



## Did U Know?

The idea of an Olympic flame burning from the start of the games to the closing was first introduced in 1928 at Amsterdam Games.



### STAR Sports

**Azlan Shah Hockey Final**  
Australia vs South Korea  
Live at 6:00 pm

**Bangladesh vs England**  
Second Test, Day Three  
2nd & 3rd session  
Live at 8:00 pm

### TEN Sports

**French Open**  
Men's Singles Final  
Live at 7:00 pm

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



## David Beckham

(England soccer super star)  
"The popularity of me in America has not been as great as it is in other parts of the world but this time it seems to be different. The positivity here has been incredible to me."



### Premier Football League

Muktijoddha vs Arambagh (5:00 pm)  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

## Badda down Dhanmondi

SPORTS REPORTER

Badda Jaganani Sangsad outplayed Dhanmondi Club 4-0 in the First Division Football League match at the Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

The winners dominated the first half 2-0.

Nazrul struck twice in the 40th and 71st minutes while Ratan and Komol added one each in the 32nd and 68th minutes.

With this victory Badda improved their tally to 10 points from five matches to follow the leader Rahmatganj (13 points).

# Truth always hurts

Cricket

AL-AMIN from Chester-le-Street

There are about fifteen Bangladeshi journalists who have come all the way to England to cover Bangladesh's first full series. But with the series approaching the halfway mark, most of them have a gut feeling -- was it worth coming all the way and write all those painful negative stories?

Of course the job of a reporter is well defined -- provide a vivid reflection of the events and the wistful thoughts of the people involved in it. There is also no room to get carried away with emotions.

But it always a painful endeavor to write the same old stories be it in London or in Durham. No one had expected Bangladesh to win a Test match against England. The general feeling was that the Tigers putting up a brave fight in adverse conditions and against a vaunted English side.

Definitely the series was a learning experience for the young Test nation. But there is a thin line between learning experience and a demoralising experience. And after five days of play against a ruthless England side, it has been a demoralising experience so far for Habibur Bashar's men.

Coach Dav Whatmore talked a lot about small successes. He did not menace his word but it was

understandable that he was talking about building partnerships, scoring a fifty if not a hundred, bowling a disciplined line if not getting any wicket.

But these things did not happen and the Bangladeshi reporters, who were desperately in search of something good to write about, repeatedly found themselves in the middle of a crowded press briefing with Whatmore fighting against a barrage of embarrassing questions.

"Are you going to ask the same questions," Whatmore joked with an English journalist before the press briefing.

"Hope you are not going to give the same answers. Be honest," was the response from that reporter.

Obviously the English reporters were asking whether Bangladesh is good enough to play at this level. Bangladesh can easily debate for ages on this issue and can say that they could take inspiration from England, the oldest Test nation who was struggling at the bottom even six years ago.

The disgruntled Bangladeshi reporters might be feeling down in the dumps like their cricketers but they can still be cheerful by the knowledge that the editor of Wisden Almanac Matthew Engel quit his post in disgust after England hit rock-bottom in 1999.



TYPICAL OF HIM: Bangladesh opener Javed Omar, who was 60 not out at tea on Day 2, follows through on a Javed-like pull in the second innings of the second Test against England at Durham on Saturday.

## A fun-filled Riverside

AL-AMIN from Chester-le-Street

Music is tonic for the Bangladeshi cricketer. No doubt the beating of drums and a Punjabi song blaring from the on-field sound system during the lunch break inspired Bangladesh when they came out to bat in the second innings after England declared at 447-3, a lead of 343 runs.

Javed Omar and Nafees Iqbal put on 50 runs for the first wicket and the pair was growing in confidence when an act of cheating from England wicketkeeper Geraint Jones coupled with the misjudgment of square leg umpire A Hill ended Nafees' innings. TV replays later showed that the England stumper gloved the edge on the first bounce.

The capacity crowd at the Riverside ground were treated by a couple hundred girls. Wearing colourful dresses with some of them attired in ghargar they danced to the tune of a big drum. The Punjabi song was the added attraction for the audience, who enjoyed the 30-minute display during the break.

## Tigers treated to media mauling

Cricket

AL-AMIN from Chester-le-Street

While England continued the Bangladesh demolition on the field, their vaunted media enjoyed another kind of bashing.

And if you're interested to go through the sports pages of the leading English dailies you need not spend a penny thanks to the generosity of the organisers, who distribute a booklet titled 'Selected press cuttings' and there you will find everything in one.

"Kids stuff for Harmison as tourists wilt," read the headline of Daily Express with its reporter Colin Bateman focusing on how the two daughters of Durham fast bowler enjoyed the bowling of their daddy.

"Steve Harmison waved to his two daughters as the Riverside crowd cheered off their local hero, but in truth even they probably realised it had been little more than

child's play for their dad," wrote Daily Express. Harmison took 5-38 and Bangladesh were bowled out for 104, four fewer than their first innings at Lord's.

The Daily Mail, on the other hand, linked the performance of Harmison with the forthcoming Ashes series.

"He's in the groove, but Durham's big daddy is saving top gear for the Ashes."

Australia will fly into Heathrow on Sunday to play the Ashes after the one-day tournament that also involves Bangladesh.

"Ruthless England show no mercy," wrote The Independent with Angus Fraser harping on that Harmison and Marcus Trescothick have been profited from Bangladesh's contentious tour of England.

The Sun was as ruthless as the England team.

"They're in and out faster than a dodgy curry," said the tabloid while referring to Bangladesh's submission in the first innings.

## Alfaz-inspired MSC

### Mohammedan-4, Dipali JS-1

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Captain Alfaz Ahmed led from the front to ensure another comfortable victory for Mohammedan Sporting Club in the Premier Bank Premier Division Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The seasoned striker scored one and set up two as the popular Black and Whites thumped promotees Dipali Jubo Sangha 4-1 in front of nearly two thousand spectators at the Big Bowl.

After a dismal show in the season's first two competitions, the Motijheel outfit got off to a bright start in the most coveted league with a 3-1 victory against neighbours Arambagh and they continued their spree in the second match to collect full points.

Mohammedan however face a big challenge in the shape of Muktijoddha, Abahani and Sheikh Russel in their next matches.

In the day's match Mohammedan took control from the very beginning against their lowly opponents, who put up an impressive display against holders Brothers Union in the league opener before going down 1-2.

The heavyweights dominated the first half 3-1 when Alfaz, Monju and Faisal netted one each and Ugandan Idris pulled a goal back for the losers. Second half substitute Nakib sealed the game for the winners.

Ace marksman Alfaz put his side ahead in the 13th minute. He received the ball in the danger zone from a Ronny's back heel and struck a left-footed drive that also took a deflection off defender Apu's foot before crashing into the net.

The Mohammedan captain then

dodged past a defender in the box in the 28th minute to set up his strike partner Monju who made no mistake slotting the ball home.

The winners' increased their lead after three minutes through Faisal's header from an accurate Matiu Munna's right cross.

Dipali pulled one back thanks to a Mohammedan defensive lapse in the 39th minute. Tall Ugandan striker Idris encountered little resistance from Nazrul and Hasan to race into the box and go past an advancing goalkeeper Biplob who failed to stop his right-foot shot.

Although Mohammedan looked tired after the breather, Dipali failed to take advantage of the situation.

Alfaz however produced another opportunity in the second half for

veteran striker Nakib to chest down the left-side cross before placing the ball from handshake distance.

He had another chance on the stroke of the final whistle but Dipali custodian Titoo brilliantly fisted away his header.

Yellow card: Hasan (Mohammedan).

### TEAMS

**MOHAMMEDAN:** Biplob, Nazrul, Hasan, Kamal, Ronny, Faisal (Mintoo), Arman Aziz, Asad, Munna (Khokon), Alfaz and Monju (Nakib).  
**DIPALI JUBO SANGHA:** Titoo, Kaiser, Farid (Noor), Tajul (Shaheen), Jalal (Rubel), Saiful, Abdullah, Apu, Utaka, Idris and Michel.  
**Referee:** Azad Rahman.



Mohammedan's Alfaz Ahmed is in control against Sheikh Abdullah of Dipali Jubo Sangha during their Premier Football League clash at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Saturday.

## Did England need this?

Cricket

ARCHITECT DR NIZAMUDDIN AHMED

The day: Second day of the Second Test on Saturday, 04 June 2005

The Ground: Chester-le-Street, Durham

The occasion: A Test match, Bangladesh's first on English soil

The opponents: England and Bangladesh

The event: A nick off Bangladeshi batsman Nafees Iqbal's glove that did NOT carry was appealed for by the wicketkeeper G Jones, bowler Andrew Flintoff and the rest of the English side.

The decision: Umpire declares it 'out'

In an exhibition of the true spirit of the game Nafees Iqbal walked.

In an exhibition of the true spirit of the game the England captain Michael Vaughan, mighty as his team may be in the physical aspects of the game, did not call back the

Bangladesh batsman. He should have because slo-mo replay showed the ball dropping on the ground several inches before wicketkeeper Jones' glove.

People who have played the game shall tell you that a fielder knows when the ball has been caught clean and when IT DID NOT CARRY. The sensation in the two is so diametrically different that it is not possible to make an error of judgement.

One may have appealed at the spur of the moment but when one knows, and any schoolchild cricketer will tell you that you know, one should signal to the umpire that the ball was not picked up cleanly and that the appeal is withdrawn.

It is understandable that given their bouncy wickets and home conditions in June, England shall try to mince any touring side, particularly if they happen to be learning to walk in the Test arena. Do not forget some of our guys are playing their first Test as opposed to some of their 100. That does make a difference.

It may be just one wicket but

when a team is battling to prove a point -- a valid Test status -- unfair dismissals tell heavily on the team's morale.

It is appreciated from their point of view that they will want to win a Test match in record time. But you need to do that fairly, especially in cricket.

It is not conceivable by our standard of sportsmanship whether England cricketers have to stoop to such lows to get a Bangladesh batsman out. By all means do it fairly.

There is so much in the English language media if a dropped ball is claimed as a catch by any player non-English; or if a ball going away was successfully appealed for. I am waiting for tomorrow's paper to find out how they treat this pathetic show of English cricketer-ship, which frankly speaking has seen better days.

Come on England, you taught the world this game. Let not the world today teach you how to play it in its true spirit.

## Henin wraps up French lesson



AFP, Paris

Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium produced a flawless display of clay-court tennis to defeat France's Mary Pierce 6-1, 6-1 here Saturday for her second French Open title.

The winner here previously in 2003, it was Henin-Hardenne's fourth Grand Slam title alongside the 2003 US Open and the 2004 Australian Open. The 10th seed was the lowest seed ever to win the women's title in Paris.

In what was a totally one-sided final, Henin-Hardenne ran off nine games in a row from 0-1 down in the first set to take the sting out of the big-hitting Pierce and silence her fans in the crowd.

"It's magnificent, magic," said the 23-year-old Henin-Hardenne.

"I tried to put the pressure on her from the start and it worked."

The 30-year-old Pierce said that she had had a great tournament but had played badly on the day.

The final brought together two players who this time last year were both facing crisis-points in their careers as sportswomen.

Henin-Hardenne was entering a long period of doubt due to a debilitating viral condition that sent her to the sidelines, while Pierce, the 2000 winner here, was considering retirement as she battled with injuries and weight problems.

But both dug deep to claw their way back, Henin-Hardenne winning her three tournaments prior to Paris

and Pierce blossoming again in front of a Paris public that jeered her off the court just two years ago.

Henin-Hardenne had struggled though her early games, saving two-match points in the fourth round against Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova.

Pierce blasted a path through to the final including a straight sets walloping of top seed Lindsay Davenport in the quarterfinals.

But in three previous matches between the two the Belgian had yet to drop a set.

With a crackling atmosphere in the Roland Garros centre-court, packed with French and Belgian fans, Pierce started by comfortably winning her opening service game.

But then her dream quickly turned into a nightmare as Henin-Hardenne rattled off 14 points in a

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JOY OF PIERCING MARY: Belgian Justine Henin-Hardenne's joy knows no bound after clinching the French Open in Paris on Saturday.

## BCCI to appeal Ganguly's ban

His poor form continues

CRICINFO/PTI, undated

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has on Thursday decided to appeal against the six-match ban handed to captain Sourav Ganguly for slow over-rates during India's one-day series against Pakistan.

"We have written to the International Cricket Council (ICC) that the six-match ban is too much," Mahendra told at the end of the two-day working committee meeting in Thiruvananthapuram. "The decision is not in tune with the terms of the ICC rules. We are taking this up with the ICC."

The BCCI has already lost one appeal in the matter, when Michael Beloff QC, the ICC appeals commissioner, ruled that the ban was justified.

Meanwhile, the Indian captain's wretched form continued to haunt him in his maiden appearance for English county Glamorgan as he was dismissed for a third-ball duck in a First Division match against Sussex at Swansea.

Coming in at the fall of Aussie opener Matthew Elliott, Ganguly was bowled by left-arm fast medium bowler Jason Lewry on the third day of the four-day match on Friday.