

Copa dances to samba



REUTERS, Lima

Brazil scored an equaliser with the last kick of the game to draw 2-2 and then beat arch-rivals Argentina on penalties to win an astonishing Copa America final on Sunday.

Argentina were set to win the competition when substitute Cesar Delgado put them 2-1 ahead in the 87th minute only for Adriano to equalise in the third minute of injury-time with his seventh goal of the competition.

The world champions had pulled the same trick in the first half when Luisao scored with the last touch of the half to wipe out Cristian Gonzalez's 20th minute penalty.

The second equaliser sparked a brawl as Brazil's players celebrated in front of the Argentina bench.

Argentina responded by squirting water at their opponents and referee Carlos Amarilla summoned riot-police to stop the trouble while Adriano was booked for removing his shirt.

Argentina seemed more unsettled by the incident and missed their first two penalties as Andres D'Alessandro fired his effort at goalkeeper Julio Cesar and Gabriel Heinze fired wildly over the bar.

Brazil converted all their penalties -- just as they did in their semi-final win over Uruguay on Wednesday.

"Nobody messes with Brazilian football, five-times champions of the world," Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said.

"They were winning the game with five minutes to go -- tapping the ball around and trying to get fouls and this irritated us."

"It's a game we will never forget -- nor will our opponents," he added. It was an extraordinary achievement by Brazil, who had rested their

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PHOTO: AFP

RULERS OF SOUTH AMERICA: The ecstatic Brazil squad celebrate with the Copa America trophy after their victory in the final against Argentina in Lima on July 25.

Bob finds rules flawed

AFP/REUTERS, Colombo



Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer questioned the bonus points system adopted for one-day cricket after his team's fate in the ongoing Asia Cup was left at the mercy of rivals Sri Lanka and India.

Pakistan, who thrashed India by 59 runs on Sunday, have no option but to sit back and watch Tuesday's super league game between Sri Lanka and India to know whether they will make it to the August 1 final.

Sri Lanka, who are assured of a place in the final, will take Pakistan

along if they defeat India.

A victory for India, however, will knock Pakistan out of the tournament even before their last league match against Bangladesh on Thursday.

Under tournament rules, a team secures five points for a win and one bonus point if it achieves victory with a run-rate 1.25 times higher than the rival's.

Team	M	W	L	B/P	T/P	NRR
S Lanka	2	2	0	2	12	+1.67
India	2	1	1	2	7	-0.04
Pakistan	2	1	1	0	5	-0.22
B'desh	2	0	2	0	0	-1.46

But a losing team gets a bonus point if it prevents the winner from achieving a run-rate 1.25 times higher than its own.

Pakistan, who scored 300-9 from 50 overs against India, needed to keep India down to 239 to take six full points from the match.

India were reduced to 235-8 with three deliveries remaining in the match, before the ninth-wicket pair of Anil Kumble and Laxmipathy Balaji scrambled six runs off the final three balls to gain their team a vital point.

It left India with seven points, two more than Pakistan's five. Sri Lanka are sitting pretty with 12 full points from two games.

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U-19s cruise to victory

SPORTS REPORTER

A massive 173-run opening stand between Nafees Ahmed and Shamsur Rahman steered Bangladesh Under-19 team to a nine-wicket victory against ECB XI in the three-day warm-up match at the Loughborough University ground in Leicester on Sunday.

It was a big boost for the youths ahead of the first Test against their English counterparts at Headingley from July 28.

Resuming the final day on 55-1, the local boys raced to 224-4 before they made a bold declaration, setting the visitors a victory target of 224 in 42 overs.

The Bangladesh youth took the challenge and won it with two balls to spare. In-form opener Nafees Ahmed led the way with a blazing 99.

Although his senior partner Nafees Iqbal, who struck 93 in the first innings, missed the second innings due to a slight thigh strain, makeshift opener Rahman more than justified his elevation. He was unbeaten on 88 at the kill.

Nafees Ahmed, who hammered 76 in the first innings, missed his first century by just one run when he was caught at deep mid-off in the 34th over.

Nazimuddin also clicked in the nick of time, scoring an unbeaten 29 after the departure of Nafees.

Earlier, Rubaiyet picked up two wickets while fast bowler Shahadat Hossain and left-arm spinner Nadif Chowdhury, who also bowls medium pacers, took one wicket each.

"Nadif is now bowling both, he opens the innings bowling left-arm

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'We went for bonus point'

REUTERS, Colombo

India had deliberately sought to gain just a bonus point rather than push for victory after their run chase fell away in their Asia Cup super league match against Pakistan on Sunday, captain Sourav Ganguly said.

India replied to Pakistan's 300 for nine with 241 for eight, securing a bonus point in the final over when they passed 240 and can still qualify for the final of the six-nation tournament if they beat Sri Lanka on Tuesday.

"When we started the innings we wanted to win because we have chased 300 many times in the past, but when we got to 160 for five we wanted to get to 240," said Ganguly, who decided to seek only the bonus point after Mohammad Kaif was run out for three in the 29th over.

"We still have a chance to qualify for the final and the only good thing is that we have been in this situation many times in the past and somehow managed to pull through."

Despite their chances of making the final still being alive, Ganguly said he was disappointed with his side's performances in the tournament.

"We have not played well in this

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Javed still not fit

AL MUSABBIR SADI from Colombo



Bangladesh won't risk including opening batsman Javed Omar for their final Asia Cup super league match against Pakistan despite the player making a considerable recovery.

The Tigers, who have already lost to India and hosts Sri Lanka, will meet the Pakistanis in a day-night clash in Colombo on July 29.

Javed, who scored consecutive fifties in the two first phase games, missed the other matches due to a hamstring injury. But the right-hander returned to join teammates in the nets at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground yesterday.

However, his role was only restricted to being a helping hand.

"Javed has been improving, he is running faster. But if he aggravates

his injury, he will be out for 6-7 weeks. We'd better not take that risk," said coach Dav Whatmore.

Bangladesh's next assignment is the ICC Champions Trophy in England in September followed by four back-to-back Test and one-day series at home starting in October.

With leading batsmen like captain Habibul Bashar, Rajin Saleh and Alok Kapali not only out of form but also lacking confidence, having Javed, known as a grafter, in the side would help settle the team's nerves.

Asked what was the problem with the top-order at the moment, Whatmore felt that it was rather of a lack of confidence than lack of technique.

"The middle-order was okay in the last match. But the lower-middle order looked a bit tentative to score runs against Sri Lanka," said a depressed Whatmore.

"The way they recovered to 190 after being reduced to 31-4, was very

good. It's something we have been hoping for a long time. But after that partnership between Ashraf and Manjarul, we could have got to 220. Losing early wickets has been our main problem."

Commenting on the justification to include an out of sorts Rajin, the Bangladesh coach believed that with a frontline batsman injured, the team could ill afford to drop anybody.

"We have four fast bowlers and some spinners who can bat as well. With some boys (U-19s) playing in England, I don't think it was practical to bring a replacement for Javed."

If batting was always considered Bangladesh's cause for concern, the tournament asked some questions of the bowling department too.

"The last match was not too clever for our bowlers. Still we have to improve in this area. We are not getting sides out and not taking

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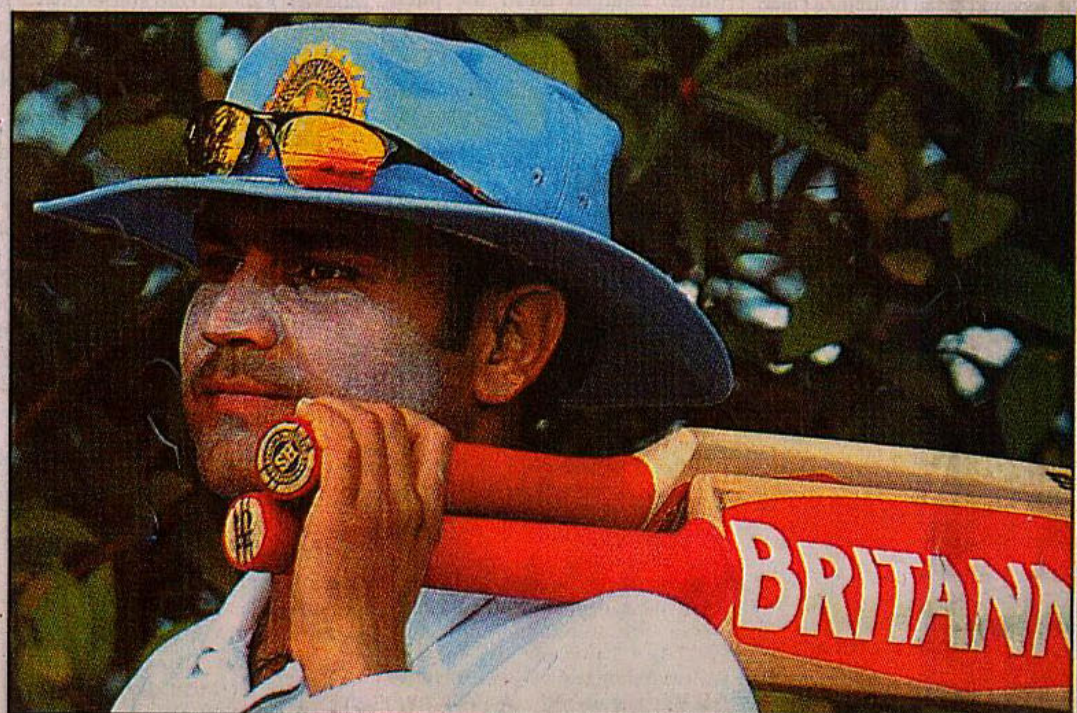


PHOTO: AFP

ONE BAT IS NOT GETTING ME RUNS! Dashing India opener Virender Sehwag heads for the training field at the Premadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday.

Do-or-die for India

CRICINFO, undated



Looking ahead to Tuesday's crucial Asia Cup match against Sri Lanka, India captain Sourav Ganguly

said that he preferred to think about the performances of the last two years, as opposed to the defeats against Sri Lanka and Pakistan earlier in the competition.

And India's hopes of making the final received a boost when Muttiah Muralitharan was ruled of the match after his grandfather passed away.

Skipper Marvan Atapattu hinted that Sri Lanka would ring the changes in a game that they don't need to win, with both Kumar

Sangakkara and Chaminda Vaas doubtful starters.

Vaas didn't train today, while Sangakkara only batted a while in the nets after complaining of feeling unwell.

Sri Lanka were very much aware, though, that victory tomorrow, and in the final on Sunday, would take them to second place in the ICC One-Day International Championship table.

They are also on a remarkable streak of ten consecutive wins, and Atapattu insisted that the Indians wouldn't be the recipients of any neighbourly hospitality.

Ganguly made no excuses for his team's colourless displays so far, saying, "We have to lift our game. It's a do-or-die situation for us. But

we've been in such spots before, and got the job done."

When asked if he had taken any positives from the loss to Pakistan, he said, "The only positive is that we have no second chance. In the past, when this team has had its back to the wall, we've come out and played well."

And what if it rained? "Then we go home," he said with a rueful grin. India's preparations have been hampered by the knee injury to VVS Laxman. With the five-bowler experiment not having worked against Pakistan, India will almost certainly have to bring Parthiv Patel back into the team as a specialist keeper, and drop a bowler.

Zaheer Khan has recovered from

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ESPN

Asia Cup Cricket 2004

India vs Sri Lanka

Preview

Live at 2:00 pm

India vs Sri Lanka

Live at 2:45 pm

Review

Live at 10:30 pm

STAR Sports

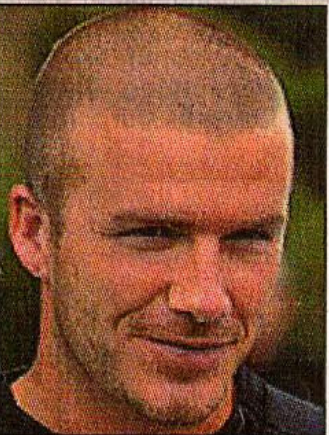
Asia Cup Cricket

India vs Sri Lanka

Live at 2:45 pm

Sportsline

Live at 11:30 pm



David Beckham

(Real Madrid's England super star)

"Vieira is one of the best midfielders that exist. I admire him. If he decides to change team then let him come to Madrid."

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StanChart school chess starts

SPORTS REPORTER

The sixth Standard Chartered Bank School Chess tournament got underway at the hall room of National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday with 72 players winning their first round boards.

But with the whole country experiencing the fury of floods, participation in the competition is very low.

"The number of participants is almost half from last year because of the flood situation. It would have been better if we were in a position to defer the competition. But it's not possible since participants from India have already reached the city," said Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) general secretary Syed Sujauddin at a press briefing before the start of the competition.

He, however, informed that the school chess tournament would be held at the divisional headquarters next winter so that the deprived kids



PHOTO: AFP

THAT'S THE GILES CENTURY: West Indies captain Brian Lara becomes the 100th wicket for England spinner Ashley Giles on the fifth morning of the first Test at Lord's yesterday.

England beat WI easily

Cricket

AFP, London

Ashley Giles sparked a collapse that saw England beat West Indies by 210 runs to win the first Test of a four-match series at Lord's.

The left-arm spinner, who won the man-of-the-match award, took five for 81 in the second innings and nine for 210 in the match as West Indies, chasing 478 for victory, were all out for 267.

Shivnarine Chandepaul, 128 not out in the first innings, was 97 not out.

England captain, Michael Vaughan, praised Giles' performance and the English batting during the first innings which set the

platform for the win.

"The way we batted in the first innings set up the victory," said Vaughan. "Ashley Giles proved what a fantastic bowler he is."

West Indian captain, Brian Lara, admitted that the match escaped them after England's first innings of 568.

"Chasing 391 runs on the first day, was asking for trouble," Lara said.

However Lara defended his decision to put England into bat.

"We noticed that teams which batted first had been put under a lot of pressure."

West Indies resumed after lunch on 195 for six, needing a further 283 to win with Chandepaul 39 not out and Omari Banks nought not out.

Banks, however, never got off the

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Awesome Armstrong

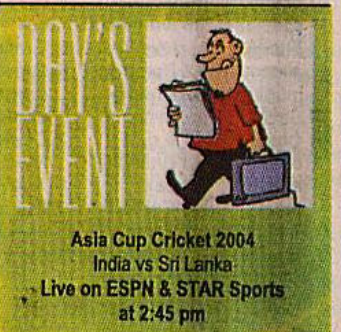
BBC ONLINE/AFP, undated

President Bush on led the praise for six-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong by calling his fellow Texan's efforts "awesome".

The President phoned Armstrong moments after he had wrapped up his sixth-straight overall win in Paris.

Fellow American Tyler Hamilton

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Asia Cup Cricket 2004
India vs Sri Lanka
Live on ESPN & STAR Sports
at 2:45 pm

Cricket Quiz 12

So far against which country Bangladesh has won in the Asia Cup, 2004?

A Pakistan

B Sri Lanka

C Hong Kong

D India

Answer by sending SMS* to the number 2003

e.g. If your answer is A then write Quiz12 A and send it to 2003

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

*Charge Applicable



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