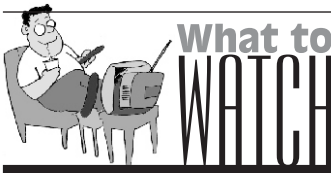




Did U Know?

At the 1995 World Summer Games, the marathon was contested for the first time, producing a winning time of 2 hours, 59 minutes and 18 seconds.



ESPN
ATP Masters Series
Fourth Round
Live at 8:00 am
Sportscentre
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
English Premier Football League
Liverpool vs Portsmouth
Live at 1:55 am (Thursday)

STAR Sports
Sportline
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
New Zealand vs South Africa
Second Test, Day One
Live at 3:27 am (Thursday)

TEN Sports
Sri Lanka vs Australia
Second Test, Day Two
Live at 10:20 am

Star WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION 208

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

Competition closes at 8 pm
March 27, 2004 and draw

- How many runs did Bangladesh score against Zimbabwe in the third ODI?
230 242 238
- Who clinched the first Division Football League title?
Farashganj Victoria
Youngphen's
- Who won the Qatar Open tennis title?
Hings Henin Myskina
- Who won the four-day National Cricket League title?

Name

Class. Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)



Ronaldo
(Real Madrid's Brazilian super star)
"I'm planning on spending a lot of years here and going on to be an ambassador for the club (Real Madrid)."

Tigers arrive home today

The Bangladesh cricket team arrives home this morning after completing a morale-boosting tour of Zimbabwe.

Day Whatmore charges lost both rain-hit Test and one-day series but the latter half of the tour still produced an incredible victory in the abridged version after five years.

India's TV relief at last

AFP, New Delhi



Millions of Indian cricket fans were glued to their TV sets Tuesday as a Dubai-based sports television network set aside its spat with India's national broadcaster Doordarshan and shared a live broadcast of the second India-Pakistan one-day cricket match.

Ten Sports, which holds sole broadcasting rights to the five one-dayers and three Tests in Pakistan, was ordered by the Supreme Court on Monday to give a feed to the public broadcaster for the match.

The court also ordered Doordarshan to deposit 100 million rupees (2.2 million dollars) in payment to the private channel and ordered further hearings to resolve broadcasts of the rest of the series.

A similar order was made on Friday by the court for the first match in the first full cricket tour by India of Pakistan in almost 15 years.

Saturday's opening match, which was broadcast across India by the satellite channel and by Doordarshan on its terrestrial channels proved an epic battle marking the highest-scoring one-dayer in history.

Ten Sports, however, cried foul when Doordarshan allegedly renegeed on an agreement and aired Saturday's cliff-hanger in Karachi without the logo of the Dubai-based network.

Ten Sports chief Abdul Rahman Bukhatir, while complaining of judicial intervention, said Tuesday he hoped to resolve the channel's dispute with Doordarshan out of court.

"At any time we will be too happy for out-of-court settlement but at the moment we have to wait for the Supreme Court ruling," he said.

Ten Sports says it bought the rights to the series through global bidding in 2002 and had no agreement for sharing with Doordarshan, which reaches some 90 percent of households in India with televisions.

Officials from India's broadcasting ministry, meanwhile, said Bukhatir Tuesday offered to give the feed from future matches to Doordarshan for free, provided the public broadcaster also runs the

advertisements the satellite channel has sold.

However, Indian Law Minister Arun Jaitley in "some very tough-talking" with Bukhatir proposed instead that Doordarshan pay a fixed fee for the feed -- which would give it a free hand to sell its own advertising and recoup its costs.

Jaitley earlier Tuesday had appealed to the two broadcasters to bury the hatchet and ensure that fans in cricket-mad India enjoyed the matches.

Teenaged Shrida Hussein, meanwhile, was glued to her television set, watching Tuesday's game.

"Yesterday, there was suspense over Ten Sports and Doordarshan and now it's over we want to relish today's suspense in front of the TV," she said in New Delhi, as motorists hurried home for the limited overs match.

Soumitra Roy, an executive with a British company, said he was let off work by his boss on "compassionate grounds".

"My boss being English understood the pangs I was suffering and so he let me off to go home to watch cricket," Roy said.

The Indian cricket team last toured Pakistan in 1989 and the ongoing series has frenzied fans in both countries. The excitement proved too much for one India supporter who died of a heart attack during Saturday's match.



GROUND BREAKER! India's master batsman Sachin Tendulkar sweeps Pakistan spinner Shoaib Malik during his majestic hundred at Rawalpindi yesterday. Tendulkar became the first Indian to hit a one-day international century on Pakistani soil. He also passed 13,000 career runs in ODIs during the course of his 141 off 135 balls.

PHOTO: AFP

It's Murali's turn



PHOTO: AFP

FIVE HUNDRED REASONS TO CELEBRATE: Sri Lankan spinner Muttiah Muralitharan jumps for joy after claiming his 500th Test wicket on the opening day of the second Test against Australia at Kandy yesterday.



AFP, Kandy

Muttiah Muralitharan became only the third bowler in Test history to take 500 wickets as Australia crashed to their lowest total against Sri Lanka in the second match here on Tuesday.

Star off-spinner Muralitharan and left-arm fast bowler Nuwan Zoysa grabbed four wickets apiece as Australia were bundled out for 120 in 42.2 overs after electing to bat.

Sri Lanka were 30-1 at tea on the opening day. Australia's previous lowest against Sri Lanka was 140 at this venue in 1999.

Opener Matthew Hayden (54), Shane Warne (18) and skipper Ricky Ponting (10) were the only batsmen to reach double-figures in a dismal Australian batting performance on a lively pitch.

Muralitharan, who turns 32 next month, was the youngest and quickest to reach the magical 500-mark when he bowled tail-ender Michael Kasprovicz in his 87th Test.

Retired West Indies West paceman Courtney Walsh (519) and Australian leg-spinner Warne (501) are the others to reach the landmark, but took more matches than the Sri Lankan.

Walsh was aged 38 when he completed 500 wickets in 129 matches, while Warne was 34 and took 108 Tests.

Muralitharan was brilliantly supported by Zoysa, returning to Test cricket after nearly two years.

Zoysa looked sharp in his comeback match, troubling all the batsmen with his lively pace and bounce. He started the Australian slide before Muralitharan completed the rout.

Even Hayden was lucky to complete his half-century as he survived a chance when on 11. He edged Zoysa to first slip where skipper Hashan

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Kandy goes topsy-turvy

17 wickets fall in a day



AFP, Kandy

Muttiah Muralitharan became the youngest and fastest to take 500 wickets, but Australia fought back after crashing to their lowest total against Sri Lanka in the second Test here on Tuesday.

Ace off-spinner Muralitharan and tall left-arm fast bowler Nuwan Zoysa each grabbed four wickets as Australia collapsed to 120 in their first innings after electing to bat.

Australia soon seized control through their fast bowler Michael Kasprovicz (3-33) and leg-spinner Shane Warne (3-15) as they reduced

Sri Lanka to 92-7 at stumps on the opening day. Chaminda Vaas (16) was batting with Zoysa.

Kasprovicz excelled in bowling conditions on a day when as many as 17 wickets tumbled on a lively pitch, with seven batsman getting out lbws.

Kasprovicz wrecked the top order, dismissing Marvan Atapattu (nine), Sanath Jayasuriya (one) and Avishka Gunawardene (13) in his incisive 11-over opening spell for 21 runs.

Fast bowler Jason Gillespie had Kumar Sangakkara (five) caught by a diving Andrew Symonds at square-leg before the Warne show began.

Warne removed Mahela Jayawardene (17) and Tillakaratne

Dilshan off successive balls before accounting for skipper Hashan Tillakaratne (16) to continue the good work after his team's miserable batting performance.

Australia never looked like crossing their previous lowest total of 140 scored at this venue in 1999 after being reduced to 86-7 against Sri Lanka's disciplined pace-spin combination.

Opener Matthew Hayden (54), Warne (18) and skipper Ricky Ponting (10) were the only batsmen to reach double-figures on a pitch which had pace and bounce.

Muralitharan's memorable moment came after lunch when he

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NZ's pitch plea fails



AFP, Auckland

New Zealand's cricket team Tuesday failed in a bid to swap a pitch planned for use in this week's Test against South Africa with a more favourable wicket, cricket officials said.

The move to have the pitch at Auckland's Eden Park replaced using pioneering technology ahead of Thursday's game came after the first drawn Test was marred by the appearance of a large hole in the turf.

New Zealand Cricket (NZC) chief executive Martin Snedden rejected the request as "inappropriate", saying he had full confidence in the existing wicket.

Pitches at Eden Park, which doubles as a rugby ground, can be dropped in using special machinery.

Snedden said the New Zealand Black Caps had discovered that an alternative used for practice outside the ground had more pace and bounce than the one inside. South Africa camp were also said to be enthusiastic about the switch.

New Zealand manager Lindsay Crocker confirmed the request had been made.

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INDIA-PAKISTAN SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Pakistan innings against India in the second one-day international at the Pindi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday:

PAKISTAN	
Hameed run out	86
Afridi b Yuvraj	80
Youhanab Yuvraj	24
Inzamam b Nehra	29
Younis c Dravid b Nehra	28
Moin lbw b Nehra	0
Malik not out	30
Razaq not out	31
Extras: (lb-6, nb-1, w-14)	21
Total: (For 6 wkts in 50 overs)	329
Fall of wickets: 1-138, 2-191, 3-225, 4-249, 5-249, 6-284	
Did not bat: Akhtar, Sami, Shabbir	
	SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

India lose Nehra for one-dayers

AFP, Rawalpindi

India's already depleted bowling resources on the Pakistan tour were hit further on Tuesday when Ashish Nehra was ruled out for the rest of the one-day series.

The left-arm seamer received two stitches when he split the webbing of his bowling hand while fielding during the second one-dayer here and will not play for at least a week, team official Amrit Mathursaid.

"Nehra's injury will be assessed next week to see if he can play in the Test series which follows the one-dayers," Mathursaid.

Nehra was supposed to have missed Tuesday's match as well after an old ankle injury flared up again on the eve of the match and the team management declared his unavailability for the game.

But the bowler, whose spot-on final over won India the first one-dayer at Karachi on Saturday, was surprisingly retained in the team and finished with 3-44 in Pakistan's total of 329-6.

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9th SAF Games

Very little expectation

SPORTS REPORTER

The 9th South Asian Federation (SAF) Games the subcontinent's biggest sporting extravaganza, is knocking at the door but things don't look very encouraging for the Bangladesh contingent.

The Games kick off in Pakistan's capital Islamabad on March 29 and will run till April 7. The biennial meet has already been deferred twice from its original schedule in 2001. Hosts Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Maldives, Bhutan and newcomers Afghanistan make up the participating countries.

Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) has decided to send a 138-member team to compete in 13 out of 15 disciplines football, volleyball, shooting, swimming, Athletics, weightlifting, wrestling, karate, kabaddi, boxing, badminton, table tennis and taekondo, but most team managers could not

promise anything good during a press conference yesterday at the National Sporting Council (NSC)'s conference room.

The BOA arranged the media conference where officials of all the participating disciplines attended. But only Bangladesh Weightlifting Federation general secretary Wing Commander (retd) Mohiuddin Ahmed expressed his firm determination of winning a gold medal.

"There is a bright chance in the 62kg category because Hamidul Islam of Bangladesh Army finished seventh in the Asian Games and the Asian Championship. The Indians and Pakistanis were far behind him," said Mohiuddin.

More than Taka 4 crore has been spent on the preparation of the athletes and weightlifting apart, there is limited possibility of medals in shooting and swimming. But the whole country will be anxiously keeping an eye on the fortunes of the football team who defend the

regional crown they won in the last edition in Nepal in 1999. However hope and reality are two different things.

"It is everybody's desire to see Bangladesh lift the football gold especially since we are the defending champions. But there's hardly any realistic prospect of that happening this time because our training has been far too of inadequate," said Chef de Mission Mueyed Chowdhury.

Midfielder Monwar Hossain is the only surviving member of the class of '99 and will carry the Bangladesh flag during the march past of the opening ceremony. For the first time, football will be an under 23 event in conformity with the Olympic Games. Only three over-aged players will be allowed.

Football and shooting were the only disciplines where Bangladesh secured gold medals in the Nepal SAF Games.

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PHOTO: AFP

CRICKET WITHOUT BOUNDARIES: (Top) Two Pakistani girls smile as they watch their national cricket team take on arch-rivals India at the Pindi Cricket Ground yesterday. (bottom) Two Indian cricket fans display a banner showing a joint flag of India and Pakistan during the second one-day international in Rawalpindi.

Tendulkar across 13,000-run mark

REUTERS, Rawalpindi

India's Sachin Tendulkar became the first batsman to score 13,000 runs in one-day internationals in the second game of a five-match series against Pakistan on Tuesday.

He reached the milestone, in his 330th match and 321st innings, when he clipped Mohammad Sami for a single to reach 51.

Tendulkar, 30, has also scored a world record 36 hundreds and 67 half-centuries in his one-day career.

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq is second on the list with 9,607 runs in 309 matches.

Seeing Sachin with own eyes

REUTERS, Islamabad

Sachin Tendulkar was emerging from the health club of a Lahore hotel when, from the corner of his eye, he spotted a teenaged Pakistani fan, standing transfixed in the distance.

"Should I go talk to him?" the 18-year-old fan, aptly named Imran Khan after the former Pakistan captain, urgently whispered to a friend.

Tendulkar smiled at him, waved and walked towards the elevators before the awestruck youth could make a move.

"Sachin is the greatest. He's my hero," Imran later told the news agency.

"I'm so lucky I finally got to see him close up after watching him on TV for so many years. Next time, I'll make sure I open my mouth."

The economics student from Lahore is one of many Pakistani cricket lovers who revere India's players despite the political rivalry between the countries.

The Indian team, who are in Pakistan for their first full series in more than 14 years, say they have been stunned by the affection showered on them since they landed in Lahore last week.

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