



## Did U Know?

Greece became the first nation to win a major championship with a foreign coach. This had never happened in 11 previous European Championships and 17 World Cups.



## What to WATCH

New Zealand vs West Indies  
NatWest Series, 9th ODI  
Live at 3:45 pm

STAR Sports  
Sportsline  
Live at 8:00 pm

TEN Sports  
Copa America  
Argentina vs Ecuador  
Live at 6:30 am

Costa Rica vs Paraguay  
Live at 4:15 am (Friday)  
Brazil vs Chile  
Live at 6:30 am (Friday)



## TALK TURKEY

APP, Madras

Prolific off-spinner Harbhajan Singh was on Wednesday named in India's 14-man squad for the Asia Cup in Sri Lanka later this month, ending a seven-month absence from international cricket due to a finger injury.

Harbhajan, who turned 24 last week, underwent surgery on his bowling hand after the first Test in Australia last December and missed the rest of the Test and one-day series against the world champions and the subsequent tour of Pakistan.

"Harbhajan is a world-class bowler and it is great to have him back," said Indian coach John Wright of the spinner who has claimed 104 one-day wickets from 82 matches.

Harbhajan will team up with veteran Anil Kumble to bolster India's spin attack in the six-nation tournament against defending champions Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Hong Kong and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Also back for the July 16-August 1 event is opening bowler Zaheer Khan, who missed the last two Tests against Pakistan in April because of a hamstring injury.

Zaheer is one of the three left-arm seamers in the squad along with Ashish Nehra and Irfan Pathan. Laxmi Pathan takes the fourth fast bowler spot ahead of Ajit Agarkar.

Sachin Tendulkar, the world's most prolific one-day batsman with a record 13,134 runs and 37 centuries, heads the strong Indian batting that includes skipper Sourav Ganguly, Virender Sehwag, Rahul Dravid, Venkatesh Lakshman, Yuvraj Singh and Mohammad Kaif.

Test wicketkeeper Parthiv Patel has been retained in the squad despite the team management making it clear that Dravid will continue to don the gloves in one-day cricket to accommodate an extra batsman.

"Dravid may not be a specialist wicketkeeper but he has been great behind the stumps over the last two years and we plan to continue with that policy," Ganguly said.

It will be India's first international engagement since the tour of

1. How many Test matches will India play against Bangladesh in December? Three | Two | Four

2. Who is Pakistan's new cricket coach? Miandad | Woolmer | Marsh

3. Whowon the Rating chess title? Rajib | Rakib | Reefat

4. Who is the youngest scorer at UEFA Euro 2004? Rooney | Vonlanthen | Ronaldo

5. Who scored the first goal at Euro 2004? Zidane | Karagounis | Figo

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Pioneer football

UNB, Dhaka

Nawabpur KC moved into the 10-team super league of the Shingapur 21st Pioneer Football League with a 2-2 draw against Khilgaon Juba Sangha in the central zone match at the Basabro Tarun Sangha ground yesterday.

Following is the results of other matches:

North zone (Kamlapur Stadium) Kalachandpur Ekadash- 9, Maghbazar Sabuj Sangha-1, Jirab SC-6, Madhabnagar FC-2

South zone (Mirpur Outer Stadium) Bangladesh SC-1, Mirpur FA-0, Islambagh Lucky Seven-0, Dripta Tarun FA-0

East zone (Dhupkhola ground) Mansoor SC-2, Palli Unnayan Sangha-0

Narayanganj FA-1, Titu SS-1

## Bashar's men safe

### Asia Cup on despite suicidal bombing

#### Cricket

##### SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh national cricketers, who are now in Sri Lanka preparing for the Asia Cup starting July 16, were safe and sound and not shaken by the suicidal bomb blast in Colombo yesterday.

Coach Dav Whatmore informed the Bangladesh Cricket Board yesterday over telephone that the incident in the Lankan capital did not affect the team's plans as they would play their second warm-up match tomorrow (Friday).

The opponents will be the same Invitational XI who lost the first practice match to the visiting Tigers by 29 runs.

Whatmore also informed that the Bangladeshi team was residing far away from the place of the bombing and the players were not feeling insecure.

AFP adds from Colombo, Sri Lanka's cricket authorities expressed confidence on staging next week's Asia Cup tournament despite Wednesday's suicide bomb attack that killed five people.

six-nation tournament from July 16 to August 1 and that authorities were prepared to arrange maximum security for the teams and the fans.

"We have no reason to change our plans," SLC spokesman Ray Illangakoon said. "As far as we are concerned, the tournament will go ahead as scheduled."

Officials said Colombo's first suicide bombing in nearly three years was directed at a Tamil government minister bitterly opposed to the Tamil Tiger rebels, who are waging a drawn-out campaign for a separate state.

Bangladesh, Hong Kong, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates will take part in the Asia Cup tournament which involves 13 matches, including nine day-and-night matches.

Matches are to be played in Colombo as well as in Dambulla, a four to five hours drive from the capital.

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