

Indo-Pakistan talks likely

REUTERS, Karachi

Pakistan and India officials are set for talks this week in a bid to resume competition between the two countries, Pakistan cricket chief Taqir Zia said Thursday.

"The Indian officials has conveyed to us that he wants to meet with the (Pakistan Cricket Board) and I am more than willing to meet him," Zia told this news agency, referring to Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president Suresh Kalmadi.

Kalamadi has said that Indian Sports Minister Uma Bharti approves of the bid to restore cricketing ties, suspended because of high tensions between the two countries.

Pepsi media cricket

UNB, Dhaka

Ajker Kagoj earned an exciting two-wicket victory over Ekushey Television (ETV) in a vital match of the Pepsi media cricket competition at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

In the day's other matches, Dainik Jugantar beat Inqilab by 38 runs, Dainik Dinkal defeated news agency ABAS by 48 runs, Dainik Bhorer Kagoj overcame UNB by four wickets while Dainik Sangram got walkover against Banglabazar Patrika as the later side failed to field required five players during the match, all at the same venue.

Sony TV's Asian

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licensing deal in cricket as the Asian sub-continent market is the biggest cricketing market," he said.

The other bidders had included ESPN and Startelevison.

"The rights for other markets will be announced by next month as negotiations are still on," said Harish Thawani, co-chairman of World Sports Nimbus, which manages cricket on a global basis.

Thawani said India's state-run national television company, Doordarshan, would have access to selected India matches, semi-finals and finals of these tournaments and some high profile league matches.

The ICC coverage by Sony begins from September with the 2002 12-nation ICC Champions Trophy, an event to be played in India, Australia and Sri Lanka.

Eng bid to finish off NZ



AFP, Auckland

England set out on Saturday to complete their dominance over New Zealand and clinch the three-Test cricket series in the final Auckland Test.

Nasser Hussain's team whipped the Kiwis by 98 runs in the first Christchurch Test before the weather conspired to stop them from pressing home their advantage in last weekend's drawn Wellington Test.

England have been by far the better team of this series with outstanding individual performances with the bat and ball, while the Kiwis have been struggling with a second-string pace attack and inconsistent batting and fielding.

"The series is still open, that's just a factor of a three-Test match series when one game is severely interrupted by the weather and bad light so it becomes a second-and-a-half Test series," Hussain said here Thursday.

"However well you play, that goes down to a last Test match, so I would rather be playing the cricket we are one and one-nil up and not play

catch-up, which we normally are.

"At the moment we've done everything asked of us, it's been a long winter and it is difficult going into the last week of the winter season and still looking to win that Test series that we haven't this time.

"But we've dug deep before and we might have to do it again in Auckland."

The tourists are expected to go into the Eden Park game with the same 11 that has outplayed New Zealand, the only vagary being the condition of the drop-in pitch in Auckland and whether winning the toss becomes absolutely paramount.

Hussain has defended his fellow Essex teammate James Foster, whose wicketkeeping fallibility surfaced again during the Wellington Test.

Foster dropped three catches and each time persisted in chasing the ball with one glove.

He goes into his sixth Test with his wicketkeeping under as much scrutiny as when he made his international debut against Zimbabwe in Harare last September.

Foster has dropped 11 catches in his past seven internationals, but a batting average of 27 has glossed

over his errors. He needs a good third Test against the Kiwis.

England have made a decision to stick with Foster ahead of former Test captain Alec Stewart.

"It will be difficult for him," said Hussain. "In his first couple of Tests his batting wasn't there and kept well and now he's dropped a couple of chances but his batting's improving with every game.

"It is great for us, we need those runs down the order, so it's going to be difficult for the young lad but he keeps working and he keeps progressing, we're well happy with him."

New Zealand have made two changes for the final Test, dropping opening batsman Matthew Horne and pace bowler Chris Martin.

All-rounder Andre Adams is the newcomer while paceman Daryl Tuffey returns as the selectors search for a bowling attack which can dismiss England twice.

All-rounder Chris Harris appears likely to return to the team this time after missing out on the starting 11 for the drawn second Test.

Wicketkeeper Adam Parore will be retiring after his 78th Test match over Easter and looking to head in a new direction after 12 years of cricket.

Lanka acclaim Pak security

REUTERS, Karachi

Sri Lankan cricket chiefs have praised security during their team's recent visit, a major boost for Pakistan before tours by New Zealand and Australia, a Pakistan spokesman said on Wednesday.

"The Sri Lankan board has sent us a letter in which they have acknowledged the excellent security arrangements made for the Asian Test Championship final in Lahore," cricket board spokesman Khalid Butt told Reuters.

"It is a very positive boost for us ahead of tours by New Zealand and Australia this year," he said after New Zealand, Sri Lanka and the West Indies refused to play in Pakistan following the September 11 attacks on the United States.

Independence Cup kabadi

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Army and BDR (Red) won their respective matches in the Independence Day Kabadi Championship at the Kabadi Stadium on Thursday.

BDR (Red) defeated BDR (Green) 93-78 after leading the first half 42-35.

In the other match, Bangladesh Army beat ASPTS 137-94. The winners led the first half 64-49.

ASPTS take on BDR (Green) while the BDR (Red) meet Bangladesh Army today.

Europa Cup b'ball

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Navy won their respective matches in the Europa Cup Independence Day basketball at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

Army smashed BKSP by 114-57 points after dominating the first half 57-26.

Altaf caged 21, Shahjahan 18 and Mustafa 16 for the winners while Saion scored 16 and Tanmoy 10 for the losers.

In the day's another match, Navy beat Dharmketu Club by 82-70 points. The winners led the first half 46-33.

Gusshami managed 29, Rashed 18, Noman 8 for the Navy while Bliaz scored 21, Mich and Titas 10 points each for Dharmketu Club.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Participants of the Japan Cup golf tournament pose with Chief of Army Staff and president of Kurmitola Golf Club Lt Gen M Harun-Ar-Rashid (6th from L) at the KGC yesterday. The two-day meet will end today.

Agassi in last four



AFP, Key Biscayne

Defending champion Andre Agassi booked his semifinal berth in the Tennis Masters Series tournament here Wednesday, reaching the final four of the elite event for the eighth time in his career.

The US veteran, who will turn 32 on April 29, defeated Ecuador's Nicolas Lapentti 6-3, 7-5 and has yet to concede a set.

However, he was in trouble several times on his serve against Lapentti, finally fending off two break points in the final game of the second set to avoid a tiebreak, of which he has won only one of seven this season.

Agassi had several successes at the net against Lapentti, and said a willingness to come in would add an extra weapon to his game.

Agassi is now a step closer to adding a fifth Key Biscayne title to those he won in 1990, 1995, 1996 and 2001. Only his wife, Steffi Graf, has won as many.

In the semifinals he'll face another South American, either Chilean Marcelo Rios or Argentina's Juan Ignacio Chela.

He would no doubt also be ready for Chela, beaten by Agassi in their only previous encounter at Scottsdale earlier this month when Agassi was en route to his 50th

career title.

The former world number one is the only American left in the men's draw, where top seed Lleyton Hewitt of Australia booked his quarter-final spot by quickly finishing off a rain-disrupted 6-4, 6-1 victory American James Blake.

an all-American affair.



ANDRE AGASSI

In the quarterfinals Hewitt faces sixth-seeded Russian Marat Safin in a battle of the last two US Open champions. Safin, who won at Flushing Meadows in 2000, defeated Fernando Gonzalez 6-3, 6-3. Swiss 12th seed Roger Federer will battle Romanian Andre Pavel in the remaining quarterfinal.

The women's semi-final lineup is

Power takes Pak squash title

AFP, Lahore

World number three Jonathon Power of Canada prevailed over world number one and top seed Peter Nicol of England to win the Pakistan Open squash championship here on Wednesday.

The 27-year-old won 15-10, 13-15, 15-10, 15-14 in 87 minutes to lift the trophy and winner's purse of 15,750 dollars.



Power became only the second foreign player to win the Pakistan Open squash title after Peter Marshall won it in 1999.


TV GUIDE

BTB	
9:10 am	Khabar
9:15	Aalor Pathay
9:35	Cartoon Totally Tuned In
10:00	The News
10:05	Children magazine Darpan
10:30	Krira Jagat
11:00	News headlines
11:55	Angana
3:10 pm	News headlines
3:15	Patriotic song
3:20	Full-length Bengali feature film
4:00	Khabar
5:00	News headlines
6:00	Khabar
6:10	Cartoon: Ghost Busters
7:00	News headlines
7:05	Malancha
7:30	Drama serial: Sukher Tari
8:00	News in Bangla
9:00	News headlines
9:05	Magazine Itayadi
10:00	News in English
10:25	Reaply's Believe it or Not
11:20	World Music Album
11:30	Khabar/The News
EKUSHEY	
2:00pm	Ekushey Headlines
2:05	Potrikey Weekend
2:15	E Shoptaher Bishsho
2:35	Classic Cartoons
3:00	Ekushey Headlines
3:05	Bangla Film: Rag Anurag
5:30	Gillette Sports
6:00	Ekushey Headlines
6:05	WWF Smackdown
6:55	Ekushey Headlines
7:00	Mukto Khobor
7:30	Ekushey Shongbad
8:00	Ekushey News
8:05	Char Chakay Chepe
8:30	Murchona
9:00	Shukrobarer Natok: Mayakunjo
10:00	News : Simulcast from BTB
10:30	Surma Parer Gaan
11:00	Ekushey Late Night News
11:30	Ei Shoptaho
12:00	Ekushey Headlines

CHANNEL-i	
7:40	a.m.Music Plus
8:30	Chnhaya Jhankar
9:00	Joar Bhata
10:00	Marine location
10:40	Joto Mot Toto Poth
11:10	Musica Plus
12:00	noonChnhaya Jhankar
12:30 p.m.	Joar Bhata
1:00	Bhalo Monda Manushera
1:30	Marine Location
2:00	Double Moja
5:40	Aunya Dhara
6:10	Musica Plus
6:50	Alokita Bangladesh
7:15	Channel i Sangbad
8:00	Joar Bhata
8:30	Ispahani i Tele-Quiz Your Choice
9:00	Channel i Sangbad
9:30	Ispahani i Tele-quiz
9:35	Bangladesh in News paper
10:00	Action drama Raven
10:30	Channel i Sangbad
11:00	Bangla feature film
STAR GOLD	
7:30am	Palkon Ki Chhaon Mein (Rajesh Khanna, Hema Malini)
10:30	Bollywood News
11:00	Geet Bahar
11:30	Teen Batti Char Raasta (Sandhya, Karan Dewan)
3:00	Bollywood News
3:30	Sharada (Raj Kapoor, Meena Kumari)
7:00	Geet Bahar
7:30	Shandaar Shukrawaar (Shammi Kapoor, Babita)
11:00	Bollywood News
11:30	Himalaya Super Action Film: Charas (Dharmendra, Hema Malini)
BBC WORLD	
6:00am	BBC News
6:30	World Business Report
7:00	BBC News
7:30	Talking Movies
8:00	BBC News
8:30	Money Prog
9:00	BBC News
9:30	Asia Today
10:00	BBC News
10:30	Question Time

Time	
World Business Report	11:30
The Car's The Star ex Top Gear	11:30
BBC News	12:00pm
World Business Report	12:30
BBC News	1:00
Hardtalk	1:30
BBC News	2:00
Rough Science	2:30
BBC News	3:00
World Business Report	3:30
BBC News	4:00
Correspondent	4:30
BBC News	5:00
World Business Report/Asia Today	5:30
STAR WORLD	
6:00am	Happy Days
6:30	3rd Rock From The Sun
7:00	The Oprah Winfrey Show
8:00	MacGyver
9:00	Roswell
10:00	Angel
11:00	The Oprah Winfrey Show
12:00	Maria Law
1:00	Caroline In The City
1:30	The Bold & The Beautiful
2:00	Hollywood Squares
2:30	Happy Days
3:00	Baywatch
4:00	The Simpsons
4:30	3rd Rock From The Sun
5:00	Star News Asia
5:30	Friends
6:00	Worlds Wildest Police Videos
6:55	Star News Asia
7:00	Nash Bridges
8:00	Bugs
9:00	Friends
9:30	Worlds Wildest Police Videos
10:00	Whose Line is it Anyway
10:30	Nash Bridges
11:30	Bugs
STAR PLUS	
6:00	Sanskriti
6:30	GeetBahar
7:30	Hum Saath Aath
8:00	Hain
8:30	Aatma
9:00	Hit Film:in Hit
9:30	Sangeet
10:00	Hit Film:in Hit
10:30	Sanskriti
11:00	GeetBahar
11:30	Hum Saath Aath
12:00	Hain
12:05	Aaj Ki Baat
12:15	Aaj Ki Baat
STAR VIJAY	
6:25am	Udaya Geetham
6:30	Samarpanam

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS	
	EKUSHEY : 9:00 p.m. <i>Mayakunja</i>. An upper middle class family, Maya Chowdhury's family consists of her, her son Aupu and daughter-in-law Lata. Though apparently happy, all three members of this family face a familial crisis.
	EKUSHY: 8:05 p.m. <i>Char Chakay Chepey</i>. Presented and directed by Tanvir Hossain Probal, this tour-based programme features various traditional life styles and activities of the rural people.
10:25	Kya Film Kya Geet
10:30	Small Wonder
11:00	Main
11:30	Meri Saahil
12:00	Shanti
12:30	Hit Film:in Hit
1:00	Sangeet
1:30	Hum Saath Aath
2:00	Hain
2:30	Eena Meena Deeka
3:00	Ajaywajali
3:30	Star Bestsellers
3:45	Film Toppers
4:00	Kashmakash
4:30	Kabhi Sauten Kabhi
5:00	Saheli
5:30	Kalash
6:00	Meri Saheli
6:30	Hit Film:in Hit
7:00	Sangeet
7:10	Aaj Ki Baat
7:25	Kya Film Kya Geet
7:30	Gharwali Uparwali
7:55	Film Toppers
8:00	Hum Saath Aath
8:30	Hain
9:30	Kya Masti Kya Khum
10:30	Khullja Sim Sim
11:30	Ssshhh... Koi Hai
11:30	Kahani Jurm Ki
12:00	Film Toppers
12:05	Aaj Ki Baat
STAR VIJAY	
6:25am	Udaya Geetham
6:30	Samarpanam
8:00	Breakfast News

PICK OF THE DAY	
	The Flintstones On HBO at 10:00 p.m. Yabba Dabba Doo! Join Bedrock's most famous inhabitants in this live-action version of the classic cartoon series. John Goodman as the ever-lovable Fred Flintstone, and Rick Moranis as his bosom body Barney Rubble, head a cast of famous faces that include O'Donnell, Kyle MacLachlan Elizabeth Perkins and Halle Berry as a glamorous secretary named -- Sharon Stone.
10:25	Mudhal Pradhi
8:30	Mudhal Vanakkam
9:30	NGC
10:30	Mettukal Pudusu
11:00	Vijay Talkies
11:30	Dina Palan
12:00pm	Om Namah Shivaya
12:30	Payanam
1:00	Marupadiam Aval
1:30	Ajaywajali
2:00	Agni Satchi
2:30	Movie (Velli Thirai)
3:00	Palaivani
4:00	Raagangal
5:30	Vijay Talkies
6:00	NGC
7:00	Cinema, Kaaram, Coffee
7:30	Vijay Sethigal
8:00	Agni Satchi
8:30	Kavyanjali
9:00	Nadhi Enge
9:30	Pogiradhu
10:00	Marumagal
10:30	Payanam
11:00	Marupadiam Aval
11:30	Best Of Nayyandi
12:00am	Vijay Sethigal
12:00am	Star Hits
STAR NEWS	
6:30am	News Hour
7:30	Breakfast News
8:00	Breakfast News
8:30	Breakfast News
9:00	English
9:30	English
10:00	English
10:30	English
11:00	English
11:30	English
12:00	English
12:30	English
1:00	English
1:30	Family Hour
2:30	Wild
3:30	Violent Earth
4:30	Friday Frontiers
5:30	Wild
6:30	Human Edge
7:00	Family Hour
8:30	Wild
9:30	Violent Earth
10:30	Friday Fortiers
11:30	Wild
CHANNEL [V]	
7:30am	[V] Hit Machine
8:00	[V] Back To Back
8:30	[V] Jumpstart
9:30	[V] Hit Machine
10:00	[V] Back To Back
10:30	[V] Hit Machine
11:00	[V] Back To Back
11:30	[V] Hit Machine
12:00	[V] Zabardast Hits
12:30	[V] Jungli Jukebox
1:00	[V] FDFS
1:30	[V] Hit Machine
2:00	[V] Zabardast Hits
2:30	What Women Want
3:00	[V] Zabardast Hits
3:30	[V] Back To Back
4:00	[V] Hit Machine
4:30	[V] Hotline
5:30	Very [V]
6:30	Ctrl [V]
7:00	[V] Back To Back
7:30	[V] Hit Machine
8:00	[V] Zabardast Hits
8:30	PO[V]
9:30	[V] Jungli Jukebox

10:00	[V] FDFS
10:30	Club [V]
11:30	[V] Hit Machine
12:00	[V] Back To Back
STAR MOVIES	
6:30	Dr Lucille
8:30	Peril
10:15	Silent Fall
12:00	Looking for an Echo
1:45	My Father the Hero
3:30	Casper Meets Wendy
5:15	Lord of Illusions
7:00	Titan A E
8:45	Bedazzled
10:30	Peril
12:30	Simian Line
HBO	
7:00am	Black Rain
9:30	Born Free A New Adventure
11:30	8MM
2:00	Devil's Prey
3:45	FLY Away Home
6:00	Vampire in Brooklyn
8:00	Sgt. Bilko
10:00	The Flintstones
11:45	I Know What You Did Last Summer
1:45	1941
4:15	The Natural
AXN	
6:30	Movie: Sea of Love
8:30	AXN Speed India
9:30	Cheating Death
10:30	Xena
11:30	