

They walk as one

14th Asian Games
BUSAN 2002

AFP, Busan

Athletes from North and South Korea struck a sporting blow for peace Sunday, marching together in a show of unity at the Asian Games opening ceremony.

The Cold War foes strode into the Busan Main Stadium hand-in-hand and side-by-side at the rear of the 42 other nations competing in an event second only to the Olympics in size.

In another sign of improving inter-Korean ties following the resumption of inter-Korean dialogue in August, they followed the neutral unification flag, showing a blue emblem of the Korean peninsula on a white background.

North Korea's football goalkeeper Ri Chong-Hui and South Korean handball player Hwangbo Sung-II carried the symbol together after the Olympic Council of Asia relented on its protocol of only one athlete being allowed to carry a national flag.

South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung, a Nobel prize winner who has pushed to secure peace between the two neighbours, clapped enthusiastically from the stands as the crowd erupted and the electronic scoreboard flashed up "Korea".

Hundreds of North Korean flags, banned in the South, were vigorously waved by a North Korean cheer squad shipped in for the event as the barriers between two nations still technically at war 49 years after the conclusion of their bitter 1950-53 conflict crumbled still further.

Underscoring the theme of unity, the Asian Games flame had been lit simultaneously at Mount Halla in the South and Mount Baekdu in the North.

It was brought into the stadium by South Korea's now-retired 2002 World Cup football captain Hong Myung-Bo and handed to Ha

Hyung-Ju, South Korean judo gold medalist at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, and Kye Sun-Hee, North Korean Olympic judo champion at the 1996 Atlanta Games.

Dressed in neutral white t-shirt and shorts, they jointly lit the flame that will burn for the duration of the

Games.

"While wishing for the enhancement of harmony and peace in Asia, I declare the 14th Asian Games being held at the beautiful maritime city of Busan open," said South Korean

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South Korea's now-retired 2002 World Cup football captain Hong Myung-Bo holds the 14th Asian Games flame with the Bangladesh contingent in the background during the opening ceremony at Busan Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: AKM MOHSIN

ICC mulls more player power

REUTERS, Colombo

The International Cricket Council (ICC) will vote this week on whether to allow greater player representation within the organisation, its president Malcolm Gray has said.

If agreed by the ICC's executive board, it would give the Federation of Cricketers' Associations (FICA) - a body that claims to represent the majority of the world's professional players - more influence in the running of the game.

That could help prevent a repeat of the situation that arose before the current Champions Trophy in Sri Lanka, when Indian players initially refused to take part, saying they had not been consulted over the tournament's sponsorship agreements.

Gray said recognition of FICA would help the consultation process between the ICC and the players.

"As a central body it would be easier for us to deal with a body that represents all the players compared with individuals," he told reporters.

But he added it was not certain the vote would go in FICA's favour as a previous attempt to get agreement in October 2001 had failed, with several countries - he did not name them - opposed to the idea of player associations.

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Appalling red apathy

14th Asian Games
BUSAN 2002

AFP, Busan

Asian football chief Peter Velappan has given hell to South Korea's 'Red Devils' for not supporting the football tournament at the Asiad here.

Velappan, who lauded Korean fans for their fantastic support during the World Cup in June, expressed his disappointment at the poor turnout for the early matches in the football.

"They (the Red Devils) are either asleep or have lost their energy and excitement for football all of a sudden," said Velappan, the general-secretary of the Asian Football Federation (AFF).

"I could not believe there were only 1,500 people in the Ulsan World Cup Stadium the other night for a couple of matches.

"It is like inviting a guest to your house and then leaving before they arrive. We have the best young footballers from Asia in this competition and I am surprised that the Korean fans are not backing it after the passion they showed at the World Cup."

"I have urged the organisers to do more to fill the stadiums. I have suggested cutting ticket prices and also inviting along schoolchildren and old folk. These players deserve to play in front of decent crowds."

Velappan said South Korea were receiving backing from their fans with a crowd of more than 20,000 turning up for their victory over the Maldives on Friday night.

World Cup stars Lee Chun-soo, Lee Young-pyo and Lee Woon-jae are in the squad and that alone has ignited the interest of the Korean fans.

During the World Cup, crowds of more than five millions were mobilised on the streets of Seoul in an unprecedented show of national pride.

As South Korea swept to the semifinals, the 'Red Devil' phenomenon took on massive proportions and the chant 'Dae Han Min Kuk' (Korea Republic) being recognisable all over the world.

Velappan added that the AFC's decision to limit the Asian Games tournament to Under 23s, with three over-age players, was proving to be a wise one.

"It completes the pyramid of competitions leading from the Under 17s to the national teams. It is great to see these young players showing great technical skills and I am pleased to witness the return of North Korea and Afghanistan to Asian football," he said.

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Did U Know?

Harald Schumacher, West Germany's great goalkeeper and twice World Cup silver medalist, is perhaps best known for his assault on French defender Patrick Battiston in the 1982 semifinal. After losing his second World Cup final in 1986, he said he wanted to come back in 1990 and win the Cup at his third attempt. But in 1987, he wrote a book and claimed 90% of the players in the German Bundesliga took drugs! He was never picked for the German squad again after that. He escaped to Turkey and played league soccer there instead.



What to WATCH

ESPN

Western Union World Football Repeat at 12:00 pm

English Premier Football League Birmingham City vs Newcastle United Repeat at 3:30 pm

Primera Liga Valencia vs Rayo Vallecano Repeat at 5:30 pm

Sportscentre Hindi Sport News

Live at 8:30 pm

Crickit Programming Legend of Cricket Taped Version at 9:00 pm

South Africa vs New Zealand Third ODI Highlights Repeat at 10:00 pm

STAR Sports

Football Asia Repeat at 8:00 am

English Premier Football League Leeds United vs Arsenal Taped Version at 12:30 pm

Sportsline Tonight Sport News

Live at 8:00 pm

Harsha Online Cricket Talk Show Repeat at 11:00 pm

English Premier Football League West Bromwich vs Blackburn Rovers Live at 12:55 am (Tuesday)



Ronaldo

(Brazilian soccer superstar) "I left Inter because of Cuiper. I told him so to his face. I told him that I didn't believe in his work and that he wasn't sincere with me."

On his reason to leave Inter Milan.

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 181

Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star. Win attractive prizes.

Competition closes at 8 pm Oct 11, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

- What was Bangladesh's score against Australia in the ICC Champions Trophy?

102	82	129
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- Who won the National Bank Premier Division football title?

Muktijoddha	Abahani	Mohammedan
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- Who won the Toyota Princess Cup tennis title?

Hingis	Capriati	Serena
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- Who is the fastest man in the world?

Greene	Montgomery	Edwards
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- Who are the defending champions in European Champions League?

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Name

Class

School Address

Phone: (If any)

Good form cost 'em

and here, we just didn't perform in this match.

The result was similar to the two sides' previous meeting three years ago, when Sri Lanka won by eight wickets at the same Premadasa Stadium in the final of a triangular series also involving India.

Ponting played down suggestions Sri Lanka were now Australia's Friday's seven-wicket thrashing.

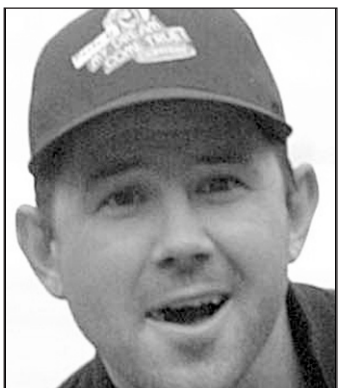
Australia cruised through the qualifying matches, beating New Zealand by 164 runs and Bangladesh by nine wickets -- wins that followed an unbeaten one-day series against Kenya and Pakistan in Nairobi.

But when Sri Lanka put Australia's batsmen under pressure on Friday they were found wanting.

"We've played exceptionally well apart from this match," Ponting told reporters.

"But we've not played a full 50 overs yet as we'd been able to knock the opposition off in 30 or 40 overs in the last few matches.

"Maybe we weren't match-hardened, who knows, but all the same I couldn't have been happier with how we performed in Kenya



RICKY PONTING

bogey side and looked forward to their next one-day meetings, in Australia in December and January. "We'll see how they go when they

come to Australia this year before we make a judgement on whether they've got the wood on us," said Ponting. "We've got that series coming up and I'm sure we can bounce back."

Ponting said the side's weekend break in the Maldives ahead of the match had nothing to do with their defeat.

"We trained very well for the three days leading up to the match," he added. "We were fully prepared but just nowhere near our best."

Australia will now start to prepare for the first Test of their three-match series against Pakistan, which gets underway in Colombo on Thursday.

The second and third Tests of the series will take place in Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates. The series is being played in neutral countries amid security fears.

Test captain Steve Waugh and batsmen Mark Waugh and Justin Langer have linked up with the squad on duty for the Champions Trophy.

All-rounder Shane Watson and batsmen Michael Bevan and Jimmy Maher will return to Australia.

Bevan suffered a hamstring injury during Australia's defeat on Friday but it is not thought to be serious.

Asian Games BD's Sino test today

SPORTS REPORTER

No-hopers Bangladesh can expect nothing but another ignominy when they take on World Cup finalists China in their second Preliminary round match of the 14th Asian Games at the Masan Stadium in South Korea today.

The Group C clash is scheduled to start at 5 pm (BST).

Bangladesh, who went to the Games with out a single day's preparation, swallowed down a bitter 0-3 defeat against India in their opening clash on Friday at the Ulsan Stadium.

The team, led by Alfaz Ahmed, kept the Indians at bay in the first half but caved in the second session. India star Baichung Bhutia struck twice.

Bangladesh are scheduled to play against Turkmenistan in their last Group C match at the Gudeok Stadium in Busan on October 3.

BD in South Africa Tourists notch second win

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh won their second warm-up match against South Africa Country Districts by 22 runs at Nelspruit, according to a Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) message last night.

Chasing 227 for 8, Bangladesh were 177 for five in 37 overs when rain stopped play. The visitors were later declared winners as per the Duckworth-Lewis method for truncated match.

Sanwar Hossain was in the thick of things on the day, scoring an unbeaten 58 and taking three wickets with his occasional off-spinners. Tushar Imran top-scored with 64.

Earlier, the Country Districts, electing to bat first, scored 227 for eight in the stipulated 50 overs with Kraynam notching 53.

Medium pacers -- Taposh Baishya and Khaled Mahmud --

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Fritz7 alone atop

SPORTS REPORTER

Fritz7, a computer chess programme, moved atop the Shah Alfaz Associate FIDE Rating Chess Tournament table after defeating International Master (IM) Enamul Hossain Rajib in the fifth round at the NSC chess room yesterday.

The win helped Fritz7 collect five points, one point ahead of Grand Master (GM) Ziaur Rahman, IM Reefat-bin-Sattar, Rajib and Saifuddin Lovely.

In the fifth round, Zia beat IM Abdullah Al-Rakib, Reefat beat Sheikh Nasir Ahmed while Lovelu beat Taibur Rahman Sumon.

The sixth round will start at the same venue today.

Barisal soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Confidence Cement Ekadash got off to a flying start in the Barisal First Division Football League with a 3-1 win over Nazrul Pathagar at the Barisal Stadium yesterday. Sheikh Abul Kalam, DC Barisal, inaugurated the league as chief guest while the secretary of Barisal Divisional Sports Association Asaduzzaman Khasru was also present.

Khokon Smriti Ekadash will take on Friends Club in today's match at the same venue.

LANKA-INDIA SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of Sri Lankan innings against India in the final of the Champions Trophy cricket tournament at the Premadasa Stadium on Sunday:

SRI LANKA				
Jayasuriya c Harbhajan b Agarkar	74			
Atapattu c Agarkar b Harbhajan	34			
Sangakkara c Sehraw b Harbhajan	54			
Aravinda c Dravid b Harbhajan	18			
Jayawardene c and b Tendulkar	13			
Arnold not out	11			
Vaas not out	11			
Extras: (b-6, lb-8, w-8)	22			
Total: (For five wickets in 50 overs)	244			
Fall of wickets: 1-65, 2-155, 3-185, 4-207, 5-212.				
Bowler				
Zaheer	10	0	43	0
Srinath	8	0	55	0
Agarkar	6	0	37	1
Harbhajan	10	1	27	3
Sehwag	10	0	32	0
Tendulkar	6	0	36	1
Toss: Sri Lanka				
Umpires: David Shepherd (Eng) and Steve Bucknor (Wis)				
TV umpire: Daryl Harper (Aus)				
Match-referee: Clive Lloyd (Wis)				



International Master Reefat-bin-Sattar (L) and Sheikh Nasir Ahmed are engaged in cerebral warfare during the fifth round of the Shah Alfaz Associate FIDE Rating Chess Tournament yesterday.

Machine's mind game

Chess

LENIN GANI

Man by nature has sought to find out new challenges.

The same could be said of chess, which has always been fascinated to know whether raw computing power could ever defeat the best human mind? And the answer to that seemingly unanswerable question was finally resolved with kingpin Garry Kasparov's marginal 31/2 games to 21/2 games defeat at the hands of IBM's supercomputer 'Deep Blue' in New York in 1997.

Five years have elapsed since then, yet sceptics are of the opinion that machines can never be mightier than human beings. Vladimir Kramnik, currently the world's number two rated Grand Master, will be hoping to end the argument once and for all when he faces the challenge of Deep Fritz 7 in Manama, Bahrain.

The one-million dollar October

14-20 event dubbed as the 'Brains of Bahrain' has been hyped with the same kind of zest as boxing legend Muhammad Ali's 1975 'Thrilla in Manila' bout with Joe Frazier.

Kasparov too has a chance to make amends in his personal series that stands at 1-1 with a six-match battle against Junior Blue beginning in Jerusalem later in December.

If not on the same grand scale, Bangladesh has caught the computer chess hysteria.

As part of its preparation for the 35th Chess Olympiad to be held in Bled, Slovenia from October 25 to November 11, Latvian Grand Master Igor's Raussis, who is the team captain, has pitched the top-rated players against Fritz 7 during the Shah Alfaz Associate FIDE Rating Tournament.

Saturday's fourth round match against Grand Master Ziaur Rahman was being played for the first time in two days at the Bangladesh Chess Federation Auditorium. It had earlier scored victories over the country's

first Grand Master Niaz Murshed and International Master Reefat-bin-Sattar at the Latvia's Dhanmondi residence.

And after a complicated set of moves by Zia, who was playing with black, he became another scalp going down after 51 moves.

The victory pushed Zia into a crowded second place while Fritz was sharing the lead with International Master Enamul Hossain Rajib.

Niaz was surprised that the programme, a descendent of the popular Fritz series developed by Dutchman Frans Morsch and Mathias Feist of Germany, declined an offer to draw in an endgame position. "Usually I find the situation ends in a draw," he said.

Successive versions of Fritz have been at the top of all international computer ranking lists for a number of years and are the preferred analysis tools of most of the top players in the world.

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'Please don't Aravinda'

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003

REUTERS, Colombo

Sri Lanka coach Dav Whatmore has urged batsman Aravinda de Silva to postpone his decision to retire until after next year's World Cup at the very earliest.

De Silva announced on Friday that he was ready to quit international cricket after Sunday's final of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Champions Trophy against India.

The 36-year-old, who is Sri Lanka's leading Test and one-day international run-scorer, said he wanted to go out at the top and allow younger players a chance and would only stay on if the selectors wanted him to do so.

But Whatmore said on Saturday he was desperately keen for de Silva to remain part of the Sri Lankan squad not just up to the World Cup that starts in southern Africa next February, but also for the foreseeable future.

"I recognise he's got a family life and a business life and it's the weighing up of those factors that's probably got him to make his

assessment of where he is at the moment and where he would like to go," said Whatmore.

"I just think that playing with us up to and through the World Cup must be a minimum amount of cricket he should play."



DAV WHATMORE

De Silva's recall to the one-day team in August after more than a year on the sidelines has coincided with an amazing turnaround in form for Sri Lanka, who previously managed just one win from six matches in a triangular series against England and India. Since his comeback, Sri Lanka have beaten



(From L-R) former national coach Sarwar Imran talks to Bangladesh pace trio Mashrafe bin Mortuza Kowshik, Tareq Aziz Khan and Hasibul Hossain at the Bangladesh Cricket Board's Gulshan office yesterday. The players together with Mushfiquur Rahman and Mohammad Sharif will attend a special two-week rehabilitation camp at the BKSP.

PHOTO: STAR