



Did U Know?

Latvian player Vladimir Bagirov (1936) who became a Grand Master in 1978 at the age of 42. In 1960 he took 4th place in the USSR championship. He was a former trainer of Garry Kasparov. In 1998 he won the 8th World Senior Chess Championship, held in Austria.



TEN Sports

Argentina vs Paraguay
WC Football Qualifier
Repeat at 12:30 pm
Brazil vs Chile

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Virender Sehwag

(Indian star batsman)

"Today is a memorable day and I am happier today than I was when I scored the triple century, because my university has organised a special function to award a degree to a single student."

After being awarded his Bachelor of Arts degree.

Star WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION 212

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

Competition closes at 8 pm
June 11, 2004 and draw

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

Name

Class..... Roll No.....

School Address

Phone: (If any)



BANGLADESH vs WEST INDIES
Second Test, Day Four
Venue: Sabina Park, Jamaica
LIVE ON TEN SPORTS AT 9:00 PM

BCB drops CCDM

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday confirmed that the CCDM (Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis) would no longer exist as a standing committee of the Board.

The Board finally disclosed the worst kept secret in a press release but not before the CCDM chairman Khondokar Jamil Uddin resigned on Saturday.

The CCDM was responsible for running the Dhaka Leagues. It has now been merged with a newly named standing committee -- Cricket Operations.

The cricket operations committee will be entrusted to look after all domestic competitions apart from affairs of previously named cricket committee. Mahbub Anam, who was earlier head of the cricket committee, has now been elevated to cricket operations chief.

The reorganisation meant the end of Tournament Committee headed by Shah Nurul Kabir Shaheen. The BNP lawmaker will now look after the Umpires and Divisional affairs, which is another new edition to eight standing committees.

The Board deemed the revamp necessary for smooth running of cricket business.

"The Board recognised that the current structure did not allow the key components of cricket business to be integrated; as a result it lacked cohesion in setting key objectives," said a detailed statement that outlined the Board's structure.

Ray of hope for Rana!

SPORTS REPORTER

Most of the executive members of the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) want the punishment against national hockey player Mahbub Ehsan Rana be reduced.

The Abahani midfielder was banned for life for assaulting an umpire last year during a Club Cup match against Mohammedan.

"Most of the members spoke in favour of reducing Ehsan's life ban to a few months in our executive meeting today. But again they wanted to impose a heavy fine on him," said BHF general secretary Shamsul Bari yesterday.

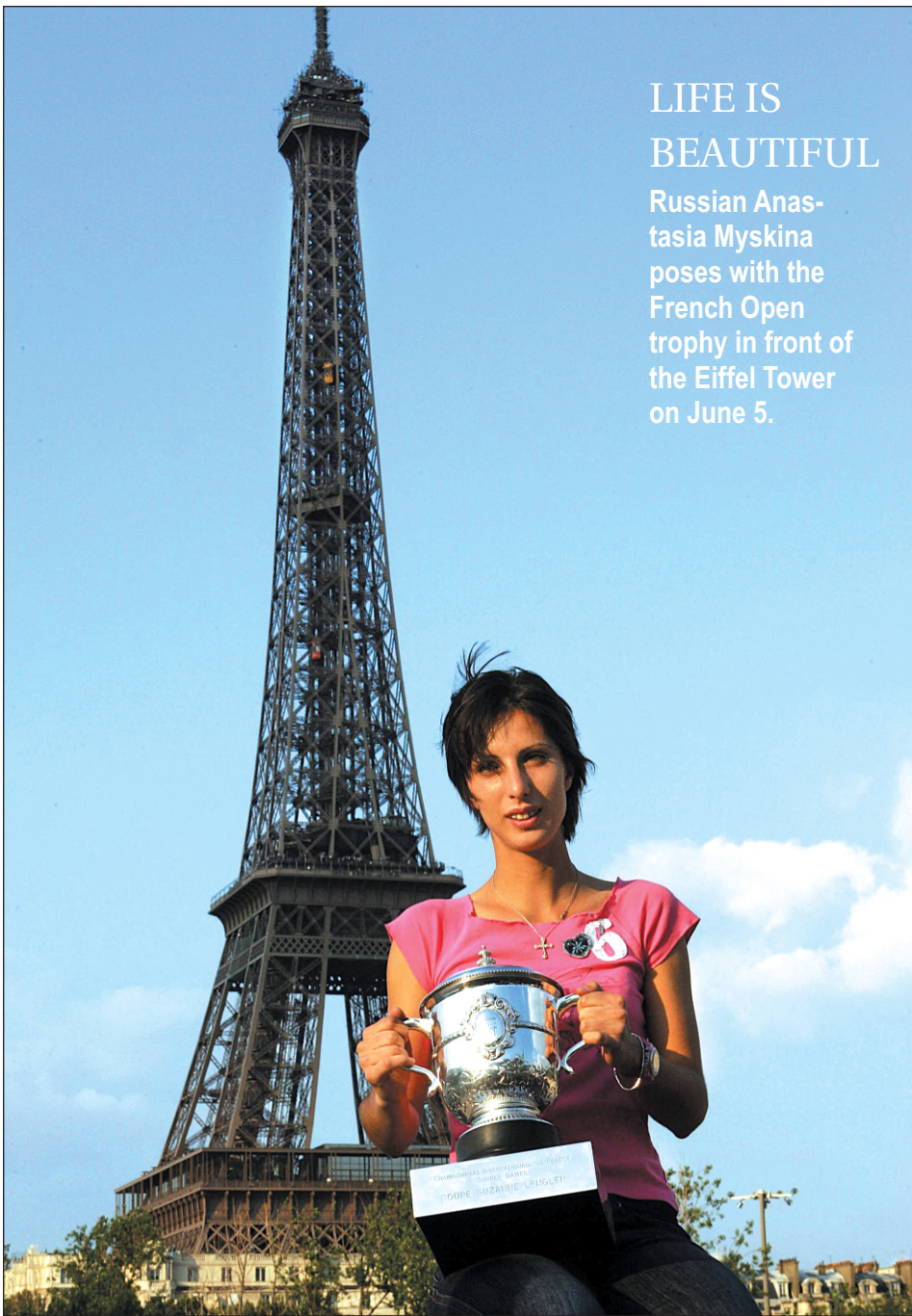
"The BHF president listened to the proposals and he will give a decision," he added.

The BHF secretary also confirmed that former Pakistani international Qamar Ibrahim would arrive in Dhaka on either June 12 or 13 to finalise talks about his appointment as Bangladesh's national coach.

"We will sit with the sports minister and see what the NSC can do. We have to learn about Qamar's demands first. The Dutch-Bangla Bank has promised to sponsor us and we will seek its assistance regarding this."

He informed that the 21st

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LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL

Russian Anastasia Myskina poses with the French Open trophy in front of the Eiffel Tower on June 5.

Pioneer football opens tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

The 17th Pioneer Football League will be launched tomorrow at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

LGRD and Cooperative Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will declare the juvenile tournament open.

The matches however will start on June 10 at nine city venues.

But the tournament, once billed as the breeding ground of the capital's football, faces a severe shortage of players. So far only 500 players have registered their names for the 63-team competition when it needed more than 1200 players.

"We are hopeful that the number of footballers will increase once the tournament proper kicks off. This is always a big problem for this event," said president of Dhaka Mahanagari Football League Committee Abdur Rahim at a press conference yesterday.

Despite this short fall, the organisers have increased participation of

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Enjoy every bit of Lara



RABEED IMAM from Jamaica

There was something weirdly inevitable about Brian Lara's innings on the second day of the final Test at Sabina Park. You could almost feel that he was telling the Bangladesh team: "Look, I'm gonna make a hundred and there's nothing you can do about it. So just sit back and enjoy."

Lara was in cruise control (remember him saying that about



RABEED IMAM from Jamaica

It was a satisfying day's cricket for the West Indies and a day which they can rightfully claim to have dominated. Naturally, the mood of our taxi driver Jose was upbeat but he didn't want to dampen the spirit of his three passengers.

"You know, I like the Bangladesh team because they always fight. We like a good contest but we don't want you to come here and beat us," he paused.

"There's no other reason. Please don't get me wrong. It's just that if Bangladesh comes to the West Indies and defeats us, that would be the end of our cricket."

JACKPOT

Lunch time is the fun-time at

Caribbean grounds. At the Sabina Park, the Red Stripe part stand was in full swing with a local artist making everyone dance with his popular numbers.

On the field school children were playing cricket matches in groups scattered at all corners. There was also another attraction.

The West Indies Cricket Board and the series sponsors Cable and Wireless had arranged a scratch and win contest, the first prize of which was a Suzuki Grand Vitara jeep.

Eight fans from eight venues that had hosted the 2004 series matches against the West Indies and Bangladesh were the finalists. They were asked to pick a key from a hat and try to open and start the car. The lucky one would be able to start the engine.

After an absorbing time, Peter George of St Lucia managed to hit the jackpot.

BFF be wise



SPORTS REPORTER

The executive committee of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will give its verdict today on whether giants Abahani Krira Chakra win the last automatic qualification spot for the final phase of the 4th National Football League (NFL).

The popular Dhammondi outfit, who never missed an entry into the final round of the fast growing popular domestic event, faces an unlikely challenger from enfant terrible Sheikh Russell Krira Chakra after a below-par performance in last season.

Although the mood is upbeat in the Sky Blues' tent ahead of the crucial meeting with history and crowd appeal in their favour, the BFF however stands in front of a double-edged sword after a passionate plea

from Sheikh Russell for justice.

If Abahani is a popular choice to add glamour to the National League, scheduled to start from June 21, Sheikh Russell equally deserve their place in the competition after their fairy-tale run in the Premier League, where they finished runners-up behind Brothers Union. It was an achievement that no debutant had ever done before. More importantly it was their free flowing brand of football that won the hearts and minds of the fans.

Although the NFL organising committee had earlier dismissed the possibility of increasing the quota for Dhaka clubs from four to five, the BFF however is not ruling out adding an extra team for a change.

"Rules are made to be broken and if it is bent for a noble cause than nothing like it. I think both teams deserve to be included for a more appealing National League," quipped a seasoned observer.

Meanwhile, so far 52 teams have entered the qualifying round. The BFF will also scrutinise the list because there are entries from districts where no league was held in 2003 or 2004.

The BFF has already barred teams that have not taken part in any League in 2003-2004.

Another important issue the BFF must address is holding of an annual general meeting (AGM). The AGM is required to elect a new vice-president following the death of Khairul Anwar Pearu.

The BFF will also discuss preparations for next year's SAFF Championships in Pakistan. Bangladesh won the regional title when it was staged in Dhaka in 2003. The probe committee report of Bangladesh team's debacle in the Islamabad SAF Games, where they crashed out at the group stages, will also be presented in the meeting.



PHOTO: AFP

LET ME SLEEP, DAD: England captain Michael Vaughan caresses his just-born daughter Talulah Grace at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital in Sheffield on Saturday, the day after she was born.

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England into the lead



AFP, Leeds

Andrew Flintoff and Geraint Jones gave England the edge as they established a first innings lead against New Zealand in the second Test at Headingley here on Sunday.

At tea on the fourth day, England were 507 for seven, a lead of 98, with Jones a Test-best 91 not out after Flintoff had made 94.

Matthew Hoggard was two not out. While a draw was still the most likely outcome, an England victory was no longer such an outlandish prospect with 44 overs and a day left.

Medium-pacer Scott Styris, who dismissed England captain Michael Vaughan (13) and Marcus Trescothick (132), struck again to get rid of Flintoff when the Lancashire all-rounder was in sight of his fourth Test hundred.

Together with Kent wicketkeeper Jones he put on 118 for the sixth wicket as England passed New Zealand's first innings 409.

England resumed after lunch on 352 for five, a deficit of 57, with Flintoff 53 not out and Jones six not out.

Jones, strong through the off-side, helped maintain the brisk scoring rate that had seen Flintoff and Graham Thorpe (34) put on 99 for the fifth wicket in 146 balls before the Surrey left-hander was bowled by Chris Martin's yorker.

But New Zealand missed a chance to dismiss the 27-year-old gloveman when he was dropped by opposing keeper Brendon McCullum.

Jones, on 30, edged a cut off Chris Cairns and the diving McCullum failed to hold the right-handed chance which was going to Kiwi captain Stephen Fleming at first slip. England were then 385 for

five.

Jones reached his maiden Test fifty in style, lofting left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori for six over long-on having faced just 53 balls with 42 of his runs (there were also nine fours) coming in boundaries.

Flintoff, on 90, saw a justifiable lbw appeal from Daryl Tuffey rejected by West Indian umpire Steve Bucknor with England 450 for five.

However he had added just four more runs to his total when his miscued drive off Styris lobbed gently to Martin at mid-off. Flintoff faced 144 balls with one six and 12 fours.

Ashley Giles made a handy 21 before he edged Martin to Fleming to leave England at 491 for seven.

New Zealand's fitness problems intensified when Vettori limped off with a suspected torn hamstring.

He was not expected to take the

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