



## Did U Know?

This is the fourth ICC Champions Trophy and the defending champions are India and Sri Lanka, who shared the title in 2002 after rains in Colombo washed out the final.

## What to WATCH

**BTV**  
ICC Champions Trophy  
Australia vs USA  
Live at 3:15 pm

**TEN Sports**  
ICC Champions Trophy  
Australia vs USA  
Live at 3:15 pm

**ESPN**  
Primera Liga  
Barcelona vs Sevilla  
Repeat at 3:30 pm  
Sportscentre  
Live at 8:30 pm

**STAR Sports**  
Sportline  
Live at 8:00 pm  
English Premier Football League  
Southampton vs Charlton Athletic  
Live at 12:55 am (Tuesday)



**Javed Miandad**  
(Former Pakistan cricket captain)  
"The tournament is being organised at the time when most games will be disrupted by weather. The event is only being held because it had to be organised. There is no other objective except to earn money."  
While criticising the scheduling of the ICC Champions Trophy at this time of year in England.

## 'Small teams need help'

AFP, Southampton  
India captain Sourav Ganguly has called on the International Cricket Council (ICC) to help out smaller cricketing nations such as Kenya by giving them extra international fixtures.  
Kenya had not played a one-day international for nearly 18 months prior to Saturday's 98-run defeat by India here on Saturday in the Champions Trophy.  
Zimbabwe are in turmoil and  
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## School b'ball

SPORTS REPORTER  
Maple Leaf and St Gregory's recorded effortless wins in yesterday's AKTEL school basketball tournament at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium.  
Maple Leaf dumped St Jude's 5-9 while Gregory's outplayed BAF Shaheen School Kurmitola in the boys' matches.  
Sunnyside received walkover against Bangladesh International School in the day's lone girls' fixture.

# Too many questions



BISHWAJIT ROY, from Birmingham

Bangladesh think-tank has a history of keeping everybody guessing when it comes to choosing a team. And more often than not when they announce the final roster nobody gets it right.

The funny selection policy became a talking point at Edgbaston on Sunday when coach Dav Whatmore surprisingly dropped experienced all-rounder Khaled Mahmud for the match against South Africa.

There were whisperings on Saturday night that the former Bangladesh captain might be overlooked in favour of fellow all-rounder Mushfiqur Rahman, who according to many is the coach's first choice.

But the manner in which Mushfiq was picked ahead of Mahmud certainly raises questions about the selection policy.

Mahmud has been in good touch with the ball during the build up games and more importantly he has got the highest batting average (24) among the Bangladeshi cricketers in matches against South Africa. Mushfiq on the other hand played only half a match during the six warm-up games before being named for the Tigers' ICC Champions Trophy opener without knowing whether he had fully recovered from a groin injury he had been carrying for a long time.

May be Mahmud's omission mattered little in the end since the batting was again in shambles, but the question remains does Bangladesh have a selection policy?

"It is unfortunate that Chacha (Khaled Mahmud) was ultimately dropped. His batting performance

might not be as good as one expects from an all-rounder but there was no doubt about his bowling in recent times. Moreover Mahmud is experienced in English conditions," said a member of the Bangladesh team preferring anonymity.

He also said that had Mahmud not missed the practice match against Scotland early this month might have avoided the four-wicket defeat against the ICC associate member nation.

But most of the cricketers termed the practice of announcing the team at the last minute as unnecessary.

"There is no need to keep the players on their toes unless it was absolutely essential. It hardly matters if the team is announced a day before. We should stop the bad practice," said another cricketer.

Whatmore however did not feel the need to answer any questions since he deliberately skipped the post-match briefing.

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## TROPHY TREATS

BISHWAJIT ROY, from Birmingham

Despite a disastrous performance by the Bangladesh cricket team at least the fans came in numbers to cheer them on.

And even though they tried to make it a home away from home at the 21,000-capacity Edgbaston ground with the constant beating of drums and loud cries of "Shabash Bangladesh" each time a run was scored. But nothing worked as the Tigers eventually collapsed to their lowest-ever total against South Africa in one-day cricket.

Soon frustration set in as the crowd watched a procession of wickets fall.

"We bought our ticket six months ago and were eagerly waiting for this day but they really disappointed us," said 15-year-old Ripon who is a cricket crazy fan unlike youngsters of his generation in Birmingham.

Before the match began Bangladesh flags sold like hot cakes at the entrance of the stadium.

"We love our country so much we bought the most expensive flag which cost \$5. But money is no issue if only our boys could play good cricket against the South Africans," said Shamim who took two days off in order to travel to Birmingham from London.

**TAIBU RELISHES**

## BD TEST SERIES

Zimbabwe captain Tatenda Taibu has said that his young side is keen to make their mark in the international cricket when they tour to Bangladesh in January 2005 after a one-year ban from Test cricket ends.

The wicketkeeper-batsman made the remark while talking to some Bangladeshi reporters at the team's hotel.

Zimbabwe are scheduled to play two Tests and five one-day internationals.

"We are looking forward to the series because it will be an evenly-matched contest with both teams trying to regain their confidence," said the pint-sized Taibu who took over the captaincy in the wake of Heath Streak's resignation.

Taibu said that he would also welcome the return of the rebel players. "It would be good news for us if they came back especially Heath Streak."

Asked if being captain was a burden, He didn't believe it. "Since I love the game it's not affecting my captaincy."

Taibu did not consider Bangladesh to be a tough opponent. "I regularly followed Bangladesh's cricket and I think they are yet to show that they are bigger than us," he added.

## BANGLADESH-SA SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the ICC Champions Trophy Pool B match between Bangladesh and South Africa at Edgbaston in Birmingham on Sunday:

| BANGLADESH   |     |   |    |   |
|--|-----|---|----|---|
| Omar lbw b Langeveldt  | 4   |   |    |   |
| Ashraf c Kallis b Langeveldt   | 4   |   |    |   |
| Iqbal c Gibbs b Boje   | 40  |   |    |   |
| Saleh c van Jaarsveld b Langeveldt   | 0   |   |    |   |
| Aftab c Boucher b Pollock  | 0   |   |    |   |
| Mashud c Smith b Boje  | 24  |   |    |   |
| Manjharul b Boje   | 1   |   |    |   |
| Mushfiq c Boje b Ntini   | 0   |   |    |   |
| Rafique c Boje b Ntini   | 0   |   |    |   |
| Baisya c Boucher b Ntini   | 5   |   |    |   |
| Nazmul not out   | 1   |   |    |   |
| Extras: (lb-7, w-5, nb-2)  | 14  |   |    |   |
| Total: (All out in 31.3 overs)   | 93  |   |    |   |
| Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-15, 3-15, 4-20, 5-63, 6-71, 7-72, 8-72, 9-80                     |     |   |    |   |
| Bowler   |     |   |    |   |
| Pollock  | 6   | 1 | 15 | 1 |
| Langeveldt   | 7   | 0 | 17 | 3 |
| Ntini  | 9   | 2 | 19 | 3 |
| Klusener   | 3   | 1 | 12 | 0 |
| Boje   | 6.3 | 0 | 23 | 3 |
| SOUTH AFRICA   |     |   |    |   |
| Smith not out  | 42  |   |    |   |
| Gibbs b Tapash Baisya  | 4   |   |    |   |
| Kallis not out   | 40  |   |    |   |
| Extras: (b-5, w-2, nb-1)   | 8   |   |    |   |
| Total: (For 1 wkt in 17.5 overs)   | 94  |   |    |   |
| Fall of wicket: 1-15   |     |   |    |   |
| Did Not Bat: Rudolph, Van Jaarsveld, Boucher, Pollock, Klusener, Boje, Langeveldt, Ntini |     |   |    |   |

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TOP LEVEL DANCE: Nafees Iqbal, the only Bangladesh batsman to stand among the ruins with a solid 40, here gets into an awkward position while negotiating a lifting delivery during the ICC Champions Trophy match against South Africa at Edgbaston yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Div II chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajbari, Dolphin Chess Club, Mitra Chess Club and Uttara Central Chess Club got off to a flying start when they collected full points on the opening day of the Metropolitan Second Division Chess League which commenced at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room yesterday.

Rajbari blanked Notre Dame Chess Club 4-0, Mitra drubbed Dristi Protbandhi Club by the same margin while Uttara Central and Dolphin recorded identical wins over Auto Parts Merchants Association and Titas Club.

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# Naimuddin's parting grace



Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Brothers Union coach Syed Naimuddin hosted a dinner in honour of his Premier Division and National Football League (NFL) double winning team on Saturday night.

Talking to reporters present on the occasion at a local hotel, the former Indian national team coach, who masterminded the Gopibagh outfit's revival by handing them their maiden Dhaka Premier League and

NFL trophies this season, hoped that the club would realise that they have now become torch bearers of Bangladesh's football.

"They have to be careful so that they can maintain this standard. They will need the same spirit because as national champions, they will now represent the country in AFC (Asian Football Confederation) competitions," said Naimuddin who has declared that leading Brothers to the two titles have been his biggest achievements at club level as a coach.

"I had a good set of footballers who kept their commitment. They

not only played well but also looked determined to achieve their goal. Also, the officials were sincere in their support which brought the best out of the players.

"The way they have played throughout the season, I think they have the capability to do well in the AFC championships. But it will have to be a similar and combined effort of hard work to be competitive at the Asian level," said Naimuddin who also took the opportunity to express his desire to prolong the wedlock with Brothers.

"I am returning home a happy

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# Federer-Hewitt finale

REUTERS, New York



US OPEN 2004

the duo marched into the US Open final.

World number one Federer, bidding to become the first man to win three grand slams in the same year since Swede Mats Wilander in 1988, dismissed British fifth seed Tim Henman 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

Earlier, 2001 champion Hewitt extinguished the fire of Sweden's Joachim Johansson with a clinical display of percentage tennis to win 6-4, 7-5, 6-3.

Swede Johansson, the boyfriend of Hewitt's sister Jaslyn, took his ace tally for the tournament to 123

as he boomed 17 thunderbolts past Hewitt, but the Australian ruthlessly pounced on his opportunities when they came along.

The first came as 28th seed Johansson's forehand temporarily deserted him at 4-5, allowing Hewitt to take control.

Fourth seed Hewitt was rarely threatened in the second set, biding his time before breaking Johansson in the 12th game, prompting a trademark fist pump.

The former world number one managed a single break in the third set to wrap up a routine victory and reach his first grand slam final since winning Wimbledon in 2002.

"It's awkward playing somebody you know, and who you hit with regularly, but you just have to put your professional hat on when you

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FOUR AND NO MORE: Mohammad Ashraf (L) takes the road back to the pavilion after scoring only four runs while the South Africans celebrate his dismissal.

PHOTO: AFP