

## Kaiser awarded

AP, Berlin

FIFA World Cup Organising Committee President Franz Beckenbauer has been presented a Lifetime Achievement Award by German charitable organisation Sporthilfe.

The award comes in recognition of his contribution to the sport, and includes a Golden Sports Pyramid and a cash award of 25000 Euro.

Beckenbauer had been voted the Second Best European Player by the UEFA Jubilee Poll in 2004.

He is one of the only two men to have won the World Cup for his country as player and as coach.

## BKSP ride on Asif

SPORTS REPORTER

Asif Ahmed slammed another ton as BKSP dismantled Scholars School and College by 287 runs in the Standard Chartered National Schools Cricket tournament at the Dhanmondi Cricket ground yesterday.

Asif struck fifteen fours in his 139-ball knock of 125. He also smashed a quickfire knock in a first round match.

Put into bat, BKSP piled 356 for 5



ASIF AHMED...125

in 50 overs. Shokot smashed two sixes and nine boundaries in a scintillating 67. Momin also struck a half-century coming late in the order. The two shared a swashbuckling 120-run fifth wicket stand in the final 10 overs.

Scholars were bowled out for just 69 runs in 35 overs. Anjum Ahmed took 4 for 8. Forkan also captured two wickets.

At the Circuit House ground in Mymensingh, Mankganj Government High School defeated Faridpur High School to emerge as Dhaka divisional champions.

## Junior tennis team off to Malaysia

SPORTS REPORTER

A 5-member Bangladesh tennis team left Dhaka last night to play in the ITF Junior Davis Cup Asia/Oceania qualifiers in Kuching, Malaysia.

A total of 21 teams will participate in the 9-day competition starting from tomorrow. This is the first time Bangladesh are competing in the junior qualifiers.

The team: Ahmed Ziaur Rahman (non-playing captain), Ranjan Ram, Tajmul Islam, Bashir Gazi, Delwar Hossain.

## Chelsea keep

FROM PAGE 12

United midfielder John O'Shea directed a header just over the bar in first-half stoppage time as the visitors began to feel the clock ticking on their dream of spoiling Chelsea's day.

Chelsea had two good chances to extend their lead soon after the break. Drogba could not control a long ball into the box and then Cole sent a curling shot just wide.

But the England playmaker did not have to wait much longer to get on the scoresheet.

He brilliantly outfoxed the United defence, turning Rio Ferdinand, holding off Nemanja Vidic and outpacing Mikael Silvestre as he ran on to a sidefoot past Van der Sar at the near post. This time Mourinho leapt to his feet to celebrate.

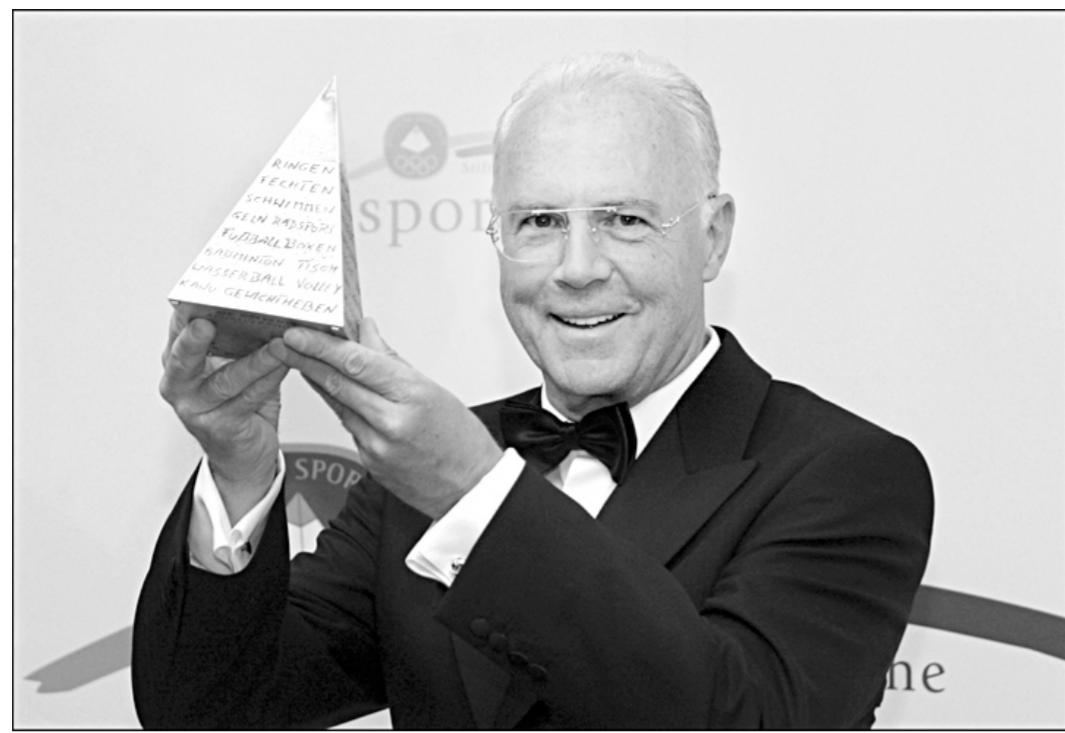
Ferguson sent on Van Nistelrooy for Ronaldo with half an hour to go and Mourinho responded by introducing Damien Duff for Robben.

Then Carvalho started and finished a move to make it 3-0 and completely extinguished United's challenge.

He won the ball from van Nistelrooy in defence and Cole surged forward. Carvalho continued his run and Cole played him in inside the box where the Portuguese took one touch and blasted it past van der Sar.

Rooney was stretchered off in the 82nd minute after being challenged by Carvalho in the Chelsea penalty area. He was left holding his right foot and was down for some minutes before being taken off.

Not that many Chelsea fans cared -- the party was already in full swing as the Blues completed a second successful title campaign under the management of the inimitable Mourinho and the financial benevolence of moneybags Russian owner Roman Abramovich.



## Kahn to quit in 2008

REUTERS, Berlin

Bayern Munich captain Oliver Kahn plans to play for his club for two years after the World Cup and then quit, he said in a newspaper interview on Saturday.

"After the World Cup I will play for two more years at Bayern Munich, and then this phase of life is over for me," he told the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ), adding:

"I will not end this phase of life with a retirement but with my head held high, accepting the situation as it is."

Kahn, 36, was stunned earlier this month when Arsenal's Jens Lehmann was named as Germany's first choice goalkeeper for the World Cup. He accepted the role of understudy to Lehmann for the June 9-July 9 tournament, which Germany is hosting.

"If I am needed at the World Cup, I am there," Kahn told the FAZ. His contract with Bayern runs until June 30, 2008.

## Riquelme sad, but staying

INTERNET, undated

Villarreal's Juan Roman Riquelme is still suffering after his UEFA Champions League penalty miss, but says he is going nowhere.

The Argentine, who missed a crucial last minute penalty in the Champions League semifinal with Arsenal, insists he will stay despite much transfer speculation.

His Primera Liga side defied the odds to get to the final stages of the competition, and Riquelme is proud to be at the club.

"I always feel bad when we don't win," he commented.

"I am responsible for taking penalties and sometimes you score, others you don't."

"But I am proud of my team and what we have achieved because we have had a marvellous Champions League campaign."

"We deserve credit for what we have done. Everyone in the Champions League wants to reach the final and we were so close, without having a side as strong as others."

## Maldini under the knife

AFP, Milan

Italian legend Paolo Maldini has had an operation on his knee, according to his club AC Milan on Saturday.

The 38-year-old had been suffering from recurring pain in his knee for several weeks, something which contributed to his exclusion from the starting line-up in Milan's Champions League semifinal against Barcelona.

Maldini, who is in his 21st year as a Milan player having spent his whole career at the club, went to a clinic in Antwerp, Belgium, for the operation.

## 2011 WC Asia's rightful claim

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

South Asia is confident of securing the rights to host cricket's World Cup in 2011, saying every third edition of the mega event should be held in the cricket-mad region.

"Our claim is a rightful one," said the sport's Indian chief Sharad Pawar ahead of Sunday's meeting of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Executive Board in Dubai to discuss the likely hosts.

India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh have put up a joint bid for the 2011 event against another combined bid by Australia and New Zealand.

"The South Asian region has four of the 10 Test-playing nations and a large part of the money earned from cricket comes from here, so there is good reason that every third World Cup be held here," said Pawar.

The bids for 2011 closed in February, but the ICC granted South Asia special permission to submit theirs by April 21 after the region's cricket chiefs requested more time to study the regulations.

The ICC received the South

Asian bid on April 20 at its Dubai offices and Pawar said the extra time granted to South Asia should not come in the way of a favourable response from the Executive Board.

Seven votes are needed among the 13 countries in the ICC's Executive Board to secure the rights and South Asia is already assured of four votes by virtue of the joint bid.

India and Pakistan have twice hosted the four-yearly World Cup: in 1987 by themselves and in 1996 with Sri Lanka. Australia and New Zealand jointly organised the 1992 World Cup and say they have the right by rotation to host the event in 2011.

The joint bid for the 2011 event proposes India hosting 22 matches, Pakistan 14, Sri Lanka nine and Bangladesh six, assuming there will be 51 games at the tournament.

The ICC has ruled that the bid, which will lose the right for the 2011 World Cup, will host the next tournament in 2015.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) will meet here on Sunday to consider the hosting of the World Cup in 2011 and 2015.

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February, but the ICC granted South Asia special permission to submit theirs by April 21 after the region's cricket chiefs requested more time to study the regulations.

The ICC received the South



## BITS AND BOBS

FROM PAGE 12  
to be selected by Sven-Goran Eriksson.

King is out of action for the rest of the season but the injury is responding well to daily treatment and Spurs are convinced he should be ready in time.

Hughton said: "We're very much hopeful on Ledley. It's something that was spotted very early. As a club we're doing everything we can."

"We will now reflect on his announcement before making any further comment as we move forward with the process."

England assistant coach and

Australia kick-off their World Cup campaign against Japan on June 12, still seven weeks away.

Boakye set to miss out

INTERNET, undated

Arminia Bielefeld striker Isaac Boakye will miss the rest of the season with a knee injury which is also threatening to jeopardise his World Cup chances.

The 24-year-old Ghana international, who has been suffering from a nagging right knee problem for several months, tore his meniscus while playing in a friendly for his national team against Stuttgart on Wednesday.

He is set to undergo surgery in a bid to recover in time for the start of the World Cup, but is definitely out of Arminia's final three Bundesliga games this season against Schalke, Duisburg and Cologne.

Fines for pitch invasions

AFP, Rostock

Fans who invade the pitch during World Cup matches in Germany could face heavy fines following a ruling by the Rostock court of appeal on Friday.

It has been estimated that it will take

Carthax six weeks to recover from his injury.

## Clash of tacticians



SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

AC Milan vice president Adriano Galliani said that Barcelona-Milan was the final of the 2005-06 Champions League, featuring the two sides that played the best football in the tournament, as well as the two clubs who are first and second in UEFA's own rankings.

While it may be harsh on Arsenal and Villarreal, he may have a point, particularly after seeing the Villarreal-Arsenal clash at the Madrigal. But then, Champions League has never been about establishing the "best" team in Europe: it's a knock-out competition, with all that entails. And to those who love an attacking, entertaining style, the fact that Barcelona will be in Paris is a real treat.

It's also a testament to the outstanding work of Barca boss Frank Rijkaard. In a world where many believe the only formula for success in knock-out competitions is the defend-and-counter approach, Barcelona (and Carlo Ancelotti's Milan) stands out. Against the Rossoneri, Rijkaard's decision to play Andres Iniesta and Deco in the three-man midfield, with only Edmiston (who was outstanding) as the holding midfielder, was not just courageous, it was effective as well.

Never mind the fact that referee

Markus Merk disallowed Andriy Shevchenko's goal. It should have stood -- it was a refereeing error (one of the few by Merk, who is currently the world's No. 1), and we'll never know what might have happened in extra time. From Barcelona's perspective, it was perhaps divine retribution: Last year Pierluigi Collina, also hailed as the world's best, also made a crucial mistake in allowing Chelsea's fourth goal, which knocked Barca out of the competition in the second round.

From Milan's perspective, it no doubt hurts, but running Barcelona - this outstanding Barcelona -- so close over 180 minutes is a mark of pride. As is the club's record in Champions League over the past five years: one quarterfinal, two semifinals, a losing final and the '02-03 crown.

As for Arsenal, the final berth -- like the clashes with Real Madrid and Juventus in the earlier rounds -- was conquered with stiff defending and counterattacking, two qualities that have traditionally been alien to Arsene Wenger's Gunners.

The thing about such tactics is that when you play well and are in good form physically, it can work well and be entertaining to watch (as the utter domination of Juve and, to a lesser degree, Real showed). But if you don't, it is dire to the point of being painful to watch.

The game at the Madrigal was one such example. Villarreal, not a team blessed with outstanding

talent (apart from Juan Roman Riquelme) nevertheless beavered away, creating half a dozen clear-cut chances and missing a penalty, saved by Jens Lehmann (who, by the way, is the redemption story of the year -- 12 months ago he was unwanted and unloved by all, now he's in the final and is Germany's No. 1).

The purist in me is hurt that Arsenal, which for nearly a decade under Wenger had played a brilliant, creative and, at times, breathtaking game, should resort to the negative tactics associated with the worst excesses of the Italian foul-heavy "catenaccio" style of the 1960s and '70s. Then again, the pragmatist in me is willing to let Wenger off the hook. This is a young team, a side in transition, hit by a rash of injuries. Wenger obviously felt this was the only way to halt Arsenal's perennial underachievement in Europe. He tried pretty football for many years and, no doubt, he will do so again. For now, he's entitled to his shot, even if it means raising the spectre of George Graham's Arsenal.

But, Arsene, please ... it's just for this year, right?

## Kiwis strongly placed



APP, Cape Town

Tail-end James Franklin completed a maiden Test century and new cap Jeetan Patel took two wickets as New Zealand kept the pressure on South Africa on the third day of the first Test at Newlands on Saturday.

South Africa were 136 for two at tea in reply to New Zealand's first innings total of 593, still needing another 258 to avoid the follow-on.

New Zealand batted on for an hour before declaring, with Franklin unbeaten on 122.

Patel captured the wicket of South African captain Graeme Smith with his third ball in Test cricket.

Franklin reached the landmark with an off-drive for four off Dale Steyn.

With his hundred completed, the left-handed Franklin hammered two more boundaries in the same Steyn over and lofted Makhaya Ntini, Erasmus confirmed the ball went to



James Franklin of New Zealand (R) hugs teammate Jeetan Patel after completing his maiden hundred on the third day of the second Test against South Africa at Newlands on Saturday.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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