



## Did U Know?

Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history: Spades – King David, Clubs – Alexander the Great, Hearts – Charlemagne, Diamonds – Julius Caesar.



**Ronnie Irani**  
(Ex-England cricketer)  
"There's no 'I' in team but there's an 'I' in winners."



**ESPN**  
Sportscenter India  
Sports News  
Live at 8:30 pm  
**STAR Sports**  
Mumbai Open Tennis  
Live at 5:30pm  
**TEN Sports**  
UEFA Champions League  
Benfica v Man United  
Live at 12:00am (Wednesday)  
Arsenal v Porto  
Delayed at 02:45am (Wednesday)

## Zia atop alone

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman won the fourth round board against International Master Abdullah Al Rakib to take solo lead in the University of Greenwich FIDE Rating Chess Tournament yesterday.

Zia secured maximum four points while Rakib shared the second spot along with IM Enamul Hossain Rajib, FIDE Masters Abu Sufian Shakil, Sheikh Nasir Hossain and Taibur Rahman Sumon with three points.

In other matches, Rajib beat Monir Hossain, Nasir beat Saifuddin Lavlu, Shakil beat Jamal Ahmed, Mahtabuddin beat FM Mehdi Hasan Parag and Taibur drew with Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar.

## ICC set to get tougher on racism

CRICINFO, undated

The International Cricket Council (ICC) was to consider beefing up its anti-racism code at a two-day meeting concluding in Dubai on Monday.

If adopted, the new code will allow Test nations to eject spectators who are found guilty of racial abuse, and even impose life bans on them.

If the code is not enforced by the host nation, it faces the withdrawal of international status from the venue where any incident took place.

A number of other anti-racism policy initiatives are up for consideration.

One of these would involve the adoption of a text message or telephone hotline for spectators to report offensive behaviour.

The ICC first adopted an Anti-Racism Code in 2003 and it was amended in 2005.

It required a further review following allegations of racist abuse made against South Africa players during their tour of Australia last winter.

# MSC, Mariners in last four



SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club and Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club completed the semifinal lineup in the Shah Sports Club Cup hockey tournament with contrasting victories in Group B yesterday.

While Mohammedan coasted to a 3-1 win over Sadharan Bima KS in the day's first match at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium, Mariners had to fight every moment to come back from a goal down and win a five-goal thriller against Ajax Sporting Club.

With two wins each in as many games Mohammedan and Mariners, who face off tomorrow in the group decider, joined Abahani and Usha in the last four. Mohammedan, who blanked Ajax 3-0 in their group opener, got off to a flying start and were three goals up even before their rivals settled on the pitch.

Anisuzzaman Sweet opened

the account from a seventh minute penalty corner while national forward Ariful Haque Prince successfully converted another penalty corner eight minutes.

The black and whites kept up the tempo and Maksud Alam Habul made it 3-0 in the 19th minute with a field goal that sealed three points for the two-time winners. However, Mohammedan looked satisfied with the two-goal cushion and hardly made any effort to increase the margin.

Bima got a consolation goal four minutes from time when Abdus Samad Mamun found the net from a goalmouth melee.

Mariners, who dumped Bima 4-0 in the first round, came to the day's second match as favourites but faced stiff resistance before downing Ajax 3-2. Ajax, who needed to win to stay in race for a semifinal berth, were rewarded for their stubbornness as Shawkat Ali put the Elephant Road outfit ahead in the 18th minute after a superb move.

Mariners went all out in search of an equaliser and the pressure told four minutes later from their second penalty corner when Chandan hit the mark. The scoreline remained 1-1 at break and Mariners finally established their control halfway through the second half, consolidating the lead with two goals inside eight minutes. Both the breaks came down the right flank followed by superb finishing from Rahul Kanti and Ashraful Islam Shishu in the 45 and 53 minutes.

Ajax never lost their hearts but their efforts were repeatedly thwarted by the superior Mariners defence before reducing the arrears in the 64th minute through Ranjan Banik.

Today's first match between Sonali Bank and Bangladesh Sporting only has academic interest but the Usha-Abahani clash at 3.45pm will decide the group. Level on six points, Abahani enjoy superior goal difference and need a draw to emerge group champions.



PHOTO: STAR

Action from yesterday's Shah Sports Club Cup hockey tournament match between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Sadharan Bima at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

## Hockey, football finally in for Asian Games

SPORTS REPORTER

The confusion over participation of football and hockey was finally over as Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) yesterday sent the entries of 12 disciplines for the coming Asian Games to be held in Doha this December.

Although the BOA had chosen seven disciplines earlier, football, hockey, weightlifting, judo and karate were included after the State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman insisted popular sports hockey and football and all the silver medalists at the recently concluded 10th South Asian Games should go to the Asian in Qatar.

The initially selected disciplines are athletics, swimming, shooting, chess, kabaddi, taekwondo and golf.

A BOA official told that they have yet to receive the written approval of the BOA chief about increasing the number of athletes and disciplines but BOA president and Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Moeen U Ahmed has given his consent verbally.

The Bangladesh contingent would now be about 90 members instead of 33 previously selected by the BOA after addition of the 25-member football team, a 24-member hockey team and eight more athletes and their coaches.

# Best yet to come: Ricky



AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Australian captain Ricky Ponting believes his side have yet to peak despite winning the DLF Cup tri-series, and warns they will be hard to beat at the Champions Trophy.

Australia taught the West Indies a cricketing lesson on Sunday with a crushing 127-run victory in the final of the DLF Cup in Malaysia.

The bowling attack of Brett Lee, Glenn McGrath, Nathan Bracken and Shane Watson proved unstoppable and is expected to spearhead their attempt to win the Champions Trophy for the first time next month.

"It's obviously one we want to win. It is the second biggest one-

day tournament in the world and it is one that has eluded Australia," said Ponting.

"We have been knocked out in the semi-final in the last two Champions Trophies, but we definitely have the squad and the players to challenge seriously this year.

"We've played some good cricket in Indian conditions before so we can go there now with confidence."

Before coming to Malaysia, Australia had not played competitive cricket for four months but were good enough, with an experimental side, to tame not only the West Indies but also India.

Such is the depth of their squad that they were able to rotate players and take a look at some promising youngsters -- such as Mitchell

Johnson and Dan Cullen -- yet still emerge victorious.

"Looking back over the last few weeks, I think it has been very successful with the experimentation that we have had, trying different guys in different roles," said Ponting.

"It's been a really good exercise. Having had a look at a few extra players in different roles, we have lots of different bases covered for the Champions Trophy."

Buoyed by their success here, they head to Australia Monday to immerse themselves in training routines with their state and club sides before heading to India.

Ponting said the best is yet to come.

"After not playing for four months, I think it's fair to say none

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## PM to open NSC Tower today

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will formally inaugurate the newly built 20-storey National Sports Council (NSC) Tower in the city today.

Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas, Dhaka City Mayor Sadeq Hossain Khoka and Parliamentary Standing Committee Chairman on Youth and Sports Ministry Joyanal Abedin Faruq will be present as special guests.

State Minister for Youth and Sports M Fazlur Rahman will preside over the function.

The NSC Tower has been built at a cost of nearly Tk 45 crore.

The first 10 floors of the Tower consist of car parking, auditorium, media centre, conference rooms, sports museum, players' lounge and players' accommodation.

The remaining space up to 20th floor of the building will be used for commercial purpose.

## Hingis claims Kolkata Open

AFP, Kolkata

Top seed Martina Hingis of Switzerland bagged the Kolkata Open title with a 6-0, 6-4 victory over unseeded Russian Olga Poutchkova in the final here on Sunday.

The former world number one faced a stiff challenge from her Russian rival only in the second set of the 57-minute encounter when she trailed 3-1 after dropping her serve.

But the Russian, playing her maiden WTA final, could not keep the momentum.

"Yes, I was then a bit surprised," Hingis said after winning her 42nd career title.

"I had to refocus then. She was playing to my forehand which also took me by surprise a bit. I think at that point I gave her a chance to get back into the match and at one point even believed she had a chance."

"The first set was all too easy and I had to regain focus. It happens when you have it so easy." Hingis, who did not drop a set in the entire tournament, was too good for her opponent in the 18-minute opening set as she slammed many winners.

"This is only my second title this year and so it is special," said Hingis, who also triumphed at Rome.

Poutchkova said she learned a lot playing against a "great player".

India's Sania Mirza and South African Liezel Huber won the doubles title with a 6-4, 6-0 victory over Yuliana Fedak and Yulia Beygelzimer of Ukraine.

## ERRATUM

The lead picture in the front page of Star Sport on Monday carried a caption 'Bangladesh players enjoying their time in the swimming pool of Sonar-gaon Hotel'. Actually it was the swimming pool of Sheraton Hotel.

We regret the slip.

-- Sports Editor

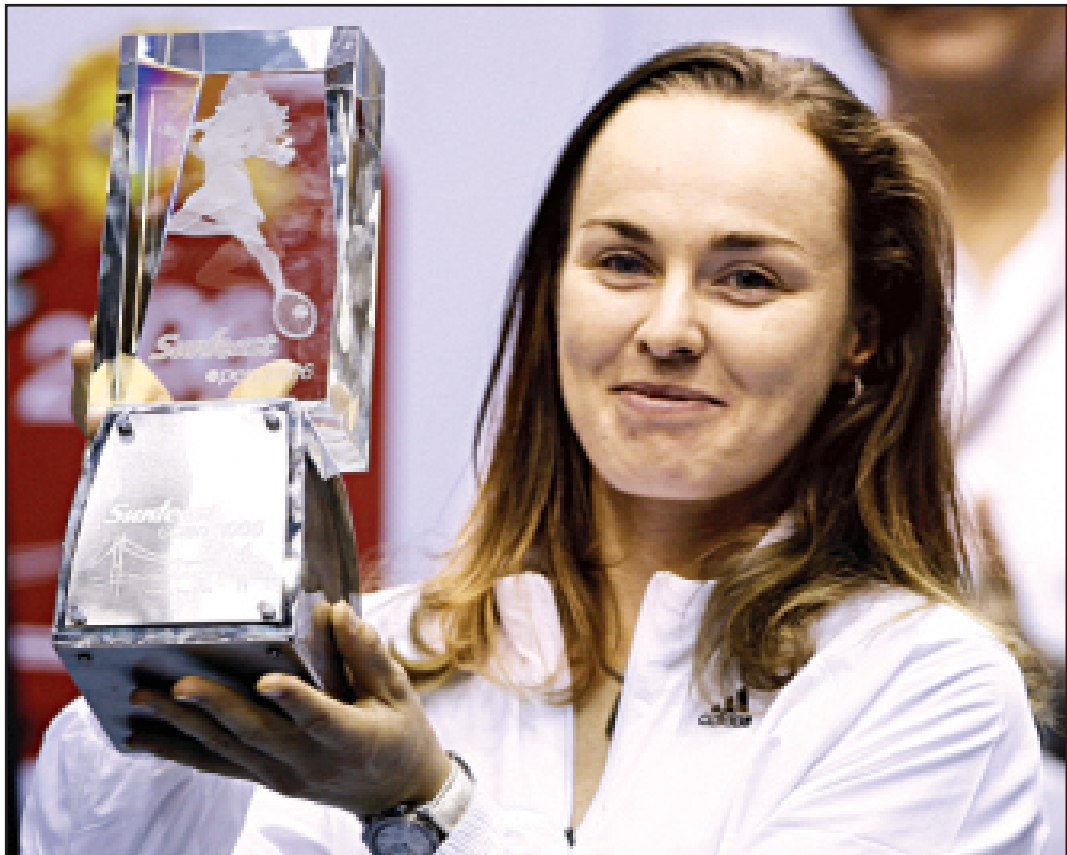


PHOTO: AFP

Swiss miss Matrina Hangis holds aloft the Kolkata Open women's singles trophy that she won by defeating Russian Olga Poutchkova 6-0, 6-4 in the final in Kolkata on Sunday.

# England must be bold to retain Ashes: Chappell



REUTERS, Sydney

England must make bold selections and play positive cricket if they want to retain the Ashes, former Australia captain Ian Chappell said on Monday.

Chappell expects Australia to win back the famous urn they lost last year for the first time since 1987 but believes the choice of Andrew Flintoff to replace injured captain Michael Vaughan was a step in the right direction for England.

"I thought they made the brave choice going with Flintoff even

though there are doubts over his fitness," Chappell told Reuters.

"I initially thought the captaincy would put too much responsibility on his shoulders but now I think it was the right thing to do."

Chappell said England had reaped rewards for positive selections before the 2005 Ashes series, opting for Kevin Pietersen in the middle order instead of the far more experienced Graham Thorpe.

"I felt they would go with Thorpe but opting for Pietersen proved to be an inspired move and he contributed hugely to England winning the series with his attacking batting," he said.

"People say he has a suspect

technique but I have looked closely at him. Although he has weaknesses like any attacking player he has plenty of strengths to his game as well."

Chappell says it is important England show faith in young left-arm spinner Monty Panesar ahead of the experienced Ashley Giles and stick with their best wicketkeeper, Chris Read, instead of going back to Geraint Jones.

"As soon as I hear the names of Giles and Jones coming back into the selectors' thoughts I will start to worry for England," he said.

"Panesar showed against Pakistan that he is a real attacking

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PHOTO: STAR

Workers giving finishing touch to the new home of the National Sports Council yesterday. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the 20-storey Tower of country's sport governing body today.