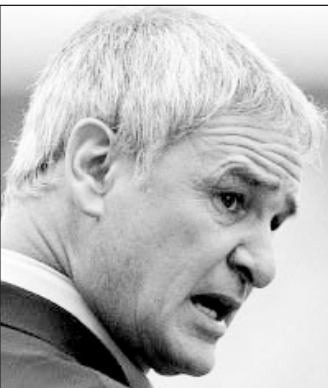




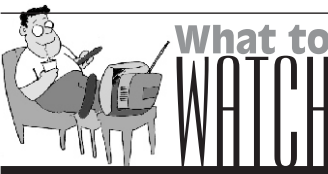
Did U Know?

When the United Arab Emirates played in the 1990 World Cup football finals for the first time they managed to score two goals before being eliminated at the group stage. But the goalscorers still received a Rolls Royce each!



Claudio Ranieri
(Chelsea manager)
"Abramovich knows nothing about football. That's the real shame. If he had understood what my side had achieved that season he would have valued me more highly. We did it all without any money."

Questioning Russian owner Roman Abramovich's football knowledge.



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Live at 3 pm
Sportsline
Sports News
Live at 8 pm

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 210

Tick the correct answers, post to
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Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm April 23, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards

1. How many gold medals did Bangladesh win in the recently concluded SAF Games?	5	4	3
2- Who is the coach of Chelsea?	Eriksson	Wenger	Ranieri
3. What is the title of the official Euro 2004 song?	Forma	Forza	Forca
4. Who clinched the WTA Key Biscayne title?	Venus	Henin	Serena
5. What was the score of the India-Pakistan one-day series?	4-1	5-0	3-2
Name			
Class..... Roll No.			
School Address			
Phone: (If any)			

Waqar could play again

BBC ONLINE, undated

Ex-Pakistan paceman Waqar Younis says he would come out of retirement to fill Glamorgan's over-seas vacancy.

The 32-year-old retired from cricket earlier this month after being sacked as Pakistan captain and dropped.

But with Glamorgan seeking a bowler after Mike Kasprowicz's call-up to tour Zimbabwe, Younis says he would welcome a return to the Welsh county.

"I would listen to an offer from Glamorgan and welcome a return to county cricket," he told BBC Sport.

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No joy for chasers

SPORTS REPORTER



Apparels made a flying start in the GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket League with a 49-run victory over BEXIMCO Group at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Mashud scored 54 and Salim, who had a rare stint for the Tigers behind the wicket during Bangladesh's home series against South Africa last year, hit 51 in an impressive Araf Apparels total of 246-9 in 50 overs.

BEXIMCO, in their chase, could manage 197 before being all out in 46.5 overs.

BEXIMCO's bid for a winning start nipped in the bud when their star recruit Mohammad Ashraful fell for one. Coming in at number four the youngest Test centurion on debut played only seven balls before flashing off-spinner Jamaluddin Babu straight at the throat of Rubayet.

Jamal finished with 2-30 but it was fellow offie Fahim Muntasir who stole the show with 3-43.

While Araf Apparels made their maiden appearance in any competitive cricket memorable, there was no such luck for Aktel EC who slipped to a 30-run defeat against Partex Group despite a solid start to their pursuit at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Faced with a fighting Partex total of 224, Aktel were off to a flier with the left-right opening pair of Manjarul Islam and Uttam Kumar

plundering 74 runs in 11.3 overs. Uttam hammered a 57-ball 48 that included seven firm hits across the rope and national all-rounder Manjarul struck four boundaries in his 30-ball 25.

Aktel raced to the 100-mark by the end of the 21st over with one-down Golam Mawla making 39. But it all went wrong from there on as wickets began to tumble like a pack of cards against some controlled bowling from off-spinner Tariqul Islam, who ripped through the middle and lower order to finish with 4-26.

Test ace Mohammad Rafique, the Aktel captain, scored a duck. Young wicketkeeper Anwar Hossain fought a lost battle with an unbeaten 25.

Earlier, Partex benefited from some erratic Aktel bowling to get past 200. There were some 33 extras which was the second highest contribution to the Partex total after Tariq Ahmed's 39. The lone Test cap in the Partex batting line-up national opener Javed Omar scored just 10.

The new-ball pair of Tareq Aziz Khan and Golam Rabbani were completely out of sorts. Tigers' right-arm seamer Tareq conceded 50 runs from his 10 overs while Rabbani gave away 38 in his five overs.

Left-arm spinners Rafique and Manjarul however bowled to their reputation with the former finishing with 2-26.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Araf Apparels v BEXIMCO
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Araf Apparels: 246-9 in 50 overs

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5



PHOTO: STAR

Araf Appel's Mohammad Salim drives during his 51 against BEXIMCO in their GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Jayasuriya goes atop as SL zap Zimbabwe



REUTERS/AFP, Harare

Sanath Jayasuriya became Sri Lanka's highest run scorer in one-day internationals and helped his side to a nine-wicket victory over weakened Zimbabwe in Bulawayo on Thursday.

Zimbabwe were dismissed for 136 after being put in to bat. Sri Lanka replied with a whirlwind 139 for one in 20.5 overs to take a 2-0 lead in the five-match series.

Veteran left-hander Jayasuriya, out for 31, had gone into his 315th one-dayer needing 28 to pass Aravinda de Silva's milestone of 9,284, scored in 308 matches.

Jayasuriya passed the mark in the ninth over in sensational style, driving a delivery from medium pacer Douglas Hondo high over the cover boundary for six.

The innings also put Jayasuriya in fifth place on the list of all-time run-scorers in the shorter version of the game.

He was dismissed for 31 with what became the last ball before lunch when he skied a drive off fast bowler Tinashe Panyangara to Prosper Utseya at mid-off.

The foundations of the win were laid when left-arm paceman Chaminda Vaas took four wickets in his opening spell on his way to final figures of four for 38. Off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan mystified the lower order with four for 32.

Zimbabwe captain Tatenda Taibu, who made a career-best 96 not out in the first match of the series on Tuesday, escaped being run out for nought and went on to top-score with 35.

Saman Jayantha scored 74 not out off 64 balls with 12 fours and a six to marshal Sri Lanka's reply.

Zimbabwe were again fielding a highly inexperienced side after 15 white players made themselves unavailable as part of a selection-process battle with their board.

They had put up an unexpectedly good display in the first game, scoring 211 for six before being edged out on the Duckworth-Lewis method.

Taibu said on Thursday: "It was a different story today. Sri Lanka bowled very well early on, particularly Vaas and (Nuwan) Zoysa, and we didn't have any answers to them."

Sri Lankan captain Marvan Atapattu said: "We knew what to expect from the Zimbabweans this time and we did exactly what the doctor ordered."

The next game is in Harare on Sunday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second one-day international between Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka at the Queen's Sports Club in Bulawayo on Thursday:

ZIMBABWE

Sibanda lbw b Vaas	0	Zoysa	6	1	21	0
Taylor c Jayantha b Vaas	2	Chandana	5	0	20	0
Ebrahim c Dilshan b Vaas	16	M'tharan	8.4	2	32	4
Taibu run out sub (Herath)	35	J'suriya	7	2	22	1
Chigumbura c J'dene b Vaas	0	SRI LANKA				
Malsikeneyere c S'kara b M'tharan	18	Jayantha not out			74	
Maregwede lbw b M'tharan	10	Jayasuriya c Utseya b P'gara			31	
Nkala b Jayasuriya	6	Atapattu not out			21	
Utseya not out	25	Extras: (w-12, nb-1)			13	
Hondo lbw b M'tharan	12	Total: (For 1 wkt in 20.5 overs)			139	
Panyangare b M'tharan	0	Fall of wickets: 1-84				
Extras: (b-1, nb-2, nb-7, w-2)	12	Did not bat: Jayawardene, Sanga-				
Total: (All out in 36.4 overs)	136	kkara, Dilshan, Arnold, Chandana,				
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-20, 3-27, 4-27,		Vaas, Zoysa, Muralitharan.				
5-76, 6-80, 7-95, 8-108, 9-134						
Bowler	O	M	R	W		
Vaas	10	1	38	4		

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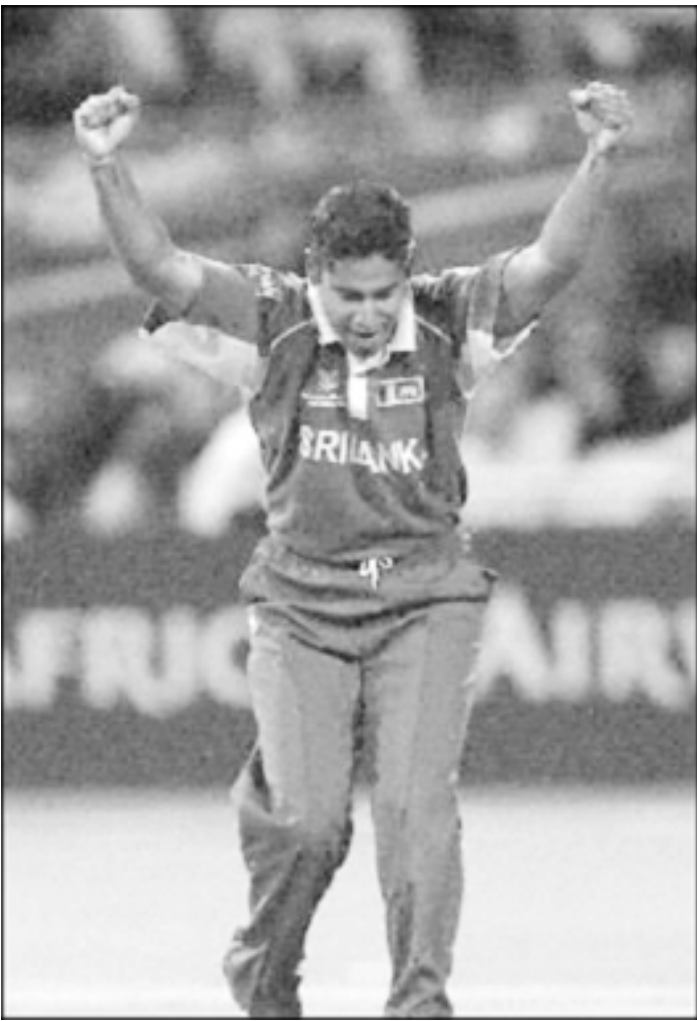


PHOTO: AFP

MAN-OF-THE-MATCH: Sri Lanka paceman Chaminda Vaas celebrates after taking one of his four Zimbabwe wickets in the second one-day international in Bulawayo yesterday.

ODI LEADERS

Player	Country	Mts	Runs
Sachin Tendulkar	India	333	13,134
Inzamamul Haq	Pakistan	312	9,796
Mohammad Azharuddin	India	334	9,378
Sourav Ganguly	India	249	9,309
Sanath Jayasuriya	Sri Lanka	315	9,288
Aravinda de Silva	Sri Lanka	308	9,284
Saeed Anwar	Pakistan	247	8,823
Desmond Haynes	West Indies	238	8,648
Brian Lara	West Indies	229	8,533
Mark Waugh	Australia	244	8,500

Rajshahi lift nat'l youth volleyball

BSS, Dhaka

Rajshahi clinched the title of the City Bank 20th National Youth Volleyball Championship beating Jessore 3-1 in the final at the volleyball court near Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Rajshahi beat Jessore 25-14, 25-13, 21-25 and 25-21 to claim their third title in the youth championship after their triumphs in 1980 and 1993.

Ironically Jessore became runners-up for the second successive year.

Parag marches on

SPORTS REPORTER

Mehdi Hasan Parag continued to dominate the 25th national junior chess championship at the NSC auditorium yesterday.

He has earned full points from eight rounds.

Obaidul Islam Shahin was in second place with 7 points while Nahid Parvez occupied third position with 6.5 points.

Reigning champion Moha-mmud Ali, Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar, Kishwara Shajirin Evana, Awlad and Ashrafuzzaman were sharing fourth spot with 6 points each.

Raja refuses to go away

CRICINFO, undated

Rameez Raja, the chief executive of the Pakistan Cricket Board, has said that he has no intentions of resigning. Addressing a news conference at the Gaddafi Stadium, Rameez spoke about how Shaharyar Khan, the chairman of the PCB, backed him completely and that the allegations of corruption targeted at him were completely baseless.

"If they (ex-cricketers) consider it is a right way in which they can compel me to leave the office," he

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GP Corporate Cricket League
GrameenPhone v BADC
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium
Bashundhara v MM Ispahani
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium
Gazi Tank v Bangladesh Biman
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

Maradona out of danger



AFP, Buenos Aires

Argentina soccer legend Diego Maradona was no longer in a critical condition after being rushed to hospital on Sunday apparently at death's door with heart and breathing problems.

His personal doctor Alfredo Cahe told local radio the 43-year-old appeared to have pulled through and that within 72 hours he could be taken off a respirator.

Maradona was admitted to the Swiss-Argentine clinic on Sunday but Cahe has refused say if his problems were drug-related.

He became addicted to cocaine during a seven-year spell, 1984-91, with Italian side Napoli.

Fans had been keeping vigil outside the clinic.

Earlier reports citing doctors say that Maradona remained on a respirator in hospital here Wednesday.

A statement issued by the football legend's medical team said Maradona must remain under sedation "to continue to stabilise the cardiovascular function at satisfactory levels".

The bulletin said that Maradona "would be kept under respiratory assistance".

It added that the bacteria which caused his pneumonia was acutely sensitive to antibiotics "meaning the treatment followed since he was hospitalised cannot be modified".

"The prognosis remains cautious," the bulletin concluded.

Cancer kids' Akhtar day



AFP, Mumbai

A number of Indian children suffering from cancer had a memorable Thursday when they played cricket with the world's fastest bowler -- Pakistan's Shoaib Akhtar.

In Mumbai for a television commercial shoot, Akhtar took time off to send down some overs to dozens of children suffering from cancer at the city's St. George Hospital.

"It is a lifetime opportunity for these kids that I am here with them," said a visibly-moved Akhtar.

"They will never get a chance to play with me or see me again but I am glad I came here and spent some time with them."

Akhtar, who is embroiled in a row over his decision to leave the field in the final Test match between India and Pakistan, refused to comment on the controversy.

"No controversial questions please," said Akhtar, clad in a light-blue T-shirt and jeans, to reporters gathered at the hospital.

"I am here to share fun with these kids. I can feel the pain they have

which is why I am here to play with them."

Akhtar said cancer treatment in Pakistan was a costly affair as there are not many hospitals treating those suffering the disease.

"In India treating cancer is cheaper than in Pakistan. But I am glad that thanks to Imran Khan we now have a beautiful cancer hospital there too," Akhtar said.

Imran was the captain of the Pakistan cricket team that won the 1992 World Cup.

Akhtar said the just-ended cricket series between India and Pakistan had gone a long way towards boosting peace between the neighbours.

"I know so many Indians who had come to Pakistan to watch the series and did not want to return," said the fast bowler, popularly known as the "Rawalpindi Express".

"I am happy to be known by the name which identifies the city I was born in," he said adding that one day he would like to work with disabled children.



PHOTO: AFP

THE UNDERTAKER! Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar grabs the attention of a young listener in Mumbai yesterday. He was visiting the Cancer Patients Association in the busy Indian city.

Cahe said his condition has been gradually improving through Monday and Tuesday although he was still seriously ill.

"The priority now is to treat his lungs which became infected when he swallowed his own vomit on Sunday," a medical source told the sports paper Ole.

"Once the infection is under control, the aim will be to take him off the respirator. That process will take a whole day," the source said.

"When the oxygen levels in his blood stream are back to normal the doctors will have him partly on the machine and partly breathing normally. If all goes according to plan, they will then unhook him completely."

Maradona, whose glittering football career between 1975 and 1997 made him one of the most famous sportsmen in the world has a history of cocaine use and his weight has ballooned in recent years.

He took refuge under the eye of Fidel Castro in Cuba for some time, but his health problems appear to re-emerge each time he heads home to Buenos Aires where he is regarded as little short of a living god.

It was shortly after watching his old side Boca Juniors playing in the Argentine capital that he was taken ill and rushed to hospital where he was said to be between life and death with a severely weakened heart, badly-infected lungs and soaring blood pressure.

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No better time for Sehwag to marry

AFP, New Delhi

Thousands of Indians, including cricketer Virendra Sehwag, were tying the knot Thursday after astrologers billed it the holiest day for 70 years, while moves were underway to halt child weddings.

With an estimated 17,000 nuptials were due to take place in New Delhi, and an estimated 150,000 in eastern Bihar state, matrimonial priests, beauty parlours and hotels said they were booked solid.

"If you want to do anything -- marry, buy a house or start anything new -- today is the most auspicious day according to the planetary configurations," said astrologer Ajay Bhambi. "The next such day will come round in 12 years."

Hindus, among the world's most superstitious, set great store by astrology in fixing the time of

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

'Golfing' Lara annoys Croft

BBC ONLINE, undated

Record-breaking West Indies hero Brian Lara has been criticised for playing golf at a time when he is officially recovering from a finger injury.

Lara missed the first one-day international against England and is not expected to re-appear until the third match in Trinidad on Sunday.

In the mean time, he has played in a charity golf tournament at the St. Andrews course near Port-of-Spain. One-time paceman Colin Croft said: "It sends the wrong signal."

On April 15 Lara was advised to rest the finger he fractured during the first Test for 10 days.

That would mean he could miss Saturday's second match, also in Trinidad, which West Indies desperately need to win to avoid going 2-0 down with three to play.

Croft said: "Instead of resting, Lara is playing golf with former West Indies players."

"I really don't understand that decision. I don't know that his finger is getting the rest it needs and if he can play golf, he probably could have played in the ODIs."

Croft's opinion was echoed by another former Windies star, Jackie Hendricks.

Girls h'ball

BSS, Dhaka

The inaugural Maple Leaf handball competition for girls will begin at May 5 at the Outer Stadium handball court.

The Bangladesh Handball Federation is organising the school-level meet being sponsored by Maple Leaf International School.