



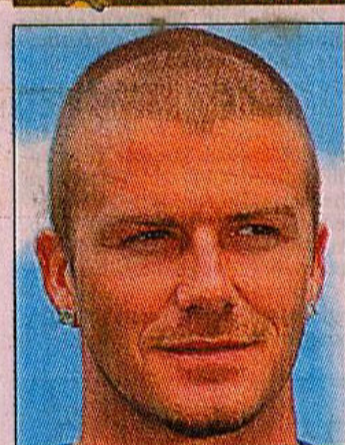
Did U Know?

For the time women's wrestling will be part of the Olympic competition schedule during the 2004 Athens Summer Games.



What to Watch

- BTV**
Asia Cup Cricket 2004
Bangladesh v Sri Lanka
Live at 2.45 pm
- ESPN**
Asia Cup Cricket 2004
Bangladesh v Sri Lanka
Preview show
Live at 2 pm
Asia Cup Cricket 2004
Bangladesh v Sri Lanka
Live at 2.45 pm
Asia Cup Cricket 2004
Bangladesh v Sri Lanka
Review show
Live at 10.30 pm
Sportscentre India
Sports News
Live at 11.30 pm
England v West Indies
First Test, Day Two
Same day delayed 12 am (Saturday)
- STAR Sports**
Asia Cup Cricket 2004
Bangladesh v Sri Lanka
Live In Hindi at 2.45 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 11.30 pm



David Beckham
(England and Real Madrid superstar)
"Winning the Spanish League title is key objective, as well as the Champions' League."

Nat'l hockey underway

UNB, Dhaka
Bangladesh Army managed a solitary goal victory over Bangladesh Railway in the opening match of the ANAS Group 25th National Hockey Championship at the Moulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium here yesterday.
Mohammad Yasin Ali scored the match-winner from a field goal in the 31st minute.
A total of 16 teams, split into four

School chess from July 26

SPORTS REPORTER
The sixth school chess tournament, sponsored by Standard Chartered Bank, will start at the hall room of the National Sports Council on July 26.
The open to all students between Class KG to Ten event requires no entry fee.



THE FARTHER YOU RUN, THE CLOSER YOU GET TO YOUR TARGET: Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar (C) leads his team in a warm-up run prior to a net practice session in Colombo yesterday. Bangladesh meet hosts Sri Lanka in the super league of Asia Cup at the Premadasa Stadium today.

Dav talks, they listen

AL MUSABBIR SADI from Colombo
To refocus his boys after two heavy defeats in the Eighth Asia Cup, Dav Whatmore spent a busy afternoon yesterday.

Following a two-hour morning training session at the Premadasa Stadium, the Australian coach sat one-on-one with his players discussing their problems and offering solutions.
Very depressed after two awful batting performances against Pakistan and India, Whatmore is now very keen to improve the graph.
Bangladesh still has a chance to be the surprise package of the tournament upsetting Sri Lanka and

Pakistan and Whatmore believed it was possible.
"I still believe we can play in the final. That is the objective of the team. The first objective was to get into the second round. Once we were in the second phase, we are looking at it objectively," the 50-year-old said

ASIA CUP TABLE
REUTERS, Colombo

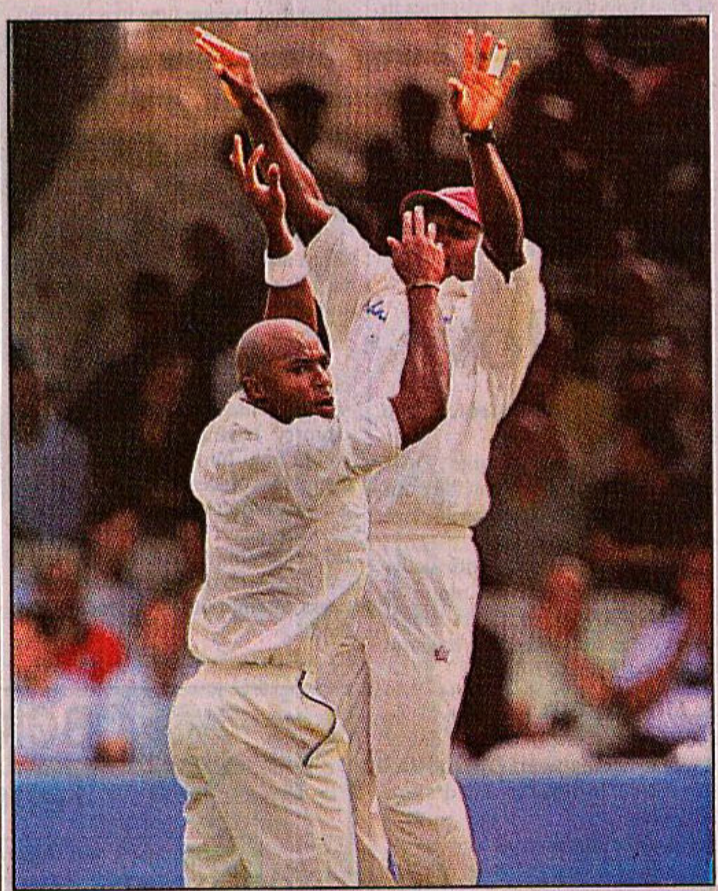
Asia Cup cricket standings after Wednesday's opening super league matches:

Country	P	W	L	Pts	NRR
Sri Lanka	1	1	0	6	+1.40
India	1	1	0	6	+1.08
Bangladesh	1	0	1	0	-1.08
Pakistan	1	0	1	0	-1.40

during a training break.
Whatmore reminded that India are ranked No. 1 in this tournament and as hosts, Sri Lanka are "pretty high up".
"If we are going to win two out of three matches in the second stage, then we stand better chances against the lower ranked teams, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.
"The only worry here is that we are not playing well, some of our cricketers are not that good. We have been beaten by big margins. From the strategic point of view of the tournament, we still have to win those two games."
"Not only batting, in the first over against India, the bowling was also a problem.
We made changes in the side to have a look at all the boys. Having

Another win for U-19s

SPORTS REPORTER
The touring Bangladesh Under-19 cricket team won their second warm up match ahead of their maiden series against their England counterparts when they defeated ECB Development of Excellence XI by four wickets at Loughborough University ground in Leicester on Wednesday.
Set to score 174 for a victory, the youths raced to 177-6 with opener Nafees Iqbal hammering 66.
The visitors got off to a flying start with Nafees Ahmed (Abir) starting aggressively smashing 28 from 27 balls. But the senior of the two Nafees played a more confident innings after a disappointing first game against the same side on Tuesday.
Referee: Abdul Hannan Miran.



BETTER BEST: West Indies fast bowler Tino Best (L) celebrates taking the wicket of England opener Marcus Trescothick with fellow paceman Fidel Edwards on the first morning of the first Test at Lord's yesterday.

Strauss' Lord's love affair on

Cricket
AFP, London
Andrew Strauss' second Test hundred guided England to a strong position of 233 for one at tea on the first day of the series opener against the West Indies at Lord's here Thursday.
His unbeaten 102 continued the captain of Lord's-based Middlesex's impressive run of Test scores at the ground after Strauss had made 112 and 83 on his debut here against New Zealand in May.
At the other end Kent's Robert Key, dropped on 16, was a Test-best 90 not out off 132 balls with 13 fours, sharing an unbroken stand of 204 with Strauss as England piled on the runs against an inexperienced attack.
England resumed after lunch on 91 for one with Strauss 36 not out and Key unbeaten on 25.
Debutant medium-pace Dwayne Bravo, who bowled tidily before lunch, struggled with his line and was eventually wided by umpire

Rudi Koertzen.
Omari Banks, the lone specialist slow bowler in the side, was introduced into the attack after lunch.
However, the tall Banks' first four overs cost 34 runs, as he struggled to find an accurate line against the left-handed Strauss and right-handed Key.
Key, the fastest man to 1,000 first class runs in England this season and recalled in place of the injured Mark Butcher, posted his second

DAY'S EVENT
Nitol-Tata Nat'l Football League
Unmohon v Bangladesh Air Force
Venue: Momenshahi Stadium
Asia Cup Cricket 2004
Bangladesh v Sri Lanka
Live at 2.45 pm

Abahani too hot for Kararchar

UNB, Dhaka
Dhaka Abahani made a flying start in the Nitol-Tata fourth National Football League with a convincing 4-0 victory over outsiders Kararchar KC of Narshingdi in their first appearance at a muddy Momenshahi Stadium in Mymensingh yesterday.
After a barren first-half, Nigerian booter Colly Barnes struck twice, while skipper Saiful Islam Khokon and promising striker Mehdi Hasan Ujjal scored one each for the popular sky-blue Dhammondi outfit.
The first-half of the match was keenly-contested where Kararchar created more easy chances than that of their giant rivals, but failed to cash in due to the shakiness of their forwards, especially for the poor show put up by Tajul.
After the break, well-built Colly opened Abahani's account in the third minute from a penalty (1-0). They earned the spot kick when one of the Kararchar defenders fouled an onrushing Colly inside the danger zone.
Up and coming national striker Ujjal doubled the margin in the 64th minute by an individual effort (2-0).
Skipper Khokon widened the gap further for the country's traditional powerhouse in the 79th minute by pushing the ball home on a beautiful cross from substitute Faisal (3-0).
Colly sealed the fate of the match scoring his second and the team's fourth goal just five minutes from the final whistle by a well-merited placing shot, dodging past two opponent defenders (4-0).
For his double strike, Colly was adjudged man-of-the-match and received a prize money of Tk 5,000 and an award from local Sonali Otti Club.
Yellow cards: Awlad, Don and Babu (Kararchar) and Prantosh, Ujjal and Colly (Abahani).

LIFE IN LANKA 2004

AL MUSABBIR SADI from Colombo
Not many Bangladeshi batsmen have so far scored runs in the Asia Cup. Even those who have scored have fallen victim to run outs.
Javed Omar, who made 62 and 68 against Hong Kong and Pakistan respectively, was run out on both occasions. Mohammad Ashraful, who made highest 35 against India, also departed in the same fashion on Wednesday.
For Ashraful it was double fault after he caused Javed's dismissal while acting as a runner for his opening partner against Pakistan.
"Ashraful was a bit naughty. He was not backing up," said coach Dav Whatmore here today.
"That is a terrible thing in any game especially when a set batsman gets run out. It's the worst type of dismissals of all," he added.
"This is why Bangladesh are not as good as other teams. That's the difference. Everyone fails. (Sachin) Tendulkar had 30 odd runs in this tournament before this match. When he got a start, he just went on."
Ashraful later admitted that it was his fault. He said that he did not realise it was Yuvraj Singh, a natural left-hander, who was fielding at square leg after Khaled Mashud pushed the ball.
"Had it been a right-handed fielder, I would have survived because the ball travelled toward his left. It was unfortunate," said the youngest Test centurion on debut.
Nawsher, also a national selector and former left-arm paceman, had to give proxy in the absence of local net bowlers. He bowled gentle medium pacers after two locals gave the Bangladeshi batsmen a real hard time with speedy deliveries.
A champion bowler of his time Nawsher however found it very tough to run the distance. It was understandable because he is now-

DENGUE WEEK

Beware of mosquitoes in Colombo. It's just not biting here but also some of them are carrying the virus of dengue fever like in Bangladesh.
The disease is increasingly becoming the biggest health hazard in Sri Lanka. Already 56 people have died in the island nation due to dengue and the health department has reported that they were now treating 3,000 patients in different hospitals.
The Sri Lankan government will also observe Dengue Week from tomorrow in the country to build awareness among people.

Zaheer passes fitness test

AFP, Colombo
Indian paceman Zaheer Khan was Thursday declared fit for the remaining matches of the ongoing Asia Cup cricket tournament after passing a fitness test here.
Physiotherapist Andrew Leipus and trainer Gregory Allan King supervised the test and the team management decided that he would stay on.
Zaheer had missed his team's first super league match against Bangladesh on Wednesday after injuring a quadriceps muscle during a preliminary league tie against hosts Sri Lanka.
There were fears that Zaheer



RELIEF IN THE END: Brazilian players rush towards teammate Alex after he converted the winning penalty kick against Uruguay during their Copa America semifinal at the National Stadium in Lima on Wednesday.

Brazil ride their luck

AFP, Lima
Brazil, without their World Cup stars, proved their mettle in a penalty shootout against Uruguay in Wednesday's semi-final to reach the Copa America final against Argentina.
Marcelo Sosa headed in Javier Delgado's free kick to give Uruguay a deserved lead on 22 minutes but they missed a handful of chances

before Adriano equalised for Brazil immediately after half-time.
Brazil, who had not lost a penalty shootout since the 1995 Copa America final they lost by the same 5-3 result to Uruguay, converted all five of their penalties, with goalkeeper Julio Cesar's save from Vicente Sanchez proving decisive, leaving Alex to slot the decider past Viera.
Uruguay were left to rue their missed chances.
Dario Silva missed two sitters. First he was given a clear run on goal but shot straight at Julio Cesar and then he blazed onto the cross-bar from in front of an open goal.
Julio Cesar then turned away Delgado's swerving free kick and

Cricket Quiz 08
Against which country did Bangladesh play their last Test Series?
A West Indies B Australia C England D Pakistan

Answer by sending SMS* to the number 2003
e.g. If your answer is A then write Quiz08 A and send it to 2003
For each quiz, five correct answer providers (selected by lottery) will receive attractive prizes!!

Asia Cup

GrameenPhone
Official Sponsor of Bangladesh National Cricket Team