

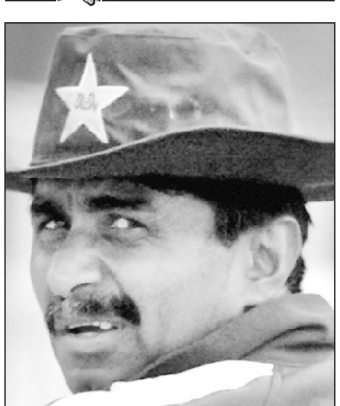
Did U Know?

Russia have been eliminated from Euro 2004 after losing their first two matches. This is the third successive time they have finished fourth and last in their group following the 1992 and 1996 campaigns.

What to WATCH

**ESPN**  
Euro 2004  
Preview Show  
Live at 9:00 pm  
Germany vs Latvia  
First Round  
Live at 9:55 pm  
Euro 2004  
Preview Show  
Live at 12:00 am (Sunday)  
Netherlands vs Czech Republic  
First Round  
Live at 12:40 am (Sunday)  
**STAR Sports**  
Return To Athens  
Olympics  
Repeat at 6:00 pm  
Football Asia  
Repeat at 9:00 pm

TALK TURKEY



**Javed Miandad**  
(Former Pakistan cricket coach)  
"This is a clear breach of contract, which I consider unethical."  
After being sacked as Pakistan's coach.

**Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 213**  
Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star Win attractive prizes  
Competition closes at 8 pm June 25, 2004 and draw

1. Who, became man-of-the match in the second and final test between Bangladesh and West Indies?	Sarwan	Bashar	Lara
2. How many Test matches has Michael Slater played?	74	82	75
3. What was the result of the WC qualifier between Japan and India?	7-0	5-2	4-3
4. What is the name of the Euro 2004 ball?	Rolairo	Futi	Euroca
5. Who won the French Open men's crown?	Gaudio	Coria	Henman
Name			
Class	Roll No.		
School Address			
Phone: (If any)			

**CJKS football**  
**CU CORRESPONDENT**  
BCIC Krira Sangsad and City Corporation Ekadash won their respective matches in the CJKS-Elite Paint Premier Division Football League at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.  
BCIC defeated Agrabad Nowjoan 1-0. Kanchan netted the winning goal at 19th minute in the first half.  
In the second match of the day, City Corporation inflicted a 3-1 defeat on Customs Sporting Club.  
Milon, Anwar and Tipu netted for the winners while Lutfar reduced the margin for the losers.  
Abahani will take on Friends Club at the same venue today.



OH DEAR! French custodian Fabien Barthez (R) walks away from teammates towards his goal area after Croatia scored their second goal at the Magalhães Pessoa stadium in Leiria on June 17.

Croat fright for France



REUTERS, Leiria

Croatia gave France an almighty scare as they held the shaky-looking champions to a 2-2 draw in an explosive Euro 2004 match on Thursday, another surprise result that leaves Group B wide open.  
An own goal by Igor Tudor midway through the first half seemed to have France on course for the quarter-finals but French defensive frailties allowed the outsiders to snatch two goals in four minutes early in the second.  
A Milan Rapaić penalty and a shot by Dado Pršo had the holders running scared and they needed David Trezeguet's 64th-minute goal to set up a tense final round of fixtures on June 21.  
France lead the Group B standings with four points. England, who beat Switzerland 3-0 earlier on Thursday have three, Croatia have

two and the Swiss one.  
France play Switzerland in the final round, needing just a draw to advance. England play Croatia, also needing a point, but Croatia and Switzerland could still qualify with wins.  
"We've seen that in football things can quickly change," said France coach Jacques Santini. "Against England, we scored two quick goals. Today it was the Croats who did it to us. We can't repeat these moments of weakness if we want to go far."  
Santini had recalled captain Marcel Desailly to his defence, which had an unfamiliar look with Mikael Silvestre moving to left back and Bixente Lizarrazu rested.  
However, the chosen quartet were barely tested in a low-key first half, with the 22nd-minute goal the only notable action.  
Zinedine Zidane, who struck both goals in France's 2-1 comeback win over England on Sunday, curled a free kick from wide on the left that took a slight deflection off recalled defender Tudor and left keeper Tomislav Butina wrong-level with a hotly-disputed goal.  
Trezeguet charged down a Butina clearance, the ball hitting his arm, before slotting into the empty net from a tight angle.  
The Croatian players complained bitterly to Danish referee Kim Milton Nielsen but the goal stood.  
"My feeling is that the referees in this tournament are protecting the stronger teams a little bit," Croatia coach Otto Barić said.  
France then went for the win, sending on Robert Pires for the rusty-looking Sylvain Wiltord but they could not find a way through and came close to losing the game in injury time.  
Niko Kovač got behind the by-now ragged French defence to cross low for Ivica Morina but the substitute striker somehow struck his close-range shot over the bar.  
Croatia had lost the teams' three previous meetings, including the 1998 World Cup semi-final and at the whistle their fans celebrated as if they had already won the title.

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Russell for more foreigners in NFL

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheikh Russell Krira Chakra has requested the National Football League (NFL) tournament committee to increase the foreign players' quota from two to four.  
"We think it was unwise to allow two foreign players. They should consider the Premier League where clubs were allowed four foreign players," said Sheikh Russell president Noor Alam Chowdhury.  
However, secretary of the NFL Manjur Hossain Malu ruled out the possibility of increasing the numbers.  
"We took the decision after consulting all the clubs."  
Malu, also a deputy general secretary of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), said that they haven't any problem to defer the final round of the league as demanded by some clubs.  
"We can do it but it will hamper TV coverage. We will sit within a couple of days to settle the issue."  
The final round is scheduled to start from July 10 but leading clubs have demanded the league be deferred until the Chittagong league is over.

Rajshahi reach Group A semis

UNB, Dhaka

Rajshahi Division moved into the Group A semifinal of the 21st National Youth (Under-18) Hockey Championship with a 2-0 victory over Gazipur at the Maulana Bhashani National Stadium yesterday.  
The match was locked goalless in the first half.  
Shuvo Kumar put Rajshahi ahead in the 45th minute from a field goal while Selim doubled the margin in the 67th minute, also by a field goal.  
In the day's other matches, Gaibandha defeated Magura 5-2 after leading the first half by 2-0 at the same venue.  
Dinaipur blanked Khulna 4-0 after leading the first half by 1-0.  
Rajshahi got a walkover against Chuadanga to advance in the next match.

Shantoo's challenge



Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Coach Shahidur Rahman Shantoo believes his young charges are capable of defeating the current national football team any given day.  
After a not so memorable experience with the Under-23 side in the ninth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games, the former Bangladesh custodian wants to prove a point and lead his Under-17 team to glory at the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Championship in Japan this September.  
"My boys are not only superior in terms of fitness, I can say with confidence that they can outplay their seniors in every other departments as well," he told The Daily Star Sport at the BKSP on Wednesday.  
Shantoo guided the Under-17 side to the final round of the AFC competition. In the qualifiers, they had won 3-0 (2-0 and 1-0) on aggregate against Kyrgyzstan last October.  
Shantoo felt his forthright statement was a fair assessment of the standards based on what he had seen in the Islamabad SAF Games.

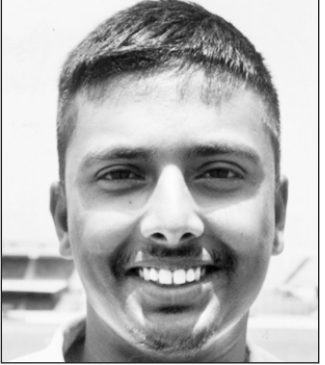
"How can you achieve anything with players who are capable of running for just 40 minutes? Also they have little idea of modern day football. Compare that with the Under-17s who are bundles of energy and can last 150 minutes if necessary," said Shantoo who was originally given charge of the national Under-17 squad last August but had to prepare the senior team for the SAF Games at the request of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF).  
"I believe my boys are real prospects for Bangladesh football. Their shooting, ball control and stamina is unbelievable. They are eager to embrace modern footballing techniques."  
Bangladesh have been pitted in Group D along with Uzbekistan, Qatar and Iraq. The top two finishers will enter the quarterfinals.  
"So far I have given them an idea of our opponents who follow the European style. Our preparation has been good and I'm hopeful that they won't disappoint the country like the national team did in Pakistan," added Shantoo.  
The Under-17 side is expected to fly to Thailand on June 25 or 26 to play four practice matches but Shantoo is keen on more warm-up games.  
"Ideally, we need at least 16

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A sad day for cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Cricket lost a bright and promising player with the tragic death of Tamim Bashir. The 19-year-old Khulna off-spinner's life came to an end at the Renal Hospital in the city yesterday evening.  
He was rushed there from



TAMIM BASHIR

Holy Family Hospital, where he had been admitted unconscious with cerebral malaria on Tuesday, for diagnosis but within a couple of hours of arriving, doctors declared him dead.  
The duty doctor at the Renal hospital told reporters that the young cricketer's kidneys and

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BRIGHT YOUNG GUNS: Coach Shahidur Rahman Shantoo (L) observes the controlling skills of a national under-17 booter during a training session of the Japan bound squad at the Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan (BKSP) on June 17.

Harbhajan has new 'magic ball'



CRICINFO, Bangalore

Harbhajan Singh has warned opposition batsmen to expect a new 'magic ball' when they face him next time.  
Talking to the media during the Indian team's fitness camp in Bangalore, Harbhajan said on Friday:  
"I have been working on a magic ball. I won't tell you [anything more on that]. You will see it definitely ... it is going to be a surprise."  
The 23-year-old Sikh, nicknamed the 'turbanator' after taking 32 wickets in a stunning 2001 home Test series victory against Australia, hasn't played competitive cricket for more than six months due to a finger injury which cut short his tour of Australia. However, he said that he

was now fully fit after following a rehabilitation programme under the guidance of Andrew Leips, the team physiotherapist.  
"I have started bowling since the last one month or so. I am feeling confident the way it's going. I have been working on fitness. Let's see how it works. I just can't wait getting into the middle."  
Talking about his prolonged absence from the game, Harbhajan said: "[Missing out on the series in] Australia was the most frustrating. I wanted to do well there. Unfortunately, I could not play the full series. I just played one Test and got injured," he said. "It was frustrating to sit out and watch."  
Harbhajan also indicated that he would play a few matches for Indian Airlines, his employer, to gain match-practice before the six-team Asia Cup one-day tournament starts in Sri Lanka on July 16.

Woolmer wants Miandad's help

AFP, London

New Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer believes predecessor Javed Miandad can still play a role in the future development of the team.  
"I know Javed is not a happy man at the moment but I would like his input," Woolmer said on Thursday.  
"He would be very important in guiding me on how to run the show."  
Miandad was outraged after the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) terminated his contract 10 months early as punishment for the team's home defeat to bitter rivals India and appointed former England Test batsman Woolmer to take his place.  
Woolmer, a former South Africa coach, hopes Miandad can put his resentment to one side.  
"I played against Javed, I've been to his house in Pakistan for a meal and he would be very important," he told BBC Sport.  
"It's up to him, but along with others in the country his advice would be invaluable."  
"It's up to me to sift through the advice and bring the whole of Pakistan cricket together."

Only as a tourist



AFP, Colombo

Top Sri Lankan spinner Muttiah Muralitharan Friday insisted he would not change his mind on boycotting next month's cricket tour of Australia, but said he harboured no hatred towards Australians.  
Muralitharan, speaking to reporters after signing up with the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) here, said he was adamant not to tour Australia but would visit the country later as a tourist.  
Muralitharan, with a world-record 527 Test wickets to his credit, confirmed Tuesday he would boycott the tour after Australian Prime Minister John Howard had called him a 'chucker'.  
"I have no hatred towards the



MUTTIAH MURALITHARAN

Australian people," he said.  
When asked about Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne's remarks describing him as 'thin-skinned' for opting out of the tour, Muralitharan said: "It is easy for them to say that. Only I know what I have gone through."  
"Cricketers can say anything. Whatever I have achieved today, it has been with great difficulty."  
His letter seeking to be excused from the tour for 'personal reasons' was accepted by Sri Lanka Cricket at an emergency meeting.  
Cricket sources here said Muralitharan feared he could be called for 'chucking' during the Australian tour. His unorthodox bowling action has seen him being no-bowled during previous tours of that country.  
Sri Lanka are scheduled to play two Test matches in Australia in July.  
The 32-year-old cricketer said he was also joining a walk in Colombo Sunday to raise money to help feed children in remote areas of

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PREVIEW NETHERLANDS v CZECH REPUBLIC

Big boys' battle



REUTERS, Oporto

Two big strikers with large reputations are likely to have a major impact on the heavyweight Euro 2004 Group D clash between the Netherlands and the Czech Republic on Saturday.  
In the Dutch corner stands Ruud van Nistelrooy, whose dramatic and brilliantly executed equaliser earned his side a 1-1 draw with Germany in their opening match.  
Standing in the opposite corner is the tallest professional player in

Europe, the 2.02 metres (6ft 8 ins) Jan Koller.  
Van Nistelrooy will lead the Dutch attack alone, while Koller, supported by Milan Baros, will use his great height and under-rated skills on the ground to rattle the Dutch defenders who struggled to cope with Germany's physical approach.  
Live on ESPN at 12:40 am (Sunday)

It would also give them a good chance of a place in the last eight, although much still depends on how Germany fare against outsiders Latvia.  
Group D, comprising three former European champions, was always going to be the toughest and although the Czechs have the slight advantage following their 2-1 win over Latvia, anything is still possible.  
The fact the teams also know each other so well should have a bearing on the outcome. Neither is likely to surprise the other either tactically or psychologically, although the Czechs definitely go into the match in a more confident frame of mind.

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