



Ethiopian marathoner Abebe Bikila was the first man to successfully defend the marathon title (1960 and 1964 Olympics). He only wore shoes for the second victory.



**Roberto Carlos**  
(Real Madrid's Brazilian star)  
*"He's a player with that special ability. Like Zidane, Ronaldinho or Ronaldo. There are great players, Beckham, Figo, Eto'o and Raul. But someone like Robinho has that bit extra. He is almost a complete player."*



## Rafique honoured

Ace spinner Mohammad Rafique has been named spokesperson for the USAID-funded health care programme.  
The most successful Bangladeshi bowler signed a contract yesterday with the NGO Service Delivery Programme (NSDP) to serve as spokesperson on maternal and neonatal issues.  
The signing ceremony took place at the Gulshan offices of the Bangladesh Centre for Behaviour changes where Dr Robert J Timmons, chief of Party, NSDP was present.

## Issa Khan Navy's aquatic champs

BNS Issa Khan became champions in the annual swimming and waterpolo championships of Bangladesh Navy which concluded yesterday at the Naval headquarters swimming pool in Banani yesterday.  
Issa Khan finished with 132 points while BNS Titumir bagged 129 points to become runners-up.  
A total of 100 swimmers from

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### SPORTS REPORTER

**Premier Bank**  
Senior Division Football League  
They had come to the Bangabandhu National Stadium expecting another cakewalk but Dhaka Wanderers stunned the Mohammedan Sporting Club faithful with an 86th minute equaliser from Nigerian midfielder Patrick as the second-from-bottom side denied the Premier Division league leaders two vital points at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Wednesday.  
What was more disappointing for the Mohammedan supporters in the 1-1 tie was that they looked a shadow of the side that had crushed Wanderers 6-1 in their first-leg less than two weeks ago.

Mohammedan had looked on course as striker Manju scored his fifth goal in three games with 13 minutes to go. But Patrick's sublime header dashed the Black and Whites' hopes of recording what would have been their ninth win in 11 outings.

Failing to secure victory against the minnows, no longer the arch foes of the pre-Liberation era, could prove costly in the long run for Mohammedan who have 27 points and could see their lead cut to just a single point if second placed Brothers Union win today against Youngmens Club.

For winless Wanderers, who are on five points, the outcome was as good as a victory. They defended doggedly with towering Nigerian defender Yakub keeping away balls flying in the box from both flanks as Mohammedan made little impact in the first half-hour.

The only time they managed to penetrate the rival defence before the break was when Manju could not reach the ball with an open net beckoning after the bounce had deceived Wanderers keeper Sohel from a left side cross by Mintu.

Mohammedan went on a desperate goal search in the second half and with the wing-backs overlapping, Wanderers forwards Milton and Henry found more space to exploit. But Nigerian defender Peter Odaf's timely interceptions made sure that 'keeper Biplab was not required to make a single save under the Mohammedan bar.

Skipper Alfaz, who was not at his best, was taken off nine minutes

after the breather but his replacement Donald Robert of Sierra Leone failed to impress and Hassan's long range effort in the 69th minute -- nicely blocked by goalkeeper Sohel -- was the only shot on Wanderers goal until Manju gave the lead with his seventh league goal.

A moment of brilliance from an otherwise colourless Matiu Munna looked like Mohammedan's saviour when the national midfielder sent a teasing volleyed cross from the right and Manju was left with the simple task of nodding home. Manju, who had scored a hatrick against

Wanderers in their previous meeting, is now the joint top scorer in the league with Alfaz.

Mohammedan appeared to have taken the lead for granted but Patrick, who was a threat throughout the game along with Milton, spoiled the afternoon for some 8,000 Mohammedan fans.

Waiting near the edge of the penalty area seemingly without a care in the world, the curly-haired Nigerian suddenly burst into life when substitute Shakil took a corner from the left. Patrick fooled his marker and got himself into a perfect

position before leaping high and heading the ball into the right hand post of a stranded Biplab.

Yellow cards: Asad (Mohammedan) and Nurul Islam (Wanderers)

### TEAMS

**MOHAMMEDAN:** Biplab, Nazrul, Odaf, Hassan, Rony, Arman Aziz, Munna, Asad (Nakib), Faisal (Mintu), Manju and Alfaz (Donald).

**WANDERERS:** Sohel, Jamal, Mostafiz, Yakub, Govinda, Jahangir, Jalaluddin (Shakil), Patrick, Milton and Henry.

**Referee:** Abdul Hannan.



PHOTO: STAR

**PREMATURE CELEBRATIONS:** Prolific Mohammedan striker Manju celebrates his goal against Wanderers at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Wednesday. Wanderers equalised in the dying minutes to salvage a point.

## Rain spoils 2nd day

## BD A already two down



### SPORTS REPORTER

The most of the second day's play of the three-day match between Bangladesh A and Glamorgan was ruined by rain at the Pen-y-Pound, Abergavenny yesterday.

The Bangladesh second string team could bat only 10.1 overs but the short spell made a little damage in the visitor's innings as they reached 54-2 in reply to Glamorgan's 380 in the first essay.

Captain Shahriar Nafees was batting on 20 and Alok Kapali was accompanying him with four before the match officials called off the day's play.

Right-arm paceman Andrew Davies caused the early disaster picking up both the wickets.

Nafees Iqbal was caught by

### STANCHART CHESS

## Masum closing in on title

### SPORTS REPORTER

Masum Hossain of Dharmarajik School brightened his chances to win the title for students of Class VI-X (Group B) in the Standard Chartered School Chess tournament when he posted solo lead with just one round left in the competition yesterday.

Masum defeated Sourik of Kolkata in the eighth round at the BCF hall room to top the table with 7.5 points.

His previous round co-leader Sharif Hossain drew with another Kolkata schoolboy Abhratanu to slip down to second place with seven points.

In Group A (KG-Class V), Abdullah Al-Saif's winning run came to an end when he drew in the penultimate round after seven straight wins but still, the youngster was atop alone with 7.5 points.

Today is the concluding day of the tournament.

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PHOTO: AFP

American Michael Phelps is ecstatic after capturing the 200m freestyle gold in the 11th World Swimming Championships in Montreal on Tuesday.

## Take note Mr. Boycott



### SPORTS REPORTER

Although cricket lovers in the country have generally rejected former England captain Geoff Boycott's degrading remarks about Bangladesh cricket as a stupid outburst, former national team manager ASM Faruque was not prepared to let the incident go unopposed.

Delivering at the fifth annual Colin Cowdrey Lecture on the eve of the first Ashes Test, Boycott said: "My mum would have scored runs and got wickets against Bangladesh ... she'd have wanted to bat and bowl at both ends. They are an embarrassment to Test cricket. Nobody wants to see it and the vast accumulation of runs against them does nothing for the game."

But on Wednesday Faruque advised the former Yorkshire opener-turned-TV-commentator to get his mother's cricket skills tested at home before challenging Bangladesh.

"I still can't imagine how a gentleman like him has made this kind of crude remarks against a Test playing nation which has yet to pass its infant days. I would like to request Mr. Boycott to allow his mum to play first for England before qualifying for the Bangladesh side. It would have been helpful for England had she scored some runs in the Lord's Test (against Australia)," fumed Faruque, who played club cricket for Mohamme-dan Sporting Club.

The Bangladesh team manager during the 2003 World Cup while condemning Boycott's unbridled statement said that he should look back at the statistics of his own side before criticising others.

"Mr. Boycott must be aware of the fact that England have failed to win a Test series against their 'old enemies' Australia in the last 20 years. It does not mean that England is a bad team. Besides, he should have gone through the statistics of New Zealand and Sri Lanka when they were inducted in the Test family. Given the complexity of modern day cricket and the amount of game played, I think Bangladesh have done reasonably well in the last five years."

"Mohammad Ashraful hit a century on debut, Enamul Haque (junior) has a record-breaking bowling figures, some other players have individual successes while our team played good cricket in Australia, Pakistan and West Indies," said Faruque, adding that Bangladesh is on the right track.

## Sourav returns, keeps mum



### PTI, Kolkata

With his fate as international cricketer in the hands of South African judge Albie Sachs thousands of miles away, former India cricket skipper Sourav Ganguly on Wednesday returned here refusing to hazard any guess on the verdict to be given by the International Cricket Council (ICC) appointed arbitrator today.

"What can I say on it? I don't have anything to say," Ganguly told newsmen at the Netajee Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport in the morning when asked to comment on the issue.

Ganguly, who has been included as the 16th member in the Indian team for the triangular tournament in Sri Lanka pending the resolution of the dispute over the six-ODI ban slapped on him for the team's slow over rate against Pakistan in April, returned home after a stint with English county side Glamorgan.

"It has been a good experience," Ganguly said about his stint with Glamorgan.

Asked to comment about Rahul Dravid's captaincy, Ganguly said, "he has hardly got to captain India properly. How do you expect me to

say anything on this?" He also sidestepped a question on the inclusion of some youngsters in the Indian

team for the Colombo tri-series. "This is the selectors' prerogative. They have done it."



PHOTO: AFP

Sourav Ganguly encounters reporters upon his arrival at the Kolkata airport from England early on Wednesday.

### WORLD SWIMMING C'SHIPS

## Phelps back on track

AFP, Montreal

Michael Phelps left failure in his wake on Tuesday, winning his first individual gold medal of the 11th World Swimming Championships in the 200m freestyle.

Phelps, the six-time Olympic champion whose roller-coaster opening day at the meet included failing to qualify in the 400m free and winning a 4x100m freestyle relay gold, won in a personal-best time of 1min 45.20sec.

The 20-year-old claimed the fifth world title of his career, taking the lead by the halfway point of the race and winning a comfortable 94-hundredths of a second ahead of Australian Grant Hackett.

Hackett, the world's dominant distance freestyler who is stretching his range in the 200m, took the silver in 1:46.14.

In the process, the 25-year-old became the most decorated swimmer in World Championships history with a total of 14 medals, a tally that includes his 400m free triumph on Sunday.

He remains the overwhelming favourite for both the 800m and 1,500m free later this week.

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