



## Jahid treble sinks Wari

SPORTS REPORTER

Striker Hasan Jubair struck a hat-trick to power Abahani to a comprehensive 7-1 win over Wari Club in the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Abahani, the last year's runners-up, hardly faced any challenge from the Old Dhaka outfit and took a comfortable 3-0 lead in the first half with defender Asaduzzaman Chandan converting two corners after Rubel Hossain gave the Sky Blues an eighth minute lead.

National striker Pushkor Khisa widened the margin two minutes into the second half before Selim pulled back a goal for Wari.

However, it was Jubair, who launched a late onslaught to strike a treble scoring in the 48th, 53rd and 68th minutes to complete the rout.



Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan (2nd from L) and teammates wait ahead of a practice session at the Rangiri Dambulla International Cricket Stadium yesterday, on the eve of their inconsequential Asia Cup match against Pakistan today.

PHOTO: AFP

## Anelka axe sparks revolt

AGENCIES, *Knysna*

The France players boycotted a training session on Sunday in support of Nicolas Anelka, a day after he was kicked out of the World Cup for insulting coach Raymond Domenech.

The France coach read out to reporters a statement by the players in which they explained they had decided not to train to protest against the decision to send the striker home.

Anelka was removed after insulting Domenech at halftime of a 2-0 defeat by Mexico on Thursday in Polokwane.

"The players are unanimously against the French Football Federation's decision to expel Nicolas Anelka," said the statement.

Sunday's public session had already been halted after a furious row between captain Patrice Evra and fitness coach Robert Duverne, leading to the immediate resignation of the team director.

France, facing an early exit, still plan to play their final Group A game against South Africa on Tuesday in Bloemfontein. But if Mexico and Uruguay draw their match, France are out of the tournament regardless of the result against South Africa.

Anelka was sent home Saturday after refusing to apologise for an expletive-laden outburst at Domenech.

"They will do everything individually and in a collective spirit" on the pitch on Tuesday, the statement read.

The session at France's base in Knysna,

Western Cape, was about to begin when a heated dispute started at the centre of the pitch between Evra and Duverne.

Domenech had to move in to separate them. Duverne angrily threw his stopwatch on to the pitch and left.

The players then walked towards their bus following the incident.

"They don't want to train, it's a scandal," France team director and FFF managing director Jean-Louis Valentin said as he also left the pitch.

"It's a scandal for French people, for the youngsters who came here to watch them train. I'm resigning, I'm leaving the Federation. I have nothing more to do here. I'm going back to Paris."

The new scandal came a day after Evra told reporters a "traitor" within the team had leaked Anelka's insults to the press.

French sports daily L'Equipe put them on their front page and a few hours later, Anelka was kicked out of the squad.

Asked by a reporter on Sunday if he was the "traitor", Valentin replied "no, no, no" and appeared close to tears.

Henri Guaino, advisor to French President Nicolas Sarkozy, described the situation as "distressing".

"It's no longer football, it's no longer sport, it's no longer a team," he said on a television station.

When asked whether a political intervention from Sarkozy would calm down the situation, he replied: "I am not convinced that a political intervention would be likely to solve this kind of problem."

## Blunt Blue Samurai

AFP, *Durban*

Japan were left rueing the absence of a proper striking threat after going down 1-0 to the Netherlands in their second World Cup Group E match here on Saturday.

The Blue Samurai, who beat Cameroon in their opening game, were starved of possession for large periods of the game by a Dutch team that bossed midfield, meaning they had to capitalise on their rare efforts in front of goal.

They failed to do that and coach Takeshi Okada said thoughts were now immediately switched to their final group game against Denmark in Rustenburg on June 24.

"We played a strong team. We wanted a point but unfortunately couldn't get it," he said.

"We have no time to look down. Our next game is against Denmark. We'll get rid of the players' fatigue and be ready for that match."

Okada added: "We don't have a very powerful centre forward. We do have good mobility and a solid defence.

"But defence alone is not enough and I told the players to be courageous and attack. We were not, however, able to deliver a result.

"In the second half, the Dutch counter-attacked and it was a bad start for us," Okada said in reference to the 52nd-minute strike by Wesley Sneijder that saw the Oranje take full control of the match.

"The players are disappointed. I don't intend to make any major changes. We'll recover physically and mentally to play our very best against Denmark."

Nagoya Grampus centre back Marcus Tulio Tanaka put in a sterling effort in defence, using his 1.85m frame to clear the Japanese lines on many occasions, and even moving up into a striking role in a desperate last few minutes.

But he was quick to doff his cap to the Netherlands' superior nous in front of goal.

"The opponents showed their devastating shooting skills," the Brazil-born defender said. "They made good the single chance they had. We could not do the same and that made a difference."

CSKA Moscow midfielder Keisuke Honda said the Japanese would now turn a page and focus on their game against Denmark.

"Although there was a difference in potential between the two sides, we fought well," he said.

"A defeat is a defeat. I will accept it as it is and prepare for the next."

Centre back Yuji Nakazawa was upbeat, saying the Blue Samurai could take positives from the game, in which the Dutch dominated territory and possession.

"I want to refocus on the next match," he said. "We don't need to hang our heads down because it was not that everything went wrong. We should prepare ourselves well for the (Denmark) game."

## A missed chance for Eto'o's Cameroon

REUTERS, *Pretoria*

A despondent Cameroon captain Samuel Eto'o said his side, the highest ranked African team at the World Cup, had missed a great opportunity to do something special after they exited the continent's first World Cup.

Cameroon lost 2-1 to Denmark on Saturday night despite taking an early lead and playing some excellent soccer, leaving them to fight just for pride in their last match against the Netherlands on June 24. The side, African soccer's most experienced challengers playing in their sixth World Cup, will also face some tricky questions when they return home after their campaign became marred by a row between senior players and coach Paul Le Guen.

"This was a great opportunity to do something big but it wasn't to be," Eto'o told reporters, minutes after the game. "God is the only one who rules in this moment and he wanted it to turn out like this."

The Indomitable Lions played fast, entertaining and attractive football against the Danes in Pretoria's Loftus Versfeld stadium and they went ahead after 10 minutes with an Eto'o opener.

But they lacked the killer touch from there on and failed to convert any of their many chances, falling behind to goals from Nicklas

Bendtner and Dennis Rommedahl. Their players fell to the ground in shock after the final whistle blew.

The performance, however, was a marked improvement from their first match, which they lost 1-0 to Japan, after coach Le Guen reshuffled his line up following complaints from his senior players.

Frenchman Le Guen said he had no regrets over his selections for the two games and said he had no intention of resigning.

"All teams are difficult to manage," he said. "It's a great job, even in this case, it's a great job."

Le Guen, who had earlier challenged his players to show some of the "lion spirit" they were always talking about, said his side had shown the right attitude throughout the match and added he hoped they would reproduce that against the Dutch.

"Whilst my contract is running I'll do my very best for the Cameroonian football federation," he said. "I hope they will defend the national colours of the team."

He said repeatedly that qualifying for the World Cup had been an achievement in itself but that it was unlikely to be good enough for a side which reached the quarter-finals in 1990 and symbolised the dynamism and excitement of African soccer.

## Mizan joins table toppers

SPORTS REPORTER

Mizanur Rahman joined three other players to lead at the end of the eighth round 36th National Chess Championship preliminary phase at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall-room yesterday.

Mizanur beat FM Mohammad Javed while FM Abu Sufian Shakil drew against FM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar and FM Mehdi Hasan Parag was held by Debaraj Chatterjee.

Now Mizanur, Shakil, Sagar and Parag have 6.5 points each. Nine players were in the second position with six points.

## Late Shuvo goal saves Sunrise

SPORTS REPORTER

Last year's runners-up Sunrise SC came from behind to play out a 1-1 draw against Jatrabari KC in the Bashundhara Senior Division Football League at the Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

After the barren first half, Moeen gave Jatrabari an advantage in the 74th minute only to be canceled by Shuvo, who leveled the margin three minutes from time.

With fifth draw in seven matches, Sunrise joined second-placed Uttar Baridhara on 11 points equal. Jatrabari have nine points from seven matches.

## Queen's Baton arrives in town

SPORTS REPORTER

The Queen's Baton and four representatives of the Commonwealth Games arrived in Dhaka yesterday in a bid to complete the baton relay tomorrow.

The Queen's Baton Relay, similar to the Olympic Torch Relay, will start at the Army Stadium in the morning and finish at the South Plaza of Sangsad Bhaban.

Bangladesh is the 69th destination to receive baton en route to Pakistan.

The 19th Commonwealth Games will be held in Delhi from October 3 to 14.



**ESPN & SuperSport3**

2010 FIFA World Cup  
Portugal v North Korea  
Live from 5.30pm  
Chile v Switzerland  
Live from 8.00pm  
Spain v Honduras  
Live from 12.30am (Tuesday)

**STAR Sports & SuperSport5**

Wimbledon Championships  
First Round  
Live from 5:00pm



**Premier Div Hockey League**

Ajax SC v Azad SC  
Time: 4:30pm  
Venue: Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium

## Netherlands show their mettle

FARAZ IHTESHAM

Cameroon became the first team to exit the World Cup after their 2-1 defeat at the hands of Denmark. The experienced Danes were too formidable for the Indomitable Lions and two clinical finishing from forwards Bendtner and Rommedahl were enough to seal the African's fate.

Denmark will now fight for the second spot with Japan and the way the Danes played they look favourites to go through along with the Dutch who already booked their place in the second round courtesy of a 1-0 win over the Blue Samurai.

Netherlands star Wesley Sneijder's speculative strike was deflected into the back of the net by Japanese goalkeeper Eiji Kawashima, yet another goalkeeping mistake

and Okada's men had no answers.

Many people's favourite Netherlands are looking as strong as ever. They are yet to concede a goal and were the first team to enter the knock-out phase.



This Dutch team is solid at defence and good on the counter-attack and look likely to go a long way maybe even the final.

The drama was however in the match between Australia and Ghana. The Australians saw red for the second succes-

sive game and this time it was Harry Kewell for handling a goalbound shot in the penalty area. The resulting penalty was dispatched by Ghana strike Asamoah Gyan to make it 1-1.

Earlier the Socceroos made a bright start as midfielder Brett Holman scored after Ghana goalkeeper Richard Kingson could only parry a Mark Bresciano's freekick into his path.

Down to ten men the Aussies held out for a draw.

Ghana now top the group and need only a draw against Germany to advance. The Germans face the possibility of going home after the first round and must beat the Black Stars to avoid such ignominy.

The Socceroos face the uphill task of defeating Serbia. The Serbs may ultimately prove too strong for Australia.

## Foxes, pigeons & Wimbledon Championships begin today

REUTERS, *London*

Urinating vixens, greedy pigeons, May frost and idiosyncratic mowers are just a few of the problems facing Wimbledon's head groundsman in the run up to the world's most famous tennis championships.

He has overseen changes from a grass mixture to a 100 percent rye grass which is tougher and helps to create a harder surface. Critics say the courts have slowed down, penalising the serve-and-volley aficionados, but Seaward, who constantly measures the courts' performance, says speed is

and bother players and crowd.

Seaward, chief groundsman since 1991 has delayed retirement to stay on until the 2012 Olympics, when Wimbledon will host the tennis tournament.

He has overseen changes from a grass mixture to a 100 percent rye grass which is tougher and helps to create a harder surface. Critics say the courts have slowed down, penalising the serve-and-volley aficionados, but Seaward, who constantly measures the courts' performance, says speed is

unchanged.

What has altered is the height of the bounce.

"It's slightly less dense which allows more air movement through the grass and that helps the soil get harder quicker which means the ball bounces higher from day one," he said.

Players had a fraction of a second longer to reach a higher-bouncing ball, instead of having to catch it low off the ground, he explained.

"The bounce was lower because the ground was softer. That's the only difference."

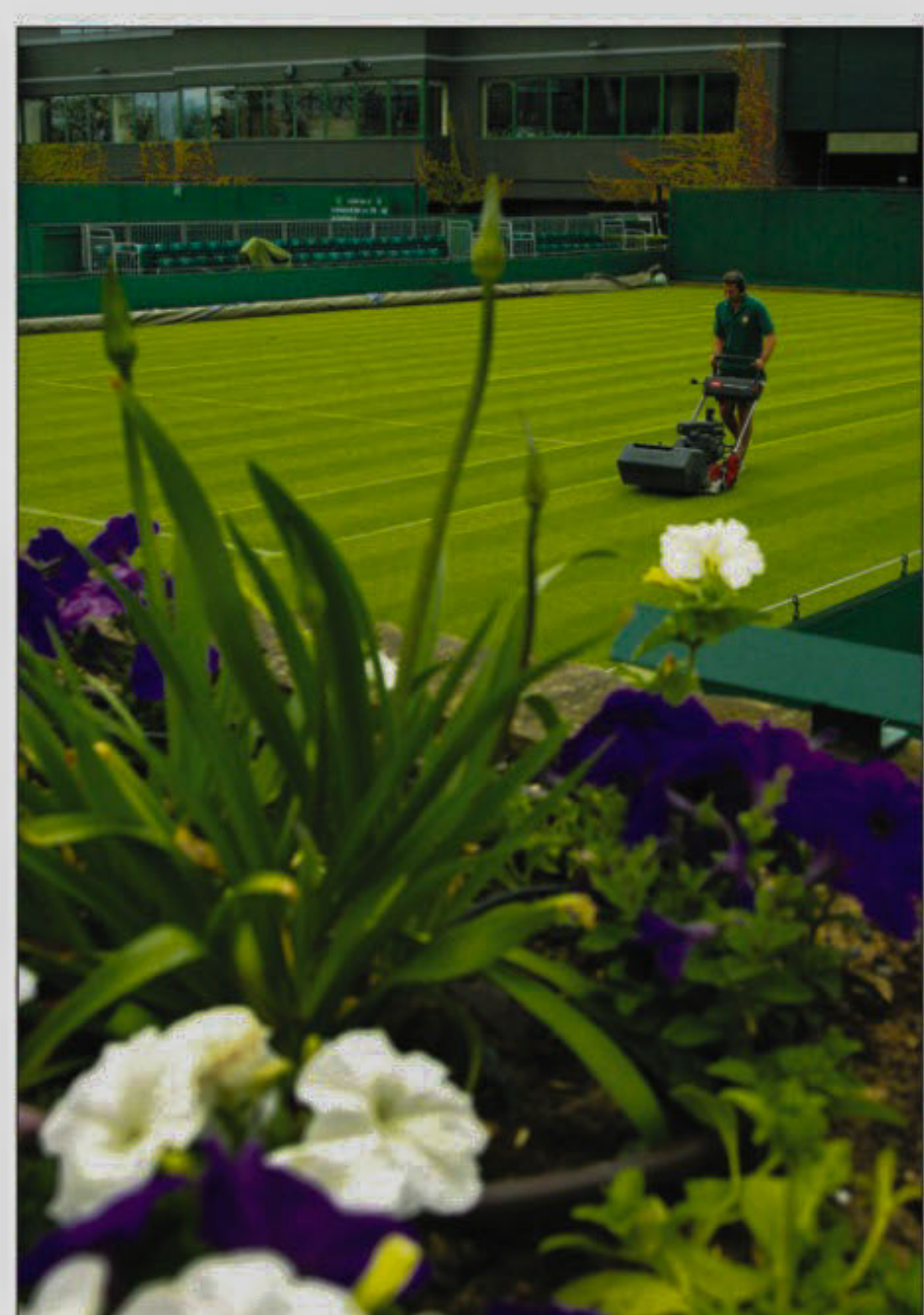


PHOTO: AFP

A groundsman mows a court on the eve of the Wimbledon Championships at the All England Tennis Club yesterday.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>26</b> Kaplan who	<b>40</b> Shade provider	<b>9</b> Boorish sorts
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<b>7</b> Former attorney general	and Kelly's	<b>DOWN</b>	<b>12</b> Answer
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<b>10</b> Billing cycle, often	<b>28</b> Finnish hot spot	<b>2</b> Initial chip	<b>15</b> Scarlet
<b>11</b> Godly beverage	<b>30</b> Spy-novel org.	<b>3</b> Kennedy successor	<b>19</b> Sajak or Summer-all
<b>13</b> Shiny shoe material	<b>33</b> Phrase that prevents idea	<b>4</b> Villainous look	<b>20</b> Dead heat
<b>16</b> Abbr. for Elizabeth II	<b>36</b> Shepherd of rhyme	<b>5</b> Prize for Sandra Bullock	<b>21</b> Skewered entree
<b>17</b> Bake eggs	<b>37</b> Likewise	<b>6</b> 1/746 horse-power	<b>22</b> Actor Elizondo
<b>18</b> Unclose, in verse	<b>38</b> Pass along	<b>7</b> Bellow	<b>23</b> Copenhagen resident
	<b>39</b> Sandwich cookie	<b>8</b> Dark	<b>24</b> Strand
<b>19</b> Sulk			<b>25</b> Chart
<b>20</b> Snatched			<b>26</b> Tiny fish
<b>21</b> Genghis and Kublai			<b>28</b> Short fishing line
<b>23</b> "Loves me (not)" flower			<b>29</b> First-stringers
<b>25</b> Encounter			<b>30</b> Gave as an example
			<b>31</b> Grooving on
			<b>32</b> Past
			<b>34</b> Duel tool
			<b>35</b> Catatrophic

Solution time: 21 mins.

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MALLRAT	OASIS	
AIR	ILL	
TREND	HALLWAY	
ICE	WEN	AGE
CALLBOX	PSHAW	
AUK	PAP	
SCADS	FALL	GUY
TALL	LEA	EASE
AGUE	TALE	EVEN
GEMS	AWN	NESS

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CRYPTOQUIP

G H F J P E D O E W D Q E Q R T O W D P T  
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Z O F M W P Q W K P O T P J O K K H F R  
D H Z O G D O T W G D Q Q E P T.

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** WHEN YOU ARE GREETING A CURMUDGEON WHO CONSTANTLY GRUMBLES, I WOULD SAY YOU'RE HAILING A CRAB.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals P