



## Did U Know?

Soccer is played by more than 20 million people in North America.



## Talk Turkey



**Thierry Henry**  
(Arsenal's French striker)  
"I'm obsessed by the idea of making my mark on history."

## What to WATCH

### TEN Sports

Serie A  
Roma vs Inter Milan  
Highlights at 11:00 am

### ESPN

Football Focus  
Live at 6:30 pm  
Sportscentre  
Live at 8:30 pm  
STAR Sports  
English Premier Football League  
Highlights at 8:30 am  
Sportsline

## Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 21

Tick the correct answers, post  
**The Daily Star**

Competition closes at 8 pm  
Oct 15, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards

- West Indies defeated England in the ICC Champions Trophy final by:  
2 wickets      50 runs      33 runs
- Who won the China Open tennis title?  
Serena Sharapova  
Hingis
- How many times was Pavel Nedved capped before announcing his retirement?  
83      84      81
- Who became man-of-the-tournament in the ICC Champions Trophy?  
Sarwan      Flintoff  
Lara

Name .....  
.....  
Class ..... Roll No. ....  
School Address .....  
Phone: (If any) .....

## WICB reveals 2005 schedule

BBC ONLINE, undated

West Indies, the ICC Champions Trophy winners, will host South Africa and Pakistan between March and June 2005.

South Africa will play four Tests and five one-day internationals before departing in mid-May.

A few days later, three one-day internationals against Pakistan kick off, followed by a shorter programme of two Tests, in Barbados and Jamaica.

The devastation caused by Hurricane Ivan means Grenada's stadium is out of use for the whole of the 2005 season.

The West Indies Cricket Board also expects to reveal a healthy profit for their last financial year

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# Chief selector's backup cry



SPORTS REPORTER

Chief selector Faruque Ahmed said that the non-existence of a second string national side and absence of proper domestic competitions left him with little options to bring about any changes in the national squad for the home series against New Zealand.

The former national captain also ruled out the possibility of comeback of the injured pace trio Mashrafebin-Mortuza, Talha Jubair and Mohammad Sharif and left-arm spinner Enamul Haq during the New Zealand series.

The Kiwis led by Stephan Fleming will arrive in Dhaka on October 11 for two Tests and three one-day internationals.

"At the moment my hands are tight because I'm not in a position to select a new player on performance. It would have been easier had there

been a proper domestic calendar," Faruque told the reporters yesterday during the practice session of the 21 probabilities at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

He also cried for a busy Bangladesh A team's schedule to overcome the huge gap between the national and backup teams.

"At the moment we have to depend on the Under-19 squad because they are well tuned and in good touch with the game. But I think it is not always good for a national team that's why we need to have a real second string team to fill in the gap," he added.

Presently Bangladesh does not have any second string side.

Faruque and his selection colleagues including coach Dav Whatmore are now under pressure from home and abroad after two miserable one-day assignments of the Tigers in the Asia Cup and the just concluded ICC Champions Trophy in England.

But the chief selector hoped that

the Tigers would make an impression in the home series.

"We are trying to find the right combination and to do that we are working with almost the same set of players for quite some time and I think they will perform better this time," said Faruque.

The only good news for the selectors is that captain Habibul Bashar has taken the bat in his hand for the first time yesterday and showed little discomfort during his ten-minute stay in the nets. Bashar was out of action since breaking his right thumb on August 17.

But Bangladesh's record on home soil has never been inspiring compared to their away series and Faruque is aware of that.

"Our record at home is not good but I am hopeful that the boys will bounce back this time as they have had played two consecutive away tournaments," said a witty chief selector.

Replying to a question, Faruque

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# Hosts labour, India blaze



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh set up a final clash with favourites India in the Under-21 Challenge Cup hockey tournament when the hosts beat Oman 2-0 at the Maulana Bhashani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Russel Mahmud Jimmy and Mazharul Islam Moksed scored either side of the break to record Bangladesh's third win in as many matches of the tournament.

Bangladesh and India, who destroyed Afghanistan 24-0 earlier in the day at the BKSP, are level on nine points and will meet in tomorrow's last league match in the dress rehearsal for the October 7 final.

Sanjay Bir and George Sebastian each struck five goals while Savio Naik, Bhagwant Singh and Mayur Subbaiah scored three goals apiece for India who led 12-0 in the first half in their scoring festival.

Oman, who lost their second successive match despite fighting all the way, were stuck on three points with a match in hand against Myanmar.

It was the visitors who pushed forward early and earned two penalty corners even before Bangladesh had even made a decent attack. Oman, however, could not utilise the opportunities due to poor finishing.

Bangladesh settled down soon

and went ahead through a controversial goal from their fourth penalty corner in the 28th minute. After a faulty stop, Chayan's hit outside from the box was deflected in off Jimmy's stick but the Oman players were protesting the decision claiming there was no touch inside the box.

There were also doubt in minds of the Bangladesh officials who first mentioned Moksed as the scorer of the first goal.

Bangladesh survived a few close calls when Oman pressed hard in search of an equaliser. Goalkeeper Zahid made a superb save on a close-range attempt by Al Shibli

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PHOTO: STAR

WELCOME BACK: Habibul Bashar, who recently had an operation in his right thumb, plays his trademark pull-shot at the nets of Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. The Bangladesh captain batted for the first

## Aussie Tests live on DD

AFP, New Delhi

Fans heaved a sigh of relief Monday after the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) reportedly struck a last-minute deal with the national broadcaster to telecast live Test matches against Australia and South Africa.

Doordarshan sealed the rights to show both series in October and November following agreement with BCCI officials, ending weeks of uncertainty and speculation.

"The Indian board has agreed to give us exclusive telecast rights. We'll show the matches on our national and sports channels," a top official from Prasar Bharti, an administrative body governing Doordarshan, told the Times of India.

The 22-million-dollar deal includes four Test matches against Australia, two against South Africa and a one-dayer against Pakistan,

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# What if Waugh not here?

REUTERS, London



Even men of the stature of Steve Waugh should be permitted regrets, just small ones, minor "what ifs?" to chew over during those quieter moments.

Even men like Waugh

surely need some counterweight to the boredom that accompanies unmitigated success.

When the former Australia captain retired at the start of the year, he did so with a fraying kitbag stuffed full with honours and accolades.

No man had ever played more Tests. No man had ever led a side to more consecutive victories. Only

one man had scored more Test runs and two had made more centuries.

If there was one "what if", then it was India.

Victory in India. "The ultimate goal", he had called it a couple of years before, after a routine eighth successive Ashes win. But his legs gave out 12 months too soon and he hobbled away from the game with the score unsettled.

It will be up to other men to settle it for him over the next five weeks, in arguably the most eagerly anticipated contest in cricket's calendar.

Once, the Ashes series held pride of place, but Australian dominance has devalued its currency. In the 1970s and 80s, West Indies versus another team was the entry ticket to cherish.

Today, however, it's Australia versus India and the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Their titanic clash in 2001, followed by another fine

series in 2003-04, saw to that.

Waugh led his world champions confidently to the subcontinent three years ago and strolled to a 10-wicket victory in Mumbai to record an unprecedented 16th Test win in a row.

A 17th -- and Australia's first series win in India since 1969-70 -- beckoned soon after in Kolkata, when the home side, forced to follow on, were reduced to 232 for four, still 42 runs in the red.

Waugh, who made a first-innings century, must have been yawning with the ease of it all as he prepared to become the first Australian captain since Bill Lawry in 1969-70 to triumph in India.

What transpired has since been carved deep into sporting history.

Vangipurappu Laxman, an unreliable, flash-in-the-pan sort of fellow, was joined by Rahul Dravid and the pair refused to be parted for

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# Premier League from Nov 23



SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has decided to start the country's most exciting domestic competition, the Premier Cricket League, from November 23.

The league committee has taken the decision after a successful meeting with all the participating clubs at the Bangabandhu National Stadium conference room yesterday.

"It was an unanimous decision. No club representative raised any doubt about this year's league and it took us just one and a half hour to settle the issues," said league committee chairman Khondokar Jamiluddin, who failed to convince the clubs last year to play the league, triggering huge criticism.

The three-day inter-club players' transfer will start on October 25. But this time it will be single league competition instead of the usual first phase followed by Super League. Each team will be able to field one

foreign player in a match with the option of registering three. The 50-overs a-side matches will be played with colour dresses and white ball.

Two bottom table teams will be relegated to the First Division.

Jamil said that clubs representatives demanded the wickets to be well prepared.

"To fulfil their rightful demand we have decided to keep a reserve day for every match and if any match is abandoned than it will resume on the next day from where it had stopped," Jamil informed.

A five-member technical and disciplinary committee for the Premier League was also formed.

"We have proposed the names of Mahmudul Haq Manu and Tanjeeb Ahsan Saad to be in the committee and everybody accepted the proposal," said Jamil, who is chairman of the committee.

BCB advisor and chairman of cricket operations Mahbubul Anam and chief executive Macky Dudhia were also present at the meeting.

## Women's football makes debut

SPORTS REPORTER

Women's football finally saw light as the first ever tournament of the country got underway at the Bir Shreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

There was tight security at the venue as many women's outdoor competitions including football had faced threats from fundamentalists in the past. But the opening match was held without any incidents.

In the opening match, Dhaka beat VDP by a solitary goal with Shrabantee separating the sides 20 minutes after the start.

Earlier, State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman declared the eight-team meet open.

The inauguration of the historic event was marked by a colourful physical display. Some of officials of AFC were also present.

Khulna will take on Narayanganj (2.30 pm) and Bangladesh Ansar face Chittagong Division (4 pm) in today's matches.



PHOTO: STAR

FIRST OF ITS KIND IN THE COUNTRY: Scene from the opening match of the country's inaugural women's football tournament between Dhaka and