

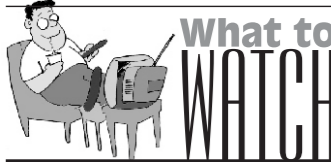


## Did U Know?

The US has hosted the most Olympics since the first modern Olympiad in 1896. (1904 in St. Louis; 1932 and 1984 in Los Angeles; 1996 in Atlanta).



**Jagmohan Dalmiya**  
(BCCI president)  
"There won't be any match."  
Refusing to allow an India-Pakistan match in Abu Dhabi.



**ESPN**  
Sportscentre  
Sports News  
Live at 8:30 pm

**STAR Sports**  
Sportline  
Sports News  
Live at 8:00 pm

**Rome Tennis Masters**  
First Round  
Live at 1:00 am (Tuesday)



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 .....			
School Address .....			
Phone: (if any) .....			

## Ailing Rahim BFF shrugs off its indifference

**SPORTS REPORTER**

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) finally woke up and decided to come to the aid of ailing former national coach Abdur Rahim.

"We will go and visit the coach today," said BFF president SA Sultan yesterday afternoon.

"We will donate Tk one lakh for his treatment," he said.

He however, did not reveal any of the reasons behind the federation's indifference towards the reputed coach.

Rahim has been suffering from heart diseases for long and is now under treatment at the Bangladesh Medical College Hospital at Dhanmondi.

# Sher-e-Bangla Cup starts tomorrow

## Football

### SPORTS REPORTER

The Sher-e-Bangla Cup 22nd National Football Championship kicks off tomorrow across the country after a four-year gap.

This will be the biggest-ever domestic competition with 72 teams including all 64 districts taking part in ten qualifying zones.

The ten zonal champions will later join hosts Natore and defending champions Noakhali in the final phase, which begins on May 16. The qualifiers will end on May 13.

After the knockout stage, the 12 teams will be split into four groups in the final round, to determine who will play in the semifinals. The final round is expected to end early in June.

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will use its own funds to meet the Tk 11.76 lakh budget, tournament committee chairman Abdus Salam told a press conference yesterday at the Bangabandhu National Stadium conference room.

Salam felt sorry for not having a sponsor for the huge event but said he was happy that the tournament is rolling on after four years.

"If we can stage it every year as per schedule, I think we will be able to supply enough new faces to boost the game," said Salam.

BFF general secretary Anwarul Haque Helal held the previous executive committee of the federation responsible for organising the meet only once during their tenure, back in 2000 when 67 teams participated in the meet.

"We have decided to resume all the national domestic competitions starting with the Sher-e-Bangla Cup. We will hold the Biman Cup Under-14 meet and the Suhrawardy National Youth Championships very soon," Helal informed.

He also defended the decision to include Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishthan (BKSP) for the first time.

"It is the only sports institute in the

country and we want to give the young footballers more exposure.

BFF president SA Sultan was also present, hoped that all the tournaments that had been neglected in the past will see light of day during their term.

"This is our attempt to give the domestic football a go," the BFF chief added.

The qualifying round will be held in nine venues with the education and services zones sharing the Kamapur Stadium.

Seven matches will be played on the opening day.

**Opening day's matches**  
Jaipurhat v Sirajganj (at Jaipurhat), Chuadanga v Meherpur (Chuadanga), Gopalganj v Narail (Gopalganj), Comilla v Sunamganj (Comilla), Cox's Bazar v Feni (Cox's Bazar), Bhola v Jhalokathi (Bhola), Nilphamari v Panchagarh (Nilphamari).

## Nisa FC due today

### UNB, Dhaka

A 24-member Nisa FC of Turkmenistan will arrive in Dhaka today to play their away match of the AFC Cup against local giants Mukijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra.

The match will be held on Wednesday at 5pm at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The Muktis, yet to win a single match in Group-A, will visit Lebanon for their last encounter against Nijmeh on May 19.

The National League and Federation Cup champions Mukijoddha suffered a 1-0 defeat to Nisa in Turkmenistan capital Ashgabad on February 2.

The Reds lost to Nijmeh and Shabb lbb of Yemen at home and failed to turn out for their away match against Shabb lbb.

Match commissioner M Ahamed Shahir of the Maldives was scheduled to arrive in Dhaka last night. A three-member referee's team from Sri Lanka will reach Dhaka today.

# Cricket losing BNS

### SPORTS REPORTER

Football and athletics bosses of the country confirmed that they would have the Bangabandhu National Stadium as their permanent home from January 2005.

The Bangladesh Athletics Federation (BAF) president Abdus Salam told reporters yesterday that the venue will be handed over to football and athletics as soon as the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur is converted to a complete cricket stadium.

"The resolution was adopted last year at a board meeting of the National Sports Council (NSC). And it was made clear that cricket will not come back here after they get full possession of the Mirpur Stadium," said Salam.

"The NSC will build an athletics track at the BNS. Other games will also be encouraged here in case of international events.

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president SA Sultan who was not as bold as Salam in his claim for the venue, however, said that the federation has decided to share the venue with cricket this

year.

BFF general secretary Anwarul Haque Helal informed that the BFF will get the venue permanently from January next year but they have been assured by the Bangladesh Cricket Board to hold the final phase of the National Football League at the BNS.

"The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) was supposed to leave the ground after the end of the ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup.

But they will not be able to complete the renovation of the Mirpur Stadium before December. So, we decided to make some sacrifices considering cricket's international calendar," Helal said.

"We have yet to confirm the schedule of the National League. As soon as we finalise the schedule, we will sit with our cricket board counterparts to settle the issue. They have assured us to use the ground this year provided our programmes do not collide with theirs."

"The National League is expected to begin in June and we will have no problem to use the BNS for it," the BFF secretary added.

# Cairns loves Lord's!

### Cricket

#### REUTERS, London

New Zealand all-rounder Chris Cairns believes his team will be more motivated than England for the first Test at Lord's later this month.

New Zealand arrived in England last week for a three-test tour, with the series opener scheduled to start on May 20.

"Lord's (is) where we won the second Test last time (in 1999)," Cairns wrote in a column for The Sunday Telegraph newspaper.

"Sometimes I feel England fall victim to their own institutions.

"I was desperate to have my name on the boards (at Lord's five years ago), and I took six for 77. Overseas players are hugely motivated at Lord's, and that is why I believe we will make a winning start."

Cairns, who has said he will retire from Test cricket after the England tour, added the New Zealand squad was one of the strongest he had experienced.

ing enough fifties into hundreds. His leadership qualities are unparalleled in the world game.

"I think our middle-order strength will be a factor, and it shows our batting power that Matthew Sinclair has been left at home."

Cairns plans to end his Test career at Trent Bridge where the third and final Test starts on June 10. The New Zealander, who turns 34 in June, played for Nottinghamshire from 1989 to 1996 and again in 2003.

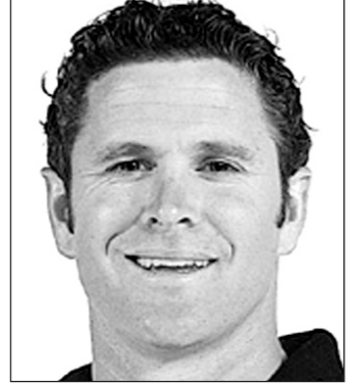
"I had intended to quit after the South Africa series but there is a great tradition of finishing in England," he said.

"It was not a difficult choice. Test cricket has taken its toll on my body - I've had five operations on my knees -- and I've been restricted to 59 appearances, missing 57, since my debut in 1989.

"I don't want to make a fuss as I'll be around in one-day cricket for a while, and I'd love to play in another World Cup.

"This squad are young and, with the talent we have, we can win in the Caribbean in 2007."

Cairns became the sixth player



**CHRIS CAIRNS**  
"We have such an exciting squad, starting with Stephen Fleming. He's a quality batsman and has gone past that bogey of not convert-

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## Tigers resume training today

### SPORTS REPORTER

The West Indies-bound national cricketers resume training at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today under the supervision of coach Dav Whatmore.

Habibul Bashar's Tigers will fly for West Indies on May 6 to play three one-day internationals and two Tests against Brian Lara and company.

The cricketers have enjoyed a two-day break since their last appearance in the Corporate Cricket League on April 30.

## Foreigners coming

### SPORTS REPORTER

The organising committee of the GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket League has revised its decision about foreign cricketers' participation in the second phase of the competition, which starts from May 6.

As expected, the organisers have allowed the introduction of foreign players from the start of the second phase instead of sticking to their original decision of allowing imported cricketers only for the Cup semifinals and the final.

Now, guest players will be able to play in both Cup and Plate stages.

Each team will be permitted to register three foreigners, only with first-class experience, with one to play in the group stage and two in the semis and the final for both Cup and Plate.

## Aminul anchors Metro Green

### SPORTS REPORTER

Aminul scored a sparkling 81 to propel Dhaka Metro Green's way to a six-wicket victory against Sylhet Division in the second phase of the Under-17 development cricket tournament at the City Club ground yesterday.

Dhaka Metro Green made 199-4 in 40.4 overs in reply to Sylhet's 196-8 in 50 overs.

Despite Sakib Al Hasan's 104, Dhaka Metro Blues lost to Dhaka Division by two wickets at the Jahangirnagar University ground.

Dhaka Division were inspired by half-centuries from Uttam Kumar (56) and Manjarul Anwar (51) to score 232-8 in 49 overs while chasing Metro's 231 all out in 37.5 overs.

On Saturday, Khulna Division beat Barisal Division by one wicket at the City Club ground and Rajshahi defeated Chittagong by six wickets at the Jahangirnagar University ground.

## ACC invites cricket greats

### AFP, Karachi

Top experts from around the world will meet here next week to discuss cricket development in Asia, officials said Sunday.

Ehsan Mani, the president of the ICC, and Malcolm Speed, the chief executive, will be joined by the former Test captains Sunil Gavaskar, Ravi Shastri, Greg Chappell and Clive Lloyd, as well as Barry Richards of South Africa and Bob Woolmer of England, who is also ICC's high performance manager.

"The seminar will provide a platform for improved synchronization between Asia and global development program initiatives and give us an opportunity to share ideas and recommendations for development of the game," said Syed.

"Workshops will discuss Asia's specific development needs, global needs, cricket education, high performance programs, development of umpires, grounds, pitches, physical fitness, media relations and cricket facilities," he added.



**GP Corporate Cricket League**  
GrameenPhone vs Bashundhara  
Venue: BKSP  
Gazi Tank vs BCB Dev Squad  
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium  
Biman vs BADC Krira Sangha  
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium

# CCL jigsaw complete

### SPORTS REPORTER

The second phase line-up of the GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket League was finalised yesterday with ARAF Apparels, Partex Group and BEXIMCO making way into the Cup stage by winning their respective matches.

Partex and ARAF finished Group B with eight points while BEXIMCO

qualified due to their head-to-head successes against cellular phone operators CityCell and Aktel, after all three teams ended level on four points.

Aktel had the better net run-rate of the three but BEXIMCO, who lost three matches in succession before staging a late charge twice.

Earlier on Saturday, heavyweights Bangladesh Biman and Bashundhara Group won their matches in style to book their places in the six-team Cup stage along with GrameenPhone from Group A.

In the Cup competition, The top three teams from each group qualify for the main event.

The rest -- MM Ispahani, CityCell, Aktel, Acme Laboratories, Gazi Tank and BADC -- play in the Plate except BCB Development Squad, who are the only guest side in the competition.

The second phase will start from May 6.

Back to the action, seasoned campaigner Halim Shah smashed a century as ARAF Apparels handed Aktel a 20-run defeat at the



ARAF Apparels captain Halm Shah drives through the covers on way to his century against Aktel in yesterday's GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

# Sizzling Sarwan, Smith

### Cricket

#### REUTERS, St Lucia

Huge hitting from Ramnaresh Sarwan and Dwayne Smith helped West Indies clinch a thrilling five-wicket victory over England in the fifth one-day international on Saturday.

Chasing 282 to win after a century by Marcus Trescothick lifted England to 281 for eight from 105 overs, West Indies faced a tough task when still needing 61 from the last seven overs.

But Sarwan, with an unbeaten 73 and Smith, with a belligerent 44 off 27 balls, hammered six sixes in three overs to see West Indies home on 284 for five with 12 balls to spare.

The seven-match series is now level at 1-1, with the sixth game to be played on the same ground on Sunday.

"Dwayne Smith played a special innings," West Indies captain Brian Lara said. "I think it stemmed from the fact that he knew his target but he showed his talent."

Lara said he was always confident his side could overhaul England's total.

"I thought maybe 281 was about 20-30 runs short, and I said (to Sarwan) that even if we need 50 off five we would get it."

England captain Michael Vaughan said West Indies deserved their victory.

"I thought 281 was a competitive total and we were in a position to win," Vaughan said.

"Marcus Trescothick played an exceptional innings but full credit to West Indies - the partnership between Sarwan and Smith won them the match."

Put into bat on a good pitch under sunny skies, England began well with Trescothick and captain Michael Vaughan scoring at five runs an over against some wayward bowling.

Vaughan hit one impeccable straight drive and looked set for a big score before he fell for 25, beaten by the bounce of Ian Bradshaw and edging him to wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs.

Though Andrew Strauss and Paul Collingwood fell cheaply, Trescothick picked up the pace, reaching his half-century off 44 balls with a six over cover.

Out of form in the test series, Trescothick rode his luck, surviving a sharp chance to Ricardo Powell at backward point as he pushed

England toward an imposing target.

With Andrew Flintoff adding a fine 59 from 69 balls, Trescothick continued to attack and reached his century off 137 balls with a single to mid-on.

In all, he hit 13 fours and two sixes but when he was run out for 130, England lost momentum and what should have been a total in excess of 300 petered out.

In reply, Chris Gayle, rated the world's fourth-best one-day batsman, smashed Darren Gough for one huge six but again fell when well set, brilliantly caught at full stretch by Collingwood at point off James Anderson for 36.

Shivnarine Chanderpaul played sensibly for his 40 to top edge Ian Blackwell to Chris Read, while Powell made an entertaining 29.

Smith then took over, hoisting

His dismissal brought captain Brian Lara to the crease and he and vice-captain Sarwan patiently picked off the singles against some tight bowling, particularly from Flintoff.

Lara hit three boundaries in a well-crafted 37 but when he tried to smash Steve Harmison over cover, he succeeded only in edging straight to Read.

That left West Indies needing another 91 from 72 balls for victory but while Sarwan was there, they still had a chance.

With Smith providing support, Sarwan passed 50 for the ninth time in one-day internationals and two sixes in one Blackwell over suddenly lifted the crowd.

Smith then took over, hoisting



RAMNARESH SARWAN...m-o-m

## NBL v'ball

### BSS, Dhaka

Partners Club and Abhijatrik Club recorded their respective 3-0 victories over their rivals in the National Bank Second Division Volleyball matches at the volleyball court yesterday.

Partners defeated Bangladesh Bank Club by 25-13, 25-08 and 25-13 in the day's first match.

In the second encounter of the day, Abhijatrik Club fought hard to beat Jibon Bima Krira Sangha by 25-23, 25-17 and 25-9.

Earlier on Saturday in the National Bank First Division League, Shantibagh Club scored a 25-19, 25-18 and 25-18 points victory over DU-67 in the first match while in the day's second tie East End Boys overcame spirited Nabojagoroni Sangha by 25-18, 25-19, 25-19 points.



BFF president SA Sultan (c) addressing a press conference yesterday at the Bangabandhu National Stadium conference room.

PHOTO: STAR