

Sport

The Daily Star

School b'balll **Boys' first** semi today

SPORTS REPORTER

Title aspirants Green Herald and Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishthan (BKSP) will face each other in the first boys' semifinal of the AKTEL school basketball tournament at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium today

Green Herald's massive 116-29 win over Sunbeams in the second quarterfinal yesterday was shaped by Raja when the tournament's top scorer caged 50 points. Kinnar followed him with 25.

St Gregory's reached the semifinal after they outplayed Fariduddin Siddiki School 90-53 in the third quarterfinal. Maola and Pankaj maintained their impressive run scoring 28 and 23 points respectively for the winners

Earlier, BKSP eliminated Dhanmondi Tutorial 114-23 in the first quarterfinal on Tuesday.

Cricket goes French!

This past weekend, teams from

At a semifinal pitting the France-

Gymkhana team from the Paris area

against the Entrecasteaux club from

southern France, a small cluster of

experience in perfect French.

across the country gathered in Saint-Astier for the final rounds of

the French cricket championships.

Cannon recalls.

battleground.

- and French.

AFP, Saint-Astier (France)

The large British expatriate community in the Dordogne region brough its love for cricket to southwest France many years ago, but is now

finally converting locals to the sport. Mady Bissey, president of the Aquitaine Softball and Cricket League (LABSC), readily admits that the sport -- with its lengthy matches, arcane rules and strict codes of conduct -- "is not part of

French culture" "But the English are willing to share their passion for the game with us. And it's catching," she explains.

Eddie Cannon, a British national who lived in Hong Kong for 28 years, helped kickstart the French cricket craze in 1989 when he decided to retire in the Dordogne, an inviting rural region known for its foie gras and Bergerac wines.

'One night in a pub in Perigueux, we decided to get a team together to play against neighboring Eymet" --

which had formed a club a few years sphere, the players dressed ir before -- "for just one match," white, the tea -- it's all part of the experience." he explains. But Hackett rejects the idea that "We won and so we said to

ourselves. 'We have to start a club'." playing cricket in the Dordogne is a Cannon bought a three-hectare nostalgic way for expatriates to get (seven-and-a-half-acre) plot of land. in touch with their homeland. and thus the Cricket Club of Saintdescribing the phenomenon as a passion shared by the British and Astier was born. Wedged between a corn field and housing estate, the the French. lush green pitch is now a sporting

The number of card-carrying cricket players is on the rise in the Dordogne, according to Bissey Most of them are still British, but the French are quickly making themselves known on the club rosters.

In the town of Arudy in France's Basque country near the Spanish border, for example, a new club just formed -- made up mainly of French players.

fans cheered in English, Urdu (the "Cricket is also being played in Paris players are mainly Pakistanis) schools," Bissey says. And last year, Peter Hackett, the secretary for the European under-15 cricket tournament was held in Saint-Astier, the Saint-Astier club, sums up the shining the local spotlight on a sport "It's an elegant, aesthetically that is gradually gaining a foothold in pleasing sport. The pitch, the atmo-

Goals galore in

varsity soccer SPORTS REPORTER

There was goal feast on the third day of the Stamford inter-private university football tournament with as many as 20 goals scored in two matches at the Army Stadium vesterday.

Johnny slammed four goals as Asian University handed Manarat University a thumping 10-1 defeat the day's first match

Khalil and Rokon added two goals each for the winners while Moni -- adjudged man-of-the-match -- scored one.

Gono Bishwabidyalya thrashed Royal University 9-0 to brighten their semifinal hopes. Goalkeeper Sohrab won the man-of-the-match trophy.

Gono Bishwabidyalaya ended their two group matches with four points but they will have to wait for the result of the match between Northern University and Royal University to know if they qualify for the semis.

Stamford will take on Independent University while North South take on IBAIS in today's matches.

3 chase BFF post

SPORTS REPORTER

Three nominations have been submitted for the vacant post of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) vice-president (senior) before

yesterday's deadline. The three candidates are former BFF treasurer Shamimuzzaman Bosunia, Mohammedan Sporting Club's hockey committee president

Monir Ahmed and BRTC chairman Taimur Alam Khondokar The last date of withdrawal is September 25 and the election will be held on October 7 following the annual general meeting of the BFF. The post fell vacant in March

when BFF senior vice-president Khairul Anwar Pearu was shot dead by gunmen at the Dhanmondi Club premises

Wimbledon winner Maria Sharanova scorched Russian compatriot Tatiana Panova 6-1, 6-1 Wednesday to kick-start her campaign at the China Open and book a place in the quarter-finals. The 17-year-old third seed

China Open yesterday.

Tennis

AFP, Beijing

earned only her sixth victory since her grass-court Grand Slam triumph last July, following a patchy return to action following the post-Wimbledon euphoria.

But there was no mistaking the force and power of the Sharapova game as she blasted into her sixth

The win was the second in 2004 in the rival city of Shanghai from for Sharpova over her country-

Wimbledon queen Maria Sharapova of Russia hits a backhand against compatriot Tatiana Panova during their second round match at the

Sharapova starts in style

guarterfinal of the season

2000-2003. Argentine sixth seed Gisela woman. She took a victory seven months ago in Memphis when Dulko moved into the last eight as Panova retired injured in the first she defeated Maria Vento-Kabchi of /enezuela 6-4, 6-4.

at this re-branded tournament, held

PHOTO: AFF

The win boosts the Floridabased world number nine from runner-up to Sharapova at Siberia to 36-12 this season, with Wimbledon, was to play her first titles at Birmingham as well as career match in the evening against Wimbledon.

Conditions were perfect at the Beijing tennis centre, site for the 2008 Olympic Games.

"The fast court suited my game better," said Sharapova. "I just played my game today.' Sharapova, who recently signed

a lucrative perfume endorsement reached the quarterfinals a year ago

Russian Dinara Safina, whose elder brother Marat Safin won the men's title here at the weekend. Russia's US Open champion

Svetlana Kuznetsova, who backed up that honour by winning in Bali on Sunday, opens in the second round on Thursday against China's qualifier Na Li

Top seed Serena Williams,

Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 13

common criteria for all members regardless the standard what made the problem," said Mani adding that the ICC decision to withdraw its development support to Bangla-desh after getting Test status was

wrong. "What was happening before Bangladesh got ICC full membership our High Performance development programme was putting a lot of resources to Bangladesh but once they became full member we stayed back and I think that was a mistake. We should have continued to support that programme," he said.

"They need to play more threeday and four-day matches on the regular basis but that's not happen-" Mani said

When asked whether he could

"It is too early to speculate

give an outline of the real plan, Mani

turned his focus to the experts, who

because the review of the structure of

cricket is still going on. A group of

calculating the information and after

that they will also assess the eco-

"We will get a full report at the

executive meeting in Pakistan next

month. But I suspect that will only be

the beginning of a long discussion

for the better arrangement of the

Slow recovery

nomic feasibility as well."

were still working on it.

Together they run into record books

AFP. Athens

When Kenyan Henry Wanyoike, blind since he was 21, comes thundering down the track for the final sprint of a 10,000 meter race, he is tethered body and soul to his seeing-eye shadow-runner Joseph Kibunja Gachui.

No other relationship in sports is like that of runner and guide.

"Everything we do, we do together," says James.

The prowess of this particular pair of joined-at-the-wrist athletes, both 30, was on display at the Athens Paralympics on Sunday, where Wanyoike axed nearly a minute off his own world record in

the 10,000 metre run, clocking 31 minutes and 37.25 seconds. The Paralympics, which run until September 28, is the world's pre-

mier event for disabled elite athletes, and covers 19 sports including athletics. The silver medallist on Sunday

straggled across the finish line almost two minutes later, a typical lag time when Wanyoike is in the race.

For a sighted runner, the absence of someone nipping at one's heels removes a critical incentive that can push a top athlete toward a new record.

Wanyoike may consistently leaves the field behind, but he does not have this problem.

"Sometimes Joseph cheats me," he says, breaking into a radiant grin. "He says 'Watch out! There is someone right behind you, pick up but in reality

an elite corps of athletes in a country that has probably produced more world-class middle-distance runners over the last twenty years than any country on earth. He excelled at the 5,000 and 10,000-metre distances, and the sky seemed the

limit. In 1995, he had a mild stroke. He seemed to be recovering nicely, but then disaster struck.

"I went to bed a normal person, the following day I found myself in darkness.

thought of never being able to run again was already unbearable, but it is worse than that

"I thought my life had come to an

Years passed before he was entered in a small pilot programme in 1999 at a nearby hospital that, by chance, had one of the best centers

for the visually impaired in East Africa. Henry remembers the day when he mentioned to a doctor that he had once been a good runner. "The doctor said I could still run if

I wanted to." Henry recalls. excitement creeping into his voice. "I did not believe him. I made him

Henry's despair was total. The

read an article out loud," explaining how it works. A blind runner is connected to a quide by a tether, which the guide

uses to subtly indicate -- without breaking stride -- when to turn, accelerate or avoid an obstacle, whether on the track or on the road, as in a marathon.

Once Henry got the used to working with guides, he quickly established himself as a world class non-sighted runner, earning a spot on the national squad for the 5000 meter race at the Sydney Paralympics in 2000.

He became so good, in fact, that he ran into another problem. "In Sydney, I dragged my guide

for the last 50 metres," Henry recalls. Despite the handicap of a guide that couldn't keep up, he not only won the gold but set a Paralympic record too

And this is where James comes back into the picture.

It might seem next to impossible that a young man with no athletic experience could bring himself up to near international levels by sheer willpower, and that he would do so not to launch his own career as a runner but to help a friend. But that is exactly what James did.

James does not seem perturbed by the thought of what he might have accomplished if he had decided to pursue his own career as a runner, but he admits that he had to make a choice. "I realized I could not do both," he says.

After Henry's -- or perhaps one should say Henry's and James' -stunning victory in the 10,000-metre event at Athens, they have their collective sights set on the 5,000 metres race on Friday.

Before Henry went blind, he dreamed of great achievements on the track.

Paralympic dopers

AFP, Athens

BCCI official Ratnakar Shettty scoffed at Zee's claim, saying "there was no contractual obligation as such."

"A draft letter of intent had been exchanged by both parties. It was not a confirmation letter since Zee emselves were not agreeable to certain clauses.

The Board of Control for Cricket

It could invite fresh bids for this season alone which includes, besides the Australian series, two Tests against South Africa and three Tests and five one-day internationals against Pakistan.

and dwarfed even the Indian government's annual sports budget of 44 million dollars.

With cricket taking up threequarters of sports advertising in India. Zee had expected to rake in revenues upwards of 320 million dollars over the four vears.

Zee shares fell 3.5 per cent on Tuesday after the BCCI withdrew its

Bandarban football

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Cricket AFP, New Delhi India's cricket chiefs began a frenetic search Wednesday for a broadcaster to show next month's home series against world champions Australia after cancelling a controversial 308million-dollar television deal.

> in India on Tuesday withdrew a four-year deal with Zee Telefilms which various options, an official said. had been challenged in the Bombay High Court by rival pan-Asian network ESPN-Star Sports.

BCCI hunts for TV

"Therefore, no papers were

signed although it is a fact that they deposited 20 million dollars with us ' The BCCI, which has two weeks to finalise arrangements for the Australian series, is exploring

there. Both men, friends since child

hood and running mates since 2000, laugh, almost as one.

Indeed, Henry and James -- they insist on the informality -- are so finely tuned to each other, on the track and off, that meeting with them is a strange experience, almost like talking to two halves of the same person.

Self-effacing and subdued James is the yin to Henry's yang: ebullient, charismatic and very sure of his abilities. James is taller almost frail, while Henry is leanly muscular, bristling with power. He is wearing a T-shirt bearing his own likeness and the legend "I am a friend of Henry" above his website: www.henry4gold.com.

Their intertwined life stories go back to the central Kenvan village Kikuyu, where both were born.

Before he was a teenager, Henry was already being groomed to join

By Eugene Sheffer CROSSWORD ACROSS 44 Simul-25 Former 4 Condi-1 Muppet taneity tions frosh 46 A to Z 5 Sir's 26 Mrs. eagle 4 Little 50 Sitcon counter-Peacock' devil set in part game 7 Banshee's 6 Irrefutable 27 Silhouett Korea 53 "Godevidence maker cry 7 Early ver-28 "Bia 11 Dickens' father Uriah sion of Brothe title 13 Some 55 Mimicking carpal tun host Juli where out bird nel syn-29 Emanathere 56 Sheltered drome? tion 30 Very dry 14 Bush's 57 Insepa-8 Help NSA Lemieux (of chan rable 15 "Rule. 58 Prudish milieu agne) Britannia" 59 Celebrity 10 Meadow 31 AAA iob composer 60 Drenched 12 One 35 Hiatus 16 - Paulo 61 Broke a 38 Take a engaged 17 Notion fast in much whack 18 Get on paper at DOWN 20 Castle work 40 Play-19 Great ground 1 Counterprotecto 22 Corn feit weight game 2 Plane 21 Illustra-42 Provide eater's castoff related tions income 23 Founda-24 Plaster 3 Options for 45 Scoop tion art list 28 Cupboard holder Solution time: 24 mins. 32 Folklore 47 Breckindwarf ridge' 33 Pitch 48 Troop 34 Pooch 36 Tater group 49 Domes 37 Burst forth ticate 50 Barker 39 Their and Bel hands 51 Elev. move in 52 Baltic circles 54 Bottom 41 Character SNOW

43 Standard



YOU DON"T NEED TO SEE TO PLAY: France's Frederic Villeroux, who is visually-impaired. touches the ball before a free-kick against Greece during a 5-a-side football game in the 12th Paralympic Games in Athens vesterday

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Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals T

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Two weightlifters from Azerbaidiar have been banned from competition for life after testing positive for drugs, in the first two doping cases of the Athens Paralympics, officials said here Wednesday.

Goundouz Ismayilov and Sara Abbasova, who were to respectively compete in the men's 90kg and the women's 82.5 kg-category, tested positive for steroids, the International Paralympic Committee said.

Ismayilov, 31, was caught using the banned substance stanozolol Nandrolone was found in the urine sample of Abbasova, 28

The two athletes had in the past been punished with a two-year ban for using illegal substances.

These are the first two doping cases to be revealed out of 335 drug tests conducted since the Paralympics began on September 17.

All but one of the 11 athletes who tested positive in the Sydney Paralympics in 2000, when about 600 athletes underwent testing, were weightlifters.

"We have to target powerlifting a ot more with educational meaures," said IPC spokeswoman liriam Wilkens.

-UTURO refs'

course

PHOTO: AFF

PORTS REPORTER

he FUTURO-3, instructors' course or referees run by FIFA, begins pmorrow morning at the National ports Council conference room.

Secretary for Youth and Sports yed Sujauddin Ahmed will inauguate the week-long course. Monilal ernando, vice-president of Asian ootball Confederation and FIFA evelopment officer, will be present s special quest.

A total of 20 instructors from eight ations will be participating

PAK-WINDIES

ROM PAGE 13 5 0 Malik 15 1 0.1 0 0 ouhana 1 Result: West Indies won by seven ickets. lan-of-the-match: Ramnaresh arwan. oss: Pakistan Umpires: Simon Taufel (AUS), Darrell Hair (AUS) TV umpire: David Shepherd (ENG) Match referee: Ranjan Madugalle (SRI)

The BCCI's move to agreement with Zee prompted ESPN-Star Sports to withdraw its case and paved the way for a new broadcaster to be chosen for the four-Test series starting in Banga-

lore on October 6. The board argued it had not formalised the deal with Zee on paper and promised to return the interim advance of 20 million dollars paid by the network.

But Zee, India's largest listed media company, cried foul and threatened to move the Supreme Court on what it said was "a clear collusion and conspiracy" between the cricket board and ESPN-Star Sports to scuttle the deal.

The BCCI has given us a letter of intent and have taken 20 million dollars from us, so how can anyone say that the rights do not legitimately belong to us?," a Zee spokesman said.

Otherwise, the BCCI may hire a production house to film the Australian matches and sell the telecast rights to public broadcaster Doordarshan or any other channel. "It is something which cannot be

done in a hurry, but there is no time left," an official said. "We are on it and should be able to find a solution in a day or two.

"What I can promise is that there will not be any blank screens when the matches start."

sider any decision by the Supreme Court if Zee takes legal recourse as it has threatened to do.

represented a six-fold increase on the 54 million dollars paid by Doordarshan for the past four years,

sides that are left. Good luck to

Reegrikhaong Juba Samity brushed aside Alikadam Upazila Krira Sangstha 6-0 at the local stadium in their opening match of the Bandarban Football League yesterday. Naikkhhongchari Upazila Krira Sangstha face District Police team

in today's match.

starts today

The BCCI will also have to con-

Zee's offer of 308 million dollars

experts have done intensive work about the issue for the last six months and they interviewed all the member countries, the associate countries, Nat'l weightlifting other stakeholders, journalists and former cricketers. They are now

SPORTS REPORTER

The 28th Senior, 9th Junior and 5th Women's Weightlifting Championships gets underway today in the city. The three-day meet will be held

Billy Bowden (NZL)

FROM PAGE 13

able to return.

(RSA)

81

7

86

52

16

14

6

at the National Sports Council Gymnasium. A total of 125 lifters including 35 females from 14 teams will take part in the championships.

Umpires: Rudi Koertzen (RSA),

Match referee: Mike Procter

Ponting misses

"I'll do everything I can to get

The selectors will have to decide

"If everything goes according to

back as quickly as possible, but to achieve that I will have to be guided

whether to send a replacement

batsman to India until Ponting is

exactly what needs to be done

TV umpire: Aleem Dar (PAK)

score in India is 60 in 1998.

by the experts," said Ponting.

rather than later," he said.

tennis elbow in time

FROM PAGE 13

game.

Tendulkar, who has not lifted a bat for six weeks, is without a first-class game since the third Test against Pakistan in Rawalpindi ended on April 18.

Tendulkar's absence, even for one Test, will be a blow to India who are aiming to win their third consecutive home series against Australia after 2-1 successes in 1998 and 2001

In seven home Tests against Australia, Tendulkar has scored 760 runs at an average of 63. Overall he is the fifth highest scorer in Test cricket with 9,470 runs in 114 matches at 57.39.

Tendulkar, who made his Test debut in 1989, has missed only one Test series in his 15-year career when a leg injury forced him to sit out the Sri Lanka tour in 2001

Another feather

plan, I'll still be able to play some FROM PAGE 13

part in the series, sooner I hope, who made his England debut in the fourth Test against West Indies, was "In the meantime, the boys know

named young player of the year. Bell averaged 71.33 in the because we have put a great deal of Frizzell County Championship with a top score of 262 not out and Team physic Errol Alcott said

scored 70 on his Test debut. Former England captain Nasser Hussain, who retired earlier in the summer, was presented with the England and Wales Cricket Board's

special award. Glamorgan received the spirit of The first Test against India starts cricket award and retiring wicketkeepers Steve Rhodes and Jack

n Bangalore on October 6 and the home side could also be without one Russell were given the "in safe of their star batsmen with Sachin hands" award. Neil Mallender was Tendulkar struggling to recover from named umpire of the year.

them. I thought they played well, the England host Australia in an Ashes attitude they showed and their skills contest having lost the last eight were very good. "Hopefully they'll play well on editions of cricket's oldest Testmatch series. Saturday. I think they've got what it "I don't think the outcome of this takes to win it." game will have any effect on the Ashes next summer," Vaughan said. "Even if we'd taken a hammer-

ng, I don't think it would have had an effect. Test match cricket is totally different to one-day cricket. "We're just delighted to have

already turning to 2005 when

FROM PAGE 13

a very, very good team. Vaughan added: "We put Australia under pressure by doing that and we've come out with a victory. But Australia are undoubtedly still the best team in the world and that should give us a lot of confidence going into the final." After the final, England have a

minnows Zimbabwe before a potentially challenging five-Test series in South Africa.

the next year," Vaughan insisted.

next season or so. Australia captain Ricky Ponting

Trophy. "I hope England go all the way

see England win than the other two

England and Australia at Edgbaston on Tuesday:

ENGLAND Trescothick b Symonds Solanki Ibw b Gillespie

"We are going to get tested over

how our team progresses over the

put aside traditional rivalries and said he hoped England won the

and win it," he said.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard in the ICC Champions Trophy semifinal match between

AUSTRALIA: 259 for 9 in 50 overs.

played so well on a big stage against

one-day series away to struggling

"It's going to be fantastic to see

Symonds Result: England won by six wick-

Man-of-the-match: Michael Vaughan. And Australian added: "I'd rather

Toss: England

Vaughan c Hayden b Lee Strauss not out Flintoff c Hayden b Lee

Vaughan sees finish line

Collingwood not out Extras: (lb-5, w-5, nb-4) Total: (For 4 wkts in 46.3 overs)262

Fall of wkts: 1-21, 2-161, 3-227, 4-249

Did not bat: G Jones, A Giles, A Wharf, D Gough, S Harmison. 0 M R W Bowler

work into preparing for this tour." Ponting had been in considerable 0 46 0 McGrath 8 pain following the game against

Gillespie	8	0	32	1	England.
Kasprowicz	10	0	52	0	"We can't make any bold predic-
Lee	8.3	0	65	2	tions about a return date for Ricky
Lehmann	6	0	28	0	until he has seen a hand specialist
Symonds	6	1	3/	1	back in Australia." he said.