DHAKA SATURDAY JANUARY 18, 2003, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com

played 26 Tests, was born on February 9



#### BTV

SAFF Championship Semifinals Pakistan vs Maldives Live at 3:00 pm Bangladesh vs India Live at 6:00 nm

#### **ESPN**

Cricket Programming Super Selector Repeat at 7:30 am English Premier Football League Man United vs Chelsea Live at 6:05 pm

Newcastle United vs Man City Live at 8:45 pm

Southampton vs Liverpool Live at 11:30 pm Primera Liga Barcelona vs Valencia

Live at 2:30 am (Sunday) STAR Sports

Australian Open Men's/Women's Third Rd Live at 6:00 am Asia Sport Show Int'l Sports News Taped Version at 6:00 pm English Premier Football League





### **Martina Hingis**

(Former World No 1) "Tennis was and remains my passion, but there is nothing to be gained by playing matches when you are in constant pain."



Competition closes at 8

2. Who won the Hopman Cup title?

Steve Waugh scored? 4. Who became Tribal football

<del>Mymerlsingt</del> Rangamati

award in the fifth and final Ashes

Class...... Roll No...... 

Tasmania sight win

AFP, Hobart

Tasmania were well placed to secure an outright victory over Victoria after the third day of the Sheffield Shield clash here Friday. Going to stumps with 82 for four wickets in their second innings

Victoria still need another 261 runs on the final day Saturday.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



A combo picture shows the final four teams of the SAFF Championship yesterday prepare for their respective semifinals. (Top left) Bangladesh's Ariful Kabir (L) and Arif Khan practise heading at the tennis court of Dhaka Club while (top right) the Indians train at the tennis court of Sheraton Hotel. The two sides meet in the final-before-the-final game at the Bangabandhu National Stadium at 6 pm today. Maldives (bottom left) and Pakistan players practise at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur

# Semifinals day

SAFF CHAMPIONSHIP
Bangladesh 2003

**SPORTS REPORTER** 

In what could be billed the final before the final, hosts Bangladesh meet two-time holders India in the second semifinal of the third South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship today. The game at the Bangabandhu National Stadium

Both teams will begin the match knowing who will be their opponents in Monday's final Pakistan and Maldives meet at 3 pm.

Bangladesh Television will telecast the matches live from the big bowl while Bangladesh Betar will broadcast the running commentary.

Bangladesh made it to the knockout phase as Group B champions with an all-win record in their three first round matches. They beat Nepal and Maldives by solitary goals before thrashing Bhutan 3-0 in their last match.

On the other hand India limped into the semifinals. They tasted their first ever defeat to Pakistan 0-1 in the opening match and then drew with Maldives 1-1 in the second

However, they pulled off a 4-0 win against Afghanistan that kept them afloat in the eight-nation meet.

Yesterday Bangladesh and India players went through final preparations for the big match.

The Bangladesh team did some light warm-up exercises at the Dhaka Club in the morning. Then they offered Juma prayers at the High Court Mazar mosque before leaving for the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur in the afternoon.

Bangladesh coach George Kottan said he was actively considering to make a change to the frontline since the AlfazMoni combination was not working.

The Austro-Hungarian coach further said that Farhad, who scored two goals against Bhutan, might get a place in the starting list instead of

"I hope to see my forwards playing better tomorrow than the past. I have not yet decided the playing eleven as it will be done tomorrow morning after a light practice session. But there will be a change in the attacking force." said

Kottan while talking to reporters. "It will a good match and better than the final I believe. Both teams will be under pressure. I understand my forwards did not play as everybody expected but you never know, they might play better tomorrow and get some early goals," he said.

five key players Aminul, Rajani Suion. Joy and Arman had minor injury problems and hoped they would be fit.

Kottan's Indian counterpart Stephen Constantine thought Bangladesh would start favourites and his side, would for a change, be considered underdogs.

"Bangladesh are the favourites as I said earlier. So, they will be under pressure from the crowd to win. And if you ask me about my team, I will say that they are not as powerful as our Asian Games squad because four key players are absent," said the Briton.

Meanwhile, Pakistan and Maldives also trained for the last

Maldives went to Mirpur in the morning while Pakistan had their practice at the same venue in the

Pakistan coach Tariq Umar Lutfy said that he would follow the same tactics as he did in the past three matches while Maldives coach Jozef Jankech thought luck would also play a big role in today's first

"We played well against Bangladesh but still lost."

**Pollock wants** 

# **Greenidge with BD** in Namibia

ICC Cricket World Cup
SOUTH AFRICA 2003

**SPORTS REPORTER** 

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has appointed former West Indies opener Gordon Greenidge as its technical coach for the tour of

The return of Gordon after nearly four years since his unceremonious exit during the 1999 World Cup in England caused a surprise.

Although Gordon will look after the batting during his short-term assignment in Namibia, where Khaled Mashud's team is currently involved in a World Cup build-up programme, his reappearance led to the speculation that he might take over from Mohsin Kamal after the

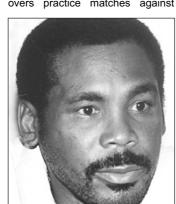
"Gordon (Greenidge) will assist the team during the Namibia tour as a consultant till January 31," said Mahbub Anam, chairman of the cricket committee of BCB.

"We also had approached Barry Richards and a few other persons. But we found our talks with Gordon go so well and he landed the job,' Mahabub told adding that it happened so quickly that the Board could not inform the press properly. But Mahbub's excuse can only

South Africa 2003

newspapers have already broke the

Bangladesh, who left for the African country on January 13, will today play their first of five limitedovers practice matches against



**GORDON GREENIDGE** 

Namibia, who are also participating in the game's showpiece for the first time this year.

The match will be held at

Bangladesh kick off their World Cup campaign against Canada at Kingsmead, Durban on February

Transfers ends

### **Faruque joins City Club**

SPORTS REPORTER

Former national captain Faruque Ahmed joined City Club on the third and final day of the inter-club transfer vesterday.

Faruque led Bangladesh Biman last vear.

Pakistan left-arm spinner Mohammad Hussain was City Club's other notable signing. The southpaw has been associated with

Besides, two players left City Club on the same day. They are Pakistani Wasim Nayeem who joined Premier League champions Victoria Sporting Club while Halim Shah signed for Brothers Union.

The elite league is scheduled to start from January 25.

### NBL v'ball

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Police maintained their winning run in the National Bank Premier Division Volleyball League beating Wari Club 25-20, 25-23 and 25-11 at the court yesterday.

This was fourth consecutive victory for Bangladesh Police while Wari tasted their first defeat in five

Today's matches: PDB vs Dilkusha SC (3pm) and Azad SC vs Sonali Bank (3pm).

## Khulna double celebration

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Khulna had double reasons to celebrate when they entered oneday final a day after reaching the longer version of the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea National Cricket League Yesterday they defeated Sylhet by 71 runs in their last match

at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. Inspired by their sensational one-wicket win against the same opponent on Thursday, Khulna play Dhaka on January 24.

Electing to bat in a reduced 44over-a-side match. Khulna scored 204 for nine with opener Niaz Murshed hammering highest 65 off 71 balls. Niaz smote one six and

Captain Hasanuzzaman chipped in with 34 while one-down Salim In reply, Sylhet were shot out for 133 in 38.1 overs with Khulna's left-

arm spinner Manzarul taking four wickets for 16 runs. Pacer Masud and all-rounder Razzak who took three and two

wickets respectively. In the other match of the day, Rajshahi defeated Dhaka by seven

Chasing a paltry Dhaka total of 79, Rajshahi scored 80 in 24.4 overs losing three wickets.

Earlier, Dhaka could muster only 79 in 29.4 overs after they were put

Right-arm seamer Tareq destroved Dhaka with four wickets

Shafaq Al-Jabair took three wickets

### **SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboards of the two Ispahani Mirzapor Fourth National Cricket League matches at different venues

Dhaka v Rajshahi Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium. DHAKA

Rashedul c Shamimul b Shafaq 7 Anwar Ibw b Shafad Jahangir b Shafaq Kadir c & b Mushfig Saiiad c Shamimul b Nuruzzaman 11 Fahim Ibw b Tareq Neeyamur run out Masud c Shamimul b Tared Arafat b Tareq

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

### rewrite history AFP, Johannesburg

South African skipper Shaun Pollock on Thursday said he believed his squad stood a good chance of becoming the first ever side to win a cricket World Cup at home, but admitted that playing one-day games was "a bit of a

"I have confidence in every single individual that we have in our squad, and that they are up for the event, that they can perform in any

situation," Pollock said. "We have got a team that can go

all the way," he told AFP. South Africa have had a good season, beating Bangladesh, Sri

Lanka and Pakistan in both Tests and one-day internationals. The wins, said Pollock, boosted the confidence of the South African team, which is now on top of the ICC

Test rankings although the position has been viewed with some scenticism by other cricketing countries ""We have had a good season on the field. An important part of any team's make-up is confidence. think we have gathered a lot

throughout the three series againt Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan," he said. South Africa were to undergo a fitness training camp in the mountainous Drakensberg area next week, followed by a skills training

warm-up games before the tournament starts on February 8. South Africa play the West Indies on February 9 at Newlands in Cape

camp in Cape Town and a couple of

Town in the opening match. But Pollock admitted that even though South Africa will field a strong team -- rated second favourites to win behind holders Australia the players should quard against

## Andre tames

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Andre Agassi drew on his big match temperament to carry him into the last 16 of the Australian Open here Friday as Venus Williams led a clutch of top seeds into the fourth round.

Agassi, one of the toughest competitors on the ATP Tour, withstood a strong challenge from France's Nicolas Escude to earn a gritty 6-2, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory in 2hr

fiercest examination so far, forging some 20 break point opportunities

Guillermo Coria on Sunday, said he

was relieved to have got past Escude, the 29th seed. "That was a dangerous one for me and it feels great to get through it," said Agassi. "He plays risky, he plays his shots, but he's also going

"This was one match that needed to step up and I did.'

Escude had two game points to take a 4-1 lead in the fourth set but squandered the chances with groundstroke errors at critical times.

through in the ninth game when Escude, who was 40-0 up, was pulled back to advantage and dropped the game with a backhand net.

England's Nick Knight sweeps one during his superb 88 against Sri Lanka at the Adelaide Oval yesterday.

# Eng dash SL hopes

Cricket

England kept their nerve in the crucial final overs to defeat Sri Lanka by 19 runs in a thrilling trination series one-day clash at Adelaide Oval Friday night. After winning the toss and hitting

279 for seven wickets on an excellent pitch, England dismissed Sri Lanka for 260 with four balls remain-England's win was a big boost to

their hopes of qualifying to play Australia in the best-of-three finals series starting next week. Australia lead the table with 27 points, followed by England (19) and Sri Lanka (14)

England scraped home after key bowler Steve Harmison was forced to leave the field with a twisted ankle after he had sent down only two Pace bowler Andy Caddick provided another inspired perfor-

man-of-the-match award. A spellbinding innings of 99 by Sri Lankan captain Sanath Jayasuriya had promised to guide his side to a memorable victory.

when the skipper was tragically run

Despite the early loss of Marvan Atapattu (12) and Hashan Tillakaratne (nine), Jayasuriya attacked the bowling savagely, completing his 50 off only 35 balls, with the help of seven fours and a

pitch collision with his partner. . Kumar Sangakkara. Jayasuriya pushed a medium-

front of the wicket and went for what

TRI-SERIES TABLE Tri-nation series table after

looked like a comfortable single to complete his third century in four successive innings But, as Jayasuriya and Sangakkara breasted each other in

mid-pitch, England captain Nasser Hussain swooped on the ball and broke the stumps at the bowler's end with a rocket-like direct hit. Jayasuriya trudged off disconsolately, just one run short of what

would have been his 16th century in one-day international ranks. He had lashed nine fours and two sixes, thrilling an enthusiastic crowd

of almost 10.000.

Jayasuriya had smashed 122 against Australia in Sydney and 106 off England on the same ground earlier in the contest.

Jayasuriya's departure left Sri Lanka a hazardous 158 for five in the 28th over.

But Sangakkara, quickly coming to terms with Jayasuriya's dismissal, played superbly, completing 50 from 58 deliveries as he struck three boundaries, before being trapped by persistent paceman Andy Caddick in the 47th over when he had made 56. Sangakkara and Russel Arnold

(35) had hammered 93 from 112 deliveries but, with the required run SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

# a toughie

AFP, Melbourne

Escude gave the three-time Australian Open champion his

but only managing to convert four. Agassi, who now faces unseeded Argentine baseliner

to miss a few as well. I played the big points as best I could.

Agassi made the decisive break-

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

#### Tick the correct answers, post ICC Cricket World Cup The Daffly Star AFP, London Jan 24. 2003 and draw The cricket World Cup was plunged into a new cash row on Thursday 1. How many teams will play in when the sport's governing body next month's Cricket World found itself on a collision course with Sri Lanka.

Australia Russia America

their pay dispute with their own players. "We have been in regular contact with the BCCSL and expect to receive the signed Player Terms on Friday," said ICC Chief Executive 5. Who won the man-of-the-match Malcolm Speed.

"Failure to return the contracts will have very serious consequences for the BCCSL," added Speed who did not specify what measures could be taken. The warning was issued after Sri

The International Cricket Council

(ICC) issued a statement warning

the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri

Lanka (BCCSL) of the trouble they

could face should they fail to settle

Lanka's players rejected a performance-related pay package for the World Cup and, as a result, the board missed the January 14 deadline set by the ICC for the signing of players agreements. The BCCSL on Wednesday had

offered its squad a cash bounty to win the World Cup, which runs from February 9 to March 23, by means of a new payment scheme tied to performance. The island's cricket chiefs, which last month turned down an acrossthe-board pay increase demanded

by players, instead began discuss-

ing a performance-based payment

scheme with a 100,000-dollar

bonus to be offered to the entire team if they won the tournament.

Under the plan, the match fee for each player was to be doubled from 700 dollars to 1,400 dollars, while each player could also earn an additional 20,000 dollars if the team reached the final.

Earlier, cricket website cricinfo.com reported the Sri Lankans had refused to sign their contracts because of an argument about payments. The website said a statement from the Sri Lanka Cricketers Association (SLCA) said: "The

SLCA confirms that the controver-

sial players' terms agreement has

not been signed by the Sri Lanka



demanding the BCCSL paid their

players 20 per cent of the revenue they receive from the World Cup, which is due to begin in southern Africa on February 9. The SLCA said players had been offered only five per cent

Now Lanka trouble for ICC "The players of Australia and New Zealand are being paid 25 per cent...the South Africans are almost there with 30 per cent of the total money received from their board," the SLCA statement

> "In view of the above, the 20 per cent that the Sri Lankan players are requesting seems reasonable Despite the row, the SLCA

> team boycotting the tournament which they won in 1996. "The players are committed to playing in the World Cup even without such payments," said a

insisted there was no question of the

country's top stars would take part in the World Cup despite their own ongoing contracts row. "Take it from me, the likes of Sachin Tendulkar and Saurav Ganguly will be there at the World

Cup," an official of the Board of

Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)

On Wednesday, Indian officials

had expressed confidence their

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has confirmed it received "signed but altered" contracts from India by the Tuesday deadline, but said a decision whether they will be accepted will be taken this week. Indian cricketers conditionally

mance for England, snapping up 4signed the contracts last week 35 -- an effort which won him the without accepting clauses that bar them from endorsing non-official sponsors before and after the

But the momentum was lost

Continuing to swing lustily, he reached 99 from 83 balls before losing his wicket in a dramatic mid-

pace delivery from Ronnie Irani in

England-Sri	L	anka	n	natcn	а
Adelaide Oval Friday night:					
Team	Р	W	L	B/P	Pts
Australia	6	5	1	2	27
England	7	3	4	4	19
Sri Lanka	7	2	5	4	14
(Note: Win w	ith	bonus	po	oint 6;	wii
without bonu	is į	ooint	5;	tie oi	r no
result 3; los	s b	ut no	t c	conce	din
bonus point	1;	loss	. (	conce	din
bonus point	0	; the	te	eam	tha
achieves a run rate of 1.25 times					
that of the	ор	positio	on	shall	be
awarded a bo	nus	s point	)		