

LIPRO
Presents
HIMOINSA
DIESEL GENERATORS
FROM SPAIN

RANGE: 8KVA-2200 KVA
400 KVA, 350 KVA
100 KVA & 20 KVA
Perkins Engine
Stamford Alternator

Ready Stock
Lipro Energy Ltd.
Call: 8826633, 9893469, 01199 802011

28
DAYS
TO GO

SOUTH AFRICA 2010
FIFA
WORLD CUP

England waltz into final

AFP, Gros Islet

England cruised into the World Twenty20 final with a seven-wicket thrashing of Sri Lanka at the Beausejour Stadium here on Thursday.

Set just 129 to win, after tight bowling restricted Sri Lanka -- last year's losing finalists -- to 128 for six, England finished on 132 for three as they won with four overs to spare.

Kevin Pietersen, on his return to the side after he attended the birth of his son in London, finished on 42 not out and ended the match in style with a six and a four in successive balls off fast bowler Lasith Malinga.

England, who have never won a major one-day international tournament, are now through to their first final since hosting the 2004 Champions Trophy.

They will face the winners of Friday's second semi-final here between defending champions Pakistan and Australia in Sunday's final at the Kensington Oval in Barbados.

Only Angelo Mathews, with 58, offered much resistance against England's bowlers before he was run out of the penultimate ball.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4



THE ARCHITECT: England opener Craig Kieswetter works the ball on the on-side during their World Twenty20 semifinal against Sri Lanka at the Beausejour Cricket Ground in Gros Islet yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

A new bond is born

In the group stage, they were prolific in front of goal and, although England held them to a goalless draw, they were heavily fancied to thrash Wales in the last eight. But the Welsh, sadly lacking the injured John Charles, made them fight all the way. Pele, starting only his second game, and, at 17 years old, the youngest player to grace the finals tournament, scored a deflected goal past superb keeper Jack Kelsey. Pele himself would describe it as the most important goal he would ever score.

The semifinals saw them face France, who for once had put up a performance befitting their status as tournament founders. Just Fontaine was their record-breaking striker, scoring 13 goals in the tournament, even if four of the goals came in the third-place game.

His bullets were supplied by Raymond Kopa, an inside-forward who plied his trade for Real Madrid and who, until Michel Platini, was regarded as France's greatest-ever player. But with Pele now into his stride, the French had no answer as the young star scored a hat-trick in an easy 5-2 win.

So the final would be a battle of South American style and the best that the far more athletic European game had to offer. Before the game, George Raynor predicted that if the Brazilians were to go a goal behind then they would "panic all over the show".

His prediction was to be tested, and it failed. Liedholm put the Swedes a goal up after four minutes but, five minutes later, Vava headed in a Garrincha cross. The trick was repeated on the half-hour. And, after half-time, Pele grabbed the match by the scruff of the neck. The goal that truly created the Pele legend came on 55 minutes. A lofted ball was chested down, hooked over a defender and projected into the bottom left corner by an unerring volley. The trophy's destination was confirmed after right-winger Zagallo followed up his own corner to make it four after 68 minutes. Simonsson grabbed a consolation before Pele headed in a Zagallo cross.

The Jules Rimet Trophy was Brazil's. Records had been smashed in the tournament -- Fontaine's goal haul, Pele's youth and a team from the Americas winning on foreign soil. And in Pele, who shed tears of joy as the Brazilians carried the trophy and national flag around the pitch, world football had found its biggest star.



PHOTO: STAR ARCHIVE
Achieving everything by the time you're 17 is all too much for Pele, who leans on the experienced Gylmer in the company of Djalma Santos (left) and Didi. Oriando (right) has his own way of showing his feelings.

What to WATCH

BTV, ESPN & SuperSport2
ICC World Twenty20
SECOND SEMIFINAL
Australia v Pakistan
Live from 9:30pm

DAY'S EVENT

AFC President's Cup Qualifiers
New Road Team v Dordei Bishkek
Time: 4:00pm
Abahani vs Hasus NTCPE
Time: 7:00pm
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Tri-Nation Tournament
West Indies A v South Africa A
One-Day Match (Final)
Time: 9:15am
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur

Niaz wins 6th round board

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Niaz Murshed won his sixth round game of the Commonwealth Chess Championship in Delhi, India yesterday.

Murshed beat Abhishek Kelkar to raise his points to 4.5.

GM Enamul Hossain Rajib, FM Abu Sufian Shakil, FM Mehdi Hasan Parag, FM Mohammad Javed and Debraj Chatterjee are level on four points each while FM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar has 3.5 points.

Rajib drew with FM Sai Krishna, Shakil lost to GM Tejaz Bakre, Sagar went down to GM Lufuente Pablo, Parag beat Suraj, Debaraj beat Vikramaditya Sahu, Javed beat Rani Hamid and Saif drew with Arunima Kalra.

Jimmy, Chayan quarrel after SL draw

SPORTS REPORTER

Forward Rasel Mahmud Jimmy and defender Mamunur Rahman Chayan exchanged heated conversation in the dressing room after Bangladesh were held to a 3-3 draw against Sri Lanka in their Asian Games Qualifying hockey match at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

With four minutes remaining in the game, Bangladesh were leading 3-2, but they conceded a penalty stroke due

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

West Indies A favourites for today's final

SPORTS REPORTER

The momentum will be with West Indies A when they take on South Africa A in the final of the ATN Records tri-nation series today at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The second string side from the Caribbean islands have so far stayed unbeaten in the tournament, cruising past Bangladesh A and their final opponents on two occasions each. South Africa A, on the other hand, banked on their two wins over the hapless hosts to reach the final.

The Travis Dowlin-led side have in-form batsmen in Devon Smith, Brendan Nash and Darren Smith while pacemen Lionel Baker and Gavin Tonge and spinners Shane Shillingford and Imran Khan have so far done well on unresponsive surfaces at the overused Mirpur venue.

The young South Africans, led by wicketkeeper-batsman Thami Tsolekile, also looked good in the tournament after their clean sweep over Bangladesh A in the four-dayers. 20-year-old left-handed batsman David Miller scored a hundred in the second league match against the hosts and has shown good form, drawing the attention of former South African players for a place in the senior side for the forthcoming West Indies series.

The South Africans will also heavily bank on left-arm spinner Paul Harris in the final.

But the tournament will be most remembered for the spectacular failure of the hosts who meekly surrendered in all four matches.

AFC PRESIDENT'S CUP QUALIFIERS

Enamul the key

Abahani face Hasus today

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani will bank on their on-song striker Enamul Haque when they square off against Hasus NTCPE of Chinese Taipei in the AFC President's Cup Group A Qualifiers at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

The match will start at 7:00pm under floodlight after the first game between favourites Dordei Bishkek of Kyrgyzstan and Nepal's New Road at 4:00pm at the same venue.

Enamul struck both the goals in Abahani's 2-0 win against the Nepalese champions on Wednesday. The two-time Bangladesh League champions, however, are expected to face a tougher challenge from Hasus, who blamed the heat for their 5-0 defeat against Dordei in their opening game under scorching summer sun coupled with unbearable humidity.

But Abahani coach Amalesh Sen believes that if Enamul, top-scorer of the ongoing professional football league in Bangladesh, could keep up his scoring spree it would not be tough to beat the Chinese Taipei side.

The striker himself was upbeat about today's clash.

"I just tried to concentrate on scoring goals against the Nepalese side," Enamul said. "I also hope to carry my performance into the next match." The long-haired marks-

man believes the AFC President's Cup is not only an assignment for Abahani, but also for the country and he is determined to lift his game in

next two matches.

Amalesh said that it would be a must win game for Abahani to keep their hopes alive for a

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8



PHOTO: STAR
The players of Hasus NTCPE of Chinese Taipei train at the BUET ground yesterday ahead of their AFC President's Cup Qualifying match against hosts Abahani at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

Shakib hit by chickenpox

SPORTS REPORTER

Visiting Bangladesh cricket team have suffered a major blow with their captain Shakib Al Hasan coming down with chickenpox.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) sources informed last night that the Tigers skipper will stay with the team in England as the team management is hopeful that he will fully recover before the first Test which will start from May 27 at Lord's.

Bangladesh will play the next two warm-up games without the left-handed all-rounder.

But there was good news in the form of Tamim Iqbal's likely appearance in the four-day

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

ASIAN GAMES QUALIFIERS

Hosts draw again

Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh continued their dismal performance in the Asian Games Qualifying hockey when the hosts played out a 3-3 draw against Sri Lanka at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Bangladesh, the top-ranked side in the seven-nation meet, got off to a blazing start in the tournament with an 8-1 thrashing of Thailand but thereafter they slipped to an embarrassing 5-7 defeat to Chinese Taipei and then were held to a shocking 2-2 draw by Hong Kong.

Everyone expected that the hosts would come out from the shadows to post an easy win against Sri Lanka, whom they defeated 3-1 and

2-1 in the South Asian Games two months ago on the same turf, but the hosts put up another listless performance and had to be content with a draw despite having taken the lead three times.

It seemed that the players suffered from lack of confidence and good combination in three departments as they played numerous missed passes throughout the game and squandered a few scoring chances.

Conceding half a dozen penalty corners proved how feeble the hosts' defense was and the hosts were lucky as Sri Lanka converted only one of them.

Even the hosts conceded the third due to the mistake by defender Mamun Ur Rahman Chayan, who cleared the ball with the back of the stick and Indian umpire Javed Shaikh did not hesitate to award a penalty stroke four

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

AUS-PAK SECOND SEMIFINAL TODAY

Afridi wants to win

AFP, Gros Islet

They can't play at home, they have arrived in the Caribbean without several senior players, a former coach has questioned their sanity and yet they are in the World Twenty20 semifinals.

Welcome, to what seems, is the often perplexing world of the Pakistan cricket team, who will continue the defence of their World Twenty20 title against Australia at the Beausejour Stadium here on Friday.

Last year's attack on the Sri Lanka team bus in Lahore effectively led to the suspension of international cricket in Pakistan and turned the national side into globe-trotters denied the chance to play in front of their own fans.

If that were not bad enough, a wretched tour of Australia, where Pakistan lost all three Tests, five one-dayers and a Twenty20 match led to seven players being either banned or fined by the Pakistan Cricket Board.

Former captains Younus Khan and Mohammad Yousuf were banned indefinitely from playing for Pakistan.

Shoaib Malik, another former captain, was banned for one year and fined two million rupees (240,000 dollars), as was all-rounder Rana Naved.

Meanwhile Shahid Afridi, now Pakistan's captain and the Akmal brothers, Kamran and Umar, were heavily fined.

It was during the Australia tour that Afridi was involved in an extraordinary incident where cameras caught him munching on the ball during a one-day international in Perth.

On top of all of this, Pakistan saw paceman Umar Gul, the leading wicket-taker in Twenty20 cricket with 43 victims in 26 matches, withdraw with a shoulder injury.

And while the team were in the West Indies, a report into the Australia tour became public which quoted former coach Intikhab Alam as saying the players were "mentally retarded".

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

The RC Cola Federation Cup Invitational table tennis competition was inaugurated at the Wooden Floor Gymnasium in the capital yesterday.

Principal secretary to the Prime Minister and Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation president Mohammad Abdul Karim launched the tournament.

A total of 95 players from 26 teams from across the country are taking part in the meet that will conclude on May 17.

MANIKGANJ CRICKET

Our Correspondent adds: Green Valley Club defeated Dashara Nabajagarar Sangsad by five wickets in the Col (red) Malek Smriti First Division Cricket League at the Shaheed Miraz-Tapan Stadium here yesterday.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN
Pushkor Khisa Mimo (L) is over the moon after scoring Bangladesh's third goal against Sri Lanka in the Asian Games qualifiers at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday. But the hosts had to settle for their second successive draw in the tournament after the Lankans pulled off the equaliser four minutes before the final whistle.