



Did U Know?

World powers in table tennis are: China, Sweden Taiwan and Korea (2001).



BTV

Bangladesh vs West Indies
Third ODI
Live at 7:30 pm

TEN Sports

Bangladesh vs West Indies
Third ODI
Live at 7:30 pm

ESPN

English Premier Football League
Aston Villa vs Man United
Repeat at 3:30 pm

Sportscentre

Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
UEFA Cup (Final)
Valencia vs Marseille
Live at 12:30 am (Thursday)

STAR Sports

Sportsline

Sport News
Live at 9:00 pm



Dav Whatmore

(Bangladesh cricket coach)
"In the end the difference was 23 runs. Couldn't the top order have given us those runs? I don't know what to say."
Blaming the batsmen after the defeat against West Indies in the second ODI.



PHOTO: STAR

IN FULL FLOW: ARAF Apparel's Pakistani recruit Shahid Afridi lifts one over long on for one of his six sixes during his side's Corporate Cricket League clash against sponsors GrameenPhone at the BNS yesterday.

Afridi-powered ARAF

SPORTS REPORTER



GrameenPhone CORPORATE LEAGUE

Shahid Afridi lived up to his billing as a big attraction with a cracking half-century to power ARAF Apparel into the final of the GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket League.

ARAF will meet the winners of today's second semifinal between Bashundhara and Beximco in the May 21 final.

In front of four thousand screaming fans, the biggest turnout for the first-ever competition for corporate houses, the dashing Pakistani right-hander blasted a 35-ball 71 as ARAF handed GrameenPhone a crushing five-wicket defeat at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The match turned into a no-contest when Afridi's power hitting and another aggressive knock by his compatriot Fahad Ullah saw ARAF romp past GrameenPhone's modest 218-9 with more than 15 overs to spare.

In a match where three out of four guest players did the talking with the bat, Pakistan's Imran Nazir was the only disappointment. The opener's contribution was only five for GrameenPhone total that relied on Indian middle-order batsman Romesh Powar's 79-ball 69.

But ARAF got money value from their two foreign recruits.

Coming into at number four with ARAF at 42-2, Afridi led a kind of assault he is feared for. But his innings could not have taken off had umpire Mahabub Ullah not spotted the batsman clearly out of his crease.

Afridi came down the wicket to smack left-arm spinner Tahmim Bashir out of ground but missed it completely. Every GrameenPhone player started celebrating after wicketkeeper Nuruzzaman whipped the balls off but to their dismay the square leg umpire was unmoved.

After being gifted the life in the very first ball Afridi just got into his stride and smashed half a dozen sixes and as many fours. Mahmud Ullah was given a shock and awe treatment by the Pakistani livewire, who plundered an amazing 27 runs in one over of the young spinner that included three sixes and two boundaries.

When Afridi thunder was over, ARAF were conformably placed at 137-3 in 18.2 overs.

Fahad Ullah was also not to be denied his share of the glory. The prolific right-hander, who scored a hundred and a fifty in the last two games, kept up his amazing run spree with an unbeaten 84 off 78 balls.

He finished the chase in grand style hoisting a straight six off GrameenPhone skipper Tushar Imran in the fifth ball of the 35th over.

Fahad struck three sixes and six fours in his fluent knock.

The Pakistani batsman however cast a critical eye on the performances of the local cricketers on either side dismissing them as 'chicken-hearted' in Urdu.

It was a harsh yet fair statement considering the fact that apart from the three foreigners there were hardly any notable contribution from the locals in the match.

"Afridi made the job very easy but the local players almost made a mess of it. I felt that the Bangladeshi players lacked courage," said the 26-year-old from Karachi after the match.

SCORECARD

Scoreboard of the GP Corporate Cricket League (Cup) semifinal match between ARAF Apparels and GrameenPhone at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday:

GRAMREENPHONE

Anisul b Nazmul 13
Imran c Mabud b Ashraf 5
Nuruzzaman run out 12
Nasirul c Mabud b Ashraf 9
Tushar c Kamrul b Ashraf 38
Romesh b Kamrul 69

SEE PAGE 16 COL 6

Calypso Cocktail



RABEED IMAM from Grenada

The moment you land at Port Salines International Airport, barely a 25-minute flight from St Vincent, you notice a difference. Although it is strikingly similar to Amos Vale's ET Joshua or the Grentley Adams in Barbados in location as the runway end sits right on the edge of the sea, inside it has a much more sophisticated feel about it.

The road that takes you to the tourist resort locality by the Grand Anse beach, home for the Tigers and the journalists following them, is neatly divided into two. The plush hotels, guesthouses, apartments and residences are mostly placed on the green hills and from the air it can be understood why. Grenada with less than 90 thousand inhabitants inside 120 square miles, is among the chain of volcanic islands in the region and naturally mountainous. So most structures they build here are either jutting out or resting on the high land much like what we've seen in St Vincent.

You don't see too many locals when you take a walk around Grand Anse and when you do spot one, there's something missing and you get reminded of St Vincent. In Amos Vale, Villa, Kingstown, Cane Garden everywhere, there would be

Vincenians excitedly inquiring whether you were from Bangladesh. You had to "Hi" back to total strangers who had already raised their hands. We have lost count how many friends we had made in St Vincent in just a week's stay and there was no problem fitting in straightaway.

But Grenada is a tourist hot spot and maybe because of that, everything is tailor-made for the convenience of the visitors. In the stylish stores at the Real Value Supermarket, where you'll get any product you can think of, and on the streets the number of foreigners far outnumber the original West Indians and you notice affluence.

Vincenians have a certain way of expressing themselves. "All these lovely houses you see here and up there, are of ordinary people," said Rodwell Alexander, "Smoker" to most people who know him, when he proudly took us on an impromptu tour around the capital. That was the former international footballer's way of projecting how well the common mass was doing in the island.

But there were signs of poverty too. You had to pass by a slum or a shack where complete vagabonds spent the whole day drinking or sitting idly while children in dirty clothes ran around.

Banana was once St Vincent's main foreign currency earner. Now it is under threat from the booming

SEE PAGE 16 COL 4

Vaughan scare for England

AFP, London

England captain Michael Vaughan was rated a "serious doubt" for Thursday's first Test against New Zealand after twisting his right knee during batting practice at Lord's on Monday.

Vaughan, 29, batting in the practice nets on the Nursery ground behind the main playing area, stretched for a wide ball but slipped and fell.

After being stretchered off, he was taken to the nearby St John's and St Elizabeth Hospital in St John's Wood, north-west London, where he underwent a scan.

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chief medical officer Dr Peter Gregory said afterwards: "The scan showed no significant damage to the knee ligaments."

"However, Michael has a previous history of cartilage problems with the right knee and may have aggravated an old injury."

"At this stage, he is in serious doubt for Thursday and will continue to receive treatment from the England medical team over the next 48 hours."

Vaughan, explaining how he sustained the injury, said: "I went to play a sweep shot against one of the net bowlers and ended up on the floor as you do sometimes when you play that type of shot."

"As I went to stand up my body twisted and I just felt my knee lock."

Back to his lucky ground



AL MUSABBIR SADI

Having launched his international career with a match-winning 84 against mighty Australia four years ago, Yuvraj Singh not only announced his arrival in Indian cricket with a bang but also turned out to be the hottest property of world cricket in the new millennium.

The exciting young cricketer, who won the enviable tag as the future left-handed Sachin Tendulkar of India at a tender age, is now in Dhaka where he scored his maiden one-day century just over a year ago.

Capable of destroying any attack in the world when on song, the talented all-rounder from Punjab is also considered as a role model for the next generation Indian cricketers after the Sachin-Sourav-Dravid era.

Also an excellent fielder, Yuvraj's biggest facet is that he is a genuine match winner.

Set to make his Dhaka cricket debut for Bashundhara in the second semifinal of the first-ever GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket League against Beximco at the

Bangabandhu National Stadium today, Yuvraj promises more fireworks at what he called his lucky ground.

The BNS witnessed the dashing left-handed batsman's maiden one-day century against Bangladesh in the TVS Cup tri-series after 70 aborted attempts (it was understandable since he usually bats at number six or seven).

Although reporters were buzzing with questions relating to the state of Indian cricket today, the historic series against Pakistan and his goals, Yuvraj politely ducked those queries and was happy to focus on today's game and his experiences of Dhaka.

"I want to win the match tomorrow. I'll try my best to help the side," said Yuvraj, who admitted that he is in total darkness about the standard of domestic cricket in Bangladesh.

"I follow what the Bangladesh team does but frankly speaking, I have no idea about your local cricket."

Replying to a question, Yuvraj said that he has only played two club matches after the series in Pakistan.

"I hope it would be an interesting contest tomorrow because they have got good players," said Yuvraj

SEE PAGE 16 COL 7



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

'CROWN PRINCE' IN TOWN: Indian star Yuvraj Singh arrives at Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday to sign for Bashundhara Group for playing in the Corporate Cricket League.

Court clears Akram of liquor ad affair



AFP, Lahore

A Pakistani court Tuesday rejected a case against former cricket great Wasim Akram that he hurt religious sentiments by modelling in an Indian liquor advertisement, court officials said.

Judge Musheer Rao dismissed the case and ruled that "the petitioner had no right to file such a case as he was not directly at a loss," they said.

The private petition, filed by Muhammad Fayyaz, demanded a public apology from Akram and payment of damages amounting to 25,000 rupees (about 400 US dollars) for allegedly posing in an Indian liquor company advertisement.

The 37-year-old Akram retired in May last year after taking 414 Test and a world record 502 one-day wickets.

He along with seven international players modelled for the

Indian company Royal Stag but his lawyer Chaudhry Fawwad said Akram modelled for the company's cricket equipment and not liquor.

India's Harbhajan Singh, Australia's Glenn McGrath, Jonty Rhodes of South Africa, Mervyn Dillon of the West Indies, Stephen Fleming of New Zealand, Marvan Atkinson of Zimbabwe and Jacques Rogge of South Africa were also in the advertisement.



WASIM AKRAM

2012 Olympic race IOC names big five

REUTERS, Lausanne

London has been accepted as a candidate to stage the 2012 Summer Olympics, along with Paris, New York, Moscow, and Madrid, the IOC says.

Havana, Rio de Janeiro, Istanbul and Leipzig in Germany were dropped from an initial shortlist after a unanimous decision of the IOC's executive board, International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge told a news conference.

Having survived the cull, the five cities have until July 6 next year to convince the IOC's membership to award them the world's most important sports event.

Rogge said it was possible one or more of the five cities could be removed from the list in May 2005 if the IOC did not believe they "could deliver".

Paris, which last hosted the Olympics in 1924, is viewed as the front-runner for 2012.

In deciding host cities, IOC experts give the most weight to two categories - general infrastructure and accommodation.

Umpires wired up



AFP, London

Umpires wearing ear-pieces and no-balls being called by the third umpire are two of the innovations set to be trialled by the International Cricket Council (ICC) at their Champions Trophy one-day tournament in England this September.

ICC general manager David Richardson, speaking at the tournament launch here at Lord's on Monday, said: "For the second ICC Champions Trophy in succession we hope to be trialling various technological innovations to see if they help umpires in the decision-making process."

"We are hoping to use the 2004 tournament to build on our testing into the use of stump microphone ear-pieces that began in South Africa last year."

"The plan is for umpires to wear an ear-piece that picks up the audio from the stump microphone as the ball passes the batsman."

"The trial will enable us to assess

whether the microphones position closer to the action area will provide audible assistance in instances of thin ticks," former South Africa wicketkeeper Richardson added.

"This may also enable us to trial the deferment of no-ball decisions to the TV Umpire to assess the impact this has on the on-field umpires as the microphones will offer two-way communication."

He added that statistics collated over the last year showed that umpires on the ICC's elite panel for international matches were, on average, getting 92 per cent of their decisions correct.

This compared to a 94 per cent success rate in Major League Baseball.

"We are of the opinion that cricket is a more difficult game to umpire than baseball so if we want our umpires to attain a higher percentage of correct decisions we may need to take one of their usual responsibilities out of their domain," Richardson said.

"It should be stressed however that the no-ball element of the trial is contingent on the outcome of preliminary

trials before the tournament."

With the controversy over the legitimacy of off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan's action still raging following the Sri Lankan's new world record for most Test wickets, Richardson said the ICC would use the Champions Trophy to conduct more research into slow bowling.

"This research is part of the ICC's on-going commitment to deal with the issue of suspected illegal bowling actions and will be carried out by the human movement specialist Dr Paul Hurriem," Richardson explained.

At the last Champions Trophy tournament, in Sri Lanka in 2002, on-field umpires were for the first time in international matches allowed to consult the TV umpire about lbw decisions.

But that experiment has so far not been repeated in either Test or one-day international cricket.

"The no-ball and stump microphone trials are still subject to final approval by the ICC's chief Executives' committee which meets in London in June."

SEE PAGE 16 COL 8

Banning Zim not on ICC's mind

AFP, London

International Cricket Council (ICC) president Ehsan Mani said here Monday that suspending Zimbabwe from international cricket was "not on the radar" despite the ongoing player dispute in the troubled African state.

Mani also revealed that ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed had flown to Harare for talks with the Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU). When asked by reporters at Lord's if suspending Zimbabwe was an option, he replied: "No. Zimbabwe are a full member of the ICC and they will be treated the same way as any other member."

Zimbabwe's team has been rocked by the axeing of 15 white players, many of them senior cricketers, including former captain Heath Streak, amidst claims that the Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU) is operating a quota-based selection policy.

A severely weakened Zimbabwe side went down to a huge innings and 254 run Test defeat against Sri Lanka on Monday in Bulawayo.

Sri Lanka took the two match series 2-0 after a similarly crushing innings and 240 run win in Harare last week.

Mani, speaking at the launch of the ICC's Champions Trophy one-day tournament due to take place in England in September, said the world governing body had been monitoring the situation in Zimbabwe.

Schools h'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

Maple Leaf will take on Dhanmondi Tutorial in the final of the Maple Leaf First Mini handball (girls') tournament today.

In yesterday's semifinals, Maple Leaf blanked Mohammadpur Preparatory 3-0 while Dhanmondi Tutorial handed a 7-3 defeat on Dhanmondi Quamrunnessa School at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex.

The third-fourth place play-off will also be played today.

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh vs West Indies
Third ODI
Venue: Grenada
Live at 7:30 pm
GP Corporate Cricket League
Cup Semifinal
Bashundhara vs Beximco
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 21

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

Competition closes at 8 pm
May 21, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who is Bangladesh's fastest woman?
Iva Chumki Sabrina
- Who is Zimbabwe's cricket captain?
Taibu Streak Olonga
- Name the man-of-the-series in the India-Pakistan Test series:
Sehwag Dravid Kumble
- How many runs did Brian Lara score in the first innings of the final Test against England?
400 388 380
- Who won the Singer 30th national?

Name.....
Class..... Roll No.....
School Address.....
Phone: (if any).....