



PHOTOS: ANISUR RAHMAN

DREAMS AND SHATTERED DREAMS: Country's prodigal shooter Asif Hossain Khan (L) is about to lock on to the target with his 10m air rifle during a practice session at the BKSP Shooting Range while swimmer Dolly Akhter (C) consoles sprinter Shams-un Nahar Chumki (R) at the team's hostel yesterday. The trio are among the five Bangladeshi athletes competing in the Athens Olympics, starting on August 13. But Chumki's dream of featuring in the showcase event suffered a blow after doctors confirmed that she is suffering from appendicitis.



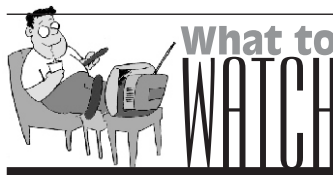
Did U Know?

In order to make the IOC an independent organization, the members of the IOC are not considered diplomats from their countries to the IOC, but rather are diplomats from the IOC to their respective countries.



Sourav Ganguly

(India cricket captain)
"The way we've played in one-day cricket over the last few years, we deserve to win a few finals. We definitely need to remedy that record."



BTV
Nitol-Tata Nat'l Football League
Abahani Dhaka vs MSC Chittagong
Live at 4:00 pm

ESPN
Asia Cup Cricket 2004
India vs Sri Lanka
Repeat at 10:30 am
FA Community Shield
Arsenal vs Man United
Repeat at 6:00 pm
Sportscentre
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports
FA Community Shield
Arsenal vs Man United
Repeat at 12:00 pm
Sportsline
Live at 8:00 pm

Twenty20 Cup goes to Leics

REUTERS, London

Leicestershire beat holders Surrey by seven wickets with five balls to spare to win English cricket's Twenty20 Cup at Edgbaston on Saturday.

Leicestershire's Australian captain Brad Hodge guided his side to victory with an unbeaten 77 from 53 deliveries, and former England off-spinner Jeremy Snape struck the winning boundary to finish on 34 not out.

Surrey, who had never lost a Twenty20 match in the competition's two-year history, made 168 for six in their 20 overs, former England one-day batsman Alistair Brown top-scoring with 64 from 41 balls.

Surrey beat Lancashire by one run in the first semi-final earlier on Saturday and Leicestershire defeated Glamorgan by 21 runs.

Heartbreak for Chumki

Asif seeks a miracle

BISHWAJIT ROY



Bangladesh's top women sprinter Shams-un Nahar Chumki is set to miss the Olympics bus to Athens.

Chumki's dream of running at the world's biggest sporting showpiece in Greece was shattered after she was diagnosed with appendicitis on Saturday.

The 20-year-old informed that doctors have advised her to take at least two week's rest before they operate on her.

"I felt pain in my abdomen during training yesterday (Saturday) morning. I had the problem checked at a private hospital in Dhammondi and the report confirmed I had appendicitis," a grim

Chumki told the Daily Star at the Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan (BKSP) where the Games bound athletes are camping.

"I have notified the officials of my condition. I am not sure what their decision will be but I am certain that I will not be in a position to run even if I go," she added.

An 18-member Bangladesh team that includes more officials than players (five to be precise; two athletes, two swimmers and one shooter) will leave Dhaka tomorrow for Athens, the birthplace of Olympics, to take part in the 28th edition of the modern Games which begins on August 13.

Not even the most patriotic of sports fans in Bangladesh expect anything from the athletes in the Olympics but for the participants, it is a life-long dream come true just to stand and compete side by side with the most famous names around the world.

"I am really upset. This kind of opportunity is rare for any athlete. I will never forget this setback," said Chumki who was found resting in her room yesterday.

An official of the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) said that they will come to a decision regarding Chumki only after going through the medical report. "We are aware of it. But it is a major decision whether she will travel to Athens or not and we just have a day in hand to discuss the matter," said BOA member Zahir Ahmed over telephone.

If by sheer stroke of luck something out of the ordinary happens in Athens, it is more than likely to be caused by Asif Hossain Khan.

Asif's stunning gold medal winning performances in the 10m air rifle events of the 2002 Common-

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Mashrafee could be back in Oct

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh speedster Mashrafee-Bin-Mortuza is expecting to return to international cricket in October when New Zealand tour Bangla-desh.

Mashrafee, who was injured during the Chittagong Test against England last year, underwent a double knee operation in Australia. But now the 20-year-old has started bowling at the BKSP high performance unit in Savar.

"I've been using short run-ups now and hopefully I believe I can make a full recovery by September. And since I'm not experiencing any problems at the moment, it's possible I'll be available for the coming home series," said the 'Narail Express' yesterday.

There was even better news for the Tigers as young fast bowler Talha Jubair was declared fit to join the Under-19 team now in England.

Talha last played in the ICC U-19 World Cup in Bangladesh in February before being ruled out due a back injury.

Talha, due to leave Dhaka on August 18, will feature in the three one-day internationals against the English youths to be played on August 24, 26 and 27.

Naturally, the young bowler was excited at the prospect to tour England where he will be able to test his match fitness.

"It's a dream for me because conditions in England will suit my bowling. I think after recovering from injury, it would be an ideal place to tour," said the lanky seamer who has played six one-day internationals for Bangladesh and as many Tests.

"I'm not just thinking about a place in the national side. I want to utilise this opportunity to get back my rhythm."

Meanwhile, fellow paceman Mohammad Sharif, who himself is waging a fitness battle, says he will need more time to recover.

Nafees cracks double ton

SPORTS REPORTER

Opening batsman Nafees Iqbal smashed his first ever double hundred in a competitive match to help Bangladesh U-19 pile up a massive 535 on the opening day of a two-day tour match against Development of Excellence XI on Saturday.

Nafees, who has wasted a number of good starts in the ongoing England tour, scored 266 at the Oakham School ground at Rutland as the Bangladesh youths plundered the rival attack before being booked in 99 overs.

The right-hander, who played in two one-day internationals against England during their tour of Bangladesh last summer, got fine assistance from Dhiman Ghosh (84) and Nadif Chowdhury (55).

The U-19s, who have lost the first Test, will play their second Test against England at Taunton, Somerset from tomorrow.



Nitol-Tata Nat'l Football League
Abahani Dhaka vs MSC Chittagong
Venue: Khulna Stadium

MSC ride on Farhad

SPORTS REPORTER



Striker Ariful Kabir Farhad slammed the second hattrick in the Fourth Nitol-Tata National Football League as Mohammed-dan Sporting Club marked their third

leg appearance with a rousing 5-1 victory over Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) at the Khulna Stadium yesterday.

The victory also set the last year's runners-up on the winning track after their disappointing draw with Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra in the previous round in Rangpur.

The popular Black and Whites have now seven points from three games, two behind Group B leaders Brothers Union, going into the final leg in Chittagong.

The no-hopers BAF on the other hand remained stuck on their previous collection of three points from as many

games.

On a heavy outfield caused by continuous rain, Mohammedan pushed forward early against the rank outsiders with Farhad opening the floodgate in the second minute.

The shaven headed striker stabbed the ball home after Nakib headed down a cross by Amin Rana before placing it neatly past BAF keeper Masud Rana.

There was no respite for the airmen as Mohammedan captain Jewel Rana doubled the lead in the 18th minute with a trademark header off a Manju right flank corner.

Farhad got his second goal with a spectacular volley four minutes later off a neat centre by Amin Rana.

The BAF keeper, who had a miserable day under the bar, was also responsible for the fourth goal. He did not even move as a feeble effort from midfielder Pappu rolled harmlessly into the net in the 30th minute.

The four-goal cushion allowed Mohammedan to take their foot off the gas after the break. All that was left was

to see if Farhad could complete his treble.

After squandering two sitters in the second half, man-of-the-match Farhad finally got his third goal in the 77th minute. He raced down the middle to win a ball inside the box and rounded the keeper to complete a happy hunting in the mud.

Panchgarh Brothers Union's Mantri scored the first hattrick in the qualifying round.

The BAF got a consolation goal in the injury time when Hasnat lobbed the ball over an out of position Mohammedan custodian Bijon Barua, who gave a very shaky performance.

TEAMS

MOHAMMEDAN: Bijan, Jewel Rana, Faisal (Rony), Jahirul, Kaiser, Amin Rana (Riad), Sentu, Pappu (Khokon), Manju, Farhad and Nakib.

BAF: Masud Rana, Kabir, Faisal, Zahidul, Mahbub, Mizan, Hasnat, Shahiduzzaman, Tara (Awal), Shah Jamal and Ranjan.

Referee: Ehsanul Haque.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

WHERE ARE THEY GOING? The injured pace trio Mohammad Sharif (the rickshaw-van puller), Talha Jubair (C) and Narail express Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza (R) go for a joy ride in the surroundings of the BKSP after attending a High Performance training yesterday.

Smith inspires SA



AFP, Galle

Sri Lanka's spin attack, led by Muttiah Muralitharan, was thwarted as South Africa put up a determined effort and salvaged a draw in the first Test of a two-match series here on Sunday.

Muralitharan's haul of 82 wickets in 10 previous Tests at the venue stood for nothing as the off-spinner struggled to get the breakthroughs his team was looking for on a pitch that took slow turn.

South Africa, set a target of 325 in a minimum of 93 overs, scored 203-3 at close of the final day's play at the Galle International Stadium after starting the day at seven for no loss.

Jacques Kallis (52) and Jacques Rudolph (27) were the not out batsmen

as Sri Lanka's quest to take ten wickets on the final day ended in a damp squib.

The home side had declared their second innings at 214-9 on Saturday after taking a 110-run lead.

Sri Lanka, who had won six of their previous 10 Tests at the venue and lost just two, thus failed to go one-up in a bid to win their first Test series against South Africa.

The only satisfaction for Muralitharan, who took 4-130 in an unimpressive first innings effort, was that he left Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne behind in their race for Test wickets.

The two spinners shared the world record of 527 before this match but Muralitharan went to 532 after his five scalps in Galle, toiling hard for his one scalp in the second innings.

Muralitharan, who can not bowl his away-going 'doosra' delivery as per

directions from the International Cricket Council, proved ineffective as first Graeme Smith (74) and then Kallis batted solidly for half-centuries.

"It was surprising to see the slow turn on this pitch," said captain Marvan Atapattu.

"Murali too did not bowl very well in this match but we hope to see him back among the wickets soon."

Sri Lanka were left frustrated and even Kumar Sangakkara, who is a wicket-keeper but playing this Test as a specialist batsman, got to bowl for the first time in international cricket.

Left-handed Smith led the visiting side's fightback as he was out at the stroke of tea after resuming the day on five.

He was playing a delivery from leg-



PHOTO: AFP

HOW UNLUCKY CAN YOU GET! South Africa cricket captain Graeme Smith looks back in horror as the ball heads towards the stumps after he had prodded at it during the last day of the first Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo yesterday. Even a last-ditch kick couldn't prevent the inevitable as Smith was bowled.

All guns blazing Faria



AGENCIES, London

Former FA secretary Faria Alam has lifted the lid on her affair with the England coach and former FA chief executive Mark Palios.

In interviews with the Mail on Sunday and the News of the World, she went into graphic detail about their sexual encounter -- and she even hinted she would like to marry him.

The 38-year-old said Eriksson is a 'master in the art of lovemaking' and recollected one occasion when the England boss spoke to his girlfriend Nancy Dell'Olio on the phone while he was having sex on a four-poster bed with secret lover Faria.

Faris revealed Eriksson answered a call from Nancy, who was in Italy, just minutes after bedding her.

She said: "I couldn't believe it when he answered the phone. It was her calling from Italy and they had a shouting match. Just as we were making love."

Speaking for the first time since her affair with Sven, 56, was revealed, Faria also described her liaison with former FA chief executive Mark Palios.

Palios, 51, was first to bed the



FARIA ALAM