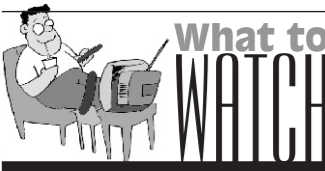




## Did U Know?

Scotland's leading run-scorer at the 1999 World Cup, Gavin Hamilton, had made his Test debut earlier in the season against South Africa - for England. The 217-run 'hero' played one Test for England before opting for the Scottish national team as a better cricket prospect



## What to WATCH

### BTV

Nitol-Tata Super Six  
Abahani vs Ctg Mohammedan  
Live at 4:30 pm

### TEN Sports

Bangladesh vs Pakistan  
Second Test, Day One  
Live at 11:00 am

### ESPN

Football Focus  
Repeat at 7:30 am  
Western Union World Football  
Repeat at 3:30 pm

English Premier Football League  
Aston Villa vs Liverpool  
Repeat at 6:00 pm

### Sportscentre Hindi

Sport News  
Live at 8:30 pm

English Premier Football League  
Man United vs Wolverhampton Wanderers  
Live at 12:55 am (Thursdays)

### STAR Sports

Sportline Tonight  
Sport News  
Live at 8:00 pm

US Open Tennis  
Men's First Rd/Women's Second Rd  
Live at 9:00 pm



## TALK TURKEY



### Mutiah Muralitharan

(Sri Lankan master spinner)  
"The first time I was called for chucking, I was shocked. I had never considered the possibility of my action being illegal. Throwing and bowling are different. One requires the shoulder and the other the elbow."

**Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 19**

Tick the correct answers, post to  
**The Daily Star**  
Win attractive prizes

**Competition closes at 8 pm August 29, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards**

- How many runs did Bangladesh score in the first innings of the 2nd Test against Australia?  
301    289    295
- Who became Asian Youth Cup cricket champions?  
Mataysta    Bangladesh  
Nepal
- Who won the Pepsi handball title?  
Chittagong Narsingdi Bandarban
- Who clinched the CONCACAF Gold Cup?  
Brazil    USA    Mexico
- How many Test tons has Steve

Name .....

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

School Address .....

Phone: (if any) .....

# Mission minimising mistakes



HASAN MASOOD from Peshawar

Bangladesh will be hoping to commit fewer mistakes going into the second Test that starts today at the Arbab Niaz Stadium.

And for the last two days coach Dav Whatmore has been working hard to make sure they stick to the basics. Speaking to reporters after the Tigers' final practice session yesterday, Whatmore said that he had emphasised on executing the game-plan in the middle.

"We have talked about what we have done and what we haven't been able to so far. And it's those areas I wanted to see improvements in. It's a matter of increasing our effort and not worrying about what the Pakistanis are doing."

When asked if the Bangladesh coach was concerned about the temperature, which shot up to 43 degrees Celsius on Tuesday, Whatmore believed that good teams have to be prepared to play under any condition.

"Both teams have to play in this

heat. We accept it because Peshawar is like that," he said.

Whatmore said he was not sure what would be a good total if his team batted first.

"Sometimes even 250 might be regarded as a decent score depending on the kind of wicket. But generally on wickets in Pakistan, teams have to make the most of the batting conditions."

He observed that his team's general weakness was against leg-spin.

"Although leg-spinners have troubled us in the past, but we showed by playing Danish Kaneria quite well in the first Test, that we are learning how to deal with them. But while we concentrated on Kaneria, we allowed quickie Shabbir Ahmed to come in and take five wickets. So, we cannot relax against any bowler be it spin or pace," added Whatmore.

Captain Khaled Mahmud, however, sounded more optimistic about the second Test.

"I'm positive that we can play much better in Peshawar," said the 33-year-old skipper.

"Definitely it's an important match for us. We have said before coming here that we wanted to do well in

Pakistan. And if you look back on the first Test, I think we played according to our expectations.

"It would have been better had we scored fifty to hundred runs more in Karachi," said Mahmud.

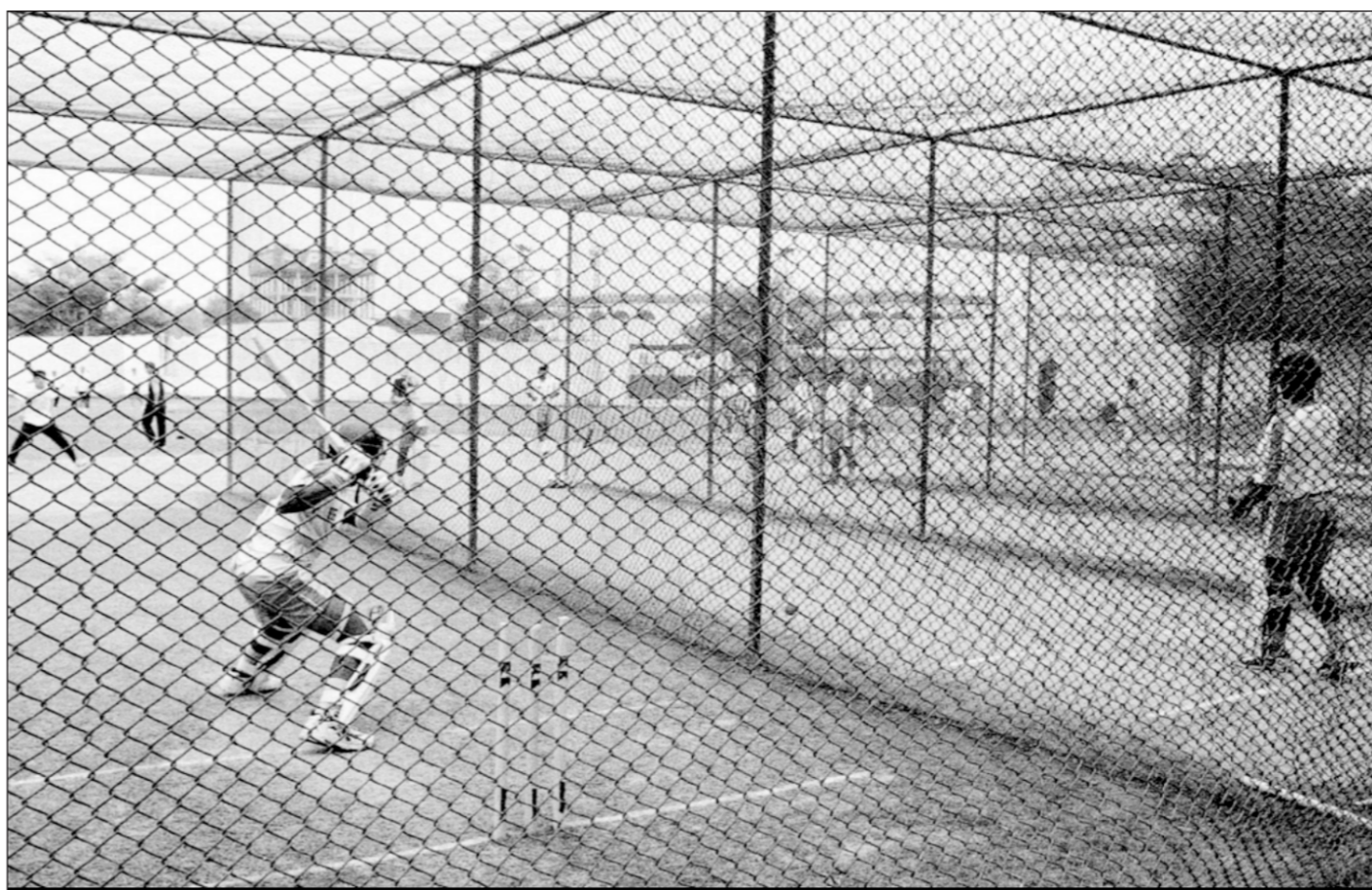
When reminded about emerging batsman Yasir Hameed, who scored 170 and 105 in the first Test to become only the second player in history to score hundreds in both innings on Test debut, Mahmud admitted that the 25-year-old right-hander was a real threat.

"We are working on him. But again we should not forget Inzamam Haq and Yousof Youhana. They are world-class batsmen."

Mahmud did not believe he was under pressure to perform despite having poor figures.

"I am not feeling the pressure of leading the Bangladesh team as we are improving in certain areas," said the Bangladesh captain, who has a batting average of 10.64 and a bowling average of 244.

"But I am a player first and I want to perform and contribute as a player to the team."



Bangladesh players have a net session at the Arbab Niaz Stadium in Peshawar yesterday. The second Test between Bangladesh and Pakistan begins today.

PHOTO: AFP

## Khulna meet Mastermind today

SPORTS REPORTER

Khulna College will take on Mastermind College today in the final of the Europa College Basketball Championship at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium at 4 pm.

Khulna College edged past Notre Dame College 77-71 in the second semifinal while Mastermind defeated St Joseph's College 79-62 in the first semi on Monday.

Before the final St Joseph's and Notre Dame meet in the third-place deciding match.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman will distribute prizes afterwards.

# Muktis' escape act

SPORTS REPORTER



An 85th minute goal by Alfaz Ahmed enabled star-studded Mukti-jodha Sangsad Kirra Chakra run away with a 1-0 victory over Arambagh Kirra Sangsad in their 'Super Six' match of the Third Nitol-Tata National Football League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

It was a lacklustre performance by the two top clubs as players from both teams looked short of motivation for the big game. The players, especially the top ones, casual approach shocked a few thousand spectators who were present at the arena.

Alfaz brought relief to the all-red side with a smooth header in the 40th minute of the second-half as he finally broke the rock-solid Arambagh wall. But credit should go to Arman Miah who set the piece for the country's premier striker with a curling cross.

However, just before that substitute Matir Rahman Munna was denied a goal by the post as the national media's back-header, connecting on a throw-in by another substitute Belal, hit the second bar.

Muktijodha wasted another easy chance to extend the victory margin in the dying moments, this time an Alfaz right-footer going wide

of the post.

The win almost confirmed title aspirants Mukti-jodha a place in the semifinals and they will take on defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club in their last robin league match on August 30.

The first-half was locked goalless although Mukti-jodha possessed the ball most of the time

but they failed to pierce the Motijheel-based club defence.

Arambagh's Ghanaian defender Mustafa Kaba showed his mettle in his first appearance as he foiled a number of Mukti attempts.

Arambagh custodian Piru was also in very good touch and he kept the Mukti-jodha forwards at bay until the Alfaz strike.

Alfaz also came to scoring in the

26th minute. He latched on to a Moni pass only to be denied by Piru.

Their Ghanaian recruit Charles Ghansa also created an opportunity at the stroke of half-time as he played a fierce shot almost from the mid-field to the post. He was also denied by the Arambagh custodian who brilliantly fisted it away.

Arambagh, who took a defensive

SEE PAGE 14 COL



Arambagh's Guinean defender Mustafa Kaba (R) clears a Moni (on the ground) attempt during their Super League game of the Third Nitol-Tata National Football League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. On the left is Alfaz, who scored the lone goal of the match.

PHOTO: STAR

## Niaz, Zia 35th

SPORTS REPORTER

Both Niaz Murshed and Ziaur Rahman finished 35th along with eight other players in the Masters Tournament of the Abu Dhabi Chess Festival on Monday.

The Bangladeshi Grand Masters finished at 4.5 points each at the end of the ninth and final round. Armenian GM Gabriel Sargissian clinched the title with seven points.

In the round, Niaz lost to Uzbek GM Luladachev Saidali and Zia lost to IM Imed Abdelnabi of Egypt.

In total 77 players from 25 countries including 26 Grand Masters and 26 International Masters participated in the event.

## Gary undecided over retirement

AFP, Leeds

Gary Kirsten said he was having second thoughts about retiring from Test cricket following his match-winning performance against England here at Headingley.

Left-handed batsman Kirsten's painstaking innings of 130 and 60 set up South Africa's 191 run fourth Test win against England which gave the Proteas an unbeatable 2-1 series lead ahead of next month's fifth Test at The Oval.

Kirsten, 35, South Africa's most-capped player who was named man-of-the-match in his 92nd Test, told reporters: "I did say this would be my last summer of international cricket. But the guys have put some heat on me."

However, the Western Province run machine who retired from one-day international cricket after hosts South Africa's first round World Cup exit, earlier this year, insisted he would not be making a definitive decision soon.

"I will go back to South Africa and chat to my six-month pregnant wife."

Kirsten, on a pitch of varying bounce which made strokeplay difficult throughout the match, batted for over 11 hours, a testament to his powers of concentration.

"The pitch behaved very interestingly. I don't think I've played on a Test match pitch like it," added Kirsten who often had a rueful grin across his face after the ball either kept low or leapt off a length.

"You do smile when you play forward and one goes past your nose," explained Kirsten, who has now scored 6,476 Test runs with 18 hundreds at an average of 43.75.

## Ajax upset Usha



SPORTS REPORTER

Ajax Sporting Club caused an upset when they beat Usha Kirra Chakra 2-0 in a 'Super Five' match of the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

Indian Rajanikanta scored both goals for Ajax to avenge their first

round defeat.

The win for Ajax extended their tally to 19 points from ten matches while Usha suffered their second successive defeat to remain on 15 points.

After a barren first half, Rajanikanta put Ajax ahead in the fourth minute of the second half converting a penalty-corner and he doubled the margin in the 57th from another penalty-corner.

**TODAY'S MATCH**  
Abahani v Sonali Bank (4 pm)



Action from yesterday's Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League encounter between Usha and Ajax at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium.

PHOTO: STAR

## Lara, Pollock top Test men

REUTERS, London

Latest PricewaterhouseCooper's Test ratings issued following South Africa's 191-run win over England in the fourth Test at Headingley, Leeds on Monday:

BATSMAN	PTS	AVG
B Lara	887	51.55
S Tendulkar	843	57.58
M Hayden	821	52.00
R Ponting	816	51.11
A Gilchrist	799	58.80
R Dravid	789	53.46
Inzamam Haq	781	48.82
M Richardson	767	48.73
M Vaughan	756	47.37
J Kallis	751	49.17
BOWLER	PTS	AVG
S Pollock	877	20.49
M Muralitharan	861	23.55
G McGrath	848	21.71
H Singh	746	26.59
J Gillespie	740	24.92
J Kallis	732	27.96
M Ntini	721	28.50
S MacGill	691	26.22
A Kumble	688	28.00
S Akhtar	678	27.54

## Women's h'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

Dinajpur and Panchagar won their respective matches in the Pepsi 16th National Women's Handball Championship that began at the Jamalpur Stadium yesterday.

Dinajpur defeated Rajshahi 9-2 after leading the first half 6-1.

Panchagar beat the hosts 14-5. The winners also led the first half 6-1.

# 'It's a closed chapter'



AFP, New York

Pete Sampras made an emotional farewell from tennis here Monday during a dramatic retirement ceremony at the US Open, saying after a record 14 Grand Slam titles that "I know in my heart it's time".

Choking back tears, Sampras concluded an unmatched career, exiting on the same Arthur Ashe Stadium court where he played his final match one year ago, this time as then walking away to a standing ovation.

"I know in my heart I'm done, 100 per cent done," Sampras said.

"I think I'm going out on my terms. It's not painful. It's emotional. It's a closed chapter. But a part of me is still out there.

"This is something that I love to do and I have been doing since I was seven. I was emotional just driving here. Saying goodbye is not easy. But I know in my heart it's time."

Sampras came full circle, having won his first Slam in Flushing Meadows at age 19 in 1990 and his last here a year ago. Tributes from John McEnroe, Jim Courier, Andre Agassi and Boris Becker were nearly too much for Sampras.

"This is all pretty overwhelming. I'm touched," Sampras told the crowd.

"I'm going to miss playing here. But I know in my heart it's time to say goodbye."

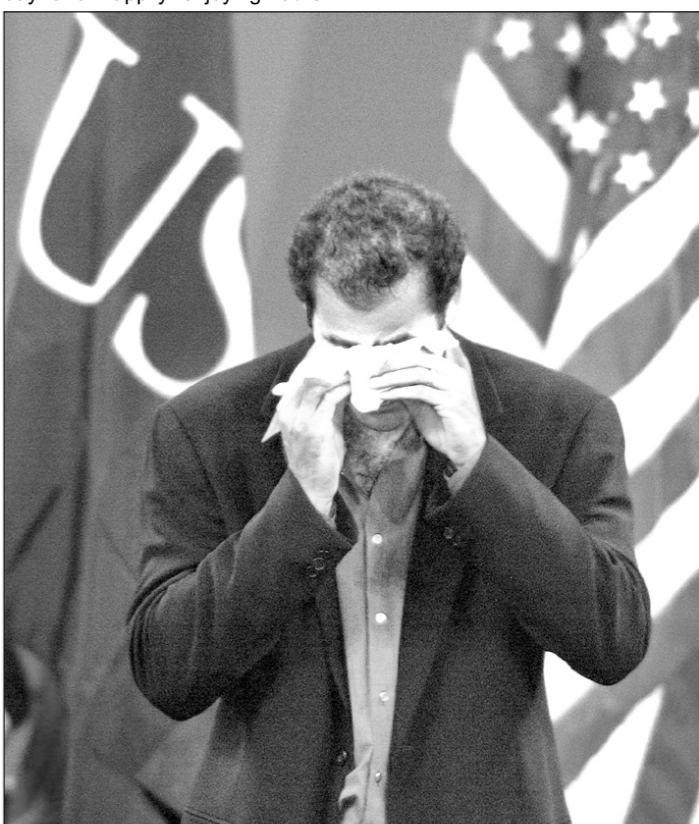
Sampras cradled his infant son Christian in his right arm as he

walked a victory lap around the court, then disappeared into a tunnel leading to the locker rooms to a thunderous applause.

Two weeks past his 32nd birthday and happily enjoying father-

hood, Sampras vowed he will not return to the game he dominated for more than a decade.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 6



DON'T CRY FOR ME: Pete Sampras is overcome by emotion before he makes his retirement speech at the US Open on Monday.

PHOTO: AFP

Alamgir has played only one Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo in 2002 but it wasn't the perfect introduction for the 22-year-old who conceded 82 runs in 15 overs in that match.

But he returned in triumph to the island nation as a member of the Bangladesh Under-23 team. Alamgir bagged an impressive 24 wickets in seven matches, which included a record eight-wicket innings haul in a two-day game.

When asked to comment on Alamgir's inclusion, captain Khaled Mahmud said that the paceman had tremendous fighting spirit, admirable fitness and a natural ability to move both the old and new ball.

## Banking on young guns



HASAN MASOOD from Peshawar

Mohammad Ashraf and Alamgir Kabir were yesterday included in Bangladesh's playing eleven for the second Test in Peshawar.

Ashraf, regarded as one of Bangladesh's most talented batsmen, will replace Sanwar Hossain who failed in both innings in Karachi.

Sanwar's contribution was 15 and 3 runs respectively. Even his off-spinners produced no wickets prompting the inclusion of 19-year-old Ashraf.

But since rising to prominence against Sri Lanka in 2001 when he became the youngest batsman in Test history to score a century on debut, Ashraf has remained inconsistent.

His performances in Australia, where the young right-hander could only manage a meagre thirty runs in two innings in the first Test at Darwin and a 'pair' in the second Test at Cairns, prompted him to be dropped for the first Test against Pakistan in Karachi.

However, coach Dav Whatmore has great belief in his immense talent and wants to give Ashraf another chance to fulfil his enormous potential.

But the real surprise was the naming of right-arm quick Alamgir ahead of more experienced left-arm Monjurul Islam.

## Foreign cricket experts for Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

Two foreign cricket experts have been appointed by the Bangladesh cricket authorities to look after the country's age group players.

Richard McInnes has been appointed as "Development Coach" for a period of two years effective from September 15 while Justin Cordy will work as the "Fitness Trainer/Physiotherapist" for a year starting on October 6.