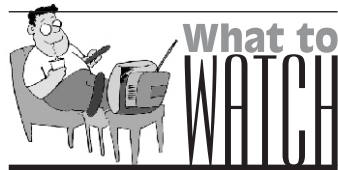




## Did U Know?

The first opening ceremonies were held during the 1908 Olympic Games in London.



### BTV

Nitol-Tata Nat'l Football League  
Muktijoddha vs BU Panchagarh  
Live at 4:00 pm

### ESPN

Asia Cup Cricket 2004  
India vs Sri Lanka (Final)  
Repeat at 10:30 am

### Sportscentre

Live at 8:30 pm

### STAR Sports

Sportsline

Live at 8:00 pm

### TEN Sports

Sri Lanka vs South Africa  
Second Test, Day One  
Live at 10:30 am



### Andre Agassi

(American tennis star)  
"It's pretty amazing. It's overwhelming. I have been having a bit of a struggle most of this year. There's no way to describe how it feels right now."  
After winning the Cincinnati Masters title.



1. Who clinched the national tennis men's crown?	Pasia	Amal	Murad
2. How many Test wickets has Shane Warne taken?	519	527	434
3. Who won the Wimbledon men's title?	Agassi	Federer	Henman
4. Who lifted the Wimbledon women's crown?	Serena	Sharapova	Venus
Name .....			
Class. .... Roll No. ....			
School Address .....			
Phone: (If any) .....			

## Pioneer soccer

### SPORTS REPORTER

Gazipur Ekadash will take on Nawabpur KC in the opening match of the Shinepukur Ceramics Pioneer Football League second phase at the Kamlapur Stadium today.

Ten qualifiers split into two groups are competing in the second phase.

The teams: Group A: Gazipur Ekadash, Dhaka Junior SC, Islampur Uttaran SC, Jirabo SC, Nawabpur SC; Group B: Great Wall SC, Mahanagar SC, Friends SWO, RND KC and Dipta Tarunya FA.



PHOTO: STAR

IT'S ALL ABOUT PARTNERSHIP: Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore (C) briefs his two openers Javed Omar (L) and Mohammad Ashraful (R) on the opening day of the national camp for the ICC Champions Trophy at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

## Tigers get rolling



### SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh cricket team began its preparation for the ICC Champion's Trophy yesterday morning.

Only ten cricketers of the 14-member squad were available to coach Dav Whatmore on day one and Whatmore had his work cut out as he had to perform the trainer's role also in the absence of Justin Cordy who is indisposed.

Even physio John Gloster was unavailable as he was out of the country. Computer analyst and former national wicket keeper Nasir Ahmed Nasu was seen assisting the coach.

"This is just a temporary problem which will be sorted out soon," said Whatmore of the trainer-less state.

On the first day, ace spinner Mohammad Rafique missed out as he

was attending his sick mother. Three other players Nafees Iqbal, Aftab Ahmed and Nazmul Hossain were in England and playing the second under-19 Test against the home team in Taunton, Somerset.

The Tigers will train at home for two weeks before they head off to England on the 26th of this month and captain Habibul Bashar said that they have set a goal to improve their overall batting to get over the disappointment of the Asia Cup.

"We have emphasised on net practice and there will be eight sessions to improve our batting," said the country's top batsman.

"We want to forget about the Sri Lankan nightmare. It was a series where nothing went right. But you have to realise that we are not an established side like India or Pakistan. So our performance will not be consistent always," Bashar said while talking to reporters at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

"We are looking forward to the ICC Champions Trophy to regain our

confidence because we will need it before the busy home season," he added.

Bangladesh have happy memories of England as they secured two ODI wins from five matches played there during the 1999 World Cup including the stunner against Pakistan. But the captain said his priority was to keep the team's focus on their own game rather than thinking of the opposition or past victories.

"We are not thinking about winning or losing or even about the opposition. We have to think about our game first. That is the only way for us to if we want to get out of the current dip."

Bashar was pleased with the side given to him and was expecting the three U-19 boys to deliver.

"The selectors had discussed the team with me over phone and I have no complaints. I hope the fresh faces solve the problem with our batting. Even if they can not do it in this tournament, they have the potential to serve the side for a long time."

## U-19s 202-8 at tea

### SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Under-19 team limped to 202-8 at tea on the opening day of the second Test against the England Under-19s at Taunton in Somerset yesterday.

It was a stunning reversal of fortune for the tourists two days after the same side piled up a massive 535 against the ECB Development squad in a two-day practice match.

Richard McInnes' boys showed the same symptoms of collapsing early like their seniors when they slumped to 84-4 before a fifth-wicket stand of 68 runs between Nazimuddin and Nadif Chowdhury steadied the rocking boat.

The team went to lunch at 123 for four but they suffered another mini collapse in the second session.

Opener Nafees Iqbal, who plundered a double century a couple of days ago, was his erratic best. He scored a quickfire 27 off 29 balls but then push the self-destruct button.

His opening partner Shahriar Nafees (26) also wasted a good start.

Nadif Chowdhury top-scored with 36 and Nazimuddin made 35.

Wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim salvaged the innings with a plucky unbeaten 30 off 74 balls. Paceman Shahdat Hossain was batting on nine with Rahim before the tea interval.

Bangladesh lost the first Test (four-day) by five wickets.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the first day of the second Test between Bangla-desh U-19 and England U-19 at the County Ground in Taunton on Tuesday:

<b>BANGLADESH U-19:</b> First innings	
Shahriar c Patel b Harrison	26
Nafees c Denly b Harrison	27
Aftab c Davies b Bopara	12
Dhiman c Davies b Bopara	11
Nazimuddin lbw b Bopara	35
Nadif c Patel b Turner	36
Mushfiqur not out	30

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

## SL recall Fernando

### REUTERS, Colombo

Sri Lanka recalled paceman Dilhara Fernando to their 14-man squad on Tuesday for the ICC Champions Trophy in England next month.

Fernando, 25, replaces middle-order batsman Thilina Kandamby in the only change to Sri Lanka's victorious Asia Cup squad.

Chairman of selectors Ashantha de Mel believes the addition of a fifth fast bowler will give skipper Marvan Atapattu more options in England.

"Dilhara has been bowling well in the nets ... with Lasith Malinga still inexperienced, Dilhara's inclusion gives the four selectors a better option," de Mel told reporters.

"We expect the top six batsmen to score the runs which leaves the seventh spot for an all-rounder, either Farveez Maharoof or Upul Chandana."

Fernando, who has appeared in 57 one-day internationals, has been plagued by back injuries since breaking into the Sri Lankan squad four years ago.

Sri Lanka will take on Zimbabwe (Sept. 14) and hosts England (Sept. 17) in Pool D of the Champions Trophy.

### SQUAD

Marvan Atapattu (captain), Sanath Jayasuriya, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Chaminda Vaas, Farveez Maharoof, Lasith Malinga, Muttiah Muralitharan, Nuwan Zoysa, Dilhara Fernando, Saman Jayantha, Avishka Gunawardene, Upul Chandana.

## Hart quits cricket

### REUTERS, Auckland

Former New Zealand wicketkeeper Robbie Hart announced his retirement from cricket on Tuesday.

The 29-year-old played 11 Tests and two one-day internationals for the Kiwis.

Hart scored 260 Test runs with a highest score of 57 not out against West Indies in Grenada.

As captain of Northern Districts, Hart hit 2,893 first-class runs with a highest score of 127 not out.



Nitol-Tata Nat'l Football League  
Muktijoddha vs BU Panchagarh  
(4:00 pm)  
Venue: Khulna Stadium

# Jhenidah owe it to Pikul

### SPORTS REPORTER



A double strike by Rezaul Hakim Pikul gave Jhenidah Mohammedan Sporting Club an outside chance of earning a place in the super six phase of the Fourth Nitol-Tata

National Football League with a 2-0 victory against Bangladesh Air Force at the Khulna Stadium yesterday.

This was the second consecutive win for the Jhenidah black and whites who pushed their collection six points from four matches.

Jhenidah Mohammedan now must beat group leaders Brothers Union in their last match in the Chittagong leg to topple Mohammedan and Sheikh Russel KC in the table.

On the other hand, a third defeat in four outings ensured the airmen's exit from the meet as they have three points.

The Khulna pitch looked like a paddy field yesterday after a heavy

downpour, especially after the first match between Chandpur Najirpara Kriira Chakra and Narshingdi Kararchar Kriira Chakra which Najirpara won 4-1.

The Khulna-leg will end today with the holders Muktijoddha Sangsad meeting Panchagarh Brothers Union.

### JHENIDAH MSC V BAF

It was very difficult for the Jhenidah black and whites to play their usual game on the water-soaked ground against an opponent who showed superior physical strength.

Fresh from a 2-0 victory against Bagerhat Unmochan Club in the previous match, Mohammedan overcame the hurdle switching to long passes and Pikul delighted them once in each half, scoring in the 38th and 11th minute after the break.

Later the young Jhenidah striker was adjudged man-of-the-match.

### NAJIRPARAV KARARCHAR

Syed Hossain Surat and Mamun struck twice as Najirpara outclassed Kararchar 4-1 to secure their first

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

## Faridpur meet Army in final

### SPORTS REPORTER

Faridpur District Sports Association (DSA) prevented an all-service teams' final when they edged Bangladesh Navy 1-0 in the first semifinal of the ANAS Group National Hockey Championship yesterday to set a final clash against Bangladesh Army.

Captain Issa Mia separated the two sides in the 49th minute at the Maulana Bhashani National Stadium when the national defender converted their sixth penalty corner to justify their domination in the match.

Faridpur's opposition in tomorrow's final Army, who showed the door to outgoing champions Dhaka DSA on Monday, eliminated last year's runners-up Dhaka University after a hard-fought 2-1 win in the second semifinal.

The match came alive just after the start with Army taking the lead in the very first minute through a field goal by Jamal. Sanwar doubled the lead five minutes later but Rahul brought Dhaka University back into the contest with a 12th minute strike.

Dhaka University pressed hard for an equaliser afterwards but paid the penalty for not availing any of their six penalty corners.

# Olympic grannies

### REUTERS, Athens



A sharp-shooting Australian grandmother, an Indian weightlifter and stars such as Martina Navratilova and Merlene Ottey

are among an array of women lining up at the Athens Olympics to prove age is no barrier to success. Annette Woodward, 56, will be the oldest female competitor at the Games when she

takes part in the 25 meter pistol event.

Woodward only took up shooting after being inspired by the performance of a compatriot in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

"You just fall into these things. I didn't start this aiming to be the oldest at anything," she told reporters in Athens.

"I'm hoping that my being here will inspire other women to get out there."

The radiographer from Victoria has won three Commonwealth gold medals but missed out on the 2000 Sydney Olympics, having retired in

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4



PHOTO: AFP

Members of the Japanese synchronized swimming team perform during a training session in Athens three days before the beginning of the 2004 Olympic Games. The Games will open on August 13.

# Real cool on Owen



### REUTERS, Madrid

Reports linking Michael Owen with Real Madrid were greeted sceptically in the Spanish capital on Tuesday -- a fact that will be of little comfort to Liverpool fans anxious about the England forward's possible departure.

British newspapers claimed overnight that Real were willing to pay 10 million pounds (\$18.41 million) in cash for Owen while sending Fernando Morientes or Real Mallorca's Samuel Eto'o -- a player they part own -- to Anfield in a package deal.

A Real spokeswoman said on Tuesday the club had nothing to say about the story, while Spanish media were uncharacteristically reluctant to take up the tale.

Marca, one of two Spanish sports dailies with close links to Real, did note the rumours but said Real directors had flatly denied to them any interest in signing Owen, a former European Player of the Year.



MICHAEL OWEN

name signings, Luis Figo, Ronaldo and Zinedine Zidane, before they were poached from their clubs.

The Real president has promised to continue with his policy of signing one 'galactico' per season.

Argentine centre back Walter Samuel, signed from Roma for 25 million euros (\$30.68 million), and Arsenal's France midfielder Patrick Vieira, the club's current target, do not quite fit the bill and newspapers are convinced Perez will move for another top class forward.

Owen would certainly fit that description and a transfer fee of about 15 million euros would make him a bargain.

Real coach Jose Antonio Camacho would hardly be delighted by his arrival, though. Camacho has gone on record as saying he does not want any more forwards, pleading instead for defensive players to balance the team.

Camacho already has two undroppable strikers in Ronaldo and Raul so, even if Morientes were used as a makeweight in the deal, Owen would not be assured of a regular place in the starting lineup.



PHOTO: STAR

Faridpur forward Hasan (R) gets the ball past Navy defender Islam during their National Hockey Championship semifinal at the Maulana Bhashani National Stadium yesterday.