



Did U Know?

Figo's 110 caps have put him level with teammate Fernando Couto as Portugal's most capped player.



BTV

Asia Cup Cricket 2004
Bangladesh vs Pakistan
Live at 9:55 am

ESPN

Asia Cup Cricket 2004
Bangladesh vs Pakistan
Live at 9:55 am

STAR Sports

Asia Cup Cricket 2004
Sri Lanka vs UAE
Preview Show
Live at 2:00 pm

Asia Cup Cricket 2004
Sri Lanka vs UAE
Live at 2:45 pm

Asia Cup Cricket 2004
Sri Lanka vs UAE
Review Show
Live at 10:30 pm

TEN Sports

Copa America Quarterfinals
Peru vs Argentina
Live at 4:15 am (Sunday)
Colombia vs Costa Rica
Live at 6:30 am (Sunday)



Sachin Tendulkar

(Indian star batsman)
"I don't worry about when it will all end, because nothing stays the same in this world. My cricket will have to stop some day. It will be a tough decision, because it's hard to imagine life without cricket. Half my life has been spent playing for India."



Tick the correct answers, post to

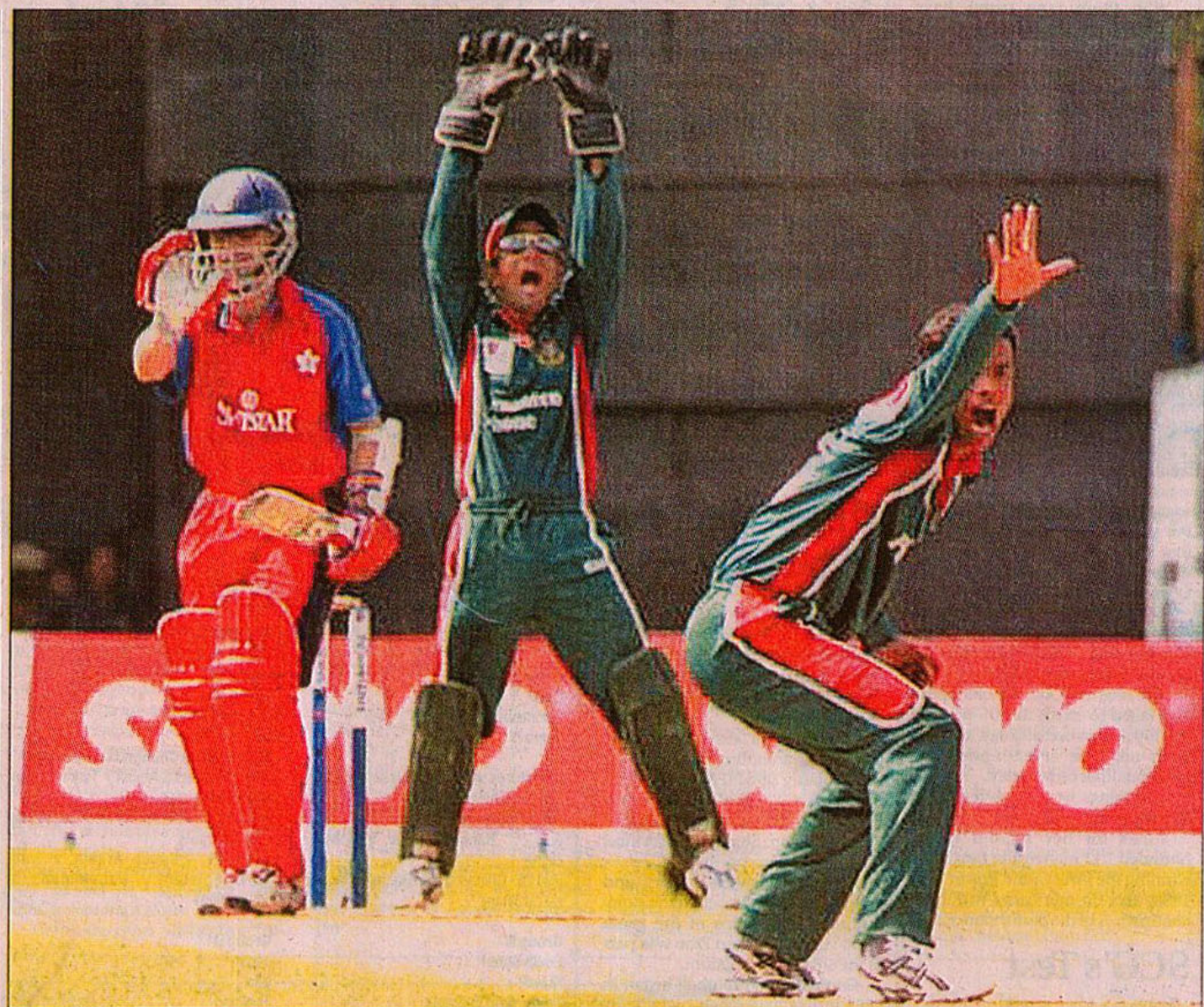
The Daily Star

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 Vranjic Ronaldo
- Who scored the first goal at Euro 2004?
Zidane Karagounis Figo

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



DREAM DEBUT: Bangladesh left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak (R) and wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud (C) appeal successfully for an lbw decision against Hong Kong opener Tim Smart during their Asia Cup match in Colombo yesterday. Razzak was the pick of the bowlers with 3-17.

Better batting please

AL MUSABBIR SADI from Colombo



Bangladesh warmed up for their second match of the Asia Cup with a massive win over Hong Kong yesterday and that has

taken some pressure off skipper Habibul Bashar and his men who face the might of Pakistan today. Barring a sensational twist in events from here on, the Tigers can relax knowing that a place in the second phase is all but guaranteed.

"It was a game that we were expected to win. So it was nice to win the match from that point of view," said coach Dav Whatmore.

Whatmore however admitted that his game plan was not entirely executed by the players.

"Batting in the morning was a bit difficult but after losing the first

wicket, we batted really well. We got to a point where we relaxed and gave way some wickets cheaply. You can't do that often and get away with it," cautioned Whatmore.

The coach was pleased with the debut of left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak who returned figures of three for 17.

"Razzak did his job. He is expected to do this."

Whatmore acknowledged that the Hong Kong bowlers have surprised many but their batting didn't have any initiative.

"They put the ball in the right areas in the morning on a wicket that was assisting them. But their batsmen were ultra cautious against some accurate bowling from us," added Whatmore who has now led Bangladesh to two one-day international wins since taking charge a year ago.

"Pakistan will be a much stronger

game obviously. The players will need a lot more confidence to be able to beat them. But one thing is sure, we are going to play to win. We are almost in the second round and from that aspect, it does not matter whether we lose or win tomorrow. We just want to push them hard to strengthen our confidence level."

Bashar too was not impressed with the team's batting although he thought the conditions were not perfect in the morning.

"I am definitely not happy. There was a scope to improve our individual performances but we missed out on that. We concentrated on singles as we could not go for big shots. That is why there were three run outs in the innings," said the Tigers skipper.

The captain complimented Javed Omar's innings and believed that Alok Kapali, despite failing yet again, will show his potential somewhere

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

Gavaskar in hot water

CRICINFO, undated

Sunil Gavaskar, the former Indian batting great, has become embroiled in yet another controversy, this time with the police registering a case against him and five others for alleged fraud following a complaint by Registrar of Companies (RoC) in Vadodra.

PTI reports that a complaint registered with J P Nagar police station, by Assistant RoC P Meena, has alleged that Gavaskar and five others raised Rs4.65 crore (13,00,000 dollars approx) through public issue to float a company for manufacturing footwear and other leather goods but defrauded the investors by not paying them any dividend since then.

But, Mid Day, the Mumbai tabloid, has quoted Gavaskar as saying "I am not worried," in response to these allegations. It goes on to quote a source close to Gavaskar as explaining that he had resigned from the company in question when he became Sheriff of Mumbai, and that documents to prove this would be submitted soon.

Many shareholders lodged

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

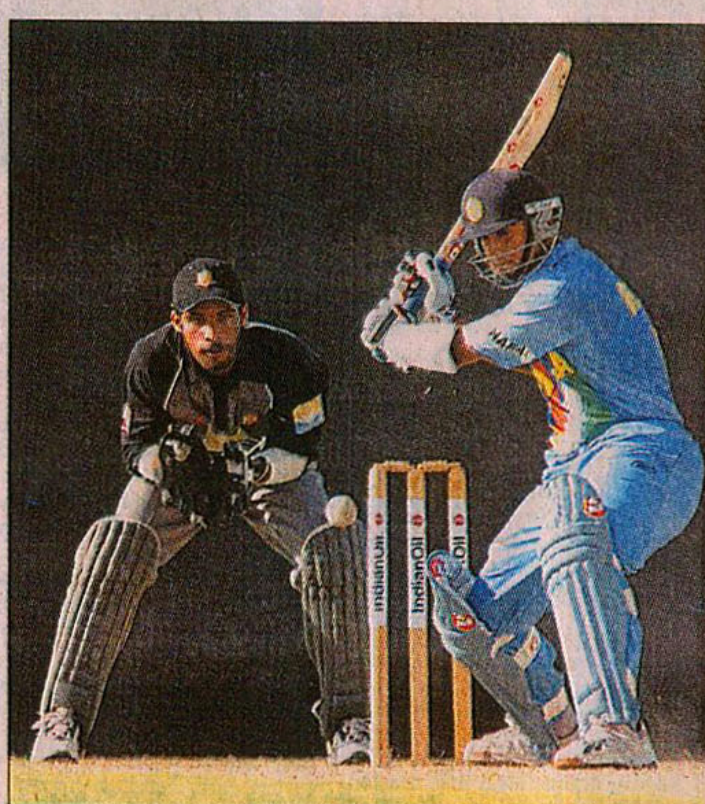


PHOTO: AFP

THE WALL ON FIRE! Rahul Dravid gears up for a square cut while UAE wicketkeeper Abdul Rehman looks on in anticipation during the Asia Cup Group B match in Dambulla yesterday.

Dravid inspires India

AFP, Dambulla

Rahul Dravid slammed a solid 104 to help India reach a respectable 260-6 from 50 overs against the United Arab Emirates in the Group B league match of the Asia Cup here on Friday.

India were struggling at 65-3 after electing to bat in the day-night match on a slow pitch before Dravid pulled his team out of trouble with his ninth hundred.

Dravid, who scored a run-a-ball half-century, took just 40 deliveries more to reach the three-figure mark. He hit eight fours in his 93-ball knock.

He was involved in two useful stands, adding 88 for the fourth wicket with skipper Sourav Ganguly

SEE PAGE 14 COL 2

LATEST

AFP, Dambulla

India defeated the United Arab Emirates (UAE) by 116 runs in a Group-B league match of the Asia Cup cricket tournament at the Rangiri International Stadium here on Friday.

BRIEFScores

India 260-6 in 50 overs; UAE 144 in 35 overs



AL MUSABBIR SADI from Colombo

If you are touring Sri Lanka, you'll find the local cuisine difficult to swallow after just one meal. Not that everything is cooked with coconut oil nowadays, but most foreigners' taste buds will refuse it.

However, there is one place to turn to when the going gets hungry - the famous underground Food Court on Galle Road. Whether you fancy Indian, Italian, Mexican, Korean, Thai, English or even Mongolian it's a gourmet's delight.

The huge court not only attracts tourists but also cricket celebrities. Almost every Bangladeshi cricketer dines here, Pakistanis and the Hong Kong teams are regular customers.

Pakistani wicketkeeper Moin Khan, his wife and three children visit at least twice a day.

ASIFA CRICKET LOVER

There were hardly one hundred spectators at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground to watch the Bangladesh-Hong Kong match.

Standing between two Bangladesh flags was acclaimed pop star Asif Akbar, who flew all the way from Dhaka with a friend to watch two first-round matches.

Interestingly, before concentrating on a singing career, Asif was quite an accomplished cricketer and had even represented his home

Life in Lanka

district Comilla in the National Cricket Championships.

It just goes to show one can never forget his first love!

WRONG TIME, WRONG PLACE

Man has almost controlled everything but Mother Nature. The weather forecast for the next two weeks in Colombo was, no heavy rains or depression. So every tourist headed to the beach last night to cool off after a long, hot, humid day. But they were in for a shock.

Just before midnight, the breeze turned into gale force winds and plastic chairs began to fly. Those who were sitting at the seaside lawn of the 120-year-old Galle Face Hotel, had to seek protection as the storm intensified shattering most of the glass lanterns of the open restaurant.

Then came the downpour which made standing in the balconies impossible.

Strangely, life in the city went on as usual. The locals were least bothered, the Bangladeshis were curious. Leaving only western tourists to show signs of anxiety.

After half-an-hour, almost everyone forgot what had happened. In fact, those who slept through the storm never noticed a thing in the morning.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

BEFORE THE KICK-OFF

MSC: Hope springs eternal

SPORTS REPORTER



The name sends the pulses racing for millions of die-hard fans but Mohammedan Sporting Club totally disappointed their loyal band of supporters

last season by surrendering each of the three trophies they had been defending.

Had the officials of the famous Black and Whites shared the same passion and commitment of the fans, Mohammedan might not have ended the season watching all major domestic titles landing on the shelves of Mukti Juddha Sangsad and a reborn Brothers Union.

Having finished second best to the Reds in the National Football Championship (NFL) and the Federation Cup, any hopes of Premier Division honour was promptly buried through some mindless and immature behaviour on a fateful February afternoon, when Mohammedan refused to play the remaining six minutes of their first leg match against the Mukti disputing a goal.

The Bangladesh Football Federation penalised Mohammedan four points on disciplinary ground, a blow from which they never recovered. Furthermore, their manager Amirul Islam Babu, who has a reputation as a troublemaker, was banned from entering the ground for the rest of the league after he blatantly attacked the linesman of that match. With their reputation tarnished, the final humiliation was a fifth place finish in the most prestigious local event.

But the writing had been on the wall when the traditional powerhouse displayed little interest in players' transfer market.

The scars of that league debacle is still fresh in the mind of coach Abul Hossain.

The 48-year-old had spent his whole playing career at MSC and has been the coach for the last nine years and no one was hurt more than him. Abul is adamant that off the field decisions had cost the club dear.

"It was a totally wrong decision not to play the remaining minutes against Mukti Juddha. I was not there when the incident happened because of a family tragedy. I don't

want to point fingers at anyone but we should guard against something like that happening in future for the sake of the club," Abul said while talking to The Daily Star Sport.

"Had we played the match we could have got at least one point and that would have kept us in the title race," he bemoaned.

But experience has taught Abul to look forward and he was confident of a reversal of fortune starting with the 4th edition of the NFL.

But it will be a hard road ahead as Brothers Union and the surprise runners up of the Premier League Sheikh Russell Krira Chakra are in

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

THIS IS OUR NEW NATIONAL GAME! Mohammedan booters (L) Sentu and Amin Rana explaining cricket (Bangladesh v Hong Kong) being shown on TV yesterday to arrival from Belgium Othman Boukhimsi (3rd from L).

Asia gets rolling



AFP, Beijing

For a country that claims to have invented football more than 2,000 years ago, China has been waiting an eternity for success in the beautiful game.

But as the Asian Cup gets underway here Saturday, the nation's hundreds of millions of football fans are brimming with optimism that

years of flops and gallant failures are coming to an end.

A rash of injuries and the lure of competing in the Olympics have left most of China's main rivals for the prestigious trophy fielding weakened sides in the 16-team, 32-match tournament.

Defending champions Japan, 2002 World Cup semi-finalists South Korea, and five-time Asian Cup champions Saudi Arabia have all lost key players because of injury or decisions to rest them for Athens.

The hosts, who kick off the tournament against Bahrain in Group A on Saturday, may never have a better

chance of snapping a long sequence of Asian Cup near-misses, where they have lost in the semi-finals on four occasions.

China coach Arie Haan, a famous member of the stylish Holland teams during the 1970s, has been busy dampening down expectations but acknowledges his team are among the favourites.

"There is huge pressure on the team, pressure that is only negative," said Haan. "There is nothing I can do about it. But of course playing at home is always an advantage in a tournament like this."

SEE PAGE 14 COL 8

Cricket Quiz 02

Which of the following country achieved the Test Status most recently?

A Zimbabwe

B Bangladesh

C Sri Lanka

D India

Answer by sending SMS* to the number 2003

e.g. If your answer is A then write Quiz02 A and send it to 2003

For each quiz, five correct answer providers (selected by lottery) will receive attractive prizes!!



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