



## Did U Know?

When Zinedine Zidane joined Spanish giants Real Madrid from Italy's Juventus in 2001 for 47.2 pounds he became the world's most expensive footballer.



## Talk Turkey



## Shane Warne

(Australian leg-master)  
"I'm relaxed, I'm happy, I'm looking forward to February coming round, (when the ban ends) but at the moment I'm enjoying myself."



## What to Watch

- ESPN  
England v South Africa  
NatWest Series  
Repeat at 1:00 pm  
Sportscenter Hindi  
Sports News  
Live at 8:30 pm  
STAR Sports  
Dream Team  
Football Serial  
Repeat at 9:30 am  
Wimbledon Championships  
Women's Singles Quarterfinals  
Repeat at 10:00 am  
Sportsline Tonight  
Sports News  
Live at 8:00 pm

# Academy challenge BD



REUTERS/AFP, Brisbane

Batsman Matthew Innes scored an unbeaten century as Australia's Commonwealth Bank Cricket Academy made the touring Bangladeshis struggle on the opening day of their three-day tour match here on Thursday.

Victorian left-hander Innes, who will turn 19 on Friday, scored 128 not out before his skipper Aaron Nye declared at 258 for three, 55 minutes after tea at the Allan Border Field.

In reply, Bangladesh had reached 53 for one off 19 overs by stumps. Hannan Sarker was batting on 33 with one-down Habibul Bashar, who was not out on 19.

Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore made three changes for the game which is the second practice outing for the tourists. Paceman Tareq Aziz and Mashrafe-bin Murtaza came in for fellow quicks Manjurul Islam and Tapas Baisya while left-arm spinner Mohammed Rafique stepped into the playing eleven at the expense of Al-Shahriar.

Opener Javed Omar retained his place despite scoring a pair in the

first match against Queensland Academy of Sport. However, his stay at the wicket was short-lived again as he departed for eight after being trapped leg before in the 10th over with the score on 27.

Hannan and Bashar however ended the day without further damage putting on 26 for the second wicket.

Hannan belted six boundaries in his 66-ball innings. Innes, one of the younger members of the Academy team, added 180 in 195 minutes for the third wicket with Rhett Lockyear (90).

Innes hit 17 fours and two sixes in just under five hours of batting and faced 200 balls.

The Academy piled on 146 runs off 32 overs between lunch and tea.

Nye opted to give his bowlers a go after an unbroken fourth-wicket stand of 58 in 46 minutes between Innes and Callum Ferguson (18 not out).

After Nye won the toss, the Academy limped to 48 for two off 30 overs in the first session.

West Australian Scott Meuleman (one) -- one of four Academy players with first-class experience -- was bowled by Mashrafe (1-37) off the eighth delivery of the game.

The Academy slumped to 20 for

two after Nye (10) was caught by wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud off paceman Tareq Aziz.

Mashud was involved in the only other dismissal when he stumped Lockyear off Rafique (1-67). Lockyear hit 10 fours and three sixes in his 195-minute stay.

Bangladesh, who lost their match against the Queensland Academy by 29 runs last week, will play Australia in a two-Test series. The first Test starts in Darwin on July 18.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close on the first day of a three-day tour match between the Commonwealth Bank Cricket Academy (CBCA) and Bangladesh on Saturday:

CBCA: First innings	
Meuleman b Mashrafe	1
Innes not out	128
Nye c Mashud b Aziz	10
Lockyear st Mashud b Rafique	90
Ferguson not out	18
Extras: (b-1, lb-7, w-2, nb-1)	11
Total: (For 3 wks decl in 76 overs)	258
DNB: Duval, Magoffin, Cleary, Ronchi, Williams, Worthington	
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-20, 3-200	

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1



Members of the Bangladesh contingent who took part in the Special Olympic Games in the Irish capital of Dublin are seen at the Zia International Airport on their return yesterday.

## Special Olympic team returns home

BSS, Dhaka

The Bangladesh team returned home this morning after taking part in the Special Olympics in Dublin. State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman received the contingent at the Zia International Airport.

Bangladesh won 10 gold, six silvers and six bronzes at the Games, which took place on June 21-29 in the Irish capital.

Bangladesh also won the foot-ball gold.

The 32-member team, led by the chairman of Special Olympics of Bangladesh Ashraf-ud-Doula, left on June 14 to take part in the meet. Japan will host the next Special Olympics (Winter) in 2005 while its summer edition will take place in China in 2007.

## Nat'l h'ball final today

UNB, Dhaka

Hosts Dinajpur DSA and Rajshahi DSA moved into the final of the Pepsi 16th National Handball Championship yesterday.

The final takes place at the Dinajpur Stadium today at 3:30pm. Dinajpur reached the final beating Rangpur DSA 34-26 in the first semifinal. The winners led the first half 15-12. Rajshahi DSA defeated Natore DSA 15-10 after leading the first half 10-7.

Earlier, Rangpur defeated Natore 22-13 after leading the first half 11-9. Dinajpur beat Gaibandha DSA 22-9 after dominating the first half 12-9 and Rajshahi DSA outplayed Jamalpur DSA 18-6 leading the first half 10-3.

Jamalpur DSA later won their second match against Gaibandha DSA 25-13 after leading the first half 12-5 while Natore beat Chapainabaganj DSA 16-6 after leading the first half 11-3.

Bangladesh were 1 without loss at stumps.

Paranavitharana scored a polished 108 after the home team were asked to bat by Bangladesh captain Nafees Iqbal.

He also shared 166 runs for the third wicket with Wijeratne after Alamgir's double strike with the new ball had left the Academy team tottering on 15-2.

While the rest of Bangladesh

# Awesome Alamgir



SPORTS REPORTER

Alamgir Kabir produced a magical spell of 8-62 as the Bangladesh Under-23 team staged a comeback on the first day of their two-day match against Max Academy of Sri Lanka at Rangri Stadium in Dambulla yesterday.

The brilliant bowling of the 22-year-old Rajshahi medium pacer put the screws on the free flowing home side innings as they collapsed to 278 all out in 91 over despite a brilliant century from opener Paranavitharana.

Bangladesh were 1 without loss at stumps. Paranavitharana scored a polished 108 after the home team were asked to bat by Bangladesh captain Nafees Iqbal.

He also shared 166 runs for the third wicket with Wijeratne after Alamgir's double strike with the new ball had left the Academy team tottering on 15-2.

While the rest of Bangladesh

bowling struggled to make an impact, Alamgir was the lone man making all the impression and broke the menacing partnership dismissing Wijeratne for 65.

Alamgir then ripped through the Academy batting to complete a feat he had never achieved at any level of cricket.

Alamgir had also played a significant part in touring team's resounding innings and 81-runs victory against the Combined District Eleven at the same venue on Tuesday.

Young left-arm spinner Nadeef Chowdhury, who was the hero of the last match with match figures of 7-43, captured the other two wickets including the prized scalp of centurion Paranavitharana. He finished with two for 47.

But his Thursday's exploits of 24-62-8 showed that he was keen to learn from his disappointment.

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## BRIEF SCORES

Sri Lanka Max Academy: First innings 278 all out in 91 overs (Paranavitharana 108, Wijeratne 65, Kulaseera 51; Alamgir 8-62, Nadeef 2-47)

Bangladesh Under-23: First innings 1 for no loss in 0.2 overs



PHOTO: AFP

Top seed Serena Williams of the United States clenches her fist after securing a point on way to winning her Wimbledon semifinal against Belgian Justine Henin-Hardenne yesterday.

# Serena avenges French loss



AFP, London

Defending champion and top seed Serena Williams swamped Belgian third seed and her French Open conqueror Justine Henin-Hardenne 6-3, 6-2 on Thursday to move into the women's singles final at Wimbledon.

Serena won a rain-delayed meeting in 1hr 10min and will now play either two-time champion and US fourth seed Venus Williams or Belgian second seed Kim Clijsters in Saturday's final.

Afterwards Serena, who advanced when a Henin-Hardenne forehand zipped low into the net, said she was delighted to have a chance to emulate her sister in winning back-to-back titles at the All England Club.

"I played really well today, I was really focused. I had to be," With Henin-Hardenne having

pulled back from 4-0 down to 4-3 in the opening set Serena said she took heed of the warning.

"I don't think that was a hiccup. Justine started playing really well. I had to get back into it.

"I was trying to do the best I can today. I'm just happy to be in the final at Wimbledon again. I'm really excited. It's a great feeling. Making the final is a big deal for me," the champion told BBC television.

Asked to predict her final opponent she laughed and said: "Venus is playing brilliantly here - but so is Kim."

"I'll sit and watch and try to take notes!"

Serena was doubly happy to have seen off in Henin-Hardenne a rival who reduced her to tears in Paris four weeks ago.

Revenge was slow in coming, however, after rain delayed the start of the encounter by two and a half hours.

Serena, who defeated Venus in last year's final to deny her elder

sibling a hat-trick of titles, staved off two break points in the opening game to hold serve, then overcame a minor distraction as one of her hooped earrings fell off to flash home a ferocious forehand in breaking for 2-0.

The 21-year-old from Michigan, looking for her fifth Grand Slam title in her last six attempts, held to love before an impatient Belgian forehand into the net gifted her a further break.

Henin-Hardenne, who had beaten Serena this season on clay at Charleston as well as in the highly-charged affair at Roland Garros, when she was accused of cheating after delaying the American's serve, broke back to put herself on the scoreboard in the fifth game.

She then held for 4-2 when Serena overhit an ambitious volley and the burly top seed next twice fired wide in quick succession to drop serve to love, cutting her lead to 0-5.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

# Roddick, Federer storm thru' Grosjean kills Henmania



AFP, London

Andy Roddick fully lived up to his billing as tournament favourite as he stormed into the Wimbledon semifinals with a 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 demolition of Swedish veteran Jonas Bjorkman.

The 20-year-old Nebraskan meets either Roger Federer of Switzerland for a place in Sunday's final.

Federer steamed past Schalken 6-3, 6-4, 6-4. Meanwhile, French 13th seed Sebastian Grosjean killed off British tenth seed Tim Henman's title dream on centre court on Thursday, winning their Wimbledon quarter-final encounter 7-6 (10/8), 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 in three

hours exactly.

Grosjean now meets either Mark Philippoussis of Australia or German Alexander Popp in Friday's semis.

The unseeded 31-year-old Bjorkman pitted his serve-and-volley expertise, honed by years of top-level doubles playing, against the vast power and huge ground coverage of Roddick, the number five seed.

When play eventually began following a two and a half hour hold-up for rain, the pair swiftly exchanged service breaks, with the wily Swede, known as one of the best returners in the game, seemingly unfazed by Roddick's infamously brutal serves.

But once the American, who jointly holds the record for service speed at 149 miles per hour (238 kilometres per hour), got into the

swing of his game and unleashed a string of aces, it rapidly became a one-sided affair.

Bjorkman continued rushing into the net but was repeatedly left standing as the man dubbed "A-Rod" swept low, powerful passes beyond his flailing racket.

The Swede, the reigning Wimbledon men's doubles title holder with Todd Woodbridge of Australia, is ranked only 79th in the world at singles, although he had beaten Roddick last year in the pair's only previous encounter.

He battled particularly desperately in the final set but was unable to deal with the speed and aggression of Roddick, who sealed the game with an exultant overhead smash.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

## PCB counts Waqar out

CRICINFO, Karachi

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has invited Waqar Younis to join Wasim Akram in making their international farewells during the forthcoming one-day series against either South Africa or Bangladesh.

Waqar announced his retirement from international cricket last month but accepted an invitation from the PCB to make a final one-off appearance.

But Waqar, who was sacked as Pakistan's captain after the World Cup, has not indicated that he is considering retiring and so the PCB's offer might come as a surprise to him.

A spokesman for the PCB told Pakistan's Dawn newspaper that the intention was for the pair to play together "in the final match of their illustrious careers".

Waqar might have something to say about that.

## No 1-dayers for U-17s in India

REUTERS, New Delhi

India has stopped all one-day cricket for up to the under-17 age category to preserve the country's spin heritage.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced on Thursday it had decided to introduce the new policy in accordance with suggestions made by an investigation held last month into the lack of quality spinners in India.

"A panel comprising several former India spinners came to the conclusion that playing one-day cricket at the junior level harmed the development of spinners," BCCI president Jagmohan Dalmyia told reporters.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

## Media Cup final today

BSS, Dhaka

Reigning champions ATN Bangla and title aspirants Daily Jugantar will clash in the final of the Pepsi Media six-a-side cricket tournament at Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

ATN Bangla posted a 29-run victory over Daily Sangbad, while Daily Jugantar recorded a 24-run win against last year's runners-up Aker Kagoj in the semifinals yesterday.

In the first semi, electing to bat, ATN Bangla were shot out for a paltry 48 runs.

# Kiwis arrive in India Sept 23



REUTERS/AFP, New Delhi

Mohali and Kanpur have again been chosen as venues for New Zealand's two-Test series when they tour India from September to November.

The Kiwis also played two of their three Tests on their previous tour in 1999 there, losing the series 1-0.

New Zealand, due to arrive in India on September 23, begin their tour with two three-day matches against a Board President's XI and an India A side.

Later the Kiwis will be joined by world champions Australia for a high-profile limited-overs series, also involving the hosts.

Australia, in a rare break from their home season, will travel to India in late October for the 27-day tri-series, according to the schedule released here.

Each team will play the other three times in the league phase

with the top two advancing to the final at Calcutta's Eden Gardens on November 18. India's six league matches will all be day-night games.

India will then embark on a full tour of Australia, which involves four Test matches and a one-day series also featuring Zimbabwe.

India and Australia contested the World Cup final in March in which Ricky Ponting's side beat the Indians by 125 runs at Johannesburg.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced on Thursday that it was yet to decide which venue would hold the first Test. But cricket officials said Mohali was likely to get the opening game from October 8.

**KIWISCHEDULE**  
Sept 26-28: v Board President's XI, Visakhapatnam  
Oct 2-4: v India A, Rajkot  
Oct 8-12: First Test, Mohali or Kanpur  
Oct 16-20: Second Test, Mohali or Kanpur

# ICC welcomes rivals' move



AFP, London

The resumption of cricketing ties between India and Pakistan at the Under 19 and "A" levels is a welcome step along the path of resuming full cricketing contact between the two countries the International Cricket Council (ICC) said on Wednesday.

In welcoming the announcement that India and Pakistan will resume cricketing contact at a level below full international status, ICC President Ehsan Mani said that he hoped that this initiative would lead to the resumption of full international cricket between the two countries.

"India and Pakistan on the cricket field is one of the world's great sporting rivalries," said Mani.

"The announcement that these two powerful cricketing nations will again meet on the field, albeit at a level below full international status, is a welcome step along the

path to the resumption of full cricketing ties between the countries.

"When these two teams met in the 2003 World Cup the passion that the match generated and its ability to have a positive impact on people in both nations was apparent."

"Cricket, like all sport, has the capacity to promote understanding and generate goodwill and I would urge the political leaders in both countries to allow the game of cricket to assist in building relations between these two nations rather than being used for a political purpose."

On Tuesday Pakistan's cricket supremo had welcomed the rapprochement between the two countries, though he requested that the Asian Cricket Council alter the schedule for the four-nation junior level tournament involving India.

He explained his reason because it clashes with major cricket events

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

## Delhi's reason for smiling

AFP, New Delhi

Vancouver's successful bid to host the 2010 Winter Olympics brought a smile to the faces of Indian sports officials on Thursday.

The Canadian city's victory on Wednesday means the Indian capital of New Delhi is almost certain to host the Commonwealth Games this year.

Convention dictates that one country will not host two major sporting events the same year and the Canadian city of Hamilton is the only other contender besides New Delhi to host the Commonwealth Games.

"Vancouver's victory is our victory too," a senior Indian Olympic Association (IOA) official told AFP. "We will get the Commonwealth Games."

A decision on whether New Delhi or Hamilton hosts the 2010 event will be taken by the Commonwealth Games Federation in Jamaica in November.

IOA secretary-general Randhir Singh had said earlier that New Delhi was the favourite to host the Commonwealth Games after Singapore withdrew its bid as a mark of Asian solidarity with India.

"Member-nations have told me they want the Games to be moved around instead of them being hosted usually in Australia, England or Canada," Singh said.

"Asia deserves to host the Games." The Commonwealth Games have been hosted in Asia just once, in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur in 1998.

## Lanka to alter Tests venues

BBC ONLINE, Colombo

Sri Lanka is moving most of its matches away from the capital Colombo when England tour in an attempt to boost tourism.

Some of the matches will be moved to places such as Kandy and Galle, both popular tourist spots, the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka said.

The move would also allow people living in rural areas to witness the game live "rather than merely viewing it on the television screen", the cricket board said.

Sri Lanka will play England in three Tests and three one-dayers in November and December.