

School b'ball Boys' first semi today

SPORTS REPORTER Title aspirants Green Herald and Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protish...

Cricket goes French!

AFP, Saint-Astier (France)

The large British expatriate community in the Dordogne region brought its love for cricket to southwest France many years ago...

which had formed a club a few years before -- "for just one match," Cannon recalls. "We won and so we said to ourselves, 'We have to start a club.'"

sphere, the players dressed in white, the tea -- it's all part of the experience," he explains. But Hackett rejects the idea that playing cricket in the Dordogne is a nostalgic way for expatriates to get in touch with their homeland...

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 yesterday.



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

Sharapova starts in style

Tennis

AFP, Beijing

Wimbledon winner Maria Sharapova 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.

quarterfinal of the season. The win was the second in 2004 for Sharapova over her countrywoman. She took a victory seven months ago in Memphis when Panova retired injured in the first set.

at this re-branded tournament, held in the rival city of Shanghai from 2000-2003. Argentine sixth seed Gisela Dulko moved into the last eight as she defeated Maria Vento-Kabchi of Venezuela 6-4, 6-4.

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 metre race, he is tethered body and soul to his seeing-eye shadow-runner Joseph Kibunya Gachui.

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.

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.

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.



YOU DON'T NEED TO SEE TO PLAY: France's Frederic Villeroix, 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 yesterday.

Two weightlifters from Azerbaijan 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.

Paralympic dopers

AFP, Athens

Groundouz 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.

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.

BCCI hunts for TV

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 308-million-dollar television deal.

BCCI official Ratnakar Shetty 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 themselves were not agreeable to certain clauses.

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 Bangladesh after getting Test status was wrong.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Cryptogram puzzle with a grid and a key: CRYPTOQUIP O U X G E P A T Z Q A K T C C X M O Y M H X G U X G E K S T O H O W Y, O K T S Q G W X G E K T A K Z O P O W Y C M T K G G U Saturday's Cryptogram: I SUPPOSE A CAT'S DEFINITION OF 'UTOPIA' WOULD PROBABLY BE 'A PURRFECT WORLD'.

FUTURO refs' course

SPORTS REPORTER

The FUTURO-3, instructors' course for referees run by FIFA, begins tomorrow morning at the National Sports Council conference room.

PAK-WINDIES

FROM PAGE 13 S Malik 5 0 15 1 Youhana 0.1 0 1 0 Result: West Indies won by seven wickets. Man-of-the-match: Ramnaresh Sarwan.

Vaughan sees finish line

FROM PAGE 13 already turning to 2005 when England host Australia in an Ashes contest having lost the last eight editions of cricket's oldest Test-match series.

sides that are left. Good luck to them. I thought they played well, the attitude they showed and their skills were very good. "Hopefully they'll play well on Saturday. I think they've got what it takes to win it."

Umpires: Rudi Koertzen (RSA), Billy Bowden (NZL) TV umpire: Aileem Dar (PAK) Match referee: Mike Procter (RSA)

Ponting misses

FROM PAGE 13 score in India is 60 in 1998. "I'll do everything I can to get back as quickly as possible, but to achieve that I will have to be guided by the experts," said Ponting.

Slow recovery

FROM PAGE 13 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.

Another feather

FROM PAGE 13 who made his England debut in the fourth Test against West Indies, was named young player of the year.