



## Did U Know?

Tennis was played at the Olympics until 1924, then reinstated in 1988.

## What to WATCH

### TEN Sports

Bangladesh vs West Indies  
First Test, Day One  
Repeat at 7:30 am  
Golden Moments of Olympic Games  
Repeat at 11:00 am

### French Open

Live at 3:00 pm  
Bangladesh vs West Indies  
First Test, Day Two  
Live at 8:05 pm

### ESPN

Australia vs Zimbabwe  
Third ODI  
Live at 1:20 pm

### STAR Sports

Return to Athens  
Repeat at pm  
Football Asia  
Repeat at 9:30 pm



### Viv Richards

(West Indies cricket legend)  
"I think Bangladesh have improved. I wouldn't say 100 per cent but may be 75 and that is pass mark, isn't it? I look at them in the field and they appear much fitter, they are more committed. It just seems that on a collective basis, there must have been a lot of work done to get them into that self-believing frame of mind. It's still going to take some time. Everything takes time."



PHOTO: AP

**HARD WORK PAYS OFF:** The promising Faisal Hossain, who made his Test debut for Bangladesh against West Indies yesterday, throws a ball during a training session at the Beausejour Stadium in Gros Islet, St Lucia on Thursday.

## Different debutants



RABEED IMAM from St Lucia

It will be a triumph of perseverance for two men when they make their Test debuts for Bangladesh in the first Test against the West Indies on Friday.

The 26-year-old Faisal Hossain and Tareq Aziz Khan, three years his junior, have earned the confidence of selectors who feel it's the right time to give them a go. But the chance has come in contrasting styles for the two. While paceman Tareq made his one-day international debut way back in 2001, left-hander Faisal is on his first tour with the main side.

"To be honest I didn't expect it. I might not have been in the side had Shahriar Hossain not got injured. I also did not do anything outstanding in the only ODI (17 off 16 balls) and three-day match (43 off 87) I have played on this tour. So you can say that luck played a part," said Faisal who only came to prominence following a highly successful time with the bat playing for Chittagong in last season's National Cricket League.

"I have not come through the usual process. In fact after the National League, I got the chance to play for the A team against Zimbabwe A and then I was straight into the Bangladesh side. So I think this is reward for my consistency."

The level-headed Faisal had no lofty aspirations for his future. "I don't set targets and prefer to take it match by match. I'm not a youngster making a debut so it's just a matter of making the best out of the opportunity. I don't want to say something in advance and then not be able to deliver."

"I don't feel the nerves. Even when I was playing the ODI and the three-day game here, I felt as if I was playing at home. It will be the same when I walk to the crease in the first Test."

Faisal thanked his parents, particularly his mother for inspiring him to persevere with cricket. "I was stuck in between studies and cricket. I was neither here nor there. My mother was the one who pushed me to become serious about cricket."

For Tareq, the Test call-up has come after three years on the fringes. "It could've been a lot earlier but I

got injured after my ODI debut in 2001. I always believed that an opportunity was just around the corner. I'm thankful that the long wait is finally over and now is my chance to cement a place in the side.

Tareq quipped that his performance could have far reaching consequences back home. "You see my family members feel happy and sad depending on my performance on the field. They have always been very supportive."

### Ctg hockey

CU CORRESPONDENT

Ashraf's brilliant hat-trick guided reigning champions Abahani Krira Chakra to blank Bangla Club 5-0 in the CJKS-JDC First Division Hockey League at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday. The winners led the first half 3-0. It was Abahani's third win in their four matches while Bangla Club's third defeat out of four matches.

Ashraf netted four goals while Zahidul scored the other. Mohammedan Sporting Club will take on Crescent Club today.

## Sher-e-Bangla Cup Army march into final

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Noakhali crashed out of the Sher-e-Bangla 22nd National Football Championship when they suffered a humiliating 3-0 defeat to Bangladesh Army in the first semifinal at the Natore Stadium yesterday.

Army will take on the winners of today's semifinal between Narayan-ganj and Bhola in the June 1 final. Army's prolific striker Nasiru-uddin continued his scoring spree with two goals to upset star-studded Noakhali. Nasir who put Army ahead in the 51st minute and

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

## Schools kabadi

UNB, Dhaka

Shaheed Nabi High School and Mannan High School advanced to the quarterfinals of the 12th school kabadi tournament beating their respective rivals at the Outer Stadium kabadi court yesterday.

Shaheed Nabi emerged Group D champions with a massive 102-27 victory over Bagbari Government Primary School while Mannan School became Group A runners-up with a 69-47 win against Kalyanpur Government Primary School.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

## Calypso Cocktail



RABEED IMAM from St Lucia

There's a signboard overlooking the training area of the Beausejour Stadium that stands out between the apparently unused shacks and huts.

It has a picture of the late David Hookes, the former Australian Test batsman who was killed earlier this year.

The reason behind that memorial banner placed here is that Hookes came as a commentator to St Lucia during Australia's tour in 2003 and actually went up to that area with the camera crew outside the ground, met the locals and had a fun time commenting from that vantage point.

FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD

St Lucia has offered the best food choices for the Bangladesh team on the tour so far. There's numerous food joints in the Rodney Bay area and all are a lazy stroll away from the team's Royal St. Lucian Hotel.

The most popular is an open-air restaurant-cum-bar that has mouthwatering bar-b-que'd chicken and beef curry among other tasty dishes. During dinner hours you see all the familiar

Tigers there and also most of the West Indies team.

When they get bored, they can go to Dominos Pizza, Razmataz the Indian restaurant or can try out the steak at prize winning Big Chef's.

And there's always the KFC at almost every corner.

## CJKS cricket

CU CORRESPONDENT

Little Brothers recorded a five-wicket victory over Punchlaish Jubo Sangha in the CJKS-S Alam First Division Cricket League at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital ground yesterday.

Winning the toss Punchlaish batted first and scored 176 before being all out in 44.4 overs.

Middle order batsman Kamrul top-scored with 37 while opener Jamal and skipper Harun contributed 31 each.

M Islam Taj, Ali Akbar and Abu Hanif grabbed two wickets each for Little Brothers.

In reply, the winners reached their target of 179 losing five wickets in 43.2 overs. Opener Sumon Das made 38 while middle order batsman Raihan followed him with not out 35. Ismail also added 34.

Saifuddin, Al Amin, Harun and Morshed took one wicket each for the losers.

## Hussain joins Sky Sports

CRICINFO, London

Hours after Nasser Hussain announced his retirement from cricket, it has been confirmed that he is to join the Sky Sports commentary team on a full-time basis.

Hussain insisted he would take a few weeks off before he started his new life, and it will indeed be nearly a month before he makes his senior debut behind the mike, at England's NatWest Series game against New Zealand at Old Trafford on June 24.

Hussain has signed a four-deal with Sky, and becomes the fourth England captain to join the commentary team after Ian Botham, David Gower and Bob Willis.

"We now have the most experienced line-up ever seen in a commentary box," said Vic Wakeling of Sky. "Four former England captains with over 400 Tests, 20,000 runs, and 700 wickets between them - and each is a former Wisden-cricketer-of-the-year."

## 'I'm not after any personal milestone'



RABEED IMAM from St Lucia

"Brian Lara is not giving any interviews and won't be giving any until further notice" is the official stance regarding West Indies cricket's most sought-after man. So the press conference on Thursday became a much anticipated assembly for local and foreign journalists as the reigning king of the game in the Caribbean was going to take questions on the Test series against Bangladesh, the West Indies team and his personal aspirations. Lara was making his first appearance in front of newsmen after giving the three one-day internationals against the Tigers a miss because of a finger injury. Here are the excerpts from that media conference:

**Question (Q):** Is the team prepared for the task ahead and are

you taking Bangladesh lightly as they are bottom side in international cricket?

**Brian Lara (BL):** No, of course not and there are many reasons why we shouldn't. They are an improving



BRIAN LARA

team and they have showed that they have come here to play hard, aggressive and very competitive cricket. Their performance was very creditable in the one-day series. But we've got a job to do and that is to win the series and win it convincingly. Taking it lightly won't be a good start. So we are looking forward to it and everybody is pumped up. We have a couple of new faces.

**Q:** You haven't played in the three ODIs against Bangladesh. How was your preparation like for the first Test?

**BL:** I have done necessary preparation for this Test. Competitively, my last match had been against England on the 5th of May but preparation is very important to me and I have done what was needed physically and mentally to get myself ready. Still you have to go out there in the middle and you know that the Bangladesh team is going to come out tough.

## Parliament asks PCB to explain



AFP, Karachi

A Pakistani parliamentary committee has summoned top cricket officials to explain the country's first ever home defeat by India, officials said Friday.

"The standing committee of the Senate on sports and culture has summoned Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) officials to tell us the reasons of Pakistan's defeats against India," said Senator Enver Baig.

"Every other man is concerned and losing interest in the game after India defeat and wants to know what are the reasons," said Baig, a committee member who belongs to the main opposition Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

Sports Minister Raees Munir, PCB chairman Shaharyar Khan, chief executive Ramiz Raja and chief selector Wasim Bari will participate in the open discus-

sion at the upper house committee on Saturday, he said.

During their first tour across the border since 1989, India won the five-match one-day series 3-2 and the three-match Test series 2-1, their first ever wins on Pakistani soil last month.

The Pakistan team came in for severe criticism after losing the decisive third Test by an innings and 131 runs. PCB later formed a medical commission to look into a spate of injuries to key players.

Newspaper reports have said Raja may be facing the axe as officials ring the changes in Pakistan's cricket administration.

However, Baig said the cricket officials would have been summoned even if Pakistan had not lost to their main rivals.

"No, even if we had lost in this manner to a team like Sri Lanka or Bangladesh we would have done the same," he said.



PHOTO: AFP

Russian teenager Maria Sharapova hits a backhand to compatriot Vera Zvonareva in their third round match at the French Open yesterday. Sharapova won 6-3, 7-6.

## Henman in last 16



AFP, Paris

Britain's Tim Henman and France's Michael Llodra led a charge of the outsiders into the last 16 of the French Open here on Friday.

Both are in a bottom quarter of the draw left wide open by the early exit of Andy Roddick and they gleefully took their chances in double quick time.

Henman surpassed his eight previous efforts at Roland Garros by reaching the fourth round with a 7-6, 6-1, 6-2 win over Spain's Galo Blanco.

Llodra, better known as a doubles specialist, dispatched compatriot Julien Jeanpierre 6-2, 6-2, 6-3.

The two men will play each other on Sunday for a place in the last eight. It was a hugely encouraging performance from No 9 seed Henman who has doggedly stuck to his task over the last decade at Roland Garros that are foreign to his serve-and-volley game.

The opening set was a desperately close affair with Henman relying on his first serve and chip and charge tactics against the wily

Blanco who looked comfortable down both flanks.

Games went with serve into the tie-break which Henman, with his more aggressive style dominated.

A 10th ace set up three set points and Henman converted on the first to move one set ahead in 52 minutes.

That seemed to inspire the British player, who had to come back from two sets down in his opening tie against Cyril Saulnier, and he rattled off five games in a row with some brilliant tennis to ensure the second set.

Henman lost some concentration as he dropped his serve in the opening game of the third set, but he roared back to level in the next game and then coasted into the last 16 for the first time in his career.

Also safely through into the last 16 was a member of the Argentine clay-court armada, Juan Ignacio Chela, who got the better of the 2001 runner-up Alex Corretja of Spain 6-4, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

Chela will next play the winner of the all-French tie between Fabrice Santoro and Olivier Mutis.

Russia's new golden girl, 17-year-old Maria Sharapova, moved smoothly into the last 16 of the women's tournament with a 6-3, 7-6 win over 10th seeded compatriot Vera Zvonareva.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

## Batty equals keeping record

AFP, London

Surrey captain Jon Batty equalled the world record of eight catches in a first-class innings against Kent at The Oval here Thursday.

Wicketkeeper Batty's catches came as Surrey bowled out Kent for 239, the visitors following on 240 behind.

His efforts behind the stumps followed on from Batty's 129 in Surrey's first innings 479 all out. Batty is the third Englishman and fourth keeper overall, following on from Australia's Wally Grout, to have taken eight catches in an innings.

The record for most catches taken in a first-class innings by an

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

**DAY'S EVENT**

**BANGLADESH vs WEST INDIES**  
First Test, Day Two  
Venue: St Lucia  
LIVE AT 8:05 PM

**Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 21**

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

**Competition closes at 8 pm June 4, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards**

1. Who won the GP Corporate Cricket League Plate title?  
Acme Tank Ispahani Gazi

2. Who lifted the United Insurance IM chess crown?  
Reefat Niaz Zia

3. What was result of the Bangladesh-West Indies ODI series?  
2-1 2-0 3-0

4. Who will host the 2010 FIFA World Cup?  
Germany England South Africa

Name .....

Class .....

School Address .....

Phone: (if any) .....