoeuvre. But colonel Julio Troncoso, appointed by Franco as head of the Sanish Football Federation, took that position as a serious business.

"The clubs, the federations and the players have ceased to be independently-functioning entities to the frequent point of anarchy, to become instead elements subjected to the state sporting mechanism, which they have the obligation to serve ... with military discipline."

Despite Franco being long gone latter day supporters retain a visible presence in Spanish football grounds, including the Bernabeu.

On the Ultra Sur terrace, the equivalent of Manchester United's Stretford End or the Anfield Kop at Liverpool a number of fascist supporters gather at games.

A policeman who infiltrated the Ultra Sur recounted in a book, "In-

side", written under the pseudonym David Madrid, how members of the group commemorate every November 20 Franco's death by making a pilgrimage to the Valley of the Fallen just outside Madrid.

The club, now chaired by business mogul Florentino Perez, has not exactly closed its eyes to the group's activities.

Far from marginalising them, says "David Madrid", various flags and other accoutrements of the group -- comprising dubious neo-fascist imagery -- can be bought from shops.

Some players have even remarked in club magazines that the Ultra Sur add to the atmosphere on match day, rather than condemning outright their far-right leanings.

Brazilian wingback Roberto Carlos recently controversially offered the leader of the group his shirt after coming off the field.

But such things are not particular to Real.

Atletico Madrid and the Madrid suburbs top flight club of Getafe also have fans rather nostalgic for Franco.

And even Catalan bitter rivals Barcelona had to act last month when chairman Joan Laporta was forced to accept the resignation of his brother-in-law Alejandro Echevarria, director of club security, after it emerged that he was formerly a member of a foundation honouring Franco.

# Sonargaon arrive

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highest paid or not, but it is good for cricketers that this year, the payment is higher. Our cricketers are usually underpaid than the footballers.

"Our target is to reach the super league and if we can finish among the top three, we would be happy," said the batting genius who also hoped that the side would be a contender for the crown.

"We have got cricketers who have good track record in domestic cricket. Although we could have made even a stronger team had we started building the team earlier, I think we have a balanced team to go all the way."

When asked whether the national cricketers' absence for international commitments in the super league would affect their strength, Ashraf said that they would have to win all 11 matches in the first stage to stay in the race.

Other players to join Sonargaon are Sajjad Ahmed Shipon, Ilias Sunny (Biman), Masudur Rahman Mukul, Mohammad Salim, Rafiqul Islam, Anisur Rahman Sanchay (Victoria), Nayeem Islam (Brothers), Nabil Samad, Mahabub Alam Robin (Indira Road), Ejaj Ahmed (Eskaton) and Ashiqur Rahman (Uttara).

National paceman Tapash Baisya,

who played for Brothers Union last season, is also on Sonargaon's list but the formalities will be completed when he returns from England following his treatment. They are also trying to add Aminul Islam, the ex-national captain who is now in Australia.

Biman pulled off the only surprise of the day when they roped in former national opener Shahrir Hossain (Mohammedan), who was destined to join Abahani. Biman also signed opening batsman Javed Omar (Brothers), spinners Saifullah Jem and Jamal Babu from City Club, under-19 opener Nazmus Sadat apart from keeping skipper Sanwar Hossain, all-rounder Mushfiqur Rahman, Mohammad Sharif, Hasanuzzaman, Mosharrar Hossain Rubel, Sajjad Kadir, Anisur Rahman and Test left-arm seamer Syed Rasel.

Defending champions DOHS, whose strength was reasonably reduced, bought heavily. Their collection featured veteran Khaled Mahmud (City), Abahani's national left-arm spinner Manzarul Islam, Mahmudullah Riyadh (City), young all-round prospect Farhad Reza (Pegasus), Abdur Razzak, Shafaq Al Jabir and Mohammad Shahjada from Victoria.

Runners-up City Club secured the

services of pool cricketers Rajin Saleh, Shahrir Nafees, Tushar Imran, old players Tarek Aziz and Mehrab Hossain Jr apart from roping in Alok Kapali from Victoria, Brothers' wicketkeeper Anwar Hossain and youngsters Ishraq Sonnet, Sajju Datta and Pakistani all-rounder Yahir Arafat.

On a busy day, Mohammedan were the last giants to arrive with national vice-captain Khaled Mashud from Victoria. The number one wicketkeeper in the country joined his old club after 11 years as their third pool player in addition to national skipper Habibul Bashar, who stays back, and Brothers batsman Aftab Ahmed. Pacemen Talha Jubair (Victoria), Alamgir Kabir (City), batsmen Moniruzzaman (City), Sakib Razzak (Abahani) and DOHS spinners Sabbir Khan and Nadif Chowdhury were also included.

Among known faces, Fahim Muntasir, Mehrab Hossain and Pakistani Tarek Mehmud signed for Kalabagan Krira Chakra, who returned to Premier League this year. Under-19 wicketkeeper and Test-cap Mushfiqur Rahim left DOHS to play for Victoria.

A total of 95 cricketers took part in the day's proceedings.

## Third day Trescothick's

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wicket with all-rounder Flintoff. He hit the first six of the morning, hoisting Kaneria over long-off.

Flintoff also exposed Pakistan's bowling limitations on an easy-paced pitch, smashing seven fours in his 79-ball knock. When he swung paceman Shoaib Akhtar to Malik at mid-wicket, England were 90 ahead with four wickets in hand.

Trescothick looked set to reach his second Test double-century before he fell to the second new ball, caught behind off Shabbir in the afternoon. His previous double-hundred was against South Africa at The Oval two years ago.

Pakistan did well to claim two early wickets before being thwarted by Trescothick and Flintoff.

Akhtar struck first when he had Hoggard caught behind and then Kaneria had Pietersen caught at short-leg by Butt.

Pakistan skipper Inzamam Haq brought in Kaneria just when Pietersen had come in to bat and the leg-spinner struck in his very first over.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the first Test between Pakistan and England at the Multan Cricket Stadium on Monday:

**PAKISTAN:** First innings 274 (Butt 74, Inzamam 53; Flintoff 4-68, Harmison 3-37)

**ENGLAND:** First innings (overnight 253-3)

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Trescothick c Akmal b Shabbir	193			
Strauss lbw b Sami	9			
Bell c Butt b Malik	71			
Collingwood c Akmal b Shabbir	10			
Hoggard c Akmal b Akhtar	1			
Pietersen c Butt b Kaneria	5			
Flintoff c Malik b Akhtar	45			
Jones b Shabbir	22			
Giles c Raza b Shabbir	16			
Udal lbw b Akhtar	0			
Harmison not out	4			
Extras: (b-8, lb-11, nb-22, w-1)	42			
Total: (All out in 110.4 overs)	418			
Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-198, 3-251, 4-266, 5-271, 6-364, 7-388, 8-399, 9-400				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Akhtar	27	2	99	3
Sami	16	1	76	1
Shabbir	22.4	7	54	4
Kaneria	27	4	106	1
Malik	18	1	64	1

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hoggard	7	0	26	0
Flintoff	9	2	29	1
Harmison	8	1	35	1
Udal	5	1	17	0
Giles	7	1	16	0

# Mauresmo's maiden biggie

## Tennis

AP, Los Angeles

Amelie Mauresmo always heard the whispers that she saved at key moments in a match and couldn't string together enough victories to win a major title.

Mauresmo hushed such talk with a gutsy 5-7, 7-6, 6-4 victory over Mary Pierce in the WTA Championships final Sunday. She earned 1 million dollars.

Once ranked No. 1 in the world, Mauresmo has always been close and consistent at the Grand Slam events. She was runner-up at the 1999 Australian Open, is a three-time Wimbledon semifinalist and reached the US Open semis once.

"You have moments that you really believe this is going to happen, and you have some other moments when your

mind is a little bit down, where you just think to yourself, 'I'm never going to do it,'" she said.

Some of those moments came Sunday.

Mauresmo double-faulted to trail 0-40 in the final game, but rallied on five consecutive errors by Pierce in the first all-French final of the season-ending tournament.

"I really think that's a huge step for me," said Mauresmo, who won her fourth title of the year. "I don't know where it's going to take me, but it is a step. You know that it's an important moment."

When Pierce's cross-court backhand went wide, Mauresmo fell to her knees and clapped her hands to her head as the announced crowd of 9,412 erupted in applause. She got up and met Pierce on the sideline, where they embraced. Pierce whispered in her ear and kissed Mauresmo's cheek.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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