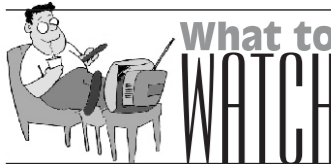




Did U Know?

The Olympic Hymn, played when the Olympic flag is raised, was composed by Spyros Samaras and the words added by Kostis Palamas. The Olympic Hymn was first played at the 1896 Olympic Games in Athens but wasn't declared the official hymn by the IOC until 1957.



What to Watch

- BTV**
Nitol-Tata Nat'l Football League
MSC Dhaka vs Bangladesh Air Force
Live at 4:00 pm
- TEN Sports**
Sri Lanka vs South Africa
First Test, Day Five
Live at 10:30 am
- ESPN**
Asia Cup Cricket 2004
India vs Pakistan
Repeat at 4:00 pm
- STAR Sports**
Football Asia
Repeat at 2:00 pm
Cincinnati Tennis Masters
First Semifinal
Repeat at 2:30 pm
Second Semifinal
Repeat at 4:30 pm
FA Community Shield
Arsenal vs Man United
Live at 7:30 pm



Talk Turkey



Brian Lara
(West Indies cricket captain)
"I am committed to West Indies cricket. I was asked back to do this job and I am doing the best I can."

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 215

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

Competition closes at 8 pm August 20, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who clinched the national tennis men's crown?	Pesie	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)			



Day's Event
Nitol-Tata Nat'l Football League
MSC Dhaka vs Bangladesh Air Force
Venue: Khulna Stadium



SUN RISES OVER CHINA: Captain Tsuneyasu Iyama (C) proudly holds aloft the Asian Cup as the members of the Japanese football team celebrate their win over arch-rivals China in the continental competition's final in Beijing yesterday.

Asian joy for Japan



AFP, Beijing

Defending champions Japan shattered China's dream of a first ever Asian Cup final victory Saturday, winning thanks to a controversial goal in a hostile atmosphere to down the host nation 3-1.

In a pressure-cooker Workers' Stadium jammed with 66,000 fans, Japan rode a wave of intimidation dished out by Chinese fans bristling at Japan's wartime past to keep their hands on the silverware.

Japan sealed the game on a highly controversial 65th minute goal with replays showing Koji Nakata clearly scooped the ball into the net with his hand after latching onto a Shunsuke Nakamura corner.

China loudly appealed the decision but Kuwaiti referee Saad Kameel stood firm.

Japan had taken the lead courtesy of another dubious decision in the

22nd minute when Kameel gave a free-kick on the edge of the Chinese area for a foul.

Shunsuke Nakamura crossed deep to Takayuki Suzuki who nodded it back onto the head of Takashi Fukunishi who made no mistake from close range.

With the crowd roaring them on China launched into the attack and drew level nine minutes later when Li

ROLL OF HONOUR

Previous winners of Asian Cup football championships after --- won the 2004 final against --- Saturday:
1956: South Korea
1960: South Korea
1964: Israel
1968: Iran
1972: Iran
1976: Iran
1980: Kuwait
1984: Saudi Arabia
1988: Saudi Arabia
1992: Japan
1996: Saudi Arabia
2000: Japan
2004: Japan

Ming capitalised on some nifty footwork by Yan Song down the left.

Yan rounded two defenders before laying the ball off to Li who slotted it home from the edge of the area.

Keiji Tamada, though, rubbed salt into China's wounds one minute into second half injury time when he dribbled past keeper Liu Yunfei to make certain of victory.

The match was about more than football for many Chinese fans who have heckled Japan throughout the tournament over its wartime past.

It assumed political connotations when senior leaders from both sides stepped into the fray and security at the game was ultra tight with at least 6,000 police on duty, some in riot gear and with dogs.

While there was no violence during the game, Japan's national anthem was drowned out by boos while the Japanese players were jeered whenever they touched the ball.

China started the game in attack mode, in their first Asian Cup final in 20 years.

They threw men forward from the whistle and could have opened the scoring in the eighth minute b

Nat'l Football League Figo at the double

SPORTS REPORTER

A double strike by Charles Figo gave Jhenidah Mohammedan Sporting Club their first victory in the final round of the Nitol-Tata National Football League when they blanked Bagerhat Unmochan Club 2-0 in the second match of the third leg at the Khulna Stadium yesterday.

The lanky Nigerian striker put the Jhenidah black and whites ahead on the stroke of the first half. He then increased the margin in the 53rd minute to seal his team's first success in three matches.

Smarting from two defeats against Dhaka giants Mohammedan and Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra, Jhenidah Mohammedan could have enjoyed a bigger win against the all-losers Unmochan Club but a combination of poor finishing and some excellent saves kept goals to a minimum.

They squandered as many as half a dozen chances while Unmochan's promising custodian Piaruzzaman pulled off a string of good saves.

Striker Pipul went close to giving the winners an early lead but his header from an Arman cross in 10th minute only managed to hit the cross piece. A few minutes later the Bangladesh Under-20 goalie saved a Figo header.

But finally Jhenidah Mohammedan led the first half 1-0 when Figo found the net by a powerful right-footer from a combined attack.

The muscular Nigerian headed his second in 53rd after his fierce right-footer from outside the box deflected off the cross piece.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

'We're not chokers'

Cricket

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's cannot be dubbed as one-day chokers despite losing 13 of their last 14 tournament finals, captain Sourav Ganguly said.

India stumbled to a 25-run defeat in the Asia Cup final on Sunday when hosts Sri Lanka restricted them to 203-9 on a slow turn, leading to renewed criticism that the team were incapable of handling pressure.

"It's not fair to call us chokers," Ganguly said on Friday.

"Yes, we've not played that well in finals and we need to improve. But a choker is someone who cracks under pressure and we've not always done that."

"People should realise there is as much pressure in a World Cup semifinal as there is in the final. In Pakistan earlier this year, we were 2-1 down

SEE PAGE 14 COL 8



SOURAV GANGULY

but won the last two matches to clinch the series. Those were pressure matches," he said.

India won their last final against England at Lord's in 2002 when they chased a mammoth 326 for victory. It was their first final victory since beating Zimbabwe at Sharjah in 1998.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4



BKSP score their first goal against Faridpur in the ANAS Group National Hockey Championship at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Razzak, yes or no



SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will announce a 14-member squad today for next month's ICC Champions Trophy in England.

The four-member selection committee led by Faruque Ahmed had a long discussion yesterday and almost finalised the squad but had to delay the announcement to know whether it was all right to take left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak.

Razzak, who was the one only player to impress in Bangladesh's forgettable Asia Cup in Sri Lanka, has been under ICC scrutiny after he was reported for having a suspect action by Sri Lankan match referee Roshan Mahanama in the game against Pakistan.

Although the selectors were unwilling to talk about the likely composition

of the team it was understood that they want a clarification from the Board about Razzak's playing status. The Board is awaiting video footage of the bowler's from the ICC to know where Razzak stands.

The 22-year-old Razzak took three wickets on debut against Hong Kong in the regional competition and also bowled impressively against Pakistan.

When asked whether the delay was due to knowing the fate of Razzak, Faruque Ahmed dismissed it saying that the team for the Champions Trophy would be announced on August 8 as scheduled.

"There is no question of the announcement being delayed. We will disclose it on Sunday as planned. Though we have an idea of the team's make-up still there are aspects that need to be discussed. We will sit again tomorrow morning to finalise it," said the former Bangladesh captain.

But it appears that the selectors are going to make at least three changes in an effort to give some kind of solidity to the brittle batting line-up that was so

evident in Sri Lanka.

Bangladesh failed to cross the 200 mark in their last four games India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka who eventually won the title.

There is a strong possibility that the selectors will pick three fresh faces from the Bangladesh Under-19 team, which is now touring England.

The most likely candidates are opener Nafees Iqbal and his free-stroking Chittagong mate Aftab Ahmed. The other Under-19 candidate is right-arm pacer Nazmul Hossain.

The Tigers will start their camp for the Champions Trophy on August 9. They will leave Dhaka on August 26 for London to play two practice matches each against Ireland and Scotland before their first group game against South Africa on September 12.

Their next match is against West Indies on September 15.

Long day ahead of SA



AFP, Galle

South African spinner Nicky Boje bagged a five-wicket haul as Sri Lanka were made to struggle in their second innings on the fourth day of the first Test here on Saturday.

The left-arm topper took 5-88 as the home side declared at 214-9 after taking a 110-run first innings to set a challenging 325-run target in a minimum of 93 overs at the Galle International Stadium.

South Africa were seven without loss off three overs in their second innings with captain Graeme Smith on five and Boeta Dippenaar yet to get off the mark. They need to get another 318 runs on the last day for victory.

Boje bowled a fine line for his third five-for in Tests, which included the prize scalps of in-form batsmen Mahela Jayawardene and Kumar Sangakkara early in the innings.

Romesh Kaluwitharana, Upul Chandana and Muttiah Muralitharan were his other victims.

"The ball was turning a bit and as the batsmen were trying to score runs off me, it was easy to get those wickets," said Boje. "They could not score as freely as they would have liked to."

Sanath Jayasuriya was the only batsman to apply himself well, compiling 74 off 139 balls with six boundaries for his 29th half-century, but failed to dominate as wickets fell at regular intervals.

Boje struck twice in the second session to peg Sri Lanka back after a steady opening stand between Jayasuriya and captain Marvan Atapattu.

Sangakkara was caught to a fine catch by Mornantou Hayward who fell running backwards at mid-off, while Jayawardene was caught by Jacques Rudolph at deep mid-off.

Atapattu (25), who was shaping well in an opening partnership of 62, was the first to go as he was trapped lbw by a delivery that kept low from medium-pace Lance Klusener, who took two wickets.

Pacer Shaun Pollock came up with a twin-strike in the last session when he removed Jayasuriya and Tillakaratne Dilshan in the space of three deliveries.

Jayasuriya was caught behind on the fifth delivery of a Pollock over and Dilshan was removed with the first ball of his next over, trapped lbw.

"We are taking things positively

and don't have the mindset of saving the match. If one of our batsmen gets a big knock and some others rally around him, we can win," said Boje.

"Much will depend on the first session tomorrow and we will take things as they come," said the 31-year-old.

Earlier, Rudolph completed a well-deserved century as South Africa were all out for 376 after resuming at 347-7.

Rudolph, 85 overnight, got to his fourth century in 15 Tests with an inside-edge for two to fine-leg after being restricted to singles for a major part of Saturday morning.

Rudolph's knock of 102 lasted 413 minutes in which he faced 297 deliv-

eries and hit 12 boundaries, none of them Saturday morning.

The left-hander was caught by wicketkeeper Kaluwitharana off spinner Muralitharan.

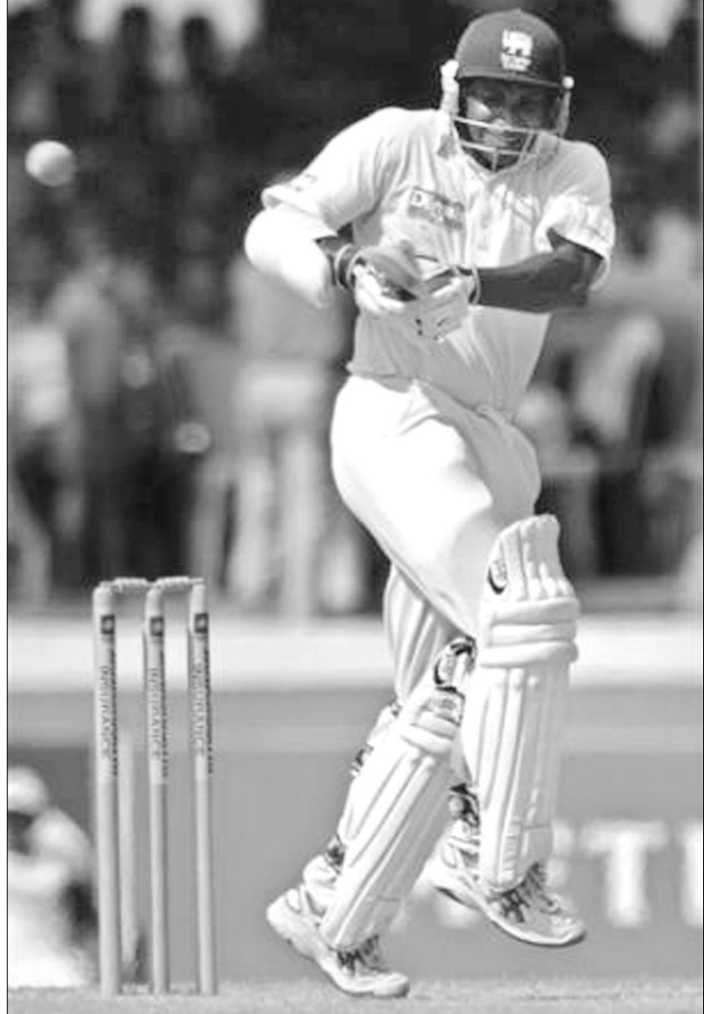
Kaluwitharana had taken a fine catch earlier in the day when he cupped a low one-handed catch to his right to see the back of left-hander Boje (31) off seamer Chaminda Vaas.

Ntini (10) was caught at deep mid-wicket by Chandana off Muralitharan, who finished with 4-130.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close on the fourth day of the first Test between Sri Lanka and South Africa at the Galle

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1



Sri Lanka opener Sanath Jayasuriya one off his body during the second innings on the fourth day of the first Test against South Africa at Galle yesterday.

Shooting in anger

AFP, Tehran



The only woman athlete Iran is sending to the Athens Olympics is under no illusions of winning a medal in her sport of shooting. In fact, she admits the sport is not her real passion.

"If the dress code was not an issue, I would have preferred to stick with gymnastics. I've been doing that since the age of three," said Nassim Hassanpour, a petite 19-year-old.

With the Islamic republic viewing tight-fitting leotards as unsuitable public attire for women, Hassanpour is instead restricted to any sport that can be played wearing the obligatory headscarf and long coat. This rules out sports such as gymnastics, swimming, track and field athletics or beach volleyball.

Instead she chose shooting -- the air pistol on a 10 metre range. And in a gesture of slight rebellion,

Hassanpour may be covering up her frame in black, rather than the ubiquitous white.

She never took shooting seriously, even though it was on the curriculum in the sporting high school she attended in her hometown of Tabriz, northwestern Iran.

"I am crazy about animals -- I have two pet dogs -- and I always associated shooting with hunting," she said while training in her run-down Tehran basement shooting range.

Eventually her talent was spotted three years ago, and her career launched. Hassanpour was eager to exploit the opportunity to travel abroad, something that many of her compatriots are unable to do due to financial and visa restrictions.

Rather than having a passion, Hassanpour says simply she has acquired a taste for the sport.

Still, facilities for women athletes are sorely lacking in Iran, she complains. And even when they do compete, competitions are held behind closed doors and away from the prying eyes of the media meaning

sponsorship deals are impossible to come by.

"I've spent all my savings and borrowed from my mother to get by. My monthly allowance of 1,350,000 rials (150 dollars) is four months overdue," she explained, adding that working as a private roller-blading coach has also helped top up her income.

Her record in the Asia Games was not quite enough to get her into Olympics, but she did win a wildcard for the air pistol competition, set to be held in Athens on August 15.

Women are allocated just 10 per cent of the national sporting budget.

Hassanpour does not expect to win a medal, and readily admits that she is too inexperienced.

"My real target is to win a medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. I'm going to Athens to improve my record."

Staying at home and obviously frustrated, however, are other female Iranian athletes who pursue events such as canoeing, taekwondo and fencing. Unable to take part in

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4