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Did U Know?

Virender Sehwag scored 309 runs from 375 balls in the first innings of the first Test against Pakistan at Multan Cricket Stadium on March 28, 2004. It was his first triple century, first and highest score by an Indian player.



What to Watch

- ESPN**
English Premier Football League
Liverpool vs Blackburn Rovers
Live at 7:55 pm
- STAR Sports**
Nasdaq Tennis Masters Series
Final
Live at 10:00 pm
Primeria Liga
Valencia vs Murcia
Live at 1:30 am (Monday)
- TEN Sports**
FA Cup Semifinal
Man United vs Arsenal
Repeat at 4:00 pm
West Indies vs England
Third Test, Day Four
Live at 8:00 pm



Talk Turkey



Anil Kumble
(Indian veteran leg-spinner)
"It's amazing how much he has improved. It is an overall important and it augurs well for Indian cricket."
On Irfan Pathan.

Star Whizz Kid

COMPETITION 209
Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
April 9, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who will captain the Bangladesh football team at the SAF Games?
Monwar Alfaz Rana
 - How many ODI hundreds has Sachin Tendulkar scored?
37 36 32
 - Who clinched the Indian Wells ATP Masters Series title?
Federer Roddick Agassi
 - Who lifted the Spanish Cup?
Zaragoza Real Madrid Villarreal
 - Who became man-of-the-match in the fifth and final one-day international between India and Pakistan?
Laxman Inzamam Tendulkar
- Name.....
Class..... Roll No.....
School Address.....
Phone: (if any).....

Navy in final

Bangladesh Navy moved into the final of the Maple Leaf Independence Day Basketball Competition beating Bangladesh Army 79-52 in the first semifinal at the Dhanmondi basketball gymnasium yesterday.

The winners dominated the first half 35-18.

Rashed was the top scorer for the sailors with 37 points while Tozammel caged highest 16 for Army.

Radiant Rubel

SPORTS REPORTER

Rubel Rana became the pride of Bangladesh swimming when he captured gold in the men's 100m backstroke of the 9th South Asian Federation (SAF) Games at the Pakistan Sports Complex Swimming Pool yesterday.

The 21-year-old Rubel swam to gold clocking 1:02.78 ahead of India's Dipes Bairagi, who finished with 1:03.43. Pakistan's Faiz Muhammad picked up the bronze clocking 1:04.82.

Rubel joined the gold-winning class of shooters Asif Hossain Khan and Sharmin Akher on the final day of the men's swimming competition.

Rubel, who had earlier won silver in the 100m individual medley, saved the blushes of

Bangladesh when his illustrious compatriot Karar Samedul was an utter disappointment.

"I used to tell my teammates that I would not leave Pakistan without a gold and thanks to the Almighty Allah I finally got it," the elated swimmer told the Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) afterwards.

The success of Rubel later inspired Jewel Ahmed to clinch silver in the men's 100m butterfly. He clocked 57.90 sec behind Sri Lanka's Conrad Anthony Francis, who set a new SAF Games record with a timing of 56.35 seconds. Francis broke the previous record of 58.43 set by his compatriot Suresh Kumar in 1995.

Jewel also helped Bangladesh to earn the second silver on the day in the men's 4x100m freestyle relay with a timing of 3 minutes 44.84 seconds. India won the gold clocking 3 minutes 39.40 seconds while

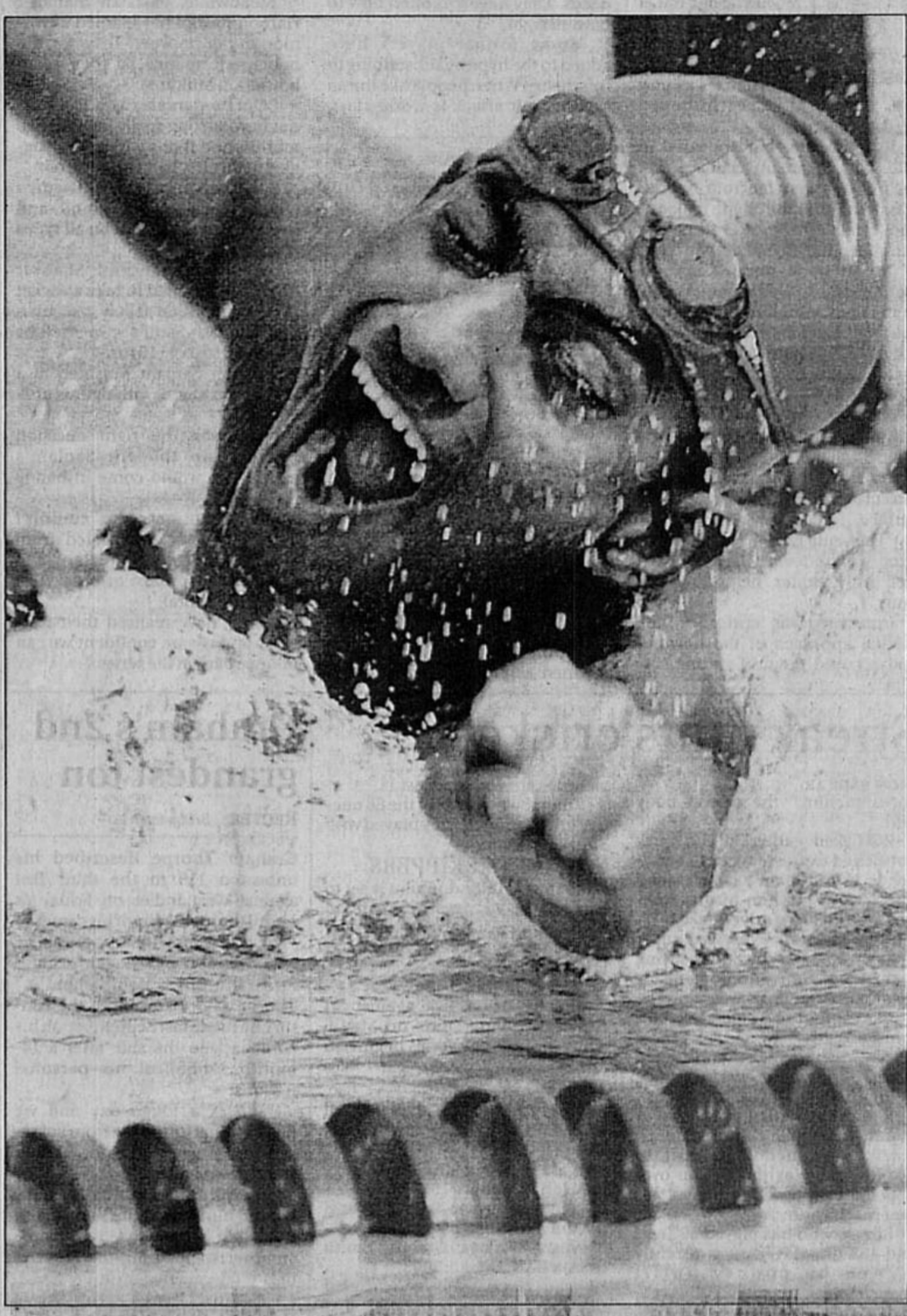
Sri Lanka bagged bronze.

Bangladesh's other medal came in the weightlifting competition when Bidyut Kumar secured bronze in the 94kg category with a total lift of 275kg at the Community centre.

But Bangladesh's hopes of a bronze in volleyball ended with a 3-2 defeat against Sri Lanka at the Liaquat Gymnasium, where later India beat Pakistan by the same margin to win the gold.

Bangladesh remained a distant fourth in the medals table by the end of Day Five. They have collected 29 medals (G=3, S=11, B=15). India dominate the table with 57 gold, 23 silver and 15 bronze medals. Pakistan occupy second place with 22 gold, 33 silver and 23 bronze medals. Sri Lanka are third having seven golds, 18 silver and 27 bronze medals respectively.

Three other participants -- newcomers Afghanistan, Bhutan and the Maldives -- are yet strike gold in the competition.



RULES THE POOL: Bangladesh's Mohammad Rubel Rana celebrates winning the men's 100m backstroke gold at the Pakistan Sports Complex Swimming Pool in Islamabad yesterday.

Helal accepts the debacle

SPORTS REPORTER

While the Maldives football team made headlines for their majestic performance a few days back, regional top-notch Bangladesh were the source of more frustration as they made an early exit from the SAF Games competition in Islamabad.

Maldives, who withdrew from the regional meet's football competition at the last minute, stunned the football world when they held Asian giants South Korea to a goalless draw in a World Cup qualifier on Wednesday.

On the other hand, a day later holders Bangladesh lost to hosts Pakistan 1-0 in the last Group A match that forced Shahidur Rahman Shanto's charges to pack their bags early.

However for a change, the local football authorities have had the courage to at least shoulder the responsibility for the flop.

"I think there is no scope to blame the players for the debacle in the prestigious event because we failed to provide them with the best possible facilities," said Anwarul Haq Helal.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

Singer chess Zia alone atop

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman maintained his solo lead with six points after the end of the seventh round games of the Singer 30th National Chess Championship at the NSC conference room yesterday.

Grand Master Niaz Murshed was in second position with 5.5 points. International Master Enamul Hossain Rajib and International Master Abdullah Al-Rakib were in the third position with 5 points each.

SEVENTH ROUND RESULTS
Zia beat Mohammad Javed, Niaz beat Monjur Alam, Rajib beat Abdul Maleq, Rakib beat Shawkat Hossain Pallab, Sheikh Nasir Ahmed beat Debaraj Chatterjee, IM Reefat Bin Sattar lost against Mehdi Hasan Parag, Aminul Islam Polash beat Saif Uddin Lavlu.

Stranger Davis Cuppers

Tennis

SPORTS REPORTER

A little known Motiur Rahman will lead a five-member tennis team in the Davis Cup Group-4 qualifier to be held in Jordan from April 5.

The Bangladesh Tennis Federation (BTF) also brought veteran Shibu Lal all the way from the United States to constitute a four-member playing team in the 11-team event, where Bangladesh's participation is more academic than anything else.

Bangladesh finished bottom during the last Group 4 qualifier in Sri Lanka.

The other members of the team are Amol Roy, who crossed the first round barrier at the recent

Bangladesh Junior International Tennis Championship, Murad Hossain of BKSP and Alamgir Hossain.

But the appointment of Motiur as non-playing captain has raised certain eyebrows because he has little to speak of in terms of his tennis credential. The man from Rajshahi has never come into the limelight at the national tennis level.

While Motiur's appointment is dubious to say the least, the reliance on Shibu Lal exposes the lack of tennis talent available in the country.

Bangladesh never excelled in tennis at any stage and the scenario seems to be heading in the wrong direction since NSC's director of planning Nurul Haq Prodhan took over as BTF secretary after the elected body was abolished nearly 19 months ago.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

Thorpe turns it around

Cricket

REUTERS/AFP, Bridgetown

The third Test between West Indies and England was perfectly balanced after a remarkable second day that saw a strong fight back from the home side and a magnificent century by the tourists' Graham Thorpe.

Thorpe hit 119 not out as England recovered from 147 for seven to be all out for 226 giving them a first-innings lead of two while West Indies closed on 21 for one, 19 runs ahead.

England, who lead the four-match series 2-0, are looking for their first triumph in the Caribbean since 1968.

West Indies' Chris Gayle was bowled by Steve Harmison for 15 but captain Brian Lara (one not out) and Daren Ganga (five not out) survived to see West Indies through to the close.

While Thorpe, who came to the crease on 33 for three, batted flawlessly for his century, Lara must take some of the blame for his team's defensive play as he seemed intent on preventing runs rather than attacking the England tail.

The Test had looked very different after West Indies enjoyed two of their best sessions of the series.

Having lost their last seven wickets for 57 as they were all out for 224 on Day One, West Indies needed something special from their bowlers and Fidel Edwards, with four for 70, provided it.

After Michael Vaughan was dropped by Ramnaresh Sarwan off Tino Best when on 12, England lost their first wicket when Edwards got one to lift and found the edge of Mark Butcher's bat, caught by Chris Gayle at first slip for five.

New batsman Nasser Hussain was fortunate to survive when a thick edge went through the vacant slip cordon and as he became bogged down Vaughan became impatient and fell to Edwards, caught by Ridley Jacobs for 17.

Hussain played round a straight ball from Corey Collymore and was bowled, also for 17, while Andrew Flintoff, the success of Day One with five wickets for 58, was caught at cover for 15.

The use of Gayle, a part-time off-spinner, frustrated England's batsmen initially but while his 13 overs cost only 32 runs, the tall rarely had to face two of the home side's pace bowlers in tandem.

That allowed Thorpe to dominate the strike and the left-hander played impeccably for his second

century at the Kensington Oval.

With Simon Jones and Harmison providing staunch support at the other end, Thorpe reached his 13th Test hundred in 181 balls.

Harmison was the last man out, bowled by Pedro Collins for three, but the fast bowler had his revenge by dismissing Gayle for 15 shortly before bad light ended play.

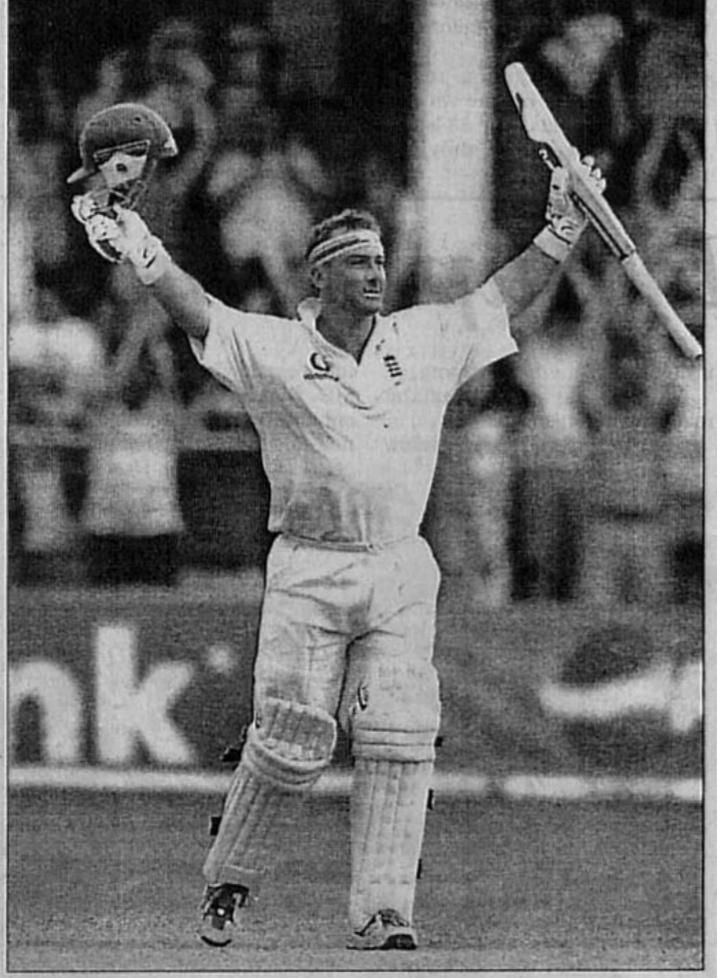
SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the third Test between West Indies and England at Kensington Oval on Friday:
WEST INDIES: First innings 224 (Sarwan 63; Flintoff 5-58)
ENGLAND: First innings (over-night 20-1)
Trescothick b Edwards 2
Vaughan c Jacobs b Edwards 17
Butcher c Gayle b Edwards 15
Hussain b Collymore 17
Thorpe not out 119
Flintoff c Collymore b Best 15

Read lbw b Edwards 13
Giles c (sub) Mayers b Collins 11
Hoggard lbw b Collins 0
Jones c Sarwan b Best 4
Harmison b Collins 3
Extras: (lb-5, w-3, nb-12) 20
Total: (All out in 90 overs) 226
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-24, 3-33, 4-65, 5-90, 6-119, 7-147, 8-155, 9-187

Bowler O M R W
Edwards 20 4 70 4
Collins 23 6 60 3
Collymore 16 3 26 1
Hinds 4 1 7 0
Best 14 4 26 2
Gayle 13 3 32 0

WEST INDIES: Second innings
Gayle b Harmison 15
Ganga not out 5
Lara not out 1
Total: (For 1 wkt in 6.2 overs) 21
Fall of wicket: 1-19

Bowler O M R W
Hoggard 3.2 1 5 1
Harmison 3 0 16 1



CLASS ACT: England master bat Graham Thorpe raises his arms on reaching his century on the second day of the third Test against the West Indies in Barbados on Friday.

StanChart cricket Final round field done

SPORTS REPORTER

The line-ups of the final round in the 22nd Standard Chartered National School Cricket Tournament were finalised yesterday after Dinajpur Zilla, Chittagong Police Lines Institution and Sabuj Kanan High of Sirajganj made their entries with wins in their respective matches.

Dinajpur Zilla confirmed their ticket for the 16-team field when they became venue champions after beating Riverview High School of Thakurgaon by 13 runs at the Dinajpur Stadium.

Chittagong Police Lines Institution defeated Comilla Razzak High by 19 runs at the Comilla Stadium.

Meanwhile, Sabuj Kanan High handed Nature Sher-e-Bangla High School a humiliating 10-wicket defeat at the Sirajganj Stadium.

The other final round teams are Willes Little Flower, AK High, Rahmatullah Model High and National Bangla High School (Dhaka Metro); Hazi Amzad Ali High of Munshiganj and Narayan-ganj Adarsha High (Dhaka Division); Gani Adarsha High of Chandpur (Chittagong); Narall Government High and Saint Xavier's High

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

Streak quits cricket Taibu new Zimbabwe captain

Cricket

AFP, Harare

Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak resigned on Friday and was immediately replaced by wicketkeeper Tatenda Taibu, the Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU) said.

Streak resigned after he allegedly made several demands including the team selection criteria and the immediate review of the selection panel, which the ZCU said they could not meet.

"Streak raised a number of issues and demanded that they be met by Monday or else he would resign from all forms of cricket," said the ZCU.

"Instead of accepting his demands, the ZCU board unani-

Taibu becomes the new captain and will take charge of the team for the first time when Zimbabwe play against Sri Lanka in two weeks time.

Taibu, who turns 21 on May 14, is set to become the youngest Test captain in cricket history when he leads Zimbabwe against the islanders in the first Test in Harare on May 6.

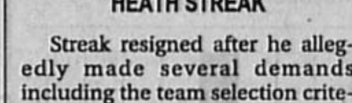
The youngest Test captain is currently Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi, who was 21 years and 77 days old when he led India in 1961-62.

Streak had earlier Friday presented the cricket union's board of directors with an ultimatum during their quarterly meeting.

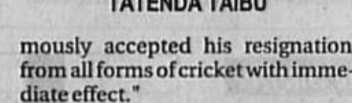
He had wanted the selection panel to be reduced from five to four, all of whom should have played first class or Test cricket.

"None of the black directors currently running the game in the country meet these criteria," said ZCU in a statement.

"Streak said he had no confidence in the teams being selected and was under stress as he was doubling up as the players' representative since the players were continuously presenting griev-



HEATH STREAK



TATENDA TAIBU

Dravid confident of getting it straight

REUTERS, Lahore

Three times in recent years India have won an overseas Test only to lose the next match in the series and their captain Rahul Dravid is determined that the same thing will not happen next week.

India clinched a historic first Test victory on Pakistani soil earlier this week and when the second Test starts in Lahore on Monday, they will be looking to buck a trend which started in Zimbabwe three years ago then continued in West Indies in 2002 and in Australia late last year.

"It's happened in the past that we've won a match and then not been able to capitalise," Dravid said. "We've been winning Tests abroad, but we've not been winning series."

Stand-in skipper Dravid has every right to be confident as India's tour of Pakistan could hardly have gone better so far.

They clinched their first one-

played almost flawless cricket to win the Multan Test by an innings and 52 runs and take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Their strong batting lineup, led by opener Virender Sehwag who scored a record 309 in Multan, is firing on all cylinders and the bowlers are exceeding all pre-tour expectations.

Pakistan, on the other hand, have serious worries.

The pace battery of Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammad Sami and Shabbir Ahmed is misfiring while the batsmen have failed to handle young Indian seamer Irfan Pathan's swing and the guile of experienced leg-spinner Anil Kumble.

"Our bowlers just could not use the conditions like the Indian bowlers," their coach Javed Miandad said. "They have to deliver if we're to fight back."

The wicket in Lahore is expected



RAHUL DRAVID