



Did U Know?

Pakistan's Mudassar Nazar holds the record of scoring the slowest century in Test cricket. He completed his hundred in 557 minutes against England at Lahore in 1977-78.

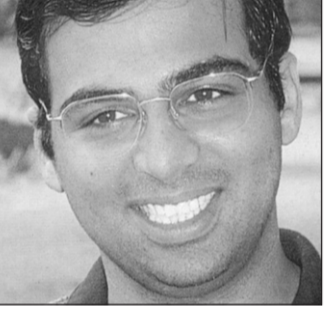


What to Watch

ESPN
 England vs Pakistan
 NatWest Challenge
 Third ODI, Highlights
 Repeat at 12:30 pm
 England vs Zimbabwe
 NatWest Series
 First ODI
 Live at 3:45 pm
STAR Sports
 Soccer Soap
 Dream Team
 Repeat at 9:30 am
 Wimbledon C'ships
 Day Three, Second Rd
 Repeat at 10:00 am
 Wimbledon C'ships
 Day Four, 2nd/3rd Round
 Live at 5:00 pm
 Sportsline Tonight
 Sport News



Talk Turkey



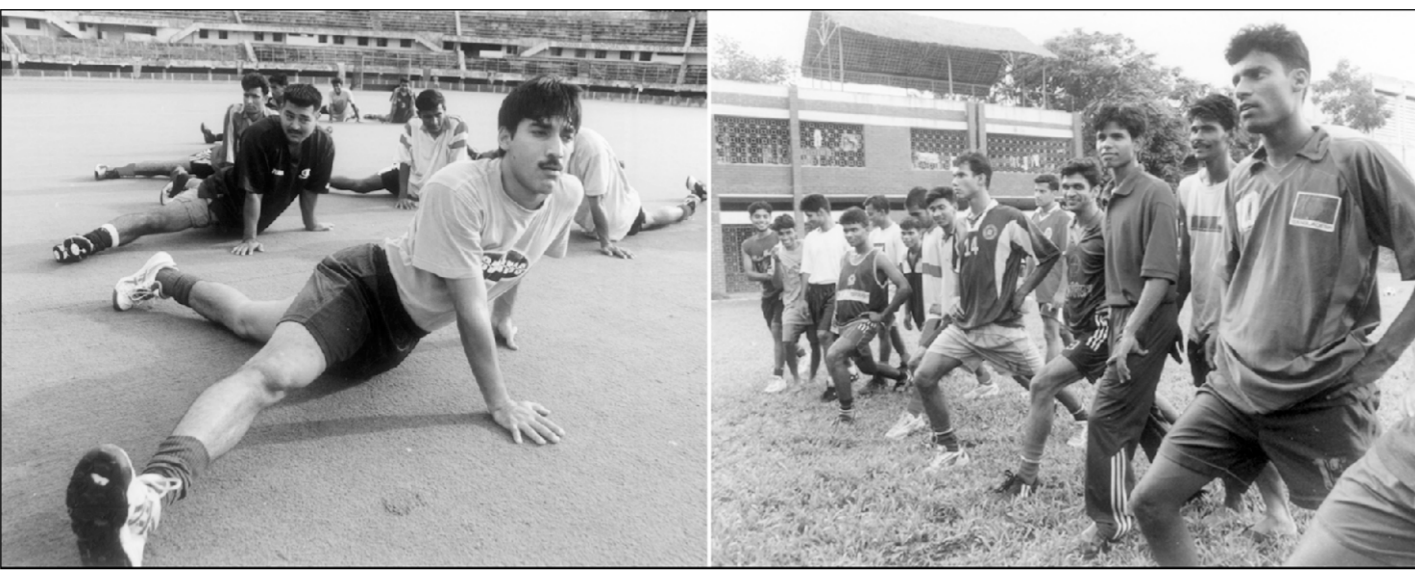
Viswanathan Anand
 (Indian Grand Master)
 "Too much politics has ruined the game's administration. Things cannot go on like this."

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 19
 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
4. Who became Dev Cup hockey champions?	Rangraj	Comilla
Name	
Class Roll No.	
School Address	
Phone: (If any)	

Three top the table

SPORTS REPORTER
 Grand Masters Ziaur Rahman, Niaz Murshed and International Master Abdullah Al Rakib shared the lead with 5.5 points each after the end of the sixth round games in the Open FIDE Rating Chess tournament at the Chess Federation auditorium yesterday.
 International Master Reefat Bin Sattar, Khandkar Aminul Islam, Fide Master Sheikh Nasir Ahmed, Sawkat Hossain Pollab, Arman Monir, International Women Master Rani Hamid and Md Javed of Kamlapur were in second position with 5 points each.



SEE YOU TOMORROW! A combo picture shows Players of Mohammedan (L) and Abahani do the stretching at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium and at the club premises respectively yesterday. Mohammedan had a full-fledged practice session with their new Pakistani recruit Kamran Ashraf (in the foreground) while Abahani opted for a light workout.

First 'biggest' Club Cup final today



SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club take on arch-rivals Abahani Kirira Chakra in the final of the fourth Club Cup hockey tournament at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium today.
 This is for the first time that the two most popular clubs of the country are meeting in the final of the Club Cup since its inception in the 1998-99 season. The match is scheduled for a quarter past 4 pm start.
 Abahani played in the first two finals of the event, both against Usha Kirira Chakra and were on the losing side.
 On the other hand, Mohammedan proceeded to the title match last year, also against Usha, and came out successful against the defending champions.
 Mohammedan also look very

determined to retain the title this time and in order to achieve that the Motijheel-based club yesterday morning has flown in two Pakistani forwards in Kamran Ashraf and Navid Shafiq. And it is certain that the two will take the field along side Mohammad Asim who has been playing for the black and whites since the tournament began.
 Mohammedan had practised with the two new arrivals at the match venue yesterday under the supervision of their coach Kawasr Ali despite they played a tough match against Usha Kirira Chakra the day before.
 "I am not very sure whether Karman and Navid would increase our strength since they have just arrived. We have been playing good hockey so far and we want to keep that momentum going when we face Abahani tomorrow," said Mohammedan captain Musa Miah yesterday.
 "We will play for victory," added

the national team midfielder who has scored nine goals so far to lead his side from the front.
 On the other hand, Abahani, who are yet to win a Club Cup, opted for a complete rest yesterday after winning the semifinal against Mariner Youngs Club 4-1, also on Tuesday.
 The players of the sky blues, however, had light exercise at the club premises in Dhanmondi in the afternoon.
 "We want to win this title this time around. We had been in finals on two previous occasions, but we want to be third time lucky. We are not afraid that they (Mohammedan) have brought in two more Pakistanis. We are a balanced side and confident to win tomorrow," said Abahani captain Mahbulul Ehsan Rana yesterday.
 He added that they were happy with the only foreign player in their side in Indian Christopher Edward Thomas.

Bangladesh's 1st match tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

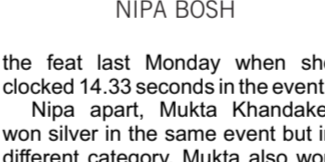
Bangladesh will take on an invitational side of Queensland Academy of Sport in a three-day practice match at the Allan Border Field in Brisbane tomorrow.
 This will be the first match for Bangladesh since they arrived in Australia on June 23 for a two-week camp prior to their maiden Test series down under which formally starts on July 6.
 Khaled Mahmud's men will also play another three-day practice match against Commonwealth Bank Cricket Academy of Australia at the same venue from July 3.
 Bangladesh players have already had a few practice sessions at the nearby gym of Allan Border Field under the supervision of coach Dav Whatmore.
 Meanwhile, the Queensland Academy of Sport yesterday named a 12-member squad for the three-

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Bangladeshis star in Spl. Olympics

SPORTS REPORTER

Nipa Bosh won the 50m gold in the Special Olympics currently being held in the Irish capital of Dublin.
 The disabled athlete achieved the feat last Monday when she clocked 14.33 seconds in the event.
 Nipa apart, Mukta Khandaker won silver in the same event but in different category. Mukta also won bronze along with Anjali in the softball competition.
 Besides, Bangladesh football team recorded impressive 4-0 wins against the United States and Belarus before going down fighting to South Korea 1-0.
 The Special Olympic will conclude on June 29.



NIPA BOSH

All U-23 games at Dambulla
SPORTS REPORTER
 Bangladesh Under-23 cricket team will play all their five two-day matches at Dambulla but against different selections of Sri Lanka.
 The matches have been shifted to the newest international venue of the island nation because it rains heavily in capital Colombo during this time of the year.
 Dambulla, considered as a dryer region of the emerald island, successfully held the Bank Alfalah Cup tri-nation tournament last month. The venue is located about 100km north of Colombo.
 The Bangladesh team will look for a better fight when they take on Bloomfield Under-23 team at the picturesque venue today.
 The visitors lost two of their first three one-day matches at the Premedesa Stadium in Colombo. The second game on June 22 was washed out.

Gilchrist warns BD



AFP, Sydney

Adam Gilchrist says Australia has a ruthless mission for next month's apparent Test mismatch against Bangladesh to teach them a lesson they'll never forget.
 Bangladesh are here for their first series against world cricket's top team and they will play two Tests and three one-day matches in Australia's north.
 "People will look at the series and say that it's going to be write-off, that we're going to go out there and not only win but smash them," Gilchrist said on Wednesday.
 "Hopefully, if we play well, we'll achieve that because that will mean we're still playing to our level."
 "Bangladesh have struggled in international cricket but they're here and we're playing them. There's no

doubt they'll benefit from the experience, whether it's an absolute thrashing or if they really surprise everyone and do well.
 "Win, lose or draw, it will be a lesson for them, a step forward for them to play against what's perceived to be the best team in the world."
 To those who say it will be a waste of time, Gilchrist said: "There are a lot of positives to the series that people might be overlooking."
 "It's the first time for Australia playing Bangladesh, so we'll be making history in that regard."
 "There will be the history of playing the first Test in Darwin, and the history of playing the first Test in Cairns."
 "And there will be the excitement factor of the locals up there getting to see Test match cricket."
 Gilchrist revealed he had also been called by Lloyd Dorfman, the chairman of Travellex, inviting him onto the board of the world's largest foreign exchange company.
 He accepted the role, becoming a non-executive director of the global company.
 The appointment is believed to

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ADAM GILCHRIST

Federer on course



AFP, London

Swiss fourth seed Roger Federer lived up to his status as one of the tournament favourites Wednesday by reaching the third round of the men's singles at Wimbledon with a 7-5, 6-1, 6-1 win over 71st-ranked Austrian Stefan Koubek.
 The 21-year-old from Basel lived up to his nickname as the Federer Express in bludgeoning Koubek in 1hr 16min after first saving a set point in a tight opening set.
 He next meets Mardy Fish, who blasted fellow American Jan-Michael Gambill off court 6-4, 6-4, 6-1.
 "I feel like I'm returning well - but he (Fish) has got a bigger serve than the other two guys I've played so far. I'm the highest seed left in my half of the draw but I don't look at myself like already in the final," said Federer.
 The Swiss added that the desire of players to receive a larger share of profits at Grand Slams was being misrepresented amid claims many top stars might boycott the majors next year.
 "It's not all about more prize money. It's about player pension

straight games after the Austrian had squandered a set point in driving long.
 Intermittent rain saw the covers brought on at the start of the third set - but thereafter Federer quickly finished the job.
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PHOTO: AFP
 Roger Federer of Switzerland plays a forehand against Stefan Koubek of Austria at the Wimbledon Championships yesterday.

'I'll be proud to face Lee'



AGENCIES, Brisbane

Young Bangladeshi batsman Mohammad Ashraful knew he had hit the big time when publicity-hungry politicians came knocking at his door.
 Having become the youngest batsman to make a Test century, on debut aged 17 and 63 days, Ashraful returned from Sri Lanka to find he had become the Sachin Tendulkar of Bangladesh, his youthful brand of star power adored by the masses.
 Front page newspaper coverage of the country's general election was replaced by stories on the slightly built youngster who had become an overnight superstar.
 "The election was on and I had politicians coming to my house, just wanting to know me and be photographed with me," Ashraful said with the help of an interpreter yesterday.
 "I was very excited but it was big pressure for me and I didn't play so well for a while after that."
 Ashraful's 114 against Sri Lanka in 2001 was the coming of age of the teenage batting prodigy, who started playing senior cricket at 13,

despite warnings he would be "killed" by short-pitched bowling from men 20 years his senior.
 Now 18, Ashraful could be facing a similar predicament when he



MOHAMMAD ASHRAFUL

takes on the Australian fast bowlers in two Tests next month but says he is looking forward to facing thunderbolts from Brett Lee and Jason Gillespie.
 "I will be proud to face Brett Lee, I've always dreamed of playing Test cricket and facing bowlers like that," he said.

"I like playing my shots and I like short-pitched bowling, I'm sure I'll get a lot of that."
 Ashraful is just one of the Bangladeshis whose names will become better known in coming weeks as they take on Australia in two Tests and three one-dayers the world's newest Test nation. Cricket has become almost a second religion in Bangladesh, like many countries on the sub-continent, and excitement has reached fever pitch as their team prepares to take on the world champions.
 At last count, the Australian Cricket Board had accredited seven journalists from Bangladesh to cover the tour.
 Some Bangladesh players hold down jobs to supplement their incomes from cricket, although the team is planning to turn fully professional after the Australian tour.
 Some of the team have hit the headlines for more than just their cricket talents.
 Leg-spinner Alok Kapali, who not surprisingly cites spin legend Shane Warne as his hero, was named as the third sexiest cricketer in the world at a female poll taken at the World Cup.

ICC's bouncer at Lillee



AFP, London

International Cricket Council (ICC) chiefs refuted Tuesday claims made by legendary Australian fast bowler Dennis Lillee that he was placing television-generated revenue ahead of the credibility of the sport.
 Citing next month's two Australia-Bangladesh Tests in Australia as an example of a serious mis-match, Lillee asked: "Is the ICC more concerned about keeping Test cricket elite, or developing the game purely to maximise TV revenue without the slightest concern about compromising the structure and history of the game?"
 "It became obvious to me, after watching the World Cup one-day contest earlier this year and the indifferent performances from some teams, that the game is degenerating into a money-driven event because of television."
 But ICC's Australian chief executive Malcolm Speed, in a statement issued from the governing body's Lord's headquarters, said: "Dennis is winding two or three unrelated issues into one."
 "Firstly, in relation to the sched-

ule, the ICC future tours programme is driven by the desire to have all Test-playing countries play each other on a regular basis.
 "This is to ensure that everyone has the chance to play at the highest level regularly."
 "Up until recently the smaller countries were at the mercy of the bigger nations. Zimbabwe is still yet to play a Test in Australia despite being a full member for 11 years."
 And Speed, answering Lillee's charges of greed, added that, apart from the World Cup and other ICC run-tournaments, television money from Test and one-day series was paid directly to the host board.
 Speed conceded that Bangladesh who have lost 18 of their 19 Tests, 13 by an innings had been "disappointing" since they joined cricket's elite in 2000 but added that steps, such as increased coaching, were being put in place to improve their performance.
 "I think (Australia Test captain) Steve Waugh summed this up quite well when he said recently 'You've got to give them opportunities and chances, and I think they have to get some help as well.'"
 But Lillee was adamant that matches between the likes of Australia and Bangladesh now threatened the integrity of the sport's record books.
 "Playing against Bangladesh is nothing more than a golden opportunity to get some easy wickets, easy runs and easy money," Lillee wrote in The West Australian.
 "I'm not against progress, but involving struggling countries in quality events such as the World Cup and Tests simply makes a mockery of records," said Lillee, who captured

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MALCOLM SPEED

France v Turkey Take nothing for granted



AFP, Paris

Turkey captain Bulent Korkmaz is predicting precious little delight for 'football giants' France in Thursday's Confederations Cup semi-final at the Stade de France.
 Turkey earned the right to take on the European champions in their own back yard with a superb 2-2 draw with Brazil which left them as Group B runners-up at Saint Etienne on Monday.
 The hosts topped Group A thanks to a benevolent bit of refereeing resulting in a late penalty against Colombia, a 2-1 defeat of Japan and a 5-0 thrashing of New Zealand.

"France were one of the favourites, but I think Turkey are too - in the past our system of play wasn't very well controlled, but now we're a much more complete team."
 "It's an important match for us," said Bulent.
 His coach Senol Gunes, who led Turkey to third place in last summer's World Cup, is eager to see how his young side cope on Thursday.
 "France are former World Cup winners and European champions, they are giants of football."
 "This is an exciting test for our new players," said Gunes.
 Yet he is deeply concerned about the physical toll the competition has taken on his team.
 "We've done a lot of travelling and only have two days to prepare for France, whereas they as hosts have not been on the road so much."
 "Our aim was to meet them in the final, but here we are taking them on in the semis."
 Given the support afforded to Turkey by their fanatical fans the

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Nitol-Tata soccer GRC Club in zonal final

SPORTS REPORTER

GRC Club of Narsingdi paved their way into the Sylhet Zone final of the Nitol-Tata National Football League with a 3-nil win over Mymensingh Abahani at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday.
 Walid struck twice while Tazul scored the other for the winners who will now face Wanderers Club of Moulvi Bazar in the zonal final on Friday.
 In Jamalpur, Shikharthi Sports Institute of Pabna booked their berth in the semifinals with a 5-1 thrashing of Sabuj Sena Club of Faridpur.
 Echo and Enamul scored two goals each while Abu Taleb added the other to the winners' credit while Syed Hossain pulled one back for Sabuj Sena.
 Shikharthi Institute will now face Padma Kirira Chakra of Natore in the semifinal tomorrow at the same venue.
 Away in Noakhali, Rising Star Club blanked Cox's Bazar by four goals to none.
 Rhythm scored two goals while Saurav Raju and Papel added one apiece to the winners' tally.
 In Sirajganj, local side Mohammedan Sporting Club registered a 7-1 win over Brothers Union Club of Kushtia.
 Mantri scored a hatrick while Tota and Rubel scored two goals each for the winners while Sumon reduced the margin.
 In the other match of the day, Confidence Cement Eleven of Barisal beat Players Welfare Association of Jhalakathi 2-1.
 Masud and Khokon Das scored one each for Barisal while Riazul scored for Jhalakathi side.



PHOTO: AFP
 French defender William Gallas (L) and midfielder Robert Pires train in Clairefontaine near Paris on June 24.