



Did U Know?

More athletes than spectators attended the 1900-Paris Games.



TEN Sports

Sri Lanka vs South Africa
First Test, Day One
Live at 10:30 am

ESPN

Sportscentre
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

Sportsline
Live at 8:00 pm
Cincinnati Tennis Masters
Second Round
Live at 9:00 pm

Star WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION 215

Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
August 6, 2004 and draw

1. Who clinched the national tennis men's crown? Pasta Amal Murad
2. How many Test wickets has Shane Warne taken? 519 527 434
3. Who won the Wimbledon men's title? Agassi Federer Henman
4. Who lifted the Wimbledon women's crown? Serena Sharapova Venus
Name
Class..... Roll No.....
School Address
Phone: (If any)



Brian Lara

(West Indies cricket captain)
"It's impossible to even think about that at the moment. I have the job to do as captain until the fourth Test at The Oval. My employers will decide whether or not I step down."

Sick Cordy flies home

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national cricket team fitness trainer Justin Cordy had to leave for Melbourne on Monday after suffering a neurological problem.

"On the team's return from Sri Lanka at the conclusion of the Asia Cup Justin Cordy suddenly experienced blackouts. It was evident that he had developed a neurological problem that required specialist investigation and extensive tests to diagnose the exact nature of the problem," a statement issued by Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), said yesterday.

As a result of these events coach Dav Whatmore will return to Dhaka earlier (August 5) to take charge of the national squad preparations, the press statement added.

BHF signs mega deal



SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) signed what is believed to be the biggest sponsorship deal in its history with Dutch-Bangla Bank yesterday.

At a press conference the private bank revealed that for the next two years it would be providing the BHF nearly Tk 35 lakh for a foreign coach and trainer.

"We can proudly announce that we have sealed a major sponsorship deal. I think it is going to be unique example in the sports arena because no other commercial organization in the country was willing to offer such a big amount simply for coaching," said a delighted Shamsul Bari, the general secretary of BHF.

The hockey federation has already finalised appointment of former

Pakistan international Qamar Ibrahim as director of coaching and development.

The 36-year-old former Pakistan right-out was expected to earn 2,000 dollars-per-month besides enjoying other facilities which included accommodation and air fare to travel to his country four times a year.

Besides an International Hockey Federation (IHF) affiliated trainer will be appointed to assist Ibrahim during his two-year tenure. He would receive 1,000 dollars-per-month.

The long-serving BHF general secretary Bari told reporters that the funds provided by the bank would, however, only covers half of the expenditure for the two foreign experts.

"We are hopeful of getting extra cash from the sports ministry and other commercial houses."

Bari said that all national sides would have to sport the logo on their

shirts during any international event adding that next month's six-nation under-21 challenge trophy involving Afghanistan, Singapore, Oman, Iran, Myanmar and hosts Bangladesh would be Ibrahim's first assignment.

Later he would work with the national team for a four-nation tournament to be held in Singapore in December.

But Ibrahim, who played in World Cups, Olympics as well as the Champions Trophy since making his debut in 1986, will mainly be responsible for developing the skills of the youth sides.

"He will outline his development strategy once he starts his assignment on August 15. He also work with the young local coaches," said Bari.

BHF president and Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Fakhru Azam and managing director of Dutch-Bangla Bank were also spoke on the occasion.



Winners of the sixth Standard Chartered Bank School Chess Tournament Abdullah Al Saif (R), Class KG to V group, Sumon Basu (C), Class VI to X. On the left is Minhazuddin Ahmed, who became runner-up in the VI to X group.

SL look to spinning Galle



AFP, Galle

Sri Lankan skipper Marvan Atapattu Tuesday said he hoped to make full use of the spin-friendly pitch here in the first Test against South Africa.

"Starting at Galle always gives us an advantage as this pitch helps spinners. I hope we can make the most of our experience here and win the match," said Atapattu.

The first of two Tests starts here on Wednesday with the second match to be held in Colombo next week. The Test series will be followed by a series of five one-dayers.

"Ideally, I would have liked to play the one-dayers before the Tests but one has to learn to adjust fast to both forms of the game," said Atapattu, who took over Test captaincy from Hashan Tillakaratne earlier this year.

Sri Lanka, who played a two-Test series in Australia last month, had to adjust quickly to the shorter version as they came back home to participate in the Asia Cup one-day tournament.

They beat India in the day-night final on Sunday to lift the cup and are again playing a Test less than three full days later.

Atapattu felt the South Africans could not be taken lightly.

"They have done well both at home and abroad over the years. They may not be at their best at the moment but not very long back they were head to head with Australia."

Atapattu said his team's composition had not been decided though Romesh Kaluwitharana was sure to keep wickets.

Sri Lanka's only win in 13 Tests against South Africa has come at this venue, where star off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan has a huge tally of 82 wickets in 10 Tests.

South African captain Graeme Smith

conceded it would be hard matching up to the Sri Lankans on the Galle wicket.

Smith said the team management was "pretty close" to deciding the combination for the match but would only announce it on Wednesday morning.

TEAMS
SRI LANKA (from): Marvan Atapattu (captain), Sanath Jayasuriya, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Upul Chan-dana, Chaminda Vaas, Farveez Maharoo, Lasith Malinga, Muttiah Muralitharan, Nuwan Zoysa, Thilan Samaraweera, Ranga Herath, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Ian Daniel.
SOUTH AFRICA (from): Graeme Smith (captain), Mark Boucher, Jacques Kallis, Jacques Rudolph, Boeta Dippenaar, Nicky Boje, Shaun Pollock, Mornantau Hayward, Lance Klusener, Makhaya Ntini, Andre Nel, Robin Peterson, Martin Van Jaarsveld, Andrew Puttick.

Hosts in Asian Cup final

AFP, Beijing

China squeezed through to their first Asian Cup final in 20 years Tuesday, downing 10-man Iran in a dramatic penalty shootout to set up a mouthwatering showdown against arch-rivals Japan.

In a nailbiting finish, Chinese goalkeeper Liu Yunfei proved the hero, blocking a spot kick by Yahya Golmohammadi to send the hosts through 4-3 after the game ended 1-1 after extra time.

China were striving to beat Iran for the first time in a decade, and it is an indication of how far they have come under Dutch coach Arie Haan that they have managed it.

They are now unbeaten in 19 games stretching back to December 2003.

But China were made to fight, failing to capitalise on Iranian defender Sattar Zare's dismissal early in the second half for shoving midfielder dynamo Shao Jiayi on the chest.

And they were on the verge of defeat when Zhao Junzhe missed the target in the penalty shootout before Eman Mobati did the same to put the two teams back level, leaving Liu to save the day.



South African cricketers play with a frisbee during a training session at the Galle International Stadium yesterday.

Aftab ton puts U-19s on top

SPORTS REPORTER

Right-handed Aftab Ahmed cracked 111 as the touring Bangladesh Under 19 amassed 466 in their first innings on the opening day of their three-day warm-up match against England Development of Excellence XI in Lincolnshire on Monday.

Wicketkeeper Dhiman Ghosh and Rubayet Haq also came up with firm half-centuries for the tourists as they declared on 466-9 in 105 overs at Sleaford Cricket Club, one of the oldest grounds in the United Kingdom.

Dhiman hit team's second highest 77 and Rubayet was 60 not out.

Earlier, Opener Nafees Iqbal contributed 32 and his namesake partner, Nafees Ahmed, added 35.

In reply, the home side was struggling at 107 for 4 at lunch on the second day on Tuesday.

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Nat'l hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Air Force and Faridpur DSA earned massive wins yesterday in their Group A encounters to enhance their chances of a place in the super league of the ANAS Group National Hockey Championship.

Maksudur Rahman scored four goals as Air Force outclassed Dinaipur 8-1 in the first match at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium.

The winners dominated the first half 5-1.

Another hat-trick by Musa Mia gave Faridpur an emphatic 6-0 victory over Comilla at the same venue.

At the breather the winners led 3-0.

Air Force and Faridpur both earned six points from two games and meet in the last match of the group on Thursday with the winners qualifying for the super league as the last team.

The six-team super league begins Friday with defending champions Dhaka DSA taking on Bangladesh Army and runners-up Dhaka University playing BKSP.

Sumon school chess champ

SPORTS REPORTER

Sumon Basu of Kolkata Madiyagram High School emerged unbeaten champion in the senior event of the Sixth Standard Chartered School Chess Tournament yesterday.

He and local player Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar finished with eight points each after the ninth and final round at the federation auditorium but Sumon was declared champion after progressive tie-breaking system was applied.

In the last round of the Class VI to X group, Sumon drew with Elin and Sagar beat Sankalpa.

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Action from yesterday's ANAS Group National Hockey Championship match between Comilla and Faridpur at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium.

Javagal's judgement



PTI, New Delhi

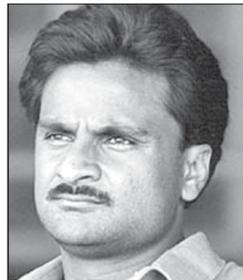
The defeat against hosts Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup final on Sunday will give rise to many questions about the Indian team management. The team think thank will also have to face the harsh realities of cricket.

The Indian team that came back from the death on Tuesday was viewed as a resilient side only to be proved wrong on Sunday. While making an honest assessment about themselves, it is important for them to take into account the growing worthiness of the Sri Lankan cricket as well. Today, the Indian team members must stand up to take the responsibility and accept the defeat.

But the amendments that the team would be doing in terms of chopping and changing the players have to be closely monitored. Any defeat would call for some drastic measures. There are experts who may come out with some strong opinions. But one should not give too much importance to these alarmists and rather look for more positive solutions that would help the team do better.

After the fall of Kumar Sangakkara's wicket, the hosts could manage only 70 odd runs for the last seven wickets. It indicates that the dropped catch of Sangakkara proved too costly for the Indians.

In any match, the horses for the courses remain the basis of selecting the team. On a square turner at the



JAVAGAL SRINATH

one spinner. It works well in most parts of the world. But the last ICC Cup in Sri Lanka provided ample evidence why the team could have relied more on spinners. After all, the team calling the coin right always holds the advantage in these grounds. I think the team management should have done their homework better.

Sunday's match reminded me of the

1996 World Cup semifinal in Kolkata. We hoped to win as long as Sachin was there at the crease. The Indian batsmen have only to blame themselves for the defeat. It only required a game of singles and twos to win the match.

The Indian batsmen should have realised that scoring shots would be dangerous on such tracks. The focus from ones and twos shifted to the scoring shots because of some acrobatic and agile fielding by the Lankans. It was the Sri Lankan fielding that really put the pressure and forced Indian batsmen to commit mistakes.

Yuvraj Singh and Mohammad Kaif always come at the crucial stages of the game. They can only do their job better if the top order batsmen have laid the right platform. Blaming Kaif for his dismissal is not the right way to assess his efforts.

It is natural to see the positive side and ignore the blunders when the team wins. Similarly, a defeated side mostly fail to see the positives and get too immersed in their own cup of woes. Indians must be serious about Laxmipathy Balaji and proper care should be taken to improve his fragile confidence. The youngster should also take lesson from Irfan Pathan's progress to sustain himself at the international level. And, Sehwaq by now, I am pretty confident, must be doing some introspection about his own batting.

Indian team has some time before they embark for the tri-series in Holland. The time is ripe for the team to make the necessary corrections.

(The writer is former Indian fast bowler Javagal Srinath)

The root of 'Svengate'



DAILY MIRROR, London

A bitter woman's 10-year jealousy of secretary Faria Alam led to the email revelations that triggered the FA sex scandal.

In an uncanny link with the way the Bill Clinton-Monica Lewinsky affair came into the open, it was Alam's rival who leaked the killer details.

On Monday, after chief executive Mark Palios quit, the FA was in turmoil ahead of Thursday's inquiry verdict on coach Sven Goran Eriksson.

Both Palios and Eriksson were involved with secretary Alam - and referred to in her email correspondence with the long-forgotten rival.

The woman tricked Alam - whom she had met only briefly - into thinking she was emailing an old school chum.

Her motive was to try to establish whether Alam, 38, had slept with her partner a decade earlier.

The woman had grown increasingly jealous over the years after learning they dated the man at the same time.

Her partner denied having sex with Alam, admitting only limited contact.

But the woman, would not trust him.

Using the name "Laila Khan" for her emails, she lured Alam into revealing her sex-life secrets. That culminated in the description of her great sex with Palios, whom she called Pretty Polly, while being pursued by Eriksson at the same time. Those details ended up in the News of the World - and demolished the original FA denials of the story.

"Laila", a woman in her 30s from

North London, knew of Alam as a part-time model 10 years ago.

Using facts she recalled and friends they shared, she introduced herself via Friends Reunited as a long-lost pal.

The more Alam apologised for not being able to recall "Laila's" face, the more she piled on names from the past.

"Laila" said: "I made out I wanted to copy her success with lots of men, saying I had slept with half of London and she had slept with the other half."

"She was flattered and started telling me all this stuff about how she had slept with this guy and that guy."

"I managed to find out that she had given oral sex to my partner, but had not slept with him. That was a relief because it fitted in with what he said."

"Then she confessed she had slept with somebody else I know, which we definitely weren't expecting."

"Later she mentioned sleeping with a couple of their friends, which was another shock, before mentioning these couple of big figures in soccer."

In her first email to "Laila", Alam wrote: "Yes, I am that same person...and I apologise if I fail to remember you...I'm not sure if it's you, but we did the Jewels of the East show."

Alam was soon totally duped - and in one email she unwittingly made disparaging references to the real "Laila".

The email exchanges, which began before Easter, went on 17 days later to include Palios and Eriksson.

Alam said she was dating "the big man of the whole place" - while the coach was "on my case big time".

"Laila" only realised the importance of the emails when the Alam-

Eriksson story surfaced. Then she contacted news organisations.

The Clinton-Lewinsky story had also been sparked by Monica's friend Linda Tripp, who revealed secretly taped conversations with Lewinsky.

On Monday Eriksson - his position

apparently strengthened - said: "I have no comment to make, not today, not tomorrow."



FARIA ALAM