



## Did U Know?

Pakistan lost their third successive Test at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium - their previous two losses in a row at this venue were to Australia by an innings and 99 runs in October 1998 and to Sri Lanka by 2 wickets in February/March 2000.



## Talk Turkey



**Brian Lara**  
(West Indies cricket captain)  
"Ponting is the leader of a great team and can afford, if situations like that present themselves, to take another course."  
Responding to Ricky Ponting's remarks on his world record unbeaten 400.



## What to Watch

- ESPN**  
English Premier Football League  
Man United vs Liverpool  
Live at 7:55 pm  
Primera Liga  
Malaga vs Deportivo  
Live at 2:00 am (Sunday)
- STAR Sports**  
English Premier Football League  
Man City vs Leicester City  
Live at 7:55 pm
- TEN Sports**  
West Indies vs England  
Second ODI  
Live at 7:30 pm

**Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 211**

Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star  
Win attractive prizes  
Competition closes at 8 pm  
May 7, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who is Bangladesh's fastest woman?  
Iva Chumki Sabrina

2. Who is Zimbabwe's cricket captain?  
Taibu Streak Olonga

3. Name the man-of-the-series in the India-Pakistan Test series:  
Sehwag Dravid Kumble

4. How many runs did Brian Lara score in the first innings of the final Test against England?  
400 388 390

5. Who won the Singer 30th national chess title?  
Zia Reefat Rakib

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



## Day's Event

**GP Corporate Cricket League**  
Gazi Tank vs Biman  
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium  
Partex vs CityCell  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium  
Acme vs BEXIMCO  
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

# Bashundhara, GP brave rain

## SPORTS REPORTER

The Grameen Phone Corporate Cricket League (CCL) was hit by rain yesterday but still two of the three scheduled games were decided.

Favourites Bashundhara Group registered their second consecutive victory after beating MM Ispahani Ltd by four wickets at the Bangabandhu National Stadium while title contenders Grameenphone tasted their first win with a nine-wicket rout of BADC.

The match between Biman Bangladesh and Gazi Tank was abandoned at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium after the morning showers put an end to the day's proceedings with Biman on 71 for two in 17.1 overs.

The game will be replayed today at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium (FCS).

### BASHUNDHARA V MM ISPAHANI

West Indies bound Tigers newcomer Faisal Hossain continued to impress with another responsible innings that helped Bashundhara recover from a scare to beat Ispahani.

The left-hander, who had guided his side to victory against BADC at the same venue in their first game, remained unbeaten (35 not out) for the second match running as Bashundhara chased a revised target of 113 with four wickets and 17 balls to spare.

Ispahani were 72 for four in 20.4 overs after electing to bat when rain forced the players off the field. When play resumed after three and a half hours, Mihazul Abedin's side were given another 5.2 overs to bat when it came down to a 26-over contest.

Minhaz walked to middle with Mahbulul Karim with only acceleration on their minds but Bashundhara's experienced left-arm spin duo of Enamul Haque and Saifullah Khan Jem frustrated Ispahani, who could only add 30 runs before being bundled out for 102 in 25.5 overs.

Veteran Enamul finished with

excellent figures of 4-12 while Saifullah took 2-18. Mahbulul was the only player to dominate. The one-down batsman blasted eight boundaries in a 44-ball 53.

The revised target was 112 according to the Duckworth/Lewis Method but Bashundhara's formidable batting line-up were struggling at 68-5 with Al-Shahriar (0), skipper Akram Khan (18) and Naimur Rahman (0) all back in the pavilion.

Faisal however, found a confident ally in young wicketkeeper Sagir Hossain Pavel and the two added 27 runs for the unbroken seventh wicket.

Faisal hit three boundaries including the winning stroke in his 44-ball stay. Pavel was not out on 14 off 19 balls.

Ispahani's former national pacer Saiful Islam claimed two wickets for 24 in six overs.

### GRAMEENPHONE-BADC

GrameenPhone, who were held to a surprise tie by BCB Development Squad in their opening encounter, completely outplayed BADC at the FCS.

BADC, a side made up of First Division and unheralded Premier League cricketers, elected to bat but ran into trouble against the experienced Grameen pace attack of Monjurul Islam, Anwar Hossain Munir and Khaled Mahmud.

BADC were reeling on 74 for five after 27 overs when rain apparently relieved them off further Grameen assault.

The match resumed after a four-hour delay and GrameenPhone were set a revised target of 92 in 25 overs under the Duckworth/Lewis Method.

Opensers Anisul Hakim and Shahriar Hossain went along merrily as they put on 79 in 16 overs.

Anisul was dismissed on 35 (two fours and a six in 43 balls). Test cap Shahriar remained not out on 46 from 59 deliveries as Grameen won with five overs remaining.

### BRIEF SCORES

**Bashundhara vs Ispahani**  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

**Ispahani:** 102-10 (Mahbulul 53, extras 8, Enamul Haque 4-12, Saifullah Khan 2-18, Hasibul 2-19, Naimur 1-16, Gazi Alamgir 1-35).

**Bashundhara:** 113-6 in 23.1 overs (Sabbir 22, Akram 18, Faisal 35 not out, Pavel 14 not out, extras 7, Saiful Islam 2-24, Mozammel 1-19, Shamsul 1-27).

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Bashundhara captain Akram Khan (L) and Ispahani skipper Minhazul Abedin (R) have a chat when rain stopped play during yesterday's GrameenPhone CCL fixture at the Bangabandhu National Stadium

# Parag jr chess champ again

## SPORTS REPORTER

Mehdi Hasan Parag regained the national junior chess title capping a brilliant run in the 25th national junior championship yesterday.

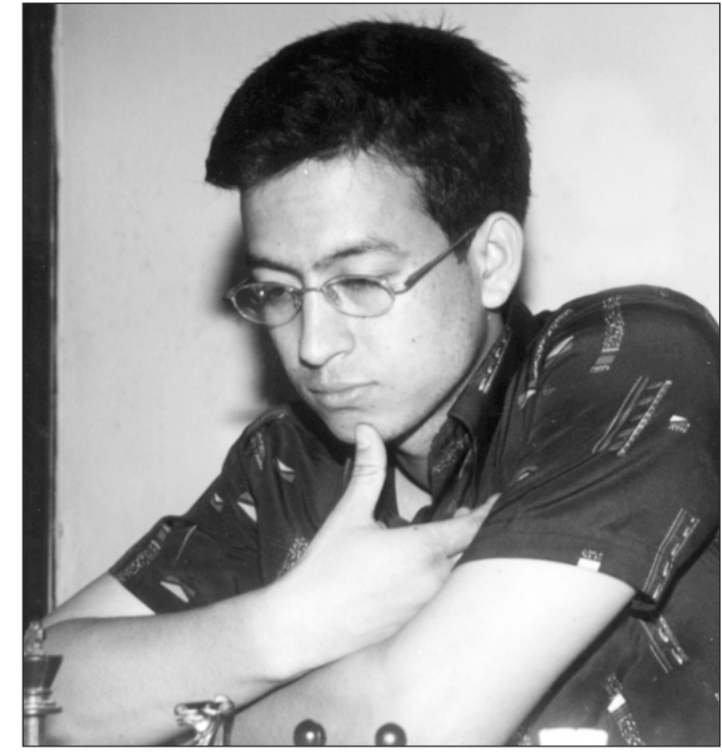
The chess prodigy, who earned maximum nine points after final round at the Chess Federation auditorium, also won the title in 2001 and 2002. But last year he failed to defend his crown, which went to Mohammed Ali.

In the ninth and final round Parag defeated Awlad.

Obaidul Islam Shahin finished runner-up with 7.5 points after he drew with Nahis.

Three players - Ali, Nahid Parvez and Minhajuddin Ahmed Sagar - finished level on seven points but in the end it was Ali, the 2003 winner, who claimed third place after the tiebreaker was applied.

Masum Hossain, Shamima Akhter Liza and Ali Newaz Sarkar secured the sixth-eighth places after collecting 6.5 points each.



Mehdi Hasan Parag ponders his next move against Awlad (not in picture) during his ninth round match of the 25th national junior chess championship at the Bangladesh Chess Federation auditorium yesterday.

# Eyewash or belated wisdom?

## SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has taken the SAF Games football seriously.

The BFF has already formed a three-member probe committee headed by BFF vice-president Abdur Rahim to find out what went wrong at the Ninth edition of the regional sporting carnival in Islamabad, which ran from March 29-April 7.

Bangladesh, who won the crown in Kathmandu in 1999, required just a draw against hosts and eventual winners Pakistan to progress to the

semifinals but a controversial late penalty saw the under-23 team go out 1-0.

The other members of the committee are BFF vice-president Sirajul Islam Bachchu and BFF deputy general secretary Manzoor Hossain Malu.

"We felt very bad that the team failed to defend the title," Malu said yesterday.

"We have discussed this in our executive committee meeting and the BFF is determined to find possible reasons behind the disaster.

"The probe body will convene shortly and record the statements of everyone connected with the team. It is vital that we can get answers, so

that next time we can be better prepared," Malu added.

Observers laid the blame on leading clubs unwilling to release key players for the national training camp midway through the Premier Division League. Also it was believed that certain players were reluctant to represent the country citing injury or burnout from the hectic domestic schedule.

"If it is true that clubs are responsible for Bangladesh's poor result we will be able to emphasize the need of sacrificing club interest in favour of national duty. At the same time if we at the BFF are

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# Will the King appear?

## Cricket

### AGENCIES, Port-of-Spain

Brian Lara is racing against the clock to be fit for this weekend's one-day international double header against England in front of his home crowd at Queen's Park Oval.

The West Indies captain missed the first ODI that England won by two wickets with three balls to spare last Sunday after aggravating a finger injury in his record-breaking innings of 400 not out in the fourth and final Test against Michael Vaughan's side.

Doctors advised Lara to rest the injury for a further 10 days, ruling him out of the first one-day game in Guyana last Sunday and making him doubtful for both games in his home country of Trinidad.

However, after three days spent accepting numerous accolades for his achievements in Antigua, he

joined his colleagues for training on Wednesday morning. Although he did not bat, he could now return for Saturday's second game.

"Brian is very hopeful of playing in both games," West Indies media liaison Imran Khan told reporters, adding that a final decision on his fitness would be made on Friday morning, 24 hours before the second game in the seven-match series.

"If Lara doesn't make it, Ramnaresh Sarwan will again take charge. Corey Collymore, who bowled the penultimate over of England's innings on Sunday when Chris Read lashed two sixes and a four, could be the other change to the line-up.

Ian Bradshaw, a capable left-handed lower-order batsman and clever medium-fast bowler, could fill his spot and add further variety to the attack.

England will be looking for victories over the weekend to take them

a little closer to an unprecedented One-day series win to follow their first Test series victory in the Caribbean for 36 years.

Vaughan felt they left it too late in Guyana and put themselves under enormous pressure towards the end.

Fast bowler James Anderson, the forgotten man of England cricket in recent weeks, is likely to squeeze his way into one or both of the weekend matches.

He admitted that he was perplexed at the decision to put choose James Kirtley ahead of him for the first one-dayer, and says he is itching to show that he is a better bowler than when he made his debut.

"Once you're out of the team on these short tours it's very hard to prove you're in form to get back

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# BD hockey team down Lanka

## SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh youth hockey team recorded their first victory in the fifth Asia Cup Junior (U-21) Championship defeating Sri Lanka 3-1 in Karachi yesterday.

Jahidul Islam Rajan, who opened the scoring after three minutes, grabbed his second just before half-time to give the side a 2-1 lead.

Captain Ashraful Islam Shishu sealed victory with a 49th-minute strike.

Bangladesh, who drew with China 2-2 and went down to Malaysia 3-0, will meet India today in their last match.

# U-16 cricketers defeat CAB in Shiliguri final

## SPORTS REPORTER

The visiting Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Under-16 Development Squad won the one-day competition in Shiliguri, India yesterday when they handed Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) a massive 95-run defeat in the final.

The BCB team thrived on half-centuries by Mehdi Hasan and Mushfiq Rahman to score 203-7 in 30 overs after being sent in to bat.

Mehdi made a run-a-ball 60 while captain Mushfiq hammered 61 off just 24 balls.

In reply, CAB were bundled out for 108 in 29.1 overs.

Shuvo claimed three wickets conceding seven runs in 4.1 overs while Sumon captured two for 15 in four overs.

Earlier rain forced the final to be reduced to a 30-over-a-side affair.

# WHIZZ KID-210 winner

## Sadequul Haque

(Dhanmondi Govt. Boys School) Please produce your ID card and an attested passport size photograph while collecting the winner's prize from the Sports Desk of The Daily Star at 7:30 pm on May 2.

# Butcher waits on Zimbabwe

## BBC ONLINE, London

Surrey's Mark Butcher has yet to decide whether he will tour Zimbabwe. The batsman is waiting to see the England and Wales Cricket Board's stance before making his own decision.

England are due to tour Zimbabwe in October but a final decision has yet to be made by the ECB, although the Government does not want them to go.

Butcher told BBC London 94.9: "Things aren't good in Zimbabwe and haven't been for a while which was what caused all the problems in the World Cup.

He added: "As far as I can see nothing's changed. We're still waiting until the board makes their decision as to whether we go or not.

"Then it'll be down to individuals such as myself to see if we go."

Zimbabwe Cricket Union officials held talks with the ECB this week but a decision will not be made until at least after England's hierarchy has met with the government next month.

# Rebels study ZCU plan

## Cricket

### REUTERS, Cape Town

Fifteen rebel white players were examining a proposal from the Zimbabwe Cricket Union on Thursday aimed at ending a dispute which has seriously weakened the national side.

The stand-off came about after Heath Streak was deposed as captain after complaining about the make-up of the national selection panel.

The 13 players, later expanded to 15, demanded Streak's reinstatement, withdrew their services and risked their contracts unless this happened.

ZCU chairman Peter Chingoka has insisted that Streak will not be reinstated and has insisted the matter is closed.

The replacement Zimbabwe team, captained by 20-year-old Tendani Taibu, was soundly beaten by Sri Lanka here Thursday to go 2-0 down in the five-match series.

# Family to protect Diego

## Football

### AFP, Buenos Aires

Argentine football legend Diego Maradona came off the critical list Thursday as his family and supporters vowed to take action to protect him from the "bad influences" that caused his downfall.

Maradona, who has been battling a drug addiction for years, has been in an intensive care with acute heart and breathing problems since Sunday and was at times reported to be fighting for his life.

Doctors at the exclusive Swiss-Argentine clinic where Maradona was being treated said they hoped to take the 43-year-old off a respirator within 24 hours.

A statement from the clinic said the doses of drugs used to treat his heart condition had been reduced and the results had been encourag-

ing. Doctors also noted an improvement in Maradona's breathing.

"If the results of the respiratory tests remain adequate, we will evaluate whether to take away the respirator in the next 24 hours," the statement said.

"The critical phase has passed. Diego is very strong. His heart is unbelievable and it has almost returned to its normal state. It is still enlarged, but it is working normally," Maradona's personal doctor, Alfredo Cahe, said.

Cahe has refused to say if Maradona's problems were drug-related.

Maradona only recently returned from Cuba where he was meant to be seeking treatment for his addiction. But he has appeared obese and visibly exhausted.

Since his admission to the clinic just hours after watching his former team, Boca Juniors, play, only his parents, his ex-wife, Claudia Villafane, his two daughters and

several close friends have been allowed to see him.

"I want to say that I am very happy that Papa is getting better every day," Maradona's eldest daughter, Dalma Maradona, 17, said.

His nephew, Daniel Lopez, said he blamed the family for allowing the once muscular and fleet-footed Maradona to grow obese and bloated.

"We should have been closer to him," said Lopez. "I feel a little responsible for what has happened to Diego."

"We could not help him because we were prevented from doing so by people who were around him at that time."

The concerns of Maradona's family were echoed by FIFA President Sepp Blatter, who said the Argentine "had everything on his side to recover."

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# 'Doosra' deemed illegal

## Cricket

### BBC ONLINE, undated

A biomechanics expert has confirmed that spinner Muttiah Muralitharan's 'doosra' delivery is illegal.

Professor Bruce Elliott told BBC Sport: "It is true Muralitharan's arm does extend by 10 degrees, which is double the ICC's legal limit of five."

Sri Lanka Cricket officials have now sent Professor Elliott's report to the International Cricket Council, but he wants to continue his involvement.

"I want to sit down with the ICC to talk about the findings," he added. Professor Elliott's team conducted detailed analysis of Muralitharan's action after it was queried by match referee Chris Broad following the recent home series against Australia.

And he risks being banned from cricket for 12 months if his action is reported by umpires or match referees again this year.

At this stage, any decision or

# Shoaib served notice

## AFP, Lahore

A disgruntled Pakistani cricket fan Friday served a legal notice against express pacer Shoaib Akhtar accusing him of faking an injury in the recent Test series against India.

"My client Babar Ali has served a legal notice on Akhtar over pretending injury in the decisive Test against India and over his reported night-club bashes in India," Babar's lawyer Anwar Mahmood Bajwa said.

The fan demanded 100 million rupees (around 1.7 million dollars) in damages within 15 days, and threatened to take the case to court if damages were not paid.

Akhtar, the 28-year-old spearhead of Pakistan's bowling attack, failed to play the third day of the final Test against India on account of back and thumb injuries.

India won the test and clinched their first ever Test series victory on Pakistani soil.

Cricket authorities are questioning the authenticity of his injuries following a wrist X-ray which suggested there was no damage.

Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Shaharyar Khan told the BBC

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MUTTIAH MURALITHARAN

it would then have the power to suspend him.

The 'doosra' is a ball which

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