

Star SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY JULY 14, 2004, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com



Did U Know?

Portugal captain Luis Figo joined France's Zinedine Zidane and Lilian Thuram and the Czech Republic's Karel Poborsky as record holders for number of appearances in European Championship finals matches with 14.



What to Watch

TEN Sports

Copa America
Mexico vs Ecuador
Repeat at 4:00 pm
Argentina vs Uruguay
Repeat at 9:30 pm
Copa America
Costa Rica vs Chile
Live at 4:15 am (Thursday)
Brazil vs Paraguay
Live at 6:30 am (Thursday)

ESPN

Euro 2004 Final
Portugal vs Greece
Repeat at 10:00 pm
Sportsline
Live at 10:30 pm



Talk Turkey



Inzamamul Haq
(Pakistan cricket captain)

"My team is now revitalised and after some organised coaching I am confident that we will successfully defend our title."
On the upcoming Asia Cup.



Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
July 23, 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?
Miandad Woolmer Marsh
- Who won the Rating chess title?
Rajib Rakib Reefat
- Who is the youngest scorer at UEFA Euro 2004?
Rooney Vanlathen Ronaldo
- Who scored the first goal at Euro 2004?
Zidane Karagounis Figo

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

CJKS chess

CU CORRESPONDENT

The second round of the CJKS-Pragati Insurance First Division Chess league was held at the CJKS gymnasium hall near the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

Mohammedan and Satadal Club are jointly sharing first place with seven points while Brothers Union and Bakalia Ekadas second with six points.

Besides, Double Mooring Club and Durbar Sangskrit Goshthi occupy third position with 5.5 points.

The league began on Monday.

A window of opportunity

Junior Tigers leave for England tomorrow

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-19 coach Richard McInnes sees the coming tour of England as an ideal opportunity for his boys to catch the attention of the national selectors and make it to the next level.

A 15-member junior Tigers squad led by Test spinner Enamul Haque (Jr) will leave Dhaka tomorrow to play three 4-day under-19 Tests and as many one-day internationals against their English counterparts during the seven-week trip.

"Playing in the national team is the ultimate goal for any cricketer and I believe this tour is very important for the young prospects from that view point," the 29-year-old Australian told The Daily Star Sport yesterday.

Chief selector Faruque Ahmed was also thinking in the same line with a hectic home season coming. New Zealand tour Bangladesh in October with Sri Lanka and India to follow. Before the arrival of the Black Caps, the Tigers play in the Champions Trophy in September in England.

"We will closely monitor the performance of the U 19s in England and if someone demonstrates the qualities we are looking for, he could be called up for the main team. It is always good to have some back-up with such a gruelling schedule ahead," said the former national captain.



RICHARD MCINNES

Apart from left-arm spinner Enamul, the youth team has another Test cap in fast-medium Talha Jubair. Besides, opening batsman Nafees Iqbal has had two unsuccessful

outings in ODIs while stroke-maker Aftab Ahmed was on the fringes of selection against England last October.

"I will be a proud man if any of these boys make it to the Champions Trophy squad by playing brilliantly in England because it is my job to prepare a player for the highest level. But my goal is a long-term one and not one based on a couple of series. The main target is to create a healthy pipeline," said McInnes who was also quick to emphasise on the team's reservations about premature call-ups to the senior team.

"I am totally against it. Take the example of Talha who is a very good bowler. But his physical fitness was not up to the level required to handle the pressure of international cricket when he thrust into it. Nafees too is not fully ready for the big time although he is a brilliant batsman and has the potential to serve the nation for many years," explained McInnes.

The coach, who has been working with the U 19s for the past eight months, was relishing the challenge ahead.

"We have had long fitness ses-

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Boycott backs Chopra

AFP, Bangalore

Former England opener and television commentator Geoffrey Boycott Monday praised axed Indian opener Akash Chopra for his batting ability but said he needed to do something to improve his average.

"He did really well for the team," said Boycott in southern Bangalore city where he is a consultant to the India A and under-19 teams.

"He did tire out the fast bowlers and saw off the new ball," he said. "But he did nothing for himself. He did not go on to make big scores. He has to find a way to improve his average in Test cricket which is at 20-something."

Chopra opened the innings with Virender Sehwag in eight successive Tests before being axed in the third and final match against Pakistan in April.

Boycott said the young Indian batsmen were shaping up well.

"My only concern is about bowlers. A couple of them are breaking down (with injuries). This is not good," said Boycott.

'Bring on Argentina'



REUTERS, Arequipa

Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira says he is unconcerned that his side are on course for an early encounter with Argentina in the Copa America. The bitter rivals could meet in the quarter-finals after Argentina's indifferent start to the tournament.

Brazil top Group C with six points from two games while Argentina sit in third place in Group B after losing 1-0 to Mexico. With Brazil meeting Paraguay in their last group game on Wednesday, anything but a win over Uruguay on Tuesday may mean Argentina qualifying as one of the two best third-placed teams -- and earning a quarter-final meeting with the world champions.

"Argentina are a very high quality

team, technically speaking, and meeting them would be a great test for this young team we are putting together," Parreira said.

The Brazil coach has opted to rest most first-choice players for a tournament that is played every two years. Argentina have similarly rested Pablo Aimar, Walter Samuel and Hernan Crespo after gruelling European seasons, but with players such as Roberto Ayala, Cristian Gonzalez and Javier Saviola present, they are closer to full-strength than the Brazilians. Argentina started the tournament by crushing Ecuador 6-1, helped by a Saviola hat-trick.

But the 14-time Copa America winners were then surprised by a well-organised Mexico team coached by the Argentine-born Ricardo Lavolpe.

Parreira also confirmed that he was considering making changes for the game against Paraguay. Maicon is likely to step in for right back Mancini while playmaker Diego is poised to get his first start in the tournament.

A lot of India, Pakistan

REUTERS, New Delhi

After a first visit by an Indian Test team to Pakistan in over 14 years in March-April, the two teams clash in the Asia Cup starting this week.

The six-nation tournament, which begins in Colombo on Friday, also involves Bangladesh, Hong Kong, United Arab Emirates and hosts Sri Lanka.

But passionate fans are keenly focused on witnessing another clash between the traditional rivals with Pakistan eager to avenge home losses, in both the Test and one-day series, earlier this year.

Experts, however, feel form would favour India to succeed again in Sri Lanka and in the Netherlands in August, when the two also play in a tri-series with world champions Australia.

The Indian team, led by captain Sourav Ganguly, built their reputation earlier this year by managing a 1-1 test series draw in Australia

where experts had predicted a 4-0 whitewash.

The emotional wins in Pakistan enhanced their status. India's one-day team boasts a formidable batting line-up featuring Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag, Rahul Dravid, Vangipurappu Laxman, Ganguly and the explosive Yuvraj Singh.

Left-arm paceman Irfan Pathan has stepped up to emerge as the leader of the pace attack while in-form leg-spinner Anil Kumble will get support with the return from injury of off-spinner Harbhajan Singh, nicknamed 'Turbanator'.

Pakistan, on the other hand, have plenty of problems.

The defeat by India resulted in coach Javed Miandad losing his job to former South Africa coach Bob Woolmer.

Captain Inzamamul Haq is still at the helm but the team has not fully recovered from the inquiry set up to determine if paceman Shoaib Akhtar had malingering in the final Rawalpindi Test against India.

Akhtar was cleared by a commission, which accepted he had hurt his rib cage during the match. Regarded

as the world's fastest bowler, he will play in the Asia Cup but Akhtar's rocky relationship with Inzamam is said to be at its lowest ebb.

New coach Woolmer is hoping for a quick turnaround, but there is bound to be severe pressure on the team. Another loss to India is unlikely to go down well with Pakistan's fans.

Cricket matches between neighbours India and Pakistan often have an impact far beyond the cricket field.

Their Test series earlier this year went a long way to help break barriers between people from the two countries, with thousands of Indian fans travelling across the border to watch the teams in action and meet long-lost relatives.

Though the political climate has changed with the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government voted out of power in the Indian national elections in May, the Congress-led alliance is continuing efforts to restore peace in the region.

Cricket has always been twinned with bilateral relations and experts say things have come a long way from 2000 when the Indian govern-

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Asia Cup on BTV

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Television is likely to telecast live seven Asia Cup matches. The six-nation regional carnival starts on July 16 in Sri Lanka.

Television sources said yesterday that it was almost decided that two of Bangladesh's group encounters against Hong Kong (July 16) and Pakistan (July 17) as well as four second phase matches including the August 1 final would be telecast.

Open TT in Aug

SPORTS REPORTER

The second Global Insurance Open Table Tennis competition begins from August 2 at the Wooden Floor gymnasium.

The meet features seven events -- men's team, women's team, boy's (U-18) team, men's singles, women's singles, boy's (U-18) singles and unseeded player's singles.

Interested participants have been requested to submit their names by July 28.

Youth cagers named

UNB, Dhaka

The Bangladesh Basketball Federation announced a 12-member national youth team yesterday to participate in the qualifying round of the fourth FIBA-Asian Championship, beginning in the city on July 22.

India, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan will also participate in the three-day meet.

The champions and runners-up qualify for the next round in Iran. Bangladesh: Imran Khan, Tozammel, Baten, Ashan, Zillur, Arfan, Shisir, Munna, Lutfar, Rashed, Sujit and Habib.

Bhola clinches squash title

UNB, Dhaka

Bhola Lal Chauhan of Sonargaon Club retained the Premier Division title with a 3-1 victory over Ram Jagdish of Cadet College Club in the final of the second AP-AccessTel Squash tournament at the Dhaka Club yesterday.

Asif Anwar of Dhaka Club won Division A beating Ram Gopal of Chittagong Club 3-1 while Razu of Cadet College Club became champion in Division B beating Johnny Ram of Chittagong Club 3-0.

Anisul Haq of Dhaka Club clinched the Above-40 Division title beating Ershad Hossain of Gulshan Club 3-2.

Murali included

AFP, Colombo

Ace off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan has returned to the Sri Lankan squad for the upcoming Asia Cup limited-overs tournament, the country's cricket board announced here on Monday.

Muralitharan, who skipped the ongoing Test series in Australia for personal reasons, was named in a 14-member squad.

Marvan Atapattu was retained as skipper, the Sri Lanka Cricket Board said.

SQUAD
Marvan Atapattu (capt), Mahela Jayawardene (vice-capt), Sanath Jayasuriya, Saman Jayantha, Kumar Sangakkara, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Thilina Kandamby, Upul Chandana, Chaminda Vaas, Nuwan Zoysa, Muttiah Muralitharan, Avishka Gunawardene, Lasith Malinga, Farveez Maharoof.

SL hold out for tense draw

Warne equals world record

Cricket

AFP, Cairns

Sri Lanka resisted a Shane Warne push for a world wicket-taking record to cling on for a tense draw with two wickets left in the second cricket Test against Australia here on Tuesday.

The Sri Lankans held the Australian attack at bay with Warne equalling Sri Lanka spinner Muttiah Muralitharan's world

record of 527 wickets.

Chaminda Vaas (11) and Nuwan Zoysa (3) played out the remaining 57 balls in fading light to stave off defeat with all the Australian fielders crowding around the bat.

Sri Lanka survived at 183 for eight after being set 355 runs to win off 85 overs following a Matthew Hayden-fuelled second innings declaration an hour before lunch.

Hayden was named man of the match and man of the two-match series for scoring hundreds in both innings of the Cairns Test.

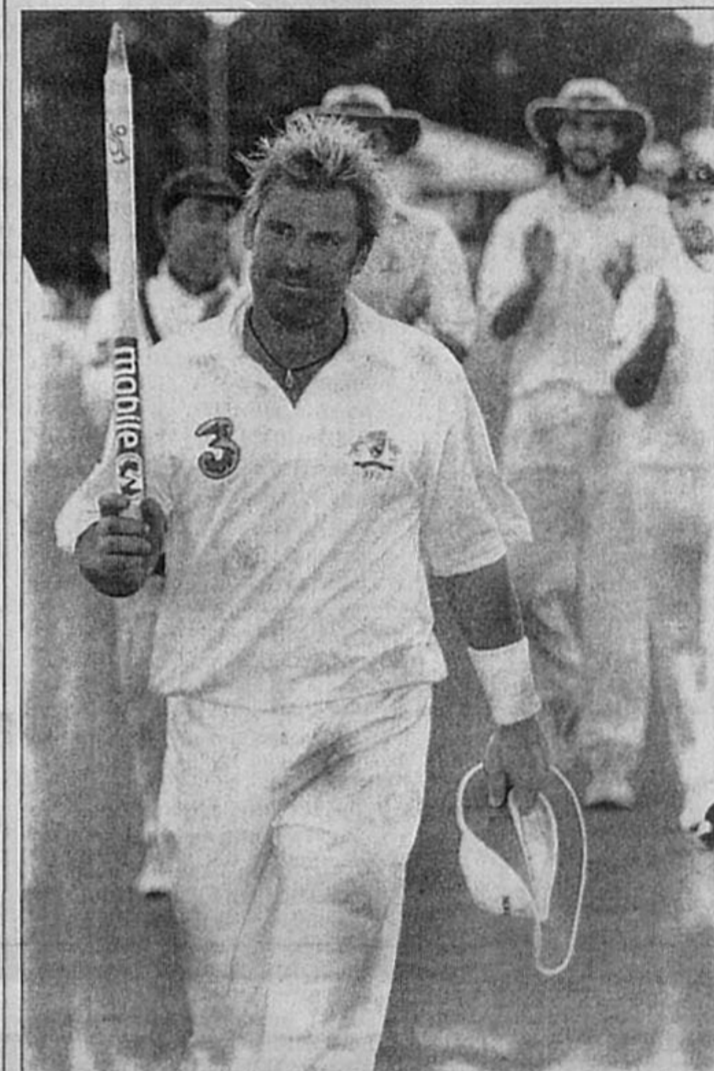


PHOTO: AFP

527-ALL! Australian star spinner Shane Warne is applauded by his teammates at the end of play after equalling Muttiah Muralitharan's world record for Test wickets on the final day of the second Test against Sri Lanka in Cairns yesterday.

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Advantage Muralitharan

Cricket

AFP/REUTERS, Cairns

Shane Warne says everything is stacked in Muttiah Muralitharan's favour to hold on to Test cricket's world wickets record.

The champion Australian leg-spinner equalled Murali's world record of 527 wickets when he captured 4-70 in the second innings as Sri Lanka hung on with two wickets left to draw the second Test here on Tuesday.

Warne conceded Muralitharan would now go ahead with the record. Sri Lanka host South Africa for two Tests in August, but Warne will have to wait for Australia's four-Test tour of India starting in October.

"Who knows what holds for the future, he (Murali) plays most of his Test matches in Sri Lanka, they prepare wickets for him, he bowls 50 overs an innings and they basically give the ball to him and the conditions are that the ball turns from ball one," he told a post-match press conference.

"So everything's in his favour. For my part, I've got three or four of the

best bowlers in the world over the last 10 years... McGrath, Gillespie... and he's got Chaminda Vaas, so everything's in his favour.

"The likelihood is that he's going to get the record and keep it and that's fine as long as we keep winning, I'll be pretty happy."

Warne, 34, also used the opportunity to set the record straight over comments he made about Muralitharan not touring Australia with the Sri Lankan team, citing personal reasons.

"I've always got on well with Murali," Warne said.

"I was disappointed with a few of his comments and he's probably disappointed with some of mine."

"Let's not jump to any conclusions. I'll get this exactly right so he knows, let's not jump to any conclusions why he's not touring (Australia) for personal reasons."

"If it was that he was going to get heckled from the (Australian) crowds then I think that's being a bit thin-skinned because everyone who plays international cricket around the world gets heckled, I even get heckled from my own crowd sometimes."

"So, that was my quote and if he's

got a problem with that then he can sort it out with me if he wants to."

Warne, who is five months' back from serving a 12-month drugs ban, said he was proud of his efforts on Tuesday's final day.

"On that sort of wicket there wasn't a lot of turn, a lot of the conditions didn't really suit, you're playing against players who play spin pretty well, so from my point of view I bowled 37 overs straight into a strong wind," he said.

"I thought out most of their batsmen pretty well and I was really happy with the way the ball has come out since I've come back."

"It would have been nice to get one or two wickets ahead of him (Murali) and win the Test match, it would have been the perfect script, just about every time there's been a script written I've just about done it."

"I suppose I'm allowed one I don't get every now and then."

Warne said he expected to meet up with Muralitharan either Wednesday or Thursday in Melbourne for a publicity shoot.

Warne will then head back to England to resume playing county cricket with Hampshire.



COMBATANTS IN COLOMBO: (L) Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar is garlanded by a lady at the team's hotel after arriving in the Sri Lankan capital yesterday. (R) India's master batsman Sachin Tendulkar lights a ceremonial oil lamp at the team's hotel while teammate Harbhajan Singh (2nd from R) looks on.

Wright advice

REUTERS, New Delhi

India coach John Wright has told his team not to be complacent in the six-nation Asia Cup one-day tournament starting on Friday.

India begin their campaign in Group B against United Arab Emirates before playing hosts Sri Lanka on Sunday.

"The real challenge will be to start well," Wright told reporters in Madras on Tuesday before the team left for Colombo.

"The first match is very important, even though on paper it's perhaps not an even contest. We have to keep in mind that the next game against Sri Lanka is critical."

Bangladesh, Hong Kong and India's traditional rivals Pakistan are in Group A. The top two teams from each group will qualify for the tournament's second phase.

India will be in action for the first time since winning both the test and one-day series in Pakistan in March-April.

"We won the one-dayers against Pakistan 3-2, but there was not too much in it," Wright said.

"Sri Lanka are always good at home and Bangladesh can surprise anyone these days. The other two teams are unknown quantities. Overall, the opposition is very good and we can't afford to let up."

Despite their recent success, Wright said playing Pakistan would be India's toughest challenge.

"Matches between India and Pakistan almost have a character of their own because both teams want to win so badly," he said.

"Fans on both sides of the border are so eager to see their team succeed. They're like one-off games."

India and Pakistan clash again next month in the Netherlands in a triangular tournament also involving world champions Australia.