



## Did U Know?

American Billie-Jean King won a record 20 Wimbledon titles between 1961 and 1979, six singles, ten doubles and four mixed doubles.



## What to Watch

**ESPN**  
Primera Liga  
Celta De Vigo vs Real Sociedad  
Repeat at 6:30 pm  
Sportscentre Hindi  
Sport News  
Live at 8:30 pm

**STAR Sports**  
Soccer Soap  
Dream Team  
Repeat at 8:30 am  
Harsha Online  
Cricket Talk Show  
Repeat at 10:00 am  
England vs Pakistan  
Second ODI  
Live at 3:45 pm  
Sportsline Tonight  
Sport News



**Ricky Ponting**  
(Australia one-day captain)  
*"All the players want to play as much cricket for Australia as they can but at the same time don't want to be worn-out, fatigued and have their careers cut a little bit shorter than they might have been."*

Star  
WHIZZ KID  
OMPETITION 19

Tick the correct answers, post  
The Daily Star

Competition closes at 8 pm  
June 27, 2003 and draw  
shortly afterwards

1. Who will lead the Australia bound Bangladesh cricket team?	Mashud Aminul	Mahmud
2. How many ODI centuries has Brian Lara scored?	21	31
3. Who clinched the French Open men's title?	Hewitt	Agassi
4. Who became Dev Cup hockey champions?	Ranganjati	Comilla

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

## Div II h'ball

**BSS, Dhaka**

Purbachal Parisad defeated Singna Sangha 18-11 in the Leo Pump Second Division Handball League yesterday.

The first half scores were 11-4 in the winners' favour.

Rashedul scored nine and Tofael followed him with four goals for the winners while Jumman netted four goals for the losers.

In the day's other match, Jatrabari Sports Academy dumped Gachihata Youth Club 16-9 after taking a 6-3 lead in the first half.

Imtiaz and Turgat netted five and four goals respectively for the winners.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN  
LIFTING WEIGHTS FOR MORE PACE! Country's fastest bowler Mashrafe bin-Mortuza in the middle of a weight training session at the gymnasium of Hotel Sonargaon yesterday.

## Tigers' last home practice today

**SPORTS REPORTER**

The Australia bound Bangladesh cricket team will have their last practice session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

The squad didn't have outdoor training yesterday because of the half-day strike called by the Bangladesh Chatra League. However, that did not hamper their preparations as they spent the day watching training video clips and doing gym work at the Sonargaon Hotel.

The 15-member team will fly off to Brisbane on June 22 to have a two-week pre-tour camp before the official tour starts from July 6.

## Ireland brought down to earth

**AFP, Dublin**

Ireland's victory over Zimbabwe was put into perspective here on Wednesday as they were beaten by 132 runs by a far more formidable South Africa.

Niall O'Brien made the hosts top

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# Old foes on brand new battle ground



**AFP, Gros Islet**

Brian Lara and Mutiah Muralitharan will renew their old battle at a new Test venue when the West Indies clash with Sri Lanka in the opening Test at the Beausejour Stadium South Africa.



BRIAN LARA



MUTIAH MURALITHARAN

here on Friday.

The two were involved in a mouth-watering duel in Sri Lanka two years ago, when West Indian Lara managed to solve the Muralitharan puzzle by notching up 688 runs in three Tests.

The gifted left-hander became the second-highest scorer in a three-match series after

## Kenya have to wait Less tours for Bangladesh?

**REUTERS, London**

Ehsan Mani, the new head of the International Cricket Council (ICC), warned Kenya on Thursday that they face a major struggle to be granted full Test status.

Kenya demanded to be promoted from one-day to Test status after surprisingly reaching the semifinals at this year's World Cup, but Mani appeared to dampen those expectations in his first address in his new post.

Mani pointed out that Bangladesh, the 10th nation to be granted Test status in 2000, had failed to make the grade, adding that their away tours would be scaled down.

"Kenya's performance in the World Cup was exciting but the step-up from the one-day game to Test cricket is a huge and difficult one," he said.

"Test cricket's newest member, SEE PAGE 14 COL 3

# Mariner, Ajax on course



**SPORTS REPORTER**

Two goals apiece from Kutubuddin Yen and Yusuf Ali Biswas helped Mariner Youngs Club thrash Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha 4-0 in one of the three Club Cup hockey preliminary round matches at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

Mariner had strengthened their team by flying in four Pakistani players before the game but the foreign recruits had a disappointing debut.

Yen opened the scoring in 23rd minute and added a second in the 51st. Biswas' two field goals in the 47th and 67th minutes completed the rout.

It was Mariner's second win in as many games. With six points in the bag, they need only a draw in their next Group B encounter against Dhaka Railway on Monday to ensure a semifinal berth.

Ajax Sporting Club kept their hopes alive of a place in the last four with a 5-1 crushing of Victoria Sporting Club.

Biaka Lusai scored twice while Rajib Ahmed, Ashiqur Rahman and Rahat Sarwar scored one each for the winners while Asad reduced the margin for Victoria.

Ajax have full six points from two matches in Group C but they will now have to beat mighty Abahani in their last match on Tuesday to book a semifinal ticket.

In the other match of the day, Dhaka Railway blanked Farashganj Sporting Club 3-0.

Nabi Sheikh scored twice while Sumon scored the other goal for the winners.

There are three matches scheduled for today. Barnak Samaj will take on Bachelor SC in the first match at 12pm followed by the Mohammedan-Wari encounter at 2:15pm. Uska Krira Chakra will meet Sonali Bank in the last game at 4:15 pm.

## Rating chess

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Open FIDE Rating Chess tournament will start today from 3:00 PM at Bangladesh Chess Federation auditorium.

It's an open event for all. The tournament will be held in Swiss-League system.

## Drop-in tracks laid



**AFP, Darwin**

Two drop-in pitches were installed here on Thursday for Australia's Test match against Bangladesh at Marrara Oval next month.

The pitches were split in half and lowered into the ground by crane before being merged with a ratchet mechanism.

The process took several hours, involving several semi-trailers and heavy lifting equipment, with each pitch weighing a massive 18 tonnes.

Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) groundsman Tony Ware said the soil and steel-based structure would make a good wicket for the first cricket Test to be staged in Australia's tropical north.

"It is really just a quite a heavy, sticky clay that obviously goes hard when it's dry," Ware said.

"The pitch itself won't play overly quick. It would probably be as quick

as a lot of Test venues around the world, but probably not as quick as our wickets are in Melbourne for instance.

"These (pitches) are only new and will take a little while to settle down, but I still think we will get a really good Test wicket out of the soil and the venue we have."

He said other preparations were going well, with a quick outfield expected.

"Obviously, there is a lot of work going on around the venue with new scoreboards and new boxes being built and facilities."

"It's all coming together really well for the match in July."

Australia host Bangladesh in the two-match Test series and three one-dayers in Darwin and Cairns, in north Queensland, beginning next month.

Australia will start a two-week training program next month before arriving in Darwin about four days before the first Test on July 18.

Bangladesh arrive in Brisbane on June 23.

## No-shows dominate NFL

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Three teams failed to turn up as only three out of the five Nitol-Tata National Football League preliminary round matches were held yesterday.

The most bizarre incident happened at Sirajganj Stadium where none of the two teams, Banik Samity of Panchagarh and Agamoni Sporting Club of Thakurgaon, appeared at the ground.

In Sylhet, Football Player's Association of Sherpur were declared 2-0 winners against Abahani KC of Netrokona as the latter never arrived.

In the three games that did take place, Padma KC of Natore beat Adesh Smriti Sangsad of Naogaon 4-2 in the tie-breaker after the regulation time ended in a dull goalless draw at Jamalpur.

Away in Noakhali, Sonmali Oikya of Feni thrashed Mohammedan of Bandarban 7-1 while Udaykathi Jubo Samity of Pirozpur posted a 3-1 win over Sainik Club of Barguna at the Jhenidah Stadium.

# Penalty relief for hosts



**AFP, Lyon**

Colombia's goal drought extended to six matches here on Wednesday as they went down to an undeserved 1-0 defeat by European champions France in their opening Confederations Cup Group A match.

The South Americans dominated the second half and were only beaten by a dubiously awarded first-half penalty from which Thierry Henry scored, though Colombia could well have got one of their own in the second period.

Henry converted after Portuguese referee Lucilio Batista awarded a penalty when Sylvain Wiltord's cross hit the hand of Ruben Velazquez, though it looked distinctly unintentional.

Batista did few favours for the South Americans throughout the match and yellow-carded Elson Becerra for diving in the penalty area with 12 minutes remaining, though the ageing Marcel Desailly got the man rather than the ball.

French coach Jacques Santini admitted his players had failed to last out the 90 minutes and hinted the international career of World Cup and Euro 2000 winning fullback Bixente Lizarazu could be drawing to a close after being patently too slow throughout the match.

"We had to strengthen the left side in the second-half and I needed an experienced player like Robert Pires rather than the rawer talents of Jerome Rothen and Ludovic Giuly to perform that task," he admitted.

His Colombian counterpart Francisco Maturana criticised his players for protesting too much over the referees decisions but believed that they had turned a corner.

"I think we are on the right road," said Maturana, who coached Colombia at the 1994 World Cup finals where heavily-favoured they crashed out in the first round.

"There still remains a lot to improve on but we are going in the right direction."

Velazquez nearly redeemed himself in the 59th minute as he burst clear after a mix-up between Lizarazu and Desailly but his fierce shot went into the side netting and failed to make 'keeper Gregory Coupet - a surprise choice ahead of Fabien Barthez - into a save.

Colombia, though, were a vastly improved side from the first half and continually exposed the ageing legs of Lizarazu down their right flank, but Santini opted instead to send on

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## BD U-23 open tour today

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Bangladesh Under-23 cricket team will begin their Sri Lanka tour with a one-day match against Sri Lanka Under-19 side today.

But it could not be ascertained where the match would be played as the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL) did not mention the name of the venues when they sent the itinerary earlier this month.

However, a Bangladesh Cricket Board official yesterday informed that all the matches, three one-dayers and five two-day games, will be held in Colombo.

A 16-member Bangladesh Under-23 side, led by Nafees Iqbal, reached Colombo on June 18.

## New ICC chief calls for truce

**REUTERS, London**

The new head of the International Cricket Council (ICC) has called on its national board members to end their divisions for the good of the sport.

Ehsan Mani, who has replaced Australian Malcolm Gray as ICC president, said on Thursday: "We are dependent on each other. Without each other, cricket's spirit, its future and its traditions are compromised."

"It is time to forge a stronger alliance that will help take the game forward."

Mani, who formerly represented Pakistan on the ICC, was giving his first speech as president at Lord's following an annual conference.

He said world cricket had to cope with various different cultures, traditions and identities split along Anglo-Saxon, Asian, African and Caribbean lines. Mani and ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed plan to visit each of the 10 full-member countries over the next few months.

World cricket has been blighted by several controversies and conflicts recently, including the refusal of several teams to travel to Pakistan over security fears. Pakistan, concerned about lost revenues, at one stage threatened a tit-for-tat boycott by Asian countries.

Many of the power battles have

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PHOTO: STAR  
A goal-mouth action during the Club Cup hockey tournament match between Sadharan Bima and Mariner Youngs Club at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

# Akhtar wary Vaughan

## Eng-Pak second ODI today



**AFP, London**

England one-day captain Michael Vaughan admits facing Pakistan fast-bowler Shoaib Akhtar will be a challenge for his inexperienced side in Friday's second one-day international at The Oval.

"The Rawalpindi Express' missed Pakistan's two-wicket victory in the opening match of the three-game series at Old Trafford on Tuesday, where he completed a two-match ban for ball tampering."

But Shoaib is now available for Friday's match and could form a potent new-ball attack with young paceman Mohammad Sami.

"We faced Shoaib in Cape Town (where England beat Pakistan by 112 runs in a World Cup match in February) and he was getting it around the 100 mph mark," Vaughan told reporters on Thursday.

"With Sami at the other end that will be a challenge. But Shoaib went for a few (runs)."

"Sami is short and the ball skids on. He was bowling around the 90 mph mark but he only took one-for-53."

"They are top class bowlers but our batters have played them pretty well."

England's major problem at Old Trafford was their batting.

After Vaughan had won the toss and seen his openers get off to a flier, the middle order collapsed as England finished on a below-par 204 for nine from their 50 overs.



MICHAEL VAUGHAN

"The key to one-day cricket is that the team where one batsman gets 100 usually wins. We had three or four guys who got into the 30's but Mohammad Hafeez made 69 for

them.

"But we had an inexperienced team with a couple of guys making their debuts in front of an 18,000 crowd which with all the Pakistani support, was like playing an away game."

"You have to be patient. You need a good year of international cricket to get the feel of it."



SHOAIB AKHTAR

"Our team has only got 300 one-day caps between them and they have got 800."

"But when the pressure situations

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