



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.



TEN Sports

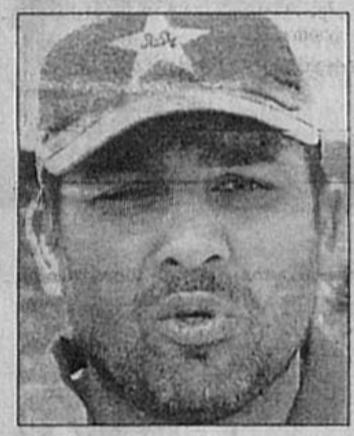
Copa America
Mexico vs Ecuador
Repeat at 4:00 pm
Argentina vs Uruguay
Repeat at 9:30 pm
Copa America
Costa Rica vs Chile
Live at 4:15 am (Thursday)
Brazil vs Paraguay
Live at 6:30 am (Thursday)

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.



Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 214

Tick the correct answers, post to

The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm

July 23, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards

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. Who won 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
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (if any)

CJKS chess

CU CORRESPONDENT

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

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

Besides, Double Mooring Club and Durbar Sangskriti 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 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.



RICHARD MCINNES

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

ful 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 his 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 U19s for the past eight months, was relishing the challenge ahead.

"We have had long fitness ses-

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

Boycott backs Chopra

AFP, Bangalore

Former England opener and television commentator Geoffrey Boycott Monday praised Indian opener Akash Chopra for his bat-bitting 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, Vangipurapu Laxman, Ganguly and the explosive Yuvraj Singh.

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

The defeat by India resulted in coach 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 maligned 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

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

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 government

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1



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.

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 Jagadish 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.

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