



SPREAD YOUR WINGS: India superstar Sachin Tendulkar (back to camera) celebrates taking the wicket of Sri Lanka's Tillekeratne Dilshan (not in picture) with teammate Mohammad Kaif during the Asia Cup final in Colombo yesterday.

Did U Know?

The first women's swimming gold medal was won by the Australian Sarah 'Fanny' Durack, who won the 100m freestyle in 1912.

TALK TURKEY



Maria Sharapova
(Wimbledon champion)
"I never considered myself as a pinup. I never will."
Rejecting comparison with another Russian beauty, Anna Kournikova.

What to WATCH

BTV
Nitol-Tata National Football League
MSC Dhaka vs Sheikh Russel
Live at 4:00 pm

ESPN
Asia Cup Cricket 2004
India vs Sri Lanka (Final)
Repeat at 4:00 pm

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DAY'S EVENT

Nitol-Tata National Football League
MSC Dhaka vs Sheikh Russel
Venue: Rangpur Stadium

Rajib, two others end on top

SPORTS REPORTER

International Master Enamul Hossain Rajib finished joint atop with two other players in the Dortmund Open International Chess Tournament in Germany. Rajib, Andrei Orlov of Russia and International Master Thomas Henrichs of Germany shared the top slot securing seven points each at the end of the ninth and final round. Bangladesh IM Rajib drew with Orlov in his last round game. Another Bangladeshi FIDE Master Taibur Rahman Sumon earned five points. A total of 127 players took part in the meet.

Basu stays in lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Sumon Basu of Kolkata Madiyagram high school maintained solo lead with 6.5 points after the 7th round games in the Class VI to X group of the Standard Chartered School Chess Tournament. Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar of Shah Ali School and Antip Roy of Kolkata followed the leader securing six points each.

India contain Lanka

AFP, Colombo

Part-time spinners Virender Sehwag and Sachin Tendulkar revelled on a slow wicket to help India restrict hosts Sri Lanka to 228-9 from 50 overs in the Asia Cup final here on Sunday.

Leggie Tendulkar claimed 2-40 and off-spinner Sehwag chipped in with 1-32 from his full quota of 10 overs to dry up Sri Lanka's runs after the hosts won the toss and elected to bat in the day-night match at the Premadasa Stadium.

Young left-arm seamer Irfan Pathan finished with 2-33 to emerge as the most successful bowler in the tournament so far with 14 wickets.

Sri Lankan captain Marvan Atapattu top-scored with 65, adding 116 for the third wicket with Kumar Sangakkara (53) to steady the innings that was rocking at 31-2 in the eighth over.

But 32 extras was the next highest contributor, leaving India a modest victory target of 4.58 runs an over under lights.

Sourav Ganguly's Indians, who have lost nine of their last 12 one-day tournament finals, were fired up from the start.

Pathan, leading a pack of three left-arm seamers in the team, trapped danger man Sanath Jayasuriya leg-before in his fourth over.

Jayasuriya, who hit a century in the previous super league match against India, made only 15.

Sri Lanka, who were comfortably placed at 147-2 following the partnership between Atapattu and Sangakkara, lost five wickets for 55 runs to slip to 202-7 in the 45th over.

Sangakkara, missed twice before he had reached 38, finally left in the 33rd over when Sehwag clipped the off-bail after beating the batsman in the air.

In the next over, Mahela Jayawardena top-edged a sweep off Tendulkar to fine-leg before he had scored.

Atapattu was run out in the 40th over when he steered Tendulkar to short third man but failed to beat Sehwag's throw at the non-striker's end.

Tendulkar claimed his 12th wicket in the tournament by having Tillekeratne Dilshan stumped by Rahul Dravid for 22. Harbhajan Singh then trapped Upul Chandana leg-before to open up the tail.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Sri Lankan innings against India in the Asia Cup final at the Ranasinghe Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on Sunday:

SRI LANKA
Gunawardene c Ganguly b Nehra 8
Jayasuriya lbw b Pathan 15
Atapattu run out 65
Sangakkara b Sehwag 53
Jayawardene c Yuvraj b Tendulkar 0
Dilshan st Dravid b Tendulkar 22
Chandana lbw b Harbhajan 8
Maharoor run out 9
Vaas c Yuvraj b Pathan 6
Zoysa not out 6
Muralitharan not out 4
Extras: (b-4, lb-14, nb-3, w-11) 32
Total: (For 9 wks in 50 overs) 228
Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-31, 3-147, 4-150, 5-174, 6-194, 7-202, 8-213, 9-219

Bowler

	O	M	R	W
Pathan	7	0	33	2
Nehra	6	0	22	1
Zaheer	7	0	35	0
Harbhajan	10	0	48	1
Sehwag	10	2	32	1
Tendulkar	10	0	40	2

INDIA: Tendulkar, Sehwag, Ganguly, Laxman, Dravid, Yuvraj, Kaif, Pathan, Zaheer, Harbhajan, Nehra.

Toss: Sri Lanka.

Umpires: David Shepherd (England) and Billy Bowden (New Zealand)

Hosts in box seat

Cricket

AFP, Birmingham

Marcus Trescothick became the first man in the 40 Tests played at Edgbaston to score hundreds in both innings as England set West Indies 479 to win the second Test here Sunday.

At lunch, on the fourth day, England had been bowled out for 248 after off-spinner Chris Gayle, best known as opening batsman, had taken Test-best figures of five for 34.

Somerset left-handed opener Trescothick, 28, who made 105 in the first innings, was run out for 107 -- his eighth Test hundred.

England won the first Test at Lord's by 210 runs after setting West Indies 478 to win.

West Indies will now need to score 61 more than their world record fourth innings Test-winning score of 418 for seven against Australia at Antigua last year.

The highest winning fourth innings Test score at Edgbaston is England's 211 for three against New Zealand in 1999 and the highest fourth innings Test score of all on the ground was India's 277 in a match they lost by 132 runs in 1967.

England resumed on 148 for three, a



Marcus Trescothick in action on the third day of the second Test against West Indies at Edgbaston on Saturday. The England opener scored a century yesterday.

LIFE IN LANKA CUP 2004

AL MUSABBIR SADI from Colombo

Pakistan will host the next Asia Cup in 2006, an executive committee meeting of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) decided here on Sunday.

Pakistan was named as hosts twice but failed to stage the event on both occasions due to cross-border political tensions.

The ACC will now sit to find a suitable time for the ninth edition of the tournament, informed ACC chief executive Syed Ashraf Huq.

There was more good news for the Asia Cup contestants after the regional cricket body decided to give each of the major nations a handsome purse.

It was learnt earlier that the four Test-playing nations would receive one million dollars for participation but it also decided to allocate 2.5 million dollars each to Sri Lanka, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh.

The two associate members, Hong Kong and the United Arab Emirates, will get three lakh dollars each.

After deducting two-million-dollars as expenditures, the rest of the 19-million-dollar earnings will be used to run ACC's activities and to fund the Asian Cricket Foundation.

JAYASURIYA'S LAST?

Perhaps Sanath Jayasuriya has played his last Asia Cup.

The explosive left-hander failed to deliver his usual fireworks in front of a packed crowd when he was dismissed in the seventh over of the match off the bowling of Irfan Pathan, the tournament's leading wicket-taker.

But at least Jayasuriya bowed out by establishing himself as the highest run-getter in Asia Cup history. He entered the record books taking over from his former skipper Arjuna Ranatunga in the previous match.

Jayasuriya took his run aggregate to 842, which is 101 runs more than Ranatunga.

With hundreds against Bangladesh and India, Jayasuriya totalled 293 runs in the meet, second only to Pakistan's Shoaib Malik's tournament best 316 also with two tons.

COME ON SRI LANKA

Sunday's final crowd, approximately 25,000, at the Premadasa Stadium turned out to be the biggest for the tournament.

There were a few thousand supporters from India but it was the hosts, who made the atmosphere electric, and outnumbered the visitors.

They were chanting non-stop while a tireless band played in the stands. Even the early departure of both Lankan openers could not dampen their spirits. At every opportunity the local fans waved national colours.

And when it was last man Muttiah Muralitharan's turn to bat, the Lankans cheered wildly as the master off-spinner scored his first run.

MSC's test by Russel today

SPORTS REPORTER

The first big match of the fourth Nitol-Tata National Football League takes place today when Mohammedan Sporting Club and emerging power Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra lock horns in the last game of the second leg at the Rangpur Stadium.

Bangladesh Television will telecast live the clash of the two Dhaka giants at 4 pm.

This will be the fourth meeting between the sides. The Black and Whites currently lead the head-to-head 1-0.

In their first match-up, which was the Federation Cup, Moham-medan relied on their experience to record a 4-1 victory. But Russel shrugged off their pre-season nerves by forcing the Motijheel outfit to share points in two Premier League matches.

The shock draws helped the little-known Russel to claim the runners-up spot in their first season in top-flight football. Having enjoyed a taste of success, they want to defeat Mohammedan and also put to rest any doubts about their credibility once and for all.

"We are not intimidated anymore just because our opponent is a titan. I believe my boys are more than capable of beating Mohammedan this time."

"We have been preparing for this match for the last seven days at Bogra," said Sheikh Russel coach Wajed Gazi, who was instrumental in his side's rise to the top.

But the 65-year-old mentor was a little worried with his goal-machine Younnes.

The Moroccan striker, who has scored in Russel's wins against Bagerhat Unmochan Club and Jhenidah Mohammedan to maintain their all-win record in the competition, is understood to have picked up a knock on the right knee.

"Younnes is a key member of my squad and that's why I'm hoping he recovers for tomorrow's match," he said.

On the other hand, Moham-medan captain Jewel Rana said that his team was expecting another tough encounter with Sheikh Russel.

"Our team is not in a good shape despite a comfortable 3-0 victory against the Jhenidah Mohammedan," said the former national captain adding that they would miss the services of medio Amin Rana.

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Blessing of Asia Cup

AFP, Colombo

Hotels in the Sri Lankan capital dusted their "house full" signs for the first time in decades as thousands of fans arrived here to watch India play in Sunday's Asia Cup cricket final against the hosts, officials said.

Deluxe hotels here said they were fully booked for the weekend while smaller establishments too said they had not seen this sort of influx of Indians in recent times.

The main shopping areas were open for extended hours Sunday as Indians were seen shopping at Colombo's more popular clothing stores known for selling top international brands at bargain basement prices.

"We are fully booked today and tomorrow," said a spokesman for the five-star Trans Asia Hotel. "The cricket fans are taking up most of the rooms."

"Sorry, we can't accept any bookings right now," said a manager at the Galle Face Hotel.

Hotel rates have also been rising sharply since a truce between government troops and Tamil Tiger guerrillas went into effect in February 2002 with half a million foreign tourist arrivals last year.

Tourism Minister Anura Bandaranaike said he expected the number of foreign holidaymakers to increase to 550,000 this year, but admitted the country was desperately in need of more hotel rooms.



NOT LUCKY SECOND TIME: Marvan Atapattu here survives a first run out attempt in the Asia Cup final yesterday. The Sri Lankan captain was later run out for 65.

Gayle stands tall as Eng press on

AFP, Birmingham

West Indies opener Chris Gayle defied England's victory charge with an unbeaten 65 on the fourth day of the second Test at Edgbaston here on Sunday.

But at tea England were still well-placed to take an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the four-Test series with West Indies, at 139 for three, still needing another 340 runs to reach their victory target of 479.

Gayle's fellow left-hander Shivnarine Chanderpaul was 24 not out at the interval.

England won the first Test at Lord's by 210 runs after setting West Indies 478 to win.

And they started well in the field when Matthew Hoggard had Devon Smith (11) edging to first slip Trescothick to leave West Indies on

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