



Did U Know?

The first Latin American host for the Olympic games was Mexico City, Mexico in 1968.



What to WATCH

BTV
Asia Cup Cricket 2004
Bangladesh vs India
Live at 10:00 am

ESPN
Asia Cup Cricket 2004
Preview Show
Live at 9:00 am
Bangladesh vs India
Live at 10:00 am
Review
Live at 5:45 pm

STAR Sports
Asian Cup Cricket 2004
Pakistan vs Sri Lanka
Live at 2:30 pm

TEN Sports
Copa America Semifinal
Argentina Vs Colombia
Repeat at 4:10 pm & 9:30 pm
Copa America Semifinal
Brazil vs Uruguay
Live at 6:30 am (Thursday)



Bob Woolmer
(Pakistan cricket coach)
"I don't think the Pakistan players are seeking any revenge against India in the match. But yes they remain stunned by their home series defeat recently to the Indians and it will be a needle encounter."

Jessore no more an NFL venue

SPORTS REPORTER

The tournament committee of Nitol-Tata National Football League has withdrawn Jessore as a final round venue due to Bangladesh Television's technical difficulties of covering the matches.

Instead, the organisers have shifted the matches to Khulna. The Khulna round begins on August 6 on completion of the Rangpur leg.

The first phase of the final round will end at Chittagong and by that time the six teams for the final phase will be finalised. The final phase will be held at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Nat'l age-group swimming

SPORTS REPORTER

Mahfuza Akhter of Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protishthan (BKSP) created a new national record in the 100-metre breaststroke event of the 21st national age-group swimming championships on the opening day of the competition in Bogra yesterday.

Mahfuza clocked 1min 23.98 sec to shatter Rajbari's Dolly Akhter's previous best of 1min 26.38 sec in the ladies' 18-20 age category. There

SEE PAGE 14 COL 2



PHOTO: AFP

YOU JUST KEEP THAT OUT OF YOUR HEAD: Bangladesh all-rounder Khaled Mahmud (L) giving some tips to left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak during a practice session in Colombo yesterday. Razzak was reported to ICC with a suspect bowling action on Sunday.

Inzy wants an early win

India, Sri Lanka hit by injuries

AFP, Colombo

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq said on Tuesday his team needed to win the opening Asia Cup super league match against Sri Lanka in order to boost their confidence for the rest of the tournament.

"The first match in the super league is important," Inzamam said ahead of Wednesday's clash against the hosts. "If we win, our confidence will soar for the game against India."

India take on Bangladesh in Wednesday's other super league

match. The four teams play each other once with the top two advancing to the final on August 1.

Inzamam, whose side clashes with arch-rivals India on Sunday, said he was relieved Pakistan were not the tournament favourites since it allowed them to perform in pressure-free conditions.

"We are happy that all the attention is on India and Sri Lanka and that allows us to play our matches without pressure," he said.

Pakistan won both their preliminary Group A matches against Bangladesh and first-timers Hong Kong.

Sri Lanka topped Group B after

beating India and the United Arab Emirates.

New Pakistani coach Bob Woolmer said his team was looking beyond the "needle" clash against Sourav Ganguly's Indians.

"Every time these two teams play it is a big match with a lot of emotions attached to it," he said.

"But I think the players are looking beyond the India match. I don't think they are seeking any revenge, but they remain stunned by their home defeats against India and it will be a needle encounter."

Pakistan lost both the one-day and Test series against India at home in March-April.

India go into the super league worried over the fitness to key fast bowler Zaheer Khan and the batting form.

Zaheer is doubtful due to a hamstring injury sustained while fielding during the last game against Sri Lanka at Dambulla on Sunday.

"Zaheer is a concern, especially for the match against Bangladesh," Ganguly said of the paceman, who is likely to be replaced by Ashish Nehra.

Zaheer, with 126 wickets in 84 one-dayers, has been in and out of the team for the past eight months due to the injury. He missed a major

SEE PAGE 14 COL 3

LIFE IN LANKA 2004

AL MUSABBIR SADI from Colombo

On the streets of Dhaka you could never imagine such ignorance or indifference.

The Indian and Pakistani cricketers were returning to their hotel after the official dinner at the Crown Plaza with almost no one noticing the household stars on the Galle Road.

Pakistani captain Inzamamul Haq was leading both the teams from a distance. Newly wed VVS Laxman and Virender Sehwag were walking with their wives separately. Then there was a big bunch with Sachin Tendulkar, Mohammad Kaif, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan.

Behind them, Pakistani speedster Shoaib Akhtar, the 'Rawalpindi Express' was sandwiched between Ashish Nehra and Yuvraj Singh. They were walking hand-in-hand like a band of brothers.

It just goes to show no matter what their respective governments think about their relationship, the cricketers remain best friends.

MURALI'S EVERYWHERE

It seems that the Sri Lankans are less interested about the Indians or the Pakistanis. They only care about their heroes. And among them, Muttiah Muralitharan naturally ranks at top of the list.

Not only is he the most popular cricketer around but it seems he's also the most wanted model in Colombo. There is not a place in the capital where you won't see big advertising hoardings showing the smiling Tamil assassin.

GO TO CORDY

A Bangladeshi journalist, eager to lose some weight, runs eight laps every night on Colombo's favourite resting spot, the journalist got some tips.

"Go to our new trainer Justin Cordy. He will give written instructions on how to lose kilos. He does the same thing with us in training sessions, which are pretty strenuous at times.

We have to go through long

weight sessions instead of just stretching. It will take only a week to get into shape if you follow his method," said the all-rounder.

AZHAR NOT OUT!

There was a rumour that India's news channel Aajtak and its commentator Mohammad Azharuddin would be banned from entering the ground in Colombo.

A top ICC official commented that Azhar's presence as unfortunate, sparking the rumours.

However, Sri Lanka Cricket's media manager Ray Illangakoon confirmed that the former Indian captain would continue his commentary.

"We received a letter from the ICC which says that the matter should be handled by the ACC and the Sri Lanka Cricket. As the Indian board has given the go-ahead to Ajjak, there should be no problem. He will sit in the regulation press box area but neither Azhar nor the TV cameras will be allowed in the ground," Illangakoon said.

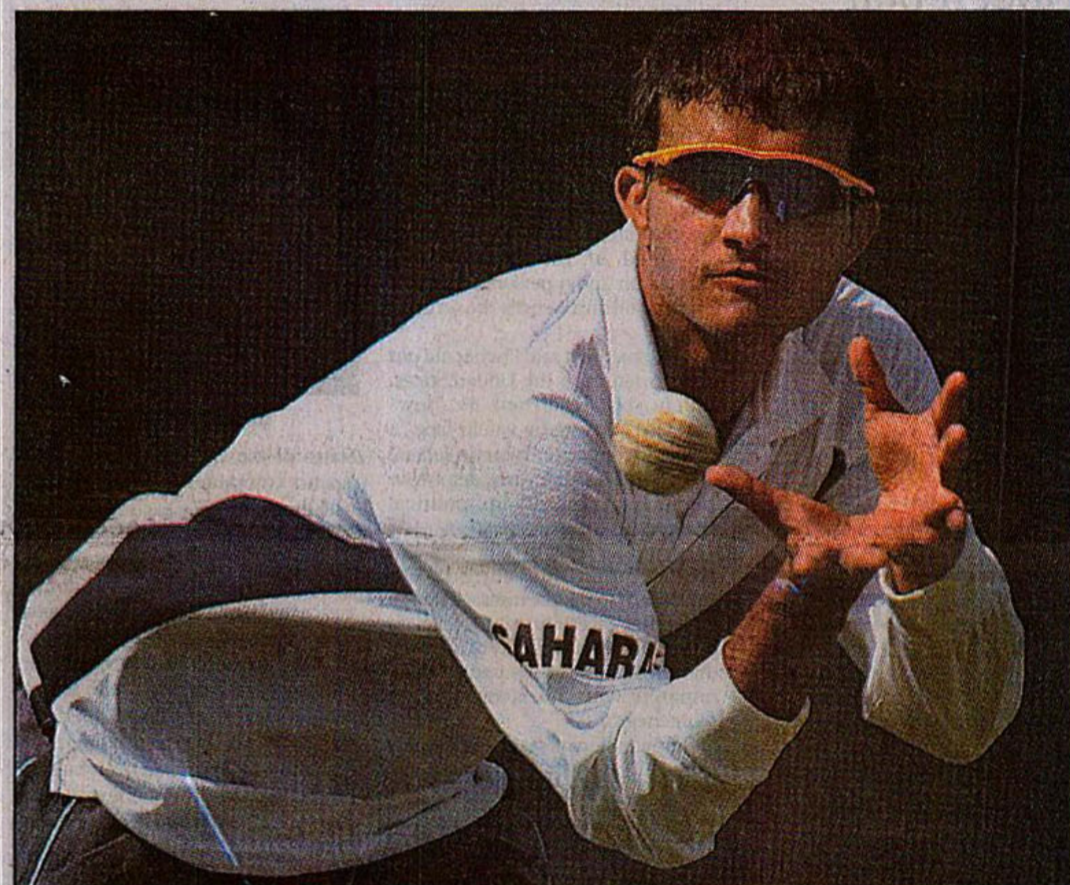


PHOTO: AFP

India captain Sourav Ganguly practises catching during his side's training session in Colombo yesterday.

Russel pass on penalty

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

An injury-time penalty saved Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra's blushes in the 4th Nitol-Tata National Football League Premier League match against Umnochan Club of Bagerhat by a solitary goal at the Momenshahi Stadium yesterday.

Russel's Moroccan striker Younes converted the spot kick two minutes into the time added on after

he had been fouled inside the area. Despite the unplayable water-drenched pitch the Dhaka club, who finished surprise runners up in last season's Premier League, showed their superiority in all departments on their NFL debut. But they had to wait for the goal mainly because of some splendid goalkeeping by the Bagerhat team's captain Piruzzaman Piru.

Piru was later adjudged man-of-the-match.

Younes was instrumental in most of the attacks by Russel. He almost put his side ahead in the 44th

minute but defender Ashraful chested away the goal-bound left-footer.

Piru fisted away a Kamal free kick ten minutes after the breather and then frustrated Younes in the 69th minute with a diving save.

Umnochan Club's only clear chance came in the 63rd minute but Russel's custodian Appel thwarted a powerful right-footer from Nigerian striker Moses.

TEAMS
SHEIKH RUSSEL (from): Appel,
SEE PAGE 14 COL 2

Butcher's streak may be snapped

AFP, London

England batsman Mark Butcher might miss the first Test against the West Indies at Lord's after suffering whiplash in a car accident.

Butcher, who had been receiving treatment for a thigh strain, will be assessed by the team physio but his hopes of extending an unbroken run of 42 Test appearances appear in doubt.

England have a ready-made replacement in Rob Key, the first batsman to 1,000 first-class runs in England this season.

"I'll just have to see what the medics say, because I've got no idea how it's going to affect me," Butcher said.

He has been a key figure for England over the past four years, although he was short of form in the recent home series against New Zealand, scoring 105 runs in the three Tests at an average of 21.

Butcher's hopes of playing in his 43rd consecutive Test dimmed when the left-hander withdrew from Surrey's match on Sunday.



PHOTO: HASIBUR RAHMAN

SETTING THE POOL AFIRE: Contestants of the women's 100-metre breaststroke event in the 21st national age-group swimming championships start their quest at the Bogra district swimming pool yesterday.

The crisis man

AL MUSABBIR SADI FROM COLOMBO

Yuvraj Singh is a man you can trust when the chips are down. The new generation Indian cricketer has single-handedly won matches even if the team loses the likes of Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, Virender Sehwag or Rahul Dravid.

He was in his elements again on Sunday but for once could not stop the boys in blue going down by 12 runs against Sri Lanka under lights at Dambulla.

The 22-year-old dashing left-hander from Chandigarh has scored more than 2,000 runs and is expected to celebrate his 100th ODI if India reach the final of the Asia Cup.

"We were four wickets down early and I tried to repair the damage with Rahul. But I was struggling for timing and just had to hang around. I had to go for runs in the latter stage but it was a loose shot in the wrong area and I got dismissed," said Yuvraj while reflecting on the big match against the home team.

Yuvraj was talking to reporters at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground, where India will play their first Super League game against Bangladesh today.

"We have to improve as the tournament progresses," said the stylish

left-hander who does not think that losing against the Lankans was a blessing in disguise.

"Losing is never a blessing. Everyone hates losing and we did not want that on that night. We have some important matches and we have to top the table in the end. We are looking forward to win all three matches."

When asked if he would open the innings today, Yuvraj said: "The captain should be the person to decide that. Whatever position I play, I will try my best."

He also dismissed talk of the Indian batsmen not scoring enough runs from where they were left off in Pakistan.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4



YUVRAJ SINGH

Semifinal preview Brazil know what's coming

REUTERS, Lima



Brazil are bracing themselves for a bruising, tough tacking clash with Uruguay in their Copa America semi-final on Wednesday.

The world champions finally came to life back at sea level against Mexico on Sunday, winning their quarter-final 4-0 after a series of pallid performances in the high-altitude southern city of Arequipa.

Already without top players such as Ronaldo, Ronaldinho, Roberto Carlos and Kaka, Brazil know they will not have the space in midfield they enjoyed against Mexico.

"Uruguay are not going to allow us to play our open, passing game. They'll mark hard and clamp us down," midfielder Alex said before training in the Peruvian capital on Monday.

Uruguay look a different side from the one that made a terrible start to World Cup qualification

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

Cricket Quiz 06

Which popular Bangladeshi cricketer has the surname "Sujon"?

- A Khaled Mahmud
- B Habibur Bashar
- C Alok Kapali
- D Hannan Sarker



Answer by sending SMS* to the number 2003
e.g. If your answer is A then write Quiz06 A and send it to 2003

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

*Charge Applicable



GrameenPhone

Official Sponsor of Bangladesh National Cricket Team