

BD A start with a win

SPORTS REPORTER

Nazmus Sadat anchored Bangladesh A to an easy victory over hosts Zimbabwe A in the first four-day match on the fourth and final day at the Mutare Sports Club ground yesterday.

The tyro opener scored 52 as the visitors chased down a small target of 121 in only 28.2 overs.

His partner Nafees Iqbal scored 23 while skipper Tushar Imran batted till the end to ensure Bangladesh cross the line with an undefeated 21.

Bangladesh A scored 393 runs in their first innings, helped by a superb 128 by Tushar. Then left-arm spinner Enamul Haque Jr. took charge and ended with nine wickets in the match.

Zimbabwe A batsman Stuart Matsikenyeri also hit 127, but that was not enough to even guarantee a draw for the hosts.

The second string side now rest and practice for the next two days before starting their second four-day match against the same opponents on Friday.

Sourav wants to come back

BBC ONLINE, undated

Sourav Ganguly is determined to use his short stint at Northamptonshire to regain his place in the India side.

The 33-year-old batsman lost the India captaincy last year and was left out of the squad currently in the Caribbean.

He told BBC Radio Northampton: "I want to put runs on the board and get back into the national team."

"I'm not here from a financial point of view -- it's important to perform. I still feel I've got a lot of cricket in me and every run will be watched."

Ganguly, who has previous experience of county cricket with Lancashire in 2000 and Glamorgan last year, will cover for Chris Rogers while he is on duty with Australia A.

The left-hander believes playing in Twenty20, one-day and four-day cricket, will help hone his game as he looks to force his way back into the Indian selectors' thoughts.

Hosts hammer

FROM PAGE 1

Podolski stretched Germany's lead in the second half and it could have been much more.

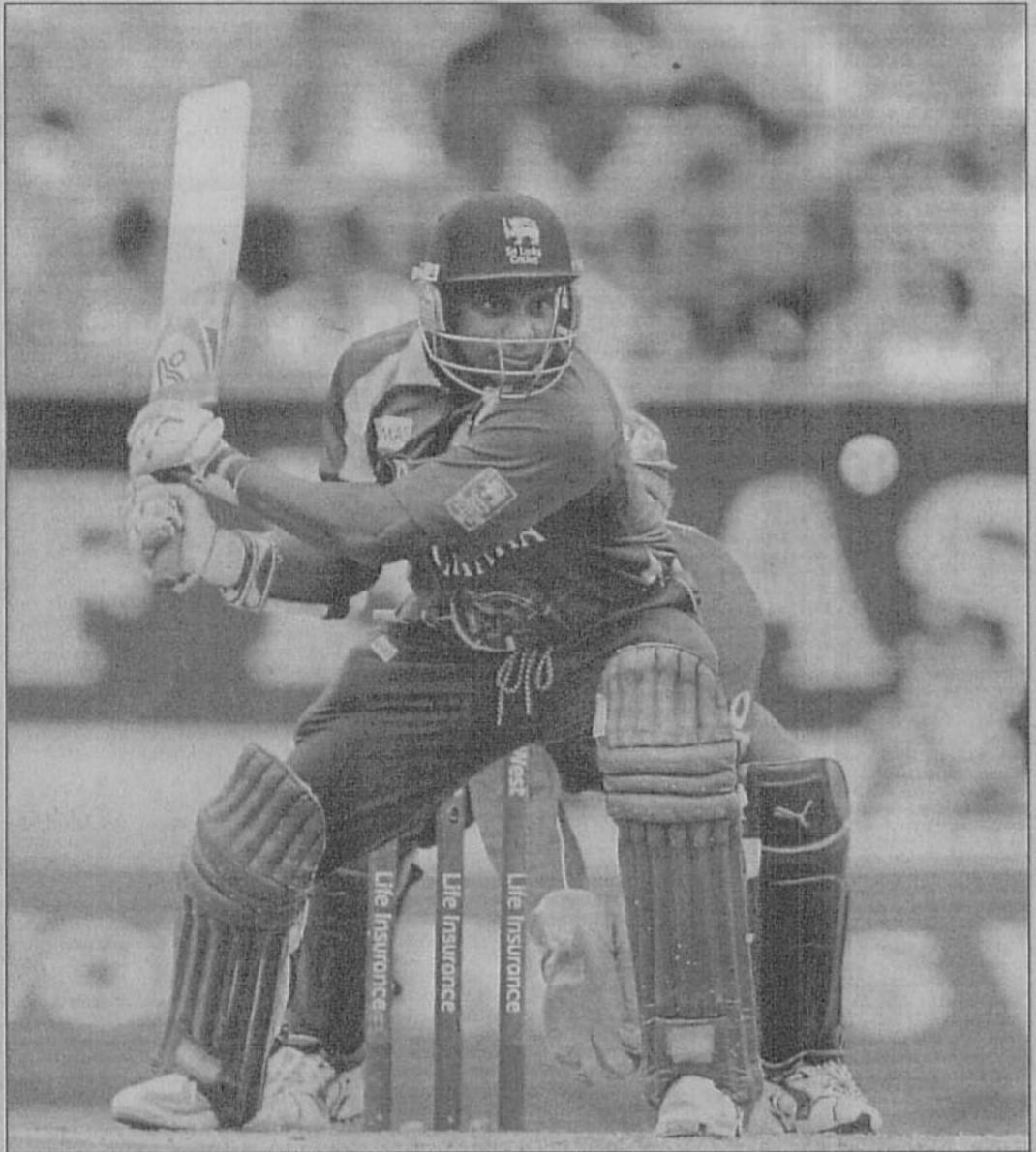
The German fans at the Olympic Stadium chanted their coach's name and cried 'final, final' but there is a long way to go before the final here on July 9.

TEAMS

ECUADOR: Mora; De la Cruz, Espinoza, Ambrossi; Guagua, Valencia (Lara 63), Edwin Tenorio, Ayovi (Urrutia 68), Mendez; Borja (Benitez 45), Kaviedes. Yellow card: Valencia.

GERMANY: Lehmann; Friedrich, Mertesacker, Huth, Lahm; Schweinsteiger, Frings (Borowski 66), Ballack, Schneider (Asamoah 72); Klose (Neuveille 66), Podolski. Yellow card: Borowski.

Referee: Valentin Ivanov (Russia). Attendance: 72,000.



Sri Lanka centurion Sanath Jayasuriya is on the prowl for a reverse hit during the second one-day international against England at The Oval in London on Tuesday.

Sanath special lifts SL



AFP, London

Sanath Jayasuriya's 122 saw Sri Lanka to a total of 319 for eight, their best against England, in the second one-day international at The Oval here Tuesday.

The tourists' total was built around a second-wicket stand of 160 between Jayasuriya and skipper Mahela Jayawardene (66).

Left-handed opener Jayasuriya's hundred was his 20th at this level -- more than the combined total of the England team -- while Sri Lanka's score was their best against England in a one-day international, surpassing the 303 for nine they made at Adelaide in 1999.

But things might have been worse for England, already 1-0 down in the five-match series, as Sri Lanka had looked on course for a target of 350 while their two most experienced batsmen were together.

The hosts did have the consolation of fast bowler Stephen Harmison's impressive haul of three for 31 from 10 overs.

But fellow quick Sajid Mahmood's seven overs cost 80 runs although he did take two wickets.

England, who'd conceded a record 42 extras in a series-opening, 20-run defeat by Sri Lanka at Lord's on Saturday, gave away 33 at The Oval.

They struck early when Upul Tharanga, who'd scored a man-of-the-match winning 120 at Lord's, edged Harmison to first slip

Marcus Trescothick for 17.

But Jayawardene, who'd won the toss, showed his intentions by getting off the mark with a whipped leg-side six off Mahmood and four balls later carved him extravagantly over cover for four.

Jayasuriya then advanced down the pitch to drive Mahmood for four and two balls later uppercourt him for five.

Jayasuriya, 37 later this month, then completed a 68-ball fifty with one six and five fours.

He continued to take toll of Mahmood, lofting him for six over deep square leg with the bowler's first five overs costing 60 runs.

Jayawardene meanwhile turned Liam Plunkett down to fine leg for four to bring up a run-a-ball fifty with one six and three fours. England though then had a lucky break when Sri Lanka gifted them a wicket.

Jayasuriya played the ball behind him and although it was his captain's call, the opener sent Jayawardene back only for him to be run out by a distance after Ian Bell through to bowler James Dalrymple, Sri Lanka 194 for two after a second-wicket stand of 160 in 140 balls.

Jayasuriya though pressed on to a 122-ball century with two sixes and 11 fours. But going for a trademark uppercourt over the offside infield he was well caught by Tim Bresnan, running in from cover, to leave Sri Lanka 259 for three in the 43rd over.

Sangakkara, dropped at third man on 28 by substitute Kabir Ali, a hard chance, kept the scoreboard ticking over before England captain Andrew Strauss missed a

boundary and was run out.

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keeper Mabrouk Zaidi napping in the first half.

Under Oleg Blokhin, one of the greatest wingers of the game and the first footballer from the Soviet Union to play professional football in Europe, Ukraine, perhaps erased any chances of premature exit. And the rousing reception the fans gave Sheva -- the AC Milan striker and European Player of the Year -- in Hamburg after leading the side from front was spontaneous. All they need now to stay in the tournament is a draw against Tunisia.

Spain, however, qualified for the knockout stage and how wonderfully they turned on the style against Tunisia in Stuttgart. The 'chokers', as the Spanish are always called in world football, seemed to resurface when Tunisia took an early lead.

But a masterstroke from coach Luis Aragones changed the complexion of the game and Raul's equaliser and a brace from Fernando Torres in the last 20 minutes in a come-from-behind 3-1 victory.

At the start, Spain looked like Real Madrid of recent times, especially in the defence, and a clumsy mid-pitch challenge by Carles Puyol let Jaziri free. The Tunisian midfielder sprinted into the rival area, and with him four Spanish defenders who were clueless and saw Jaziri send a square pass to the path of Mnari who tapped in after his first-time shot was blocked by Iker Casillas, arguably the best shotstopper in the world.

Aragnes's side, who now have extended their unbeaten run to 23 games in two years, proved they are real contenders. The world now waits to see how far the class of 2006 advance this time to get rid of the 'perennial underachievers' tag.

Dick Advocaat (South Korea football coach) "I'm very proud of my team. It was a miraculous performance to come back from a goal down to get a draw against France."

Spain enjoyed two-thirds of the ball possession but the Africans kept the lead as Torres and David Villa fired blank and Xabi Alonso's header was cleared off the line by Ayara. Aragones, one of the oldest coaches in the tournament, read the signs and put aside emotion to replace two-goal Villa -- hero of the Ukraine game -- and the ineffective Luis Garcia with experience of Raul and the 19-year-old genius Cesc Fabregas.

The two combined for the first goal as the matured Raul, Spain's top scorer, slotted home after 40-year-old goalkeeper Ali Boumnijel partially stopped Fabregas's low drive.

Goal No. 2 was simply marvellous. Fabregas sliced the defences with a through from their own half, intended for Torres who at midpitch. The Atletico Madrid blond raced 40 yards diagonally, took the ball away from the onrushing Boumnijel with a deft first touch of the left-foot and found the empty net with a kick of the right foot. Only the youth can do it. The 22-year-old, however, did not need similar pace to convert a penalty and become the top scorer of the tournament with three goals.

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Dick Advocaat (South Korea football coach) "I'm very proud of my team. It was a miraculous performance to come back from a goal down to get a draw against France."

"There's still something to play for with being number one in the group and that can be an advantage," he said.

"Maybe players will be rested or left out if they have yellow cards, but we'll have to wait and see that the team will do in that game."

"We have to show we deserve to go all the way at this tournament."

LEADING SCORERS

AFP, Berlin

World Cup leading scorers after two Group A games on Tuesday: 4 - Klose (Germany) 3 - Fernando Torres (Spain) 2 - Bosacki (Poland), Bravo (Mexico), T Cahill (Australia), Crespo (Argentina), Delgado (Ecuador), Maxi Rodriguez (Argentina), Tenorio (Ecuador), Villa (Spain), Wanchope (Costa Rica)

1 - Adriano (Brazil), Ahn Jung-hwan (South Korea), Al Jaber (Saudi Arabia), Al Kahtani (Saudi Arabia), Alois (Australia), Barnett (Switzerland), Cambiasso (Argentina), Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal), Crouch (England), Deco (Portugal), Drogba (Ivory Coast), Fred (Brazil), Frei (Switzerland), Frings (Germany), Gerrard (England), Gilardino (Italy), Golmohammadi (Iran), Gomez (Costa Rica), Gyan (Ghana), Henry (France), Iaquinta (Italy), Jadi (Tunisia), Jaziri (Tunisia), Kaka (Brazil), Kalinichenko (Ukraine), Kaviedes (Ecuador), Koller (Czech Republic), Kone (Ivory Coast), Lahm (Germany), Lee Chun-soo (South Korea), Ljungberg (Sweden), Messi (Argentina), Mnari (Tunisia), Mohamed Kader (Togo), Muntari (Ghana), Nakamura (Japan), Neuville (Germany), Park Ji-sung (South Korea), Pauleta (Portugal), Pirlo (Italy), Podolski (Germany), Raul (Spain), Rebrov (Ukraine), Robben (Netherlands), Rusol (Ukraine), Savio (Argentina), Shevchenko (Ukraine), Tevez (Argentina), Van Nistelrooy (Netherlands), Van Persie (Netherlands), Xabi Alonso (Spain), Zincha (Mexico)

Poland ride on

above Wanchope to meet the inswinging corner at the back post and powered a header into the net. Wanchope had the ball in the net in the 81st minute for what would have been a dream equaliser in his last game but he was correctly ruled offside.

Both teams opened the match cagily with Costa Rica having the first chance in the eighth minute, a left-footed free kick from Ronald Gomez cannoning off a defender for a corner.

There was little for the huge Polish support to get excited about with their laboured build-ups coming to nothing.

Costa Rica opened the scoring in the 25th minute after the best move of the game. Wanchope was impeded by Poland captain Jacek Bak on the edge of the box and dead-ball specialist Gomez hit the target from the resulting freekick.

His low shot sped through the gap left by several Costa Rica players vacating the wall and went under the legs of goalkeeper Artur Boruc who swung wildly at the ball.

Poland drew level in controversial circumstances in the 33rd minute. An unmarked Bosacki hit home a corner from Maciej Zurawski but Costa Rica keeper Jose Porras seemed to be tripped as he came out to intercept the cross.

It was the central defender's first goal for his country and Poland's opening strike of the 2006 World Cup.

Gomez was booked for protesting the goal with referee Shamsul Maidin of Singapore after the half-time whistle.

Poland started the second half brightly and took the lead from another corner in the 66th minute after Porras had saved a stinging shot from Jacek Krzynowek. Bosacki rose

above Wanchope to meet the inswinging corner at the back post and powered a header into the net.

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TEAMS

POLAND: Artur Boruc; Marcin Basczynski, Jacek Bak, Bartosz Bosacki, Michal Zewlakow; Ezebiusz Smolarek (Grzegorz Rasiak 85), Arkadiusz Radomski (Mariusz Lewandowski 64), Miroslaw Szymkowicz, Jacek Krzynowek; Ireneusz Jelen, Maciej Zurawski (Pawel Brozek 46).

Yellow card: Radomski (18), Bak (23), Zewlakow (29), Basczynski (60).

COSTA RICA: Jose Porras; Jervis Drummond (Harold Wallace 70), Michael Umana, Luis Marin, Gabriel Badilla, Leonardo Gonzalez; Cristian Bolanos (Alvaro Saborio 78), Mauricio Solis, Walter Centeno, Ronald Gomez (Carlos Hernandez 82); Paulo Wanchope.

Yellow card: Umana (17), Marin (45+2), Gomez (45+3), Badilla (56), Gonzalez (76).

Referee: Shamsul Maidin (Singapore)

Attendance: 43,000

BRAC BANK CUP

Beximco, ISD keep winning

SPORTS REPORTER

Beximco Pharma continued their brilliant form to move to the next round when they defeated Partex 2-1 in the BRAC Bank Cup five-a-side football tournament at the International School Dhaka (ISD) indoor facilities yesterday.

Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel suffered a defeat when they went down to Malaysian Airlines 3-1. In another match, hosts ISD defeated IDLC 2-1 to move to the next round.

Warne careful about shoulder

AFP, Sydney

Australian cricket star Shane Warne will return to Australia for precautionary medical checks on his bowling shoulder before next summer's Ashes series, his personal assistant said Tuesday.

Helen Nolan said Warne would leave his English county side Hampshire to return to Melbourne this month to have his right shoulder checked by surgeon Greg Hoy.

"It's just a precautionary check-up," Nolan told Australian Associated Press.

She said Warne's shoulder had been sore during matches between Australia and Bangladesh in April, but stressed he would not require surgery.

Warne, who has 685 Test wickets, is crucial to Australia's chances of regaining the Ashes from England. He took 40 wickets at 19.92 in last year's series and was easily the side's best player.

Cambiasso full

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He ran virtually single-handedly through the England midfield and deflected to score.

The 25-year-old Cambiasso, normally a ball winner, was playing out of position and should not even have been on the pitch, having come on as a substitute in the 17th minute for the injured Luis Gonzalez when the score was 1-0.

Poland started the second half brightly and took the lead from another corner in the 66th minute after Porras had saved a stinging shot from Jacek Krzynowek. Bosacki rose

TV remains in Dhaka

FROM PAGE 24

saying the people of Sylhet loves to do something for others'.

Gazi Md. Asaduzzaman Kabir, a 33-year-old civil service holder who lives in Demra, ran way with the second prize, a good-looking Toshiba refrigerator but Jaynal Abedin, a 24-year-old Rajshahi University student, dashed Dhaka's hopes of a clean sweep of all the top prizes as he grabbed the third prize -- a Toshiba washing machine.

Much to the delight of the cheering crowd, there was a raffle draw for the audience who instantly won two canon cameras and five Toshiba irons.