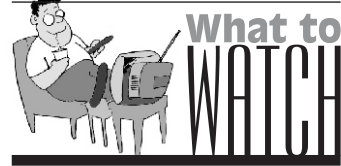




Did U Know?

May 6, 2004 marks the 50th anniversary of Sir Roger Bannister's sub-four minute mile. That was the first time anybody had run the mile in under 4 minutes, a feat considered impossible.



ESPN

Sri Lanka vs Zimbabwe
First Test, Day Two
Live at 1:50 pm
Sportscentre
Sports News
Live at 9:00 pm

STAR Sports

Sportsline
Sports News
Live at 8:00 pm
Rome Tennis Masters Series
Quarterfinals
Live at 1:00 am (Saturday)



Tony Blair

(British Prime Minister)

"My personal opinion is that we would prefer them not to go. But there is a difference between doing that and ordering them not to go, which I think would step over the proper line. I think many people however believe - I think rightly - that the problem actually resides with the International Cricket Council."

On whether England should tour Zimbabwe or not.



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
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)	

Sri Lanka 67 without loss

AFP, Harare

Master spinner Muttiah Muralitharan equalled the world record for career Test wickets here on Thursday as Sri Lanka took full control of the first Test against a strife-torn Zimbabwe at the Harare Sports Club.

By close of play on the first day.
SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

Tigers fly to Lara's den



SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh cricket team left Dhaka on Thursday morning to embark on their maiden tour of West Indies.

The Tigers, led by Habibul Bashar, will play two Tests and three one-day internationals against Brian Lara's men in the Caribbean.

The team will make a short stopover in London before reaching St Vincent today where they will play a practice match on May 12 and the first two one-day internationals on May 15 and 16.

Although it was a quiet morning at the Zia International Airport for Day Whatmore's men, the presence of

Leader of the Opposition and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina certainly lifted their spirits. Hasina, who was also travelling by the same British Airways flight for London, wished the cricketers best of luck.

Former Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) President and Awami League leader Saber Hossain Chowdhury also exchanged pleasantries with the players and officials.

Bangladesh, yet to win a Test match from 28 games so far, will play their first Test at the stunningly beautiful surroundings of St. Lucia from May 28 to June 1. The team will travel to Jamaica for the second Test starting on June 4.

The Tigers will be boosted by the fact they recently ended a five-year

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1



KEEP IT WITH YOU: (L) Former Bangladesh captain Khaled Mashud collects his travel documents from his wife while his pal Mushfiqur Rahman and his wife look on inside the departure lounge of the Zia International Airport yesterday. (R) Previous captain Khaled Mahmud (R) helps newcomers Abdur Razzak (L) and Faisal Hossain complete formalities.



PHOTOS: ANISUR RAHMAN

Murali touches Walsh



REUTERS/AFP, Harare

Sri Lanka off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan became cricket's joint highest wicket-taker on the first day of the first Test against Zimbabwe on Thursday.

On a momentous day, Muralitharan moved on to the 519 mark after taking six for 45 as Sri Lanka dismissed a second-string Zimbabwe for 199.

Muralitharan, 32, had gone into the match with 513 wickets, needing seven more to surpass the record held by former West Indian fast bowler Courtney Walsh.

"Murali" struck first after lunch when he trapped Alester Maregwede in front for a duck, before dismissing Muleki Nkala for two in similar fashion six overs later.

Tatenda Taibu prodded the third ball of Muralitharan's 15th over to Mahela Jayawardene at silly mid-off to be out for a patient 40, and the over ended with Blessing Mahwire being bowled off his pads without scoring.

Muralitharan took his fifth wicket when Prosper Utseya misjudged the flight of a full delivery and was bowled for 45.

The Tamil, who turned 32 in March, drew level with Walsh when he bowled Douglas Hondo as Zimbabwe were all out for 199 in his 89th Test as opposed to 132 by Walsh.

He will now have to wait until the second innings to claim the record outright.

Walsh and Muralitharan are followed in the all-time wicket-takers table by Australian leg-spin great Shane Warne on 517 with India's Kapil Dev in fourth on 434.

Zimbabwe had to field a makeshift team after 15 experienced players refused to make themselves available in a dispute with the Zimbabwe Cricket Union.

The rebels want binding arbitra-

tion to resolve their grievances with the ZCU, who have offered mediation, which is not binding.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of Zimbabwe's first innings on the first day of the first Test between Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka at the Harare Sports Club on Thursday:

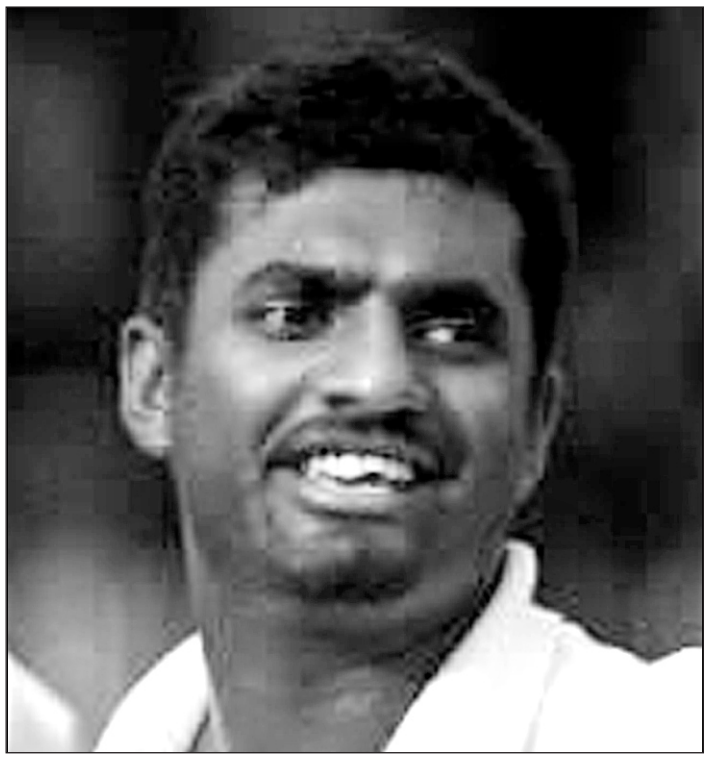
ZIMBABWE: First innings	Matsikenere c J'dene b Zoysa	10
Taylor c and b Maharof		19
Ebrahim lbw b Zoysa		1
Taibu c J'dene b M'tharan		40
Chigumbura c M'tharan b Zoysa		14
Maregwede lbw b M'tharan		0
Nkala lbw b M'tharan		2
Utseya b M'tharan		45
Mahwire b M'tharan		0
Hondo b M'tharan		19

Panyangara not out 32
Extras: (b-4, lb-6, nb-7) 17
Total: (All out in 71.2 overs) 199
Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-32, 3-35, 4-57, 5-69, 6-85, 7-118, 8-118, 9-149

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Vaas	19	6	39	0
Zoysa	17	6	53	3
Maharof	10	3	45	1
M'tharan	24.2	10	45	6
Jayasuriya	1	0	7	0

SRI LANKA: Atapattu, Jayawardene, Jayasuriya, Sangakkara, Dilshan, Samaraweera, Vaas, Zoysa, Jayawardene, Maharof, Muralitharan.

Umpires: Rudi Koertzen (South Africa) and Billy Bowden (New Zealand)



MUTTIATH MURALITHARAN

BOWLING MASTERS

REUTERS, London

Leading Test cricket wicket-takers after Sri Lankan Muttiah Muralitharan equalled Courtney Walsh's record of 519 against Zimbabwe on Thursday:

Bowler	Country	Wkts	Tests	Debut	Last Test	Best
M Muralitharan	S Lanka	519	89	1992	-	9-51
C Walsh	W Indies	519	132	1984	2001	7-37
S Warne	Australia	517	110	1992	-	8-71
K Dev	India	434	131	1978	1994	9-83
R Hadlee	N Zealand	431	86	1973	1990	9-52
G McGrath	Australia	430	95	1993	-	8-38
W Akram	Pakistan	414	104	1985	2002	7-119
C Ambrose	W Indies	405	98	1988	2000	8-45
A Kumble	India	397	84	1990	-	10-74
I Botham	England	383	102	1977	1992	8-34

Mani blasts Blair



AFP, London

International Cricket Council (ICC) president Ehsan Mani on Wednesday launched a bitter attack on British Prime Minister Tony Blair accusing him of inaction and inconsistency on the thorny subject of England's tour of Zimbabwe.

"It is disappointing but unsurprising that a politician should attempt to shift the blame in this way," said Mani.

"Mr Blair is seeking to divert attention away from his own inaction in dealing with Zimbabwe by attempting to exert inappropriate pressure on an international sporting body to make a political decision."

"At no stage has he or any of his people sought to get the facts on this

matter from the ICC."

Earlier Wednesday, Blair said he didn't think England should tour Zimbabwe, but added that the decision rests exclusively on the shoulders of international cricket chiefs.

"We would prefer them not to go," said Blair during his weekly question session in the House of Commons.

But he added: "There is a difference between doing that and ordering them not to go which I think would step over the proper line."

He added that his foreign secretary Jack Straw would be meeting the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) on Thursday to discuss the dilemma.

He added: "I think many people believe, I think rightly, that the problem actually resides with the ICC."

However, Mani was incensed by

Blair's stance.

"It is difficult to accept the proposition that the ICC should be making a special case for England when not even the England and Wales Cricket Board has attempted to argue that it be exempted from its promise to tour Zimbabwe unless it is unsafe to do so," said the ICC chief.

"Unfortunately, the one consistent aspect of Mr Blair's approach to Zimbabwe has been its inconsistency."

"His government maintains diplomatic links with Zimbabwe, allows British companies to invest heavily in and trade openly with Zimbabwe, and welcomes athletes

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Sher-e-Bangla Cup soccer

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka University threw caution to the wind when the former national football champions brushed aside Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) 12-0 in the Educational Zone qualifier of the Sher-e-Bangla Cup National Football Championship at the Kamalapur Stadium yesterday.

The Dhaka University boys, who have failed to win the prestigious trophy for quite some time, looked set to rebuild their image in the competition with Saiful and Monwar each slamming four goals.

Saiful, who opened the account after 11 minutes, completed his hat-trick by the 33rd minute and got his fourth goal two minutes from half-time to give the side a 5-1 lead at the break.

All of Monwar's strikes came in the second half while Johnny scored twice and Parvez and Titu added one each.

Run ragged by their mighty opponents, BUET pulled one goal back through Mazhar.

Dhaka University will play newcomers BKSP in the group decider on May 10 for a place in the final round.

On a day of hat-tricks, Walid and Shueb slotted three goals each to inspire Narshingdi to thrash Brahmanbaria 10-1 at the Comilla Stadium. Ripon netted twice while Tajul and Ripon one each for Narshingdi who will take on hosts Comilla in the zonal semifinal. Kawser reduced the margin for the vanquished.

National captain Rajani Kanta Barman scored one goal in hosts Gazipur's thumping 5-0 defeat of Netrokona. Golap, Manju, Biplab and Ripon scored one goal each for

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

Asim spins Aktel to victory

SPORTS REPORTER

Asim Chowdhury grabbed five wickets to help Aktel brighten their chances to reach the Plate semifinals of the first-ever GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket League (CCL) with a five-wicket win against BADC yesterday.

In the first match of the second phase of the CCL, Asim took 5-23 from ten overs as Aktel bowled BADC out for a paltry 141 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Mobile phone operators Aktel, who are playing in the lower-tier of the competition, needed just 37.3 overs to overhaul the target losing five wickets.

The inserted BADC put on 38 runs for the opening stand, but two quick wickets by new ball bowler Ashiqur Rahman saw the side slip to 43-4.

Prasenjit Bose (31) and Arman Hossain held the fort adding 66 runs for the fifth wicket but off-spinner Asim mopped up the tail after being introduced as the fifth bowler in the Aktel attack.

In-form Uttam Sarker anchored the Aktel innings with a sparkling

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5



GP Corporate Cricket League
Gazi Tank vs Acme
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

IM Chess begins today

SPORTS REPORTER



Mohammed Javed, Abu Sufian Shakil, Sheikh Nasir Ahmed and Khondokar Aminul Islam

will eye an IM norm when the 7th United Insurance and United Leasing International Masters Chess tournament begins at the Conference Room of the National Sports Council today.

Javed has already earned his first IM norm in Delhi last year while the other three aspirants want to utilise the 11-round Swiss League

meet as an opportunity to achieve their first norms.

The biennial event in the domestic chess calendar will feature 13 foreign players this time. India will represent 11 players including three IMs Denesh Kumar Sharma, Roktim Bannerjee and Sriram Jha. IM Mahmood Lodhi will be the lone participant from Pakistan while Krishna Thapa will fly the Nepalese flag.

But Bangladesh's Grand Master Ziaur Rahman will hold centre stage during the nine-day meet that offers cash awards of 2,000 dollars.

While Zia confirmed his participation, country's other GM Niaz

Murshed has opted out and IM Reefat Bin Sattar, who won highest eight points among the local players when the event last took place in 2002, still remains doubtful.

Leis Erlend Johansson of Norway lifted the sixth edition. But this time there is little chance of a player from the West taking part.

"We are still waiting for another foreign player from Britain to arrive. If he arrives before the meet starts tomorrow, he will be included," informed general secretary Syed Sujauddin Ahmed at a press conference at the NSC conference room yesterday.

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PHOTO: STAR

Aktel's five-wicket hero Asim is flanked by teammates Ashiqur (L) and Uttam after their GrameenPhone CCL match against BADC at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Sarwan ton goes awry

WI-Eng ODI series ends 2-2



AFP, Bridgetown

Marcus Trescothick and Andrew Strauss hit half-centuries to lead England to a five-wicket victory in the seventh and final one-day international over the West Indies here on Wednesday as the series ended 2-2.

Chasing a target of 262 from 50 overs, England achieved a series-levelling victory off the second ball of the 48th over when Paul Collingwood cut Ricardo Powell through backward point for two.

Trescothick hit 12 fours and one six in the top score of 82 from 57 balls that earned him man-of-the-match award and made him a shoe-in for the man-of-the-series prize.

Strauss supported with 66 from 86 balls to anchor England to the total.

Ramnaresh Sarwan scored his second one-day international hundred when he smote 13 fours in an undefeated 104 from 106 balls that paced West Indies to 261 for six off 50 overs, after the home team were sent in to bat.

England were looking to avoid a ODI series defeat for the first time on Caribbean soil, after the hosts entered the match with a 2-1 series

lead following comfortable victories in back-to-back contests at Gros Islet last weekend.

In an array of breathtaking strokes, England went on the rampage early on with Trescothick the main aggressor.

After captain Michael Vaughan was caught behind off Ravi Rampaul for 14 in the sixth over, Trescothick and Strauss added 87 for the second wicket to put the visitors squarely on the road to victory.

Left-hander Trescothick was stumped down the leg-side off Chris Gayle in the 18th over to leave England 123 for two, but Strauss rallied with the rest of the top order to keep his side on course.

Earlier, Sarwan chopped a ball from Andrew Flintoff to point for a single in the 48th over to reach his landmark to diligently rally West Indies to a competitive total after they limped to 90 for four when their captain and star batsman Brian Lara was dismissed in the 23rd over.

Sarwan helped West Indies to get back on track when he shared 69 for the fifth wicket with Dwayne Smith, whose 39 off 36 balls contained three fours and two sixes, and an unbroken 68 with wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs, who scored 32 from 38 for the seventh wicket to bolster the total.

Having confidently won the two

previous ODIs at Gros Islet batting second, West Indies were given the challenge of setting the visitors a target and struggled through against purposeful bowling from England.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the seventh and final one-day international between West Indies and England on Wednesday:

WEST INDIES

Gayle b Anderson	41			
C'paul c Anderson b Harmison	3			
Powell run out (Flintoff)	9			
Sarwan not out	104			
Lara c Read b Clarke	8			
Smith lbw b Gough	39			
Bravo b Flintoff	11			
Jacobs not out	32			
Extras: (lb-6, w-5, nb-3)	14			
Total: (For 6 wickets in 50 overs)	261			
Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-57, 3-57, 4-90, 5-159, 6-193				
Did not bat: Bradshaw, Dillon, Rampaul				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Gough	10	1	45	1
Harmison	10	0	51	1
Flintoff	10	1	45	1
Anderson	8	0	42	1
Clarke	9	0	50	1
Baty	3	0	22	0

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