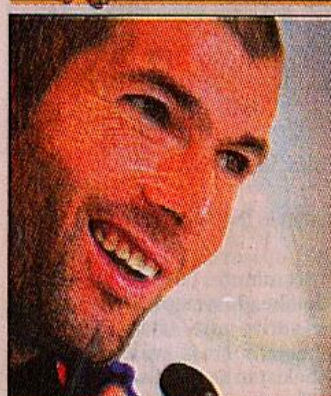




Did U Know?

The first Games to be televised were the 1936 Berlin Olympics.



Zinedine Zidane

(French soccer captain)
"I don't want to announce my decision right now. But I will need to talk about it soon."
On his future with the France national team.



What to Watch

BTV
Nitol-Tata National Football League
Mohammedan Ctg vs K'char Narsingdi
Live at 2:15 pm

BU Dhaka vs Ummochan Bagerhat
Live at 4:30 pm

ESPN
Asian Cup Soccer
Quarterfinal
Japan vs Jordan
Live at 4:00 pm

STAR Sports
England vs West Indies
Second Test, Day Three
Live at 3:30 pm

Toronto Tennis Master Series
Semifinal
Live at 11:00 pm

StanChart school chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Shahid Ahmed of Kolkata Modern School took solo lead in the sixth Standard Chartered Bank School Chess tournament after the end of the fifth round at the federation hall-room yesterday.

Shahid won his fifth round board against Elin to secure maximum full five points.
Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar of Shah Ali School and Sumon Basu of Kolkata Madiyagram School followed the leader with 4.5 points each.

Kiruba Arul of Chennai maintained her solo lead in the girls' section with five points while Arifa Khatun Moni of Shahid Anwar School were one point short to follow the leader.

In the KG to V Group, Abdullah Al Saif of Rose Valley School maintained his solo lead with all-win record.



Nitol-Tata National Football League
Mohammedan Ctg vs K'char Narsingdi
(2:15 pm)

BU Dhaka vs Ummochan Bagerhat
(4:15 pm)

Venue: Rangpur Stadium

'We are underachievers' Tigers return home today

AL MUSABBIR SADI from Colombo

In the aftermath of a less than impressive Asia Cup, Bangladesh have plenty to think about as they prepare for next month's ICC Champions Trophy in England.

After enjoying a week-off the cricketers, who return home today, will be back in training. But the lesson learnt from the regional tournament is that they will need another specialist batsman -- not just a multi-skill player.

Playing with only five batsmen proved costly, especially after Javed Omar was ruled out for the latter stages of the six-nation meet.

Against lightweights Hong Kong, Bangladesh barely managed to reach 221 and from there on their fragile batting never crossed even the 200-run barrier.

Another concern for coach Dav Whatmore is the hardly penetrative

bowling attack not to mention whom to sacrifice among the three left-arm spinners for the England assignment.

Abdur Razzak was one of the finds in Colombo and he bowled very tight and consistently to cement his place ahead of veteran Mohammad Rafique, who by his high standards failed to perform even with the bat.

The other tweaker Manjarul faired well in a century-partnership against Sri Lanka, so the selectors must decide whether to consider him as a batsman or a bowler.

With pace spearhead Mashrafe Bin Mortaza yet to recover from injury, the Tigers will have to stick to the same set of pacers in traditionally English seaming conditions.

Giving his assessment, Whatmore was the first to admit his disappointment at his players' overall performance.

"Everybody expected Bangladesh to qualify for the second phase but not be a threat to the other

teams. But I think we could have lost them in a way which is lot more closer," he revealed.

The Bangladesh coach is staying in Colombo and is expected to fly to Dhaka in the first week of August.

"There has to be some real hard discussion (for selection). We will have to review the whole exercise. We came here two weeks earlier, which was a good thing but fair to say, we are probably underachievers," Whatmore told reporters.

"Unlike Zimbabwe and the West Indies, the teams playing here in familiar conditions were much stronger. They knew pretty well how to bowl and bat on these surfaces. It made things harder for us."

"Playing against immediate neighbours certainly had an effect on us as the tournament went on."

"Some people may say we have gone backward a bit in the last month. We fought against some good sides. Bad cricket seemed to follow in the ensuing games after the

SEE PAGE 14 COL 8

Bonus gets on Woolmer's nerves

AL MUSABBIR SADI from Colombo

It was Bob Woolmer's first assignment as Pakistan coach and the Englishman was depressed the way his side, despite playing well, missed a well-deserved berth in the final of the Asia Cup.

"I'm very pleased with their performance. In fact we won four of the five games, showing a lot of consistency apart from one game we lost," Woolmer said after his side beat Bangladesh by six wickets in the last super match on Thursday.

"There is room for improvement in batting and bowling, and certainly in the fielding. But I'm very disappointed about the no-balls and the wides the bowlers bowled. Its something we will have to work on," said the master coach whose boys conceded 37 extras against the Tigers.

"Overall, if I was a school teacher, I would give them 70 per cent marks."

"It was really a fantastic learning class for myself. I got to know the players well and it was a very useful exercise."

Disappointed not to get to the final, the new Pakistan coach who replaced Javed Miandad said that it was because they lost the crucial game against Sri Lanka.

Pakistan also rued missing a bonus point against India that virtually ended their interest in the tournament. They also failed to collect a bonus against Bangladesh and Woolmer was again vocal.

"The bonus system, it definitely needs reviewing. Getting a bonus point for coming second is not correct. If you lose a game, I don't see how you deserve to get a bonus point. I am still fighting with it."

Tibet handball

SPORTS REPORTER

Surjadyo KC and Orient SC won their respective matches in the Tibet First Division Handball League at the Outer Stadium handball ground yesterday.

With the outcomes both teams secured six points each from two matches and they will meet today in the title-deciding match at the same venue.

In the day's matches, Surjadyo defeated Satirtha Club 17-3 and Orient beat Mansoor Sporting Club 14-10.



Goalmouth action from yesterday's National Football League encounter between Dhaka Abahani and Nazirpara KC at the Rangpur Stadium.

Rakib saves Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani had seasoned forward Rakib to thank for a solitary goal victory against Chandpur's Najir-para Kira Chakra in their third match of the Nitol-Tata National Football League at the Rangpur Stadium yesterday.

With their third consecutive win in the competition, the Dhaka giants have all but confirmed their place in the six-team second phase of the final round to be held in Dhaka.

Abahani will play their next match in Khulna against Chittagong Mohammedan and the last group A fixture against holders Muktiyoddha Kira Chakra at Chittagong.

The Sky Blues had struggled to find the mark in the first half against the nondescript side from Chandpur. But Rakib, who had missed most

of the last season due to injury, brought them relief three minutes into the second session when he unleashed a diagonal right-footer on the volley from an Abdullah Parvez cross leaving opposing custodian Kamal Hossain rooted to the ground.

Abahani had numerous opportunities to score. But an inspired Kamal fisted away a Siraj right-footer from outside the box in the 21st minute and defender Al-Amin saved a Colly Barnes shot from the goal-line a minute later. Then Colly Barnes and Joy's headers hit the crosspiece from Masud Rana corners.

Najirpara defender Nahid cleared a Barnes attempt going towards the goal when the Nigerian striker placed the ball over the advancing goalkeeper.

Najirpara had only one shot in entire match on goal. Yellow cards: Colly Barnes (Abahani), Kamal, Al-Amin, And Mehedi (Najirpara).

TEAMS

ABAHANI: Nizam, Siraji, Hasan, Shawkat, Masud Rana, Joy, Ujjal, Parvez, Rakib, Colly Barnes and Khokon.
NAJIRPARA KC: Kamal, Nahid, Shahidul, Delwar Hossen, Mizanur Rahman, Jashim Uddin, Kamruzzaman, Sohail Rana, Sayed Hossain, Mehedi (Mamun) and Mohsin.
Referee: Tayeb Hasan.

Hosts reach semis

AFP, Beijing

China powered into the semi-finals of the Asian Cup here Friday with a 3-0 victory over ten-man Iraq.

The Chinese advanced to a showdown against either South Korea or

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

Nat'l hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Navy and Jessore outclassed their respective opponents when the Group C encounters of the ANAS National Hockey Championship began at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Navy brushed aside Magura 9-0 after dominating the first half 3-0. MM Hossain made a hat-trick in the one-sided affair.

Jessore outplayed Jhenidah 7-0 after leading the first half 2-0.

Inter-varsity football

SPORTS REPORTER

The first ever inter private university football tournament will begin from September 20.

The interested universities are requested to enter their names by September 1 with Tk. 3,000 fee.

Under 19s go down

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The batting blues often experienced by their senior brothers, appear to have infected the Bangladesh Under 19s too as they crashed to a five wicket defeat at the hands of England with a day and a half of the first Test remaining in Headingley yesterday.

Resuming the Third Day on 126 for four in their second innings, the tourists could add just 30 to the total, which gave them a paltry lead of 117. Despite a late flurry of wickets, it was never going to be challenging enough target and England were home in 32.3 overs. The match ended an hour after lunch.

Once again it was a top-order failure that doomed the Bangladeshi youths in their first ever Test. Having

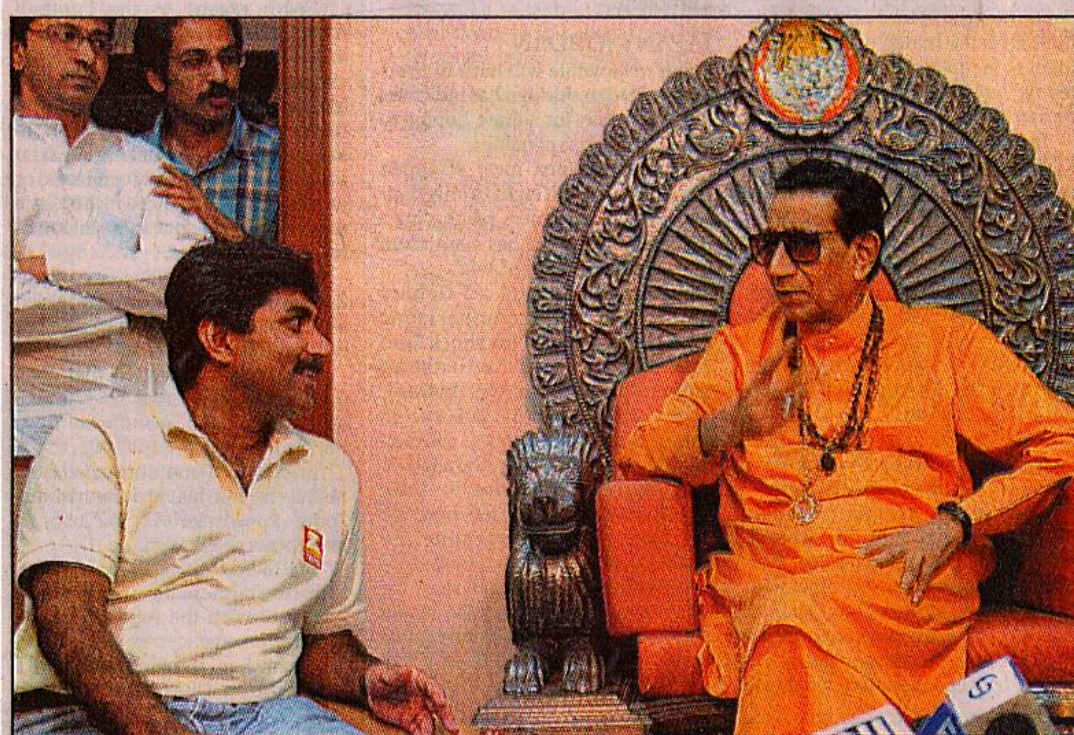
raced to 52 for one at almost five an over at tea on day two, the junior Tigers lost their way and saw three crucial wickets go down before close. Only a typically dashing 45 not out from diminutive Chittagonian Afab Ahmed had held the innings together as Shahriar Nafees (3), Nafis Iqbal (44), Shamsur Rahman (23) and Mushfiqur Rahim (1) departed around him.

Afab went on to complete his half century on the third day but after reaching 54 (6x3, 4x6) he fell to Adam Harrison to leave Bangladesh on 141 for six. A while earlier, his overnight partner Nadir Chowdhury (2) had become one of the five lbw victims in the innings.

Dhiman Ghosh (15) tried to offer some resistance but the tail was promptly polished off by part-timers Ravinder Bopara and Samit Patel who equally shared six wickets.

Although tearaway Shahadat

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4



MENDING FENCES? Chief of India's Shiv Sena Party Bal Thackeray (R) speaks to former Pakistan cricket captain Javed Miandad during a meeting in Bombay yesterday.

Hoggard damages WI

Cricket

AFP, Birmingham

Matthew Hoggard struck twice before tea to leave West Indies reeling on the second day of the second Test against England at Edgbaston here Friday.

At tea West Indies were 24 for two in reply to England's 566 for nine declared, a deficit of 542 needing a further 343 to avoid the follow-on target of 367.

They were rocked four balls into their innings when Devon Smith (four), trying to turn a Hoggard ball legside, was superbly caught above his head by Ashley Giles in the gully off a leading edge.

And five for one became 12 for two when Yorkshire quick Hoggard bowled opener Chris Gayle (seven) behind his legs.

Ramnaresh Sarwan was 10 not out and West Indies captain Brian Lara three not out.

Earlier Andrew Flintoff's Test-best 167 guided England to their

imposing total as they looked to build on their 1-0 lead after winning the first Test by 210 runs at Lord's on Monday.

Together with wicketkeeper Geraint Jones (74), Flintoff shared a blistering sixth-wicket stand of 170 in 190 balls.

Three West Indies bowlers conceded more than 100 runs with 20-year-old medium-pace Dwayne Bravo's Test best four for 76, in only his second Test, the standout display.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

Praiseful Waqar, Kambli

AL MUSABBIR SADI from Colombo

The Asia Cup has brought a host of former cricket stars to Colombo to work for various TV channels. And certainly they would make one of the greatest teams. Currently Sunil Gavaskar, Arjuna Ranatunga, Wasim Akram, Dean Jones, Sanjay Manjrekar, Ravi Shastri, Michael Slater, Maninder Singh are entertaining millions of viewers with their insight and expert analysis.

Now add to that impressive list Waqar Younis and Vinod Kambli. Former Pakistan captain Waqar was known for his devastating reverse-swing while Kambli after a dream introduction to the game through a world record partnership with school friend Sachin Tendulkar, however fell away just as quickly.

Both have retired and have signed up for ESPN STAR Sports. During the Thursday's final super league match involving Bangladesh and Pakistan match, they shared their gave views on the Tigers' performance in the tournament.

Waqar, who is enjoying his new career, said that he was getting a lot of experience.

"I'm learning, I'm feeling like a Bangladeshi cricketer in the big arena," he exclaimed.

When asked to comment on Bangladesh's performance, Waqar said: "It is too early to say, they are learning everyday and it's going take some time to come to a stage where they start winning. The other teams are like giants. It's not easy to go out there and play every day. I think the way they are playing, warming up,

they still want to do well even if they are losing. Once in a blue moon if they upset any big team, it will be a big boost."

"They have some good players like Mohammad Ashraful, Javed Omar, captain Habibul Bashar and Khaled Mashud. Tapash Baisya is a hard working bowler who bangs the ball in but probably, you need a couple youngsters to back them."

"Last time I played in Bangladesh, we almost lost two games. They start well, do well in the middle but still can't finish the game."

He also said that it was sheer bad luck that Pakistan were not in the final.

"Personally, I think Sri Lanka are favourites for tomorrow's final. They are playing very well but India are also a dangerous side. On a given day, they can produce something which is extraordinary."

Like Waqar, Kambli believed that Bangladesh have a talented side.

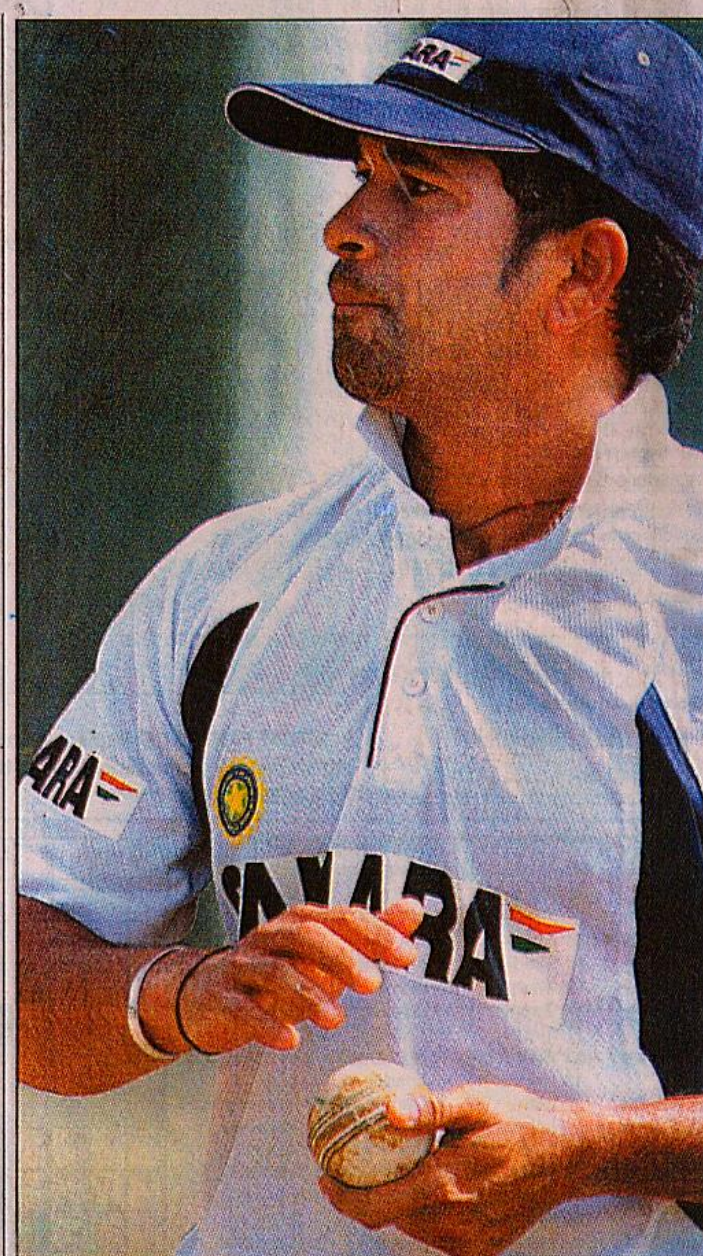
"They are improving. But the batsmen should try to improve their average, which is low. Just 18-20 is not good, they should try to take it to 30-35. Bashar will have to lead from the front," said the southpaw.

Praising Mashud's knock against Pakistan, Kambli thought that most batsmen were still not converting their good starts.

"Ashraful looked good but the problem is that all your batsmen are getting out in the 60s. I want to see more Bangladesh players scoring 100s. I think the coach and captain should help players like Ashraful. One big innings can inspire the others."

"You are also one fast bowler short. There are two but you need

SEE PAGE 14 COL 3



HIS BOWLING IS JUST AS IMPORTANT: India's superstar batsman Sachin Tendulkar prepares to bowl at the nets during a training session in Colombo yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Cricket Quiz 16

Which bowler is the highest wicket taker so far in the Asia Cup, 2004?

A Irfan Pathan

B Sachin Tendulkar

C Shoaib Akhter

D DNT Zoysa

Answer by sending SMS* to the number 2003

e.g. If your answer is (A) then write Quiz16 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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