



## Did U Know?

The first US Women's Open golf tournament was held in 1946, the only one was played under match play.



### TEN Sports

Bangladesh vs West Indies

Third ODI

Highlights at 8:00 am

### ESPN

England vs New Zealand

First Test, Day One

Live at 3:30 pm

Sportscentre

Sport News

Live at 10:30 pm

### STAR Sports

Sportline

Sport News

Live at 8:00 pm

FIFA Centennial Match

Brazil vs France

Live at 12:55 am (Friday)



### Ehsan Mani

(ICC president)

"The Murali issue has blown out of proportion because of various remarks by various politicians." Responding to the Sri Lankan and Australian prime ministers' comments.



Tick the correct answers, post to

The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm

May 21, 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) .....		

# Bashundhara in final

SPORTS REPORTER



Bashundhara Group set up a final clash with ARAF Apparels on Friday when they inflicted an 89-run defeat on Beximco in the second semifinal of the GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Indian Sandeep Sharma stole a march over his more illustrious compatriot Yuvraj Singh to fashion the easy win for Bashundhara with a classic half-century.

While the boisterous couple of thousand fans were abuzz anticipating fireworks from Yuvraj a day after Pakistani Shahid Afridi's thunder, Sandeep took it on his stride to score a superb 99 in an impressive Bashundhara total of 269-9 in 50 overs.

Yuvraj, who scored a two-ball duck, however made up for his batting disappointment with three wickets and a direct throw that caught dangerous Pakistani all-rounder Abdul Razzaq well short of his crease during the Beximco innings.

Beximco pinned their hopes on Razzaq after their star Kenyan batsman Steve Tikolo failed for a change.

Razzaq looked menacing with a 28-ball 41 before he paid the penalty for running lazy and with him Beximco's hopes of a turnaround evaporated.

Beximco eventually limped to 180 before being bundled out in 41 overs.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

AS STRAIGHT AS IT GETS: Bashundhara Group's Indian recruit Sandeep Sharma, who made a match-winning 99, follows through on a straight-drive during the match against Beximco in the GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Earlier sent into bat, Bashundhara suffered a body blow when Beximco's experienced right-arm paceman Neeyamur Rashid dismissed opener Al-Shahriar (22) and Yuvraj in the space of three deliveries. But that did not deter the determination of Yuvraj's Punjab teammate Sandeep, who not only repaired the early damage with Sabbir but also laid a solid foundation.

Sandeep put on 108 runs for the third wicket with Sabbir, who made 41.

He struck a dozen of fours and two sixes but missed his second hundred in the competition by a single run when he spooned a simple return catch to Tikolo while attempting a single down the vacant mid-on region.

Naimur Rahman added the meat in the later stage of the innings with a stroke-filled unbeaten 42-ball 45. The former national captain struck two massive sixes including a huge heave against Pakistani paceman Razzaq over mid-wicket as Bashundhara rattled 70 runs in the last 10 overs.

Steve Tikolo was the most successful Beximco bowler with 4-42 runs in 10 overs. But Tikolo, who scored heavily in the previous two games, returned to the pavilion for only three. The right-hander was clean bowled after missing an in-swing from young right-arm paceman Shahjada, leaving his side reeling at 51-3.

Razzaq threw caution to the wind for four savage hits across the rope and a six before his promising knock came to an abrupt end.

Asadullah Khan (32) and

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## CCL Plate final today

SPORTS REPORTER

Gazi Tank yesterday flown in Pakistan internationals Taufeeq Umar and Yasir Hameed for today's GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket League (CCL) Plate final against MM Ispahani.

The battle for glory in the bottom half of the 12-team competition will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Gazi Tank, relying mostly on First Division players, won only one match in the first phase. But after making the Plate final, they decided to go on spending spree to make their appearance memorable.

For Hameed, who scored a Test century on debut against Bangladesh, it is his first visit to Dhaka. Left-handed opener Umar however played for Mohammedan in 2001 and in his only outing for the Motijheel side, he blasted 137 against Kalabagan.

Led by former Bangladesh captain and master batsman Minhazul Abedin, Ispahani too have a young side.

They also boast a couple of foreign players in Saifullah Magisi and Rashed Hanif, both Pakistanis.

## Leonine chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladeshi Grand Masters Niaz Murshed and Ziaur Rahman failed to make a winning start when the Leonine Second GM chess tournament began at the NSC conference room yesterday.

Zia drew with GM Nguan Anh Dung of Vietnam and Niaz shared point with his compatriot International Master Enamul Hossain Rajib.

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## Calypso Cocktail



RABEED IMAM from Grenada

The South Winds Cottages and Apartments were shining in all its glory when we returned from the Queen's Park Stadium on Tuesday. There had been a bout of rain a bit earlier which prevented the West Indies team from having too much practice at the five-year old venue. The sun however came out just after the squad had left.

But Gloria, who works at the hilltop office of the South Winds, wasn't prepared to be impressed by the sunny weather.

"It could be pouring tomorrow. Let me check," as she dug her head into a calendar in front of her. As I was wondering whether it contained the meteorological report or something, Gloria straightened. "Aha! Just as I thought. It's full moon today."

"So, what if it's full moon?" "It always rains after full moon. So tomorrow, it could be a wet day. Bad for cricket," she sounded a warning.

We woke up Wednesday morning to the sound of showers. It rained all night and an hour from the start of the third and final ODI, the clouds are still hovering above threateningly.

## TOURISTS' PARADISE

St George's is a capital built at the foot of the hills and by cutting into them. Where the land has ended, it has touched the sea. Grenada has one of the world's most amazing natural harbours and yachts, boats, ferries and even cruise ships can sail straight into the city and could be anchored right beside your house.

It looks a very British establishment with cars driving on the left, yellow number plates with black writing and the roads and corners packed with tourists, mostly from

Britain. If you enter the town from Grand Anse, the tourist resort, you get a different feel of St George's.

Although everything is very systematic and neat, Grand Anse is like a carefully nurtured garden where you would think twice before even talking loud it seems. Deeper into the capital, you begin to notice the shabby-looking quarters, the slums and possibly struggle.

"It's a great place to live. There's very little crime. That's because we have managed to control the drugs epidemic which is such a problem in other parts of the Caribbean.

"If you are caught with drugs here, penalties could range from 50,000 dollars to much more in fine. And there are lengthy jail-terms too," said Terry who was driving our taxi.

## WANNA GO TO USA?

Two slightly built bearded Muslim men came to watch the Tigers practice on Tuesday. They didn't look local and had that unmistakable sub-continental accent when they spoke.

"We are from Gujrat in India. We came here three years ago and haven't left since," said one.

So what's the attraction here, apart from the obvious natural beauty? It's business.

"We sell stuff, all kinds of them twice a week at a local market. The other five days, we just hang around or rest. On those two days, we make a profit of around 300 dollars," he added.

"You see Grenada's economy needs business. So the government here encourages people to come here. You can get a Grenadian passport for 10,000 dollars.

"Many people arrive here from the sub-continent, get their passports and then head off to USA or Canada," he informed.

# Average but better

He has been the prolific wicket-taker among Bangladeshi new-ball bowlers in one-day internationals and right up there in Tests too, but you don't see too many headlines written about him. But Tapash Kumar Baisya prefers it that way. The 22-year-old right-arm fast-medium bowler from Sylhet with 33 wickets in 32 ODIs and 25 in 13 Tests, has an enviable level-headed approach to the game and life and his simplicity, dedication and all-out effort makes him any captain or coach's dream. The Daily Star reporter RABEED IMAM, who is covering Bangladesh's maiden tour to the West Indies, spoke to Baisya after he had recorded the best ever figures (5 1 16 4) for the Tigers in ODIs in the second match at Arnos Vale on Sunday. Interestingly, Baisya wasn't even supposed to play in the fixture as left-arm spinner Abdul Razzaq was originally in the plan of the selectors considering the state of the wicket. But rain-interruption and overcast conditions meant Baisya got the nod.

Daily Star (DS): You have now eclipsed Khaled Mahmud's 4/19 and is the holder of Bangladesh's best bowling figures in one-day cricket. When did you become aware of it?

Tapash Baisya (TB): I came to know about it after the match. It's funny because had it been a full 50-over game rather than a rain-shortened one, I would not have played and Razzaq would have taken by place. So I must thank God because He makes everything possible.

DS: Does it bug you that the media is always talking about the Mashrafees, the Talhas or the Sharifs and you never seem to hog the headlines you deserve?

TB: No, it never bothers me. As a



TAPASH BAISYA

matter of fact I don't want too much written about me because I think I'm

an average person and I want to stay that way. I don't want to go down, nor do I wish to reach for the stars.

DS: You are regarded as the most improved cricketer in the team. How have you come this far?

TB: Obviously there was a lot of hard-work involved but it wasn't only that. We all work hard but I guess the encouragement from my team always spurred me on.

DS: Fitness is extremely important for a fast bowler. How do you keep yourself in shape?

TB: I try to follow a strict guideline in terms of food and my life-style. I know that if I want to have a long career, which is my dream, I must look after my body.

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PHOTO: STAR

COME ON YUVRAJ: Bashundhara Group enjoyed a colourful support during their match against Beximco yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

GOOD LUCK TO BOTH OF YOU: Pakistani all-rounder Abdul Razzaq (R) meets compatriot Taufeeq Umar (L) and Yasir Hameed at the BCB's BNS office yesterday. Razzaq returned to Pakistan last night after his side Beximco were ousted from the Corporate Cricket League while Umar and Hameed have only arrived yesterday to play for Gazi Tank.

## Naimur warned

SPORTS REPORTER

Former national captain Naimur Rahman was cautioned for his misconduct with the umpire during the GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket League semifinal between Bashundhara and Beximco at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The Bashundhara player was summoned by match referee Dipu Roy Chowdhury after the match and was told not to repeat this kind of behaviour within six months for avoiding at least a two-match suspension.

"It was a Level 1 offence and if he repeats this in the next six months, he will face a ban," told the match referee to reporters.

Naimur made a gesture towards umpire Mahbubur Rahman after his loud lbw appeal against Neeyamur Rashid was turned down.

## It's now upto ICC

### Australia might return home



REUTERS/AFP, undated

Australia's cricketers will immediately return home from Zimbabwe if their proposed series is stripped of Test status.

Cricket Australia chief executive James Sutherland told a news conference on Wednesday there was little point in continuing with the tour if the matches lost their official backing.

"The Australian cricket team has gone to Zimbabwe to play Test and one-day cricket," Sutherland said.

"If we're not going to play that, then I'm not sure that it's appropriate for us to be there."

The status of the series, due to start on Saturday, was already under threat when Zimbabwe's leading white players went on strike, accusing the Zimbabwe Cricket

Union (ZCU) of allowing politicians to dictate the make-up of the side.

However, the crisis deepened after the ZCU snubbed International Cricket Council (ICC) chief executive Malcolm Speed. He had been invited to address the ZCU board in Harare but the invitation was withdrawn at the last minute.

The ICC responded by calling an emergency meeting on Friday to consider stripping the Australia-Zimbabwe matches of their Test status. Australia is among the 10 member nations that will vote on the issue.

Former Australian captain Greg Chappell said he supported the proposal to strip the matches of their Test status.

"I don't think anyone in cricket would be happy with that situation and we can't afford to have the standard of Test cricket denigrated from within," Chappell said.

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## Sher-e-Bangla Cup Finals from tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

The final round of the Sher-e-Bangla Cup 22nd National Football Championship kicks off tomorrow at the Adhunik Stadium in Natore with holders Noakhali taking on Chuadanga in the opening match.

Ten teams joined defending champions Noakhali and the hosts in the finals after a record 72 teams took part in the qualifying rounds.

Twelve teams split into four groups and all the group champions will qualify for the semifinals, slated for May 29 and 30.

The June 1 final is scheduled to be telecast live by Bangladesh Television, informed organisers at a press briefing at the Bangladesh Football Federation office at Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The organisers are also trying to convince the state-run television to broadcast the two semifinals.

Tournament committee chairman Abdus Salam said that they would provide man-of-the-match award in every match in addition to the man-of-the-series award and the fair play trophy.

## TEAMS

GROUP A: Noakhali, Dhaka, Chuadanga

GROUP B: Natore, Nilphamari, Bhola

GROUP C: Naogaon, Narayanganj, Dhaka University

GROUP D: Bangladesh Army, Comilla, Chittagong



GP Corporate Cricket League Plate Final ISPAHANI vs GAZI TANK Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium