



## Did U Know?

FC Barcelona is one of the only three clubs that have never been relegated from La Liga and the second most successful club in Spanish football having won nineteen La Liga titles.



## Sachin Tendulkar

(Star Indian batsman)  
"It's a cricketers' game, so it really doesn't matter whether you are young or old. It's a cricket match."  
About Twenty20 international.



**BTV**  
Citycell Nat'l School Football (Final)  
Town Secondary School v Victoria High School  
Live from 5:00pm  
**STAR Sports**  
French Open  
Live from 6:00pm  
**ESPN**  
ICC World Twenty20 Warm-up Matches  
Sri Lanka v South Africa  
Live from 6:30pm  
England v West Indies  
Live from 10:30pm  
**STAR Cricket**  
ICC World T20 Warm-up Matches  
Holland v Scotland  
Live from 6:30pm  
India v Pakistan  
Live from 10:30pm



Citycell Nat'l School Football (Final)  
Town Secondary School v Victoria High School  
Time: 5:00pm  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium  
Bangladesh A v MCA XI  
Four-Day Match, Day One  
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Mirpur

## National volleyball

UNB, Dhaka

The Rangs National Volleyball League begins tomorrow at the Dhaka Volleyball Stadium. Sixteen district champion club teams will take part in the four-day league.

The participating teams are Nakshi Adarsha Jubo Sangha (Narail), Top Sports Club (Noakhali), Agrabad Naojoan Club (Chittagong), Kutubdia Nabarun Sangha (Cox's Bazar), Jubo Sanghsad Club (Gaibandha), Mondalpara Jubo Sangha (Narayanganj), Young Darga Jana Kalyan Samity (Khulna), Bright Star Club (Rajshahi), Friends Club (Kushtia), Jamalinagar Jubo Sangha (Bogra), Sabalia Krira Ekadash (Tangail), District Handball Academy (Chapainawabganj), Kukrali Volleyball Sporting Club (Satkhira).

Shabi Seven Star (Bhola), Mohammedan SC (Jamalpur) and Agnibina Sangsad (Gazipur).

# Tigers give SL a scare

STAR SPORT DESK



Bangladesh put up yet another spirited display but still suffered a four-wicket defeat at the hands of Sri Lanka in their last official ICC World

Twenty20 warm-up game at Trent Bridge yesterday.

Bangladesh bowlers, in their defence of 151-6 in 20 overs, made Sri Lanka struggle before the latter reached the target making 152-6 with two balls to spare.

At one stage the Tigers tightened their grip on the match, leaving the Lankans need to score 25 runs from the last three overs. But it was Mashrafe Bin Mortaza who continued his 'slog flu' as the pace spearhead conceded 14 runs in the 18th over to eventually let the games slip.

Former Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene top scored with 43 off 28 balls that contained six fours and a six.

Indeed Bangladesh lost their official warm-up games against Australia and Sri Lanka, but they showed their potential ahead of the first Group A match against India which will take place on June 6 at the same venue.

Back to the match, seeking quick runs Bangladesh's top-order fell apart but a thrifty 70-run association between Mushfiqur Rahim and Rokibul Hasan helped them to a competitive score.

Bangladesh, having been handed a loss by Australia at this same venue on Monday, elected to bat on a hard batting track under sunny skies. Unfortunately for them, their top-order failed to fire due to a kamikaze approach and that put plenty of pressure on Rokibul and Mushfiqur. Rokibul never threatened to run away with the innings but his unbeaten presence at the end of a wobbly

innings ensured Bangladesh take the field confidently.

Farveez Maharoof's first over cost 15. - Tamim Iqbal welcomed him with a trio of forceful boundaries - but also accounted for the trigger-happy Zunaed Siddiqui with a slow legcutter. Then a moment of madness had Tamim on his way back: Mohammad Ashraful turned the ball just wide of Nuwan Kulasekara, who collected with ease and whipped off the balls with both batsmen at the other end. There was never a run and the captain was to blame.

Batting was easy on this track - Shakib Al Hasan dispatched his first two deliveries for fours, Ashraful drag-flicked the next to fine leg - and all that was needed was partnerships. Bangladesh knew this track from yesterday and in particular the short boundaries for left-handers, but when they failed to perforate the field for a couple of overs, Ashraful and Shakib tried too much instead of trying to set a platform.

In particular, Bangladesh were rocked by Isuru Udana's double-wicket seventh over, which owed much to Kumar Sangakkara. Ashraful chased a very wide delivery and was excellently snapped up by Sangakkara, standing up to the stumps, and then Mahmudullah drove loosely and tickled a faint inside edge. Ajantha Mendis didn't take long to pick up a wicket, though truth be told it was an ugly heave across the line from Shakib.

Rokibul bided his time and didn't collect his first boundary until he'd faced 27 deliveries. He then opened up with some handy reverse sweeps and paddle shots and finished unbeaten on 38 from 40 balls. Mushfiqur hit 34 from 28 balls, including two clean sixes early into his arrival that cleared the stands over midwicket. Having picked out the deep midwicket boundary effortlessly in the penultimate over, Mushfiqur fell

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Rokibul Hasan, who scored an unbeaten 38, off-drives during Bangladesh's ICC World Twenty20 warm-up match against Sri Lanka at Trent Bridge in Nottingham yesterday.

## 2nd 4-dayer from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The second four-day match between Bangladesh A and Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA) will start today at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur.

The first four-dayer ended in a draw after rain shortened the final day at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra.

Rohit Motwani and Srikanth Mandle of the visiting side made hundreds in the first game.

## Mymensingh Abahani wins

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani Krira Chakra of Mymensingh earned a facile 3-1 victory over Netrakona Shoukhin Krira Protibha Onneshon in the only match of the Bashundhara Champions Club Cup Football tournament at the Sherpur Stadium yesterday.

Babul struck twice in the 19th and 70th minutes while Pathan netted the other goal in the 89th minute for the winners. Anal scored the lone goal for the losers in the 67th minute.

In today's game, Jamalpur Mohammedan SC will play Netrakona Shoukhin Krira Protibha Anneshon at the Sherpur Stadium while Sylhet Lauai SC face Sunamganj Real Bengal Club at the Habiganj Stadium.

# Soderling marches on Cibulkova stuns Sharapova

AFP, Paris



Sweden's Robin Soderling, conqueror of Rafael Nadal, marched into his first ever Grand Slam semi-final with a superb 6-1, 6-3, 6-1 win over Russian Nikolay Davydenko at the French

Open here on Tuesday.

Soderling, the 23rd seed and world number 25, will play either British third seed Andy Murray or Chile's 12th seed Fernando Gonzalez for a place in the final.

The 24-year-old shocked the sporting world by inflicting a first ever Roland Garros defeat on four-time champion Nadal here on Sunday and becomes the first Swedish French Open semi-finalist since his coach Magnus Norman in 2000.

"He surprised me, he played really well,"

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PHOTO: AFP

GIANT-KILLER: Swedish Robin Soderling exults after beating Russian Nikolay Davydenko in their French Open quarterfinal match at Roland Garros in Paris yesterday.

# SA get Pakistan in a spin

AFP, Nottingham



South Africa spinners Roelof van der Merwe and Johan Botha took two wickets apiece as the Proteas beat 2007 finalists Pakistan by 59 runs in their ICC World Twenty20 warm-up match here on Monday.

Pakistan, chasing a stiff target of 187 for victory, were on track at 69 for two in the ninth over before they lost their next five wickets for just 19 runs at Trent Bridge.

As soon as South Africa captain Graeme Smith, who'd top scored with 70 in a total of 186 for seven, brought on his slow bowlers the match veered back in the Proteas' favour.

Ahmed Shahzad was lbw to van der Merwe and the same bowler also held a sharp return catch to get rid of Pakistan captain Younus

Khan. The innings then subsided long before Saeed Ajmal was last man out.

Smith said the fact so many of his side had played on home soil in the Indian Premier League (IPL), moved to South Africa from India this year because of security concerns, had worked in his favour.

"I think it's a big bonus a lot of our guys have been playing in the IPL," said Smith.

"It was nice to try a few things and we'll probably look at giving a few of the other guys an opportunity in our other warm-up match against Sri Lanka."

Meanwhile Pakistan coach Intikhab Alam, who played for English county Surrey in the 1970s, said only arriving in England two days before this match had not done the team any favours.

"It's very difficult to come from a hot climate and get used to different conditions," he

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## Sachin's mantra

PTI, New Delhi

Sachin Tendulkar, who tasted success at an early age, admitted he too had moments when he could have "got carried away" and said it was hard work and resolve that helped him reach the pinnacle of success.

The 36-year-old batting maestro, who began his cricketing career at a tender age of 16, has so far played 159 Tests and 425 one-day internationals, without being dropped from the national squad even once in the last two decades.

"Given the things that have happened in my life it would have been easy to get carried away," Tendulkar was quoted as saying by men's fashion magazine GQ which has the batting maestro on its cover in the latest issue.

"There were times when I felt that, yeah, I should bunk practice and spend time with my friends and go out for a movie. But my coach would turn up and make me sit on his bike and take me all the way to practice," he recollected.

Tendulkar, who holds umpteen number of cricketing records besides being the world's highest run-getter in Tests and one-dayers, said success did not come automatically to him.

"I have made an effort. It doesn't happen automatically," he said.

## Women's Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has selected thirty-one players for the women's national cricket training camp.

The selected players have been requested to report coach Zafrul Ehsan the Dhanmondi Women's Complex on June 5 at 4pm. The camp will continue up to July 10.

The selected players are Ayesha Akter, Papia Hoque Babu, Suktara Rahman, Shahnaz Parvin, Sathira Zakir Jessy, Sharmin Ahmed, Salma Khatun, Rojina Akter, Lota Mondol, Farzana Haque, Panna Ghosh, Eti Mondol, Mina Khatun, Shayla Sharmin, Tithi Rani Sarker, Sultana Yasmin Baisakhi, Champa Chakma, Tahin Tahera, Irin Sultana, Tripti Mondol, Jahanara Alam, Chamely Khatun, Fatema Tuz-Zohora, N.R. Mahmuda Khan, Lily Rani, Happy, Sohely Akter, Sharifa Khatun, Rumana Ahmed, Suborna Islam and Shamima Akter Pinky.

# A battle of midfields School Championship final today

SPORTS REPORTER



It will be a battle of midfields when Victoria High School of Moulvibazar take on Town Secondary School of Barisal in the final match of the Citycell National School Football Championship at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

The match kicks off at 5pm with state-run Bangladesh Television telecasting the proceedings live from the venue.

The boys from Moulvibazar are on a high after crushing Govindaganj School of Gaibandha 4-0 in one semifinal but it would be unwise to underestimate the Barisal lads, who needed an injury time goal to edge Tangail's ShutiVM School 4-3 in the other.

"Our opponents have a very strong midfield but so do we. So the team that takes control of possession early will have the advantage. We

hope to score at least one goal before halftime and if we can do that, we would be able to defend," told Victoria skipper Ripon, who leads the tightest defence in the competition.

The high-scoring side from Moulvibazar have conceded just one goal so far against 21 but Ripon, a centre back, knows the opposition striking pair would be a real threat.

"In addition, they have a superb playmaker in Jumman so we have to stop the trio. But our coach has taken good care of us and he treats us like his children."

Victoria coach Ekramur Rahman Rana said that his boys are very disciplined and working hard to come this far.

"I congratulate the Bangladesh Football Federation and Citycell for reviving school football and hope it would be held every year from now on. The boys come from a very poor background but they dream of becoming stars. This is a big opportunity for them to shine," told

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# Vettori propels NZ

AFP, London



New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori led from the front as the Black Caps beat defending champions India by nine runs in their ICC World Twenty20 warm-up match at Lord's here on Monday.

India were on course to make the 171 they needed for victory during a fourth-wicket stand of 69 between Suresh Raina (45) and Ravindra Jadeja which featured some superb clean hitting to match the top-order fireworks of opener Rohit Sharma (36).

Left-arm spinner Vettori, who finished with excellent figures of three for 24 in three overs, had big-hitting rival captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni stumped for just six and, after Raina holed out to medium-pacer Jacob Oram, the innings fell away despite a run-a-ball 41 from

Jadeja.

But India may take some heart from getting so close to the Black Caps' total without batsmen Virender Sehwag (shoulder) and Yuvraj Singh (stomach illness).

Although not an official match, this was the fourth time in a row that India had lost to New Zealand in the shortest form of the game to go with three defeats in full Twenty20 internationals.

"It's four in a row now and that is a bit of a concern," Dhoni told reporters. "We wanted to try a few things at the end, especially when it came to the length that we bowl, but sadly it didn't work for us."

Vettori had forecast on Sunday that spin would have an important role to play at this tournament and he was as good as his word.

The skipper, who held a fine caught and bowled chance off a hard-hit drive from Yusuf

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PHOTO: INTERNET

New Zealand skipper Daniel Vettori (L) celebrates with teammates after dismissing India's Rohit Sharma during an ICC World Twenty20 warm-up match at Lord's on Monday.