



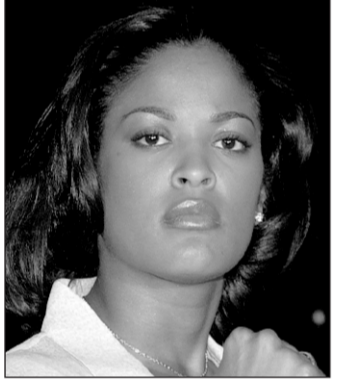
Did U Know?

The first ever Test cricket match was held between England and Australia, at Melbourne, from the 15th to the 19th of March, 1877. Australia won by 45 runs. Exactly 100 years later (15th-19th March, 1977) a match between England and Australia was held at Melbourne to commemorate the 100 years of Test cricket. Remarkably Australia won..... by 45 runs!



What to Watch

- ESPN**
England vs India
Fourth Test, Day Two
Repeat at 8:30 am
England vs India
Fourth Test, Day Three
Live at 4:00 pm
- STAR Sports**
Asia Sport Show
Int'l Sports News
Taped Version at 11:30 am
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
Taped Version at 11:55 am
Australia vs Pakistan
Triangular Tournament
Final
Live at 12:25 pm
US Open
Men's Semifinals
Live at 8:30 pm



Laila Ali
(Daughter of boxing legend Muhammad Ali)
"I want to start with solid blows but when I saw how slow she was I thought I'd better go for a KO."
After winning the IBA super middleweight crown, defeating fellow-American Suzy Taylor.

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 179

Tick the correct answers, post to **The Daily Star**
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm Sept 13, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who won the CUTE Premier Division handball title?
BDR [Mariner] Ajax
- Who became man-of-the-match in the 3rd Test between England and India?
D r a v i d Tendulkar Kumble
- Who won New Haven Open tennis title?
Venus Hingis Serena
- Who are the current English Premier League champions?
Arsenal Man Utd Liverpool
- Who is the new French national soccer coach?
Santini Metsu Hiddink

Name
Class..... Roll No.....
School Address
Phone: (if any)

DAY'S EVENT

National Bank Premier Division Football League
Abahani KC v Mohammedan SC (5 pm)
Venue: BNS.



DERBY ON THEIR MIND: (L) the Mohammedan Sporting Club squad warming up at the Rajarbagh Police Lines ground. (R) Abahani's foreign contingent (L-R) Nigerians Lawrence, Donald Egu and Colly Burnes and Ghanaian Ghansha pose for a photograph with Russian coach Anatoli Vladimirc during practice yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Giants lock horns today

Colly, Nakib showdown



SPORTS REPORTER

Egos aside, the biggest match of the National Bank Premier Division League the Dhaka derby between holders Abahani Kriya Chakra and Mohammedan Sporting Club will have more bearing for the sky-blue outfit from Dhanmondi when they meet under lights at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

Going into the match, Abahani are just two points behind their arch-rivals in the table having earned 20 points from eight matches.

A win today will help them finish the first round with a one point lead over the Mohammedans who have 22 points from eight matches.

On the other hand, a victory by any margin will come as a bonus for the Motijheel-based club. It will enable them to go into the Super Five phase with a five point lead in the bank. Also the result would leave Abahani in third place behind Muktijoddha Sangsod, who have collected 21 points from their nine outings.

Ahead of the crucial encounter Abahani bolstered their defensive capabilities with the arrival of Nigerian Lawrence Akando from Hong Kong yesterday. Lawrence becomes their fourth foreign recruit. He teams up with compatriots Colly Burnes, Donald Egu and Ghanaian defender Charles Ghansha Benin.

Lawrence takes over Aminul's spot in the back four.

Mohammedan too will be keen to make sure their defences are watertight. Iraqi Riadh, who makes his Dhaka League debut, has the difficult task of keeping prolific striker Burnes at bay.

The black and whites also will be keeping an eye on stalwart Jewel Rana.

The veteran stopper back suffered a head injury in the last game against Badda Jagarani.

Besides, it is very unlikely that midfield workhorse Joy will be playing since he is suffering from a stiff neck.

So, the Nigerian pair of Abdullah and Salisu will have to ensure that their side gains control of the middle portion of the pitch.

Besides, the encounter has an added spice with the title of top gun on offer. Both Colly and his Mohammedan rival Nakib are prime contenders with seven and six goals respectively.

On Saturday, Abahani had their final practice at their club ground in Dhanmondi under the supervision of Russian coach Anatoli Vladimirc while Mohammedan completed their training at the Razarbagh Police Lines ground under coach Abul Hossain.

Talking to the reporters, Abahani captain Nazrul Islam said that his team was determined end the first phase on a high note.

"We are two points behind them. I think this gives us extra motivation to succeed," said the national defender.

He added that his defence was slightly weaker than Mohammedans. But the addition of Lawrence would be helpful.

"I am not worried about my attacking line-up because Colly and Donald are working well together. Tomorrow they enjoy themselves," Nazrul said.

His Mohammedan counterpart Masud Rana, however said they intended to retain their slim lead that under any circumstances.

"If we can beat Abahani tomorrow it will almost confirm the title," said the confident Mohammedan captain.

"My only concern is Nakib because he is not playing like in last couple of matches. Hopefully he will rediscover his goal-scoring habit tomorrow," said Rana.

Surrey reward Stewart

AFP, London

England wicketkeeper-batsman Alec Stewart has been awarded a testimonial by his county Surrey for 2003, the club announced here Thursday.

The 39-year-old is currently playing for England against India in the fourth Test at Surrey's Oval headquarters.

Now in his 122nd match, Stewart is England's most capped Test cricketer of all time.

Stewart, the son of former Surrey and England batsman Mickey, said in a statement: "Playing for Surrey throughout my career has been a fantastic privilege.

"I have been lucky enough to play with some great players and particularly to be a huge part of the success the club has achieved over the last six years.

"I hope that I can contribute both on and off the pitch in years to come," added Stewart who made his Surrey debut in 1981.

Surrey chief executive Paul Sheldon said: "Alec has shown tremendous loyalty and service to both England and Surrey over the past two decades.



PHOTO: STAR

Sampras slays Roddick



2002 US OPEN

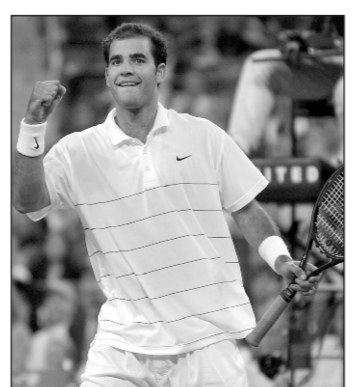
Four-time US Open champion Pete Sampras ripped 11th seed Andy Roddick 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 in just 90 minutes here Thursday to claim a US Open semifinal berth for the ninth time in his past 12 appearances.

Showing the form that made him a 13-time Grand Slam champion, the 31-year-old American legend beat his 20-year-old compatriot for the first time in three tries. After a year of struggles, Sampras has clearly found his game when it matters most.

"He was pretty spectacular when he had to be," Roddick said. "(It's) what he has been saying all along -- 'I'm not done yet.'"

Sampras reached a Saturday semifinal matchup against 24th-seeded Dutchman Sjeng Schalken, who advanced to his first Grand Slam semifinal by outlasting Chile's 28th seed Fernando Gonzalez 6-7, 6-3, 6-3, 6-7, 7-6.

"For me, it's just a dream,"



PETE SAMPRAS
reigning champion Lleyton Hewitt or rival Andre Agassi.

READERS' ZONE

Busan Asiad crystal ball

Do you have any observation regarding sports and its management in Bangladesh? Do you feel certain issues need to be addressed before time runs out? Then, hurry up and send us your burning questions, critical views and thoughtful suggestions not in excess of 400 words. Let your thought buzz at your corner, the Readers' zone.

---Sports Editor

Being an astrologer in Bangladesh is neither easy nor is it profitable. But if the astrology concerns the performance of Bangladesh in any international meet, then the task is very simple.

The Bangladesh Olympic Association has decided to send a large contingent to take part in the Busan Asian Games in South Korea.

Now here is what my crystal ball has suggested:

FOOTBALL: The team may give India a good fight but unfortunately will be taught a lesson or two by the Chinese.

KABADI: The golden days of kabadi (if there ever was one!!!) will come to an end.

SHOOTING: Realistically this is our best chance for glory however we must also hope for a lot of good luck.

ATHLETICS: The competitors will get as far as the starting blocks and then say goodbye in the heats.

BOXING: It is going to be a straight knockout. The punchers will be coming home with noses akin to ripe apples!

SWIMMING: Like athletics, the swimmers will struggle to past the heats and some could even drown!

WEIGHTLIFTING: Each of the lifters will develop a hernia as they carry the weight of the nation's expectations on their shoulders.

WRESTLING: The injured grapplers may require the government to spend some money on their treatment.

HOCKEY: The players will hardly be hungry after the magic of their opponents' stick fills their intestines.

Besides, there is every possibility some athletes will even flee from the Games' Village to secure a better life while the officials enjoy a nice 'picnic.' And the Games' budget once again will be misused like before.

--- Moin-ul-Alam, 39, Minto Road, Dhaka.

Tail props hosts up

Vaughan's 'double' miss



BBC ONLINE/REUTERS, London

England were bowled out for 515 shortly after tea on the second day of the fourth and final Test at The Oval despite a much-improved display by India's bowlers.

Harbhajan Singh finished with five for 115, his ninth Test five-wicket haul, taking four of the eight wickets to fall on day two.

A strong tail-end display saw Dominic Cork hit 52, Ashley Giles 31 and Andrew Caddick 14 not out.

The home side failed to capitalise on Michael Vaughan's 195 as the visitors hit back to reduce them to 483 for eight at tea.

Off-spinner Harbhajan Singh took four wickets as the touring side cut through England's middle order, with John Crawley, Nasser Hussain and Alec Stewart all falling before all-rounder Dominic Cork shored up the Friday innings with a half-century.

With England suddenly vulnerable on 372 for five as three wickets tumbled for 36, Cork's cameo of 52, punctuated with deft flicks behind square and cracking cover drives of

both front and back foot, ensured a challenging if not daunting first-innings total.

India missed several opportunities during the afternoon, notably two difficult chances off Cork.

He hit consecutive fours off Ajit Agarkar then ballooned a drive that fell just short of extra cover.

India captain Sourav Ganguly also missed him after Cork prodded forward to Harbhajan and flicked the ball towards mid on. Cork became Harbhajan's fourth victim

LATEST

India were 18 for one in their first innings as they set out to chase England's formidable total of 515 last night.

when he was out lbw to a full-pitched ball shortly before tea. Harbhajan ended the session with four for 104 off 35 overs.

Earlier, Vaughan missed out on his first Test double century for the second time in three matches when he played at a slanting ball from left-arm pace bowler Zaheer Khan to get the faintest of touches through to wicketkeeper Ajay Ratna.

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PHOTO: AFP

D'mondi dump Arambagh

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhanmondi Club completed their National Bank Premier Division Football League first round campaign with an inspiring 4-1 win over Arambagh Kriya Sangha at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 1-0. Monju and Topu struck two goals each for the winners while Tanveer netted a consolation goal for Arambagh.

With that win, Dhanmondi moved into fourth position in the table having raised their tally to 15 points from nine matches while Arambagh are fifth with 14 points.

Both teams have already qualified for the Super Five stage which is likely to start from September 9.

BADDA-BROTHERS
In the other match of the day, Badda Jagarani Sangsod beat Brothers Union through a tiebreaker (5-2) after the sharing a goal each after the first 90 minutes.

Uzzal broke the deadlock for Badda in the 70th minute but Liton levelled for Brothers two minutes later.

Badda finished the first round with 11 points from nine matches while Brothers earned nine points from as many matches.

Tri-series final today



BBC ONLINE, Nairobi

If current form is any guide, then Australia should encounter few problems in winning the final of the tri-series event in Kenya on Saturday.

They won both round robin games against opponents Pakistan in convincing fashion as they charged into the final, but skipper Ricky Ponting will be taking nothing for granted.

There is perhaps no more contrary side in world cricket than Pakistan, and they are a match for anybody if they turn up in the right collective frame of mind.

Australia are well aware of the wealth of talent at Pakistan's dis-

posal, having lost 2-1 to them on home soil earlier this year in the Super Challenge II series.

But losing Yousuf Youhana before the start of the current competition after a difference of opinion with skipper Waqar Younis has weakened Pakistan's batting line-up.

Saeed Anwar, Shahid Afridi and Imran Nazir have all been out of form and Inzamam Haq has been restricted to one appearance because of a knee problem.

Australia, by contrast, have looked good in all areas of the game, but especially their bowling, with pacemen Jason Gillespie, Glenn McGrath and Brett Lee exploiting the conditions well.

They have also been encouraged by the performances of young all-rounder Shane Watson, who made a match-winning 77 not out in Thursday's game against Kenya.

Following the final, both teams will head for Sri Lanka where the ICC Champions Trophy begins next week.

TEAMS
AUSTRALIA (from): Ricky Ponting (capt), Michael Bevan, Andy Bichel, Adam Gilchrist, Jason Gillespie, Nathan Hauritz, Matthew Hayden, Brett Lee, Jimmy Maher, Damien Martyn, Glenn McGrath, Andrew Symonds, Shane Warne, Shane Watson.
PAKISTAN (from): Waqar Younis (capt), Abdul Razzaq, Azhar Mahmood, Imran Nazir, Inzamam Haq, Misbahul Haq, Mohammad Sami, Rashid Latif, Saeed Anwar, Shahid Afridi, Shoaib Akhtar, Shoaib Malik, Wasim Akram, Younis Khan.

Rajib clinches GP chess

SPORTS REPORTER

International Master Enamul Hossain Rajib emerged as champion in the Bangladesh Grand Prix chess tournament with a win over IWM Rani Hamid in the seventh and final round at the NSC chess room yesterday.

Rajib raised his tally to six points, half a point more than second-placed Grand Master Ziaur Rahman.

IM Reefat-bin-Sattar finished in third place with five points.

The fifth, sixth and final round was held yesterday.

The tournament was arranged as part of a warm-up for the Bangladesh players who will be taking part in the 35th Olympiad in Russia.

Ferrari for Tendulkar



INTERNET, London

Sachin Tendulkar is to be allowed to import a Ferrari without paying any customs duty.

India's star batsman Sachin Tendulkar received a surprise gift to mark his 100th Test cricket match in England today.

Before lining up for India in the fourth and final Test against England starting at The Oval on Thursday, Tendulkar learned he had been allowed to import a Ferrari sports car into his homeland without having to pay any customs duty.

India's Finance Minister

