



Did U Know?

This was Greece's first major soccer title. The last country to claim their first major title was in 1992 when Denmark won the European Championship in Sweden.



Talk Turkey



Otto Rehhagel
(Greek soccer coach)

"We'll be treated like gods now."



What to Watch

ESPN
Euro Championship Portugal vs Greece Final
Highlights at 10:00 am

STAR Sports
Sportline Live at 8:00 pm

TEN Sports
Copa America Peru vs Bolivia Live at 7:00 am
Mexico vs Uruguay Live at 4:15 am (Thursday)
Argentina vs Ecuador Live at 6:30 am (Thursday)

Star Quiz KID COMPETITION 214

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

- How many Test matches will India play against Bangladesh in December?
Three Two Four
- Who is Pakistan's new cricket coach?
Mianad Woolmer Marsh
- Who won the Rating chess title?
Rajib Rakib Reefat
- Who is the youngest scorer at UEFA Euro 2004?
Rooney Vanhanen Ronaldo
- Who scored the first goal at Euro 2004?
Zidane Karagounis Figo

Name:
Class: Roll No:
School Address:
Phone: (If any)

Premier squash

UNB, Dhaka

Bishu Nath, Ram Jagadish and Swapan Parvez won their respective Premier Division matches of the 2nd AP-AccessTel squash tournament at Dhaka Club Squash Court yesterday.

Bishu of Gulshan Club beat his teammate Delwar Hossain, Ram Jagadish of Cadet College Club beat Masud Rana of Army Club and Swapan Parvez of Bogra Cantonment Club beat Karim of Sonargaon Club, all by straight 3-0 sets.

Amir Chowdhury of Dhaka Club defeated Shahid Chowhan of Dhaka University Club by straight 3-0 sets in the B Division match.

In the day's Under-18 matches, Sumon Lal of Dhaka Club beat his club-mate Abdul Kalam 9-2, 9-5, Adnan of Dhaka Club outplayed Ripon 9-2, 9-2 and Badhan of Dhaka Club defeated Adnan Hossain 9-2, 9-0.

Ashraful straight down to business

BD win warm-up

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammad Ashraful celebrated a return to his favourite foreign land with a thumping hundred yesterday as Bangladesh secured a 29-run victory in their first warm-up match since reaching Colombo for the forthcoming Asia Cup.

Ashraful, who scored a century on Test debut against Sri Lanka in Colombo in 2002 to become the youngest ever batsman to do so in the history of the game, hit 125 in the Tigers' total of 265 for seven in 50 overs at the Police Park ground, more famous for holding rugby clashes, according to a message received at the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

In reply, the opponents, a Sri Lankan Invitational XI, could manage 236 for eight.

Ashraful apart, left-hander Faisal Hossain struck 49.

Veteran Khaled Mahmud was the pick of Bangladesh attack taking two for 25 while fellow medium pacer Mushfiqur Rahman returned figures of two for 38.

Also taking wickets were left-arm spinners Mohammad Rafique (1-36) and Abdur Razzak (1-40) and surprise, surprise, captain Habibur Bashar tried a bit of off-spin and got a wicket too giving away seven runs.

Paceman Tareq Aziz did not have good day as he was hammered for 62.

Bangladesh will play two more warm-up matches on July 9 and 12 before beginning their Asia Cup campaign against Hong Kong on July 16.

Zia finishes strongly

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Grand Master Ziaur Rahman won his last round engagement against International Master Nikolay Andrianov to share the 11th to 15th positions in the 32nd World Chess Open in Philadelphia.

He finished with 6.5 points from nine matches, one point behind champion IM Varuzhan Akobian.

Nine Grand Masters finished level on seven points.

In the seventh and eighth rounds, Zia drew with Anton P Del Mundo and defeated IM Justin Sarker respectively.

A total of 234 players including 36 Grand Masters, 15 International Masters, four Women Grand Masters took part in the event.

BKSP Cup soccer

SPORTS REPORTER

A Zahurul hatrick propelled Dhaka to an emphatic 6-1 thrashing over Barisal in the BKSP Cup under-16 football competition at the sports institute's football ground yesterday.

Ripon struck twice and Shaon added another in the one-sided affair while Rakib scored a consolation for the losers.

Khulna blanked visiting Indian side SSSA of Chandigarh 2-0 in the second match thanks to double strike by Alam Nabi while the third match between BKSP Red and Chittagong Division ended in a goalless draw.

Amal meets Murad in final

SPORTS REPORTER

Amal Roy and Murad Hossain set up a meeting in the men's singles final in central Athens in the National Tennis Championship at the National Tennis Complex today.

Top seed Roy pulled off an exciting 6-1, 5-7, 6-2, 7-6 victory against Henry Prithul Mandol while Murad eliminated Dipu Lal 3-6, 6-4, 4-6, 7-6, 8-6 in yesterday's semifinals.

Meanwhile, Omar Faruque won 6-2, 6-2 against Rafiqul Islam and Gaved enjoyed an easy sail against tournament's second-seeded Saiful Islam 6-0, 6-3 to advance to the under-13 boys' singles final.

In the girls' U-13 event, Rahima

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

Tigers getting indoors soon

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The days of cricketers not having proper indoor practice facilities will soon be a thing of the past when the national players return after completing in the Asia Cup in Sri Lanka.

The indoor facilities at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, the future home of Bangladesh cricket, will be handed over to the National Sports Council (NSC) for use later this month.

The facilities, built outside the main stadium, are just a part of a master-plan to convert the football arena into an international standard cricket centre.

"Everything has been done to ensure that the players can train unhindered here before they take part in September's ICC Champions Trophy in England," said Bangladesh Cricket Board's ground and facilities committee secretary

Rafiqul Islam said yesterday.

"And I can say the facilities are much better than at the BKSP or the Women's Complex in Dhamondi." The cricketers will get three wickets for training and more importantly enough space for bowlers to operate from a full run-up at the 130-foot long pitches. There is also a canteen that acts as a shade.

It was due to be handed over by construction firm Buildtrade Limited by June 30 but the BCB, which made the plan according to Cricket Australia's suggestions, wanted some minor modifications done, so the hand over date was put back.

The NSC wants to provide indoor training facilities in each of the country's divisional headquarters and the remaining indoor facilities are under construction.

Renovation of the Mirpur Stadium will begin in full swing after end of the final phase of the fourth National Football League in September.

Andrews lift England

Cricket

AFP, London

Andrew Flintoff and Andrew Strauss both scored hundreds as England posted an imposing 285 for seven in their NatWest Series one-day international against the West Indies at Lord's here Tuesday.

Flintoff's 123 was his second hundred in successive matches while Strauss' 100 was his maiden one-day international century in the Middlesex captain's first limited-overs international on his home ground.

Left-hander Strauss had already made a century on his Test debut, against New Zealand, at Lord's in May.

Their stand of 226 in 188 balls was an England one-day international record for all wickets surpassing the previous best of 213 set by Neil Fairbrother and Graeme Hick against the West Indies at Lord's back in 1991.

England opens Trescothick, bowled, and England captain Michael Vaughan, caught behind, cheaply.

Vaughan's exit meant he had scored just 47 runs in five series innings.

However Lancashire all-rounder Flintoff, unable to bowl because of an ankle injury, got off the mark with a four against off-spinner Chris Gayle.

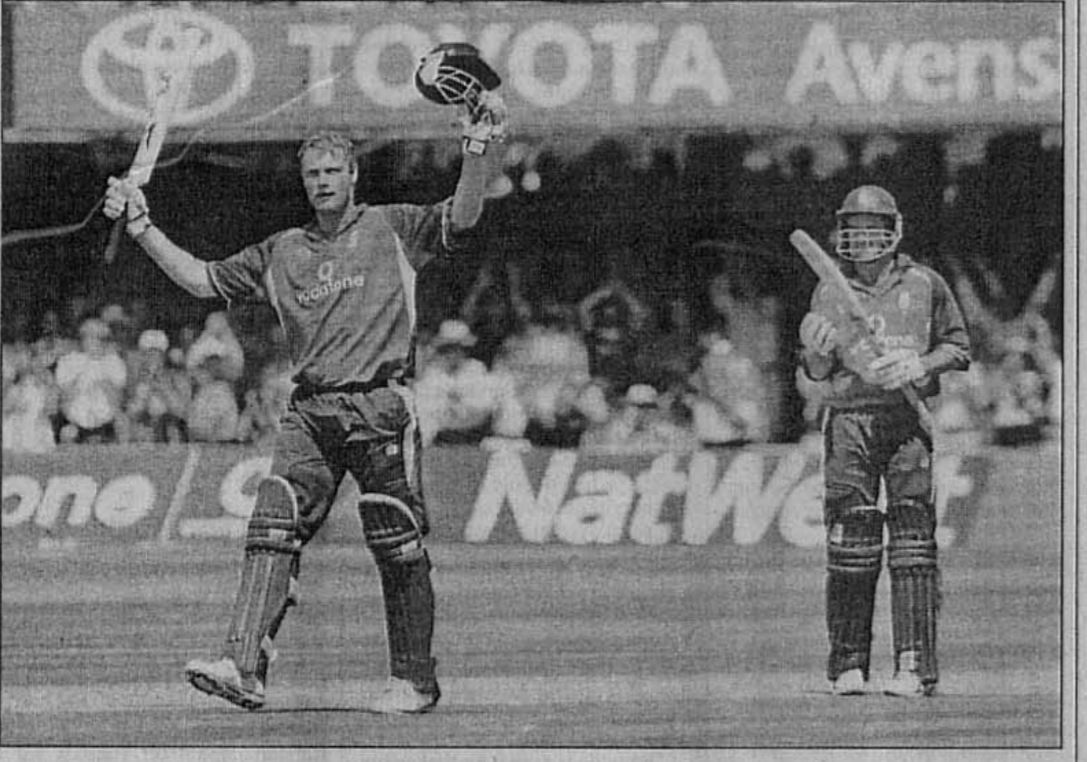
Meanwhile Strauss continued to bat in composed fashion against a West Indies attack lacking paceman Jermaine Lawson because of flu.

Strauss, who made 61 on Sunday, was lucky however when he just cleared a back-peddalling Gayle on the mid-wicket fence with a pulled six off Dwayne Smith before Flintoff twice hoisted Bravo over the rope again.

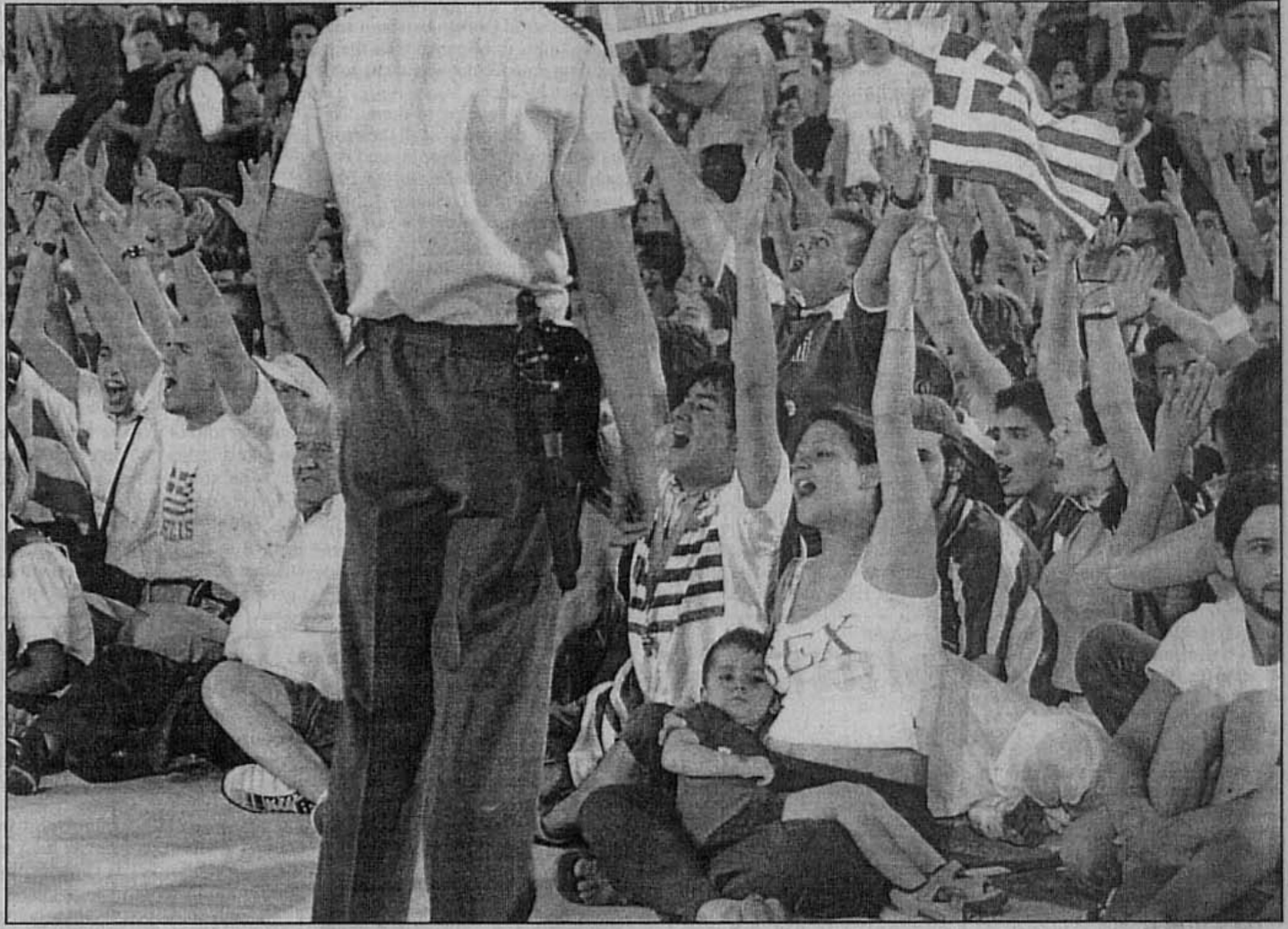
Strauss then struck two superb off-driven fours and lofted Bravo for six before on-driving him for four as the bowler's last over cost 21 runs.

And Tino Best took two wickets for seven runs in 12 balls to get rid of

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1



England's Andrew Flintoff raises his hands on reaching hundred against West Indies yesterday. On the right is Andrew Strauss, who also scored a century.



NO ONE WANTS TO BE LEFT OUT: A child rests in the lap of his cheering mother as Greeks welcome their European champion squad during an official homecoming ceremony at the Panathinaikon stadium on July 5.

Celebration city



AFP, Athens

Hundreds of thousands of frenetic fans welcomed surprise European champions Greece home from their victorious Euro 2004 tournament in Portugal on Monday.

Upon the sight of the 23 players and their German coach Otto Rehhagel more than 35,000 people turned the Panathinaikon stadium in central Athens into a boiling pot.

Paroxysm reached its peak when team captain Theo Zororakis lifted the cup amid a sea of supporters draped in white-blue Greek flags. Some of the players took off their T-shirts, dancing topless in front of the crowd.

"Lift the cup, I can't wait any longer," the crowds shouted. "The German is crazy," the fans cheered in appreciation at the team's eccentric German coach Rehhagel.

Fans were rhythmically screaming "Ole, ole," each time one of the players shook the cup. Then, tens of thousands of fans sang the Greek national hymn.

Hundreds of thousands of people gathered around the stadium and filled the Athens streets, cheering the bus all the way along its triumphal 35-km trip from the Athens airport to the venue.

Players were offered Christian Orthodox crosses by the leader of the Greek church Archbishop Christodoulos -- the first official to

welcome the team. Christodoulos had said before the final that he would pray for a Greek victory.

"Greeks can be proud of their team," Rehhagel said in the celebration.

The ceremony, scheduled for 1730 GMT started two hours late as the bus carrying the team had to inch its way forward through thick, enthusiastic crowds.

A huge convoy of honking cars and motorbikes trailed the bus. Most nationwide television channels tuned in with live broadcasts.

Scenes of joy followed the team's triumphal march to the city centre as spectators on the side, and sometimes on the middle of the road, cheered and waved flags.

Earlier in the day, hundreds of airport employees and around 1,500 fans broke out in ecstatic cheers when the team's flight from Lisbon touched down in Athens airport around 1615 GMT.

The plane was immediately saluted by two fire engines which shot water streams into the air forming an arch under which the plane crossed before docking.

"On such a day, you leave everything aside and join in the celebrations. It's a great day, full of glory. We still can't believe it, it's a dream come true," one fan Joseph Brouzos told AFP.

"We're the best, get us Brazil!" they chanted.

Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis, Athens mayor Dora Bakoyiannis and Greece's joined the celebrations in the stadium.

"Millions of Greeks in every corner of the world share today an

unspeakable happiness. Greece is on the lips of the entire world... I am sure that this great joy will peak in the Olympics," Karamanlis said.

"This is the biggest and best message for the Olympic Games: That Athens is here, everything is wonderful, we filled this stadium, and another 100,000 are outside," Bakoyiannis said.

Police stopped traffic and banned parking in the roads adjacent to the venue -- an imposing white-marble stadium in which the first modern Olympics took place in 1896.

Street vendors were selling Greek flags and white T-shirts with the national emblem as early as Monday morning on the streets of the capital.

"For the Panathinaikon stadium," they were screaming to bypassers.

The Greek press urged readers to drop everything to attend the celebration. An estimated four million people, out of a population of 11 million, poured onto the streets throughout the nation after Sunday's win.

And Defence Minister Spiros Spiliotopoulos warned that the welcome would be worthy of those bestowed on Greece's ancient heroes.

When ancient Greeks welcomed their Olympic champions home they symbolically tore down part of their city walls. With heroes such as these among their ranks, no walls were needed to defend them, they said.

"Today we welcome the national team and in our thoughts, we'll tear down our city's walls... they deserve it," Spiliotopoulos said.

NFL's Tk 1.05 crore budget

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has approved a Tk 1.05 crore budget for the fourth Nitol-Tata National Football League.

The amount is the largest for any local tournament held in the country.

A total of 45 teams took part in the qualifying rounds, which ended on July 3, with six teams advancing to the 12-team finals due to start from July 13.

Tournament committee secretary Manzoor Hossain Malu told reporters yesterday that they will try to give the big teams of the country at least one match at each of the four venues in the first phase of the final rounds.

Last year, some of the big names could not play at a particular venue. But the tournament committee is eager to avoid a similar situation.

The organisers are also looking forward to draw popular outfits like Abahani and Mohammedan for the

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

Nat'l judo on

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Rifles dominated the opening day of the 25th National Judo Championship by securing six gold medals in the men's competition at the National Sports Council (NSC) gymnasium yesterday.

Bangladesh Army bagged the other men's gold.

Bangladesh Ansars led the women's standing with three gold medals while VDP and Dhaka DSA shared two each.

Big boost for WI players

BBC ONLINE, undated

West Indies players will be offered unprecedented incentives for the next five years in a new sponsorship deal.

Brian Lara's men have been criticised for lacking motivation, most recently when they lost a home series to England for the first time since 1968.

But the deal with mobile phone company Digicel offers incentives of over 500,000 pounds for beating leading teams.

"We wanted to ensure we achieved the best performances on the field," said Windies cricket boss Roger Brathwaite.

"We wanted to move to a situation where players were getting rewards," he added.

"There was a feeling that not going down that road had perhaps impacted on the side."

The West Indies Cricket Board is currently finalising the details of the agreement with its players union, although Brathwaite ruled out fines for poor performance.

Under the terms of the deal, the team would gain bonuses for beating teams higher up the Test and one-day international rankings.

They currently stand eighth in both and begin against the toughest possible opponent -- Australia -- when the deal kicks in next January.

The cash will come on top of a five-year deal -- in itself worth in

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

WC fans may stay afloat

Cricket

AFP, London

Floating hotels are set to help countries in the West Indies cope with the massive influx of cricket followers expected during the 2007 World Cup.

West Indies will be hosting the ninth edition of cricket's showpiece one-day tournament for the first time despite fears that some Caribbean countries' already hard-pressed tourist infrastructure would struggle with the demands of a World Cup.

But West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) president Teddy Griffith, announcing the eight World Cup venues at a London hotel opposite Lord's Cricket Ground here Monday, said ships could help take the strain.

"There is the possibility, maybe the probability, of using some floating hotels."

And he added that this did not mean that cricket fans, already facing an expensive trip, would have to spend lavish amounts of money booking into giant cruise ships.

"At the start of this, lots of people thought that if you were talking about floating hotels, you needed to be thinking of the mega-ships."

"But all the information we now have that there is an adequacy of the

smaller and more economic situations in the 6-800 room range rather than the thousands of room range."

The eight venues were chosen from a total of 12 bids with seven of the successful candidates Antigua, Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia and Trinidad all islands while the other, Guyana, is a South American country with an extensive coastline.

Among the losing bidders was the United States, which wanted to stage World Cup matches in Florida.

The country has long been targeted as an expansion area by cricket chiefs and in September a team from the United States will feature in the Champions Trophy one-day event, a 'mini World Cup', in England.

But International Cricket Council (ICC) president Ehsan Mani, speaking on the same platform as Griffith, said: "From a development point of view, the US had attractions but the decision was based on strict criteria."

Mani admitted that security and visa concerns had counted against the United States but said it would still be considered for warm-up games.

And Griffith stressed: "It (the World Cup) will be a Caribbean event with a distinctive Caribbean flavour."

The other unsuccessful bids came from St Vincent and the Grenadines, a second stadium in

Jamaica and Bermuda although the latter has been given 'standby' status in the event of problems elsewhere.

The eight venues were chosen from a total of 12 bids with seven of the successful candidates Antigua, Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia and Trinidad all islands while the other, Guyana, is a South American country with an extensive coastline.

Among the losing bidders was the United States, which wanted to stage World Cup matches in Florida.

The country has long been targeted as an expansion area by cricket chiefs and in September a team from the United States will feature in the Champions Trophy one-day event, a 'mini World Cup', in England.

But International Cricket Council (ICC) president Ehsan Mani, speaking on the same platform as Griffith, said: "From a development point of view, the US had attractions but the decision was based on strict criteria."

Mani admitted that security and visa concerns had counted against the United States but said it would still be considered for warm-up games.

And Griffith stressed: "It (the World Cup) will be a Caribbean event with a distinctive Caribbean flavour."

The other unsuccessful bids came from St Vincent and the Grenadines, a second stadium in