

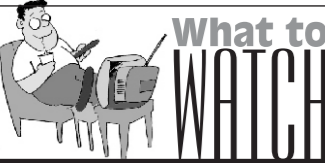


## Did U Know?

Chess was first introduced in Russia in 820 A.D. The first All-Russian Chess Federation was formed in 1914 with 65 members.



**Edo Brandes**  
(Former Zimbabwean fast bowler)  
"If I was an Australian player I would not want to be playing sub-standard opposition and I'd want to have the trip postponed. If it can't be sorted out, it's the history of the game being affected."



- ### ESPN
- English Premier Football League  
Arsenal vs Birmingham City  
Live at 5:25 pm  
Chelsea vs Southampton  
Live at 7:55 pm  
Primera Liga  
Real Madrid vs Deportivo  
Live at 2:00 am (Sunday)
- ### STAR Sports
- English Premier Football League  
Man United vs Blackburn Rovers  
Live at 7:55 pm
- ### TEN Sports
- West Indies vs England  
Fifth ODI  
Live at 7:30 pm

## Star Whizz Kid COMPETITION 21

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



**GP Corporate Cricket League**  
Biman vs Ispahani  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium  
Gazi Tank vs BADC Kriya Sangha  
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium  
Bashundhara vs BCB Dev Squad

# ARAF win a cracker

## Aktel blow Acme away

SPORTS REPORTER



The West Indies bound Bangladesh cricketers said goodbye to the Grameen-Phone Corporate Cricket League in contrasting styles yesterday.

Habibul Bashar's Acme Laboratories crashed to a nine-wicket defeat to Aktel at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Acme were shot out for 92, the lowest total in the competition with Bangladesh skipper Bashar fighting a lost battle with 45 runs.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, national stumper Khaled Mashud scored an invaluable 49 to compliment ARAF Apparels mate Ehsanul Haque (95 off 123 balls) in an exciting two-wicket victory over CityCell in the last over.

After four rounds, ARAF and Partex jointly top Group A with six points and look good bets to reach the super-league. CityCell and Aktel, with four points, also stay in contention with just one round remaining.

It was the last day in the competition for the national cricketers who join a two-day camp from May 3 before they fly off to the West Indies on May 6.

### ARAF V CITYCELL

In a cracker of a match, ARAF topped CityCell's 229-8 with four balls to spare.

Ehsanul was run out in the nervous 90s with the team still needing 25 runs from 29 deliveries with two wickets in hand.

But ARAF had experienced campaigners like Mustadir Litu and Fahim Muntasir who guided the side to 230-8. Mustadir remained unbeaten on 24 off 26 balls including one six while Fahim was not out on eight.

Ehsanul and Mashud had weathered an early storm when ARAF were reduced to 9-2 by the second over and ran into further trouble at 62-4.

The two added 86 runs for the fifth wicket with Mashud hitting four boundaries in his 76-ball 49 before being trapped lbw by spinner Nabil Samad.

Ehsanul, who hit eight fours in his 95, lost partners rapidly but took the team in sight of victory before Moniruzzaman effected his run out.

Earlier, opener Imran Ahmed smashed half a dozen boundaries in a fluent 75 (131 balls) and prolific Moniruzzaman made 47 off 78 balls with five hits to the ropes after CityCell had opted to bat first. Test vice-captain Rajin Saleh made a run-a-ball 37 while big-hitting Hasanuzzaman Rosel whacked four sixes in a blazing 37 from just

24 balls.

CityCell, who were 184-2 after 43 overs, could not accelerate the runrate in the dying overs as four batsmen including Imran and Moniruzzaman were run out.

### ACME V AKTEL

Tigers allrounder Manjarul Islam Rana continued to impress with a strokeful 54 not out as Aktel overhauled the 93 required for victory in just 19 overs for the loss of one wicket.

The left-handed batsman, opening the innings with Uttam Kumar, blasted nine boundaries in 69 balls.

Earlier, Acme elected to bat first but only two batsmen including skipper Bashar reached double figures while six players were sent back for ducks. Seasoned left-arm spinner Sharfuddowlah Saikat picked up three wickets for eight runs from his 8.5-over spell while seamers Tareq Aziz and Ziaur Rahman chipped in with two wickets each.

Bashar, who faced 81 deliveries in over two hours, hit three boundaries. Test opener Hannan Sarker's bad run of form carried on as he made just one.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

Acme v Aktel  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

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CityCell opener Imran Ahmed plays a forcing shot off the backfoot during the Corporate Cricket League fixture against ARAF Apparels at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Ispahani cricket Super 6 phase starts today

CU CORRESPONDENT

The super six phase of the CJKS-Ispahani Premier Cricket League begins today with two matches being played at different venues.

Brothers Union face Rising Star Club at the MA Aziz Stadium while at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium, Mohammedan Sporting Club take on City Corporation Senior. Besides, the relegation league gets underway on Sunday.

Earlier, Rising Star, Brothers and Abahani emerged as group winners securing highest nine points each from Groups A, B and C respectively.

Mohammedan, Satadal Club Junior and City Corporation Senior, on the other hand, finished runners-up collecting six points each.

The first round ended on Tuesday.

## PCB unmoved about Shoab

BBC ONLINE, Islamabad

The Pakistan Cricket Board is refusing to clear Shoab Akhtar's name despite reports suggesting the injury he suffered against India was not faked.

The PCB is unhappy a medical report was leaked from a hospital in Lahore showing the paceman had sustained a genuine rib injury.

A spokesman said: "We are not happy. Shoab will not be cleared until we receive a report from the commission."

The medical commission was formed to look into Pakistan's recent injuries.

The spokesman told BBC Sport: "The PCB has seen the leaked report, but until we know the commission's opinion on Shoab's injury we will not comment on it."

"The report is unofficial. There will be no statement until we hear from them at the end of next week."

Shoab presented a scan report to the four-man commission revealing a 'slight injury of the 11th rib'.

He hoped the evidence would prove his decision to stop bowling in the Rawalpindi Test two weeks ago was justified.

He told BBC Hindi the injury "has since healed, partially [and I have been] resting for the past fortnight".

But chairman of the commission Dr MA Wajid refused to confirm Shoab's claims: "There were several views in the commission on Shoab's injury."

Shoab, Moin Khan and Abdul Razzaq underwent a series of tests in Lahore on Wednesday, with Shabbir Ahmed and Umar Gul due to be checked at a later date.

# Diego out in the open

## Football

AFP, Buenos Aires

Argentine football idol Diego Maradona left a Buenos Aires hospital for a private residence, 12 days after being admitted with critical heart and breathing problems.

The Swiss-Argentina hospital said Thursday in a statement that Maradona had been allowed to leave in line with the wishes of his family and personal doctor.

The Todo Noticias channel said the 43-year-old Maradona left the

clinic in a vehicle with darkened windows so as not to be seen. Police halted traffic outside the establishment to let the ailing star pass, it said.

According to Todo Noticias, the soccer star, who has been battling drug addiction for several years, was given permission by doctors to continue his recuperation elsewhere.

Reporters following Maradona said he went inside a heavily guarded private residence in a swank northeastern suburb of Buenos Aires. He was seen taking a few practice swings with a golf club before he went inside.

Maradona was at one stage was said to be fighting for his life in the clinic. But he has made a steady recovery in recent days.

Press reports said Maradona has been joking with doctors about bringing him a ball so he can prove he is recovering.

"Bring me a ball so that I can show them I'm well," he was quoted as saying.

The last medical report Wednesday said his condition was stable with progressive improvement of the cardio-pulmonary system and that he no longer had a fever and the only medication he was taking were antibiotics.



LOOKING GOOD! Argentine legend Diego Maradona (X) talks to a friend at a country house in General Rodriguez, on the outskirts of Buenos Aires on April 29. Maradona left the hospital after being in intensive care for 12 days.

PHOTO: AP

# Britain says yes

## Cricket

AFP, London

The British government on Friday gave its reluctant backing for England to go ahead with their controversial tour of Zimbabwe in October.

The England Cricket Board faced a one-year-suspension from international cricket and a two-million-pound fine under new ICC rules introduced in March if they cited moral obligations and refused to travel.

The ECB do not want to tour but need specific government advice not to go to avoid the stiff ICC sanctions.

But Foreign secretary Jack Straw said the government did not like the idea of the tour but did not believe the English game should be bankrupted by International Cricket Council penalties if it was called off.

In a reply to his Conservative counterpart Michael Ancram, Straw wrote: "We fully understand the very difficult decision the ECB has to

take, particularly in the light of the ICC's meeting in Auckland in March.

"This meeting appears to have given the ECB a choice between a tour which is difficult to defend on moral grounds and financial penalties which might bankrupt the game."

"I do not like the idea of an England team touring Zimbabwe any more than you do, but I do not believe that the future of English cricket should be put in jeopardy as a result of the failure of others to acknowledge the appalling situation there."

Ancram had suggested a new government statement might allow the ECB to claim to the ICC they were being pressured into pulling out.

But Straw said the government had no powers to ban any other sporting organisation from touring Zimbabwe or any other country.

He added in the letter: "There is no evidence that any ministerial statement would be sufficient for the International Cricket Council to allow the ECB to postpone the tour."

"In those circumstances, I do not believe it would be right that the

British taxpayer should have to carry the financial liability which could flow from cancellation of the tour."

The letter effectively ends any uncertainty about whether the tour will take place and ECB chairman David Morgan insisted Friday that England have no choice but to tour.

Morgan said: "We have to look at what's happening to international cricket at the moment. Sri Lanka are in Zimbabwe and Australia are planning to go. Why shouldn't England go?"

"Against that background, the board members and directors of the ECB we believe that, provided it is safe and secure, this tour has to go ahead."

"I do not believe England touring or not touring will make any difference to the situation in Zimbabwe."

## BHF eying Ibrahim as nat'l coach

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) is expecting to appoint former Pakistani international Qamar Ibrahim as national coach.

BHF general secretary Shamsul Bari said yesterday that he had held talks with Ibrahim during the Fifth Asia Cup Junior (Under-21) Championship, which concluded in Karachi a couple of days ago.

"He is interested to work with us but everything now depends on settling financial conditions. We are currently looking for a sponsor and we've talked to the Sports Ministry about it," said Bari.

Qamar Ibrahim is remembered for being a brilliant goal poacher in the mid-80s for Abahani in Dhaka Hockey League.

## Dev cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Fazle Rabbi grabbed five wickets as Barisal Division scored an emphatic 68-run victory over Dhaka Division in the second phase of the Under-17 Development Cricket Tournament at the Jahangirnagar University ground yesterday.

Barisal made a fighting total of 223 before being all out in 49.4 overs after being sent into bat. Mofizur Rahman top-scored with 61.

Later Rabbi ripped through Dhaka's batting-order with 5-31 as they were dismissed for 155 in 42.5 overs. Rajib made 48 and Raquibul added 40 for the losing team.

At the City Club ground, Dhaka Metro Green pulled off a two-wicket victory against Rajshahi Division.

Dhaka Metro reached the target of 148 losing eight wickets in 45.3 overs in reply to Rajshahi's 147 all out in 47.2 overs.

## Nat'l Bank v'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

East End Boys defeated Shantibagh WA Club 3-1 in the National Bank First Division Volleyball League at the court next to the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

There are no First Division matches today but Uttara Sporting Club take on Nabajatak Majlis and Sicily face Madartek Mitali Sangha in the Second Division encounters.

## Magura soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Jessore Upashahar College Ekadosh moved into the final of the inter-college football tournament defeating Meherpur Mujibnagar Degree College 1-0 in the second semifinal at the Magura Stadium yesterday.

Shafiu Bashir scored the solitary goal in the first half.

The winners take on Kushtia Daulatpur College Ekadosh in the final today at the same venue.

# CCL set for foreign force

SPORTS REPORTER



The Corporate Cricket League (CCL) committee plans to allow the participation of foreign players when the second phase of the first-ever league for business houses begins in the first week of May.

The necessity to go for guest players came as many of the national team players, having played their last matches in the league yesterday, will be featuring in the tour to the West Indies.

The CCL body earlier decided that only one foreign player per team would be permitted in the semifinals and the final of the Cup as well as Plate.

But now teams in bid to add some glamour and prestige have requested the introduction of foreigners much earlier.

"There is every chance that foreign players will be allowed from the second phase. We have agreed on this but the decision will be finalised in tomorrow's meeting," said a high official of the organising committee yesterday.

It was also understood that only foreign cricketers having first-class experience would be eligible to take part in the CCL.

Habibul Bashar's Tigers will leave for the Caribbean on May 6 to play three one-day internationals and two Tests against Brian Lara's men, who were recently trounced by England in the four-match Test series.

Dav Whatmore's boys have been given two day's rest before returning to the preparation camp on May 3.

Among the national cricketers, opener Hannan Sarker cut a sorry figure in the competition while the rest were hardly mediocre barring a few sparks here and there.

# No end in sight?

## Cricket

REUTERS, Harare

Zimbabwe's rebel players have given the Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU) a deadline of Tuesday to agree to arbitration or face a fresh boycott.

The 15 experienced players walked out this month when Heath Streak was replaced as captain by Tatenda Taibu after he questioned the composition of the selection committee.

Zimbabwe were forced to select an inexperienced team for the five-match one-day series against Sri Lanka, which they lost 5-0.

The rebels agreed on Wednesday to make themselves available for selection from Friday,

subject to the establishment of a dispute resolution procedure.

The players' lawyer delivered a letter on Thursday to his ZCU counterpart issuing the Tuesday deadline.

"Our clients believe that for the sake of the game of cricket that the only way forward is that a dispute mechanism be established forthwith and a format be agreed to bring this matter to closure," the letter read.

"This should be in the form of a panel of three arbitrators. Our clients have complete confidence in the offices of Mr Muchadeyi Ashton Masunda of the Commercial Arbitration Centre and feel that he should be assisted by an international cricketer and a foreign administrator involved in cricket."

"We believe that the arbitration

should be held at a neutral venue and that this should be held as soon as possible and not later than 21 days from today's date."

The letter listed the players' terms of reference for the arbitration as "selection criteria", "transgressions by board members", and "unlawful termination of Heath Streak's captaincy".

"Our client wishes to make unequivocally clear that its agreement to return to practice and selection is dependent upon the consent of the ZCU to submit this matter to arbitration in the manner outlined and the reconstruction of the national selection panel," the letter said.

"We would kindly request that due to the urgency of this matter

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# Taibu pleased

## Cricket

REUTERS, Harare

Zimbabwe captain Tatenda Taibu paid tribute to his young team after the final match of the one-day series against Sri Lanka on Thursday.

Sri Lanka beat the hosts by 25 runs to complete a 5-0 whitewash but Taibu was proud of his players.

"I was lucky to get a bunch of kids who have really fought, who have gone to the wall with me," Taibu told reporters.

"The boys have worked hard, which has really helped me as captain."

The Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU) replaced Heath Streak with Taibu as captain on April 2 when Streak questioned the composition of the selection panel.



TATENDA TAIBU

Zimbabwe selected an inexperienced squad for the series after 14 other players sided with Streak and refused to play.

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## Sonali Otit assist ailing Rahim

SPORTS REPORTER

Sonali Otit Club has come to the aid of football coach Abdur Rahim. The organization of yesterday's footballers handed over Tk 50,000 to his family on Thursday.

The veteran national coach has been admitted to the intensive care unit of Bangladesh Medical College Hospital in Dhanmondi. He has been suffering from various heart-related ailments.

Rahim still requires more financial support but neither the Sports Ministry nor the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) was yet to respond to appeals for help.

Rahim is recognised as one of the country's finest coaches. He is also credited for providing the national team with many talented players like striker Sheikh Mohammad Aslam and playmaker Khorsheed Babul.