

# 'Brazil can wait'

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Chile midfielder Arturo Vidal has told his teammates that they must focus on bettering the Netherlands before they can start thinking about a glamour clash with World Cup hosts Brazil.

Chile dumped holders Spain out of the tournament with a stunning 2-0 win in Rio de Janeiro on Wednesday and can now secure top spot in Group B by winning their final group game against Holland in Sao Paulo on Monday.

A draw would leave Chile in second place in the group, potentially teeing up a last-16 date with South American rivals Brazil, but Vidal says that his side cannot afford to look too far ahead.

"We just want to play against the best teams," the Juventus midfielder told reporters after the victory over Spain at the Maracana.

"Holland are a strong team who have won their two matches, but we hope, like today (Wednesday), to get the three points.

"It's a World Cup. You can come up against anyone. The important thing is to keep playing well and if we can do that, we can go very far."

Playmaker Jorge Valdivia echoed his team-mate's words, saying: "Now we need to think about Holland before worrying about Brazil, Mexico or whoever it may be."

Vidal is playing through the pain for his country after undergoing knee surgery last month and coach Jorge Sampaoli praised him for a "very intensive performance" against Spain.

Having played for 60 minutes in the opening 3-1 win over Australia, the 27-year-old made it until the 88th minute against Spain before hobbling off, but he downplayed concerns about the condition of his knee.

"It's OK," he said. "I was limping when I went off, but I was just happy that we won."

# Rodriguez inspires Colombia

AFP, Brasilia

Another superb performance by playmaker James Rodriguez who scored one goal and created the other inspired Colombia to a 2-1 win over Ivory Coast in their World Cup Group C match and to the brink of the last 16 on Thursday.

Rodriguez, scoring his second of the tournament, and substitute Juan Fernando Quintero, with his first international goal, struck in the second-half while Gervinho replied with a superb individual goal, his second of the finals, for the African side.

The national anthems saw Ivorian midfielder Die Serey in floods of tears -- it was reported later that his father had died hours before the match.

The first-half was largely bereft of any excitement, although the Colombians should have gone in one goal to the good but

**COLOMBIA 2 (Rodriguez 64, Quintero 70) IVORY COAST 1 (Gervinho 73)**

for a dreadful miskick by Teofilo Gutierrez after being beautifully teed up by Rodriguez.

The Ivory Coast, who had once again opted to leave veteran Didier Drogba on the bench, offered little in attack with their one incident of note a crude piece of play acting by Serge Aurier when having got free of his opponent he then collapsed theatrically to the ground clutching his face.

Colombia, though, had done an effective job on taking Ivory Coast's main creative force Yaya Toure out of the game as Carlos Sanchez followed him everywhere.

Toure, though, started to free himself of

the shackles in the second-half as first he curled a freekick wide of the post and then produced a delightfully deft chip into the penalty area finding Wilfried Bony.

However, the Swansea marksman had mistimed his run and instead of being able to head the ball he was forced to try and do a bicycle kick which flew wide.

Colombia swept up the other end of the pitch with Rodriguez finding wing wizard Juan Cuadrado and he worked his magic on the weary Arthur Boka turning him inside and out and his cross shot beat the keeper only to cannon to safety off the crossbar.

Ivory Coast coach Jose Pekerman had seen enough and sent on 36-year-old Drogba for Bony hoping he could work his magic with both his previous World Cup goals coming against South American opposition.

However, his team-mates were looking at him in askance after the smaller Rodriguez managed to beat him and another defender to Cuadrado's corner and head home sparking another terrific Motown style Colombian goal celebration.

There was another excuse for more of that in the 70th minute as Rodriguez dispossessed Aurier inside his own half and fed Juan Fernando Quintero who ran into the penalty area and slotted the ball past goalkeeper Boubacar Barry.

The Ivorians, though, were far from down and out as the match really came to life and Gervinho gave the African side real hope when he scored a superb individual goal.

The former Arsenal man picked the ball up on the left flank and then with a swish of his hips beat one man to cut inside and then beat another challenge before tucking the ball past David Ospina.



Colombia midfielder James Rodriguez (L) celebrates with teammate Juan Guillermo Cuadrado after scoring the opener against Ivory Coast during their World Cup Group C match at the Mane Garrincha National Stadium in Brasilia yesterday.

## QUICK BITES

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Reporter: "After having beaten Spain, what are you expecting next at the World Cup?"

**We are expecting an aeroplane to Belo Horizonte.** Chile player Jorge Valdivia.

**It's disgusting and I don't like it.** Cameroon coach Volker Finke after Alexandre Song was sent off and Benoit Assou-Ekotto aimed a headbutt at team-mate Benjamin Moukandjo in the 4-0 loss to Croatia.

**We are not falling apart.** Spain coach Vicente del Bosque after the champions' elimination.

**Goodbye to the golden years.** Spanish daily Marca on the demise of the World Cup champions.

**They have to realise it could be a long, frustrating summer if we don't get it right.** - England captain Steven Gerrard on the importance of beating Uruguay.

## WI edge closer to victory

AFP, Port Of Spain

Two more wickets in the afternoon session moved the West Indies closer to a series-levelling victory with New Zealand at 181 for six in their second innings, still trailing by 59 runs, at tea on the fourth day of the second Test at Queen's Park Oval on Thursday.

Fast bowlers Shannon Gabriel and Jerome Taylor were the successful bowlers as the Black Caps contributed to their own predicament with some painfully slow scoring, adding just 52 runs in the two hours' play.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
**NEW ZEALAND:** First innings 221  
**WEST INDIES:** First innings 460  
**NEW ZEALAND:** Second innings 181 for 6 (Latham 36, Williamson 52, Taylor 36, Watling 18 not out; Taylor 2-31, Benn 2-51)

# Shakib takes the matter to court

SPORTS REPORTER



Police on Wednesday night arrested a cricket fan after Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan filed a case for harassing his wife Shishir during the India-Bangladesh ODI, which took place on Sunday.

The individual, Rahib Rahman Khan, was arrested by police from Banani under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act. He was however released on bail yesterday afternoon.

When contacted OC Salahuddin Khan of Mirpur police station confirmed these details and said: "The cricketer [Shakib] filed a women repression case, and there was one

accused. The police arrested him and sent him to court from where he got bail today [Thursday]."

However, when contacted, lawyer of the accused Advocate Masud Ahmed Talukder said that his client was innocent.

"There was a group of supporters who were shouting during the course of the game and my client, sitting in the same box, was not a part of that group. They might have had an exchange of words with Shakib Al Hasan's wife," Masud told The Daily Star yesterday. He however confirmed that there was a scuffle between Shakib and his client.

The unwanted incident occurred during the rain break in the first match when some fans in the stands taunted

at Shakib's wife after the ace batsman got out cheaply. Upset with the incident Shakib reportedly came out from the dressing room and entered the crowd to confront spectators and reportedly physically assaulted some among them.

News of the clash was published in a number of national dailies the following day and it was presumed that the matter had been resolved in the playing arena.

Masud further stated that his client's parents had gone to the team hotel to meet with Shakib and explain the scenario, but their effort went in vain, a fact also confirmed by team sources.

It was learnt that match referee Roshan Mahanama sent a letter to the

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) in order to learn more about the incident. Mahanama's apparent interest in the issue may come from the fact that it is illegal for a player to leave the dressing room during the course of a match.

Several eye witnesses related that during the rain break in the first ODI on Sunday, spectators near the dressing room were jeering at the Bangladesh players, and Shakib in particular, to which his wife -- also in the stands -- reacted, and from there started the unsavoury series of events. It is a rare event that a player in an international match starts a physical fight with paying spectators, who have the tendency to be rowdy the world over.

While harassing women is always to be condemned, many questioned why there was yet to be any disciplinary sanctions on Shakib. Regarding the matter BCB's acting CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury said: "Initially we thought that it was a misunderstanding but now we have to learn the versions of both the parties. We have not decided to remain silent on the matter. We will take our action in due course of time."

This was not the first time that Shakib hit the headlines for his controversies. During the second ODI against Sri Lanka in February, Shakib made a vulgar gesture to a live TV camera and was subsequently banned for three matches. He was also in hot water during the ICC World Twenty20 when he gave a controversial interview to a Bangla daily.

# Jamal, Russel stunned

SPORTS REPORTER



League leaders Sheikh Jamal DC suffered their first defeat in the Nitel Tata Bangladesh Premier League as they were beaten 1-0 by a spirited Brothers Union at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Away at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong, hosts Chittagong Abahani produced an upset too as they beat holders Sheikh Russel KC 1-0, thanks to a 52-minute strike from Atiqur Rahman.

Brothers Union's Rubel Mia, a national U-19 team forward, put up a brilliant performance on the water-logged BNS pitch and caught Sheikh Jamal goalkeeper Ziaur Rahman off guard with a diagonal dipping shot from 35 yards out two minutes into the second half.

Rubel, who had also scored a stunning goal against Abahani, had also rattled the crossbar on the hour-mark while Sheikh Jamal failed to beat Brothers goalkeeper Mohammad Sujon, who thwarted at least three to four chances.

Sheikh Jamal's Nigerian coach Joseph Afusi, who was recently served a show-cause notice by the team management, did not accompany his charges for the second successive match and his absence gave indications of parting ways with the club, which was later confirmed by a team official.

"He (Afusi) left Bangladesh yesterday as he has some pending issues regarding his passport and visa. We let him go to look after his personal affairs as we have coach Maruful Haque at our disposal," said the club's manager Anwarul Karim Helal adding that Afusi is unlikely to coach the side any more.

Despite the defeat, Sheikh Jamal are on the top with 45, eight ahead of second-placed Abahani, who have a match in hand while Brothers equalled third-placed Mohammedan with 32 points each.

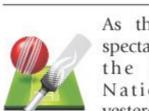
On the other hand, Chittagong Abahani leapfrogged to eighth position from the bottom with 13 points from 20 matches while Sheikh Russel remained at the sixth position with 27 points from 20 outings.

## SCOREBOARD

INDIA	R	B	4s	6s
Uthappa c Nasir b Mashrafe	5	13	1	0
Rahane c Nasir b Al-Amin	3	18	0	0
Pujara lbw b Shakib	27	63	2	0
Rayudu c Mushfiqur b Taskin	1	6	0	0
Tiwary c Anamul b Al-Amin	2	6	0	0
Raina c Mushfiqur b Shakib	25	25	3	0
Saha b Shakib	16	21	2	0
Binny not out	25	36	4	0
Patel c Mushfiqur b Taskin	1	3	0	0
Sharma lbw b Shohag	1	13	0	0
Yadav not out	0	2	0	0
Extras: (lb-3, w-10)	13			
Total: (For 9 wickets in 34.2 overs) 119				
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-8, 3-13, 4-16, 5-57, 6-89, 7-90, 8-97, 9-119.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mashrafe	8	1	25	1
Al-Amin	6	1	23	2
Taskin	8	1	15	2
Shakib	7.2	0	27	3
Nasir	2	0	14	0
Shohag	2	0	7	1
Mahmudullah	1	0	5	0
<b>BANGLADESH:</b> Tamim Iqbal, Anamul Haque, Mithun Ali, Mushfiqur Rahim (Captain), Shakib Al Hasan, Mahmudullah, Nasir Hossain, Shohag Gazi, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Taskin				

# Rain has final say

SPORTS REPORTER



As the smattering of spectators filed out of the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday just after 8pm, when rain had the final say on the fate of the third match -- a dead rubber -- of the three-ODI series, it was hard to escape the feeling that the damp squib was an apt ending. India won the series 2-0 courtesy of a seven-wicket victory in the first game and an astonishing 47-run victory in the second game when they scored just 105, but even the second-string side they sent will not be happy with their batting performances -- they were 119 for nine in 34.2 overs after choosing to bat first

when rain stopped play for the third and last time.

On pitches that had more seam movement and variable bounce than often seen in Mirpur or, as India skipper Suresh Raina claimed after the match, anywhere in the subcontinent both teams were guilty of a lack of application -- the real difference was that Bangladesh were more inept in that regard. Yesterday, apart from Cheteshwar Pujara who hit a 63-ball 27, none of the Indians showed any willingness to tough it out on a wicket that, while it may have been difficult, was not insurmountable.

For their part, the pacers -- India's Stuart Binny and Mohit Sharma, Bangladesh's Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Al Amin Hossain and newcomer Taskin

Ahmed -- were eager to prey on the batsmen's weaknesses, as was aptly demonstrated yesterday.

As India skipper Suresh Raina said after the match, the pitch was a difficult one but Bangladesh skipper Mushfiqur Rahim said that whatever the state of the wicket, he would expect his side to chase 105 on any given day against any attack, referring to the debacle in the second match, which is when the series truly turned on its head.

"It is not the kind of wicket that we are used to playing on, but on any wicket chasing 105 runs is not a problem," said Mushfiqur after the match. "I would think that my team can chase that total against any opposition on any wicket."

This series continues a terrible run

for Mushfiqur's men as it marked their ninth straight loss this year, a streak only broken by yesterday's no-result. But Mushfiqur still tried to look at the positives. "The pace department bowled well, especially Taskin (Ahmed) and Mashrafe. Shakib also batted well in the first match and bowled well throughout."

With the growing discontent with the poor results, the skipper had to field questions on whether they will take out-of-form players to West Indies. He was noncommittal in his answer. "We have to see what kind of players we are talking about. It cannot be that we drop someone who has been playing well for six or seven years, but has been out of form for seven or eight matches."

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