

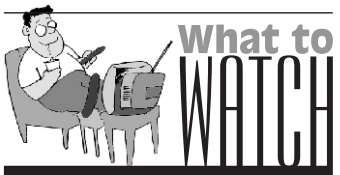


Did U Know?

The first man to swim the English Channel without a life jacket was Captain Matthew Webb, who died trying to swim the rapids above Niagara Falls.



Michel Platini
(French soccer legend)
"I just think it's a pity that Europe's top sides only play against each other these days."



ESPN

Sri Lanka vs Zimbabwe
Third ODI
Live at 1:20 pm

STAR Sports

English Premier Football League
Tottenham Hotspur vs Arsenal
Live at 9:00 pm

Primera Liga

Real Madrid vs Barcelona
Live at 11:25 pm

Bilbao vs Valencia
Live at 1:30 am (Monday)

TEN Sports

West Indies vs England
Third 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	380
5. Who won the Singer 30th national chess title?	Zia	Reefat	Rakib

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



GP Corporate Cricket League
BADC vs BCB Dev Squad
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium
GrameenPhone vs MM Ispahani
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium
Bashundhara vs Biman
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

Bashar steals Ashraful act

SPORTS REPORTER



CityCell joined Bashundhara Group at the top of the Grameen-Phone Corporate Cricket League when they registered their second win against Partex Group at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Acme Laboratories also got over their shock opening loss to CityCell with a four-wicket victory against BEXIMCO Group at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Rain might have stopped Bangladesh Biman on Friday. But the national airliners cruised past Gazi Tank by six wickets under clear skies over Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar scored a blazing unbeaten 73 in Acme's first victory while his deputy Rajin Saleh hit an explosive 40-ball 45 in CityCell's 77-run passage. There was however no luck for Partex despite Mohammad Ashraful's brave 81.

If they were just a few of the West Indies-bound squad who performed, the others could be said had an off day with the bat. Returning from injury national opener Javed Omar scored just one, while fellow opener Hannan Sarker made 13 and all-rounder Mushfiq-ur Rahman scored 8 for their res-pective teams.

CITYCELL V PARTEX
CityCell is proving that their late entry in the first-ever cricket league for corporate houses has nothing to do with their on-field performance. They thrived on half-centuries by

Imran Ahmed and Moniruzzaman to register a fighting 228-9 in 50 overs.

The pair added 89 for the second wicket with Moniruzzaman hitting 62, his back-to-back fifty.

Imran top-scored with 66 off 104 balls that featured six boundaries. But the real thrust came off Rajin Saleh's bat.

Partex's chase never took off as they lost six wickets with only fifty runs on the board. However, they showed resilience where CityCell faltered with both tailenders Rezanul Islam (30) and Mizanur Rahman (40) delaying CityCell's party. The chase eventually ended at 151 in 49 overs.

With this win CityCell and Bashundhara topped the table with maximum four points from two games.

ACME V BEXIMCO
It was a tale of two attacking knocks where an experienced Bashar won over a youthful Ashraful. But the unsung hero of the piece was left-arm spinner Ahsanullah Hasan.

Ashraful put behind his first match disappointment against ARAF Apparels, where he scored one, with a dashing 81 off 85 balls as BEXIMCO posted a commanding 247-8 in a reduced 45-over-a-side contest. The little right-hander smote six fours and two sixes.

But Bashar still stole Ashraful's thunder when the top batsman of the country produced a superb unbeaten 73 off 75 balls as Acme recovered from a shaky 117-5 to reach 250-6 in with six balls to spare. Bashar struck two fours and as many sixes for his second half-century in the competition.

But his knock would not have

been so meaningful had Hasan not been around to feature in the vital 98-run stand for the sixth wicket. The southpaw, after his four-wicket haul with the ball, made an invaluable 46 off 47 balls. The player from Chittagong struck four boundaries.

It was BEXIMCO's second defeat after their 49-run thrashing at the hands of ARAF Apparels.

BIMAN V GAZI TANK
Bangladesh Biman, a traditional force in domestic cricket, launched their CCL campaign with an easy six-wicket sail against Gazi Tank in a curtailed over match at the Fatullah Stadium.

Sent into bat, Gazi Tank scored a modest 174 in the stipulated 41 overs with Nazimuddin hitting highest 71 off 91 balls. He struck seven fours and the lone sixer of the innings.

Opener Sanjay contributed a sedate 35.

Former national left-arm pacer Anisur Rahman and off-spinner Sanwar Hossain evenly shared six wickets for Biman.

Anis finished with 3-22 while Sanwar took three for 32.

Rashedul Haq gave Biman a flying start hitting 85 off 92 balls. The attacking opener slammed seven fours and two sixes. National discard Sanwar followed up his good bowling with a captain's knock 33 not out as Biman raced to

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR

Partex's Rezanul Islam follows through on an on-drive during his gritty knock against CityCell in the GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Miandad stays coach



BBC ONLINE, undated

Javed Miandad and Haroon Rashid are to remain as coach and manager of the Pakistan cricket team for the time being.

There has been speculation about their positions since the home Test series defeat by India.

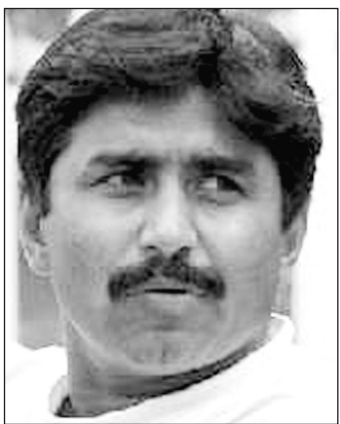
And newspapers have reported that the Pakistan Cricket Board wants Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore to replace Miandad.

But PCB chairman Shaharyar Khan told this news service: "Since the failure at the World Cup, the team has improved a lot and won three series."

He continued: "We have lost the series against India, but our team played some good cricket."

"Unfortunately, many of the young players need to be more tough mentally."

"It is time to take important decisions and we'll take them -- not in haste, but after careful consideration and wider consultation."



JAVED MIANDAD

"We have had a foreign coach in the past. But look at how effective Richard Pybus was compared to Miandad or any local coach," said Shaharyar.

There have been calls for Pakistan to employ a specialist bowling coach because Miandad, Inzamam and Haroon are all batsmen.

"Imran [Khan] and Wasim [Akram] were advising bowlers before the recent series. We still have this option of having them as bowling coach," Shaharyar added.

He dismissed calls for a scheme of financial incentives and penalties to encourage an improvement in performance.

"Some people say that a thousand rupee fine for every run given away by a bowler be deducted from his match fee. It's not acceptable to me."

He added: "Once a player wears a Pakistan blazer, he is expected to give the utmost performance, regardless of money. That's the spirit we want to promote."

U-21 Asian hockey 10-0 bashing for BD boys

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh ended their Fifth Under-21 Asia Cup hockey championship campaign on a sorry note as they were drubbed 10-0 by India in their final first round game in Karachi yesterday.

The formidable Indians scored five goals in each half.

The shameful defeat confirmed Bangladesh's exit from the competition as India and Malaysia moved into the semifinals from Group B.

Bangladesh recorded their only victory against Sri Lanka (3-1) while they drew 2-2 against China in the opening match and lost to Malaysia 3-0 goals.

Streak, Flower against broker

BBC ONLINE, undated

Heath Streak and Grant Flower have rejected a mediator recommended by the Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU) aimed at ending the dispute.

The ZCU suggested former businessman Much Masunda act as a mediator but Flower and Streak were against it.

A union official said: "It's extremely frustrating. Streak and Flower were supposed to have talked to the others."

It was unclear whether the other players would follow Streak and Flower's lead.

The ZCU has said the players have until May 7 to present themselves for selection or face sanctions.

New Zealand wait on trio

BBC ONLINE, undated

New Zealand are set to decide whether Shane Bond, Nathan Astle and Daryl Tuffey are fit to face England.

The trio were undergoing final fitness tests in New Zealand on Saturday.

Fast bowler Bond has been out of action with a stress fracture in his back since last May, and injured himself again in November.

Batsman Astle has been out since October and has had knee surgery twice over the last year while bowler Tuffey has a leg injury.

New Zealand leave for England on Tuesday and start their tour against a British Universities side on May 3.

The first of three Tests begins at Lord's on May 20.

Coach John Bracewell, who was at Gloucestershire until the end of

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

Diego off respirator



REUTERS/AFP, Buenos Aires

Diego Maradona has been taken off an artificial respirator but remains in intensive care five days after being rushed to hospital with a swollen heart and breathing problems, a hospital statement says.

The hospital, where a group of fans kept up their vigil in the street outside, also said the former Argentina World Cup winner's pneumonia was improving, though he is still taking drugs to keep his heart and blood circulation stable.

"Shortly after midday, the mechanical respiratory assistance was suspended and the tube could be taken out," said the statement issued by the Suizo-Argentino clinic.

It added that Maradona was still receiving oxygen treatment with a mask.

"The ventilatory function is good at the moment," the statement said.

Maradona, who has put on so much weight that he is scarcely

recognisable from his playing days, arrived in Argentina last month from Cuba, where he has spent the last three years undergoing a drugs rehabilitation programme.

He was rushed to hospital on Sunday in a serious, feverish condition, shortly after watching his favourite team Boca Juniors play Nueva Chicago and then going to a traditional Argentine barbecue.

His doctor Alfredo Cahe has rubbished suggestions that drugs use might have been behind Maradona's illness.

The 43-year-old has also developed pneumonia, which the hospital said is easing.

"The pneumonia is evolving favourably ... although it remains serious," the statement said.

"He continues to require drugs to keep the cardiovascular function stabilised."

"He's also receiving antibiotics and sedatives, the latter in smaller doses than when he arrived."

Maradona's plight has moved the South American country, where his exploits on the field are still fondly remembered, particularly the

Rangs job for Asif BSF gives cash to golden SAF shooters

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Shooting Federation (BSF) yesterday presented the SAF gold medal-winning shooters with cash awards.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman handed over the cheques of Tk one lakh each to Asif Hossain Khan and Sharmin Akhter at a function arranged for the inter-club shooting competition.

The BSF had before the start of the regional meet in Islamabad last month announced the cash incentive.

Asif, a commonwealth gold medalist, expectedly won the gold in his favourite 10m air-rifle event in the 9th SAF Games that ended earlier this month, while Sharmin surprised many by shooting to golden glory in the corresponding event for women.

There was another good news for Asif as Rangs Group has come forward to give him financial support.

"Managing director of Rangs Group Romo Rouf Chowdhury assured the shooter a job with a monthly pay of Tk 10,000," said BSF general secretary Nazim Uddin Chowdhury after the function.

Rangs has come up to rescue Asif after a renowned motorcar company showed reluctance to fulfil its commitment it made after his Commonwealth Games success in Manchester in 2002.

Meanwhile, Army Shooting Association became champions in the 10th inter-club shooting competition while Savar Shooting Club finished runners-up.

A total of 350 shooters took part in the meet.

Murali report sent to ICC



REUTERS, Colombo

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) has forwarded the official report on Muttiah Muralitharan's doosra to the International Cricket Council, board president Mohan de Silva confirmed on Saturday.

"The report from the University of Western Australia was sent with the observations of the bowling review group to the ICC on Friday," de Silva told this news agency.

"The details of the report will now be circulated by the ICC to their officials."

Muralitharan's doosra, a delivery that turns in the opposite direction to his stock off break, was reported at the end of the recent Sri Lanka-Australia series by ICC match referee Chris Broad.

The contents of the report have not officially been made public but sources privy to his assessment said biomechanics experts believed Muralitharan should be allowed to bowl his doosra even though his arm straightens by about 10 degrees.

However, the ICC stressed on Tuesday: "The existing regulations governing the degree to which a spin bowler can straighten his arm or 'level of tolerance' (five degrees) remain in place and will be enforced."

"...should any bowler be reported for a second time within 12 months of the first report, the ICC will convene a hearing of its

own Bowling Review Group which has the power to impose a ban of up to 12 months should it determine the bowler's action is illegal."

Muralitharan has continued to bowl the doosra during the one-day series against Zimbabwe against the advice of SLC officials.

Muralitharan, who has taken 513 Test wickets, is on the verge of overtaking West Indies' Courtney Walsh (519) to become the game's leading wicket-taker.

After being reported Muralitharan was sent to Perth for tests where he bowled in front of 12 cameras with his body strapped in reflective markers so a computer could track his action.

Muralitharan's arm straightened by approximately 10 degrees when bowling the delivery. ICC regulations state that pace bowlers are allowed 10

Windies 57-2 at rain stoppage

REUTERS, Port-of-Spain

West Indies were 57 for two after 16 overs when rain stopped play in the second one-day international against England on Saturday.

In a match reduced to 46 overs per side because of rain in the build-up to the game, West Indies lost Shivanine Chanderpaul for three and Chris Gayle for 20 as they slipped to 34 for two after the hosts won the toss and decided to bat.

But Ramnaresh Sarwan (11 not out) and Ricardo Powell (eight not out) steadied the side before rain forced the players off.

Brian Lara returned from a finger injury to lead West Indies, with Sylvester Joseph the man to make way.

England lead the seven-match series 1-0.

TEAMS
WEST INDIES: Brian Lara (captain), Ramnaresh Sarwan, Chris Gayle, Shivanine Chanderpaul,

SEE PAGE 14 COL 3

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4