



## Did U Know?

In 1979 a cricketer tried to take his bat through the French customs at Calais. He explained what it was used for, but the cricket-ignorant official was completely baffled by it. He then handed him a list of a thousand items, inviting him to select a suitable category. Eventually the bat was admitted into France by paying 1.25 francs.



## What to WATCH

**ESPN**  
India vs Sri Lanka  
Sixth ODI, Highlights  
Same Day Delay at 12:30 pm  
England vs Sri Lanka  
Seventh ODI, NatWest Series  
Live at 3:45 pm

**STAR Sports**  
Futbol Mundial  
Repeat at 7:00 am  
Wimbledon C'ships  
Day 12, Ladies Singles Final  
Repeat at 9:30 am  
Wimbledon C'ships  
Day 13, Men's Singles Final  
Same Day Delay at 10:00 pm



## TALK TURKEY



## Adam Gilchrist (Aussie wicket-keeper)

"Technically, if you read the rules, I think he's probably not quite within them."

On Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan's bowling



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

Competition closes at 8 pm July 19, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

- What was the result of the 2002 World Cup final between Brazil and Germany?  
2-1      1-0      2-0
  - Who won the Golden Ball award?  
Rivaldo      Miroslav Klose  
Oliver Kahn
  - Who became the top scorer in the 2002 World Cup?  
Michael Ballack      Ronaldo Cafu
  - How many goals did Ronaldo score during the 2002 World Cup finals?  
8      9      7
  - Name the former coach of the South Korean national football team.
- Name: .....  
Class: ..... Roll No. ....  
School Address: .....  
Phone: (If any) .....

## StanChart schools chess from today

The Standard Chartered Bank Schools Chess Tournament gets underway today at the auditorium of the Bangladesh Chess Federation. A total of 250 students from all over the country as well as promising players from India are taking part in the Swiss League competition. Attractive cash prizes and trophies will be on offer. Participants have been requested to be present at the venue by 2.45 pm.

# Aus-Pak Tests in Dhaka?



SPORTS REPORTER

There is a strong possibility of Bangladesh hosting a 'neutral' Test series later this year.

Speculation is rife at the moment that Pakistan wants to play their three-match Test series against the all-conquering Australians preferably in Dhaka in October.

Although no official confirmation has so far been made by either Boards, but according to a leading director of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) the prospect of such a series is not unlikely.

"We like other Boards are committed to playing host to Tests on neutral venues if the situation arises," said the influential BCB while talking to The Daily Star Sport last night.

Pakistan has remained in virtual sporting isolation since September 11 last year. Matters have turned worse following the devastating bomb blast during the tour of New Zealand in April this year.

With teams reluctant to travel to Pakistan because of fears over security, the PCB has now turned to playing Test cricket outside the country.

"It will be fantastic if the Test series goes ahead. From October to mid-November would not be a problem for us because West Indies will be coming here in the last week of November to play two Tests and three one-day internationals," said the BCB official.

"But we have not been officially approached yet by the PCB," he said.

According to press reports the PCB is keeping in touch with their

## Mirpur edge Eskaton

SPORTS REPORTER

Mirpur Eleven recorded a goal feast 4-3 win against Eskaton Sabuj Sangha in the inaugural match of the Third Division Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Masum, Momenul, Rahim and Russel struck one goal apiece for the winners. Ashik scored twice and Aftab added one to reduce the margin for Eskaton.

The Mirpur outfit led Eskaton 2-1 at the breather.

Bangladesh counterparts regarding the proposed series.

BCB president Ali Asghar was recently quoted as saying, "Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) contacted us about hosting the series in Bangladesh and we have shown our enthusiasm on the prospect."

The BCB chief also had talks with PCB director Munawwar Rana on the issue during last week's ICC meeting in London. Besides, the PCB is reported keen on playing the one-day series in Sri Lanka. But the plan appears unlikely because of the ICC Champions Trophy in September.

TransWorld International, the PCB's broadcasting partner, earlier recommended the Kenyan capital Nairobi for next month's one-day series.

The PCB said it lost around 25 million dollars since January 2001 because of West Indies and New Zealand cancelled visits. West Indies became the latest team to refuse to tour in February. They ended up playing two Tests and three one-day matches against Pakistan in Sharjah.

Meanwhile, the PCB will make a decision by the end of next week after consulting with the Australian Cricket Board.

# Cricketers' camp ends

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh cricket team had enjoyed its last training session at the BKSP in Savar yesterday before their tour of Sri Lanka.

The national team led by wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud will fly to Colombo on July 10 to play two Tests and three one-day internationals.

The first Test series against Sanath Jayasuriya's men will be an acid test for Bangladesh's Pakistani coach Mohsin Kamal, who took over from Australian Trevor Chappell in April.

Since his appointment Kamal, who has maintained a very low profile, has had his month-long camp being hampered by the prevailing inclement weather in the country.

So most of the times training was confined indoors.

The players were more often than not working out in the gym and then cooling off in the pool at the Sheraton Hotel.

It remains a mystery why the Board decided to arrange a mini-course at the luxury hotel for seven days, which eventually turned into a meaningless endeavour at the expense of public exchequer.

Ironically, the cricketers only stayed at the hotel for the night and then rushed to the better-equipped sports institute almost every morning.

## Kirtley blow for England

INTERNET, London

England's James Kirtley will miss the rest of the NatWest Series after sustaining a broken finger.

The pace bowler was taken to a hospital after suffering the injury during a net session at Old Trafford Saturday, where England are preparing for today's match against Sri Lanka.

Bowling to Jeremy Snape in the nets, Kirtley stuck out his hand in an attempt to take a catch but instead the ball bent back his little finger.

Kirtley's injury is likely to let Surrey's Alex Tudor into the side for his one-day international debut.

But otherwise England are expected to keep the same side that faced India in the washed-out match at Chester-le-Street on Thursday.

England will be aware that their passage into the final of the NatWest Series could be assured by the time the match begins.

## Bangalore to study cricket

BBC, Delhi

A school in the southern Indian city of Bangalore has decided to include cricket in its syllabus.

This is probably the first time in the country that cricket, the most popular sport in India, is to be studied formally in a school, as well as played on the field.

The principal of St Joseph's Boys High School in Bangalore, Father Michael John, told the BBC that cricket will soon be introduced as a compulsory subject in the fifth standard.

"Since we have produced some great cricketers like Rahul Dravid and children are very fond of this game, we thought cricket could be included in the curriculum," he said.

The school authorities said the children will have to attend two classes in a week on the subject.

"Our objective is not just to produce cricketers but also to produce healthy people with different qualities," Father John said.

He said the syllabus is being chalked out with the help of former England fast bowler Frank Tyson.

He said he will also seek the advice of the current vice-captain of the Indian cricket team, Rahul Dravid.

The school authorities said the syllabus is likely to include theory and practical examinations worth 100 marks each.

They said subjects could include theory subjects like history of cricket and practicals including team spirit and leadership qualities.

Batting, bowling and fielding could be added later on, they said.

The school authorities said cricket might be included as an optional subject in the ninth and tenth standard later.



THINKING OF FRANCE? Abahani captain Iqbal Hossain (2nd from R) appears thoughtful as he trains with his teammates at the club ground in Dhanmondi yesterday. Abahani are preparing to defend the Premier League title, which kicks off on July 15.

# Argentine history

## Nalbandian faces Hewitt in final

AFP, London

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The 28th seeded Nalbandian, playing in his first ever grass-court event, has also set a record by becoming the first man to reach the final on his debut.

Malisse who showed first breaking to lead 2-1 before playing a weak service game to love as Nalbandian hit back to level 2-2 and then held to lead 3-2.

But from then on, it was all straightforward for Nalbandian against a lethargic Malisse as he broke twice again to take the final set 6-2 and the match.

For many, the result proved to be a fitting end to a semifinal which had been dogged by controversy when it began on Friday as the pony-tailed 21-year-old Malisse had twice needed treatment for an anxiety

"I got lucky with the rain break. My heart calmed down and I felt fine. I just got a little bit tense."

Nalbandian was clearly angry about Malisse's extended absence after he had gained control of the match by winning the first set.

The rules at a Grand Slam event state that treatment is only allowed for three minutes - but those three minutes do not start until after the assessment is complete.

Malisse was treated for palpitations 18 months ago but doctors could find nothing physically wrong with him.

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# Sri Lanka falter



AFP, Birmingham

Ashish Nehra led the India attack as Sri Lanka were bowled out for a lowly 187 in their NatWest triangular series one-day international here at Edgbaston on Saturday.

It left the Sri Lankans with an uphill task of winning the match and keeping their hopes alive of making the final at Lord's on July 13.

Left-arm quick Nehra's superb analysis of 10-2-28-2 saw him put the brake on Sri Lanka's innings right from the start.

After India captain Sourav Ganguly won the toss, on a pitch with some moisture in it, Nehra's opening seven overs cost just 10 runs.

Sri Lanka failed to bat out their 50 overs, a cardinal sin in one-day games, the innings ending with 10 balls remaining, Dilhara Fernando two not out.

Marvan Atapattu (50) and Mahela Jayawardene (36) were the top scorers, both men dismissed in quick succession by leg-spinner Anil Kumble.

Later Chaminda Vaas' 20-ball 26 took the Lankans to within sight of 200.

Beaten in their previous three matches, Sri Lanka have to win here to maintain their hopes of making the series final.

But their chances were hanging by a thread when, having been 125 for two, they lost their last eight wickets for 62 runs.

Nehra, who had Sanath Jayasuriya dropped by Dinesh Mongia at second slip on 18, eventually dismissed Sri Lanka's captain

for 22 when the left-hander trying to cut, chopped the ball on to his stumps.

Then, for the second time in the series, third seamer Ajit Agarkar took a wicket with his first ball.

And once again Romesh Kaluwitharana (eight) was the man out in a near replica of his dismissal at The Oval.

Sri Lanka's wicket-keeper drove loosely outside off-stump and opposing gloveman Rahul Dravid took the easy catch, Sri Lanka 41 for two in the 12th over.

Jayawardene helped Atapattu get the innings back on an even keel, the pair putting on 84 for the third wicket.

But, looking to accelerate, Jayawardene holed out to long-off against Kumble, Sri Lanka 125 for three in the 31st over.

And four runs later Kumble struck again. Atapattu had just reached his fifty but was deceived by a well-flighted googly that went through the gap between bat and pad before clipping off stump.

Atapattu faced 73 balls including five fours.

More importantly, Kumble had taken two for two in nine balls and Sri Lanka were struggling at 129 for four with a pair of fresh batsmen at the crease.

And, until Vaas arrived to blast four boundaries, none of the others could disturb the bowlers' length.

Sri Lanka made two changes from the side beaten by three wickets against England at Headingley on Tuesday.

All-rounder Thilan Samaraweera replaced Kumar Sangakkara and Pramodya Wickramasinghe was preferred to fellow seamer Nuwan Zoysa.

# Learn from Tendulkar



INTERNET, London

England skipper Nasser Hussain urged his batsmen to learn from the latest Sachin Tendulkar master class following the rain-ruined game at Durham on Thursday.

Tendulkar's 105 was his 32nd one-day century, but his first against England, and steered his side to a total of 285 for four.

"I think we learned more from the batting than the fielding. We really learned how to go about a one-day innings and the little master showed us that," said Hussain.

"I had no complaints about our bowling or fielding because we were right in it at 40 overs and then he just took the game away from us."

England were 53 for one in the 13th over of their innings when the weather ended the match, a result which left both teams in a strong position to reach the final of the triangular competition, also involving Sri Lanka.

But Hussain admitted: "We have to get our thinking caps on and work out how we're going to beat India, both in the one-dayers and Test matches, and how we're going to get through this batting line-up."

"I would say India were favourites when it ended because when a side gets 280, you're up against it."

He added: "We do have a long batting line-up and were in a similar position to what they were but it would have taken two special innings similar to what they produced."

The NatWest Series now moves to Edgbaston where India play Sri Lanka on Saturday.

Trafford, which will be an 18,500 sell-out.

Tendulkar, meanwhile, was

against England was back in 1990. I've only played about 20 games against them, but it was just one of

those things.

"I've got close to getting a century against them before, but never quite managed it and I'm glad to have done it now."

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Batting, bowling and fielding could be added later on, they said.

The school authorities said cricket might be included as an optional subject in the ninth and tenth standard later.

A member of the school cricket team, Prajwal, said the introduction of cricket as a subject would not adversely affect other studies.

The school authorities say it will be a good opportunity for children to develop their qualities as cricketers.

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