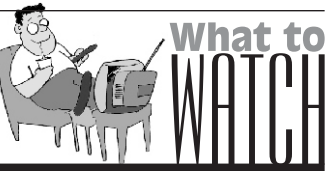




Did U Know?

The very first Wimbledon Championship was in 1877 when it was watched by some 200 spectators. In 1999 it was broadcast to 174 countries, with an estimated global audience of 1 billion people.



What to WATCH

ESPN

Sportscentre
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

Sportsline
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm

TEN Sports

World Cup Soccer Qualifier
Argentina vs Ecuador
Live at 5:30 am
India vs Pakistan
First Test, Day Four
Live at 11:00 am
World Cup Soccer Qualifier
Argentina vs Ecuador
Repeat at 8:30 pm
Brazil vs Paraguay
Live at 6:30 am (Thursday)



TALK TURKEY



Serena Williams

(American tennis star)
"It means a lot to me to come back because I've been in a lot of pain watching others play while I've been out."



Tick the correct answers, post to
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Competition closes at 8 pm
April 9, 2004 and draw

1. Who will captain the Bangladesh football team at the SAF Games?	Monwar	Alfaz	Rana
2. How many ODI hundreds has Sachin Tendulkar scored?	37	36	32
3. Who clinched the Indian Wells ATP Masters Series title?	Federer	Roddick	Agassi
4. Who lifted the Spanish Cup?	Zaragoza	Real Madrid	Villareal
5. Who became man-of-the-match?			

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

Maple Leaf b'ball Josephites beat BKSP

SPORTS REPORTER

Josephites Club scored a 68-48 points victory against Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protisthan (BKSP) in the Maple Leaf Independence Day Basketball Competition at the Dhanmondi basketball gymnasium yesterday.

The winners dominated the first half 38-16.

Yasir caged for 22 for the winners while Shishir scored 12 for the losers.



Asif Hossain Khan, who shot Bangladesh's first gold in the Ninth SAF Games in Islamabad yesterday.

Gripper steals Kapali thunder

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Skipper Alok Kapali returned to form with a blazing century but visiting Zimbabwe A still came out trumps in a rain-interrupted second limited-over match of the five-game series against Bangladesh A at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday.

Chasing a revised target of 218 in 42 overs, the tourists sailed home with five wickets and nine balls to spare to square the series 1-1.

Earlier, the highly talented Kapali overcame his prolonged run

drought to hit 111 as the second string Bangladesh side rattled up a fighting total of 266 for 9 in the stipulated 50 overs after deciding to bat first.

The right-hander was the mainstay of his team's batting as other big names like Mohammad Ashraful (19) and Al-Shahriar (11) flopped for the second game running. Like it had been the case in the first match, extras contributed the next highest 36 runs to the home side's score.

Kapali cracked 12 boundaries and a six in his 122-ball stay. His fourth wicket partnership with Manjarul Islam Rana, who was promoted to open the batting, reaped 85 runs, easily the best of

the innings.

Manjarul, coming off a match deciding half-century in the first encounter, scored 22 off 43 balls. Left-hander Faisal Hossain made a rapid 27 off 18 balls.

Zimbabwe A fast bowler Tinashé Panyangara was again in impressive form. The 19-year-old picked up three wickets for 41 runs from his 10 overs. New-ball partner Piet Rinke took two for 52.

The visitors made a flying start in their quest for 267. The opening pair of Rinke and Trevor Gripper raced to 56 in just 6.4 overs before Rinke (19 off 18 balls) was sent back

SEE PAGE 14 COL 2

Super Smith draws series

Cricket

AFP, Wellington

A classic captain's knock of 125 not out by Graeme Smith and a crucial 76 from Gary Kirsten in his Test farewell led South Africa to a six-wicket win over New Zealand in the third and final Test to square the series here Tuesday.

The convincing victory shattered New Zealand's dream of a first ever series win over South Africa.

Set a target of 234 to win, South Africa were led from the front by Smith who put the frustrations of an arduous tour behind him as he brought up his seventh Test century.

He was joined by Kirsten with South Africa in trouble at 36 for three, and together they worked over the New Zealand bowling attack in a 171-run fourth wicket partnership which ended with the dismissal of Kirsten just on lunch, but at 207 for four the result was then a formality.

It had been a difficult tour for South Africa, losing the one-day series 5-1 and complaining of

tiredness from 16 months on the road after losing the second Test in Auckland by nine wickets.

But the motivation of not wanting to be the first South African captain to lose a series to New Zealand drove Smith on and he appropriately brought up the winning runs, driving New Zealand's trump bowler Chris Martin to the deep.

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming, hiding the disappointment of failing to achieve a historic win, was full of praise for the way South Africa outplayed his side.

"We had one hand on the cup but you played extremely well. We had you under pressure, but you kept coming back, and that's testament to a very good team."

For Smith it was a relief to get some consolation after a largely disappointing tour.

"New Zealand have had us under pressure for most of the season and we're just really happy to get something out of it," he said.

When the final day began, both sides had an equal chance of victory with South Africa requiring 152 runs and New Zealand after seven wickets.

But conditions were ideal for

batting with little breeze and a pitch that offered little to the bowlers.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the third Test between New Zealand and South Africa on Monday:

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 297 (Sinclair 74, Cairns 69, McCullum 55; Boje 4-65, Pollock 3-85)

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 316 (Rudolph 93 not out, Van Jaarsveld 59; Martin 5-55, Cairns 4-50)

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings 252 (Styris 73, Cairns 41; Boje 4-69)

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings (overnight 82-3)

Smith not out 125

Gibbs c Fleming b Martin 16

Rudolph b Martin 0

Kallis lbw b Oram 1

Kirsten lbw b Styris 76

Van Jaarsveld not out 13

Extras: (lb-2, nb-1) 3

Total: (For 4 wks in 72.2 overs) 234

Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-31, 3-36, 4-207

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

Commonwealth team in Thai 'Sixes' cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

A ten-member Commonwealth Cricket Club (CCC) team will fly to Thailand tomorrow to participate in the International Cricket Sixes 2004 and the Chiangmai Sixes 2004 tournaments.

Fariduddin Khan Rummy will lead the side in the 32-team International Cricket Sixes competition in Bangkok at first. The Bangkok tourney will be held from April 1-4. The CCC side will then play in a 24-team meet in Chiangmai to be held from April 5-10.

TEAM: Fariduddin Khan Rummy (captain), Khaled Mahmud, Enamul Haque, Rahul Neeyamur Rashid, Rafiqul, Sharif, Palash, Kamrul, Riaz and Indu.

Officials: Mainul Haq (manager) and Tanjib Ahasan Saad (coordinator)



GOODBYE: South African Gary Kirsten (L) leaves the field after he was dismissed for 76 as teammate Shaun Pollock puts his hand over the retiring batsman's shoulders on the fifth and last day of the third Test against New Zealand in Wellington yesterday.

Nation smiles with Asif

BSS, Islamabad



Asif Hossain Khan gave Bangladesh a brilliant start to the Ninth SAF Games when he clinched the 10m air-rifle gold at Islamabad yesterday.

The 18-year-old Pabna sensation finished with a total of 693.6 points at the shooting range of the Jinnah Sports Complex on the second day of the regional sports festival.

Sanjeev of India took the silver scoring 691.8 points, while his compatriot Haneefa bagged bronze with 690.5 points.

This was the second time Asif made the nation proud after his Commonwealth Games success in Manchester in 2002 in the same event. The BKSP boy was only 16 when he shot to fame in the English city, where he attained 691.6, which was a Commonwealth record.

"I'm happy as I won gold to make my nation happy. But I did

better in practice sessions," said Asif moments after winner the first gold for the country.

"My score was not good in the second and ninth rounds so I got a bit disappointed. But by the grace of Allah, I did well in the final session."

Asif also helped Bangladesh secure silver in the 10m air-rifle team event. He scored 590 in a total of 1757 points. His teammates Shoaib and Anwaruzzaman made 586 and 581 points respectively.

India edged Bangladesh out by six points to win event.

SWIMMING

Bangladesh got their second silver on the day when Rubel Rana finished second in the men's 200m individual medley at the Pakistan Sports Complex Swimming Pool.

Rehan Poncha of India clinched the gold clocking 2:15.37. Rubel clocked 2:17.57 while Pakistan's Zulfiqar Ali grabbed bronze with a timing of 2:18.47.

Mohammad Niaz Ali secured Bangladesh second silver in the pool when he clocked 2:32.36 in the 200m breaststroke while his more illustrious compatriot Karar Samedul Islam claimed bronze with 2:38.37.

India's Gairik Bardhan clinched the gold with a timing of 2:28.95.

FOOTBALL

Bangladesh struggled to beat newcomers Afghanistan 2-1 in their second match of SAF Games football competition at Rawalpindi Army Stadium.

Medhi Hasan struck both the goals for the defending champions who drew their first match goalless against India.

Mehdi fired Bangladesh into the lead with a goal inside the first two minutes and doubled his tally four minutes before half time.

But Afghanistan, who suffered a 3-0 defeat against hosts Pakistan in their first match, gave 1999 Kathmandu winners a scare by pulling one goal back in the 75th minute through substitute Rozuddin and creating a few more

chances before the final whistle.

Bangladesh now needs just a draw on Thursday against Pakistan, who lost 1-0 to India in the day's other Group A match, to progress to the last four.

VOLLEYBALL

Bangladesh came from behind to beat the Maldives 3-1 in the volleyball competition at the Liaquat Gymnasium.

The bronze medalists at the last Games in Nepal lost the first set 15-25 but staged a brilliant recovery against the tiny islanders, winning the next three 25-15, 25-15 and 25-20.

Placed in group A, Bangladesh will play Afghanistan today before their final game against India on April 1.

BADMINTON

The only disappointment in a team event for Bangladesh was in badminton. The shuttlers went down to Nepal 3-2 in the men's team event at the Rodham Hall.

Ganguly going home, misses second Test

AFP, Multan

India's captain Sourav Ganguly will fly home from Pakistan to have his injured back treated and will miss next week's second Test in Lahore, it was announced on Tuesday.

Team manager Ratnakar Shetty said Ganguly could return for the third and final Test in Rawalpindi from April 13 if doctors find him fit enough to play.

"There has been no sign of improvement in Ganguly's condition over the last three to four days and he will go home to Calcutta to consult doctors there," Shetty told reporters.

"He will return only if the doctors declare him fit to play."

One-day specialist Mohammad

'Mach 3' man hailed

AFP, New Delhi



Indian cricket hero Virender Sehwag was hailed by his country's media Tuesday after his triple century against Pakistan - but Sachin

Tendulkar's ire at missing a double ton was met with dismay.

Sehwag, the first Indian cricketer ever to make a triple century, is the man of the moment in his homeland, where the media hailed his 309 against Pakistan in Multan with banner headlines.

"Veeru breaks Mach 3," said a headline in the Hindustan Times while the Pioneer splashed, "Pak pounded by Sehwag triple whammy" and the Tribune led its front page with, "Congrats Sehwag, you've done it."

The media also noted

Tendulkar's disappointment at missing a double century as India declared their first innings at 675 for five when his score was on 194, and commented on his pique at coming within six runs of a fourth doubleton.

His century on Sunday saw him notch up his 33rd century, one short of former Indian captain Sunil Gavaskar's world record tally of 34.

"It is obviously very disappointing to have come so close and not be able to achieve it," Tendulkar told reporters at the end of play Monday.

"I was aware the declaration was round the corner but I was surprised when it happened. The plan was to give Pakistan an hour to bat and I thought we will get a few overs more to go for it."

"But once the declaration was made, there was nothing I could do," he said.

Tendulkar's comments were

noted in the Hindustan Times under the headline, "Tendulkar surprised, in a sulk."

The report also quoted unidentified sources as saying that Tendulkar making his pique public came as a surprise to the Indian team.

"The Indian camp is stunned by Sachin's decision to go public with his disappointment," it said, adding that it sent a "wrong signal" as the comments were hardly those of "a cohesive unit where decisions are collegial."

The Hindustan Times in its editorial, however, cheered Sehwag's efforts.

"Despite its cache of star batsmen down the years, India failed to have a triple centurion on board for the last 72 years of its Test-playing history -- that is until Sehwag's

SEE PAGE 14 COL 6



India spinner Anil Kumble (L) goes up to celebrate the dismissal of Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq (R) on the second day of the first Test in Multan yesterday.

Gazza goes out winner

Cricket

AFP/REUTERS, Wellington

Veteran South African batsman Gary Kirsten was shedding tears after his gutsy farewell to Test cricket ruined New Zealand's shot at an historic series win here Tuesday.

The only South African to play 100 Tests walked off a cricket pitch for the last time wiping his eyes after he led the tourists to victory in his final match.

"From a personal point of view this is the highlight of my Test career, to bat with Smithy (captain Graeme Smith) and win us a Test match, it's very satisfying," the 36-year-old said.

Kirsten scored 76, for which he batted nearly four hours, in his final innings to leave him with the world-class figures of 7,289 runs from 101 matches at 45.27, with 34

half-centuries and 21 centuries.

After Scott Styris removed him in his second innings of his final Test, with South Africa 27 runs short of victory, the usually stoic Kirsten kissed his helmet before walking off with tears in his eyes as he departed through a guard of honour from teammates who embraced him at the boundary.

"I wasn't relaxed at all I can tell you that. It was always going to be an emotional day and with the stress the team's gone under this tour we were really determined to win just to make the tour a bit better," a beaming Kirsten said later.

Kirsten made his debut against Australia at Melbourne in 1993-94 and spent the next 11 years becoming South Africa's batting rock as they struggled in the immediate years after their international isolation.

His farewell looked set to fall flat after he racked up three consecutive scores of one since announc-

ing his retirement before the second Test in Auckland.

But he put things right here with a stand of 171 with Smith, who he rated a much more talented player.

"He's a far better cricketer than that. He stole my place as an opening batter a couple of years ago and I had to find somewhere else to bat."

For Smith's part he doffed his cap to "Gazza" who leaves a big hole in South Africa's batting order.

"He's given us so much as an individual and as a teammate. He's given South African cricket an extreme amount of his time and he's passionate for the country to succeed."

"I'm sure he's going to be used somewhere because he still has a lot to offer."

"But from a cricketer's point of view we're going to miss him, and I'm glad we could give him something to smile about today," Smith said.

Varsity athletics end IU, NU bag top spot

JU CORRESPONDENT

Islamic University emerged champions in the male category while National University bagged the female crown in the inter-university athletics competition that ended at the central playground of Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday.

IU secured 68 points from 19 events. They were followed by NU with 34 points and third-placed Rajshahi University (RU) on 31 points on conclusion of the three-day meet.

On the other hand, in 11 events of the female category, NU made up for their disappointment-finishing top with 61 points while RU became runners-up securing 33 points. Hosts JU secured third position bagging 14 points.

Later, JUVV Prof Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman distributed medals among the winners.