



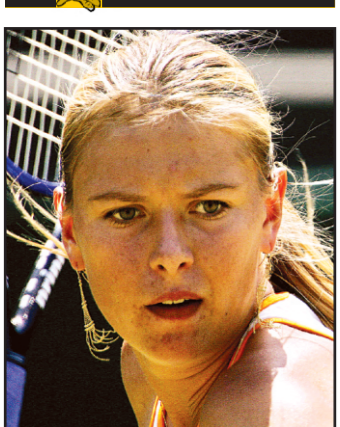
## Did U Know?

Bangladesh lost their 7th limited-overs international in a row against England.

## What to WATCH

**BTV & ESPN**  
 NatWest Tri-Series  
 Bangladesh vs Australia  
 Live at 3:45 pm

**STAR Sports**  
 Wimbledon Championships  
 Women's Singles Semifinals  
 Live at 5:00 pm



**Maria Sharapova**  
 (Russian tennis star)  
 "There are a lot of signs. Not too many here at Wimbledon. At other tournaments, there are a lot of signs. 'Will you marry me, Maria?' It's like, 'Will you jump off a bridge?' The same thing."  
 On dealing with male admirers.

## FIRST DIVISION FOOTBALL

## Full marks for Agrani

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Agrani Bank registered their second victory in the First Division Football League when they beat Mohakhali XI 1-0 at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

After the barren first half, Shohag netted the all-important goal for the bankers in the 57th minute.

With the outcome, Agrani raised their tally to nine points while Mohakhali remained at third place with 16 points from ten matches.



Stand-in Bangladesh coach Stuart Karpinnen (2nd from L) talks with a groundsman while the players have a look at the wicket of St. Lawrence ground at Kent during a practice session on Wednesday.

## Dav's father no more

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Davenelle Clifford, father of Bangladesh national cricket team's Australian coach Dav Whatmore, died yesterday in Melbourne due to complications following a surgery.

Clifford, 91, was announced clinically dead on Saturday and finally, his family gave permission to remove the life supporting system yesterday. His funeral will be held in Melbourne tomorrow.

Dav Whatmore had to leave the Bangladesh team during their ongoing tour of England to be at his ailing father's bedside.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Cricket Board has expressed its sympathy to the bereaved family and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

## What Brazil-Argentina?

**AL-AMIN from Canterbury**

Bangladesh is certainly abuzz with great expectations on Wednesday night as another fierce football rivalry between Brazil and Argentina unfolds in Germany in the Confederation Cup final.

But the Bangladesh cricket team in England knows little about the tension and drama revolving around the clash of the world football giants back home.

"Is it Brazil and Argentina playing the final today? When will the match will take place?" was the first reaction of Bangladesh captain Habibur Bashar who was giving an audition along with Mohammad Ashrafal for a commercial of Western Union Money Transfer after training on Tuesday. Bashar said that he has seen a bit of Brazil's game against Japan but could not follow the competition because of non-availability of live coverage at their hotel.

"I would have loved to see the match. But unfortunately I won't be able to see it," said Bashar who is a great fan of Brazil.

However in England the clash of the two South American giants did not evoke any enthusiasm. You might find every Bangladeshi newspaper carrying big headlines about the game but in here it was completely downplayed.

The three leading newspapers -- The Times, Guardian and Telegraph in their Wednesday's edition barely spared any space about the match.

# Tigers want memorable final day in England

**AL-AMIN from Canterbury**

Bangladesh captain Habibur Bashar said that he wanted to end the eight-week tour of England on a high note when his side takes on Australia in their final NatWest series match at the St. Lawrence cricket ground here on Thursday.

The 32-year-old Bashar also felt that his side had been playing good cricket especially in the one-dayers against England and a 10-wicket thrashing against Australia at Old Trafford on June 25.

Bangladesh crashed to 139 at

Old Trafford but Bashar wanted to draw inspiration from that famous victory against the world champions at Cardiff's Sophia Garden, where they beat them by five wickets.

It was a dream game for Bangladesh where everything was perfect and Bashar desperately wants yet another perfect day on the field to emulate that feat.

The Bangladesh cricket team has never looked so cheerful before a game, even against Zimbabwe let alone Australia.

Their body language during the three-hour training was inspiring and they were not talking about how they were going to survive against Australia but whether they will be a big partnership in the first 15 overs if Mohammad Ashrafal, fresh after his

magnificent hundred followed by a quick fire half century, puts the vaunted attack to the sword again.

It remains to be seen however whether the gritty Javed, after being hit hard for his docile 81 against England, would adopt a more positive approach.

"I have never seen such a positive mood in the team. Every member of the team is excited to play and even those who are not playing are contributing in different ways," said Bashar.

"We need a good start which we have been doing for the last few games. I also want the bowlers to be disciplined and not let the game slip in the first 15 overs," he said after the final training session in the historic city built by the Romans.

The only concern for Bashar was some grass on the wicket.

"If they don't cut the grass, I'm afraid we will have to make a change. I will have a look at the wicket in the morning and if the grass is still there then I will have to field an additional pacer."

"It will be unfortunate if left-arm spinner Manzarul, who bowled so well against England at Headingley is not playing. But we will have to take a decision given the wicket we have for the game," said Bashar adding that they will have to choose either Tapash Baisya or Khaled Mahmud.

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## First point for Dipali

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Promotees Dipali Juba Sangha bagged their first point in the Premier Bank Premier Football League when they held Dhaka Wanderers to a 1-1 draw at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The bottom-table side finally collected one point after seven matches while Wanderers pushed their tally to three points from same number of outings.

The first half ended goalless on a slippery ground but both came close at least on one occasion to break the deadlock. But Dipali's Domba made a goalline save on Wanderers

# Bangladesh's Mr. Laptop

**AL-AMIN from Canterbury**

Ever since the famed South African coach Bob Woolmer successfully used computer technology in cricket, laptops have become an integral part of the game. Suddenly the rest of the cricket world felt that it was important to have an expert in this field and that thinking eventually gave birth to the post of computer analyst.

Bangladesh had also followed suit soon after joining the elite Test family in June 2000. It was in the Asian Test championship in 2001 when former national wicketkeeper Nasir Ahmed Nasu was entrusted

with the job.

Although the national cricket team has gone through a lot of changes for the last four years, Nasu has remained the lone man to answer all those jigsaw puzzles from the cricketers and coaches alike.

The 42-year-old stumper's background as a statistics graduate and the patience he had developed from standing behind the wicket for years greatly helped his progress in this demanding job which initially began on a match-by-match basis.

But the continuity of his job suffered a setback during the two-year coaching stint of Pakistani Mohsin Kamal who apparently had little interest in adopting modern-day technology.

He was again drafted after Dav

Whatmore joined the Bangladesh team as coach after the 2003 World

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NASIR AHMED NASU

# The first Bangladeshi Test cricketer

**MUSTAFIZUR RAHMAN KHAN**

Sometime during the late 1980s, while I was still at school, I read a feature in a Bangla newsmagazine about a cricketer born in Dhaka of English stock who appeared for Australia against England in the very first Test match that ever took place. Though I had forgotten the cricketer's name, I did recollect that the article mentioned that his father was a teacher at Dhaka College. The memory of that article laid buried deep in the recesses of my mind until the Tigers finally roared in Cardiff and beat the Aussies, which prompted me to surf the net to verify the facts for myself. After a brief search, I discovered that the 22 players who took the field in the inaugural Test match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) between March 15 and 19, 1877, included one Barnsby Beauchamp

Cooper, who was born in "Dacca, India" on, curiously enough, March 15, 1844.

BB Cooper "was a public-school educated product of the English establishment who played for Kent and Middlesex as a hard-hitting right-hand bat, and late in 1869 moved to Australia (with a short stay in the USA) and represented Australia in the first Test in 1876-77" (source: Cricinfo). For the record, he scored 15 and 3 in his two innings and took two catches in the match, which was won by Australia by 45 runs. BB Cooper, who appeared for the Australian state side of Victoria, played in only that one Test Match. He died in Geelong, Victoria on August 7, 1914.

The is nothing on record to show that BB Cooper ever played cricket



Dhaka Wanderers defender Yakub races past Dipali Juba Sangha's Chanchal during their Premier Bank Premier Football League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

