PHOTO: AFP

Pakistan's Shahid Afridi follows through on a powerful square-drive on way to plundering 124 off just 60 balls against Bangladesh in an Asia Cup match at the Rangiri Dambulla International Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Vintage Brazil, biteless Italy

ATIQUE ANAM

South America's World Cup kept getting better, Africa's miseries were compounded, and another shock result established upsets as the norm in the first round of this World Cup. On Sunday, six-times world champions Brazil turned in a vintage performance to brush aside Ivory Coast 3-1 in their group H encounter, while in group F Paraguay made easy work of meek Slovakia in a 2-0 victory, but the biggest result came when the reigning champions Italy failed to break the wall of New Zealand in their entertaining 1-1 draw.

On Sunday night in Johannesburg, Dunga's men turned in glimpses of champagne football as if to reassure that the Joga Bonito is still very much alive and they can produce it at will if they have the luxury.

There was Joga Bonito written all over the first and the third goal while the second one was a fortunate one, albeit skillfully done. Kaka's return to some semblance of form was a relief for Dunga, but his un-edifying sending off did not go down well with the coach.

It was expected that the Ivorians would not pose as stiff a challenge as the North Koreans due to their attacking style of play, and it turned out to be so as Sven Goran Eriksson fielded an attacking formation of 4-3-3, leaving their defense unguarded often enough for pacy Robinho, Kaka and Fabiano to take full advantage of.

Frustration crept in their play as they tried to stamp their physical authority on the Brazilians causing Elano to suffer a horrible injury and inciting madness from Kaka to get himself sent off.

Introduction of Gervinho at the later stage managed to increase the attacking prowess of the Elephants which produced a consolation goal for Drogba, who was otherwise invisible for the ninety minutes.

Having confirmed second round with a match to play, Dunga will have his playmaker Kaka and hopefully Elano too back in the side in time for the second round match.

Dunga's Brazil have already won the Copa America and the Confederations Cup last year, and on the evidence of Sunday night's play, they look like having it in them to take a sixth World cup crown.

To whom the crown currently belongs to, are in jeopardy of having to relinquish it very early in the tournament, after another futile albeit entertaining performance against tiny New Zealand.

The Azzurris have not won a single game so far in 2010, and one wonders where that win would come from. In both the games they played, they had to come from behind after conceding early goals from set pieces. The Italians who were expected to be good in defending set-pieces gifted two easy goals to the opposition, courtesy of weary legs at the back. And it was only good fortune that they managed to equalise in both games, against Paraguay it was a mistake from the goalkeeper and on Sunday it was a lucky penalty that saved their blushes.

On Sunday's match, the tall and stocky New Zealanders used their physical advantage to cancel out any threat from aerial ball played inside their penalty box. Even when the last line of defence was breached goalkeeper produced the heroics to deny the world champions any success. Italians might have done better had they tried to unlock the defence taking the ball through dribbles or threading balls but they hardly have the quality of Robinho or Kaka to do so. Andrea Pirlo's absence makes their case only harder.

Italy enjoyed 72 percent of possession, earned 15 corners against zero to the kiwis, and had five shots on target to only one from their opponents, yet there was only despair at the end of ninety minutes.

Adventurous Paraguay's 2-0 win over an insipid Slovakia puts them in pole position to become group champions and avoid Netherlands in the second round.

Ajax *a la* Portugal

SPORTS REPORTER

Two goals each from Rahat Sarwar and Shahidullah Khokon powered Ajax SC to a massive 7-0 win over Police AC in the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Ajax established their supremacy in the one-way traffic in the first half and took a 3-0 lead with strikes from Rahat, Nurunnabi Rupom and Afsar Uddin.

After the break, Rahat, Imitiaz added one goal each while Khokon struck a brace to complete the rout.

2 feds have new bosses

SPORTS REPORTER

Manjur Kader Koraishi MP and Mushfiqur Rahman Mohan have been appointed presidents of two different national sports federations yesterday.

Under Section 20 of the National Sports Council Ordinance 1976 (amendment), the government appointed Koraishi as the Bangladesh Weightlifting Federation president and Mohan as the president of the Bangladesh Squash Rackets Federation.

Meanwhile, Moazzem Hossain Sento, general secretary of the Bangladesh Karate Federation (BKF), was elected the general secretary of the South Asian Karate Federation (SAKF) in a SAKF executive committee meeting held on Sunday in Colombo.

ESPN
2010 FIFA World Cup
France v South Africa
Live from 8:00pm
Greece v Argentina
Live from 12:30am (Wednesday)

STAR Sports
2010 FIFA World Cup
Mexico v Uruguay
Live from 8:00pm
Nigeria v South Korea
Live from 12:30am (Wednesday)

NEO Cricket
Asia Cup
Sri Lanka v India
Live from 3:00pm

TEN Sports & SuperSport2
West Indies v South Africa
Second Test, Day 5
Live from 8:00pm

STAR Sports & SuperSport5
Wimbledon Championships
First Round
Live from 5:00pm

STAR Cricket
England v Australia
First ODI
Live from 7:30pm

Premier Div Hockey League
Wari Club v Police AC
Time: 2:30pm
Sonali Bank v Sadharan Bima
Time: 4:30pm
Venue: Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium

Afridi toys with Tigers

AFP, *Dambulla*

Skipper Shahid Afridi smashed a glorious 124 off 60 balls as Pakistan ended their Asia Cup campaign with a 139-run rout of Bangladesh on Monday.

Afridi plundered 17 boundaries and four sixes to lead Pakistan to their highest one-day total of 385-7, before Bangladesh replied with 246-5 in the day-night match.

Junaid Siddique top-scored for Bangladesh with 97 after sharing a second-wicket stand of 160 with Imrul Kayes, who made 66.

It was Pakistan's lone victory in the four-nation tournament and came after India and defending champions Sri Lanka had already qualified for Thursday's final with two wins each.

Bangladesh return home beaten in all three matches.

India and Sri Lanka clash in the last league match on Tuesday to prepare for the final at the Rangiri stadium in Dambulla.

Pakistan's total surpassed their previous best of 371-9 against Sri Lanka in Nairobi in 1996, a match in which Afridi cracked the fastest one-day century ever off 37 balls.

Pakistan, who had lost narrowly to both India and Sri Lanka, used the game to display their batting power after openers Imran Farhat (66) and Shahzaib Hasan (50) put on 81 by the 13th over.

There was another half-century from Umar Akmal, who made 50 during a fifth-wicket stand of 136 with Afridi.

Pakistan hammered 120 runs in the last nine overs as the Bangladesh bowling wilted under the spectacular assault.

Pakistan's innings was marred by the bizarre dismissal of Umar Amin, who was run out by Mohammad Mahmudullah while moving from the off to the leg-side at the non-striker's end after completing a single.

Amin's bat was in the air as he walked across the popping crease and was clearly not trying to steal a single when Mahmudullah broke the stumps.

Umpires Billy Doctrove and Bruce Oxenford referred the decision to the TV umpire, who declared Amin run out.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: 385 for 7 in 50 overs (Afridi 124, Farhat 66, Shahzaib 50, Umar 50; Shafiul 3-95, Razzak 1-48, Shakib 2-73)
BANGLADESH: 246 for 5 in 50 overs (Tamim 34, Imrul 66, Junaid 97, Shakib 25; Shoaib 1-22)
Result: Pakistan won by 139 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Shahid Afridi
Toss: Pakistan
Umpires: Billy Doctrove and Bruce Oxenford.

Wimbledon underway

AFP, *London*

The Wimbledon tennis championships got underway Monday with defending champion Roger Federer going in search of his seventh title, while comeback girl Kim Clijsters got off to a flying start.

The men's defending champion is always the first to play on the pristine grass of Centre Court, and Swiss top seed Federer began his campaign against Colombia's Alejandro Falla.

Women's defending champion Serena Williams gets her campaign underway against Portuguese teenager Michelle Larcher de Brito.

Belgian eighth seed Clijsters, who spent more than two years out of the game, marked her return to the All England Club with a quick, straight sets victory over Italy's Maria Elena Camarin.

Women's 11th seed Marion Bartoli, 12th seed Nadia Petrova and 21st seed Vera Zvonareva also went through to the second round in straight sets.

The winners of this year's Wimbledon singles' titles will net one million pounds (1.48 million dollars, 1.2 million euros) in prize money after a credit-crunch defying increase of 150,000 pounds.

The total prize money for the event stands at 13.725 million pounds.

Taiwan's Chan Yung-Jan got the first win of the championships, downing Swiss veteran Patty Schnyder, who was playing in her 56th Grand Slam. Chan reached the second round for the first time with a 6-0, 6-2 win.

Later on Centre Court, women's fourth seed Jelena Jankovic was to face teenage British wild card Laura Robson, who won the 2008 girls' singles.

Jankovic's fellow Serb Novak Djokovic, the men's third seed, was then to face Belgium's Olivier Rochus.

Last year's beaten finalists started their campaign on Number One Court.

US number one Andy Roddick, who lost one of the all-time greatest finals in a knife-edge 16-14 fifth set duel with Federer, was up against compatriot Rajeev Ram.

Venus Williams, the five-time Wimbledon champion who lost the women's final to her sister Serena last year, begins against Paraguay's Rossana de los Rios.

In changes for 2010, Courts 3 and 4 have been demolished, with the 2,000-seater bowl of the new Court 3 already in place, though it will not be ready until next year.

The traditional punnet of strawberries has gone up by 25 pence to 2.50 pounds (3.70 dollars, three euros).

The Wimbledon favourite treat was even handed out at London Heathrow Airport to mark the start of the tournament.

Queen Elizabeth II is due to make her first visit to the championships since 1977 when she takes her place in the royal box on Centre Court on Thursday.

Portugal poach

FROM PAGE 17

forward to threaten the Portgual goal.

The Cholima were certainly not intimidated and could have taken a shock lead when captain Hong Yong-Jo's shot was parried by Eduardo, only for Mun In-Guk to head the rebound over the bar.

The Portuguese came out after the break pushing hard for the second goal which inevitably came on 53 minutes with Meireles slicing open the Korean defence with a pass to Athletic Madrid's Simao who slotted the ball past Ri.

North Korea were in disarray and let their guard down again three minutes later when Fabio Coentrao beat his man on the left and sent a lovely cross to Hugo Almeida who made no mistake with a powerful header.

Portugal were rampant and the fourth goal came soon after when Ronaldo picked out Tiago in the box and he clinically side-footed home before Liedson volleyed in the fifth with nine minutes left.

Ronaldo made the most of a lucky bobble to get the sixth in the 87th minute before Tiago rubbed salt in the Korean wounds with a late deft header.

Hosts on a par with Proteas

Cricket

AFP, *Basseterre*

South Africa's grip on the second Test against West Indies was weakened on Sunday after Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Brendan Nash hit hundreds.

Chanderpaul was undefeated on the top score so far of 151, and Nash made 114, as West Indies reached 424 for four, replying to the South Africans' first innings total of 543 for six declared, at the close on the third day.

The Proteas' bowlers were hamstrung by the friendly Warner Park pitch, and Chanderpaul and Nash filled their troughs in a stand of 220 for the fourth wicket that helped West Indies avoid the follow-on.

"We seem to feed off each other well," said Nash of Chanderpaul. "We've had a few good partnerships in the previous Tests we've played."

"He [Chanderpaul] gives you the calm at the other end, like the rock in the foundation. That instills so much confidence in you at the other end."

Chanderpaul got to his 22nd Test hundred from 188 balls, with a square drive for two off Dale Steyn, the same bowler that Nash pulled through square leg for the 12th of his 14 fours to reach his second Test hundred from 129 deliveries.

Nat'l chess

SPORTS REPORTER

FM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar took solo lead in the preliminary phase of the 36th National Chess Championship at the end of the ninth round at the Bangladesh Chess Federation Hall Room yesterday.

Sagar beat Mizanur Rahman Lablu to secure 7.5 points from nine games while six players, FM Abu Sufian Shakil, FM Mehdi Hasan Parag, FM Aminul Islam, FM Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Emon, Debaraj Chatterjee and Abdullah Al Saif, were in the second position with seven points each.

Drawing contest

SPORTS REPORTER

A drawing competition for children was held yesterday at the Bangladesh Olympic Association Bhaban on the eve of today's Olympic Day Run in the capital.

Among 62 competitors, Israt Jahan (Under-9), Jannatul Ferdous Binti (U-12) and Sharmin Shahriar (U-16) emerged champions in their respective categories.

Badda pull through

SPORTS REPORTER

A last gasp strike from Pranob Kumar helped Badda Jagarani Sangsad beat Victoria SC 1-0 in the Bashundhara Senior Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Pranob scored the all-important goal in the 90th minute to give Badda their second win in seven matches while it was Victoria's fourth defeat.

Red card unjustified

AFP, *Johannesburg*

Brazil coach Dunga insisted the controversial dismissal of star midfielder Kaka was 'totally unjustified' as the five-time world champions beat the Ivory Coast 3-1 to reach the World Cup last 16 on Sunday.

Kaka was sent off for a second yellow card in the final minutes for pushing Abdelkader Keita, but the Ivorian wildly exaggerated the impact of the shove by falling to the ground, dramatically clutching his face.

Having earlier picked up a yellow card for a push on Yaya Toure on 85 minutes, Kaka was shown red three minutes later when Keita ran into the Brazilian, who was looking the other way.

"I won't make any comment about the red card," fumed Kaka after the game.

"I think all of you saw the image and everything else, so I have nothing further to say. The images are there for all to see and you are able to see what really happened."

Dunga was left almost speechless by the sending off which now sees the Real Madrid star suspended for the final Group G match against Portugal in Durban on Friday.

"It was a totally unjustified dismissal of Kaka, he was fouled and yet he was punished. The player who commits the foul escapes the yellow card, I have to congratulate him for that," said Dunga.

"We are left a bit in doubt, what do we have to do in order not to receive these yellow cards?

"We are not sure who will replace Kaka for the next game, we will think about it over the next few days."

Brazil booked their place in the knock-out phase thanks to goals either side of half-time by Sevilla's Luis Fabiano, on 25 and 52 minutes, and Galatasary's Elano, who converted a Kaka cross on 62 minutes.

Ivory Coast captain Didier Drogba scored a late consolation goal for the Elephants.

Ivory Coast coach Sven-Goran Eriksson felt the second yellow card against Kaka was warranted and said the Brazilians should not complain after there was more than a hint of handball in Luis Fabiano's second goal.

"I heard Brazil complain a lot, but I don't think they should, it is extra difficult when Fabiano is allowed to use his hands. It was not just once, it was twice," said the Swede.

"They were allowed to take a two-goal lead and that changed everything."

But former England boss Eriksson feels Brazil have the mark of potential world champions.

"I think the Brazil team can go all the way, they have quality especially in defence," he said.

"You need to be almost perfect to beat Brazil. In every way they are good, they are very good."

Jabulani: myth and fact

FROM PAGE 17

less than the Jabulani ball. Naturally, the Teamgeist ball will have more stable or predictable flight trajectory compared to Jabulani ball

(4) Overall, the aerodynamic performance of the Teamgeist ball is better compared to the Jabulani ball.

Also, important to note is that the Jabulani ball is not perfectly smooth as it has special ridges on its surface along with seams between the panels. As the airflow passes over the ball, the ridges and seams generate asymmetric airflow creating pressure variation around the ball. This pressure variation can cause deviation from the expected flight trajectory. This deviation is what is commonly referred to as swerve, swoop or knuckle etc.

But this also raises the question. What role does altitude play in all of this?

The average altitude of six cities of the total ten stadium cities of South Africa is 1350 m from the sea level. The study indicates that high altitude will have significant effect on the ball's aerodynamic drag and speed.

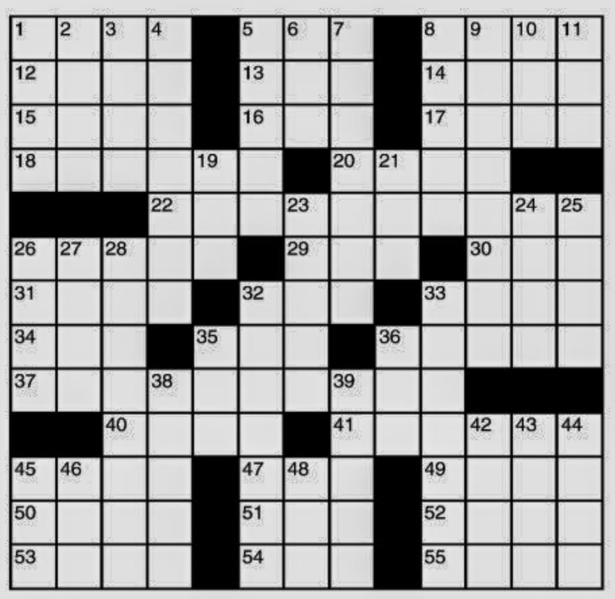
For example, at 90 km/h ball speed in calm wind condition at high altitude stadiums in South Africa, the Jabulani ball's air resistance can be around 13% less compared to the sea level stadium cities such as Cape Town or Durban. As a result, the ball can travel at 7% higher speed on average in high altitude cities. However, in Johannesburg, which is 1750 m above sea level, the Jabulani ball can travel almost 10% higher compared to sea level stadium cities in South Africa. Therefore, the players can overshoot the ball.

CROSSWORD *By Eugene Sheffer*

ACROSS
1 Pleased
5 Docs' org.
8 "That's a relief!"
12 Staffer
13 Restroom, for short
14 Emanation
15 Paper quantity
16 Monokini's lack
17 Despot
18 Department
20 Clock sound
22 Redundantly named money dispenser
26 Disposed (to)
29 Weep
30 Veto
31 Knocks
32 Sleepwear, briefly
33 Wrinkly citrus
34 Prior night
35 Twosome
36 Beginning
37 Redundantly named IDs for 22-Across
40 Profound
41 Meal
45 Reed instrument
47 Documentarian Burns
49 Always
50 Crucifix
51 "— Impossible"
52 Infamous lyre player
53 Prevents
54 Writer Hentoff
55 Salver

DOWN
1 Apparel
2 Stead
3 Hebrew month
4 Lowers in status
5 Book of photos
6 Scratch
7 Internet forum icons
8 Keep an eye on
9 Corn farmers' socials
10 Mound stat
11 Ares' realm
19 Chowed down
21 Unfriendly
23 Low-pay, low-skill work
24 Shade of green
25 Way out
26 Get ready, briefly
27 Sitarist Shankar
28 Freedom of access
32 Jack-o'-lantern
33 Left over, as money
35 About to arrive
36 Raw rock
38 Has to have
39 Dada artist Max
42 State with conviction
43 Antitoxins
44 Helen's home
45 Sphere
46 Feathery neckpiece
48 Greek vowel

Solution time: 25 mins.



CRYPTOQUIP

PI H IHCWPYXHVOA DYRXM CGRNAXG PC GWA AXATMAGPB GDFA, P MRACC WA BYRON VA H FAFFD FTAFFD.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE THAT PHOTOGRAPHER IS REALLY INTELLIGENT, MANY PEOPLE ARE CALLING HIM A SHARP SHOOTER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals I