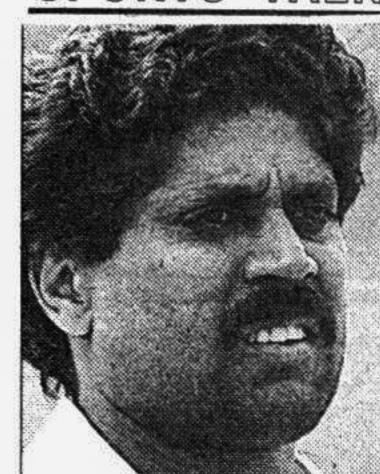
DHAKA SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 1999 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

BPL) Colour TV Believe in the best **MRANGS GROUP**



Kapil Dev

(Former Indian captain and highest wicket-taker in Test cricket)

"Kya bowler hai. Wicket mein kuch nehin, ball mein kuch nahin, phir bhi batsmen ki testing. In my opinion he is the best fast bowler." On Wasim Akram

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

HAT once upon a time Indian film actress Zeenat Aman cancelled all her shooting schedules and flew to every venue of Pakistan Test or other matches to be close to Imran Khan. This after she wooed him at a party, to which she managed to be invited. Imran was also bowled over. After all, Zeenat was Indian's No.1 heroine. She even went to England where he was playing county matches. Love letters were exchanged between the two. Marriage was on the cards but Imran's family objected seriously.

How do I know all this? have been scrounging through some old filmi magazines. Very old, indeed.

Theirs was a case of being run out in the nervous nineties.



COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-115 ✓ Tick the Correct Answers Post to The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes Competition closes at 8 pm May 7, '99 and draw shortly

afterwards Who will replace Bob Woolmer as South African cricket coach?

Ford Stewart Marsh When England last hosted cricket World Cup?

1987 Umpire Steve Bucknor is a Guyanese Jamaican Trinidadian

4 The final match of the 1999 cricket World Cup will be held at Edgbaston Lord's

The World Cup match between Bangladesh and Scotland will be played in

Edinburgh Belfast Cardiff

Name

Class Roll No. School Address



Phone: (If any)

National chess

Rezaul, Showkat lead after R-4

Sports Reporter Two players-- Rezaul Haque and Showkat Hossain-- were leading the 25th National Chess Championship with three points each at the end of round four on Saturday.

Rezaul defeated Ali Amjad while Showkat upset International Master (IM) Reefat-bin-Sattar.

At the other tables, IM Abdullah Al-Rakib beat Firoz Ahmed, Saifuddin beat Khandker Aminul Islam, Monir Hossain beat Sheikh Nasir Ahmed. Mohammad Javed beat Khorshed Alam while Enamul Hossain drew with Tayeebur Rahman.

The other match between holder IM Ziaur Rahman and Jamilur Rahman was going on till the filing of this report last

Leaders (after round four): 3 points--Rezaul and Showkat, 2.5 points--Rakib and Enamul. 2 points--Zia (3 matches). Ali Amjad, Saifuddin, Aminul, Nasir, and 1.5 points--Reefat and Khorshed.

TODAY'S MATCHES

(Round five) Reefat vs Monir Nasir vs Zia

Coca-Cola 2nd SAFF Championship

Bangladesh beat Pakistan 4-0

Al-Amin writes from Margaon



Nehru Stadium here Saturday. Diminutive striker Mizanur Rahman Don struck twice in the second-half after midfielder Iqbal and his attacking partner Alfaz Ahmed gave a 2-0 cushion in the first session to complete the Pakistan route.

The victory not only more than avenged their two previous defeats against Pakistan in the regional championship, but also put behind the blues of the national team's chronic failure over the years.

The impressive victory of Bangladesh also ended the tournament ducks after two consecutive drawn encounters.

Although Bangladesh, who have a poor track record in any regional meet, went into the match with an air of uncertainty, the complexion of the game looked one-sided once Igbal shot his side into the lead

in the very sixth minute of the proceedings.

The hard-working midfielder was not noticed by anyone until a Hasan-al Mamun cross came by his way off the Pakistan defensive wall. Lurking on the top of the right-hand side of the box, Iqbal made no mistake to send the ball into the upper right of the net with a first-time scorching right-footer, much to the delight of a handful Bangladeshi support-ers at the stand. (1-0)

Buoyed by the early lead Bangladesh went all out for more and their relentless effort paid dividends in the 32nd minute, but not before the inspirational Iraqi coach of the national team Samir Shakir introduced Rakib into the attack instead of Parvez.

Rakib, with the first touch of the ball, earned a corner. He took the flag-kick from the left. but only to see it deflected to the other side of the box from where captain Jewel Rana lobbed a perfect cross, which Alfaz made no mistake in heading home past a shaky custodian Younis.

Saifuddin Lovlu and Aminul Islam pondering their next moves during their 4th round

Soccer sans passion

"I don't know the reason.

May be they are not considering

it as a standard tournament or

(because of) the live coverage of

the matches on the television."

said Colaco, who is also the sec-

retary of the organising com-

The tournament itself got off

to a disappointing start with

the hosts India settling for a

goalless draw against

Bangladesh. The goal-draught

continued in the second match

as Sri Lanka and Maldives

son too. The tournament is yet

to produce a result in two out-

us. Especially after making all

the arrangements it is painful

to see the stadium is not full,"

"There might be another rea-

"Definitely it's a setback for

But it hardly depicts the true

picture of Goa's passion for

football. As one reckons, a full-

house crowd was always guar-

anteed even in League match

last year. Moreover, on number

of occasions people at this

tourist resort turned up in good

numbers to witness any inter-

national or domestic football

played to a dull draw.

ings, " claimed Colaco.

Colaco continued.

correspondent Friday.

clash in the 25th national chess championship on Saturday.

MARGAON, Apr 24: 'Twenty-

two players, one ball and a mil-

lion heart-beat', reads a giant

billboard on the boulevard

leading up to the Nehru Sta-

dium in Margaon, the hosts of

the six-nation Coca-Cola SAFF

to make any impression on the

locals as they continued to stay

away from the happenings at

Although the people here at

the tourist city are known as

avid followers of football, only

10,000 spectators turned up to

see India in action against

Bangladesh on Thursday, the

first match of the 11- day meet.

The turnout turned even poorer

on the following day where only

a few hundreds appeared to

watch the second match be-

dance served a shock both to the

organisers and the AFC Mar-

keting, the sponsor of the meet.

turn-out because last time we

hosted a pre-Olympic qualify-

ing match between India and

Pakistan it was a full house.

said a shell-shocked secretary

of the Goa Football Associa-

tion, Alberto Colaco, to this

The surprisingly poor atten-

"I'm surprised by the low

tween Sri Lanka and Maldives.

the 35,000 capacity stadium.

But it seemed to have failed

Championship.

Younis was pulled out by his coach after conceding two goals, but Bangladesh gave them hardly any respite after the

Bangladesh started from where they had left in the firsthalf. However, they had to wait till the 63rd minute before Mizanur came up with a spec-tacular right-footer from the left-hand side of the box. Mizanur's shot cruised into the far corner of the net like a guided missile 3-0.

Mizanur struck his second goal three minutes later after being nicely fed by an overlapping Prodip in a fast counter-attack. Mizanur, however, muffed up the chance of a unique treble when he failed to beat the substitute Pakistan goalie Zahid in

an one-to-one situation twice. It would have been a more flattering victory for Bangladesh had Mizanur not

missed those easy sitters. The Pakistanis, on the other hand, hardly got any chance to penetrate the rock-solid Bangladesh defence. With cap-

- Star photo

As the leading football

breeding ground of India, Goa

has produced the top Indian

team like Salgaocar, which won

the national League title last

"It is also not understand-

able why spectators arrived so

less even when India played in

the first match. But I have seen

a lot of people in the League

matches here. Perhaps they are

more loyal to their club side

than to the national team,"

quipped a veteran Indian jour-

appeared more flabbergasted

crowd. As you can see the crowd

is not responsive here which is

quite amazing to us because Goa

is one of the football pocket in

India. So, this is certainly

something we did not expect

and in the same sense it is dis-

appointing for us. "Besides, the

match result, I think, will also

affect the remainder of the

tournament unless India put up

a good show and draw more

crowd", said Carlos Nhora, the

sales director of AFC Market-

compared to others.

The sponsor of the tourney

"I'm happy except for the

tain Jewel living up to his cool self in the rear and an airborne Rajani encountering with maturity the Pakistani ploy of tak-ing the aerial route, Aminul had to play the role of a mere onlooker under the bar for much of the game. Yet the young custodian, after an unimpressive first match against India, came to his side's rescue twice, safely negotiating powerful shots from Harun and Umar.

Bangladesh will have to wait for the outcome of the April 26 India-Pakistan match to know who finishes atop Group A.

POST-MATCH BRIEFING

The national football team was over the moon after the 4-0 win against Pakistan. The celebrating mood was quite evident in the players' dressing room after the match where the booters said their first target was fulfilled. But, amidst wild jubilation, captain Jewel Rana did not forget to give the rude reminder that there was still a long way to go.

"We have achieved our first target. When we came here our prime target was to qualify for the semifinal. Now, we are thinking about the next match. We are considering it as a final clash for us."

Samir Shakir, the man who transformed the inexperienced team to a winning force, said that he was happy the way his boys are playing.

"Before the match I said that the chance is fifty-fifty. My boys played well today and more importantly availed those scoring chances. But I'm not happy because they missed more chances than they had scored", said Samir.

"I have started with the same team that played against India. But as two of my midfielders Parvez and Monwar looked tired. I had changed them to strengthen the attack. Thankfully, both the substitutes Rakib and Zakir played to their potential", said Samir. Manager Khairul Anwar, in

a post-match press briefing, said. "We are very happy. It is certainly a tough ask to play within 48 hours. But our boys did a splendid job. I think it's a reward for team work. Besides, we have also proved that we are technically more sound than Pakistan.

"It is true that we did not expect to win by a big margin. But I must say that we deserved a more flattering victory. Now. we are thinking about our next match. We do not have any particular choice. Whoever comes we are ready to face them," said

Pakistan coach Idrees, on the other hand, attributed the reason for the heavy defeat to the absence of key defender Zahid.

Yellow cards: Prodip and Zakir (Bangladesh)

Bangladesh: Aminul, Hasanal Mamun (Shourav Raju), Rajani, Prodip, Jewel

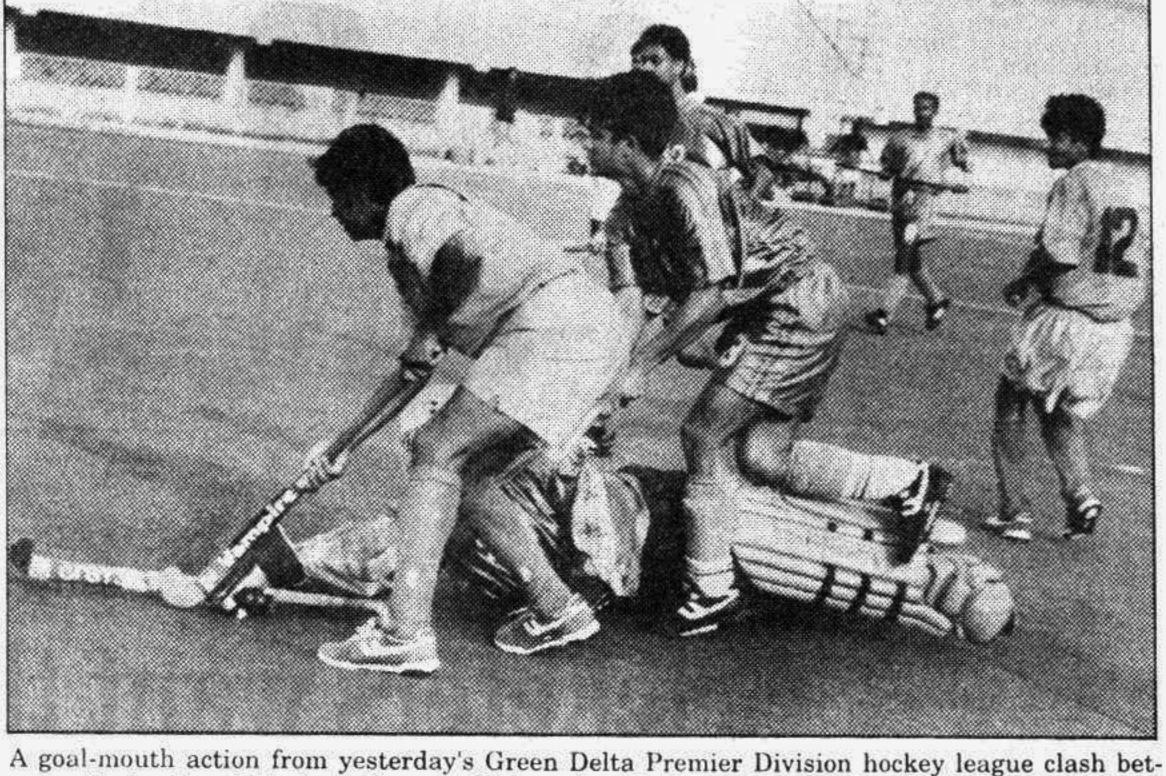
Rana, Motiur, Igbal, Monwar (Zakir), Parvez (Rakib) Mizanur and Alfaz.

Pakistan: Younis (Zahid) Parvaiz (Tanveer), Amir Khan Bashir, Zahid, Tariq, Sarfaraz Rasool, Arshad, Umar, Shahid (Nasir Is-

mail) and Haroon Yousuf. Coca-Coal MVP: Alfaz Ahmed (Bangladesh)

TODAY'S MATCH

Nepal V/S Sri Lanka (5.00



ween Abahani and Mariner Young's Club at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium. - Star photo

Abahani ensure No. 2 spot, await MSC-Usha result

Sports Reporter

Title aspirants Abahani defeated Mariner Young's Club 3-2 in their last match of the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday. Abahani, with their 11 wins

in 14 matches against two defeats and a draw, confirmed the runners-up spot in the eightteam inaugural Premier league having raised their tally to 34 points. However, the Dhanmondi outfit still have a very slim chance of playing a playoff to decide the championship if today's last match of the league between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Usha Krira Chakra ends in a draw. Otherwise, the winners of today's match, scheduled for a 4 pm start, will win the title. Usha have 33 points while Mohammedan have 32 from 13 matches.

Back to the match, Abahani went ahead in the very third minute of the match when they earned a penalty-stroke following an infringement in the danger area. Defender Mamun pushed the ball home through the left side of the Mariner custodian Rinku.

Forward Shamsuzzaman doubled the margin in the 25th minute after being brilliantly fed by Indian recruit Sabu Verky, who made it 3-0 with a brilliant field goal seven min-

Undaunted by the first-half performance, Mariner staged a

utes later to seal the first half.



brilliant comeback in the second session and pulled two goals back in the space of five minutes.

Feroz blasted the board from a Ghaus pass in the 64th minute while Biaka Lusai scored the second from a short-corner four

minutes later.

match, Ajax Sporting Club thrashed Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha by seven goals to nil.

Moududur Rahman scored five goals while his attacking partner Ariful Haque struck twice for the winners, who led the first half 3-0.

With yesterday's win, Ajax completed their league campaign with 14 points from as many matches. On the other hand, Bima, who have managed only three draws in their 14 matches, have already been relegated to the First Division league.

POINTS TABLE

The state of the s	1000000	105.50	-	, mar.	W. C. St. W.	
Abahani	14	11	1	2	34	
Usha	13	11	0	2	33	
MSC	13	10	2	1	32	
Mariner	14	4	5	5	17	
Ajax	14	4	2	8	14	
Azad	13	2	4	7	10	
Farashgani	13	2	3	8	9	
S Bima	14	0	3	11	3	

TODAY'S MATCHES (Moulana Bhasani Stadium) Farashganj SC vs Azad SC (2:15 pm)

Mohammedan SC vs Usha Earlier, in the day's first KC (4 pm)

cricketers but the image

couldn't be further from the

ing bunch and they are skilled

at playing to the very edge of the

laws of the game," Stewart is

quoted as saying while recall-

ing that he had once called a Sri

ferred to leave the matter to

Stewart to defend himself, and

while he did not want the play-

ers dragged into a controversy he expected Sri Lankan author-

action but at the right level. Not

with Stewart," Sumathipala

said adding that the Interna-

tional Cricket Council's code of

conduct prevented players from

commenting on tours or rival

low morale in the face of a court

wrangle that for some time

made Sri Lanka's cricket board

redundant, froze its bank ac-

counts and nearly made it im-

possible for the cricketers to get

their visas and tickets for Lon-

election of a new executive body

in March is yet to be resolved,

but Sri Lanka's powerful sports ministry stepped in earlier this

week to set up an ad-hoc com-

mittee with financial powers to

sued a restraint order last

month barring board president

Thilanga Sumathipala from

carrying out his duties after los-

ing candidate Clifford Ratwatte

alleged that gun-toting intrud-

ers prevented officials from

The court judgement is due

Meanwhile, cricket authori-

"We were underdogs three

ties have issued newspaper ad-

vertisements and various spon-

soring companies have organ-

ised special events to boost the

years ago. Remember where it

got us?" read one of the adver-

casting their vote.

on Monday.

team's morale.

A Colombo district court is-

enable the team's departure.

The court imbroglio over the

But few could hide the team's

"We are considering some

ities to take the matter up.

Sumathipala said he pre-

Lankan player an "arsehole."

"They are an uncompromis-

Champs on way to London

COLOMBO, Apr 24 (Reuters/ AFP/ Internet): Buddhist priests chanted hymns and tied holy threads on the wrists of Sri Lankan cricketers as they left for London on Saturday to begin their World Cup defence. Captain Arjuna Ranatunga

and his team will take on England in the first match of the World Cup championships on May 14 in a bid to become only the second nation ever to retain the title.

The odds are stacked against the world champions, but Sri Lankan cricket officials said the team, which has had a poor run in recent months, had a few new tricks that might help them retain the title. "We have a few surprises up

our sleeve, which we hope to put into operation in England," said team manager Duleep

Headlining the good news for captain Arjuna Ranatunga was confirmation that dashing batsman Sanath Jayasuriya had completely recovered from a broken arm suffered in a onedayer against Australia in Jan-

ting was one of the features of Sri Lanka's performance when

Jayasuriya's cavalier bat-



and the whirlwind opener said the side was going to England with confidence. "It is a great feeling to be able

they won the last World Cup,

to go to the World Cup to defend the title." Jayasuriya said. "Last time we were not the champions when we entered the tournament but this time we are more confident."

Cricket Board president Thilanga Sumathipala, whose election last month is being challenged in court, said he had spoken to the players to ensure they concentrated on cricket and were not distracted by the administration upheaval.

Officials and senior players have said privately that the legal action, and a court ruling suspending the new committee until the issue is resolved, have damaged morale.

But team manager Duleep Mendis said a three-day session with Pakistani psychologist Omar Khan had helped re-motivate Ranatunga's 15-member squad for the World Cup.

Former Australian cricketer Trevor Chappell has been hired to help the team improve its fielding. Officials say lapses on the field were mainly responsible for Sri Lanka's 15 losses in 20 one-day matches in recent months.

But, still to confront the side will be Monday's publication of "A Captain's Diary," a book by England skipper Alec Stewart.

Sumathipala said Sri Lanka did not want to be sucked into a controversy over the book in which Stewart reportedly attacks the world champions. In excerpts reproduced in a

local daily here, Stewart says

tisements. "The World Cup. They'd all like to have it, but we intend to keep it. They all fancy their chances, but we don't believe in the odds", read another of the glossy advertisements. "If I say it (the court wrangle)

will not have an effect on the players, I'll be lying," said board chief executive Dammika Ranatunga, elder brother of the Sri Lanka captain. Mendis said Sri Lanka's per-

formance in England during last year's tour when they won a one-off Test and the triangular the Sri Lankans may be portrayed as amiable, smiling, one-day series gave the team a happy-go-lucky, fun-loving mental advantage.

Bridgetown security beefed up



BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Apr 24 (Reuters/ Internet): Security will be tightened at Kensington Oval

in Bridgetown for the final oneday games between West Indies and Australia to prevent a repeat of the pitch invasion which marred Wednesday's match in Guyana.

Steve Camacho, West Indies Cricket Board's chief executive officer, sent a letter of apology to the Australian players and team management and pledged that adequate safety measures would be in place for the matches on Saturday and Sun-

"The Barbados Cricket Association has given the assurance that security that was in place for the (third) test match would be maintained and even improved upon for the sixth and seventh one-day internationals this weekend," Camacho said.

He also issued a plea to cricket fans in the Caribbean to end the practice of running on

to the field to celebrate player

milestones or at the end of

matches because it could have

long-term negative effects on

the game in the West Indies. Australia captain Steve Waugh, who said he feared for his life when Wednesday's game

ended in chaos and confusion. has seen the apology.

He said that while nothing could be done to change what happened in Georgetown he hoped the game's administrators looked at television footage of the incident and implemented more stringent security

at all future matches. "The West Indies Board was obviously embarrassed by it but it's not going to do anyone any good to carry on about it, Waugh said.

"We've just got to learn something from it. As players you try to learn from your mistakes and I guess administrators will do the same." Camacho said security is-

sues would be high on the

agenda at the WICB's meeting in Wednesday's match was declared a tie after more than 1,000 fans swarmed on to the Bourda ground and uprooted the stumps as Waugh and Shane Warne attempted to complete a third run which would have levelled the scores.

Waugh suffered a whiplash injury after being shoulder charged, jostled and threatened. Guyanese cricket officials conceded on Thursday the pitch invasion, mirroring an inci-

dent in the closing moments of a game between West Indies and Pakistan, will almost certainly prevent Georgetown hosting one-day internationals for a number of years. But Neil Singh, president of the Georgetown Cricket Club,

said he remained hopeful the

historic Bourda ground would remain as a test venue. "What we are going to do is meet and see what more we can do, see if we can raise the fences...we will just have to try to do the best we can to stop

M'singh hockey. MYMENSINGH, Apr 24: Siraj Memorial Club defeated Monami Krira Pathshala 3-2 at the local stadium today, reports

this," Singh said.

Tapu, Sohel and Riad scored for the winners while Mithu netted the consolation goal for the losers.



GOD, STAY WITH US: Sri Lankan cricket captain Arjuna Ranatunga prays for success as Buddhist monks look on, before the team depart for England to defend their World Cup title, which they won in 1996.

Reuters/Internet photo