

Did U Know?

The start of World War II in 1939 forced the cancellation of the 1940 Olympics, which were to be held in Tokyo. This was after they had gone to the trouble of building a huge stadium.

Talk Turkey



Chris Read
(England wicketkeeper)
"In the one-day side I believe I've done everything I can and it seems it's not enough."
On his omission from the one-day side.

What to Watch

- ESPN**
- Sportscentre Sport News Live at 8:30 pm Euro 2004 Preview Show Live at 9:30 pm Italy vs Denmark First Round Live at 9:55 pm Euro 2004 Preview Show Live at 12:00 am (Tuesday) Sweden vs Bulgaria First Round Live at 12:40 am (Tuesday)
- STAR Sports**
- England vs New Zealand Third Test, Day Five Live at 3:30 pm Sportsline Sport News Live at 10:30 pm

Star Whizz Kid Competition 213

Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star. Win attractive prizes. Competition closes at 8 pm June 25, 2004 and draw.

- Who became man-of-the-match in the second and final Test between Bangladesh and West Indies?
Sarwan Bashir Lara
- How many Test matches has Michael Slater played?
74 82 75
- What was the result of the WC qualifier between Japan and India?
7-0 5-2 4-3
- What is the name of the Euro 2004 ball?
Rofeiro Futli Euroca
- Who won the French Open men's crown?
Gaudio Coria Henman

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

Pioneer football
SPORTS REPORTER

Mowla and Alamgir scored one goal apiece to help Golam Mostafa Lane Krira Chakra blank Ramjan Football Kishore Ekadosh 2-0 in the Shimpukur Ceramics Pioneer Football League at the Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday.

The day's other match between RND Krira Chakra and Uttarun Juba Sangsad ended in a goalless draw at the same venue.

Team for Asia Cup today

Cricket
SPORTS REPORTER

The national selectors are expected to announce a 14-member Bangladesh cricket team today for next month's Asia Cup in Sri Lanka.

And when the selectors led by Faruque Ahmed sit for the final meeting at BCB's Gulshan office, they will certainly focus on performance in West Indies.

Although the Tigers lost the one-day series 3-0 in the Caribbean before going down fighting 1-0 in the two Tests, the selectors are hardly going to make any major changes to the team.

A regular participant in the regional event, Bangladesh have been placed with reigning champions Pakistan and associate

members Hong Kong in Group A, India, UAE and hosts Sri Lanka will make the other group of the six-team competition starting July 16.

It is almost certain that opening batsman Shahriar Hossain will not be available on fitness ground, which might open the way for the inclusion of a new face who did not feature in the West Indies tour party.

If that is the case then off-spinner Naimur Rahman, who is also a very useful bat down the order, is the prospective candidate.

Naimur had enjoyed a fantastic time with bat and ball in the first-ever Corporate Cricket League and recently said that he was keen to make an international comeback.

Bangladesh took three left-arm spinners for the one-dayers in the Caribbean but now the four-member selection panel is giving a second thought for a completely different condition and opponents who are comfortable against spin.

But the real problem selectors will be faced with is fixing the top-order, which has failed to contribute in the West Indies.

They have so far tried a number of players to open the innings but none have passed the test. Hannan Sarker was a total failure with two first-ball ducks in successive Test innings, Ashraf also struggled as a makeshift opener and Alok Kapali, who was tried everywhere, looked totally out of sort.

The other major worry is that Bangladesh does not possess big hitters and it was exposed during the three rain-curtailed matches in West Indies.

And rain is certainly going to play a part in Sri Lanka.

Yuvraj to open in Tests

Cricket
AFP, Bangalore

Hard-hitting Yuvraj Singh will be promoted to open the innings in order to strengthen India's batting in the upcoming international season, skipper Sourav Ganguly has said.

"At the present moment, Yuvraj is the first choice considering the number of games he has won for us," Ganguly told reporters after arriving here on Sunday to attend a training camp along with his teammates.

Left-handed Yuvraj, 22, has played just four Tests in the middle order, but Ganguly said the batsman had the ability to succeed in his new role.

"Virender Swagat also never used to open before, but has done amazingly well. Yuvraj has got the ability to open the innings and a player of his stature should not be kept out of the team," he said.

Swagat, who started his career as a middle-order batsman, made history when he smashed 309 as an opener in the first Test against Pakistan at Multan in March to become the only Indian to score a triple-century in Test cricket.

Ganguly said Yuvraj would also get used to the opener's slot.

India tried two different pairs on their recent historic tour of Pakistan, with Sehwag opening with Akash Chopra in the first two Tests and with Parthiv Patel in the third and final match.

as an opener and if he does not perform well, we will think of somebody else," said Ganguly.

Yuvraj shot to fame with an explosive 84 against Australia in the ICC Trophy limited-overs tournament in Kenya in 2000. He has so far scored 2,212 runs in 94 one-dayers.

Ganguly said he was looking forward to the return of off-spinner Harbhajan Singh, out of international cricket since suffering a finger injury in the opening Test against Australia in December.

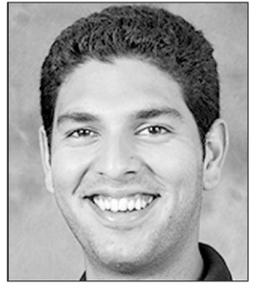
"I am looking forward to Harbhajan's return as he is a match-winning bowler. I want him to be fit before the Australians arrive here," said Ganguly, India's most successful captain with 15 Test wins.

The Indian captain said he was confident his team would put in an impressive performance against the visiting Australian and South African teams.

"We have been playing well as a team for the past couple of years. The boys are playing their best cricket. I hope we continue that," he said.

Australia will play three Tests in October, followed by South Africa for a two-match series.

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YUVRAJ SINGH

The Indian captain's remarks meant that Yuvraj was set to replace Chopra as an opener for the upcoming home Test series against Australia and South Africa.

"There is a place open for Yuvraj"



PHOTO: STAR
Action from yesterday's opening match of the 21st National Youth Hockey Championship between Mymensingh and Joypurhat at the Maulana Bhashani Hockey Stadium.

PCB plans own policing

Cricket
AFP, Karachi

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said it will appoint its own manager for security and anti-corruption to control the game in the best possible manner.

"The security and anti-corruption manager will liaise with the officials of the Anti-Corruption and Security Unit (ACSU) of the International Cricket Council as per the requirement," PCB chief executive Rameez Raja told this news agency on Sunday.

"It will allow us to control the game in a transparent manner," he added.

"A retired qualified intelligence armed forces or police officer will be preferred who would be required to constantly interact with government agencies and ICC's ACSU."

ICC was forced to form the wing, the ACSU, after match-fixing allegations rocked the game following late former South African

Pakistan had to conduct two match fixing inquiries between 1998-2000 to investigate allegations of match fixing and six of its leading players -- Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Saeed Anwar, Mushtaq Ahmed, Akram Raza and current captain Inzamamul Haq -- were fined.

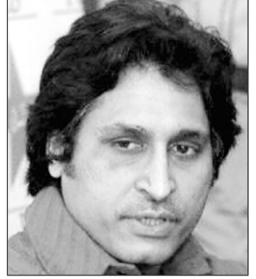
"We have suffered a lot due to the allegations and this would be an attempt to not subject our players to more inquiries," said Raja.

Two years ago, ICC appointed five security managers who keep a check on international teams in an attempt to curb the match fixing and break the nexus of the book makers.

Despite the efforts against the menace, the ICC admitted match fixing has not finished but it is under control.

Raja, however, denied PCB's fears over match fixing led to the security manager's appointment.

"I don't look at it this way but our aim is to have a better liaison with the ACSU and have transparency at domestic level," he said.



RAMEEZ RAJA



PHOTO: AFP
INSTANT IMPACT: Midfielder Juan Carlos Valeron (2nd from R) scores the decisive goal in Spain's 1-0 win against Russia in their opening Euro 2004 Group A clash on June 12 at the Faro stadium.

Rakib's streak snapped

SPORTS REPORTER

International Master Abdullah Al Rakib kept his solo lead in the Open FIDE Rating Chess Tournament with 6.5 points despite sharing point in the seventh round at the Chess Federation hall room yesterday.

Rakib's winning streak ended after six matches when he was held by Abdul Maleq, but the leader still has a half-point lead over FIDE Master Sheikh Nasir Ahmed, Mohammad Javed and Maleq who jointly share the second place.

Seven players are in the third position with 5.5 points each. They are FM Abu Sufian Shakil, Khondokar Aminul Islam, Shawkat Hossain Pallab and Mehdi Hasan Parag, Debaraj Chatterjee, Mahtabuddin Ahmed Robin and sub-junior champion Imran Ali Elin.

In other seventh round matches, Nasir beat Emon, Amin drew with Debaraj, Pallab drew with Elin, Shakil beat Almas, Javed beat Lavlu, Parag beat Taher and Robin beat Shameem.

M'singh, Comilla off to bright start

SPORTS REPORTER

Mymensingh and Comilla began their campaign with big wins on the opening day of the 21st National Youth Hockey Championship at the Maulana Bhashani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Humayun Kabir slammed three goals while Tanjeed and Sajedul added one each as Mymensingh drubbed Joypurhat 5-0 after leading 3-0 at the break.

In the day's second match, Comilla thrashed Satkhira 4-0 with Mahmudul scoring twice in the second half. Jahangir and Saiful scored one goal apiece for the winners before the breather.

But fans do not want Murali to tour
AFP, Colombo

Fans have voted overwhelmingly against Sri Lankan spinner Muralitharan touring Australia next month and the star spinner is almost certain to bow to their wishes.

The Sunday Times, which conducted a poll on whether the world's highest wicket-taker should travel to Australia after Prime Minister John Howard called him a "chucker," reported that the 82 percent of respondents said "no".

The local paper did not mention how many responded to the survey announced last week, but cricket officials said Muralitharan was likely to boycott next month's tour for two Test matches.

The off-spinner, with a record 527 Test wickets to his credit, is expected to formally inform Sri Lanka Cricket about his stance shortly, cricket officials said, adding indications were that he would opt out of the tour.

"The chances are that he is most likely to stay away (from the tour)," one source said.

Sri Lanka Cricket president Mohan de Silva said last week that the cricket authority was encouraging Muralitharan to go to Australia.

De Silva said it would advise Muralitharan not to bowl his controversial "doosra" in Australia as he ran the risk of being called for "throwing".

Sri Lanka has urged the International Cricket Council to

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Super sub Valeron

UEFA Euro 2004 PORTUGAL
REUTERS, Faro

Substitute Juan Carlos Valeron scored with his first touch to give Spain a 1-0 win over Russia in their Euro 2004 opener, restoring the established order in Group A after Greece's stunning win over Portugal.

Spain dominated the first half on Saturday, with Ruben Baraja ruling the midfield and Vicente and Joseba Etxeberria baffling the Russian defence on the wings.

Russia collected a rash of yellow cards as they tried to contain the Spaniards and defender Roman Sharanov was sent off late in the game for his second bookable offence. The match turned when Inaki Saiz brought on Valeron and Xabi Alonso in the 59th minute. A minute later, Carles Puyol crossed low from the right and Valeron's first contribution was to place the ball calmly past Sergei Ovchinnikov.

"It was quite lucky because it was the first ball I actually touched

in the game and it managed to go in," the midfielder said.

"I thought we were unlucky not to score in the first half but in the end we kept our heads and getting that goal proved to be vital."

It was only the second time Spain had won their opening match in the European Championship since the group phase was introduced in 1980, while Russia went a record-equaling eighth successive match without a win at the finals.

A better start looked certain for Spain this time as they came out of the blocks with real conviction.

An opening goal almost came in the second minute, when Baraja found Raul in space with a deft through ball. The striker turned to make space but his shot squeezed just wide.

Russia's first attack came in the 16th minute when Marat Izmailov took a pass from Alexander Mostovoi and crossed for Dmitry Bulkin to shoot tamely.

Vicente's drive brought Spain close again after 36 minutes as he rode one late challenge on the edge of the area and crossed.

Morientes forced a fine save from Ovchinnikov with a point-blank header and Etxeberria missed the chance to finish off.

Russia were not out of it, though, and Dmitry Alenichev gave Spain a couple of nervous moments at the end of the second half.

The bustling midfielder tricked his way past two defenders on the right of the area to bring a good save from Iker Casillas and the keeper had to look lively again almost immediately when Alenichev cut inside and shot low to the near post.

Raul should have done better than to head wide when an Etxeberria cross picked him out unmarked seven minutes into the second half.

Morientes was substituted after failing to meet another Etxeberria cross but Valeron had more luck when he converted simply after Puyol's good work.

Russia did not create a single chance to equalise and could have no complaints as Spain held on for a deserved victory.

"Our defeat was mainly due to our nerves. We held out for nearly 60 minutes but in the last 20-30 minutes Spain had a huge advantage over us," Alenichev said.

PREVIEW: DENMARK v ITALY

Where two styles collide

UEFA Euro 2004 PORTUGAL
REUTERS, Lisbon

Italy coach Giovanni Trapattoni expects Monday's Group C opener against Denmark to be a fusion of football styles rather than a culture clash.

Live on ESPN at 9.55 pm.

The Italians, known for tight defence and short passing, have successfully introduced a swifter approach under the 64-year-old, while he says Denmark have more than just the typical Scandinavian

attributes of hard work and long balls.

PROBABLE TEAMS

DENMARK (4-2-3-1): 1-Thomas Sorensen; 6-Thomas Helveg, 4-Martin Laursen, 3-Rene Henriksen, 5-Niclas Jensen; 17-Christian Poulsen, 15-Daniel Jensen; 19-Dennis Rommedahl, 9-Jon Dahl Tomasson, 10-Martin Joergensen; 11-Ebbe Sand.

ITALY (4-2-3-1): 1-Gianluigi Buffon; 2-Christian Panucci, 5-Fabio Cannavaro, 13-Alessandro Nesta, 19-Gianluca Zambrotta; 4-Cristiano Zanetti, 20-Simone Perrotta; 16-Mauro Camaranesi, 10-Francesco Totti, 7-Alessandro Del Piero; 9-Christian Vieri.
Referee: Manuel Enrique Mejuto (Spain)

Italy start as favourites for the

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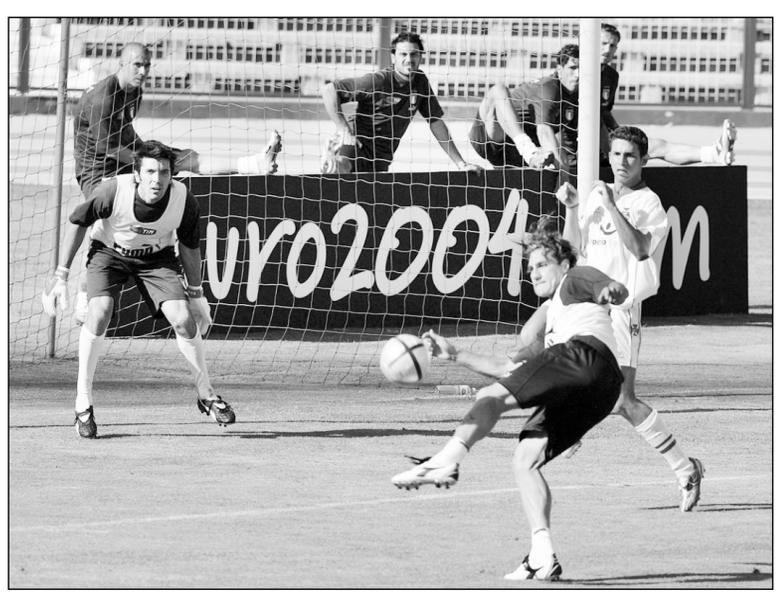


PHOTO: AFP
Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon (L) prepares to save a Christian Vieri shot during a practice match at the Restelo stadium in Lisbon on June 11.