



## Did U Know?

A soccer player may run as many as 5

## What to WATCH

### DD Sports

India vs Australia  
First Test, Day One  
Live at 10:00 am

### TEN Sports

Triangular Series Cricket  
Pakistan vs Sri Lanka  
Live at 10:15 am

### ESPN

Hockey Test Series  
India vs Pakistan  
Live at 1:30 pm  
Sportscentre  
Live at 8:30 pm

### STAR Sports

Sportslive



### Faruque Ahmed

(BCB chief selector)

"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."



### COMPETITION 217

Tick the correct answers, post to

### The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

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

- West Indies defeated England in the ICC Champions Trophy final by:
 

2 wkts	50 runs
33 runs	
- Who won the China Open tennis title?
 

Serena Sharapova	Hingis
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- How many times was Pavel Nedved capped before announcing his retirement?
 

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Name .....

Class ..... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

## Corporate League field completed

SPORTS REPORTER

The line-up of the Twenty20 Corporate Cricket League was completed yesterday with Epyllion making its entry as the last team.

The 12-team competition will begin on October 15 and before that a three-day inter-house players' registration will begin from October 7.

The participating teams are ARAF Apparels, GrameenPhone, Ispahani, Acme, Partex, Biman, Gazi tank, AKTEL, CityCell, Beximco, Robin Tex and Epyllion.

# Australia begin quest to conquer 'final frontier'

AFP/REUTERS, Bangalore



The Indians confirmed on Tuesday that star batsman Sachin Tendulkar will miss the match but indicated he was likely to be fit for the second Test starting in Madras on October 14.

Australia, seeking to win their first series on Indian soil in 35 years, are not only without injured captain Ricky Ponting but also bereft of a second spinner to support Shane Warne after ignoring Stuart MacGill for the tour.

Seasonal rain over the last week and a forecast of more showers for the next few days has only added to the uncertainty in both camps at the start of the highly-anticipated series. Australia's last victory in India came under Bill Lawry in 1969, when Warne was just three months old and the rest of the current players were not born.

The desire for a series in India consumed Steve Waugh and the most successful captain in Test history declared the challenge as his 'final frontier' before the 2001 tour.

Australia won the first Test in three days, but India made an amazing comeback in the next and clinched a memorable series 2-1.

However, these statistics do not appease India captain Sourav Ganguly.

"It's terribly disappointing that Sachin won't be around. The good

news, though, is that he will fire in Madras. That's the best one can look forward to."

Ganguly hoped the four-match

series will not be as close the previous one between the two teams on Indian soil in 2001 when the hosts won 2-1 in the last session of the

third and final Test in Madras.

"That one went down to the wire, I hope this one does not," he said. "A close contest takes a lot out of both teams."

Both India and Australia will name their playing elevens on Wednesday morning, but Ganguly did not rule out including a third spinner in Murali Kartik to complement Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh.

"I have never seen such a dry wicket in Bangalore," said Ganguly. "It is bound to turn but a lot will depend on how the weather behaves."

Australia, whose coach John Buchanan described the wicket as "terrible" on Monday, will lean heavily on Warne to deliver and the champion leg-spinner was ready for the task.

"I don't feel as if I have something to prove," said Warne. "I have been inconsistent here, I've had some absolute shockers, but it doesn't mean I can't bowl."

"The conditions here are so hot that sometimes you can't execute what you want, but this is the first time I have come to this country fit and raring to go."

Warne, who needs six wickets to overhaul Muttiah Muralitharan's world record of 532, will be supported by a three-pronged pace attack of Glenn McGrath, Jason Gillespie and Michael Kasprovicz.

Left-hander Simon Katich will be pushed up the order to take Ponting's pivotal number three position, while Michael Clarke makes his Test debut to strengthen the middle order.

Australia, who have not won a series in India since 1969, have lost five of their last seven Tests here.

India have been beaten just once in their last 21 home series, by

SEE PAGE 14 COL 8



PHOTO: AFP

THE KEY IS TO WATCH THE BALL TILL LAST: Australian captain Adam Gilchrist is all concentration during batting in the nets at the M. Chinnaswamy stadium yesterday.



PHOTO: AFP

LEARN IT FROM THE LITTLE MASTER: Indian captain Sourav Ganguly (L) listens to the legendary Sunil Gavaskar during nets at the M. Chinnaswamy stadium yesterday. Gavaskar has been drafted by the Indian cricket board BCCI to act as a batting consultant to the Indian team during the series against Australia.

## King's Cup Abahani lose to Nepal

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani suffered a 2-1 defeat against Nepal's national team in their last group match of the King's Cup Football tournament in Bhutan yesterday.

The Dhaka giants however, had already confirmed their semifinal berth and will play against Tago of Thailand on Friday.

Abahani suffered an early setback when their goalkeeper Nizamuddin was shown the red card in the 13th minute for a foul inside the D. from the resultant penalty Abahani went 1-0 down. Nepal scored their second before the breather.

Two minutes from time, Masud Rana pulled one back for the Sky Blues by converting from the spot.

Abahani beat Wawnwon University of South Korea 4-1 and Indian Army 3-0 in their previous group matches.

## JFA Cup football Natore, N'ganj in 2nd round

SPORTS REPORTER

Enamul's hatrick inspired hosts Natore to move into the second round of the JFA Cup Under-16 Football tournament outplaying Chapainabaganj 7-1 at the local stadium yesterday.

Besides Enamul, Aslam struck

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

## Vettori may lead NZ in ODIs here



CRICINFO/BBC ONLINE, undated

Spinner Daniel Vettori is likely to lead New Zealand's one-day squad for their three one-day internationals in Bangladesh next month.

Regular skipper Stephen Fleming is expected to return home after the two Test matches in order to rest a long-term abdominal injury.

Other candidates for the job are Jacob Oram, Craig McMillan and Chris Cairns.

"If Stephen's out and that's what we are hearing then Daniel is the obvious choice to replace him," former coach David Trist told New Zealand Press Association.

"He is tactically very sound, he's able to read momentum shifts but he would also bring other aspects to the job because of his all-round skills."

The limited-overs squad, which will play three matches in Dhaka and Chittagong on November 2, 5 and 7, is likely to be announced on Thursday.

Fleming would still have just two weeks to rest and the brief break will allow him to recoup before a busy season ahead: the Black Caps will play home-and-away series against Australia and will host Sri Lanka for a home series over the next six months.

Immediately after the international season, Fleming will be off to England to lead Nottinghamshire during the 2005 English county season.

The left-handed batsman has been bothered by the injury since last November, but has played in every series since.

Vettori became New Zealand's youngest Test cricketer when he



DANIEL VETTORI

made his debut against England in Wellington in 1996-97 at just 18 years 10 days.

He has since played in 55 Tests and 139 one-day internationals. The 25-year-old bowler had a great start to his international career, but has struggled for form more recently.

However, there were signs of a revival on New Zealand's tour to England earlier this year - in the final of the NatWest Series, Vettori wrecked West Indies' middle order, returning magnificent figures of 5 for 30 as New Zealand won the game with ease.

## Fundamentalists target women's football again

SPORTS REPORTER

Fundamentalist elements cast a shadow over the inaugural Women's Football Tournament as they demanded suspension of the competition as it rolled into its second day yesterday.

A group of religious zealots under the banner of Islami Oikya Andolan launched their campaign against women's soccer terming it a violation of Islamic norms.

They staged a demonstration near the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque in Dhaka after Asr prayers and also threatened to launch a massive demonstration if the organisers did not take their objection seriously.

"Stop the nude exhibition on the field in the name of football" marked a banner in front of the Baitul Mukarram Mosque as the fanatics condemned the first ever football tournament in harsh words.

This was not the first time that fundamentalists have opposed women's sport in the country. A friendly fixture between a Bangladeshi girls' team and their visiting counterparts from India had to be postponed in Netrokona earlier this

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

## Muktis bow out of IFA Shield

SPORTS REPORTER

Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra crashed out of the IFA Shield when they lost 3-1 to Kolkata Mohammedan in their second and last group match yesterday in Kolkata according to a message received here.

Needing to win to qualify for the semifinals after their 3-0 loss against East Bengal in the first match, the Reds failed to lift themselves for the task.

Their Rwandan striker Kabua however got a wonderful opportunity to put them ahead in the seventh minute but he failed to convert the spot kick. Kabua however gave Muktijoddha the lead in the 20th minute.

But the local team, who had been defeated 4-1 by East Bengal in their opening game, bounced back after the breather and scored two goals in the space of a minute to take the control of the match. Henry equalised the margin in the 54th minute and veteran Raman Vijayan added another right after restart.

Jiten sealed the match with a 75th minute strike.

## Pool catches fire 20th Nat'l Championships on



SPORTS REPORTER

Records tumbled thick and fast on the opening day of the 20th National Swimming Championships at the Army Swimming Complex yesterday.

SAF Games gold medalist Rubel Rana set the tone on an eventful day by winning the men's 200m individual medley with a record timing at the picturesque aquatic centre which is hosting the national event for the first time due to a doleful condition of the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur.

The Bangladesh Navy natant took 2 minutes and 15.17 seconds, bettering the previous mark by 2.02 seconds, to win the gold ahead of Mohammad Kamal of Bangladesh Army, who clocked 2 minutes and 20.48 seconds. Wasul Islam, also

an army man, took the bronze with a timing of 2:23.47sec.

It was a blessing in disguise for the swimmers as all the timing was done with electronic gadgets instead of the traditional hand timing.

Jewel Ahmed also created a new national record for the sailors by winning the gold in the 200m butterfly event in 2:12.12sec. The previous best was 2:13.77 sec.

Monirul Islam won the third gold for Navy when he won the 400m freestyle clocking 4 minutes 34.65 seconds. His teammate Hamid won the silver while Golam Mostafa of Army took the bronze.

While Navy ruled the pool in the men's section, it was BJMC who dictated terms in women's events by winning two golds with record timings.

Country's pool queen Dolly Akhter started the day in grand

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

RECORD GIRL! BJMC's Dolly Akhter during her national record effort yesterday in the women's 200m medley of the 20th National Swimming Championship at the Army Swimming Complex.

## India turn to Sunny

AFP, Bangalore

India have called up batting great Sunil Gavaskar to assist its out-of-form batsmen ahead of the Test series against world champions Australia starting on Wednesday.

Gavaskar, the first batsman to score 10,000 runs who has a world record 34 Test centuries to his credit, agreed to a specific request by captain Sourav Ganguly to help the team in the highly-anticipated series.

"I will be with the team for the entire series," Gavaskar, 54, told reporters here.

"I want to talk to the boys at the nets on Tuesday and see what they want. I will take it from there."

Indian batsmen have been in poor form this season which saw the 2003 World Cup finalists lose four successive limited-overs tournaments since August.

Moreover, star batsman Sachin Tendulkar is sidelined for part of the series with a tennis elbow injury.

Indian cricket board official Gautam Dasgupta said the request for Gavaskar had come from the team management after the Champions Trophy in England.

"They wanted a cricket consultant and there could be no better choice than a person of Gavaskar's stature," he said.

Gavaskar, the former Test captain who retired from international cricket in 1987 with 10,122 runs from 125 Tests, has kept in touch with the game as a television commentator and columnist.

He also heads the International Cricket Council's technical committee and India's National Cricket Academy.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

## Rain upsets Tigers' training

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh cricket team's training for the upcoming New Zealand tour was disrupted by inclement weather yesterday.

There was a fielding session in yesterday's schedule at the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) but Dav Whatmore's charges were not able to practice because of rain in the morning.

Instead, the players took part in a gym session at the Army Stadium.

There was more worrying news as more rain, courtesy of a low in the Bay of Bengal, was predicted for today which will jeopardise the planned extensive batting session on the central wickets of the BNS.