



## Did U Know?

Ron Clarke, the Olympic torchbearer for the 1956 Olympics, was a virtually unknown 19-year-old at the time he carried the torch into the stadium at Melbourne. Clarke went on to become the world's finest distance runner in the 1960s.



## Dulip Mendis

(Sri Lanka cricket chief executive)

"We are naturally disappointed that a player of this calibre will not be playing, but at the same time we have to consider what he has said." After Muttiah Muralitharan's decision not to tour Australia.



## ESPN

Sportcentre

Sport News

Live at 8:30 pm

Euro 2004

Preview Show

Live at 9:30 pm

England Round

First Round

Live at 9:55 pm

Euro 2004

Preview Show

Live at 12:00 am (Friday)

France vs Croatia

First Round

Live at 12:40 am (Friday)

STAR Sports

Sportline

Sport News

Live at 8:00 pm



Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm

June 25, 2004 and draw

1. Who became man-of-the match in the second and final Test between Bangladesh and West Indies?

Sarwan, Bashar, Lara

2. How many Test matches has Michael Slater played?

74, 82, 75

3. What was the result of the WC-qualifier between Japan and India?

7-0, 5-2, 4-3

4. What is the name of the Euro 2004 ball?

Rotero, Futi, Euroca

Name .....

Class .....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

## Div II kabadi

UNB, Dhaka

Shaheed Muzaffar Hossain Smriti Sangsad moved into the semifinal of the Second Division Kabadi League outplaying Manda Sangsad 53-34 at the Outer Stadium kabadi court yesterday. The winners dominated the first half 40-12.

The day's other match between

World record-smashing Sri Lankan spinner Muttiah Muralitharan may have been described as a "biomechanical mess," but the champion bowler has more lawyers than physiotherapists to help him out.

The controversial spinner, 32, put Australian Prime Minister John Howard on the defensive after announcing Tuesday he would boycott next month's tour of Australia after the premier called him a "chucker."

Howard denied Wednesday his description of Muralitharan as a "chucker" led to the off-spinner's decision to snub the tour.

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) has no objection to Muralitharan's law

yers taking action against anyone making disparaging comments about him as long as the player himself is not distracted.

"He would be having a team of lawyers doing this work and we hope it will not distract Murali," SLC president Mohan da Silva said.

"We hope he remains focused on cricket."

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapakse assembled a team of top lawyers to defend Muralitharan after the International Cricket Council (ICC) had outlawed his "doosra" delivery.

He then dropped lobbying to sue

the ICC and began lobbying other Test-playing nations to help change the rules to end the controversy over

over

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months to run.

"His contract has been terminated," Shaharyar told the press conference.

"We offered him to serve as national cricket advisor but he has declined," the PCB chief said.

In April India capped their first tour across the border for 15 years with maiden 3-2 one-day and 2-1 Test series wins on Pakistani soil.

The Pakistan defeat sparked

severe criticism over the team's management while players were accused of flacking discipline.

It was the third time that Miandad had been replaced as national coach since 1998.

Woolmer, who played Test

cricket for England, will be

Pakistan's seventh coach in the last

10 years and

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## Vision Bangladesh

### Football

#### SPORTS REPORTER

The Vision Asia has called for restructuring the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) for the development of the most global sport in the country.

The nearly 150-page report, prepared by Vision Asia, a development project of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), also observed that the game in this country was still dwelling in the mediaeval age and suggested a professional approach.

The prescription came at a time when the governing body of local football is struggling to find a way out to stop the gradual decline of football, which has lost its popular appeal due to lack of proper planning and acute financial shortage.

And BFF general secretary Anwa-rul Haque Helal said that this report would certainly be a guideline for them to regain the lost glory of the game in Bangladesh.

"This is a very good prescription

and I think if we get the necessary logistic support we can implement it," said Helal.

"It may look over ambitious in certain areas, but since there is no time limit to reach the targets, it is not impossible. I think a few changes here and there would make the report more effective for our country," added the seasoned football organiser while talking to the reporters at the BFF office yesterday.

The report was based on the findings of a group of experts who came to Dhaka in January this year to experience first-hand the existing situation of Bangladesh football.

It observed that Bangladesh football was light-years away from the advanced level and only languishing in the basic stage which is the club structure. Even the clubs are not based on strong financial ball-

footing.

They were more critical of the infrastructure, staff management and financial condition of the BFF. It also lamented that the ground and training facilities, stadium maintenance are below the basic line.

It also found 'no existence' of women's football and Futsal, a fast growing indoor version of the game, in Bangladesh.

The report termed the 21-member executive committee too big and less effective when it comes to developing the game at divisional levels. It has suggested that the federation should reduce the size of the executive committee and the number of 14 sub-committees.

It proposed for only three standing committees -- administrative committee, marketing and competition committee and the Vision Bangladesh.

The reports suggested that the National Football League should be given a professional look and there would be minimum 18 clubs.

The only positive the report observed was the strong fan-base of major clubs. But it found it surprising that the clubs play only for four months.

The Asia Vision also stressed on the having youth (Under-14, 16, 18) tournaments on regular basis. Besides, it said that Bangladesh national football team must play more international games.



PHOTO: AP

## Tigers try to be tougher

### Cricket

#### SPORTS REPORTER

In a world of high professionalism there is hardly any scope for enjoying leisure and nobody realises it better than the modern day cricket-ers do.

Under the supervision of Australian coach Dav Whatmore Bangla-desh cricketers are also trying to get accustomed to the pressure of busy international schedule and the Tigers could enjoy only a three-day break between a month-long West Indies tour and preparations for next month's Asia Cup in Sri Lanka.

The opening day's training at the Bangladeshi Krira Shikkha Protishthan (BKSP) was specially a tough one for the players who came from outside Dhaka like vice-captain Rajin Saleh, Tapash Baisya and Mushfiqur Raham.

All 14 members of the squad except left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique, who arrived later because of confusion about the timing, joined the camp in the morning and nobody was in a vacation mood once they started training.

No one had any complaints about their returning to business

so quickly and even all-rounder Mushfiqur Rahman, who got married barely a week before the Caribbean tour started, responded with a big smile.

This kind of attitude impressed their 50-year old Australian coach Whatmore and boosted his confidence ahead of the Lankan trip.

"We are improving in many ways and the team is now in very good shape. That's why our opponents shouldn't take us lightly," said the delighted coach.

The Bangladesh coach has set his target to move into the second round in the regional competition which will be confirmed if they win the tournament opener against Hong Kong, one of the two associate members participating in the six-team meet. Bangladesh will play their second group match against reigning champions Pakistan.

"Although my first objective is to move into the second phase, I am still not thinking anything about result. My main concentration is rather on to improve in different areas like running between the wickets, fielding and catching. I am not going to be distracted from my initial target when I took over the team," he said.

Whatmore was not much worried about the bitter fact that his boys had dropped as many as ten

easy catches in the Caribbean.

"The boys were guilty of dropping catches, but it was also true that they were brilliant in ground fielding. It can happen sometimes even for players of the big teams," he said in defence of the Tigers.

When asked about Mushfiqur's performance as an all-rounder, he said he is a very worthy member of the Bangladesh one-day squad and has the ability to serve the team in time of need.

"He did not have a good tour in the West Indies, but I am confident he will come back soon."

He expects a better show from his boys in the Asia Cup because they are going to take intense preparation for the tournament.

"We will get enough time to be familiar with the Sri Lankan conditions because we will fly fifteen days before the tournament kicks off. We will also play three practice matches."

Meanwhile, Sri Lankan batting coach Owen Mattou is again expected to join the team after the Tigers arrive in the island nation. Whatmore believed that the assistance of Mattou would be fruitful once again. Many believe it is because of Mattou that the Bangla-desh batting was showing signs of improvement, especially the tail-end.

Mattou slotted scored four, Sumon and Arafat two goals each and Omar Faruq for the winners.

Rajeshwar defeated Barisal 4-1 with Ahmed Ali Milon netting twice. Bappi Kumar and Mohan Kumar shared the rest. Barisal skipper Imran scored a consolation goal.

Gazipur eliminated Jhenidah 1-0 in the tiebreakers after their match ended in a goalless draw in regulation time.

The winners led the first half 2-0.

Rubel and Ranjan scored two goals each while Shohag, Faisal, Rajib and Mishtuq netted one goal apiece for Dhaka.

In Group B, Narayanganj overwhelmed Sylhet 9-0 after taking a 5-0 first-half lead.

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