



Did U Know?

All the matches of the ICC Champions Trophy in the Dhaka tournament were day-night affairs while in Nairobi they were all day matches.



Brian Lara
(West Indies cricket captain)
"Bangladesh are a young side and they will learn from playing against sides like ourselves and South Africa. I thought they did well against us in the Tests and internationals in the Caribbean and some of the matches were closer than they appeared."

What to WATCH
BTV
ICC Champions Trophy
West Indies vs South Africa
Live at 3:15 pm
TEN Sports
ICC Champions Trophy
West Indies vs South Africa
Live at 3:15 pm
ESPN
English Premier Football League
Arsenal vs Bolton Wanderers
Live at 5:40 pm
Man City vs Crystal Palace
Live at 7:55 pm
STAR Sports
English Premier Football League
Birmingham City vs Charlton Athletic
Live at 7:55 pm
Primera Liga
Real Madrid vs Espanyol
Live at 12:00 am (Sunday)

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 21

Tick the correct answers, post
The Daily Star

Competition closes at 8 pm
Sept 24, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who won the first gold medal in the Athens Olympics?
Gakina Devers
Du

2. Who became Asia Cup cricket champs?
India Pakistan Sri Lanka

3. Who clinched the Cincinnati Masters tennis title?
Federer Henman Agassi

4. Who lifted the 25th nat'l hockey crown?
Usha MSC Bangladesh Army

Name

Class

School Address

Phone: (if any)

Transfer date unresolved

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has given the Metropolis Football League Committee the responsibility to negotiate with the clubs to set a transfer date for the season 2004-05.

"The BFF wants to complete the process this year and if the clubs agree, we will stage it in October," BFF general secretary Anwarul Huq Halal told after Thursday night's executive committee meeting.

"Although we want it done early, the clubs must have their say. Their consent is very important to us. The league committee will sit with them this month to discuss the issues."

"It would have been fine if we could start the league soon after an early transfer but we will not get the ground (Bangabandhu National

Stadium) before March. But we can't take the risk of waiting long because it would hamper the clubs' preparation and the spirit of the players," Halal said.

"So, we are looking forward to keep the clubs busy by launching the season in January. We want to hold the Federation Cup and another tournament in January. We still have the Kamalpur Stadium for that. It will also give the clubs a good two months' preparation to go into the new season," he explained.

The BFF is also going to introduce a new transfer scheme. The footballers will get individual tokens at the end of each season and they will have to submit it to the club of their choice during the official transfer process.

Any kind of financial transaction must go through the federation, and both player and club will have to sign the agreement paper provided by the BFF. Without this paper, no club would be able to claim paying a player by showing other vouchers.

The BFF is introducing this system to avoid clashes of clubs over the possession of footballers.

Feuding among top clubs is not uncommon but the situation hit a low last season over the episode involving national number one goalkeeper Aminul which resulted in a police raid at the Abahani club tent after Mukti Joddha Sangsad filed a kidnap case.

The meeting was expected to take a decision about extending coach Shahidur Rahman Shantoo's contract. But it was not discussed as the manager's report on Bangladesh's participation in the AFC Youth (U-17) Championship in Japan was yet to reach the BFF.

Meanwhile, the qualifying rounds of the JFA Cup - the Under-16 national competition to be sponsored by Japan Football Association - will be held from October 1-8 at eight venues. The BFF has asked

the clubs to submit their applications by October 15.

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School b'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protishthan (BKSP) defeated St Gregory's 69-56 in the boys' competition of the AKTEL School Basketball Tournament yesterday.

Kamrul and Sumon each scored 15 points for BKSP while Maola was the highest scorer of the match, shooting 18 points for the losers.

In other boys' matches, Maple Leaf beat Sunnydale 60-34, BAF Shaheen School dumped Udayan School 79-12, Fariduddin Siddiki School handed a 49-8 defeat to Dhamondi Tutorial and St Nicholas School beat Bangladesh International Tutorial 65-34.

In the girls' competition, Scholastica drubbed Sunnydale 46-2 with Subi starring in their impressive win, caging 24 points.

Mehjabin contributed 38 points to help the Maple Leaf record a comprehensive 47-8 victory against Dhamondi Tutorial.

Ranatunga's verdict



BISHWAJIT ROY, from London

Sri Lanka's World Cup winning captain Arjuna Ranatunga, who is now an established politician, feels time is running out for Bangladesh to justify their inclusion in the elite league.

"You have to improve your performance to give the doubters a proper reply. But to do that, you will need the right team combination first. You must come out of this struggling phase fast because at the moment, the future does not look too good for Bangladesh," said Ranatunga who is here to commentate on television and also to act as an advisor to the Sri Lanka team.

There is a strong lobby forming in support of a two-tier system in Test cricket that will see away series' for teams like Bangladesh and Zimbabwe getting reduced. But Ranatunga thought that Bangladesh still had the talent to work with if they can see off this pressure.

"I still feel that Bangladesh got the Test status too early but at the beginning, they performed very well. But everything is going radically in the wrong direction now."

"Your players are mentally not strong enough to compete at the highest level but talent-wise they are not far behind from other teams."

Ranatunga, who is now the deputy minister for Investment, Tourism and Promotion & Industry in Sri Lanka however, questioned

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The complete package



AFP/REUTERS, London

Australian captain Ricky Ponting believes Andrew Symonds is turning into the complete one-day cricketer after the Queenslander blasted 71 not out against New Zealand here at The Oval on Thursday to secure his side's place in the semifinal of the ICC Champions Trophy.

Australia were set 199 to win after putting New Zealand in to bat and made it comfortably with 12.4 overs to spare.

However, the end of the match presentations were marred by a running scuffle between spectators and stewards as fans tried to get onto the pitch although there was no danger to the players.

But Ponting claimed he was not worried about his players' safety saying.

"It was probably a few too many beers in the sun and it is out of our hands. The security has been very good in this tournament and I hope they keep looking after the players on the field."

Symonds hit four sixes and seven fours in a 47-ball display of brutal hitting and Damien Martyn added 60 not out.

The pair put on 100 for the fourth wicket to chase down the New Zealanders' total of 198-9 with 12.4 overs to spare.

"He gives you everything. In my opinion he's the best fielder in the world, he bowls off-spin or medium pace and the way he is batting suggests he has come a long way in the last couple of years.

"When he gets on a roll there are not too many grounds in the world that are big enough for him. He can go in any situation -- if you've lost early wickets he can get it out or he

can finish a game."

"He is very strong and his record is outstanding at the moment," Ponting added. "I think he's one of the keys for us going forward in this tournament."

Symonds came in with Australia 99-3 and immediately took the game away from the under-dogs bringing up his half-century from 40 balls whilst Martyn was slightly more circumspect reaching his fifty from 63 balls with eight boundaries.

But the foundations of the victory

were laid by the Australian bowlers with Glenn McGrath and Michael Kasprowicz outstanding picking up 3-39 and 3-32 respectively as New Zealand slumped to 124-8 before Daniel Vettori (29 not out) and Brendon McMullen (47) got them up to 198.

Ponting also praised McGrath for his effort. There was speculation before the match that McGrath might struggle to retain his place after injury but he repaid his

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ANDREW SYMONDS.. m-o-m



PHOTO: AFP

England opener Marcus Trescothick drives during the ICC Champions Trophy match against Sri Lanka at the Rose Bowl in Southampton yesterday. The southpaw was batting on 64 before stopped play.

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ICC orders TV replays for Ind-Aus Tests

REUTERS/AFP, New Delhi

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has told the Indian board that it needs to provide TV pictures for third umpire decisions to go ahead with next month's home test series against Australia.

The ICC said in a statement on Friday that it had turned down a request from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) that the matches should be allowed even if no TV coverage was available for the third umpire.

Telesetcast of the much-awaited series, starting on October 6, has been thrown into serious doubt because of ongoing litigation over the recent award of TV rights for cricket in India.

"ICC is not able to agree to BCCI's proposal. It is ICC policy that all international matches must have third umpire television coverage in place," ICC chief executive Malcolm

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Chess camp on at BKSP

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh men's team for the 36th Chess Olympiad began their training camp at the Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protishthan in Savar from Friday under Russian Grandmaster Alexander Volzhin.

The 33-year-old Russian coach will be with the team for one and a half months, guiding them throughout the Olympiad that will be held in Calvia, Majorca, in Spain from October 14-31.

Five members of the men's team, GM Niaz Mursheed, International Masters Reefat Bin Sattar, Abdullah Al Rakib and Enamul Hossain Rajib and FIDE Master Sheikh Nasir Ahmed have joined the camp while GM Ziaur Rahman is expected to join next week after his return from the USA.

The Bangladesh team also include four female players.

TROPHY TREATS

BISHWAJIT ROY, from London

He is now 42 but former West Indies batsman Clayton Lambert said that it was a dull show in England.

"There is no excitement. I think this competition should be arranged in one city and in one venue and preferably in a developing country," said Lambert, who made five Test and 11 one-day international appearances for the Windies between 1991 and 1998.

Bangladeshi cricket fans might remember the dashing batsman from the 1998 Mini World Cup in Dhaka, the first edition of the competition now known as the Champions Trophy riding on his brilliant performance in the six-nation challenge meet in Dubai.

About his present side, Lambert said there was only one target for the USA and that was to qualify for the 2007 World Cup to be held in the West Indies.

"I will not play in the next World Cup even if the USA qualifies. Actually, my main target is to start a coaching career," said Lambert.

VETERAN AUTOGRAPH HUNTERS!

In Bangladesh cricket-crazy young fans hunting for autographs of their favourite stars during a tournament or a series is a common sight but it is

very different in England. Most times, you will find an elderly man or women waiting outside the practice ground for the same purpose.

They usually come well equipped with a photograph or an autograph book and the cricketers seldom deprive them.

"This is my only hobby left as I near the end of my life. I have watched a lot of cricket in my life. Now I am enjoying putting the signatures of different cricketers on different books," said a 70-year old retired employee Jackie Ashley, who even showed an autograph signed by Minahajul Abedin during the 1999 World Cup.

FORGET CRICKET!

Somalian Taxi driver Mohammed can not understand why Bangladeshis are so crazy for cricket.

"It's a boring sport. How can a man waste his whole day watching only one game. I have some close

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