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Italy in fourth heaven

AFP, Berlin

Italy won the World Cup final on penalties Sunday after a dramatic final destined to be remembered for the sensational sending off for French captain Zinedine Zidane in his farewell match.

For only the second time in the history of the tournament, the sport's greatest prize was settled by spot-kicks after both teams had finished extra-time deadlocked at 1-1. Materazzi's headed equaliser cancelling out Zidane's early penalty.

Italy defender Fabio Grosso rifled home the Azzurri's winning penalty to clinch a 5-3 victory in the shoot-out after France substitute David Trezeguet had missed his side's second spot-kick.

It was the first time Italy had won a penalty shoot-out in four attempts and it handed Marcello Lippi's men a fourth World Cup crown to set alongside victories in 1934, 1938 and 1982.

But the penalty denouement seemed almost incidental to the amazing scenes in the second-half of extra time when Zidane was sent-off for a moment of off-the-ball madness in the 109th minute.

Having played majestically throughout, Zidane blew his cool and unleashed a vicious headbutt into the chest of Marco Materazzi that sent the Italy defender crashing to the turf.

The incident was missed by referee Horacio Elizondo but Italy keeper Gianluigi Buffon remonstrated furiously with the linesman and the official called over the man-in-the-middle.

After a lengthy consultation, SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



PHOTO: AFP

UP ABOVE THE WORLD: Italy captain Fabio Cannavaro (C) proudly holds aloft the World Cup trophy amidst jubilant teammates after they beat France on penalties in the final at Berlin's Olympiastadion on Sunday.

Iajuddin back to work

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Iajuddin Ahmed returned to work yesterday after 45 days and agreed to give an appointment to Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina to meet him in person at noon today.

However, Hasina, also president of Awami League (AL), has decided not to visit the president.

"Our party chief (Sheikh Hasina) wanted to meet the president when he was sick. But as he is doing quite okay now, there is no need to meet him," Obaidul Quader, AL joint general secretary, told The Daily Star last night.

The president's return put a lid on speculations about his illness and not returning to work.

A Bangabhaban press release yesterday said the president went SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

EC to update voter list in only 20 days

Door to door visits after July 20

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) decided to start sending its officials for door to door visits after July 20 to update the voter list and it intends to complete the task in 20 days.

The EC yesterday disclosed that it had extended the time limit for the ongoing task of updating the

voter list up to August 10 from July 31, as the assistant officials, who will collect applications from people, for inclusion of names, will be recruited by July 20.

"The task of revising the existing voter list through door to door visits will continue till August 10," Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Aziz said yesterday. SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

CEC confident of success, critical of legal experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Aziz yesterday said he is confident of conducting the next general election successfully, while he slammed legal experts accusing them of undermining the image of the EC by creating unnecessary controversies over the preparation of the voter list.

"The Election Commission is an independent organisation to discharge its duties and it will not bow to anybody. There is nobody in Bangladesh who can threaten us. We shall not be threatened by SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Heated debate in JS on TIB report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliament yesterday witnessed a heated debate between the ruling party and the main opposition party, Awami League (AL), legislators over the report of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and the allotment of an official residence to former chief adviser to the caretaker government.

Senior ministers strongly condemned the TIB reports on corruption in Bangladesh and questioned its source of fund and intention as the opposition demanded discussion on the report in the parliament. The local government and rural

development (LGRD), health, law and environment ministers launched scathing remarks against the TIB when AL members Suranjit Sengupta and Mohammad Nasim bitterly criticised the government and demanded discussion on latest TIB report.

Rejecting the report, the ministers said it was 'politically motivated' and a conspiracy to tarnish the images of the government and the country as well.

After Maghrib prayer break, AL lawmaker Suranjit Sengupta initiated the one and a half hour unscheduled debate. Mentioning the TIB report, he said the LGRD SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Govt says wait but Tata pushes on

Mannan Bhuiyan wants to talk to opposition before decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While top ministers of the ruling alliance yesterday were of the view that the government needs more time to take a decision on Tata's investment proposal, the Indian industrial giant said it cannot wait.

However, Tata will sit with the Board of Investment (BoI) today and take its final decision after the meeting.

"If the government makes no decision we can't wait. We are dealing with this government and this government should respond," Alan Rosling, executive director of Tata Sons told reporters yesterday.

Visiting Tata officials arrived in Dhaka yesterday to get a response

from the government about its revised investment proposal, and sat with top ministers and secretaries including Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman, Secretary-general of the ruling BNP also LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Industries Minister Motiur Rahman Nizami, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr Kamal Uddin Siddiqui, and other policymakers.

"The government needs to consult opposition parties before entering into a deal with Tata for a \$3 billion investment," Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said after the meeting with Tata representatives. SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Mob lynches 1 suspected mugger

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mob beat up three people at Malibagh in the city yesterday killing one after the three allegedly attempted to mug Tk 9 lakh of officials from a garment factory firing and injuring two of them.

The two injured suspected muggers and the two garment officials were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for treatment.

DMCH sources said the dead suspected mugger Shajidul Islam Biltu, 32, was the son of a retired deputy secretary, Dipu Chowdhury, 38, the other injured suspected mugger claimed to be the son of Hasan Chowdhury, owner of a shopping complex. The other suspect is Abul Kalam Azad, 42.

Even though the suspects claimed themselves to be innocent, SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Gazipur garment workers go berserk after accident

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

At least 30 people including six policemen were injured when garment workers clashed with law enforcers and blockaded Dhaka-Mymensingh highway for three hours after rumours spread that their three colleagues died in a road accident.

The agitated workers torched three buses, vandalised 12 vehicles on the highway and attacked policemen and fire engines that went there to bring the situation under control.

The workers also pelted bricks on several garment factories when law enforcers took shelter there in the face of workers' attack. The incident compelled eight factories to shutdown production

for the day.

Witnesses said a Chandana-bound bus from Sadarghat in Dhaka ran over three garment employees -- Kamal Hossain, 24, Sarker, 22, Yakub Ali, 36, -- at Signboard Bus Stand area around 8:00am.

The three were rushed to Tongi 50-bed Government Hospital, from where Kamal was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

As police rushed to the spot to clear the blockade, the agitating workers attacked the law enforcers who in their defence took shelter in nearby garment factories.

Several policemen including the Superintendent of Police (SP) of Gazipur Atiqul Islam and Officer-in-charge of Jaydevpur SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Dengue strikes capital

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MAHBUBA ZANNAT

The number of viral fever patients, including the dengue-affected, has gone up recently in the capital, in some cases almost doubling the number of patients hospitalised the previous week.

At present, patients affected with viral fever and dengue comprise nearly 50 per cent of the people seeking admission to the hospitals. Head of the Department of Medicine of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) Prof AKM Rafique Uddin told The Daily Star.

Prof Rafique, however, said that the situation is not that worse and held the commoners' fear of dengue responsible for the rush in the hospitals.

"As the diagnostic tools to differentiate the patients according to dengue types have been improved and the doctors are well-trained,

the disease is being managed wonderfully," he added.

Prof FM Siddiqui of the same department said that the number

of dengue-affected patients admitted to the DMCH has been doubled compared to that of the last week. SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

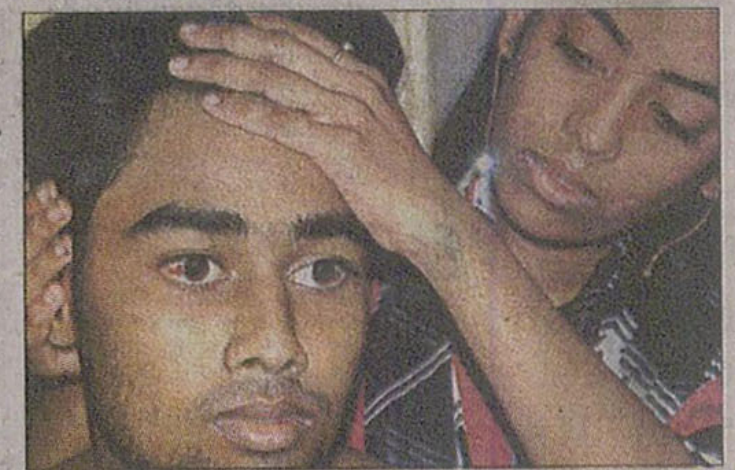


PHOTO: STAR

Nurul Alam, a dengue patient with blood seen in his eyes, being treated at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

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