



## Did U Know?

The first goal in the first soccer World Cup was scored by Laurent a French player in 1930.



## What to Watch

### ESPN

Primera Liga  
Barcelona vs Real Madrid  
Repeat at 4:00 pm

English Premier Football League  
Everton vs Man City  
Live at 7:55 pm

Southampton vs Charlton Athletic  
Live at 10:00 pm

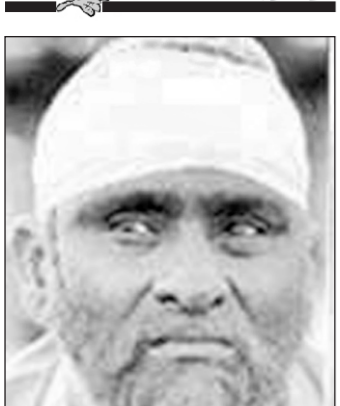
Primera Liga  
Valencia vs Bilbao  
Live at 2:00 am (Monday)

### STAR Sports

Australia vs India  
First Test, Day Four  
Live at 6:00 am



## Talk Turkey



### Bishan Singh Bedi

(Indian cricket legend)  
"I get the impression that when they are on the field, they are thinking about the commerce, and when they are doing their commerce, they are thinking about their game."  
His impression of the current India team.



## Star Whizz Kid Competition 202

Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star. Win attractive prizes. Competition closes at 8 pm Dec 19, 2003 and draw.

- Who has been named Australia's Test captain?  
Gillchrist  
Ponting    Martyn
- Who won the Rugby World Cup?  
Australia    England    New Zealand
- Who will lead the Bangladesh A team to Pakistan?  
Rajin    Mushiq    Hanman
- Who won the Federation Cup title?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name .....

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

School Address .....

Phone: (if any) .....

## Mega Power Cup cricket meet on

### PRESS RELEASE

The Mega Power Cup cricket tournament started at the Meghnaghat Power Limited Cricket field on Friday.

Six leading multinational companies of the country are taking part in the event, organised by Meghna-ghat Power Limited.

The participating teams are Meghnaghat Power Limited and Haripur Power Limited, British American Tobacco Limited, BOC Bangladesh Limited, Nestle Bangladesh Limited, Novartis Bangladesh Limited and HSBC Bank.

In the opening match, British American Tobacco defeated Meghnaghat Power by two wickets.



FIFA president Joseph Blatter (R) speaks during the World Cup 2006 preliminary draw ceremony in Frankfurt on Friday as the head of the 2006 World Cup Organising Committee Franz Beckenbauer looks on.

## Brits in same boat

England must overcome the home-grown challenge of neighbours Wales and Northern Ireland as they bid to qualify for the 2006 World Cup finals in Germany after the qualifying draw here on Friday.

England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson was however relieved to have avoided the toughest European match-up with Holland pitted against the Czech Republic in Group 1 just days after being drawn to face each other in the Euro 2004 finals.

"The draw is okay," said Eriksson.

"Wales are obviously a very strong team. They had a good qualifying competition for Euro 2004. I am just happy to have avoided Holland."

Wales manager Mark Hughes had personal reasons to be relishing the challenge of facing England.

"It's a great draw for us," said the former Manchester United striker.

Italy, who won the last of their three World Cups in 1982, have an easier-looking draw against Slovenia, Scotland, Norway, Belarus and Moldova.

But Italy coach Giovanni Trapattoni believes a tough task lies ahead.

"Our group is the hardest without doubt. Before we play at Hampden against Scotland, we must remember that we lost in Cardiff against Wales in the qualifiers for Euro 2004, which put us in a lot of difficulty."

Scotland coach Berti Vogts said his side could claim the runners-up spot.

"I think it is possible. We beat Holland at home in the Euro 2004 playoffs and perhaps we could do the same against Italy. It's not a bad draw for us," said the German manager.

France, the 1998 World Cup winners, were paired with the Republic of Ireland who have qualified for two of the last three World Cups, but coach Jacques Santini was happy with the draw for Group 4.

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## How to get to the 2006 World Cup

AFP, Frankfurt

Draw for the preliminary qualification round for the 2006 World Cup:

### EUROPE

**Group 1:** Czech Republic, Holland, Romania, Finland, Macedonia, Armenia, Andorra.

**Group 2:** Turkey, Denmark, Greece, Ukraine, Georgia, Albania, Kazakhstan.

**Group 3:** Portugal, Russia, Slovakia, Latvia, Estonia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg.

**Group 4:** France, Republic of Ireland, Switzerland, Israel, Cyprus, Faroe Islands.

**Group 5:** Italy, Slovenia, Scotland, Norway, Belarus, Moldova.

**Group 6:** England, Poland, Austria, Wales, Northern Ireland, Azerbaijan.

**Group 7:** Spain, Belgium, Serbia and Montenegro, Bosnia Herzegovina, Lithuania, San Marino.

**Group 8:** Sweden, Croatia, Bulgaria, Iceland, Hungary, Malta.

**Qualifiers:** Thirteen, plus hosts Germany who qualify automatically. The eight group winners and the two best runners-up qualify for the World Cup finals in Germany. The remaining six runners-up will be drawn into three playoff matches over two legs with winners qualifying for finals.

### AFRICA

**Group 1:** Senegal, Mali, Zambia, Togo, Liberia, Congo.

**Group 2:** South Africa, RD Congo, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Uganda, Cape Verde.

**Group 3:** Cameroon, Egypt, Cote d'Ivoire, Libya, Sudan, Benin.

**Group 4:** Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Algeria, Angola, Gabon, Rwanda.

**Group 5:** Tunisia, Morocco, Kenya, Guinea, Malawi, Botswana.

**Qualifiers:** Five

Five group winners qualify for the 2006 World Cup finals. A total of 21 nations already eliminated in qualifying in October and November 2003: Burundi, Niger, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Tanzania, Eritrea, Namibia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Chad, Madagascar, Swaziland, Eritrea, Lesotho, Gambia, Sao Tome, Mauritius, Mozambique, Equatorial Guinea, Somalia, Central African Republic

Qualification tournament will also count for 2006 African Nations Cup finals in Egypt.

### CONCACAF

**Group 1:** Granada or Guyana versus USA.

**Group 2:** Bermuda or Montserrat versus El Salvador.

**Group 3:** Haiti or Turks and Caicos Islands versus Jamaica.

**Group 4:** British Virgin Islands or St Lucia versus Panama.

**Group 5:** Cayman Islands or Cuba versus Costa Rica.

**Group 6:** Aruba or Surinam versus Guatemala.

**Group 7:** Antigua and Barbuda or Netherlands Antilles versus Honduras.

**Group 8:** Canada versus Belize

**Group 9:** Dominica or Bahamas versus Mexico

**Group 10:** US Virgin Islands or St Kitts and Nevis versus Barbados

**Group 11:** Dominican Republic or Anguilla versus Trinidad and Tobago

**Group 12:** Nicaragua versus St Vincent and the Grenadines

**Number of qualifiers:** Three and one team into playoff against fifth-placed team in Asian qualifying competition

Twelve winners from preliminary round are divided into three groups of four.

Teams which finish first and second in each of these groups go into single group of six. The top three qualify for finals in Germany and fourth-placed team plays off against fifth-placed Asian team.



England saviours Ashley Giles (L) and Matthew Hoggard leave the field after poor light had ended the first Test against Sri Lanka at Galle yesterday.

## Giles, bad light save England

AFP, Galle

Tail-ender Ashley Giles batted doggedly for more than a session as England survived a Muttiah Muralitharan scare in poor light to salvage a draw in the first Test against Sri Lanka here on Saturday.

Giles kept his cool in the tense last session to score an unbeaten 17 off 111 balls as England, chasing a 323-run target, finished at 210-9 in their second innings when bad light stopped play on the fifth and final day.

Ace off-spinner Muralitharan had boosted Sri Lanka's victory hopes on a turning track with a four-wicket haul before being thwarted by Giles, who continued to bat steadily despite as many as five fielders close to the bat.

England never made an earnest attempt to achieve the victory target as they batted only for survival. They faced defeat at 171-7 at tea before finding a saviour in Giles.

Giles received valuable support from fellow-tailender Gareth Batty, who compiled a defiant 26 under pressure in only his second Test before being bowled by Muralitharan attempting a wild heave.

Tension kept mounting and light meters were constantly out as there were still more than 15 overs remaining in the match after Batty's dismissal.

England were pushed closer to defeat when Richard Johnson inner-edged a Muralitharan delivery on to his stumps to become the spinner's 11th victim in the match.

THE

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## Zico expects tough time

AFP, Tokyo

Asian Cup champions Japan said Saturday they would take nothing for granted in their football World Cup qualifying campaign even though they had been drawn into what was generally seen as an easy group.

Japan, which co-hosted the 2002 World Cup finals with South Korea, were bunched with Oman, India and Singapore at the preliminary draw in Frankfurt Friday.

"It makes no difference who our opponents will be," said Japan coach Zico, a Brazilian football legend. "What is important is our determination to reach the World Cup finals no matter how."

"We cannot take any country for granted because the capabilities of countries have become close. In particular, it is difficult to go through the first qualifying round as pressure there is more tremendous than in the finals," Zico said.

"Anything could happen in World Cup qualifiers," warned Saburo Kawabuchi, president of the Japanese Football Association.

He added, "I believe we will pull ourselves through by steadily winning each and every match without belittling or fearing our opponents."

"The group is a tough one in its own right," said Takeo Hirate, the association's general secretary, citing the presence of Oman, which beat Japan's archrivals South Korea 3-1 in an Asian Cup preliminary match in October.

"We will spare no effort in preparing for our first match in February," he said. Japan will meet

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## Mercedes Golf meet prizes distributed

### PRESS RELEASE

The prize distribution ceremony of the Mercedes Trophy Golf Tournament was held at the Bhatiary Golf Club in Chittagong on Friday.

Rancon Motors, the exclusive agent for Mercedes-Benz cars in Bangladesh, hosted the function in association with Canon Camera, Siemens and Homebond.

Maj Gen Moeen U Ahmed, psc, senior vice-president of Bangladesh Golf Club Committee and GOC, 24 Infantry Division and Area Commander, Chittagong attended the event as the chief guest and distributed the trophy to the winners.

A Rouf Chowdhury, chairman of Rangos Group, and Romo R Chowdhury, managing director of the company were also present during the ceremony.

The prize-giving ceremony was followed by a musical programme. Shakila Jaffer, Nafees Ahmed and SHANE enthralled the golfers and the audience in the evening. The cultural event was organised by JetsetPR, the nation's leading

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## Experts welcomed by Whatmore

### SPORTS REPORTER

Matthew has been asked to work with the Bangladesh's long tail during a three-week period.

Whatmore also praised Mattau's inclusion in the preparation camp.

"He will develop the lower-order batsmen as well as reserve players.

According to the Bangladesh coach national discards Ehsanul Haq and Mazharul Haq Chowdhury were good prospects but he was concerned at the present weight of the latter middle-order batsman.

When asked about the preparations for the Zimbabwe tour, Whatmore was not in any hurry because conditions were ideal plus there was fine weather.

Whatmore will fly home to Sri Lanka on December 10 to spend Christmas with his family. He will get down to business from January 4.

Meanwhile, eight national team players including Khaled Mahmud and Habibul Basher ended their training and they will now concentrate on upcoming National League games.

## Vaughan very happy

### Cricket

### REUTERS, Galle

England captain Michael Vaughan praised his players for showing character and guts against Sri Lanka as they narrowly avoided defeat in the first Test on Saturday.

England, who finished on 210 for nine in their second innings after a tense final session, had their backs to wall from the time Sri Lanka skipper Hashan Tillakaratne won the toss.

"It was an outstanding Test match and the character we showed after losing the toss was tremendous," Vaughan told reporters.

"To come out of Galle (with a draw) having lost the toss was a fantastic result and an outstanding effort considering that last time we played here (in 2001) we were hammered."

Vaughan added that England knew the last day would be extremely difficult batting on a wearing pitch against off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, who finished with match figures of 11 for 93.

"We always came into the final

day trying to be positive but, with Murali around, you know it can go bang, bang, bang pretty quickly," he said.

"The way they nullified him today was a very good effort. The longer the day went, you could see them (Sri Lanka) panicking more."

help save the game.

"Paul Collingwood was a huge key for us getting this draw," he said. "He showed a tremendous amount of guts and I think he has a hell of a future in Test cricket."

"For him (Giles) to make the technical change (with his bowling) in Bangladesh was a big decision and we backed him and he came up with the goods here."

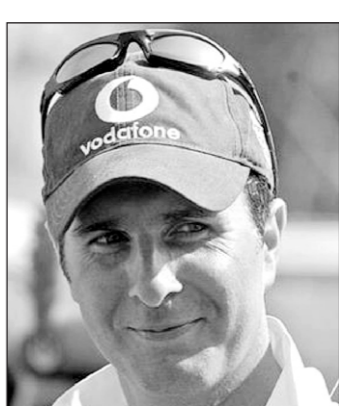
Sri Lanka captain Tillakaratne refused to be downcast about the result, claiming his side would be encouraged by their dominance of the match.

"Yes, it was disappointing but there were so many positives in this Test match to take with us to Kandy," he said. "We played some brilliant cricket."

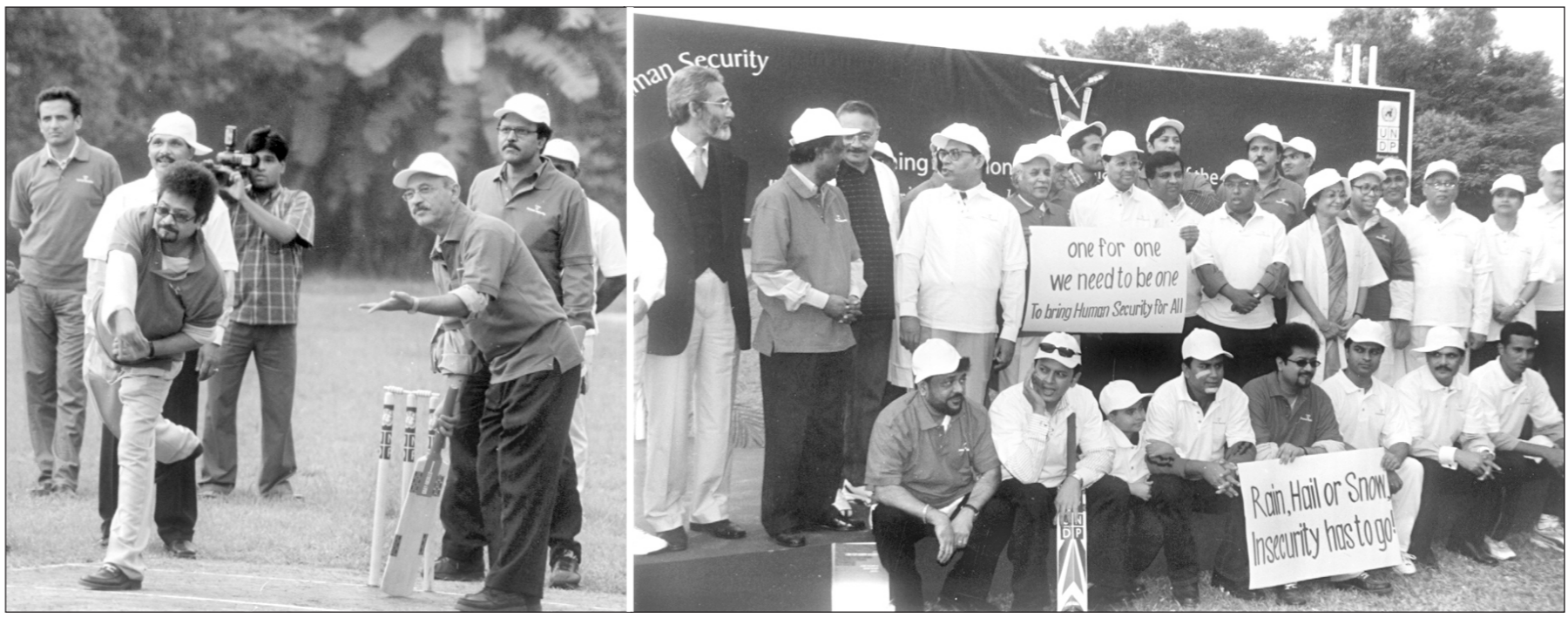
"We held the advantage in this game and morale remains very high," he added.

Muralitharan, the man-of-the-match, was philosophical despite a frustrating afternoon full of turned down appeals.

"These things happen," he said after claiming his 12th 10-wicket haul in 83 matches. "We put up a really good effort but well done in the end to England, they played really well to survive."



MICHAEL VAUGHAN



CRICKET FOR A CAUSE: It was all fun at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday where UNDP staff brought out cricketers, film stars, politicians and themselves for a friendly cricket match to mark the launch of a report on human security in Bangladesh. (L) Singer Kumar Bishwajit bowls and actor Abul Hayat bats at the same end. (R) Participants of the match.