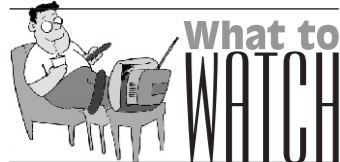




Did U Know?

Germany continued their poor record against European teams at major championship finals. It is eight years since they last beat a European team, in the Euro 96 final against the Czech Republic.

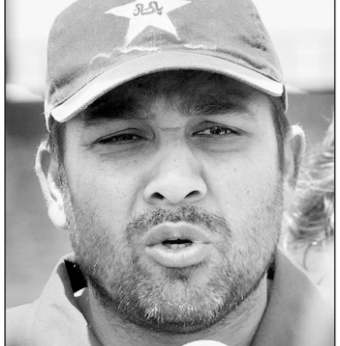


What to WATCH

ESPN
Euro 2004
Italy vs Bulgaria
Repeat at 9:00 am
Denmark vs Sweden
Repeat at 12:30 pm
Euro 2004
Preview Show
Live at 12:00 am (Thursday)
Holland vs Latvia
First Round
Live at 12:40 am (Thursday)
STAR Sports
Wimbledon Championships
First Round
Live at 5:00 pm
Euro 2004
Preview Show
Live at 12:30 am (Thursday)
Germany vs Czech Republic
First Round
Live at 12:40 am (Thursday)



TALK TURKEY



Inzamamul Haq
(Pakistan cricket captain)
"I am hoping he would be able to mould our team into a consistent winning outfit."

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?	Roteiro	Futi	Euroca
5. Who won the French Open men's crown?	Gaudio	Coria	Henman
Name			
Class.....			
School Address			
Phone: (If any)			

Milad for Bashir held in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Khulna District Sports Association (KDSA) yesterday held a milad mahfil for promising cricketer Tamim Bashir who died of cerebral malaria at the Holy Family Hospital in Dhaka on June 18. It was attended by a large number of people including football and cricket players and leaders of all political parties.

Football wins BNS back

SPORTS REPORTER

Cricket will part with the Bangabandhu National Stadium for good after February next year. State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman yesterday told Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) officials, who were more than happy at the news that they will get possession of the premier venue of the country, from March 2005.

Football, however, will have to share the ground with other games with athletics getting a larger share. An athletic track will also be laid at the BNS.

The sports minister is expected to make a formal announcement today at a press briefing to bring an end to a long-running dispute over the ground between the two leading federations of the country.

"The minister called us this morning at his office and said he had successful discussions with top Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) officials last night. "The BCB did not want to disrupt its international commitment at home, which runs until late February," BFF general secretary Anwarul Haque Helal told reporters.

"They (BCB) also mentioned that they have no problem to leave the BNS and settle at Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur but only after Zimbabwe's tour of Bangladesh ends on February 24. The minister agreed to this proposal.

"We now also have the guarantee of staging the final phase of the National Football League in

Dhaka. The BCB will allow us to use the Mirpur Stadium in September. They have told the minister that they will not do any work on the ground during that period and will renovate the adjacent areas of the stadium," added Helal. He also informed that the National Sports Council (NSC) will officially approve the move in its June 27 meeting.

"We have been waiting for long



BFF president SA Sultan (3rd R) hands over a bouquet to State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman yesterday at his office.

Qamar confident



Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Pakistani coach Qamar Ibrahim said that people would be able to feel the difference within six months if he was given the job to serve Bangla-desh hockey.

The 36-year old former Pakistan international, who played in Dhaka for popular club Abahani in 1993, exuded his confidence to reporters yesterday afternoon after he came here to have talks with the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) officials.

Qamar arrived in the capital last morning to negotiate a deal to become a coach of the BHF, which is looking forward to inject fresh blood into a game already in the doldrums.

Although both parties expressed their optimism about reaching an agreement, everything will be decided today following a meeting between State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman and BHF president and Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Fakhrul Azam.

"We are hopeful of securing his services and the only thing we will discuss today is about his status in Bangladesh. He may want to sign as a part-timer, but we are interested to see him as a full-time coach," said BHF general secretary Shamsul Bari, who already had a preliminary discussion with the Pakistani at the federation office.

Qamar informed the reporters that he had refused a lucrative offer from an Australian club for domestic commitment.

"Australia is far away from Pakistan and I have some domestic commitments as well. I can only

maintain this if I am working in Bangladesh," said the handsome stick-wielder, who is a businessman and an employee of PIA.

The former Pakistani right-out believed that he had adequate experience to serve Bangladesh with experiences of one World Cup, two Olympic Games and five Champions' Trophy in an illustrious international career spanning 1986-93.

"I want to work with the young sides and shape up a development structure. I believe if you have a good development structure you will succeed," said Qamar, who denied to make any comment on the current state of Bangladesh national team.

"I watched the Bangladeshi youths play in Karachi last April as an advisor. I saw a lot of potential

and they looked pretty impressive to adopt to anything new which is the key to develop any player. But lack of fitness is one area what we should work hard on," added the confident Qamar, who has recently passed the Level One coaching course of FIH (International Hockey Federation).

Bangladesh finished sixth in the Under-21 Youth Hockey Championship in Karachi where Qamar had two special training sessions with the Bangladeshi boys.

The Pakistani, who is now coaching the National Hockey Club of Karachi, said he would be working with the Bangladesh team with a target of attaining good results in the 2006 Asian Games to be held in Qatar.



Former Pakistani hockey international Qamar Ibrahim shares a laugh with his Abahani pals Khwaja Rahmatullah (L) and Mahbub Harun (R) at the Maulana Bhashani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Russell hangs up gloves



Cricket

AFP, London

Jack Russell, the former England wicketkeeper, announced his retirement from first-class cricket because of a longstanding back problem.

Russell, 40, a one-club man in a career of more than 20 years with Gloucestershire, has had fitness problems for over a year and many expected him to retire at the end of this season.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, Gloucestershire said: "Jack has worked extremely hard to overcome his back injury but recovery is just not to be and unfortunately both he and the club have to accept that he has to call it a day.

"We owe him a massive thank you for his outstanding contribution, his commitment which is second to none. And the tremendous impact he has made to cricket, both here for Gloucestershire and for England.

Russell said: "I've had a magical time, thanks to all the players, coaches and fans who have supported me over the last 20 years.

Russell, who made his Gloucestershire debut in 1981 as a 17-year-old, became one of English cricket's most recognisable figures in his trademark battered old sun-hat.

He was also widely acknowledged a fine wicketkeeper, playing 54 Tests for England between 1988-

98 with 153 catches and 12 stumpings.

Russell also scored 1,897 Test runs at an average of 27.10 including two hundreds but had the misfortune to appear in a generally weak England side.

That meant he was often dropped in favour of Alec Stewart as the selectors tried to cram an



JACK RUSSELL

extra batsman into their fragile top order.

Even so, on the 1995-96 tour of South Africa he broke England predecessor Bob Taylor's record for most catches in a Test match with 11 dismissals at Johannesburg.

It was in the same match that Russell, born Robert Charles but known to everyone as Jack after the dog breed, batted for five hours to

help Michael Atherton save the match.

But with selectorial whim rather than his own form dictating his inclusion, Russell eventually called time on his England career in 1998.

When he left the international arena Godfrey Evans, England's outstanding keeper of the 1940s and 50s, said of Russell's frequent omissions from the national team: "There was a terrible irony about all this: we were the worst Test team in the world and our one player of undeniable world class couldn't get into the side."

However, Russell continued to play with distinction for Gloucestershire. His attacking wicketkeeping, which saw him stand up to the stumpers even to sharp seamers, helped Gloucestershire win six one-day trophies in five seasons between 1999-2003.

Many keepers followed his lead, the aim to put pressure on a batsman and stop him advancing down the wicket.

But few were as good as Russell, who in 465 first-class matches scored 16,861 runs at an average of 30.93 and took 1,192 catches and 128 stumpings.

Before retirement Russell, famously secretive about his address and known for an unconventional diet which at times appeared mainly to consist of tea and baked beans, established a lucrative sideline as an artist and opened his own gallery.

BCB comes clean

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) officially denied allegations of negligence on its part in the tragic death of Tamim Bashir, the young cricketer who died of cerebral malaria on June 18.

It also confirmed that there was no need to form a probe committee to investigate the matter. The Board issued a statement yesterday confirming that its 'fact finding exercise' could not blame the coaching staff of the high performance unit for the death of Bashir.

The BCB interviewed all staff associated with the training squad at BKSP, the member secretary of the medical committee and a member of its development staff on Monday.

Briefly the statement said: "At the outset it must be stated that BCB's sense of support to its cricketers, staff and their families in the hour of need is exemplary and is a matter of public record. The BCB has assisted players such as Gazi Sagor Hossain (Pavel) and Sri Lankan groundsman P R Nandana in the recent past. In the case of Tamim Bashir it has once again demonstrated its willingness to be of support to his family."

It also added that had the BCB known at the early stage of what was eventually diagnosed as malaria, it would have done all possible to ensure Bashir received the best care.

Grieving the loss of a cricketer, the Board has also decided to help Bashir's family through this difficult time.

Youth hockey semis today

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions BKSP will meet Rajshahi and Dhaka take on Jessore in today's semifinals of the 21st National Youth Hockey Championship at the Maulana Bhashani National Hockey Stadium.

BKSP emerged Group A champions after thrashing Jessore 7-0 in their final match at the same venue yesterday.

Nannu scored three goals while Mukit, Shahidul, Masum and Nadir scored one each for the winners who led 2-0 at the break.

In the Group B final, Dhaka recorded an identical victory over Rajshahi after taking a 3-0 first half lead.

Faisal netted thrice, Rubel added two while Jewel and Mustak scored one each for Dhaka.

The final is slated for June 25.

Vivian quit for policy change

BBC ONLINE, undated

Sir Vivian Richards says he resigned as West Indies' chief selector because of a change in policy and because he was not being paid a salary.

The West Indies Cricket Board said Richards quit after agreeing to work for BBC radio this summer. But the batting great said he stepped down because he was going to be stopped from joining the team on overseas tours and because he was only paid expenses.

"It left me a little bit in the water," said the 52-year-old Antiguan.

Following Richards' decision to resign, West Indies cricket chiefs appointed an interim selection committee for two months.

Joey Carew will be chairman of the interim committee, which will also feature Gordon Greenidge and Clyde Butts.

Ctg soccer

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong City Corporation Ekadash jointly shared the top position in the CJKS-Elite Paint Premier Football League with defending champions Mohammed Sporting Club, bagging 12 points each from four matches.

The City Corporation side beat Friends Club by a solitary goal in the day's first match at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

Shahabuddin Tipu netted the all-important goal in the 35th minute of first-half.

Friends Club earned only one point from same number of outings.

In the day's other match, Agrabad Nowjwan Club earned full points beating Customs Sports Club by 2-1 at the same venue.

Lajuk put the Agrabad side in front in 31st minute of the match. But Customs equalised through Rizvi just after one minute.

Khokon Das however sealed the fate of the game in favour of Agrabad in the 22nd minute of the second-half.

Meanwhile, Mohammed Sporting Club and Regency Club won their respective matches on Monday. Mohammed Sporting Club defeated Kalol Sangha 2-0 while Regency defeated Kalol Sangha 1-0.

Shatadal Club will take on Regency Club today.

PREVIEW GERMANY v CZECH REPUBLIC

Remembering Euro 96



REUTERS, Lisbon

Germany will hope to draw inspiration from their last major triumph when they take on the Czech Republic in their must-win Group D match on Wednesday.

Eight years ago they beat the Czechs 2-1 with a 'golden goal' at

Live on STAR Sports at 12:40 am (Thursday)

Wembley to win Euro 96.

After two undistinguished draws in Portugal they need a repeat of that performance to avoid going home from Euro 2004 after the group phase, a fate they suffered four years ago.

It will be a formidable task, however, even if the Czechs, who have already claimed a quarter-final spot with wins over Latvia and the Netherlands, field a weakened team.

Germany's players have shown no fear of failure in the build-up to the match, remaining cool, calm and collected as they set about joining the Czechs in the last eight.

Experienced midfielder Dietmar Hamann, who suffered the bitter disappointment of four years ago when Germany lost to England and Portugal and drew with Romania, is certain there will not be a similar failure.

"This is not the same at all," said the Liverpool player. "This is a different team. The atmosphere is a lot better and the team is a tighter unit with all the players standing closely together."

Hamann's optimism is supported by the views of German coach Rudi Voellern, despite criticism of his side's limited creativity and lack of goals.

"I believe in my players," said Voeller. "I would put my hand in the fire for them and I'm convinced we will go further in this tournament."

"The difference between now and Euro 2000 is that this time our fate is in our own hands. The situation is quite clear," he said. "We have to win and I believe we can."

He added that just because the Czechs are resting players, including midfield inspiration Pavel Nedved, that did not make the task any less demanding.

"I could show you the tape of the final Euro 2000 group game," he said, referring to the 3-0 defeat by Portugal's second string that sent Germany home.

In addition to Nedved Jan Koller, Karel Poborsky and Tomas Rosicky are all expected to be rested while Tomas Galasek, who is carrying a yellow card, will also be left out as the Czech's wily coach Karel Bruckner plans for the quarter-finals.

Voeller, who used two strikers in the dismal 0-0 draw with Latvia, is expected to revert to a more compact system with only one striker, as used against the Netherlands.

That may mean that Bernd Schneider, who looked lost against Latvia, will be replaced by 19-year-old Bastian Schweinsteiger.

London the place to be



AFP, Lisbon

The full range of emotions was on show in one central London pub on Monday as England fell behind to Croatia before securing a 4-2 win which sent them into the quarter-finals of Euro 2004.

Hardly a moment of the match was allowed to pass in silence at the King and Keys pub in London's Fleet Street where many fans had come after work to follow the exploits of David Beckham and the 18-year-old star of the tournament, Wayne Rooney.

Victory had looked far from certain when the Croats took an early lead which yielded predictable curses but Paul Scholes' equaliser five minutes before the break - his first England goal in three years - led to raucous cheers and even screams of delight.

But amidst the celebrations there was a mood of pessimism for much of the match based on painful experience that engulfs many England fans even when their side is doing well.

England have not won a major football tournament since lifting the World Cup on home soil back in 1966 and at 1-1 there was still all to play for in Lisbon.

However, teenage sensation Rooney's goal shortly before half-time made it 2-1 and eased nerves.

"That's another five million pounds on his price," said one bar-room wit, his comments echoing the thoughts of many observers who expect the 18-year-old Everton striker to be sold to one of England's big clubs such as Manchester United or Chelsea after the tournament.

Half-time came with England 2-1 ahead and builder Paul Smith was quietly confident about his team's chances.

"I was concerned when they scored but not too concerned. Rooney's playing brilliantly and I think he'll get a hat-trick," he told AFP.

His prediction appeared to be coming true when Rooney made it 3-1 in the 68th minute with a long-range shot although Eriksson's decision to substitute the 'boy wonder' soon afterwards ended hopes of a hat-trick.



JOY UNBOUNDED: Fans are absolutely ecstatic in the streets of South London on June 21 after watching England beat Croatia 4-2 to qualify for the quarterfinals of the Euro 2004.

Sluggish Serena thru'



REUTERS, London

Champion Serena Williams clambered past a dogged Chinese baseliner but fellow former world number one Marat Safin fell at the first hurdle as a chill wind blew over Wimbledon on Tuesday.

While top seed Williams was gingerly navigating her way past Zheng Jie 6-3, 6-1 on a windswept Centre Court -- a struggle not reflected in the scoreline -- the burly Safin was beaten 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 7-6 by com-patriot Dmitry Tursunov.

But Mark Philippoussis will be relieved to be back on grass. The

Australian, runner-up here last year, notched his first tournament match win since January when he beat Belgian qualifier Christophe Rochus 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

Ranked 70th in the world, Tursunov was playing his first match at Wimbledon and put in an assured display on court two.

Safin was tormented to the point of fury and moaned and groaned his way out of the grasscourt Grand Slam, clattering 39 unforced errors on his way.

"I tried to be really serious here, to really prepare myself but Wimbledon...it's not my surface, it's not my territory...it's like I didn't play this tournament," the 19th seed said.

Williams was equally errant in

her match against another debutant Zheng.

She blasted 24 unforced errors, more than twice her opponent's number, in a match of great highs and lows.

Some of her blasted groundstrokes were breathtaking, others were hard to watch. The American's last match on grass was in the final here last year when she beat elder sister Venus. She missed the rest of that season with a knee injury and returned from an eight-month lay-off in Miami in March.

Russian sixth seed Elena Dementieva suffered a shock first round exit, falling 6-4 1-6 6-4 to Sandra Kleinova of the Czech Republic.