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## Russia dump Dutch

AFP, Basel



Russia coach Guus Hiddink got the result he wanted to become a traitor in his native Holland after his team's 3-1 quarterfinal win after extra-time dumped the Dutch out of Euro 2008.

The 61-year-old former Netherlands coach had said he would be happy to be a Dutch traitor if his Russian team beat his countrymen and two goals in extra time broke Dutch hearts on Saturday.

Real Madrid striker Ruud van Nistelrooy had headed home an 86th minute equaliser to give the Dutch a life-line -- and take him alongside Johan Cruyff on 33 goals for the national side -- but super sub Dmitri Torbinsky grabbed a second in the 112th minute, before Andrei Arshavin settled it with a third on 116 minutes.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, this is the first time Russia have made the knock-out stages of a major tournament and will contest next Thursday's semi-final in Vienna.

But it was heart-break for

Holland as the defeat signalled the last game in charge for Dutch coach Marco van Basten -- who joins Ajax next season on a four-year deal -- who made his swansong at Euro 2008 after four years in charge.

The former AC Milan striker failed in his bid to bow out on a high by giving the Netherlands a second European crown to the one he helped win in 1988.

His Dutch team had come into the Basel quarterfinal with a 100 per cent record from Group C having handed out comprehensive defeats to both 2006 World Cup finalists France (4-1) and Italy (3-0) on route.

After Holland defender Khalid Boulahrouz and his wife suffered the personal tragedy of losing their prematurely born daughter last week, the team all wore black arm-bands, but Saturday's result only served to cap a dark week for the Dutch.

Meanwhile, Hiddink has continued his habit of helping international punch well above the weight.

The former Netherlands boss guided South Korea to the semi-finals at the 2002 World Cup and Australia to the knock-out phase in 2006 just before signing on to coach Russia.

His side opened their Euro 2008 campaign with a 4-1 hammering at the hands of Spain as David Villa hit a hat-trick, but the Russians hit back with a 1-0 win over Greece and were impressive in their 2-0 win over Sweden.

Both sides had plenty of chances in the first half.

The Russians made a bright start and kept Manchester United goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar busy in the first-half with Dynamo Moscow defender Denis Kolodin and Pavylyuchenko going close early on.

But the Dutch also threatened on attack with Real Madrid's Wesley Sneijder testing the Russian defence and fellow midfielder Rafael van der Vaart also squandered several chances as it remained 0-0 at the break.

Van Basten brought Arsenal forward Robin van Persie into the fray at the start of the half but the Dutch went behind for the first time in the tournament soon after.

After Arshavin terrorised Sweden in Russia's 2-0 win last week, he blasted in a free-kick which forced van der Sar into a diving save, but the shot just carried wide.

Russian opened the scoring when

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LAST NAIL IN THE DUTCH COFFIN: A nicely-placed shot from Russia superstar Andrei Arshavin (C) is goal-bound during the Euro 2008 quarterfinal against the Netherlands at the St. Jakob-Park in Basel on Saturday.

## Bangladesh reconfirm Asia Cup berth

Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Skipper Maksud Alam Habul struck the winner to take Bangladesh into final of the 3rd Men's AHF Cup at the Delta Sports Complex in Singapore after their exciting 2-1 win over Sri Lanka in the semi-final yesterday.

After the game was deadlocked at 1-1 in the first-half, Habul scored a field goal from close range in the 53rd minute to make sure that they would waltz into the Asia Cup after it was learned that the organisers confused the Bangladeshi contingent by saying that only the top two teams of the tournament, and not the top four, would make it to Asia Cup.

Bangladesh suffered a big blow when Hasan Ahmed could not recover from his finger injury and was replaced by left midfielder Sheikh Nannu.

From the start Bangladesh knew it was a do-or-die game and they responded in the best possible way, scoring in the 23rd minute through Musa Miah's field goal. Bangladesh went into the break with a 1-0 lead but ten minutes after they had come back, Younis Ghazaly of Sri Lanka scored from a penalty corner to restore parity.

But Habul made sure Bangladesh had the last laugh with his precision and now, they would play Oman, who beat Singapore in the day's other semi-final, in the final today.

The victory was revenge for Bangladesh, who lost to the islanders in the bronze qualifying match of the 10th SA Games in Kandy in 2006.

Bangladesh, which failed to get the direct entry to the Asia Cup finals for the first time, started the tournament by defeating Brunei Darussalam 6-1, Chinese Taipei 3-2 and Uzbekistan 8-3 while it played a 1-1 draw with the host Singapore in its Pool A matches.

Six top-seeded Asian countries -- India, Pakistan, South Korea, China, Malaysia and Japan -- will directly play in the final round of Asia Cup.

### TEAM

Mahbubullah Shakil, Issa Miah, Mamunur Rahman Chayan, Moshir Rahman Biplab, Shahidullah Titu, Mohammad Ferdous, Zahidul Islam Rajon, Musa Miah, Rasel Mahmud Jimmy, Maksud Alam Habul (captain), Rimun Kumar, Krisna Kumar and Sheikh Nannu.

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### Did U Know?

David Villa of Spain scored the only hat-trick so far in the Euro 2008. He achieved this feat against Russia on June 10.



**Carlo Ancelotti**  
(AC Milan football coach)  
"Antonio Cassano is a great player if he maintains his discipline. Until now he has played his part [in the Euro 2008]."



**What to WATCH**

ESPN  
Euro 2008 Quarterfinal  
Spain v Italy  
Live from 12.45am (Monday)

## 'Win can change it all'

SPORTS REPORTER

It was told not long ago that the young Bangladesh side had a sense of 'no fear' but everything changed within a few months as the lack of confidence became a big issue while the team left yesterday to play the Asia Cup in Pakistan.

The Tigers earned the reputation after their heroics in the last World Cup in West Indies where the young brigade hogged the spotlight after their fearless effort against India and South Africa.

Bangladesh vice-captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza was one of them many believed can put Bangladesh on the map of world cricket. But the valiant fighter was looking to get back his confidence too when the Tigers play the six-team regional tournament.

"Our confidence is not high after so many defeats. But I think one win can change the scenario

and we have a good chance to win the first match against UAE," said Mashrafe, dubbed as the 'Narail Express', on the eve of their departure at the Zia International Airport.

"I don't think it is impossible to win a match against a big side in the tournament but in that case, we should play our best cricket. We have to encourage ourselves to win against the formidable side like India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka," he added.

The Bangladesh vice-captain said that they would desperately

need a good start whether it is bowling or batting.

"You have to have a good start whether it is batting or bowling but unfortunately we failed to give good starts in the last few matches," observed Mashrafe adding that they even failed to create any opportunity in the last few matches.

The opening still remain the main headache as since the 109-run partnership between Shahriar Nafees and Tamim Iqbal against Ireland, the Tigers have even failed to reach the fifty mark in the last seven games.

The main reason behind the failure was the batting of Nafees, who scored 46 runs in the last five matches after making three consecutive half-centuries against ICC associates Ireland in Mirpur.

"I think we have a lot of positives in the last few games as we even scored 280-plus against Pakistan and crossed the 200-mark in a few matches. I am hopeful with the Asia

cup team."

**SQUAD**

Mohammad Ashraf (captain), Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (vice-captain), Mahmudullah Riyad, Tamim Iqbal, Alok Kapali, Abdur Razzak, Forhad Reza, Shahriar Nafees, Nazimuddin, Rokibul Hasan, Shahadat Hossain, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mehrab Hossain, Dollar Mahmud and Mosharraf Hossain.

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## Abahani take on Nepal Police today

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani take on Nepal's Police in their first match of the AFC President's Cup at the MPPJ Stadium in Kuala Lumpur today.

Regar Tadz of Tajikistan meet Pakistan's WAPDA in another opening day qualifying Group A match at the same venue.

With only two teams -- two-time defending champions from Kyrgyzstan Dordoi-Dynamo and Turkmenistan's Ashgabat -- punching their tickets to the semifinals so far, there is all to play for the four teams until the curtains fall on the qualifying campaign on June 26.

The winners of this section and the best second-placed team from among the three pools go into the hat along with Dordoi and Ashgabat for the knockout stage draw, which takes place on June 30 at AFC House.

The tournament proper will be hosted by Kyrgyzstan from September 19-21, 2008, at the Spartak Stadium in Bishkek.

## Southee sets up NZ win

Cricket

AFP, Bristol

Teenage quick Tim Southee's career-best haul paved the way for an unlikely 22-run win for New Zealand in the third one-day international here Saturday as they levelled their series with England at 1-1.

Southee's figures of four for 38 took New Zealand to the brink of victory as England, chasing just 183 to win, were bowled out for 160.

The 19-year-old was responsible for a middle-order collapse that saw England lose three wickets for no runs in eight balls as they slumped to 64 for six.

He then returned to have Paul Collingwood lbw for a top score of 34 when the England captain looked as if he might win the game off his own bat.

New Zealand, bowled out for 182, were indebted to all-rounder Grant Elliott, who top scored with 56 in only his second match at this level and a rapid, career-best 47

from man-of-the-match Kyle Mills. It was another impressive effort by the 29-year-old South African-born Elliott who took three for 23 on debut during Wednesday's controversial no-result at Edgbaston following his call-up into the squad last week from south-east English club side Weybridge.

And medium-pacer Elliott finished the match with 22 balls to spare when Chris Tremlett skied to New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori.

Collingwood put on 65 for the seventh wicket with Graeme Swann in 17 overs.

But when Swann clipped Scott Styris to Ross Taylor at mid-wicket for 29, England were 129 for seven, still needing 54 more runs to win and without a frontline batsman at the crease the target was beyond them.

England were making progress when Southee, in only his third ODI, struck.

Ravi Bopara went for 27 when a cut was well-held by a diving Jamie How at backward point before the dangerous Owais Shah fell for a

three-ball nought, undone by a good length delivery which bounced and was caught by Styris at second slip.

Tim Ambrose also exited for a 'duck', Taylor holding a first slip chance at the second attempt.

Earlier, New Zealand's scored 50 runs off their final five overs, with paceman James Anderson conceding 18 runs off his last.

Mills's runs came off just 40 balls with two sixes and five fours.

As a result England, who saw fast bowler Stuart Broad take two for 14 in an unbroken 10-over spell, had to chase a much bigger total than looked likely when New Zealand slumped to 49 for five.

**SCOREBOARD**  
Final scoreboard in the third one-day international between England and New Zealand here Saturday:

NEW ZEALAND	
How b Broad	10
McCullum c Pietersen b Anderson	17
Taylor b Broad	8
Styris c Ambrose b Tremlett	4

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Left-arm spinner Mosharraf Hossain (L) shares a joke with skipper Mohammad Ashraf (2nd R), Rokibul Hasan, Alok Kapali (C) and Shahadat Hossain at the Zia International Airport yesterday before they departed for Karachi to play in the Asia Cup.

## Players' fear grows

CRICINFO, undated

Despite assurances from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) that all is well, there are increasing signs that a number of players are considering boycotting September's ICC (International Cricket Council) Champions Trophy amid fears over their safety.

"We've been hearing though the media that there may be concerns among some of the players about the Champions Trophy," Zakir Khan, the PCB's director of cricket operations, said on Friday. "But we are not taking any of it seriously unless there is an official confirmation from the boards of those countries."

However, it emerges that England's players are in close contact with their Australian counterparts, and the ICC appears to be

facing the real possibility that the tournament, which is far from popular with players and public, could be hit by a wave of boycotts.

"The Aussies have already come out and expressed their concerns," one senior England player was quoted as saying in the Daily Telegraph. "I'm not a big fan of going to Pakistan. I just hope it won't be us players who get left to make the decision in the end."

Australia's cricketers have also

been expressing concerns. Earlier this year, Australia postponed a scheduled tour of Pakistan on safety grounds and the general view in the dressing room seems to be that the situation remains unaltered. "We don't know if we're going, and if we do go, we don't know if individuals are going to pull out," Ricky Ponting said. "But what we know right now is, yes, there is some apprehension amongst some

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