



Did U Know?

Mark Spitz from USA won seven gold medals at the Munich Games in 1972, and won them all in world record time.



What to WATCH

BTV

Asia Cup Cricket 2004
Bangladesh vs Pakistan
Live at 2:45 pm

ESPN

Asia Cup Cricket 2004
Bangladesh vs Pakistan
Preview
Live at 2:00 pm

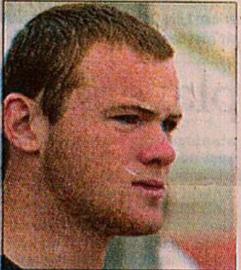
Bangladesh vs Pakistan
Live at 2:45 pm
Review
Live at 10:30 pm

STAR Sports

Asia Cup Cricket 2004
Bangladesh vs Pakistan
Live at 2:45 pm



TALK TURKEY



Wayne Rooney
(England soccer star)
"If I've got a role model, it's David Beckham. He's a lovely man and has really supported me."

Nine leaders in school chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Nine were sharing the lead in the sixth Standard Chartered Bank Chess Tournament with maximum three points each after the third round at the chess federation hall-room yesterday.

They are Shahin, Sagar, Eln, Sumon, Shahid, Samklap, Antarip, Hasib and Sayed.

Meanwhile, three players -- Saif, Tanveer and Indian Sayan -- earned full three points after the third round to jointly lead the Class KG to V group.

Kiruba Arul of Chennai and Shaathi Majumder of Kolkata were jointly leading the girls' section, also with maximum points.

Rifles, Army victorious

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Rifles and Bangladesh Army got off to winning start in the super league of the ninth Premier

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NITOL-TATA NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Muktisiddha v Kchar Narsingdi (4:00 pm)
Venue: Rangpur Stadium
Asia Cup Cricket 2004
Bangladesh vs Pakistan
Live on ESPN & STAR Sports
at 2:45 pm



WILL HIS BAT TALK AGAIN TODAY? A file shows Bangladesh batsman Mohammad Ashraful leaves the field after hitting 66 against Sri Lanka in Colombo on July 23. Bangladesh take on Pakistan in the last match of the super league of Asia Cup in the Sri Lankan capital today.

Enamul, Nazmul fightback

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

A 71-run unbeaten ninth wicket stand between Nazmul Hossain and captain Enamul Haq saved Bangladesh Under-19 team from embarrassment on the opening day of the first four-day Test against England Under-19 team at Headingley yesterday.

Nazmul was on 29 and Enamul 30 as the visitors limped to 214-8 at tea.

The Junior Tigers, playing their maiden Test, got off to a horrible start after being sent into bat by England U-19 captain Nathan Cook. They lost half of their wickets before lunch with 82 runs on the board. The procession continued in the second session and at one stage they had

slumped to 143-8.

Opener Nafees Iqbal returning for a duck and his namesake Nafees Ahmed scored a struggling 16. One-down Aftab Ahmed also departed cheaply.

Only Shamsur Rahman showed the fighting spirit with an 87-ball 68. The number four batsmen struck eleven boundaries in his 137-minute stay at the crease. But resilience at the other end was missing.

Right-arm pacer Cusden was the pick of the English bowlers with four for 64 while Harrison captured 2 for 32.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the first day of the first Test between Bangladesh Under-19 and England Under-19 at Leeds yesterday.

BANGLADESH U-19: First innings
Nafees c Stiff b Cusden 16
Iqbal c Lawson b Cusden 0

Aftab c Newb b Harrison 6

Shamsur c Hildreth b Harrison 68

Dhiman c Lawson b Wright 11

Nadif c Hildreth b Bopara 6

Rahim c Cook b Cusden 1

Ishraq c Newb b Cusden 8

Nazmul not out 29

Enamul not out 30

Extras: (b-10, lb-9, w-13, nb-7) 39

Total: (For 8 wks in 66.1 overs) 214

To bat: Shahadat Hossain.

Fall of wks: 1-1, 2-36, 3-44, 4-69, 5-82, 6-110, 7-143, 8-143.

Bowler O M R W

Stiff 0 0 22 0

Cusden 18 4 64 4

Harrison 14 4 32 2

Wright 9 3 22 1

Bopara 12 5 31 1

Lawson 6 1 23 0

Patel 3 2 1 0

ENGLAND U-19: Cook, Denly, Bopara, Hildreth, Patel, Wright, New, Harrison, Lawson, Stiff, Cusden.

Abahani too good for Panchagar BU

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur



Dhaka giants Abahani came from behind to rout Panchagar Brothers Union Club 4-1 in the opening match of the second leg of the Nitol-Tata National Football League at the Rangpur Stadium yesterday.

A brace from the Sky Blues' prolific marksman Saiful Islam Khokon, one from midfielder Abdullah Parvez and a suicidal goal completed the comfortable win on an eye-pleasing ground, a far cry from the mud-bowl of Mymensingh where the previous round of the competition was held.

But it was Panchagar Brothers who stunned the packed stands by taking the lead when Majibur Rahman unleashed a brilliant left-footed free kick from just outside the box leaving Abahani custodian Nizamuddin helpless in the 16th minute (1-0).

The euphoria of the minnows however, lasted only four minutes as an unmarked Khokon headed home off an Abdullah Parvez cross (1-1).

Abahani promptly took control of the proceedings from there on and playmaker Parvez put them

in front in the 38th minute with a solo effort.

Parvez zoomed into the Panchagarh team's danger zone from the left flank and cracked a left-footed grounder that found the net (2-1).

The match was all but over as a contest when Panchagarh Brothers' defender Jet put the ball into his own net while trying to clear a Colly Barnes attempt two minutes later (3-1).

Man of the match Khokon scored his second in the 56th minute with a low header on a Barnes' center (4-1).

Khokon could have inflicted further damage on Panchagarh Brothers but muffed three close chances. Having failed to make contact with the ball from hand-shaking distances twice, he was denied a sure goal when his header from second half substitute Rakib's cross came back to play after hitting the crosspiece.

With the outcome, Abahani have bagged full six points from two matches while Panchagarh Brothers were sitting on three points from same number of outings.

TEAMS

Abahani: Nizam, Hasan, Shawkat, Masud Rana, Siraji (Wali Faisal), Abdullah Parvez (Rakib), Joy, Nawsher.

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LIFE IN LANKA 2004

AL MUSABBIR SADI from Colombo

Bangladesh team's think-tank turned to Indian batsman Rahul Dravid for some batting tips yesterday.

The Tigers' perennial batting woes have come to fore once again in the tournament and coach Dav Whatmore and operational manager Golam Nawsher thought the man is known as 'The Wall' for his watertight technique can be of help under the circumstances.

So after Wednesday morning's training session, Dravid sat with the Bangladesh team's batsmen and all-rounders at the Taj Samudra Hotel.

"Don't think about your game too much. It will grow anxiety and hamper your game. Relax on the night before the game but if you get a big score, don't just get too relaxed because you may falter in the next game," Dravid was quoted by Nawsher.

The Bangladesh players also opened up to Dravid about the problems they were facing and the Indian vice-captain reportedly tried his best to give solutions.

Nawsher said that Dravid praised Mohammad Ashraful's 66 against India when the young prodigy salvaged the total from 4-31 to 190.

"He told Ashraful that the more he played innings like that, the more he will mature," said Nawsher.

The nine players who met Dravid were Tigers captain Habibul Bashar, Javed Omar, Ashraful, Rajin Saleh, Alok Kapali, Faisal Hossain, Khaled Mashud, Manzarul Islam and Masudhique Rahman.

MAHMUD IS OK

Khaled Mahmud was to back to normal on Wednesday morning after spending one night in hospital. The former Bangladesh captain was admitted to a local hospital for tests after the team's physiotherapist and trainer became worried about his low haemoglobin level.

After being released in the morning, the senior most member of the squad joined the practice session. After a light training, Mahmud assured reporters that he was fit to play.

"Actually, nothing serious has happened to me. It's an old problem but I did not have an answer to why it was happening. In Dhaka, I had undergone many tests but no one could make any specific diagnosis. When the doctors here said that they will be able to diagnose my disease, I agreed to go for the tests," Mahmud told this correspondent.

Mahmud added that the doctors had told him after doing a colonoscopy that the problem could be genetic and he has inherited it.

"But there is nothing to worry. If I follow the regulations, I will be able to continue playing," said the veteran.

U-17 booters win at last

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-17 football team ended their Thailand tour on a winning note when they came from behind to beat Assumption Tonduri College Under-17 side 2-1 in the last practice match in Bangkok yesterday.

The tourists had lost all their previous three matches.

The local boys led the first half 1-0 when Natawid scored in the 12th minute.

But Shahidur Rahman Shantoo's boys, who are preparing for the upcoming AFC Under-17 Championship to be held in Japan in September, fought back in the second half.

Rubel levelled in the 52nd minute while Zahid scored the winner in the 80th minute.

The Bangladesh team is expected to return home tomorrow.

Rajib in 2nd spot
International Master Enamul Hossain Rajib won his fifth round board to go into the second place in the Dortmund Open International Chess Tournament in Germany.

Rajib has four points from five

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Second Test from today

Cricket

AFP, London

England go into Thursday's second Test against West Indies at Edgbaston in the enviable position of knowing that they don't have to rely on just one or two players to force a victory.

Before the first Test, West Indies captain Brian Lara asked if England had a "plan B" in the event Stephen Harmison, currently rated the world's best fast bowler, failed to run through an opposition batting order.

But having seen his side thrashed by 210 runs at Lord's on Monday in a match where Harmison took just two wickets, Lara is well aware that England have plenty of other match-winners in their side.

So far this year Michael Vaughan's men have won seven out of eight Tests with the other drawn, including a 3-0 series win in the Caribbean.

Now, with England 1-0 ahead in this four-Test campaign, England coach Duncan Fletcher has been able to enjoy a run where new boys and old hands have all contributed.

In the series opener Robert Key, only playing because Mark Butcher was injured, scored 221 -- the Kent batsman's maiden Test hundred.

And instead of Harmison -- who has taken 44 wickets against West Indies and New Zealand this year -- it was Lara's former Warwickshire teammate Ashley Giles, with match figures of nine for 210, who started with the ball at Lord's in a haul that saw the left-arm spinner twice dismiss his old county colleague.

Add in a pair of Lord's hundreds, against New Zealand and West Indies from novice Andrew Strauss, Vaughan's centuries in both innings during the last Test and the increasing maturity of all-rounder Andrew Flintoff and it is clear that England have grounds for optimism.

"The big difference now is that for the first time since I've been involved in England everyone from one to seven could all score hundreds -- we've got a few guys now both in the batting and bowling fronts that can put in match-winning performances," Fletcher said Tuesday.

"You can say that if one fails the next person will do it," the former Zimbabwe captain added.

"And in this Test we didn't rely

solely on Harmison for wickets." Flintoff should be able to bowl even more at Edgbaston as his recovery from an ankle injury continues despite the doubts of many observers who are worried that risks are being taken with the all-rounder's long-term health.

Meanwhile West Indies have only two days to turn around the problems that plagued them at Lord's.

Their attack never looked like taking 20 wickets at reasonable cost while Lara's post-match assertion that fast bowler Corey Collymore, flying in from the Caribbean to replace the injured Ravi Rampaul, was likely to play at Edgbaston suggested something had gone awry with the squad's initial selection.

Two days is not a long time in which to improve the lack of professionalism which cost West Indies dear at Lord's.

Lara must hope the example of Shivnarine Chanderpaul, who batted for over 10 hours in making scores of 128 not out and 97 not out at Lord's is not lost on the rest of his side.

But no side containing Lara, who has the ability to turn a match all by himself, can ever be completely

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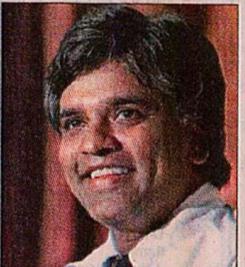
'Bangladesh had better players who were more committed'

AL MUSABBIR SADI from Colombo

Arjuna Ranatunga needs no introduction. The chubby left-hander was the hero of Sri Lanka's World Cup triumph in 1996. Known as a leader of men, Ranatunga is now involved in a bigger challenge in a country ravaged by infighting after his charisma, intelligence and skill turned the Lankans into a cricket superpower.

Now being a deputy minister, life has changed for the man who showed nerves of steel during his playing days. The 40-year-old however never forgets his first love, the game of cricket, and took special permission from President Chandrika Kumaratunga to sit as a commentator in the ongoing eighth Asia Cup.

Having chased the busy man's shadows for quite sometime, the Bangladeshi journalists finally faced the elegant left-handed batsman and a useful spinner in an interview



ARJUNA RANATUNGA

at the commentary box of the Ranasinghe Premadasa Stadium during the break of the India-Sri Lanka match on Tuesday.

Following are the excerpts:

The Daily Star (DS): After retirement, most cricketers remain involved with the game in different

capacities, but you are an exception. Arjuna Ranatunga (AR): As a part of the government, I have to do a lot of political work. But I took this opportunity and got excited from the President to come close to cricket.

DS: Are you enjoying your new assignment? Or is it hampering your family life?

AR: Yes, I am enjoying doing a lot of work. It's been lot busier. But unlike my cricketing days, I find more time for my family now.

DS: How do you compare the present team with the one you had led?

AR: I think we have a talented side, but unfortunately we have not done well in the past two years. But I hope with Marvan (Atappattu) at the helm, things will be alright. He is intelligent and the way he handled things in the last six months has been impressive. He knows how to attack in the middle, especially the bowling changes and field place-

ments.

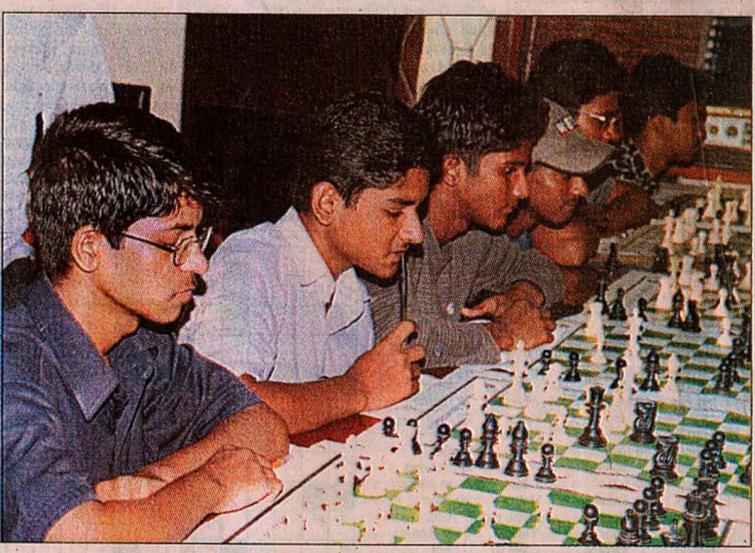
DS: How would you compare him with other captains?

AR: It is too early to say. I feel (Sourav) Ganguly and (Stephen) Fleming are the two best captains now. I will give them high marks because they understand the game superbly. Ganguly is aggressive, committed and demands respect from his own players, and from the opposition too. That, for me, is important.

DS: World Cup comes in three years. Who do you think has the brightest chance to win it?

AR: (smiling) Isn't it too early to comment on that? Well, I think the Indians have a very good side. If they can keep this side without many injuries, I'm sure they stand a very good chance. Australians are playing well but their players are getting older. Pakistan are upbringing a very young side.

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Scene from the third round of the sixth Standard Chartered School Chess Tournament at the chess federation hall-room yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Cricket Quiz 14

Which batsman has scored the highest number of runs so far in Asia Cup, 2004?

A Sachin Tendulkar B Yasir Hamid C Sanath Jaisurya D Rahul Dravid

Answer by sending SMS* to the number 2003
e.g. If your answer is A then write Quiz14 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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