



Rhode Island College, the only school in the United States to offer scholarships to strong chess players.



Javed Miandad
(Former Pakistan cricket coach)
"There is no point in crying hoarse over the bonus-point system."



BTV
Asia Cup Cricket 2004
India vs Sri Lanka (Final)
Live at 2:45 pm

ESPN
Asia Cup Cricket 2004
India vs Sri Lanka (Final)
Preview
Live at 1:30 pm

Asia Cup Cricket 2004
India vs Sri Lanka (Final)
Live at 2:45 pm

Review
Live at 10:30 pm

STAR Sports
Asia Cup Cricket 2004
India vs Sri Lanka (Final)
Live at 2:45 pm

Lara needs 20 more runs

AFP, Birmingham

West Indies captain Brian Lara was left just 20 runs short of become only the fourth batsman in history to score 10,000 Test runs when he was out for 95 in the second Test against England at Edgbaston here Saturday.

The 35-year-old left-hander started the third day on 74 needing 43 more runs for a score of 115 to join India great Sunil Gavaskar and Australia duo Allan Border and Steve Waugh as the only other batsmen to reach the landmark.

But five runs short of what would have been his 27th Test century Lara was caught in the gully by Graham Thorpe off all-rounder Andrew Flintoff.

But if Lara, on the ground where 10 years ago he scored a world record first-class score of 501 not out for Warwickshire against Durham, scores the twenty he needs in the second innings he will still be the fastest man to 10,000 Test runs having taken 14 matches and 19 innings fewer than Gavaskar.

DAY'S
EVENT

Nitol-Tata National Football League
BU Panchagarh vs Nazirpara KC
(4:00 pm)

Venue: Rangpur Stadium
Asia Cup Cricket 2004
India vs Sri Lanka (Final)
Live on ESPN & STAR Sports
at 2:45 pm

Toothless Tigers home

SPORTS REPORTER



A bruised and battered Bangladesh cricket team returned home yesterday but not before Habibul

Bashar's men endured a bumpy ride on a Thai Airways flight from Bangkok.

The national cricketers had a goose bump when the Thai aircraft reportedly had to off-load its fuel in the sky over Myanmar and took a U-turn to the Thai capital. The same plane resumed its flight to Dhaka after repairs and finally touched down at Zia International Airport at around 4.30pm, four hours behind schedule.

And when the so-called under-achievers of coach Dav Whatmore disembarked they were in no mood to talk to waiting reporters.

Skipper Bashar however spoke briefly as Whatmore stayed back in Colombo to spend time with his

family.

"We did not play well in the tournament and I think our individual performance was far below expectation," said Bashar, who led the team to a solitary win against minnows Hong Kong in the Eighth Asia Cup.

But Bangladesh fared badly against the top three giants of the region -- India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. They lost all their four games (twice against Pakistan) without putting up a decent fight.

"They are superpowers and definitely to win against any of them would require a superhuman effort. But we failed to even push them on any given day," he said adding that the batting of his side was the biggest letdown of the whole competition.

Bangladesh failed to score even 200 runs in any of the four games.

Only three batsmen Javed Omar, Mohammad Ashraful and wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud man-

aged to make half-centuries in the meet.

Regarded as the top batsman of the country, Bashar also failed to lead by example.

"I also let the team down though I had to open the innings for a few matches after Javed got injured. But I'm not offering it as an excuse," he said.

With the Asia Cup over, the Tigers will now turn their attention to next month's ICC Champions Trophy in England. Before that the think-tank needs to have a long and hard look into the composition of the team. Because the time for repeatedly referring to Bangladesh's performances in one-day cricket as some sort of learning curve is well and truly over.

The cricket world is sick and tired of seeing a team with a Test tag losing in such a way that makes a mockery of any contest.

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DEJECTED FACES: Bangladesh team's tour operations manager Golam Nowsher (R) sitting down while cricketers (L-R) Abdur Razzak, Alok Kapali, Rajin Saleh, Manjarul Islam and Tapash Baisya wait inside the VIP Lounge of Zia International Airport upon their return from the Asia Cup yesterday.



PHOTOS: STAR

Brothers flood Unmochan

OUR CORRESPONDENT from Rangpur



Brothers Union bludgeoned their way to a 5-1 victory against Unmochan Club of Bagerhat in one of the two Fourth Nitol-Tata National Football League matches here at the local stadium

yesterday.

The Dhaka giants ran all over the lightweights of Bagerhat after the first game between Chittagong Mohammedan Sporting Club and Kararchar Krira Chakra of Narsingdi ended in a goalless draw.

Midfielder Monwar scored twice in the space of five minutes to give the Orangemen a 2-0 lead the breather.

Striker Abul, mercurial midfielder Arman and Tapu put their names in the scoresheet in the second half to confirm Brothers' second straight win in the 12-team finals.

The Premier League champions were really outstanding on the field. Not only did they play like true champions but also discovered a new midfielder in country's number one central defender

TEAMS

BROTHERS UNION: Ali, Sujon, Nazrul, Razoni, Titu, Parvez Babu, Iqbal, Arman, Monowar, Abul, Alfaz.

BAGERHAT UNMOCHON CLUB: Piru, Biplob, Ashraful, Kochi, Khaled Hossen, Binoy, Imu, Usuf, Moses Moira, Mithu.

Rajani.

Brothers' Indian coach Naimu-ddin pushed Rajani up and asked Iqbal to act as a central defender for a change and it worked like a charm.

"He (Rajani) always gives you hundred per cent. Besides, he is capable of winning most of the aerial duels more than anybody else wins in that position. I'm quite excited with his new role," said Naimuddin after the match.

Brothers took the lead in the 10th minute when Monwar took a first time shot off a low right-side cross from Alfaz.

Monwar was in the thick of things after five minutes. But this time he was lucky to see his feeble shot entering the net following terrible

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PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka Brothers Union's Rajani Kanta Barman (R) is seen enjoying his role as a midfielder during his side's National Football League clash against Unmochon Club of Bagerhat at the Rangpur Stadium yesterday.

Suddenly WI collapse



AFP, Birmingham

Ashley Giles took four wickets for five runs as West Indies collapsed to 336 all out on the third day of the second Test against England at Edgbaston here Saturday.

That left West Indies 230 behind England's first innings 566 for nine declared and 31 short of avoiding the follow-on.

But at tea England captain Michael Vaughan decided not to make the tourists bat again preferring to let his opponents bat last on a pitch which is already showing signs of cracking.

Giles' haul, which saw him finish with four for 65, came in the space off 33 balls as West Indies imploded from 322 for four to lose their last six wickets for

just 14 runs.

West Indies resumed after lunch on 288 for three with Ramnaresh Sarwan 135 not out and fellow Guyanese Shivnarine Chanderpaul, dropped on 21, unbeaten on 27.

But Sarwan, dropped on 92, added just four more runs to his first Test hundred against England, and sixth overall, when he chopped a short and wide ball from pace bowler Andrew Flintoff on to his stumps.

The 24-year-old right-hander had faced 226 balls with 25 fours putting on 76 with Chanderpaul.

Giles, on his home ground, then produced a classic delivery that pitched on leg stump and hit the top of off to bowl Dwayne Bravo for 13.

And nine balls later wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs went for a duck, an edged drive off Matthew Hoggard well caught by first slip Marcus Trescothick.

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Giles, man of the match in England's first Test win at Lord's with nine for 210, then finally saw the back of the obdurate Chanderpaul for 45.

Pushing forward, the left-hander was caught off pad and glove by a diving Robert Key at silly point.

It was the first time in 19 hours and 12 minutes of Test cricket that Chanderpaul, whose three previous scores were 101 not out against Bangladesh at Kingston in June and 128 not out and 97 not out at Lord's had been dismissed.

He then had a third dismissal when Pedro Collins (six) was brilliantly caught one-handed low down by Flintoff at short backward square leg.

Giles finished the innings when he had Corey Collymore lbw for two.

Arul, Saif school chess champs

SPORTS REPORTER

Kiruba Arul of Chennai has already clinched the girls' crown while Abdullah Saif of Rose Valley School lifted the KG to V Group title with one match in each hands after the end of the sixth round games of the Standard Chartered Bank School Chess tournament at the federation hall room yesterday.

Kiruba and Saif both earned maximum 6 points each.

Sheikh Shahid Ahmed of Kolkata Modern School and Sumon Basu of Kolkata Madiyagram High School jointly shared the second position with 5.5 points each.

Pallabi Roy and Shathi Majumder were in the second position with 4.5 points each in the girls section.

Surjodoy lift Tibet h'ball crown

UNB, Dhaka

Surjodoy Kirira Chakra emerged unbeaten champions in the Tibet Metropolis First Division Handball League beating Orient Sporting Club 22-21 in a nerve-biting last super four match at the Outer Stadium handball court yesterday.

Despite the day's defeat, Orient SC finished runners-up to earn promotion to play in the premier division league from next season along with newly crowned Surjodoy.

Mohammad Sunny of Orient SC was adjudged best player of the league.

In the day's last league match, Surjodoy trailed by 7-8 in the first half. Farid scored 10, Khokon 4, Ronny and Badsha 3 each for the winners while Khaleq netted 9 and Sunny 5 for the losers.

Earlier in the day's first match, Mansoor Sporting Club managed hard-fought 7-6 victory over

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LIFE IN LANKA P 2004



AL MUSABBIR SADI from Colombo

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapakse is expected to witness today's eighth Asia Cup final between India and hosts Sri Lanka as the chief guest and distribute prizes.

The winners of the six-nation meet will take away a fat purse of around 87,000 dollars. Each team earned 3,000 dollars for winning a first-phase game and 7,000 dollars for each win in the second-phase.

However, the grand final itself offers 1,00,000 dollars with the winning team grabbing 60 per cent of it.

The man-of-the-final will be richer by 1,000 dollars while the man-of-the-series will be rewarded 7,000 dollars besides a Maruti Esteem car.

Former Sri Lanka captain Sanath Jayasuriya and Shoaib Malik of Pakistan, who have scored two centuries each, are the two favourites to win the man-of-the-series award.

Local paceman Nuwan Zoysa has his own stake also. The tall left-armed was adjudged man-of-the-match in two

games.

Sponsors Indian Oil provides 1,80,000 dollars as prize money and the trophy.

CHANGE AT ACC

Jagmohan Dalmiya, the president of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), takes over as the president of Asian Cricket Council (ACC) from Bangladesh Cricket Board chief Ali Asghar today.

The executive committee of the ACC meets today at the Sri Lanka Cricket's head office at the Sinhalese Sports Club where the hand-over will take place.

The meeting will also approve distribution of the 19 million dollars the ACC earned from the tournament from TV rights. Each of the four Test nations is going to receive one million dollars.

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Nat'l hockey

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Navy and Jessore kept their super six hopes alive after winning their respective matches in the ANAS Group National Hockey Championship at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

These two sides will meet each other on Monday to decide the group title as well as to reach the super six.

Earlier, Bangladesh Army and BKSP ensured their super league berths along with two direct qualifiers-- defending champions Dhaka and runners-up Dhaka University.

In the day's second match, Bangladesh Navy, who overwhelmed Magura 9-0 in their first match, outplayed Jhenidah 10-0 after dominating the first half 5-0.

Bangladesh Navy's MM Hossain, who made first hattrick against Magura on Friday, scored five including another hattrick.

Apart from Hossain's goals, MM Islam, MB Gazi, Rubel Kabir, MM Rashid and MA Gaffar netted one each for Navy. In the day's first match, Jessore outplayed Magura 4-2 after leading the first half 2-1.

'I'll always be hunted'



AFP, London

Sri Lanka spin king Muttiah Muralitharan fears that the stigma of being called a 'chucker' will always live with him regardless of how many times he is cleared of the charge.

Murali, the world's leading Test wicket-taker alongside Australia leg-spinner Shane Warne with 527 dismissals, has been called three times in his career for throwing.

He even skipped the recent tour of Australia, following comments from Australian Prime Minister John Howard that he was a chucker.

"I thought my action and reputation were cleared for good in 1999. Who

knows? In another three years maybe something else will come up," said the 32-year-old.

"It has not happened once or twice, it has happened three times. So I expect someone to come again and question me.

"But I think most people will be convinced that my action is fair and legal. I will be happy with 90 per cent. There will perhaps always be 10 per cent who are jealous. You can't help them."

Murali's most recent run-in with the ICC came in March when English match-referee Chris Broad reported him for a suspect action during the third Test against Australia at Colombo.

He was subsequently banned from using his 'doosra' delivery and underwent a lengthy series of tests on his controversial action.

Once his current Asian Cup responsibilities are done with, his next international assignment will come with Sri Lanka in the Champions Trophy in England but recently he agreed to be the subject of a documentary in which he is filmed bowling with a brace on his arm.

"I think it will prove a point to those who had said that it was physically impossible to bowl a ball that turned the other way," Muralitharan told Wisden Asia.

"I proved that it was possible to bowl the doosra without bending the arm. But it was only for public opinion. I was not trying to prove anything to the ICC. I have done all

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THIS IS ONE LAST CHANCE: (L) Sri Lanka's star batsman Sanath Jayasuriya (L) talks to captain Marvan Atapattu while (R) Indian star spin pair Harbhajan Singh (L) and Anil Kumble prepare to bowl in the nets during the two teams' respective training sessions yesterday.



PHOTOS: AFP