



Did U Know?

Sergey Bubka of Ukraine won the pole vault at a record six consecutive championships from 1983 to 1997.



What to WATCH

ESPN

US Open Golf C'ship
Third Round, Highlights
Repeat at 1:00 pm

STAR Sports

Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
Repeat at 8:00 am
West Indies vs Sri Lanka
Third ODI, Highlights



TALK TURKEY



Goran Ivanisevic

(Croatian tennis star)
"Coming to London and not playing Wimbledon would be like going to Rome and not seeing the Pope. If I can't play, maybe I will walk home."



Tick the correct answers, post
The Daily Star

Competition closes at 8 pm
June 27, 2003 and draw
shortly afterwards

1. Who will lead the Australia
bound Bangladesh cricket
team?

Mashud Aminul Mahmud

2. How many ODI centuries has
Brian Lara scored?

21 31

3. Who clinched the French Open
men's title?

Hewitt Agassi
Ferrero

4. Who became Dev Cup hockey
champions?

Rangarajati Comilla

Name

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

School Address

Phone: (If any)

Europa dethrone Dhumketu

UNB, Dhaka

Europa Youth Club emerged new champions of the Metropolis First Division Basketball League with all-win record beating holders Dhumketu Club 71-58 in a keenly contested final at the Dhanmondi gymnasium yesterday.

Dhumketu dominated the first session 31-28.

Indian recruit Gautam caged highest 21, Arfan 14 and Uma Shankar 12 for the winners while Ayub scored 16 and Abdullah of Senegal scored 15 for the losers.

Gautam was named the best player of the league while Josephites Club adjudged the most disciplined team.

State Minister for Youth and Sports M Fazlur Rahman witnessed the day's final and later distributed prizes.

Asghar yet to say yes or no to Aliul



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Ali Asghar was yet to notify whether he had accepted the resignation of chief selector Aliul Islam.

Aliul decided to step down from the hot seat on Friday, a day after he announced the 15-member Bangladesh squad for Australia.

Although the days of Aliul, who was made chief selector in October last year, were numbered following the Bangladesh's debacle in the World Cup, his decision to call it quits caught everybody by surprise.

Asghar now in London attending the International Cricket Council's annual meeting, is learnt to have sought the text of Aliul's resignation letter through e-mail.

When The Daily Star Sport tried

to contact him in London, Asghar's associate said that BCB president would go through the contents after



ALIUL ISLAM

presiding over an important ACC (Asian Cricket Council) meeting. But it is almost certain that

Asghar will accept the resignation of Aliul, who has been under pressure from the advisors of the Board.

Besides, it was reported that Asghar before going to England hinted to Aliul that his future as chief selector would be over sooner rather than later.

In what is certain to be a short-lived reign as top selector, Aliul has been hitting the headlines since making his debut with the selection for the home series against West Indies last November.

He came under fire especially after Bangladesh's disastrous showing in the World Cup in South Africa, where the national team lost five of their six preliminary matches including an embarrassing 60-run loss to minnows Canada.

His ruthless chopping and changing during the TVS Cup and the subsequent Test series against South Africa also invited more

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Bangladesh cricket captain Khaled Mahmud receives his appointment letter from Bank Asia's managing director Syed Anisul Huq during a press conference at a city hotel yesterday. On the left is Tareq Aziz Khan.

Mahmud, Tareq Aziz become bankers

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud and paceman Tareq Aziz Khan will pursue a career in banking once they end their playing days.

Both cricketers decided their destination when they received their appointment letters from Bank Asia at a local hotel yesterday.

Mahmud will be working as a banking officer while young Tareq will start as an intern officer. But the managing director of Bank Asia Syed Anisul Huq said that they will act as ambassadors of the bank rather than sit behind the desk while on national duties.

"A cricketer involved in other professions is nothing new. But in our country it's a rarity.

"Getting this kind of opportunity is good for us. The career of a sportsman is very short. Once you are at the end of your career your future looks uncertain. So, this type of offer comes as a relief for every cricketer," said Mahmud while expressing his gratitude to Bank Asia.

Replying to a query the Bangladesh captain said that he would love to excel his career in banking once he is done with cricket.

BKSP Cup soccer final today

SPORTS REPORTER

Mithu scored a brilliant hat-trick to propel Dhaka Division into the final of the BKSP Cup Under-17 Football Championship with a 3-0 victory over Barisal Division at the BKSP ground in Savar yesterday.

The nimble forward twice in the first half and added the third four minutes after the break to turn the first semifinal into a no-contest.

While Dhaka ambled BKSP Green ended a double strike from Zahid to pull off a thrilling 2-1 victory against BKSP Red in the all-hosts second semifinal.

Zahid gave the Greens a 27th minute lead before Sentu restored parity for the Reds nine minutes after the break to make sure the game went into sudden death.

But when Zahid struck his second goal in the sixth minute of extra time, the Reds were red-faced. The final is today.

Ireland rout Zim



AFP, Belfast

Ireland piled on the misery for Zimbabwe by sending the tourists crashing to a humiliating ten-wicket defeat in a one-day match here on Friday.

After being thrashed in both their Tests against England, the Zimbabweans had been hoping for a morale-boosting win over the ICC associate members.

Instead they found themselves put in to bat and very quickly reduced to 12-3 as both opener Douglas Marillier and Richard Sims went for ducks and Charles Coventry managed only four.

Dion Ebrahim (52) and Stuart Matsikenyeri (50) restored some respectability to the score with a stand of 96 for the fourth wicket, allowing Zimbabwe to scrape together a total of 180 before being bowled out with one ball of their 50 overs remaining.

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Javed still unsure National cricket camp restarts tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

The camp for the Australia-bound Bangladesh cricket team resumes tomorrow at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

But opener Javed Omar was still not sure whether he would be able to join Dav Whatmore's training session at the big bowl.

The doughty right-hander missed last week's camp due to illness. It was first learnt that he was running high temperature, but later feared that he might have got Hepatitis B. But all five tests he so far had resulted in the negative.

Talking to reporters yesterday Javed said that the reports indicated nothing serious and his doctor told him that he could start training from Monday.

But before coming to the camp Javed, who played well in the home

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Time for change at ICC



CRICINFO/BBC, London

There will be plenty on the table when the top decision-makers of the International Cricket Council (ICC) meet today at Lord's.

Pakistani Ehsan Mani will take over as president of the ICC from Malcolm Gray, as the seats of power in the game's top body shift once again to the subcontinent. Jagmohan Dalmiya was Gray's predecessor.

Dalmiya will be in the thick of things when the issue of the Global Cricket Corporation's (GCC) compensation claims comes up. The GCC represents the official sponsors of the World Cup, who are expected to file for reparations on the grounds that everything they were promised was not delivered to them.

England and New Zealand will be in the dock for refusing to play in Zimbabwe and Kenya respectively,

and so will Dalmiya, for the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) failure to deliver on the players' rights, which the ICC had promised to the GCC.



EHSAN MANI

Mani, a London-based chartered accountant, is firmly behind expansion plans, especially moves to raise the game's profile in North America.

"You can't truly have an international game based on 10 teams, you have to be expansionist and open up new markets," he has been quoted as saying.

Mani has been Pakistan's representative to the ICC since 1989 and has served as vice-president for the past year.

He played a leading role in the sale of media rights three years ago, which guaranteed an income of 500 million dollars for international cricket over a period up to and including the 2007 World Cup.

It is due to be staged in the West Indies, but serious consideration is now being given to playing some matches in the United States in line with the expansion proposal.

Mani will also be hoping to play a part in facilitating the resumption of normal cricketing relations between Pakistan and India.

Matches between the arch-rivals have been infrequent in recent years because of a stand-off between the two governments over d i s p u t e d

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The 40-year-old boy!



BBC ONLINE, London

Alec Stewart celebrated his 40th birthday on June 10 evening with a family dinner at home. But during the day his legendary dedication to fitness still saw him make his regular daily trip to the gym.

"I'll be going there just to prove as a 40-year-old I can do exactly what I could do as a 39-year-old," he told BBC Sport with a smile a couple of days earlier.

"My desire, hunger, passion and enjoyment is still exactly the same as it was when I was 25.

"I still have huge honour and pride at playing for my country and that will continue until eventually I do give it away."

Stewart, who was a model of consistency for England during a difficult winter campaign, is well aware that he has now played in 126 Test matches.

If he plays in all of England's seven summer Tests he will overtake Courtney Walsh to stand third in the all-time list behind the retired

Allan Border and the still-active Steve Waugh.

Stewart repeatedly says he does not want to appear "big-headed" during our conversation, but plays down the achievement, should it come to pass.

"There will be some top-class



ALEC STEWART

cricketers on that list, but what I'm proud is that I've had an international career spanning 13 years.

"To play that length of time at the top level is an achievement in itself.

"Anything to do with being in the

top-three all-time Test players is just a number."

There is no hint that he might wish to call it a day after the summer, either.

"To me the biggest thing is enjoyment, then the challenge, then fitness levels and most importantly performance levels.

"If any of those are dipping then it's certainly time to give it away. Saying that, the selectors can always give it away anyway!"

"England should always pick the best side, whether you are 40 in my case or 18 or something, say in [England footballer] Wayne Rooney's case.

"It's the same for me, Marcus Trescothick, you name them. Everyone's in the same bracket."

Eventually, however, the selectors really will have to find a replacement for Stewart.

He is not keen to name potential candidates to relieve him of the gloves, but believes "they need to find someone who can bat in the top six".

"There are 'keepers who can bat who are progressing very nicely. It's

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Bangladesh may play in Ranji Trophy

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bangladesh cricket team is likely to be allowed to take part in Ranji Trophy, India's domestic first-class competition, from next year.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) recently requested its Indian counterpart, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), to allow its team to take part in the prestigious competition in a bid to improve the players' standard.

Sources at the BCCI said that a decision on allowing the Bangladesh team to participate in India's domestic arena could be taken only by the working committee of the Board.

They said if the International Cricket Council's plan for Test matches for the next ten years is adhered to, India and Bangladesh will have a chance to play series against each other in three successive years beginning in 2004.

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Like father like son

CRICINFO, London

Alec Stewart has followed in his father's illustrious footsteps by being awarded an OBE for his services to cricket in the Queen's Birthday Honours' List.

Stewart passed Geoffrey Boycott and David Gower to move into second place in England's list of Test run-scorers against Zimbabwe at Durham last week, and was also awarded the MBE in the 1998.

On receiving the honour, Stewart said: "The great thing is that I've now managed to catch up my dad (Mickey) because he was awarded the OBE a good few years ago."

"It's a terrific honour and it's really pleasing to be recognised in this way. I've always gone about my cricket in a professional way and to be honoured in this way for it makes me very proud and it's a moment I'll treasure."

Stewart, now 40, has continued to defy his critics by making more appearances than any other England player at both Test and one-day level, and his ability with

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Members of the Europa Youth Club, who became Metropolis First Division basketball champions, pose with State Minister for Youth and Sports M Fazlur Rahman yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY