



Did U Know?

For the first time in the history of boxing, camera equipment will be used for the verification of results at the Athens Olympics.



What to Watch

BTV

Nitol-Tata National Football League
Mohammedan, Ctg v K'char, Narsingdi
Live at 2.15 pm

Dhaka Abahani v Nijirpara KC, Chandpur
Live at 4 pm

ESPN

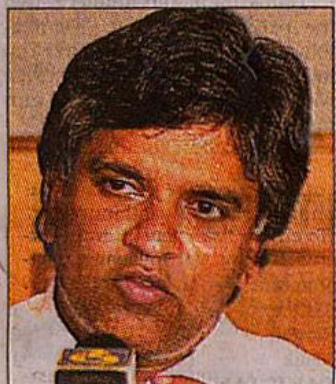
Asian Cup Football
Quarterfinal
China v Iraq
Live at 7 pm

STAR Sports

England v West Indies
2nd Test, Day 2
Live at 3.30 pm
Sportsline
Sports News
Live at 10.30 pm



Talk Turkey



Arjuna Ranatunga

(Former Sri Lankan cricket captain)
"They should have complained before the tournament. Personally, I don't believe in extra points. I feel if you are good enough, you will prove yourself by winning straight. If there were no bonus points, teams like Sri Lanka would have not dared to rest key players."

On Pakistan's complaint about bonus point system in Asia Cup.

Rifles-Army title fight

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Rifles and Bangladesh Army maintained their all-win record in the super four of the ninth Metropolis Premier Division Kabaddi League at the outer stadium court yesterday.

The two teams will meet each other today at 5pm in the last league match to decide the league title while Bangladesh Police will play Sonali Bank in the day's other match at 4pm.

Bangladesh Rifles defeated Bangladesh Police 30-18 while Bangladesh Army outplayed Sonali Bank 49-24.



Nitol-Tata National Football League
Mohammedan, Ctg v K'char, Narsingdi
Time: 2.15 pm
Dhaka Abahani v Nijirpara KC, Chandpur
Time: 4 pm
Venue: Rangpur Stadium

Poor the Tigers remain

AL MUSABBIR SADI from Colombo



The wickets at the Premadasa Stadium are best when the batsmen use it first and it was no surprise

when Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar appeared with a big smile on his face to take the right decision after winning the toss.

But there is something about the Bangladesh batting that never changes. No matter what the wicket, it's a story of a failed top-order followed by face-saving action by the lower half. And the same old story was retold when Bangladesh played Pakistan in the last super league match of the Eighth Asia Cup yesterday.

Every cricket sense was proved wrong when the Tigers perished for 166 in 45.2 overs, their lowest total in the meet.

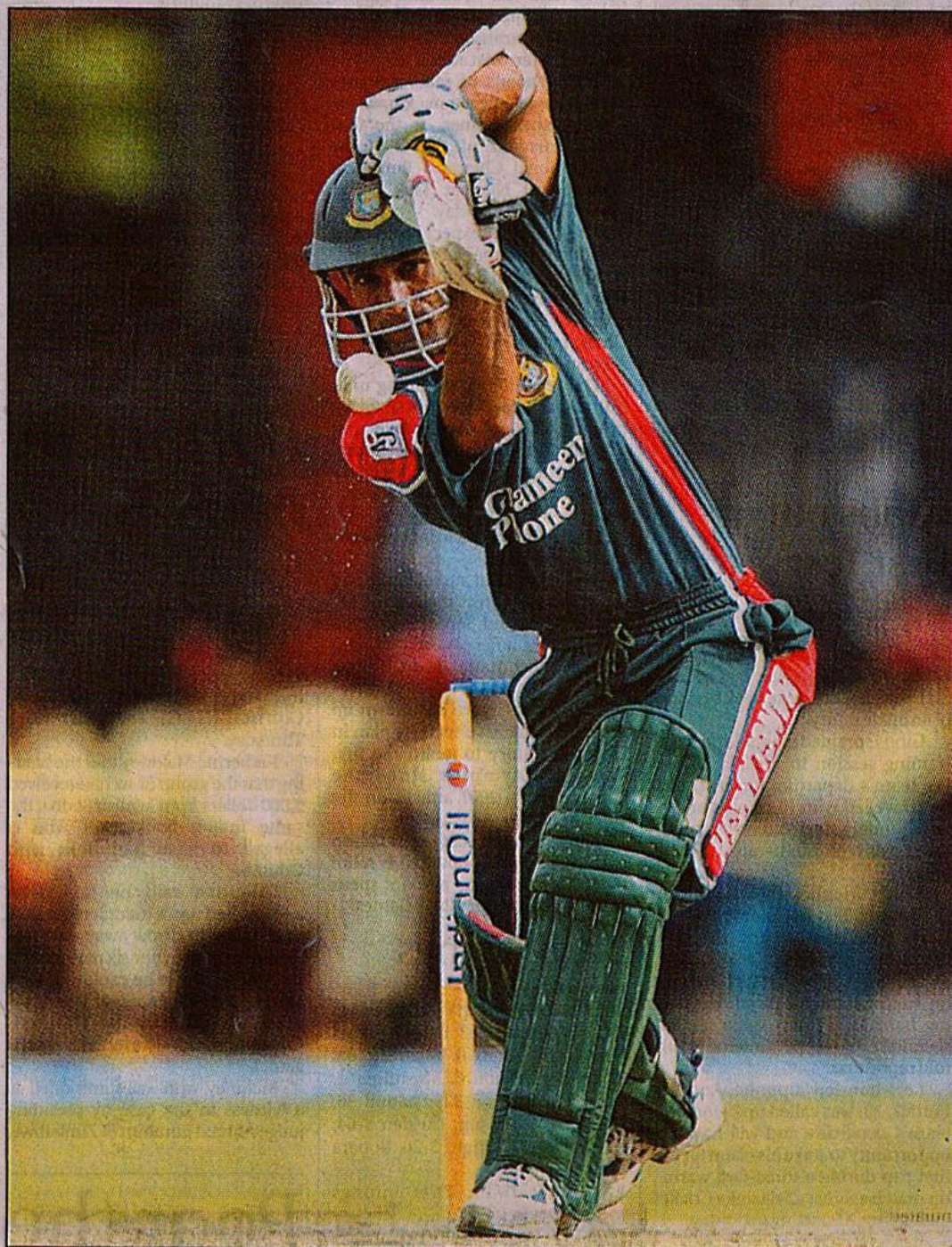
Khaled Mashud's career-best 54 was the only saving grace of yet another brittle batting that saw the first five wickets falling with just 42 runs on the board. His fourth one-day half-century also helped Bangladesh cross the 100-figure mark. The experienced wicketkeeper also hit highest five fours in his 92-ball vigil at the crease.

After losing opener Mohammad Ashraful for duck in the very first over, Bangladesh still managed to score 30-1 by the end of the third over thanks to an extraordinary over by Pakistani paceman Mohammad Sami. A wayward Sami entered into the record book for a wrong reason when he bowled a 17-ball over that turned out to be the longest in history of one-day cricket. The right-arm paceman conceded 22 runs in that prodigious third over of the innings.

But that had hardly helped Bangladesh's cause as Bashar and Alok Kapali returned to the dressing room after making brief appearances on the wicket. Bashar ended a disappointing five math in the tour after scoring just 10.

Kapali was more frustrating. He went forward to reach a pitched up delivery from Shabbir Ahmed but only managed to edge into the

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IF EVERYONE PLAYED LIKE THIS! Bangladesh's top-scorer Khaled Mashud driving against Pakistan at the Premadasa Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

First U 19 Test Nadif brings jr Tigers back

SPORTS REPORTER

Left-arm spinner-pacer Nadif Chowdhury grabbed a five-for, his second on the tour, to stop England Under 19s from taking control on day two of the first Test at Headingley yesterday.

The towering left-arm orthodox spinner, who has been bowling seamers also to excellent effect in England, returned figures of five for 89 from a 22-over spell as England crumbled from 95 for two overnight to 155 for seven. But number six Luke Wright smashed a stroke-filled 78 (113 balls; 15 fours) and tail-ender Harrison gave him admirable support as the two took the total to 269, a first-innings lead of 39.

But the day has belonged to Nadif. Having already dismissed the dangerous looking England captain Alastair Cook (45; 11x4) on the previous day, he initiated a sensational middle order collapse that saw the home side losing five wickets for 10 runs after being comfortably placed on 145 for two.

Nadif had James Hildreth (27) taken by wicketkeeper Dhiman Ghosh and two runs later Patel followed him to the dressing room for a duck. Ravinder Bopara, who had battled his way to 59, became Ghosh's fourth catch and England were 148 for five. TJ New also went to Nadif on the same score.

England were staring at disaster when Bangladesh skipper Enamul Haque (Jr) dismissed Lawson as the hosts slumped to 155 for seven. But the eighth wicket pair added a price-less 114 which could yet prove crucial with two days to go. Harrison, Wright and last man Stiff all departed without any addition to the total on 269.

Bangladesh in their second essay were off to a rollicking start despite losing opener Shahriar Nafees for three. But Nafis Iqbal bludgeoned his way to 44 off 47 balls before getting out just after tea. Bangladesh were 75 for two when this report was being filed. They lead by 36.

SCORECARD

Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the four-day Test between Bangladesh Under-19 and England Under-19 at Headingley yesterday.

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Trescothick turns up heat Saiful saves Mukti

Cricket

AFP, Birmingham

Marcus Trescothick's first Test hundred against the West Indies took England to 204 for three after the tourists fought back at Edgbaston here Thursday.

At tea, on the first day of the second Test, Somerset opener Trescothick was 103 not out. His fellow left-hander Graham Thorpe was unbeaten on 26.

England resumed after lunch well-placed at 105 for one with Trescothick on 61.

Robert Key, whose 221 in Eng-

land's 210-run series-opening win at Lord's completed Monday was his maiden Test hundred, was 14 not out.

However, West Indies checked England's progress with two wickets.

Left-arm quick Pedro Collins angled a ball across right-hander Key, on 29, that the Kent batsman crookedly steered to West Indies captain Brian Lara at first slip.

But despite that success Collins continued to be expensive, his 14 overs costing 71 runs.

England captain Michael Vaughan had made hundreds in both innings at Lord's and looked in excellent touch as he stroked a

couple of boundaries.

But Vaughan, who had won the toss and elected to bat, fell for 12 when a checked drive off medium-pace Dwayne Bravo's slower ball was caught by the bowler at the third attempt to leave England 150 for three.

Trescothick though continued to hit through the line and a late cut boundary against off-spinner Omari Banks took the 28-year-old to his seventh hundred in his 52nd Test having faced 162 balls with 19 fours.

England had earlier made a brisk start against a West Indies pace attack showing two changes from Lord's.

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OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur



A double strike by Saiful Islam gave holders Mukti Joddha Sangsad Krira Chakra a hard fought 2-1 victory over Narsingdi Karachar Krira Chakra in

their first second leg match of the fourth Nitol-Tata National Football League at the local stadium here yesterday.

Saiful gave the Dhaka giants a fourth minute lead and then slammed home the match-winner

in the 59th minute after Murshed equalised for Karachar in the 37th minute.

But apart from the two strikes by their energetic striker from Tangail the Reds produced yet another unimpressive show after a struggling 1-0 win against Chittagong Mohammedan Sporting Club in Mymensingh during the first leg.

Saiful treated the sparse crowd with a beauty of a right-footer from the edge of the box that crashed into the net giving no chance to Karachar custodian Anwarul.

The Rangpur Stadium, which attracted a 30,000 capacity crowd in the opening match between

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LIFE IN LANKA 2004

AL MUSABBIR SADI from Colombo

Bowling six balls should be one of the easiest tasks in cricket. Telling that to Pakistani fast bowler Mohammad Sami after he set a new world record for all the wrong reasons yesterday.

Bowling just his second over, Sami needed 17 balls to finish it. He gave away seven wides and four no-balls to help Bangladesh collect 22 runs in what eventually turned into the longest in one-day history.

Amazingly, the same new-ball bowler removed Bangladesh opener Mohammad Ashraful for a five-ball duck.

Sami's forgettable over surpassed Bangladesh pacer Hasibul Hossain who bowled a 13-ball over against England in Nairobi at the ICC Knockout World Cup in 2000.

DEAD MATCH

Even before his boys played Pakistan at the Premadasa Stadium, coach Dav Whatmore stated it was a 'dead match'.

And true to his words the stands were virtually empty for the first in the competition. Such was the apathy that the press box was rather quieter than usual.

However, it was good to see three Bangladeshi flags including a giant one, and a few Bangladeshi supporters backing the beleaguered Tigers.

It appeared that everybody was more interested to catch a glimpse of the Indians at the nets outside the stadium ahead of Sunday's final meeting with hosts Sri Lanka.

RAHUL IN VAIN

Good advice is always hard to find. But when it is made available try to

use it. Unfortunately when the Bangladesh batsmen sought 'The Wall' Rahul Dravid for some batting tips on Wednesday, somebody cracked a joke: 'Why go to a man who has just scored one run in his previous match?'

There is no doubt that Indian vice-captain is one of the most technically solid players in the world. However Dravid's words could not inspire the Tigers who got off to their worst start in the tournament being reduced to 42-5 against Pakistan!

BIG DEAL!

Sri Lanka Cricket is on the verge of signing a lucrative television and broadcasting deal for the next four years with ARY TV worth 48 million dollars, reported local media.

ARY, which broadcasts its programmes from Dubai, is originally a London-based company and its offer is much higher than that of Taj Television's (48 million dollars).

If ARY can sign the contract, it will be able to cover 27 Tests and 42 one-day internationals to be played in Sri Lanka from 2005-08.

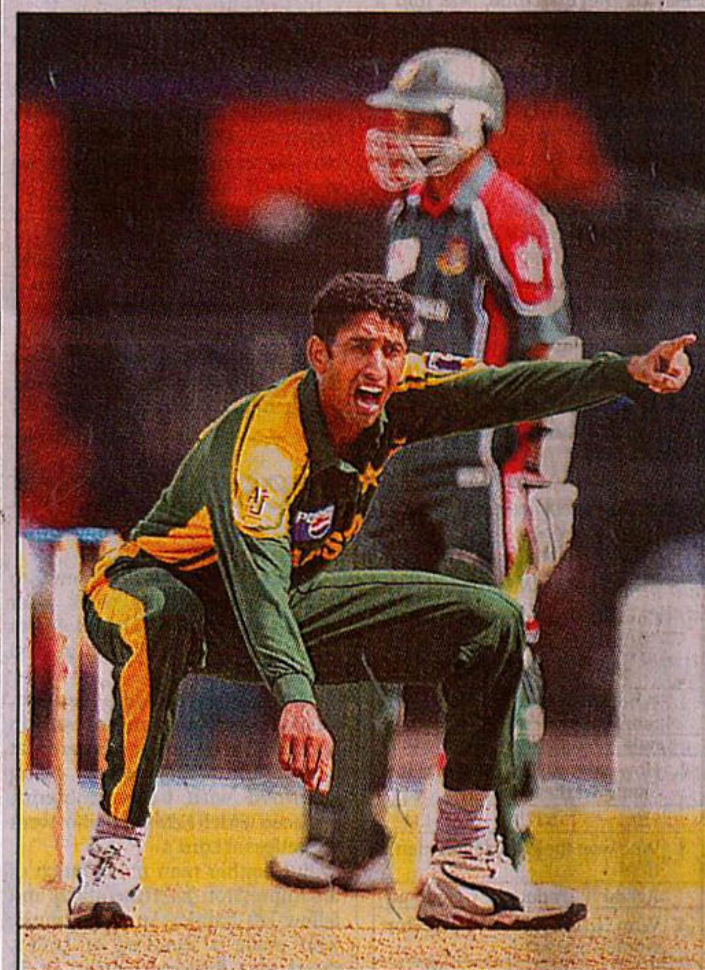
The four-year itinerary includes Bangladesh's tour of Sri Lanka in February-March, 2006 for three Tests and three ODIs.

MURALI'S BACK

Sri Lankan spin wizard Muttiah Muralitharan has rejoined his teammates after attending his grandfather's funeral in Kandy.

Muralitharan, was present at the morning practice session but did not train. He missed their last game against India.

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GIVE IT NOW! Pakistan paceman Shabbir Ahmed appeals for an lbw against Bangladesh skipper Habibul Bashar at the Premadasa Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

BKSP storm into hockey super league

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) romped into the super league of the ANAS 25th National Hockey Championship eliminating Rajshahi 3-0 at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

The sports institute boys sealed their place in the six-team super league as Group B champions after winning all three games.

The winners led the first half 1-0 when Jimi scored his first goal in the 23rd minute. He doubled the margin after the breather in the 39th minute. Masum added the other goal in the 58th minute.

In the other group match between Bangladesh Police and Narayanganj ended a 1-1 draw at the same venue. Rafiq struck in the very first minute to put Police ahead while Munnas equalised in the 56th minute.



A Karachar booter (C) tries to keep possession of the ball under pressure from Mukti Joddha's Ghanaian recruit Ghanasha during their NFL match in Rangpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

School chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Minhazuddin Ahmed, Imran Ali, Sumon Basu and Sheikh Shahid Ahmed were sharing the lead in the Sixth Standard Chartered Bank School Chess Tournament with four points each after the fourth round at the federation hall room yesterday.

Kiruba Arul of Chennai took a solo lead in the girls' section securing maximum four points while local Mimi Arjunan followed her with 2.5 points.

In the Class KG to V group, Abdullah Al Saif secured four points after the fourth round to lead the table.

Div I h'ball

UNB, Dhaka

Orient Sporting Club and Suriyadoy KC made good start in the super league of the Tibet First Division Handball that began at the outer stadium ground yesterday.

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Umps to be wired

Cricket

REUTERS, London

Umpires in September's ICC Champions Trophy will wear earpieces wired to stump microphones so they can better hear edges.

In another innovation cricket's governing body also said on Thursday that third umpires will be responsible for calling no balls in the tournament rather than the standing umpires.

"The effect of this is that the standing umpire will not need to adjust his line of sight from the bowler in delivery stride to the batsman receiving the ball," ICC general manager of cricket David Richardson said in a statement.

"Instead, he can concentrate fully on the business end, which could provide crucial extra fractions

of a second to judge an appeal." Matches played in the triangular tournament in the Netherlands between India, Pakistan and Australia in August will be used to test the new no ball procedure.

Umpires standing in seven of the 15 ICC Champions Trophy matches will wear the earpieces.

The idea follows trials in South Africa earlier this year where initial feedback suggested the devices were beneficial to umpires.

ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed believes the time has come to try new technology.

"I do not believe the game or its followers want to see umpires reduced to the role of coat racks but we all have a vested interest in trying to improve the accuracy and consistency of decision making," he said.

The ICC also confirmed it has already started its programme of

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Cricket Quiz 15

The next ICC Champions Trophy will be held in which country?

A Australia B South Africa C England D West Indies

Answer by sending SMS* to the number 2003
e.g. If your answer is (A) then write Quiz15 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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