

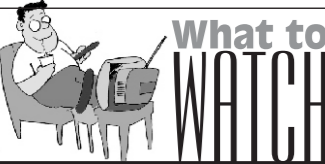


## Did U Know?

In a game of chess there are eight different ways to mate in two moves and 355 different ways to mate in three moves.



**Chris Cairns**  
(New Zealand all-rounder)  
"Sometimes I feel England fall victim to their own institutions."



## ESPN

Sportscentre  
Sports News  
Live at 8.30 pm  
UEFA Champions League  
Semifinals (2nd leg)  
Chelsea v Monaco  
Live at 12.30 am (Thursday)

## STAR Sports

Sportline  
Sports News  
Live at 8 pm  
TEN Sports  
7th ODI  
West Indies v England  
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.	Sethu	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) .....

## U-17 cricket

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Rajshahi Division scored a mammoth 369 in their first innings against Dhaka Division on the first day of the two-day semifinal of the under-17 development cricket tournament at the Jahangirnagar University ground yesterday.

Robiul led the way for Rajshahi hitting 83 while Moniruzzaman (66), Mizanur (57), Faisal (56) and Safiur (47) were the other notable scorers before they were bundled out in the stipulated 90 overs.

In reply, Dhaka reached 31 for one in eight overs before the balls were drawn.

At the City Club ground, Dhaka Metro Green scored 212-4 in 47 overs at stumps in reply to Khulna Division's 142 all out in 50 overs.

# Bashar unabashed



**SPORTS REPORTER**

The larger than life reputation of Brian Lara or the unrelenting hostility of young tearaways Tino Best and Fidel Edwards holds no fear in the mind of Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar.

Regarding Lara, the only batsman in the history of Test cricket to have scored 400, Bashar's confidence stems from the law of averages.

"No doubt Lara is a devastating batsman on his day but his world record has not caused my bowlers sleepless nights. Something as phenomenal as that is not going to happen everyday," said Bashar while talking to reporters after the Tigers' training session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) yesterday.

A 15-member Bangladesh side will leave Dhaka for the West Indies tomorrow morning for the first ever tour to the Caribbean. The Tigers will play a three-match one-day international series which will be preceded by two Tests. The squad will have its final practice at the BNS today.

The West Indies, long regarded as a natural breeding ground for fearsome fast bowlers, have recently unearthed two genuinely

quick youngsters in Best and Edwards but Bashar feels that his batsmen are well equipped to handle the heat.

"The West Indies attack is not as deadly as it once was but Best and Edwards are really fast and they will come hard at us in their own backyard. They are on their way to reshaping their bowling but we are fully prepared to take up the challenge because we have already faced the world's best Australia in Australia," said the Bangladesh skipper.

Bashar said the mere thought of going to the 'paradise islands' has sent his pulse racing and the whole squad was bubbling with excitement.

"We have grown up dreaming of the West Indies and it will be a dream come true for all of us. Personally, this will be a massive occasion for me as I'm leading the team to the land of legends. This time I will enjoy the trip more as there was some nervousness during my first assignment in Zimbabwe."

Their recent struggles against sides they had once whipped without a care, has given credence to the belief that the West Indies are a side on the wane. However Bashar begs to differ.

"I don't agree with those who think that the present West Indies

team will be easy opponents. They are always a dangerous team because of their dashing attitude," cautioned Bashar.

Bangladesh's leading scorer in Tests also thought that the home team were a much bigger threat than their last opponents Zimbabwe.

"Zimbabwean captain Heath Streak was the lone man making the difference in games against us. But it's different with the West Indies. They have more match-winners and theirs is a fantastic batting line-up."

The 32-year old batsman vowed to continue from the improvement they showed against Zimbabwe.

"We had forgotten what it felt like to win a match. But the ODI victory against Zimbabwe in Harare changed all that. We are in a far, far stronger mental shape now and I can ensure you that we have every possibility of coming out victors from close encounters."

Bashar expressed his satisfaction with the preparation of the team and was particularly pleased that all the players had some match-practice ahead of such a gruelling tour.

"There is no alternate for match practice and we really benefited from playing in the new Corporate Cricket League. Besides, the finer tips from specialist batting coach Owen Mottau has definitely helped

us correct our mistakes. We couldn't however, get the maximum out of fielding coach Mike Young because of time constraint," said Bashar.

Bashar had no doubts that the inclusion of Faisal Hossain, a prolific run-getter in domestic cricket, has given the Tigers batting a new dimension.

"We were on the look-out for a left-handed batsman and finally we have one. I think the selection of Faisal will bring more variety to our batting. I am sure he will deliver the goods," said Bashar who added that he would prefer Faisal to bat in the middle-order.

Bangladesh have had problems in capitalising on one-day fielding restrictions and faced with the hard-hitting talents of the West Indies, this was one area the Tigers are desperate to do better. Bashar believed that the highly talented Alok Kapali with his natural strokeplay could provide a solution despite his form slump.

"Alok is an asset and we should persevere with him in the opening slot in limited-overs matches because I honestly believe that ultimately it will pay dividend. We have a shortage of batsmen who can take the advantage of the first fifteen overs,"

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PREPARING FOR THE CARIBBEAN WAVES! Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar (R) and opener Shahriar Hossain (L) going through a ground stretching routine during the Tigers' practice at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## AFC Cup

# Nisa play Mukti today



**SPORTS REPORTER**

Nisa FC of Turkmenistan have more than one problem when they line up for their crucial AFC Cup match against Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra today.

The league champions of the Central Asian nation arrived in the capital on Monday with only 11 players, which means the visitors will have no players on the reserve bench against the Dhaka giants on a very hot day.

The match will kick off at 5 pm at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

"Because some of our players couldn't get visas to go to India, that's why we could only fly with only 11 footballers," informed Nisa manager Grigoryan Konstantin whose 14-member squad was stuck two days in New Delhi.

"It is very hot here and playing an important match with no reserve players carries great risk," the young manager told The Daily Star Sport at Hotel Purbani yesterday.

Nisa are under pressure to beat Muktiyoddha and Yemen's Al Shabb Ibb in their last Group A match to qualify for the second phase of the competition.

"We are trailing Lebanon's Nijmeh by six points but two wins will see us through to the next phase as one of the best three second-placed teams. So, we must win," said Konstantin.

"After the first training session this morning, the players were very tired and they asked for water after running just two laps. But whatever the

condition is, this is football and we have to play. We are ready to fight.

"I know that Muktiyoddha will enjoy home advantage but we know how they play. We are confident to repeat our home performance."

Nisa defeated the Reds by a solitary goal in their home match and midfielder Artyom Nazarov, who struck the winner from a penalty in Ashgabat, is one of the seven national players in the side.

players have lost all their three matches apart from failing to turn up for the away match against Shabb Ibb.

Without a single point to its name, Manik's side are effectively playing for pride.

"We played well against Nisa in the opening group match but lost due to a penalty. We can just hope that we use our home advantage tomorrow," said Manik.



PHOTO: STAR

Players and officials of Nisa FC at a city hotel yesterday. The club from Turkmenistan will play their AFC (Asian Football Confederation) Cup away match against local giants Muktiyoddha Sangsad at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today.

The side is coached by Turkmenistan's current national team coach Kurbanmamedov Rahim.

While it is a matter of great significance for Rahim's 11 men, Muktiyoddha coach Shafiqul Islam Manik wasn't particularly excited.

The Bangladesh National League and Federation Cup cham-

Manik's boys threw away the lead twice to lose their last home match against Shabb Ibb 3-2 and the coach also has injury problems.

Muktiyoddha will include two guest players, Abahani fullback Mahmudul Hassan and Brothers Union's national centre-back Sujon to strengthen their squad.

# 'Rebel' Streak named



**AFP, Harare**

Ousted captain Heath Streak and three other rebel cricketers figure in Zimbabwe's squad for the first of two Tests against Sri Lanka starting Thursday -- but whether they actually end up playing is uncertain.

The fate of Streak, all-rounder Sean Ervine, opening batsman Trevor Gripper and spinner Ray Price, will be known later Tuesday after the players meet to discuss the Zimbabwe Cricket Union's response to their demands for the month-long dispute to be settled through international mediation.

Grant Flower, one of the break-away group not included in the squad, said: "The four will only play if agreement is reached with the ZCU on how to proceed in solving all the issues."

"Otherwise they will withdraw." The issues alluded to by Flower include the reinstatement of former captain Streak, who was effectively sacked, and the make-up of the national selection panel.

Flower finds himself omitted from a Zimbabwe side, Test or one day international, for the first time since the country became a full

International Cricket Conference member 11 years ago.

Among others left out are Craig Wishart, arguably Zimbabwe's best batsman, Alastair Carlisle and Andy Blignaut.

It was Blignaut who accompanied Flower and his legal representative Chris Venturas to a hostile meeting with ZCU directors that cemented the impasse.

Two whites who are included in

Convenor of selectors Stephen Mangongo told a local newspaper here that leaving out so many whites had nothing to do with the dispute. However, Flower, Carlisle and Blignaut would normally be regarded as automatic selections.

National coach Geoff Marsh confirmed that all four are fit.

The final make-up of the side to face Sri Lanka will be made known on Wednesday.

Sri Lanka, who were undefeated in the five internationals preceding the Tests, have successfully kept their distance from the local mayhem.

Their main interest lies, after winning the first Test, in whether spin bowler Muttiah Muralitharan snatches seven more wickets to move past West Indian Courtney Walsh's Test aggregate record of 519. Muralitharan has 513.

The tourists will announce their side just before the match begins. **ZIMBABWE SQUAD:** Tatenda Taibu (capt), Tinasho Pananyanga, Stuart Matsikenyere, Vusi Sibanda, Elton Chigumbura, Prosper Utseya, Mluleki Nkala, Alester Mawegwede, Blessing Mahwire, Douglas Hondo, Dion Ebrahim, Mark Vermeulen, Brendan Taylor, Heath Streak, Ray Price, Sean Ervine and Trevor Gripper.



HEATH STREAK

the squad and will play if selected for the team do not figure in the row with the union. Mark Vermeulen has kept clear of it and Brendan Taylor is an 18-year-old student.

## Biman placed in easier group



**SPORTS REPORTER**

Bangladesh Biman, the only unbeaten team in the GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket League (CCL), were drawn in a relatively easy group with ARAF Apparels and BEXIMCO in the second phase Cup competition.

The national flag-carrier, which defeated wireless BADC by 67 runs on Monday at Fatullah Stadium, emerged Group A champions with an all-win record from six matches.

## 2ND PHASE A GLANCE

<b>CUP</b>	Group-X: Partex, Bashundhara, GrameenPhone
<b>PLATE</b>	Group-Y: Biman, ARAF, BEXIMCO
<b>Group-X:</b>	Aktel, Ispahani, BADC
<b>Group-Y:</b>	Gazi Tank, CityCell, Acme

On the final day of CCL's first phase, Bashundhara snatched a three-run victory against GrameenPhone in a last-over thriller at the BKSP ground in Savar to finish Group A runners-up.

In the day's other match, Gazi Tank recorded a three-wicket win over BCB Development Squad at Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

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## Pakistanis provide fireworks

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**

Title aspirants Brothers Union won a one-wicket thriller against Mohammedan Sporting Club while Abahani beat Shatabad Junior comfortably in their respective Super Six matches in the CJKS-Ispahani Premier Cricket League here Monday.

Brothers, who outclassed defending champions Rising Star on Saturday, had the last laugh at the Divisional Stadium, thanks to a gritty century by their Pakistani recruit Fahad Khan.

Set to chase a demanding 255, Fahad hammered a blistering unbeaten 130 off 125 balls as Brothers reached the summit with a wicket in hand. Fahad, who struck 13 boundaries and three sixes, played a lone battle after his side lost three wickets even before

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**AFC Cup**  
Muktiyoddha v Nisa FC  
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.  
Time: 5 pm.

# Cricket can't leave in Jan

**SPORTS REPORTER**

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday refuted claims made by Bangladesh Athletics Federation president Abdus Salam that the all-purpose Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) would no longer belong to cricket from January next year.

Salam on Sunday said that the BNS would be the home of athletics and football from January 2005 while he was referring to a resolution adopted by the National Sports Council (NSC) last year.

But reacting to Salam's statement, BCB's cricket committee chairman Mahub Anam said that they were not aware of any particular deadline regarding the possession of the internationally recognised stadium.

"As far as we know we won't be leaving the BNS until the Mirpur National Stadium is fully ready to hold international games. Besides, we have a hectic international commitment at home starting from October till the end of January 2005

and the BNS is very much part of those schedules," said Mahub while referring to three home series starting with New Zealand's visit in October.

"Sri Lanka will come here in November and we are expecting India in December-January. Besides, I'm afraid that the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla Stadium would not be ready for holding international matches before the end of 2005," said the BCB advisor.

Mahub said that renovation of the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium, which the BCB got from the NSC to make a permanent home for cricket, would start from June this year.

But the venue, originally built for football and has an athletics track, needs massive overhauling to attain a cricket look.

# Windies' gift for Lara



**AFP, Gros Islet (St. Lucia)**

To a cacophony of noise, West Indies completed a four-wicket victory in the sixth and penultimate one-day international over England on Sunday to take a 2-1 lead in the rain-marred seven-match series.

Chasing a target of 281 from 50 overs, West Indies achieved victory off the first ball of the 48th over when rookie Dwayne Bravo glanced Darren Gough to the deep fine leg boundary for four to finish unbeaten on 33 from 42 balls.

"I think it was important that we consolidated our position in the series after we played so well on Saturday," West Indies captain Brian Lara said.

He added: "We approached this sixth ODI much differently. We felt we had to improve on the areas in which we fell down the previous day. In the final analysis, even though it we chased the same total, I think we played much better in this match."

Shivanarine Chanderpaul hit seven fours and one six in the top score of 63 from 55 balls that earned him the man-of-the-match award and Lara struck just four boundaries in 57 from 68 balls on his 35th birthday to anchor West Indies to their destination.

England captain Michael Vaughan and left-hander Andrew Strauss each hit 67 and shared 84 for the second wicket stand to be the rock upon which the visitors built a challenging total of 281 for eight from 50 overs.

"We felt we had a competitive total, but we should have gotten in excess of 300 and put West Indies under real pressure," Vaughan said.

He continued: "Full credit to West Indies the way they chased down the target. I felt we fought really hard

after they hit us around the park in the first 15 overs of their innings, but we have had a good weekend of cricket.

"It's unfortunate it has ended for us with a couple of defeats, but we will try to level the series in the final match."

West Indies were entering the match with the confidence of successfully chasing 282 to win the previous day's fifth ODI by five wickets with 12 balls to spare and it showed.

In a volley of strokes, Chanderpaul and Ricardo Powell, whose 38 from 32 balls contained five fours and one six, marauded England's bowlers inside the first 15 overs when fielding restrictions apply.

After opening batsman Chris Gayle was lbw to Darren Gough for nine in the third over, Chanderpaul and Powell added 97 from 13 overs to give West Indies a sound base upon which they could make a

## Sher-e-Bangla Cup Hatricks on opening day

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Lebu Khan and Hafizul Islam slotted hatricks on the opening day of the Sher-e-Bangla Cup 22nd National Football Championship to give Nilphamari District Sports Association (DSA) a flying start with a 7-1 rout of Panchagarh DSA.

The home side led the first half 2-0 in the first qualifying match of the Teesta Zone at the Nilphamari Stadium but the floodgates opened after the break with Lebu and Hafizul completing their trebles. Ilias added the other for the winners while Atiqur scored a consolation goal for Panchagarh.

Former national striker Mizanur Rahman Don scored either side of the break to help Comilla survive a scare, edging visiting Sunamganj 2-1 at the Comilla Stadium in a Surma Zonal fixture.

Goplaganj eliminated Narail 2-0 in penalty shootout after the Padma Zone match ended in a goalless draw at the Gopalganj Stadium. Kabir and Shafiq scored from the spot for the hosts.

Jamuna and Karnaphuli Zone hosts Joypurhat and Cox's Bazar

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CHANDERPAUL... m-o-m