



## Did U Know?

Qasim Omar is the only Kenya-born player to Pakistan in Test cricket. Omar, who played 26 Tests, was born on February 9, 1957 in Nairobi.



## What to WATCH

- BTV**  
SAFF Championship Semifinals  
Pakistan vs Maldives  
Live at 3:00 pm  
Bangladesh vs India  
Live at 6:00 pm
- 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



## TALK TURKEY



**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."

## Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 18

Tick the correct answers, post **The Daily Star**

Competition closes at 8 pm  
Jan 24, 2003 and draw

- How many teams will play in next month's Cricket World Cup?  
16      12      14
- Who won the Hopman Cup title?  
Australia    Russia    America
- How many Test centuries has Steve Waugh scored?  
34      31      29
- Who became Tribal football champions?  
K'Chari M'yem'singh  
Rangamati
- Who won the man-of-the-match award in the fifth and final Ashes?  
Name .....  
Class ..... Roll No. ....  
School Address .....  
Phone: (if any) .....

## 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.

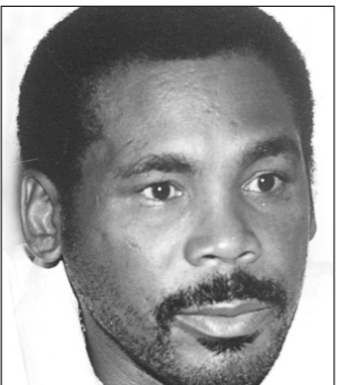


A combo picture shows the final four teams of the SAFF Championship yesterday prepare for their respective semifinals. (Top left) Bangladesh's Ariful Kabir (L) and Arif Khan practise heading at the tennis court of Dhaka Club while (top right) the Indians train at the tennis court of Sheraton Hotel. The 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.

## 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 Namibia.  
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 World Cup.  
"Gordon (Greenidge) will assist the team during the Namibia tour as a consultant till January 31," said Mahub 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," Mahub told adding that it happened so quickly that the Board could not inform the press properly. But Mahub's excuse can only



GORDON GREENIDGE

Namibia, who are also participating in the game's showpiece for the first time this year.  
The match will be held at Wanderers.  
Bangladesh kick off their World Cup campaign against Canada at Kingsmead, Durban on February 11.

## 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 yesterday.  
Faruque led Bangladesh Biman last year.  
Pakistan left-arm spinner Mohammad Hussain was City Club's other notable signing. The southpaw has been associated with Abahani.  
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 on 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 matches.  
**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 one-day 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 44-over-a-side match, Khulna scored 204 for nine with opener Niaz Murshed hammering highest 65 off 71 balls. Niaz smote one six and nine boundaries.  
Captain Hasanuzzaman chipped in with 34 while one-down Salim added 28.  
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 wickets.  
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 into bat.  
Right-arm seamer Tareq destroyed Dhaka with four wickets for three runs while left-arm pacer Shafiq Al-Jabbar took three wickets for 15 runs.



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

## Eng dash SL hopes

**Cricket**  
**AFP, Adelaide**  
England kept their nerve in the crucial final overs to defeat Sri Lanka by 19 runs in a thrilling tri-nation 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 remaining.  
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 overs.  
Pace bowler Andy Caddick provided another inspired performance for England, snapping up 4-35 - an effort which won him the 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.

Team	P	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 with bonus point 6; win without bonus point 5; tie or no result 3; loss but not conceding bonus point 1; loss conceding bonus point 0; the team that achieves a run rate of 1.25 times that of the opposition shall be awarded a bonus point)

## 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 kicks off at 6 pm.  
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 match.  
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 Moni.  
"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 be 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.  
Kottan, however, revealed that

five key players Aminul, Rajani, Sujon, 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 time.  
Maldives went to Mirpur in the morning while Pakistan had their practice at the same venue in the afternoon.  
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 semifinal.  
"We played well against Bangladesh but still lost."

## Pollock wants to 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 lottery".  
"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 scepticism by other cricketing countries.  
"We have had a good season on the field. An important part of any team's make-up is confidence. I think we have gathered a lot throughout the three series against 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 camp in Cape Town and a couple of warm-up games before the tournament starts on February 8.  
South Africa play the West Indies on February 9 at Newlands in Cape 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 guard against

## Andre tames a toughie

### AFP, Melbourne

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 48min.  
Escude gave the three-time Australian Open champion his fiercest examination so far, forging some 20 break point opportunities - but only managing to convert four.  
Agassi, who now faces unseeded Argentine baseliner 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 to miss a few as well. I played the big points as best I could."  
"This was one match that I 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.  
Agassi made the decisive breakthrough in the ninth game when Escude, who was 40-0 up, was pulled back to advantage and dropped the game with a backhand into the net.