



Did U Know?

Germany will host the FIFA 2006 World Cup. It will be Germany's second time to host the World Cup after 1974.

What to WATCH

BTV & STAR Sports

Bangladesh vs Australia
2nd Test, Day Two
Live at 10:00 am

ESPN

South Africa vs New Zealand
1st Test, Day Three
Live at 1:30 pm

English Premier Football League
West Bromwich vs Bolton Wanderers
Live at 12:55 am (Tuesday)

STAR Sports

English Premier Football League
Tottenham Hotspur vs Man United
Live at 5:40 pm

Chelsea vs Everton
Live at 7:55 pm



Andrew Flintoff

(England stand-in skipper)
"Being captain has not put me off in any way, shape or form or made me think it's too much."



Bangladesh vs Australia
2nd Test, Day Two
Venue: Chittagong Divisional Stadium

Mohammedan off to Amman

SPORTS REPORTER

National league champions Mohammedan Sporting Club left Dhaka yesterday for Jordan to play their AFC Cup Group C opener against Al Wihdat.

The match will be played in Amman tomorrow.

The 19-member Mohammedan team included 15 footballers with guest players Rajani Kanta Barman and Belal Ahmed and three Nigerian booters. The return-leg match will be played in Dhaka on April 20.

Mohammedan squad: Biplab, Shakil, Peter Odaf, Nazrul, Rajani, Kamal, Rezaul, Belal, Arman Aziz, Matiur Munna, Sentu, Asad, Divine, Paul and Alfaz.

Meanwhile, Lebanon's Al Ahed arrived in Dhaka also yesterday to play their Group A game against Federation Cup and Dhaka League champions Brothers Union. The match will be played tomorrow at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Gough targets WC comeback

AFP, London

Darren Gough has insisted there is still time for him to bowl himself back into a place in England's squad for next year's World Cup in the Caribbean.

Veteran paceman Gough, opted out of the one-day series in Pakistan and was consequently not selected for the one-dayers in India where England's poor limited-overs form away from home continued with a seven-wicket

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5



BLOODY CRICKET! Mediamen (L) stage a sit-in in the middle of the Chittagong Divisional Stadium to protest police atrocity before the start of the second Test on Sunday. A bleeding Anurup Titu (R) of Dainik Purbokon is being taken off the scene after he was hit in the head by police.

Our apology to readers

SPORTS REPORTER

Dear readers, opening the newspaper you must have been first taken by surprise, then by anger. The second Test between Bangladesh and Australia has got underway in Chittagong on Sunday, but no coverage on that.

Dear readers, we beg your apology for this. In fact, we have been forced to deprive you. We too love cricket as much as you do. But to protest the medieval barbarism that police carried out on the journalists, we did not have any way out other than this. It was not possible for us to file reports while fellow journalists languished in hospital, victims of brutal police assault. To protest this unjust police torture the journalists immediately held a meeting and decided to boycott the Bangladesh-Australia series until the incident was fairly investigated and the guilty police officials were punished. All the national newspapers of the country, local newspa-

pers in Chittagong and all private television channels will carry out the scorecard of the series. We sincerely feel sorry for the readers for this inconvenience. At the same time we hope that you will also stand by us in this protest by perceiving the whole situation from a pragmatic standpoint.

Dear readers, to go by the unanimous decision taken by our fellow journalists in Chittagong, we are also not publishing our regular column "Akram Inslinger".

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the second and final Test between Bangladesh and Australia on Sunday:

BANGLADESH: First innings	
Omar lbw b Gillespie	2
Nafees c Lee b Gillespie	0
Bashar c Jacques b Gillespie	9
Saleh b MacGill	71
Ashraful c Hayden b Warne	6
Aftab c Gilchrist b Warne	18
Mashud not out	34
Rafique c Hayden b MacGill	19

Mortuza c Gilchrist b Cullen	4
Razzak c Lee b MacGill	15
Shahadat c Gillespie b Warne	0
Extras: (lb-10, w-3, nb-6)	19
Total: (All out in 61.2 overs)	197
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-11, 3-17, 4-41, 5-102, 6-130, 7-152, 8-157, 9-193.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Lee	9	2	36	0
Gillespie	5	2	11	3
Warne	18.2	3	47	3
MacGill	22	3	68	3
Cullen	7	0	25	1

AUSTRALIA: First innings	
Hayden c sub (Kapali) b Rafique29	38
Jacques not out	5
Gillespie not out	4
Extras: (lb-2, nb-2)	4
Total: (For one wkt in 24 overs)	76
Fall of wicket: 1-67	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mortuza	6	0	25	0
Shahadat	7	1	21	0
Rafique	7	1	23	1
Razzak	4	2	5	0

Toss: Bangladesh
Umpires: Aleem Dar (PAK) and Ian Howell (RSA)

Oram steadies NZ

Cricket

AFP, Centurion

All-rounder Jacob Oram led a fightback after New Zealand's top order batting failed on the second day of the first Test against South Africa at Centurion Park Sunday.

New Zealand lost their first five wickets for 45 runs but recovered to reach 187 for six at tea in reply to South Africa's first innings total of 276.

Oram was unbeaten on 57. The tall left-hander put on 44 for the sixth wicket with Brendon McCullum (31) before he and Daniel Vettori (45 not out) frustrated the South African bowlers with an unbeaten seventh wicket stand of 98.

Makhaya Ntini plunged the New Zealand innings into disarray when he took the first three wickets.

Ntini bowled Hamish Marshall in his second over. Then he claimed

the key wicket of New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming, playing in his 100th Test, for nought.

Fleming pushed forward and the ball looped back to Ntini who flung the ball in the air. Fleming was given out caught and bowled by umpire Daryl Harper although replays showed the ball had come off his pad without contact with the bat.

Scott Styris was caught at gully for 17 before Shaun Pollock had opening batsman Peter Fulton caught behind for 14.

Nathan Astle edged a fast over-swing from Dale Steyn to Boucher, who took the catch to complete his 350th dismissal in Tests - the fourth man in the world to reach the mark.

McCullum took the fight to the bowlers, hitting 31 off 30 balls before top-edging Jacques Kallis to backward point trying to play another aggressive shot.

Oram, playing in his first Test since November 2004, batted calmly and put away the loose

deliveries to reach his fifty off 85 balls with nine fours, while fellow left-hander Vettori provided positive support.

Earlier James Franklin and Chris Martin took the last two South African wickets.

Franklin finished with four for 75 and was unlucky not to get a fifth wicket. Last man Ntini played and missed and the ball clipped the outside of his off-stump without dislodging the ball. Two balls later Steyn was dropped at point by Marshall off Franklin.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (overnight 266-8)	
Smith lbw b Franklin	45
Gibbs b Mills	6
Dippenaar c Fulton b Mills	52
Kallis b Franklin	38

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1



South Africa fast bowler Makhaya Ntini spreads his arms for joy after he bowled New Zealand opener Hamish Marshall on the second day of the first Test at Centurion on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

Puzzling police press note

SPORTS REPORTER

As it has often been the case with a press note from police, the latest one from the Chittagong Police Commissioner's Office yesterday about the happenings at the Divisional Stadium was once again an aberration of truth.

Those who have watched news in different television channels on Sunday will definitely find the version of the police about the ugly episode on the opening day of the second Test between Bangladesh and Australia amusingly different.

If anybody wants to take the pleasure (!) of going between the lines of that press release, here is the translation.

It is for everybody's information that on the 16th of April, 2006 just before the start (9.45am) of the second Test between Bangladesh and Australia at the Divisional Stadium a person travelling on a CNG-driven three-wheeler and claiming himself a journalist without presenting any valid identity card tried to forcefully enter through the main gate where security personnel were carrying out vehicle checking and ensuring entry control. When the on-duty force requested him not to enter with the CNG taxi the person claiming to be journalist called the police names and at one stage he tried to pull the on-duty sergeant by his uniform towards the media box. This created an altercation between both parties. It was later found that the claimed to be journalist's name was Tinku. He claimed himself to be the photographer of Prothom Alo. That journalist without bringing this matter to the higher officials' notice entered the playing field along with a few journalists and threatened to spoil the international match and forcefully sat on the cricket pitch.

At this stage the high officials of police and BCB leaders tried to quell them and requested them to leave the field. The officials assured them that the matter would be solved with the presence of all parties during the lunch break. For that the international cricket match started 12 minutes late.

During the lunch break (12.45) the higher authority and BCB officials went near the media centre. Then that journalist along with

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5



PHOTOS: STAR

Tajikistan's maiden title glory

SPORTS REPORTER

The AFC Challenge Cup went to Central Asia as Tajikistan lifted their first ever title at the continental level with a 4-0 drubbing of Sri Lanka in an anticlimax final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Dzhormikhon Muhidinov fired twice while Khurshed Makhmudov and Numondzhin Hakimov added one goal apiece before a 5,000-strong crowd as Tajikistan, who led the first half 2-0, put on display superior skill and vigour to take absolute control.

Following tremendous hot and humid condition throughout the 16-team tournament, a light shower before the finale came as a blessing as the match was played in soothing condition.

And Tajikistan got off to a dream start when Sri Lankan defender Sanjaya's gaffe inside the area allowed them to take the lead just 50 seconds after kick-off. Sanjaya lost possession to midfielder Ibragim Rabimov whose low drive came off

goalkeeper Sugath Thilakarathne, only to make way for a rushing Muhidinov tap the ball into an empty net.

Sri Lanka took some time to reassert and began slice the rival defence down the flanks but their forwards were off the mark mostly. The South Asians earned a series of corners but failed to penetrate the solid defence of goalkeeper Aslidin Khabibulloev, who won everything in the air.

The Tajiks came close to double the advantage on the half hour but Hakimov's low cross from the left ran harmlessly across the goal as Muhidinov and Yusuf Rabiev failed to connect.

Mohamed Izzadeen came close to equalise on the stroke of the first half but his header on a corner by Lankan captain Dudley Steinwall went inches over the post.

Tajikistan, however, doubled the lead in the 45th minute when Makhmudov dodged past two defenders on the counter attack and put a low right-footer into Thilakarathne's near post from ten yards.

Sri Lanka went all out but left wide gaps at their defence, allowing

the opposition to exploit the condition. Tajikistan kept the pressure and the Lankan defence went down like wheat beneath a scythe.

Striker Hakimov made it 3-0 in the 61st minute when he leaped high to score with a glancing header on a left-side freekick by indefatigable midfielder Odil Irgashev while another combined move nine minutes later saw Muhidinov find the back of the net from close for his fourth goal in the meet after Rabiev's magnificent manoeuvre at the right wing.

The Golden Boot went to Palestine striker Fahed Attal, top scorer with eight goals including a double-hatrick in their 11-0 win over Guam in the opening match. Tajikistan midfielder Ibragim Rabimov was adjudged the Most Valuable Player.

South Asian Football Federation's Nepalese president Ganesh Thapa distributed trophies after the final.

TEAMS

TAJIKISTAN: Khabibulloev (Mukamin, 69th minute), Oev, Negmatov,

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS: Tajikistan players and officials party with the trophy of the inaugural AFC Challenge Cup after they beat Sri Lanka in the final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Sunday.

A deserving victory for Nazarov's boys

SPORTS REPORTER

As soon as Iranian referee Hedayat Mombini blew the final whistle, Tajikistan footballers went into wild celebration on the pitch at the Bangabandhu National Stadium following their 4-0 triumph over Sri Lanka in the final of the inaugural AFC Challenge Cup.

It was first time the country won any tournament at national level since joining the Asian Football Confederation in 1992 after the disband of the Soviet Union and they immediately rushed to the byline to circled coach Sharif Nazarov, giving the old man big hugs before tossing him into the air in jubilation.

It was a hard work of a team featuring quality footballers that gave Tajikistan success but the mastermind behind it was 60-year-old Nazarov, who still feels young at heart.

"I may look old but I feel that youth is still inside me. I want to work

as long as I am alive," said Nazarov, who breathes football.

The veteran said that he expected the victory to be a boost for his countrymen, especially after winning a tournament of national teams after club success in the AFC President's Cup last year.

"We came here to win the trophy and we are champions. Certainly, this victory is going to develop the game in our country," said Nazarov, whose side not only proved too good for runners-up Sri Lanka but also demolished the home side's hopes with a 6-1 defeat of Bangladesh in the quarterfinal.

"We have also proved that we are able to play at a higher level. I congratulate my players for keeping the tempo from the start and winning it."

Sri Lanka coach Sampath Perera admitted that the better team won the cup.

"We lacked finishing. But I am happy that with nine new and young players in the side, we came this far. This was after a long time that we played in a final of a major

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4