

Star SPORT

DHAKA FRIDAY JULY 9, 2004, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com



Did U Know?

Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history: Spades -- King David, Hearts -- Charlemagne, Clubs -- Alexander the Great and Diamonds -- Julius Caesar.

What to WATCH

TEN Sports

Copa America
Costa Rica vs Paraguay
Repeat at 4 pm
Copa America
Brazil vs Chile
Repeat at 9.30 pm
Copa America
Colombia v Bolivia
Live at 4.15 am (Saturday)
Copa America
Peru v Venezuela
Live at 6.30 am (Saturday)

ESPN

Australia v Sri Lanka
2nd Test, Day 1
Live at 5.55 am
Sportscentre
Sports News
Live at 8.30 pm

STAR Sports

Sportsline
Sports News
Live at 8 pm
Australia v Sri Lanka
Highlights at 1 am (Saturday)

TALK TURKEY



Deco
(Portuguese midfielder)
"I'd like to send a clear message to the Barca fans: Trust me. I'm coming here to win."
After joining Spanish giants.

Star WHIZZ 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

1. How many Test matches will India play against Bangladesh in December?
2. Who is Pakistan's new cricket coach?

Miandad | Woolmer | Marsh

3. Who won the Rating chess title?

Rajib | Rakib | Reefat

4. Who is the youngest scorer at UEFA Euro 2004?

Rookey | Vonlanthen | Ronaldo

5. Who scored the first goal at Euro 2004?

Zidane | Karagounis | Figo

Name.....

Class..... Roll No.....

School Address.....

Phone: (If any).....

Pioneer soccer

SPORTS REPORTER

Tipu scored the lone goal in Avijatrik's 1-0 win over Jatrabari Jhotika Sangsads in yesterday's east zone match of Shireenpukur Ceramics Pioneer Football League at Dhukhola ground.

Nasreen Sports Academy blanked Najirabazar 2-0 in another match at the same venue.

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Nat'l tennis ends quietly

SPORTS REPORTER

The climax to the National Tennis Championship yesterday was definitely one to look forward to for finalists, fellow players, parents and enthusiastic officials alike at the Ramna National Tennis Complex.

The seven-day competition brought together 115 tennis players including some regulars like Amal Roy and an irrepressible Shifat Nusrat Baishakhi.

But sadly though there was hardly a good crowd in the stands to cheer as the national championship passed off yet again unnoticed.

It was no surprise when Amal won the men's title in the afternoon defeating Murad Hossain 7-5, 6-2, 6-0. The top seed raced to a 5-2 lead in the first set before his tall challenger from BKSP almost staged a turnaround by taking it into a tie-breaker.

But Murad ran out of gas in the second and third set against the aggressive left-hander, who took only 50 minutes to win the last two sets.

"I feel good that I've defended the title. But to be honest I want to play on better surfaces and against better opponents to improve my own game," said Amal after the final.

The youngster from Gopalganj also said that he wanted a sponsor for better training so that he could make his mark on international circuit.

Amal was expressing the views of fellow players, who lamented that tennis is not being treated in the same way as other sports.

"Our activities are only confined to either Rajshahi or Dhaka. Besides, we are not getting enough patronage either from the sponsors or media," said the men's champion.

While Amal defended his title Baisakhi did one better in the women's section.

The undisputed queen of Bangladeshi tennis not only won the final against Ishrat Sultana in straight set (6-3, 6-1) but also did so without dropping a set in the entire tournament.

While the scenario remained unchanged at the top, the age-group finals produced plenty of energy and

excitement.

Ranjan Ram rallied from a set down to win the boys' Under-17 title with a 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 victory against Anwar Hossain.

Javed Hossain lifted the boys' Under-13 title defeating Omar

Faruque 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 in the other court.

The girls Under-13 final between Mahin Mohid and Rahima Akther was still going on even after the prize distribution ceremony had taken place under fading light.



PHOTO: STAR
Baishakhi returns a backhand during the women's singles final of the National Tennis Championship at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday.

Tigers' 2nd warm-up today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will rest middle order batsman Faisal Hossain and paceman Tareq Aziz for their second warm-up match against a Sri Lankan Invitational XI in Colombo today, a Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) source confirmed yesterday.

Although the Lankan squad will play under the same banner, the Tigers are expected to get a stronger opposition including some experienced cricketers. Some former Test players could also be playing for the local selection according to information provided by coach Dav Whatmore over telephone.

The Bangladeshi team wanted to play the game at the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) ground as their first match in the Asia Cup will be on July 16. However they could not avail the venue.

The playing eleven of the Tigers will be finalised in the morning.

Bangladesh, who won the first practice match by 29 runs on July 6, will play their last warm-up match on July 12.

Bangladesh begin their Asia Cup campaign against Hong Kong.

BKSP Cup semis today

SPORTS REPORTER

The BKSP CUP Under-16 football tournament will not become an all BKSP affair as the two teams of the sports institute were left facing each other in one of today's semi-finals.

Group A champions BKSP Greens will take on the BKSP Reds in the second semi-final while Chittagong Division meet Khulna Division in the first.

Chittagong emerged Group B champions when they edged Dhaka 2-1 in yesterday's match.

Waisi, who scored four goals in their 5-1 win over Barisal on Wednesday, put Chittagong ahead in the fourth minute while Abu Hanif made it 2-0 in the 46th minute. Shankar reduced the arrears for Dhaka two minutes later.

Kiwi-Windies tie rained off

AFP, Southampton

Rain forced the NatWest Series one-day international between New Zealand and the West Indies at the Rose Bowl here Thursday to be abandoned without a ball being bowled.

Earlier rain had seen the match reduced in length from 50 overs per side to 20 as the umpires took the field shortly before the new start time of 1532 GMT a fresh downpour ended any hopes of play.

Both sides had already qualified for Saturday's final at Lord's.

BSWA prize distribution

SPORTS REPORTER

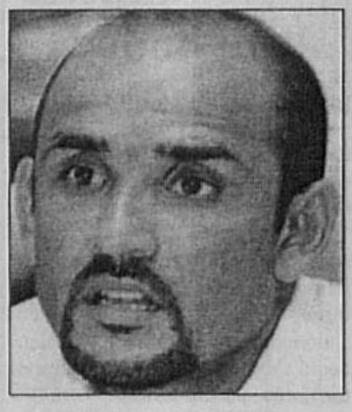
The prize distribution ceremony of Bangladesh Sports Writers Association (BSWA) for the years 2000, 2001 and 2002 will be held today at Sonargaon Hotel's Ball Room at 3.30 pm.

President Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed will attend the programme as chief guest and State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman as special guest.

Channel 1, a Satellite TV channel, will telecast the programme live.



RICKY PONTING



MARVAN ATAPATTU

used to think. When you've got them under pressure get them back out there as soon as you can again and try to keep them under pressure.

"And the way our fast bowlers are going they will be looking forward to bowling in these conditions and I'm not sure their batsmen will be looking

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

Rebel Red Lions in England

REUTERS, London

Zimbabwe's sacked rebel cricketers have launched themselves as a new team called the Red Lions and will play their first match on July 14 in England.

The Lions, who plan to raise money for two charitable trusts, face Kent club side Lashings at Wimbledon Cricket Club next Wednesday. Five more one-dayers are scheduled at other grounds around the country before the end of the month.

Players include former captain Heath Streak, Grant Flower and Stuart Carlisle.

"The Red Lions have been formed out of the desire to promote the great game of cricket by playing matches against worthy opposition in an atmosphere of fun and frivolity," said spokesman Clive Field.

"We have chosen England as the destination for our inaugural tour because we have many friends and fans there gained from our past touring experiences. We hope to build on this success and carry this



PHOTO: AFP
KEEPING UP THE TRADITION: A photo taken on June 22 shows Pakistani wrestlers prepare food at an 'akhra', an institute of local wrestlers, in Lahore. The wrestlers, known as 'pehewans', are among the few who still practice this ancient, traditional sport in the Pakistani city.

NFL a day later

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani and Brothers Union in separate groups.

This year's surprise package of Dhaka Premier Division League Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra, who finished runner-up in the country's most popular competition, and Chittagong Mohomedan Sporting Club, the last of the six automatic qualifiers, will also be kept apart.

The six qualifiers -- Kararchar Sporting Club of Narshingdi, Naijipara Krira Chakra of Chandpur, Panchagarh Brothers Union, Unmochon Club of Bagerhat, Jhenaidah Mohomedan and Bangladesh Air Force -- will be drawn by lottery.

Bangladesh Television will telecast the opening match live from Mymensingh. However, the state-run media will not be able to broadcast some of the matches of the NFL when it will be showing the Asia Cup cricket championship taking place in Sri Lanka from July 16-August 2.

BTV will telecast seven Asia Cup matches live and won't be able to show the NFL games that coincide with the cricket.

Cricket makes Asian Games

AFP, New Delhi

Cricket will be played for the first time at the Asian Games during the 2006 meet in Doha, Qatar, in keeping with the sport's growing popularity in the continent, a top sports official said on Thursday.

Limited-overs cricket will be one of the four disciplines to be contested at the December 1-15 Games, Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) secretary general Randhir Singh told reporters here.

"Many countries, especially the West Asian ones, were keen that cricket be played at the Asian Games and the OCA accepted the proposal at its meeting held in Doha on July 1," Singh said.

"We have spoken about it to the Asian Cricket Council and the details will be worked out soon."

There are four Test-playing nations in Asia -- India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh -- and cricket is played in almost all Asian countries, including China who were recently admitted to the International Cricket Council (ICC).

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Ganguly not complacent

Cricket

Ganguly

"I think after a long time we are back in full strength. Considering this we hope to do well in the Asia Cup."

"Harbhajan back in the team is a

huge bonus for us. If he can raise his standards on par with Kumble along with Zaheer, Irfan Pathan and [Lakshman] Balaji, I am sure we will have an edge over the other teams."



PHOTO: AFP
India captain Sourav Ganguly answers to a question at a press conference after the end of a six-day training camp in Madras yesterday.

'Take rest, Vaughan'

Cricket

AFP, London

England coach Duncan Fletcher said Wednesday that he was not overly concerned about the recent slump of captain Michael Vaughan and would be prescribing rest as the team skipper attempts to rediscover his form before the start of the Test series against the West Indies.

Vaughan scored just 47 runs in five innings during the NatWest Triangular Series where England failed to reach the final, which will be contested by West Indies and New Zealand at Lord's on Saturday.

England's leading batsman's top score was just 14 and he was out in similar manner in the last two innings attempting to chase a wide delivery.

Vaughan has said that he will spend the next two weeks before the opening Test against West Indies at Lord's working on his game.

He is also unlikely to join members of the Test line-up in the MCC side to face West Indies at Arundel next week.

"I'm not concerned about his form -- he's a quality player," said Fletcher.

"It's important these players have a bit of a break because we've travelled over a thousand miles during this tournament and played quite a lot of cricket and mentally it's tiring."

"It's important he has a break and works on certain areas of his game, but I don't think there's that much to work on -- it's a matter of getting out there in a relaxed manner and get back into the Test arena where we've done very well."

"At this stage if he played in that

Bhola Lal keeps winning

SPORTS REPORTER

Bhola Lal maintained his winning streak in the 2nd AP-Accessed squash tournament when he beat Delwar Hossain 9-4, 9-5, 9-1 in yesterday's Premier Division match at the Dhaka Club squash court.