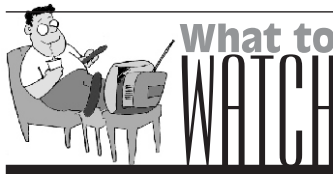




Did U Know?

Table tennis became an Olympic sport in 1988.



ESPN
Football Focus
Live at 6:30 pm
Sportscentre
Sport News
Live at 9:00 pm
Hamburg Tennis Masters Series
First Round
Live at 9:00 pm

STAR Sports
Sportline
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm



Daniel Vettori
(New Zealand spinner)
"AIDS is a disease that can affect any type of person in any country."

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 21

Tick the correct answers, post to **The Daily Star**. Win attractive prizes.

Competition closes at 8 pm May 21, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards.

- Who is Bangladesh's fastest woman?
Iva Chumki Sabrina
- Who is Zimbabwe's cricket captain?
Taibu Streak Otonga
- Name the man-of-the-series in the India-Pakistan Test series:
Sefwag Dravid Kumble
- How many runs did Brian Lara score in the first innings of the final Test against England?
400 388 380
- Who won the Singer 30th national?

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

Muralitharan consolidates top position

Sri Lanka off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan heads the Pricewaterhouse Coopers' ratings for Test bowlers. The latest list was announced after the first Test between Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka at Harare that ended Saturday.

In the same game, Muralitharan overtook Courtney Walsh's Test record of 519 wickets when he had Muleki Nkala caught by Mahele Jayawardene at short leg.

There is no change in the top 15 positions in the bowlers' list, with Shaun Pollock and Shoaib Akhtar retaining second and third spots. There is not much change in the batting list too, with the top 13 positions remaining unchanged.

Bowler Points
Muralitharan 907
Pollock 837

Semis calling GP

SPORTS REPORTER

Young left-arm spinner Enamul Haque took four wickets and opener Anisul Hakim grafted a fine half-century as GrameenPhone ran away with a five-wicket win over Partex Group in the opening Cup match of the GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket League (CCL) at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Enamul, who will join the Bangladesh team in West Indies before the start of the two-match Test series later this month, captured four for 23 to restrict Partex to a modest 179-8 in the stipulated 50 overs.

On-song Hakim then defied the scorching heat in an anchoring knock of 68 as GrameenPhone centered with three overs to spare.

It was an important victory for the leading cellular operators against a team closely associated with local cricket for quite a number of years to brighten their chances of playing in semifinals. But it came despite the fact that their Indian recruit Sanjay Bangar failed to make an impact on debut.

The Delhi all-rounder conceded 26 runs from his four overs and

scored a painstaking 21-ball 4 before being stumped by wicket-keeper Nuruzzaman.

The agile stumper had a field day while everybody else struggled to come to terms with the burning sun and the pressure to deliver in a tense affair where the stakes were high. He took four catches behind the wicket and effected two stumpings.

GrameenPhone was certainly understrength with the departure of their regular captain Khaled Mahmud and Alok Kapali for the West Indies tour.

But they couldn't expect of an ideal time for their left-arm spinner Enamul to click after Javed Omar Belim's Partex promised fireworks with one-down Tareq Ahmed hammering a 60-ball 49.

Tareq, who was particularly harsh against the medium-pace of Bangar, struck seven boundaries and a massive sixer off the Indian before his promising innings came to an abrupt end.

He was caught behind off left-arm spinner Tamim Bashir. He dominated a second wicket stand of 79 with Javed, who also departed at the same score. The fall of two quick wickets not only started the slide but it also dried up the scoring rate. Interestingly, only a single boundary came after Tareq was dismissed.

Bangladesh Test opener Javed, who scored a characteristically sedate 24 from 58 balls, before he became the first of Enamul's four victims.

Wicketkeeper Kuntal Chandra scored a gritty 40 off 70 balls innings but that was not enough for Partex to cross 200.

GrameenPhone started cautiously with Hakim, who has been in tremendous form in the first-ever competition for the corporate houses, putting on 49 runs with fellow opener Jewel Hossain. He added 55 runs with Nasirul Alam (39 off 55 balls) for the second wicket.

But the GrameenPhone chase slowed down in the middle as they approached Partex's target cautiously. Anisul, who completed his half-century off only 66 deliveries, needed another 42 balls to add 18 more runs. He struck eight fours before he was caught in the covers.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the GP Corporate Cricket League (Cup) match between GrameenPhone and Partex at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday:
PARTEX
Pappa c Nuruzzaman b Manjurul 6
Javed st Nuruzzaman b Enamul 24
Tareq c Nuruzzaman b Tamim 49
SEE PAGE 14 COL 5



GrameenPhone's Anisul Hakim follows through on a lofted off-drive during their GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket League fixture against Partex at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Tushar fined

SPORTS REPORTER

GrameenPhone captain Tushar Imran was fined Tk 10,000 for arguing with two tournament officials during the opening Cup match of the Corporate Cricket League (CCL) at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

While Tushar escaped with a fine the two CCL officials - venue manager Abid Abbas Kishan and match manager Omar Farooq - were suspended for the rest of the tournament on recommendation of match referee Rafique Islam.

Tushar was locked in a row with a temperamental Farooq, who was insisting the player return to the dressing room instead of standing on the balcony.

"I was not present during the incident but I was informed that the match manager threatened Tushar to push him off the balcony. So, I reported the incident to the match referee," said GrameenPhone coach Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury.

Both Tushar and Farooq were summoned by the match referee for a hearing, where Tushar apologised for his misconduct.

Match referee Rafique recommended imposing a fine of Tk 2,500 and a three-match ban on Tushar but the CCL committee, considering his importance for the team, decided against banning the player and instead increase the fine.

But Farooq, who is widely known for being an arrogant character, finally faced the music. He had earlier reportedly misbehaved with another national discard Ehsanul Haq during a first-phase match.

Kishan also fell into hot water for his part in the incident.

Possession of BNS BFF meets Sports Minister today

SPORTS REPORTER

Top officials of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will meet State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman today to settle the issue of possession of the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS).

BFF president SA Sultan, who along with general secretary Anwarul Haq Helal returned home on Sunday night after attending a two-day Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Congress in Malaysia, informed this yesterday.

"The issue has already created confusion among us after a remark by a BCB advisor. That's why we are taking it seriously," said Sultan.

BCB advisor Mahbulul Anam recently said that cricket was not ready to forfeit its claim over the possession of the all-purpose BNS from January 2005.

The BFF high-ups, however, has brought some good news from the AFC Congress that Japan Football Association has showed interest to financially support its Bangladesh counterpart in holding an age level tournament.

"Japanese officials have asked us to send a proposal along with a budget. They will give us total financial support to hold the

Aktel, CityCell victors

SPORTS REPORTER

Seasoned left-arm spinner Sharfuddinul Ibne Saikat was the most successful bowler claiming four wickets for 41.

Discarded national wicket-keeper Anwar was unbeaten on 69 off 103 balls while Nafeez hammered 54 off 60 balls as Aktel reached the target of 206-6 with two balls to spare.

In the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, opener Imran Ahmed smashed 63 off 94 balls to steer CityCell to a fighting 227-8 in the allotted 50 overs.

One-down Moniruzzaman was the other notable scorers with 43 off 76 balls.

In reply, Acme were bundled out for 188 in 48.2 overs with Debashish Kumar making 51 off 84 deliveries.

Rezaul Haq and Sohel Rana shared six wickets between them to wrap up the Acme innings.

SCORES IN BRIEF
ISPAHANI VAKTEL
Venue: Fatullah Stadium
Isphani: 205-10 in 49.4 overs (Murad 38, Minhazul 67, Arif 26, Rezaul 30, Saikat 4-41, Tushar 2-42).
SEE PAGE 14 COL 8

Wins for Rising Star, Abahani

CU CORRESPONDENT

Rising Star Club recorded a massive eight-wicket win over Shatadal Club Junior in the super six round of CJKS-Ispahani Premier Division Cricket League at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

The win was reigning champions Rising Star's third in four matches in this round while Shatadal Junior suffered their fourth successive defeat.

Sent in to bat, Shatadal managed a tiny score of 152 before being all out in 43.2 overs. Opener Pervaz top-scored with 39 while skipper Jonny made 21.

Rising Star's Ziaur Rashid Rupom was the destroyer-in-chief as scalped six wickets giving away 39 in 8.2 overs. Kashif Naveed chipped in with two wickets for 22 from his 10 overs.

In their turn, Rising Star reached their target of 153 losing only two wickets in 35.2 overs. Ashraf Ali scored highest 53 not out with four hits to the fence. Tareq Hossain Khan followed with 31.

Shamim and Younis took one wicket each for the losers.

In another match at the MA Aziz Stadium, Abahani outplayed City Corporation Ekadash by four wickets.

Put in to strike, the City Corporation side made 183 all out in stipulated 50 overs. Former national skipper Akram Khan made the highest score of 54. Khorram followed him with 43.

Abahani overhauled the target reaching 186 for six in 45.2 overs. Middle-order Ehsanul Haque Sezan and Harun Ur Rashid made 42 and 40 respectively.

Meanwhile, Abahani Junior recorded a 44-run victory over Rafa Cricket Club in the First Division Cricket League at Chittagong Medical College ground.

Abahani Junior batted first and made a formidable score of 264

Bangar wants his place back

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Sanjay Bangar is confident that he will win back his place in the star-studded Indian team.

The Delhi all-rounder, who was discarded after India's tour of Australia earlier this year, said that he has been working hard to reclaim his place as a Test opener.

"I'm competing with Akash (Chopra) and Yuvraj (Singh) for that position. I think it's going to be difficult since my rivals have been doing not bad," said the right-hander after a less than impressive Dhaka cricket debut at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Playing for GrameenPhone in the Corporate Cricket League, Bangar scored only four with the bat and was whacked for 26 in four overs with the ball against Partex.

"This (GrameenPhone) is a strong team and the cricketers are really committed. But it is too early for me to say anything about the domestic cricket in Bangladesh," Bangar said.

He did not consider his performances as an opener in 12 Test he

featured for India too bad. "I have done a good job because I was part of a winning team on seven occasions out of the 12 matches I have opened," said Bangar.

But he admitted that getting a



SANJAY BANGAR
chance to play Test cricket for India is one of the hardest jobs in the world. "The pressure is too much in the Indian team. It is difficult to keep your place if you fail in two or three games. I did not perform in a couple of matches."
SEE PAGE 14 COL 8

She-e-Bangla-Cup DU dump BKSP

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka University stormed into the final round of the She-e-Bangla Cup National Football Championship when the star-studded side dumped debutants BKSP 6-0 at the Kamalapur Stadium yesterday.

The former national champions, who inflicted a massive 12-1 defeat on BUET in their first match, needed a draw to top the group but chose to enjoy another goal-feast in the deciding match of the Education Zone.

Bangladesh's 9th SAF Games football team captain Monwar struck twice while Johnny, Saiful and national starts Moni and Titu added one each for the winners.

It was a stunning reversal of fortune for BKSP, who trounced BUET 6-0 in their earlier match.

Bangladesh Army, Naogaon and Chittagong also qualified for the finals, which will be held in Natore.

A 32-minute goal by striker Nasir helped Army edge

Buchanan spurs Warne on

Cricket

AFP, Brisbane

Muttiah Muralitharan's world record number of wickets has fired up Australian Shane Warne to seize it off him, Australian cricket coach John Buchanan said here.

The Sri Lankan off-spinner set a new world record of 521 Test wickets last week against Zimbabwe in Harare to break the previous mark of 519 set by West Indian pacesman Courtney Walsh.

Buchanan said Monday he expected Murali's record had further "fuelled the fires" of Warne, currently playing in England with Hampshire.

"He's just an exciting player as we've seen in the recent Sri Lanka-Australia series," Buchanan said of Murali. "The battle between he and

camp for the Zimbabwe tour.

"The ICC have cleared him from any suspect action. Obviously they have reviewed him recently but that's been more of a grease and oil change more than anything else.

Buchanan said the Australian side, to play two Tests and three one-day internationals, would conduct their four-week tour with a clear conscience despite the fragile political climate in Zimbabwe.

Leg-spinner Stuart MacGill did not make himself available on moral grounds for the tour and senior batsman Darren Lehmann has admitted the Australian players have concerns with touring.

But Buchanan played down the concerns. "I wouldn't think there is any concern," Buchanan said. "Cricket Australia and virtually all the information we have from a security point of view has allayed anybody's fears."

East End Boys v'ball champs

SPORTS REPORTER

East End Boys clinched the National Bank First Division Volleyball League title beating Dhaka Sabuj Club 3-1 at the court near Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Brothers Union finished runners-up and Nabajagarani Sangha captured the third place.

Meanwhile, Uttara Sporting Club won the title in the Second Division after a 3-1 victory over Sicily Club at the same venue.

Partners Club became runners-up.

BCCI thinking ahead

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Chastened by the player-contract dispute which threatened to derail the 2003 World Cup, the Indian cricket board has indicated that it will press hard to safeguard the interests of the players when the contracts come up for renewal next year.

The issue which generated the maximum controversy was the personal endorsements commitments of a few Indian cricketers, which were in direct conflict with the tournament's sponsors.

The Indian players finally signed a watered-down contract, but the Global Cricket Corporation (GCC), the right-holders for all ICC tournaments till 2007, then made a claim of

around 49 million dollars on the grounds that the players had



JAGMOHAN DALMIYA
breached their contract. Jagmohan Dalmiya, the president of the Board of Control for

Cricket in India (BCCI), was keen to ensure that the mistake wasn't repeated. "The Board has to be cautious in future. It will do everything to protect the interests of the players."

Dalmyia also made it clear this was an issue which affected the Indian players more than cricketers from other countries.

"The Indian players have been affected by the clause on personal endorsements. It has put them in difficulty. It is difficult for others to realise the depth of the problem. May be some players from Australia have such a problem, but other countries are not affected."

"It is time that we find a new system, a system which does not conflict with the interest of the players, so that such disputes can be avoided."

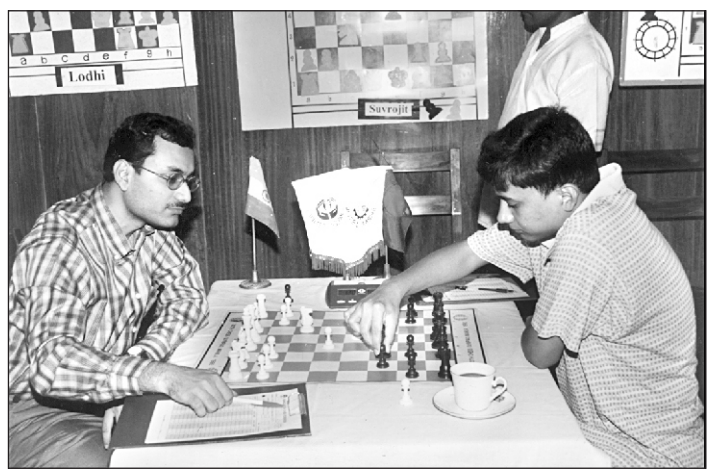
Zia takes the lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman took the solo lead with 4.5 points after the end of the fourth and fifth round games of the seventh United Insurance and United Leasing IM chess tournament at the Chess Federation conference room yesterday.

International Masters Abdullah Al Rakib and Enamul Hossain Rajib and Saptarshi Roy of India were in the second position with 4 points each.

In the fourth round, Zia beat Saptarshi, Rakib beat Shakil, Rajib beat Roktim, Lodhi beat Monir, Suvrajit beat Dinesh, Visweswaran



International Master Enamul Hossain Rajib makes a move against Suvrajit Saha of India during their fifth round game of the seventh United Insurance and United Leasing IM chess tournament at the NSC yesterday.

DAY'S EVENT

GP Corporate Cricket League CUP GROUP
Biman vs BEXIMCO
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

PLATE GROUP
Gazi Tank vs CityCell
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium

Lloyd looks to WC

Cricket

AFP, Lahore

Former West Indies cricket captain Clive Lloyd said Friday he hoped Caribbean fortunes would change for the better in time for the 2007 World Cup.

"Just three days ago, a dozen or so nations in the Caribbean converged on Barbados to submit official bids to host World Cup 2007 matches, which is a major step not only to the event but a quantum leap for our cricket," said Lloyd.

As many as eight countries will be allowed to host matches in the eighth World Cup and because the event was designated to be held in

the West Indies, the United States, Bermuda and the Bahamas are also in line to host preliminary round matches.

The former left handed batsman, who played 110 Tests and 87 one-day internationals and now serves as match referee, was speaking on the "rise and fall of West Indies cricket" at an international seminar in Lahore.

He said that while the short term gain of a successful 2007 cricket World cup would mean a massive financial windfall for the West Indies, they would be far outweighed by the long term benefits for the Caribbean cricket.

Cricket in the West Indies has seen a steady decline in terms of results and talent in the last five

Rebels working on their offer

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Most of the rebel cricketers were to meet Monday in Harare to hammer out the detail of their formal acceptance that they are prepared to enter into mediation with the Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU).

According to one of the group - Trevor Gripper - they are ready, as a gesture of goodwill, to resume training and make themselves available to play in the second Test which is due to start on Friday.

Absent from the meeting will be Heath Streak, the man whose dismissal as captain at the beginning of April triggered the whole situation. Streak has been involved in meetings with local government officials in Matabeleland over the