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## No 'water allocation' plans

INTERNET, undated

Beijing has no plan for allocating water from nearby cities to meet the comparatively small increase in use during the Olympics, according to the local authority on Friday.

Bi Xiaogang, Beijing Water Authority deputy director, said at a press conference here that water increase for two months accounted for only a small portion of the annual use by Beijing citizens, which was about 3.5 billion to 3.6 billion cubic meters each year.

"So we have no plan of water allocation before or during the Olympics. The city government will ensure an adequate water use with good quality for all city people during the Games," he said.

Bi also revealed the capital's rainfall had achieved 320 mm so far in July, 30 percent up compared with same period last year.

In addition, all Olympic venues in Beijing had employed technologies for water-saving, rainfall utilization and recycled water usage, saving more than 1 million cubic meters annually, Bi said.

In its seven years of Olympic preparation, Beijing had rebuilt and updated its water conservancy facilities, he added.

## Rajshahi take kabaddi title

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi emerged champions and reached the final round of the Spectra Group National Women's Kabaddi Championship after their 59-17 win over Gaibandha in the final at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex gymnasium yesterday.

Sheela of Rajshahi was adjudged the best player of the zone.

The two Dhaka zone finalists -- Rajshahi and Gaibandha -- have already reached the seven-team final round that begins today at the kabaddi stadium.

Secretary General of Bangladesh Olympic Association Kutubuddin Ahmed will inaugurate the four-day final round in the afternoon.

### TEAMS

Group A - Bangladesh Ansar & VDP, Gaibandha, Narail and Jhenidah DSAs;  
Group B - Rajshahi, Faridpur and Jamalpur DSAs.



## Did U Know?

The first Paralympic Games were held in 1948. The name 'Paralympics' comes from the words 'Parallel' and 'Olympics'.



**Luiz Felipe Scolari**  
(New Chelsea coach)  
"My name is Luiz Felipe Scolari. I'm not Jose Mourinho. I have my own personality. I follow my way, not another way."  
While hitting back at comparisons with his flamboyant predecessor.

# Football takes its bow



SPORTS REPORTER

After an elongated year-long absence, top-flight football rolled back to the ground on Saturday with Jatrabari Krira Chakra winning the opening game against Rajshahi's Diganta Prasari 2-0 in the Citycell Federation Cup qualifying rounds.

It was not a great start to the season at the Bangabandhu National Stadium as both sides produced poor football in front of an almost empty bowl under immense heat.

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) senior vice-president Salam Murshedi, who inaugurated the meet in a simple ceremony, however expressed his satisfaction with the fact that the game has finally resumed. The last edition of the

competition was held in 2005.

The former footballer was also hopeful that the things would be improved gradually if the game continues with regularity.

"We are happy because the game returned to the field after a long gap. The quality of the match might not be satisfactory and the turn out was also poor but I believe everything will improve gradually," said Murshedi.

There was no formal inauguration yesterday but the BFF is planning a grand opening ceremony for the final round involving all the big names -- the 11 B. League clubs who are automatic qualifiers.

"We will take some initiatives to make the final rounds more attractive," Murshedi informed.

Five qualifiers out of eleven competitors will join the 16-team finals which is likely to start by August 10 at the same venue.

Back to the match, Jatrabari Krira Chakra took the lead against ten-men Diganta Prasari through a 66th minute strike by Shariful

Islam.

Diganta's Jahangir Alam got the marching order in the very second minute of the second half because of rough tackling in the danger zone.

Shariful opened the account with a right footer from inside the D Box after dodging past an opponent defender while substitute striker Sohel, who earlier missed a couple of good chances, doubled the margin in the 80th minute after Shariful's rebound shot came his way as opponent custodian Masud Rana failed to clear it.

Jatrabari also got some good chances to take the lead but Sohel failed to capitalise on two good openings.

The remaining qualifying matches -- which ends on August 3 -- will be played at the Army Stadium in Banani and the Gazipur Stadium with a view to save the premier ground's pitch during the monsoon.

BKSP meet Bangladesh Police at the Army Stadium in the second game at 4pm.



Jatrabari striker Shariful (top) skips past a tackle from Pappu of Rajshahi's Diganta Sangha during the Citycell Federation Cup opener at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

## A team in trouble

SPORTS REPORTER

Speedster Makhaya Ntini tore down Bangladesh A's batting lineup on the second day of their three-day match at the New Road ground in Worcester yesterday.

The 31-year-old paceman snared four wickets as the second string side slid to 121 all out in only 41 overs of their first innings after the South Africans declared their first innings on 429 for three, made in exactly 100 overs.

Apart from Ntini's four, Andre Nel took three wickets and Monde Zondeki took one. Left-arm spinner Paul Harris took two wickets to wrap up Bangladesh A's first innings.

For the tourists, only Nayeem Islam and Mosharraf Hossain scored 25 each as the rest struggled to cope with the pace of the South Africans. Mosharraf remained unbeaten during his 57-ball knock that included four boundaries.

This is the A team's last three-day match in their tour of United Kingdom.

## Pioneer League

UNB, Dhaka

Rampura Krira Chakra registered their second consecutive victory in the Dhaka City Corporation Pioneer Football League beating Mugdipara Samaj Kalyan Sangsad 3-0 in a Group C match at the Kamalapur Stadium yesterday.

Khuku struck twice -- in the 9th and 59th minutes -- while Babar Miah scored the other goal in the 41st minute for the winners.

In the day's other match, Tangail Football Club got walkover against Madrasahpara who failed to report in time at the same venue in the afternoon.

In today's matches, Tejgaon Nabatara face BKSP while Nawabpur are up against Mohammadpur Jubo.

# TEAM FOCUS: RUSSEL KC Pressing for semis



AL MUSABBIR SADI

Like the other title contenders, Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra will also rely on foreign collection to buy a ticket to the semifinals of the Federation Cup, which got underway in the city yesterday with the qualifiers.

Russel is involved in the final round and the remaining two weeks would be crucial for their preparation, veteran coach Wajed Gazi told The Daily Star yesterday.

"The rains have affected our training badly. Although we had started about a month ago, we could hardly do any real practice due to unplayable condition. We got the ground in Ashulia just over a

week ago to begin training properly," said the most experienced coach in town, who started his coaching career in 1980.

"So the fitness level is not very high and it is very difficult to prepare the players for a top-class

competition in such a short time which we have used to do some running and jogging," said the former national winger, who retired as a player in 1977 from Dhaka Wanderers after spending his heydays mostly at BIDC between playing for Calcutta Mohammedan (1962-63) and Dhaka Mohammedan (1974-76).

"Russel have lost most of his strength but we have tried to make up. We hope we would be able to cover the leakage and if we get quality foreigners, we will start as a contender for the championship."

"Everything really depends on the foreigners," said Gazi whose side are trying to rope in Moroccan defender Bourdif Mohamed and fellow striker Touati Youness who both played for the club in previous seasons apart from a midfielder. They are also linked with Nigerian imports but nothing has been confirmed yet.



ALFAZ AHMED

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# Proteas doubt safety

CRICINFO, undated

South African captain Graeme Smith says his players have expressed

major reservations about playing the Champions Trophy in Pakistan this September. His comments are the latest voicing player concern over security in Pakistan after the ICC confirmed on Thursday that the tournament would remain in that country.

South Africa toured Pakistan last October for a Test and ODI series and Smith said the security situation had worsened considerably since then, when a state of emer-

gency was declared just days after their departure.

"From the players' point of view, we do have major concerns with security in Pakistan," Smith told Sapa. "A lot has happened in Pakistan, from a security point of view, since we were there and those are things that are worrying us. Generally, that's a full-player view. I don't know any players who don't have issues with regards to security in Pakistan."

"There were bombings taking place in Karachi and bombings are taking place in Lahore now. Within three days (of us returning home), there was a state of emergency so we have seen how quickly things can develop."

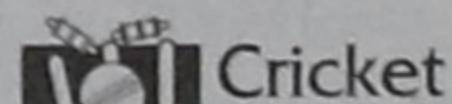
Smith echoed the views of Tony Irish, the chief executive of the South African Cricketers' Association, who said on Friday the players were disappointed with the ICC's decision and also hoped Cricket South Africa (CSA) would seriously consider whether to send a team to the Champions Trophy or not. Smith said he would leave the players' association and Gerald Majola, CSA's chief executive, to take the final decision.

"We have people working on that whom we trust. Tony Irish from the players' association and Gerald," Smith said. "We are in constant communication with them on how we feel as players. We

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# 'The perfect game'

Murali, Mendis spin SL to 1-0 lead



AFP, Colombo

Muttiah Muralidaran and Ajantha Mendis made a mockery of India's strong batting reputation as Sri Lanka won the opening Test by a record innings and 239 runs here on Saturday.

Maverick off-spinner Muralidaran finished the match with 11 wickets as India were shot out for 138 in their second innings after conceding a lead of 377 on the fourth day.

He was brilliantly supported by debutant Mendis, an unorthodox spinner with plenty of variation, who took eight wickets in the match to also play a crucial role in his team's victory with a day to spare.

It was Sri Lanka's biggest win over India in 27 Tests, the previous being by an innings and 77 runs at the same venue in 2001.

"We probably played a perfect game," said Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene.

"We put pressure on the Indians by scoring 600 runs. It was not a bad wicket to bat on, but Murali and Mendis bowled brilliantly. It is a good feeling that four of our top

seven batsmen got hundreds."

The Indian batsmen, always considered better against spin than pace, looked clueless against the Sri Lankan spin duo, who kept striking at regular intervals even on an easy-paced track.

The tourists lost 14 wickets during the first innings.

None of the Indian batsmen could read the spin duo as the tourists' second innings lasted just 45 overs, with man-of-the-match Muralidaran grabbing 6-26 and Mendis 4-60 during their almost unplayable spells.

India were earlier bowled out for 223 in their first innings in reply to the hosts' massive 600-6 declared.

Indian opener Virender Sehwag (13), star batsman Sachin Tendulkar (12) and Rahul Dravid (10) were initially given not out by umpires

Mark Benson of England and Billy Doctrove of the West Indies.

But the Sri Lankan captain requested the officials to review the decisions under a new experimental rule and they changed their decisions after consulting TV umpire Rudi Koertzen of South Africa.

"The review system is still an experiment. It has to be reviewed at the end of the (three-Test) series," said India captain Anil Kumble.

"It was tough for us to draw the match after they scored 600. The spells by their spinners were great. Mendis is a find for Sri Lanka and you cannot take Murali out of the picture."

Sehwag was trapped leg-before by Muralidaran, while Tendulkar was caught by a diving Tillakaratne Dilshan at leg-slip off the same bowler after TV replays showed the ball hit pad and bat.

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## BOWLERS TO HAVE DISMISSED SACHIN TENDULKAR MOST

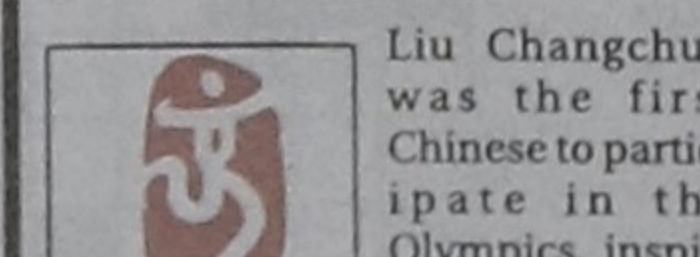
Bowler	Span	Matches	Dismissals
M Muralidaran (SL)	1993-2008	13	7
GD McGrath (Aus)	1996-2004	9	6
JN Gillespie (Aus)	2001-2004	8	6
WJ Cronje (SA)	1992-2000	11	5
AA Donald (SA)	1992-2000	11	5



Sri Lankan spin sensation Ajantha Mendis (L) is being asked to lead out by Muttiah Muralidaran after their memorable victory over India on the fourth day of the first Test at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground in Colombo yesterday.

# Reviving the spirit

INTERNET, undated



Seventy-five years after Liu competed in the 1932 Los Angeles Summer Games, and a little more than a year before the 2008 Beijing Olympics, a movie called "The One" will be shot to commemorate him.

His son Liu Hongliang was at the press conference announcing the movie project. And he had many memories of his athletic father.

"My father passed on his optimism and patriotism to us," Liu told China Daily website.

Liu senior was a celebrated sprinter from Dalian, in China's

northeastern Liaoning Province.

In 1931, the Japanese began its occupation of northeastern China and created a puppet state called Manchukuo. The Japanese concocted a plan to send Liu to the 10th Olympic Games and represent Manchukuo.

But the patriotic-minded athlete made a statement in the Ta Kung Pao newspaper, refusing to represent the so-called state at the Olympics.

Liu Hongliang, Chairman of Academic Committee of Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences, talks to China Daily website at a news conference held in Beijing on April 27. (chinadaily.com.cn)

"Upon reading about my father's statement, the patriotic General Zhang Xueliang (also spelled as Chang Hsue-liang) declared he would financially support my father to the Olympics to represent China," recalls the younger Liu. "General Zhang was a

tremendous influence on my father. He opposed the Japanese invaders all his life despite the harsh living conditions."

With General Zhang's money, Liu set sail from Shanghai to Los Angeles. "After about a month on the boat, my father had gained a few kilos. He was not at his best," his son remembers.

Three days after Liu arrived in Los Angeles, he competed in the Olympics, and was eliminated in the preliminary heats in the 100m and 200m sprints clocking 11.1 and 22.1 seconds respectively.

"After the Games were over, the money donated by General Zhang, about US\$1,000, had already run out. Liu had to solicit donations from local Chinese community in Los Angeles to be able to buy a ticket back home," said the young Liu.

Liu's pioneering way to the Olympics may be of symbolic value to the Chinese, past and present.

But for him, it was a sad memory.

When asked if his father talked about his Olympic experience, Liu said, "He rarely talked about it. When he left Shanghai for Los Angeles, he was very excited. But he was disappointed when he came back."

The participation to the Olympics was full of twists and turns, but Liu's life after the Games was even bumpier.

His son recalls: "Because my father refused to represent Manchukuo, the Japanese wanted to arrest him. Even when we were not in Northeastern China, we were monitored for a long time."

"After we came back to Nanjing, my father did not have a job, and our family were in complete destitution," Liu continued to say, as he wiped tears from his eyes. "We suffered a lot when I was a kid."

The difficult situation Liu and his family suffered changed Liu's

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Chinese paramilitary police man their post beneath an umbrella sponsored by US fastfood giant McDonald's in a restricted area near the Olympic Stadium also known as the Bird's Nest in Beijing on Saturday.