



Did U Know?

A race called the 'stadiion' was the oldest event of the ancient Olympic Games, which were held every four years from 776 BC to 393 AD. Runners sprinted for 1 stade, which was 192 metres (640 ft), the length of the stadium. There also was a special event in which runners competed in hoplite armor, helmet, shield, and greaves that weighed 20-25 kilograms (50-60 lbs). Obviously, it was a great honour for military men to win this race.



ESPN
 South Africa vs West Indies
 Fourth ODI Highlights
 10:30 pm
Star Sports
Primera Liga
 Highlights
 6:30 pm &
 10:30 pm
Primera Liga
 Alaves vs Deportivo La Coruna
 1:00 am (Sunday)



Intikhab Alam
 (ex-Pakistan cricket coach)
 They are a very talented team, but
 what they lack is consistency.
 (On the current Pakistan team
 touring England)



Sports Whizz Kid

Competition 149
 ✓ Tick the Correct Answers
 Post to The Daily Star
 Win attractive prizes
 Competition closes at 8 pm
 May 18, 2001 and draw
 shortly afterwards

1. Who clinched the Monte Carlo Tennis Masters Series title?	Agassi	Arzzi	Kuerten
2. Who lifted the Ayr Gold Cup Sharjah tri-series cricket trophy?	New Zealand	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
3. What was the result of the South Africa and West Indies Test series?	4-1	3-2	2-1
4. Who was the man-of-the-match in the Bangladesh and Zimbabwe first Test?	Heath Streak	K Maseed	Javed Omar
5. How many Test wickets did Courtney Walsh capture when he retired?	536	520	519

Name

 Class Roll No.
 School Address
 Phone: (If any)

Speed keeps quiet

INTERNET, Melbourne
 Australian Cricket Board chief Malcolm Speed on Thursday fended off questions about a report that AFL boss Wayne Jackson had been approached to become his successor.

A Melbourne newspaper report said Jackson had knocked back the approach because he wanted to continue as AFL chief executive.

Speed told reporters in Melbourne that Jackson was a "very fine sports administrator."

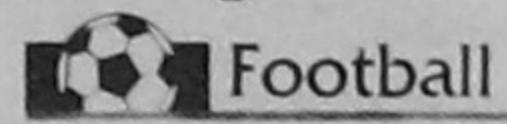
But he declined to comment specifically on whether the AFL boss had been approached for the job.



WARMING UP FOR THE FED CUP: Mohammedan Sporting Club footballers go through a practice session at the Dhaka University playground yesterday.

AFC goes for clean up

Bangladesh fined 10,000 USD



AFP, Singapore

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Thursday launched what it termed an "extremely severe" crackdown on crime and corruption which have riddled the sport.

Six members of the Oman team, which won the Under-16 crown, five players from Iran, two from Thailand and three from Bangladesh were suspended from national teams for two years.

The targets are to wipe out bribery and cheating which are "part of our culture," general secretary Peter Velappan said following an AFC executive meeting which meted out a string of suspensions and fines.

Velappan said corruption was particularly rife in Southeast Asia, singling out just Malaysia and Singapore as countries which have taken a stand to clean up the game.

"Football doesn't have the power or the tools to fight bribery and corruption, which is a feature of our society. But we can educate our players to be honest and our referees and team officials," he said.

In a series of landmark rulings, the national associations of Iran, Oman, Thailand and Bangladesh were punished for fielding over-age players, some as old as

20, during last year's Asian Under-16 championship in Vietnam.

They were all fined 10,000 US dollars and suspended from the 2002 Under-17 tournament along with Nepal which refused to cooperate with the age checks.

"These are measures which are for the first time extremely severe, and this is a lesson to all the national associations and officials in charge of youth teams not to cheat."

Any repeat offence could result in a total suspension of a national association for "a period of time."

Velappan said he would also be demanding an explanation from FIFA, the sport's governing body, why two players -- German Lutz Plannenstiel and Australian Mirko Juril -- were not subjected to a worldwide ban after being jailed in Singapore for match-fixing.

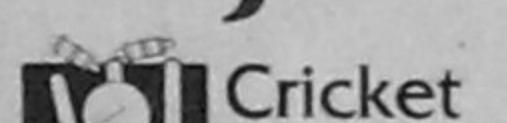
"These players have been convicted of corruption, and in keeping with our practice we have banned them now from all Asian countries, and FIFA should also ban them worldwide," he said.

"While FIFA is fighting drugs and racism it should also be fighting bribery and corruption."

The manager of the Kuwait team at the Asian Under-19 championships was fined 10,000 dollars and banned from office for five years for refusing to subject his players to age checks. The Kuwait Football Association was fined 3,000 dollars.

Yossif Altunian from the Saudi Arabian club Al-Jilal was banned from all football for a year and fined 3,000 dollars for hitting a referee during an Asian Club championship match last year. His

Arjuna lawyers slam ACU



AFP, Colombo

Lawyers for Sri Lanka's former cricket skipper, Arjuna Ranatunga, have slammed ICC anti-corruption investigators, accusing them of a "total lack of common courtesy".

The International Cricket Council's (ICC) Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) investigator, Jeff Rees, and one of his aides tried to grill Ranatunga this month during a local inquiry into allegations that he accepted bribes to throw a match.

Ranatunga's lawyers in a statement to a newspaper here Friday reiterated that they objected to two investigators of the ICC being present while local investigator Desmond Fernando conducted an inquiry.

"ICC investigators should have obtained some authority in writing from either the BCCSL (Board of

Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka) or the ICC and that their failure to do so amounts to a total lack of common courtesy and was in breach of all principles of natural justice," the statement said.

It said the lawyers objected to the two ICC investigators participating in Fernando's investigation in any way other than as observers.

"The only explanation to their status and credentials were provided by way of two visiting cards," lawyer Kalinga Indatsuma said, while denying that Ranatunga was ever grilled by the ICC duo.

Fernando said Ranatunga refused to answer questions from the ICC officials.

"Ranatunga's lawyers took up the position that he had not been given prior notice of the questions," Fernando said. "It is now up to the ICC's anti-corruption panel to decide how they want to proceed."

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Singh indebted to Kumble



INTERNET, undated

India's new spin sensation Harbhajan Singh applauded the contribution of the injured Anil Kumble towards helping him dominate the series victory against

Australia. Harbhajan enjoyed unexpected success with 32 wickets in the three games, including career best figures of eight for 84 in the final Test to be named man of the series. Just for good measure he hit the winning runs too.

He took on the burden of being India's main strike bowler after Kumble, one of the world's best spinners, was forced out of the series with a shoulder injury.

"Anil Kumble helped me a lot in the training camp," said Harbhajan.

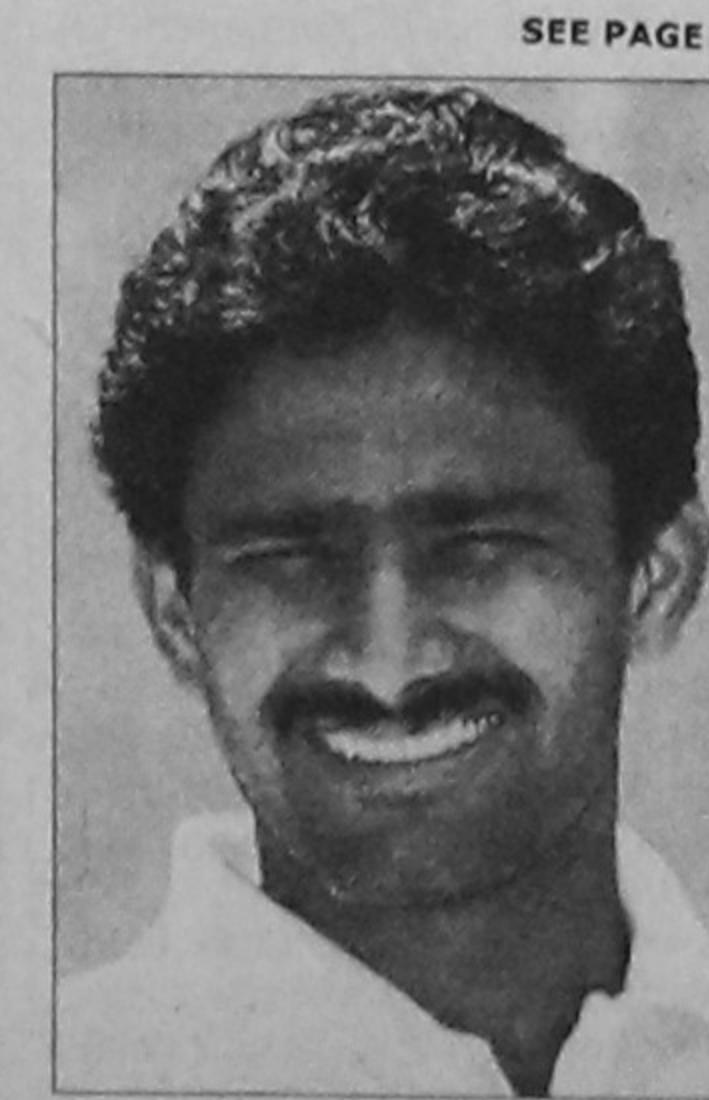
"He told me a lot of things about line and length."

Kumble had been considered central to India's hopes of winning the series but the leg-spinner was ruled out following shoulder surgery. He has taken 276 wickets, with only Kapil Dev having more for India.

Harbhajan, however, filled the void as he took 13 wickets in the second Test and 15 in the decider.

"Right from the start of this series, I have tried to bowl a tight line to the Australians so that they are unable to make too many runs," he said.

SEE PAGE 15



HARBHAJAN SINGH

"The ball turned well and once I got my line right in the second Test, it made a lot of difference."

"I did not think I'd do this well and get 32 wickets in the series but I guess it's my hard work and support from my family that has made it possible."

"I practised very hard over the

SAFF C'ship might be delayed

SPORTS REPORTER

The Third South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship, which was scheduled to be held in Dhaka from October 31 to November 15, is likely to be deferred by a month because of the inaugural Afro-Asian Games that begins in New Delhi from November 3 to 11. The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) stated this in a press release on Friday.

Seven countries -- India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bhutan and hosts Bangladesh -- will be featured in the meet.

A fresh date is expected to be announced in Colombo next week when representatives from all seven South Asian nations are scheduled to attend the opening of the Sri Lankan Football Federation's new headquarters.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter will inaugurate the new building on May 14.

The under-14 talent-hunting football tournament ended at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

The programme was organised jointly by the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) and the National Sports Council (NSC) respectively. Of nearly 200 juvenile players, 49 were picked for the third-phase residential camp.

No Anil for another 2 months

REUTERS, New Delhi

Anil Kumble will be out of competitive action for at least two more months because of his shoulder injury, the Indian spin bowler said on Friday.

Kumble, considered one of the world's best leg-spinners, underwent surgery in January. He has not played since withdrawing midway through a triangular one-day tournament in Sharjah last October.

"I have started bowling a little now. There are still problems but I'm feeling much better," Kumble told Reuters from Bangalore.

"I can't say for sure but I think I should be fit to play a match in another two months."

Kumble has already been ruled out of India's tour of Zimbabwe from May 28 to July 7, but officials are hoping he will be fit for the Test series in Sri Lanka which starts in mid-August.

Kumble, who with 276 wickets is India's second highest Test wicket-taker behind Kapil Dev's 434, said he had been asked to bowl by doctors so they could monitor his recovery.

Kumble missed India's 2-1 series victory over Australia earlier this year, but he was able to give some useful tips to off-spinner Harbhajan Singh, who picked up 32 wickets in the three Tests.

Pollock won't savour it now

REUTERS, Bridgetown

South African captain Shaun Pollock is slowly coming to terms with his side's one-day series victory against the West Indies, but he doesn't expect to appreciate it until he arrives home.

"I'm very chuffed but it will probably really dawn on me when we get home," Pollock said on Thursday.

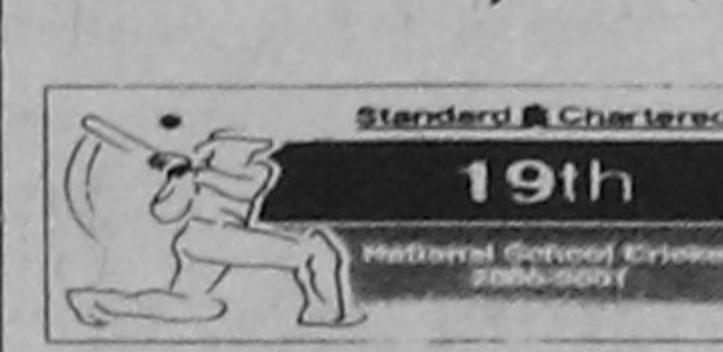
The South Africans clinched the seven match series 4-1 on Wednesday with a seven-wicket win, and in doing so became the first team to win both a Test and one-day series in the Caribbean since the West Indies began playing one-day cricket there in 1976.

"The greatest emotion is a huge sense of relief. We are tired after eleven weeks on the road and although we've enjoyed every island and every country, and had success on the field, we are looking forward to getting home," Pollock said.

Coach Graham Ford had no doubt the impact of the team's success would only become apparent to them after they returned home.

"It takes a long time for a success like this to sink in. It also takes a long time to be able to unwind and appreciate what the team has achieved because for the last eleven weeks we have been coiled up in a pretty tense routine," Ford said.

BKSP, Blue Bird enter semis



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protidin (BKSP) and Blue Bird High School became the first teams to enter the Standard Chartered 19th National School Cricket Championship semifinals in Sylhet on Friday.

At the Sylhet Stadium, Blue Bird's Tanvir and Monju took two wickets each.

In Sunday's first semifinal, the winners will take on BKSP who won the day's other quarterfinal against Mymensingh Zilla School by eight wickets.

After Mymensingh were bundled out for 54 in 35 overs, the winners raced to victory in only 10.2 overs for the loss of two wickets.

Nayem was unbeaten on 18 while Rimon remained 15 not out.

Earlier, batting first, Mymensingh Zilla School were sent packing when Rubaiyat finished with four for 22.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Blue Bird High School: 143 for 9 in 35 overs (Adnan 26, Sadiq 22, Shoeb 2/37)

Rajshahi Collegiate School: 102 all out in 35 overs (Bulbul 22, Tanvir 2/16, Monju 2/23)

Rersult: Blue Bird High School won by 41 runs.

Mymensingh Zilla School: 54 all out in 17 overs (Sony 14, Rubaiyat 4/22, Newaz 3/17)

BKSP: 57 for 2 in 10.2 overs (Nayem 18 no., Rimon 15 no.)

Result: BKSP won by eight wickets.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Quarterfinals

Narail Zilla School v Manikganj Govt. High School

Police Institution Chittagong v New Model High School (Medical College ground)

Willey not convinced?



INTERNET, London

Umpires Peter Willey and Tony Clarkson examined video replays of Pakistan fast bowler Shoail Akhtar's action during the tourists' match against Derbyshire, British newspapers reported on Friday.

Shoail, who has not played a Test for a year, has remodelled his action after it was officially questioned by several umpires.