



Did U Know?

Michael Chang became the youngest male ever to win the French Open in 1989.



Maria Sharapova
(Russian tennis star)

"I usually take a week off before a Grand Slam. So, I will probably do some retail therapy in Paris and then go."

On her pre-Wimbledon shop-

What to WATCH

STAR Sports
Bangladesh vs England
Second Test, Day Two
Live at 4:00 pm

TEN Sports
French Open
Women's Singles Final
Live at 7:00 pm

West Indies vs Pakistan
Second Test, Day Two
Live at 9:00 pm

World Cup Soccer Qualifier
Ecuador v Argentina
Live at 4:00 am (Sunday)

DAY'S EVENT
Premier Football League
Mohammedan vs Dipali Sangha
(5:00 pm)
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Pakistan 29-1

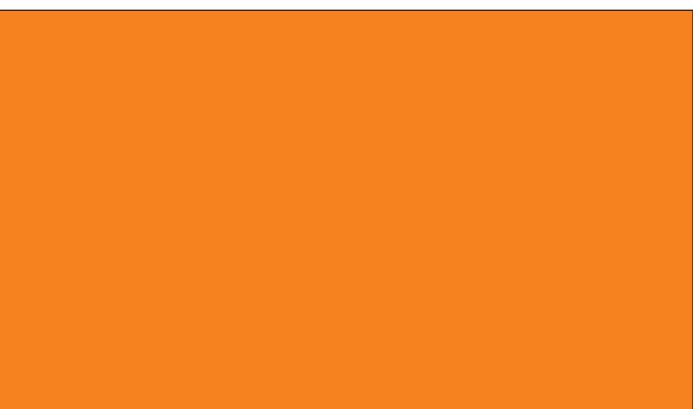
SPORTS REPORTER

Pakistan had lost opener Yasir Hameed for 14 shortly after electing to bat in the second and final Test at Sabina Park, Kingston in Jamaica last night.

After an hour's play the tourists, who lost the first Test by 276 runs in Barbados, had reached 29-1 after Hameed fell with the score on 16. Shoaib Malik was batting on six and Younis Khan was on three at the time.

The Test also brings the curtain down on the familiar figure of English umpire David Shepherd, who is standing in the middle for 92nd time.

Wanderers custodian Sabir thwarted an attempt from Abahani forward Ujjal (R) during their Premier Division Football League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Friday.



French Open

REUTERS, Paris

Edging towards retirement with 16 years of good times and bad etched across her features, Mary Pierce stands on the verge of a remarkable fairytale finale to her tennis career.

The Frenchwoman who over the years has been abused and adored in equal measure by her countrymen is one match away from her second French Open title and barely dares allow herself to dream.

"It would be just unbelievable," she said, smiling to the skies after reaching Saturday's final where she will meet Justine Henin-Hardenne.

"I'd probably just sit here and not

know what to say...just unbelievable."

Her Belgian opponent is also riding something of a dream in Paris, however, and has her own date with destiny.

Like Pierce, Henin-Hardenne would also appear fated to succeed at Roland Garros, the tournament she won in 2003 and at which she says she feels at home.

"It's a very special atmosphere," the player who was robbed of her world number one ranking last year by an energy-sapping virus said.

"I love this place, I feel I'm playing like at home so it's beautiful."

"And there are a lot of emotions for me here at the French Open. Everybody knows the story -- I'm not going to tell it again."

"But I hope I can win it one more

time, that's for sure."

The story she referred to was the touching account of when, as a child, she visited Roland Garros with her mother Francoise and promised her then that she would win the claycourt Grand Slam event one day.

She fulfilled that promise with tears streaming down her face in 2003, after her mother had lost her battle with cancer.

"I would like to dedicate this victory to my mother, who is watching over me in heaven. I hope you are very proud of me, mum," she said after her final win over compatriot Kim Clijsters.

This year her run to the final is

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PHOTO: AP
CAPTAIN CASTLED: Bangladesh skipper Habibul Bashar had no answer to that yorker from England paceman Steve Harmison on Day One of the second and final Test at Durham on Friday.

But then the Chittagong batsman chased a wide delivery and the never-ending procession started.

Bashar told this reporter before the match that he would be more disciplined in his approach but did exactly the opposite -- pulled the very second ball he faced and slashed outside the off-stump to get off the mark with a four off Harmison.

The tall English fast bowler needed just one more delivery to knock off Bashar's wickets.

Mohammad Ashraful came and went quickly but not before playing a senseless pull shot that almost brought upon his doom in the very second delivery he faced. He was out nicking one behind the wicket.

Rajin Saleh scored a struggling two

overs.

Although Abahani's midfield and the forward line appeared in command, their inexperienced defence often got exposed.

Wanderers created the first opportunity from one of those defensive lapses but custodian Nizam brilliantly dived to his left to thwart a Gobinda effort in the 13th minute.

Six minutes later the sturdy Ibrahim fired in a right-footed shot to ease the nerves but credit should go to inspirational forward Ujjal who laid it on a plate for the Ghanian after receiving the ball from a Farhad back-heal.

The joy however lasted only eight minutes. Wanderers' Nurul Islam cleverly evaded the off-side trap and passed to Milon who

beat an advancing Nizam.

But Farhad, the seasoned Abahani marksman, latched on to a Lajuk cross from the right to put Abahani back in front three minutes later after Wanderers' Jahangir had failed to clear the ball.

Abahani's persistent pressure was further rewarded when they were awarded a penalty on the stroke of half-time after Farhad had been brought down by Mustafizur Rahman in the danger zone. Captain Joy converted the spotkick.

With the 3-1 cushion Abahani looked reluctant in the second session to increase the scoreline. Zahed scored the fourth in the 72nd minute with a placing shot after

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They came to see Mushfiqur

AL-AMIN from Chester-le-Street

There was a nine-thousand strong crowd at the Riverside ground on the opening day of the second Test and most of them were disappointed not seeing young Bangladesh batsman Mushfiqur Rahim in action.

Since the most of the English media were unaware that Mushfiqur was ruled out for the second Test after twisting his ankle, cricket fans smell there might be a selection dispute and that's why the 16-year-old has been dropped.

Mushfiqur was highlighted as a potentially good batsman and cricket fans here at Chester-le-Street wanted to see him bat.

"Where is that boy. Why is he not

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Thorpe joins English elite

Cricket

AFP, Chester-le-Street

Graham Thorpe became the eighth England cricketer to appear in 100 Tests when he was selected for the second and final Test against Bangladesh at the Riverside here Friday.

Five of the surviving England players to have appeared in 100 Tests -- Alec Stewart, Michael Atherton, David Gower, Ian Botham and Geoff

England players to appear in 100 Tests:

| Tests | Player | Runs | Average | 100s |
|-------|---------------|-------|---------|------|
| 133 | Alec Stewart | 8,463 | 39.54 | 15 |
| 118 | Graham Gooch | 8,900 | 42.58 | 20 |
| 117 | David Gower | 8,231 | 44.25 | 18 |
| 115 | Mike Atherton | 7,728 | 37.70 | 16 |
| 114 | Colin Cowdrey | 7,624 | 44.06 | 22 |
| 108 | Geoff Boycott | 8,114 | 47.72 | 22 |
| 102 | Ian Botham | 5,200 | 33.54 | 14 |
| 100 | Graham Thorpe | 6,678 | 44.22 | 16 |

Farashganj punished

SPORTS REPORTER

The Disciplinary Committee of Metropolis Senior Division Football League imposed one-match ban on a player and an official of Farashganj Sporting Club yesterday for their misconduct with the match officials after Wednesday's Premier Bank Premier League match against Brothers Union.

Johnny (Jersey No 6) has been banned for throwing a bottle to the match referee while coach Meer M Faruk will not be allowed to enter the field in the next match for verbally abusing the referee.

Besides, the committee also fined Farashganj Tk 10,000 for the same reason.



PHOTO: STAR

Wanderers custodian Sabir thwarted an attempt from Abahani forward Ujjal (R) during their Premier Division Football League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Friday.

Big Merv becomes Aussie selector

Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

Merv Hughes, one of the characters of Australian cricket, Friday filled Allan Border's vacancy on the Australian selection panel, Cricket Australia said.

The 43-year-old mustachioed former Test fast bowler joins chairman Trevor Hohns, David Boon and Andrew Hilditch on the panel and was endorsed by the CA board at its meeting here Friday.

Former Australian captain Border, who joined the selection panel in February 1998, resigned as a selector last April citing growing commitments away from the selection table.

"I always wanted to stay involved in cricket at the highest level when I left the game -- either through coaching or as a selector -- it has certainly been one of my ambitions," Hughes said in a CA statement.

"I am excited to be joining the panel as we try and keep Australian

maintained a close connection to the game following his retirement.

"Big Merv", a whole-hearted pace bowler, took 212 wickets in 53 Tests for Australia in a career cut short by injury.

He made two tours of England, including the watershed visit in

1989 when Australia regained the Ashes.

His last Test for Australia was against South Africa in Cape Town in March 1994.

Hughes is the current Under-19 selector for Cricket Victoria, as well as the fast-bowling coach for the Under-19 Victorian team and the Victorian Institute of Sport.

CA chairman Bob Merriman said Hughes would bring valuable knowledge and skill to the selection panel.

"Replacing a man of Allan Border's calibre was no easy task, but it is one of Australian cricket's strengths that we had a number of highly qualified candidates capable of filling the important role," Merriman said in the statement.

"As a former Australian representative, Merv has an outstanding understanding of the game at the elite level, and his experience and insight will certainly add to the wealth of knowledge among our national selectors."

India is planning to bid to stage the 2011 World Cup, the president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said on Friday.

"We are serious about holding the 2011 World Cup," Ranbir Mahendra told reporters.

Mahendra said there had been

no discussions on whether it would be a joint bid with neighbours

Pakistan or Sri Lanka.

"We have plenty of time to decide those things," he said.

India is set to stage the 2006

Champions Trophy next September

after the government last week

granted tax exemption to the pro-

ceeds from the biennial event,

second in importance only to the

World Cup.

India has jointly staged two World

Cups, with Pakistan in 1987 and with

Sri Lanka and Pakistan in 1996.

West Indies will host the 2007

World Cup.