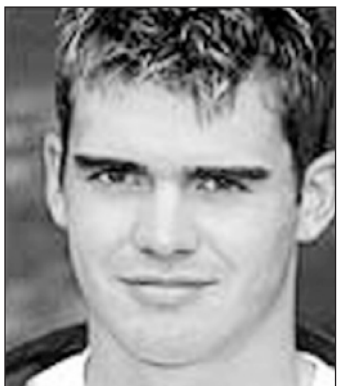




Did U Know?

Michael Atherton has got a dubious record in Tests. He has got 19 ducks, highest for an Englishman.



James Anderson
(England pace bowler)
"I don't see any reason why we cannot overtake Australia in the next few years."



- TEN Sports**
- Sri Lanka vs Pakistan Tri Series Live at 10:30 am
 - ESPN**
 - English Premier League Liverpool vs Man City Repeat at 2:00 pm
 - West Indies vs Australia Fourth Test, Day Two Live at 8:00 pm
 - STAR Sports**
 - Tennis Masters Series, Rome Semifinals Live at 6:00 pm
 - Primera Liga Malaga vs Deportivo Live at 1:30 am (Sunday)

NOTICE
Dear WHIZZ KIDS, due to some technical difficulties draw of the Competition-193 could not be held last night. It will now take place on May 16. -- Sports Editor

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 193

Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star. Win attractive prizes. Competition closes at 8 pm May 16, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards.

- Who clinched the Professor Abdur Razzak 29th National chess title?
Niaz Zia Reecat
- Who became man-of-the-match in the Sharjah Cup final?
Youhana Sami Taufiq
- Who will lead Sri Lanka's one-day side?
Tillekeratne Vass
- Who won the man-of-the-series award in the TVS Cup triangular tournament?
Atapattu

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (if any)

No Agassi in Hamburg

World number one Andre Agassi will not compete at next week's 2.45 million euro Tennis Masters Series event in Hamburg, tournament director Walter Knapper said Friday.

The ATP Tour confirmed Agassi would not be playing but no reason was given for his absence.

Akram saying goodbye

SHAHIDUL ISLAM from Chittagong

Veteran batsman Akram Khan has expressed his desire to quit international cricket. The former Bangladesh captain is expected to formally announce his retirement on Monday.

"I've decided to call it a day after talking it over with my family and friends. In fact, for the last month I was thinking about the matter, he told reporters at his Kadir Dewri residence here yesterday.

The popular cricketer however wishes to continue playing for his club Abahani at least for another two years.

Akram said his reason for wanting to end his Test career was purely on personal grounds. "It was not an overnight decision. I have consulted everybody including my wife, relatives and even fellow cricketers over the past few weeks to prepare myself for today's announcement.

All sporting figures want to bow out at the top of their game and I am no exception. I feel this is the right moment for me to take such a decision."

The burly 34-year-old Chittagongian hopes to devote more time to his family and con-

centrate on business ventures in the port city and capital after ending his Bangladesh career.

"Cricket has kept me away from my family for too long. At last I can spend more time with them now."

Akram is best remembered for his role in a glorious 1997 ICC Trophy campaign in Malaysia. A match-winning knock of 67 not out against the Netherlands in the quarterfinals sealed his place in Bangladesh cricket folklore.

Bangladesh were facing the prospect of getting knocked out of the competition when skipper Akram played the innings of his life to carry the Tigers into the semi-final. Bangladesh went on to lift the ICC Trophy thus winning qualification for the 1999 World Cup in England for the first time in their history.

The Tigers' impressive World Cup showing, that included a stunning win against giants Pakistan, caught the world by storm and the game's ruling body ICC bestowed Test status on them a year later. Many feel had it not been for Akram's heroics, Bangladesh would've been left in the wilderness for many more years.

Akram who made his Test debut in November 2000 against India, said his one regret in an otherwise satisfying career was the fact that he could not score either a hundred or a fifty in eight appearances in the

ultimate version of the game. His best being 44 against hosts Zimbabwe in April 2001.

"It was a dream that never came true in my life," he lamented.

On the other hand, his one-day international record includes five half-centuries in 44 matches with a top score of 65 against Kenya.

Akram has another reason to be proud because during a career spanning 15 years he had the privilege of captaining Bangladesh from 1995-98.

"Certainly getting the chance to lead my country was a great honour and something I will always cherish.

At the same time the soft-spoken Akram knows in his heart that the last few years may not have been that productive in the international arena despite his prolific form in domestic cricket. "The last two years were particularly stressful for me. But I overcame those bad days with the blessings and support from my family as well as the well-wishers and fans across the country. I am grateful to them all."

Akram said he would be informing the BCB in writing about decision very shortly and on Monday he would make an official statement to the press.



AKRAM KHAN

CAREER AT A GLANCE						
Name: Akram Khan						
Age: 34						
Batting style: Right-handed						
Test debut: v India (November 2000)						
ODI debut: v Pakistan (1988 Asia Cup)						
Tests	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave
	8	16	0	259	44	16.18
One-day Internationals						

Ponting misses final Test

AFP, St Johns

Australia captain Steve Waugh won the toss and chose to bat in the fourth and final cricket Test against the West Indies at the Recreation Ground here on Friday.

Australia lost in-form vice-captain Ricky Ponting on the morning of the Test from the effects of a viral infection, making way for Queenslanders Martin Love to make his third Test appearance.

The Australians are shooting for a record 4-0 win in the series and become the first touring side to sweep a series in 73 years of cricket in the Caribbean.

The West Indies made two changes from the team that was beaten by nine wickets in the last Bridgetown Test with senior pace bowler Mervyn Dillon ousting Tino Best and Ridley Jacobs taking up the wicketkeeper's gloves from youngster Carlton Baugh.

Australia will be trying to avoid its dead-rubber curse in this final match of the series.

The world's best team have won 15 of their last 17 Tests, but the matches they have dropped were the final Tests against South Africa in Durban last year and England in Sydney in January after they had dominated the opening matches of those series.

Yet again there will be another hard flat pitch, making it difficult for the bowlers and Australia's a t t e m p t s

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

SL tri-series from today

AFP, Dambulla

Sri Lanka and Pakistan clash in the opening match of the triangular one-day series in a historical Buddhist temple town here on Saturday, hoping to resurrect their cricketing fortunes.

A lone one-day international has so far been played at this venue in central Sri Lanka, famous more for rock-cut caves, temples and meditation centres than cricket.

Dambulla, declared a World Heritage City by UNESCO, hosted its only match in March 2001 when Sri Lanka thrashed England by five wickets in the opening game of a three-match series.

The hosts look forward to a similar start in the tri-series, also featuring New Zealand, in order to put their rebuilding process on the right track.

Sri Lanka have been passing through a lean patch since their World Cup semi-final finish in South Africa in March.

Prolific batsman Aravinda de Silva has retired, coach Dav Whatmore has been removed and Sanath Jayasuriya has quit captaincy.

A four-nation one-day tournament in Sharjah last month was a wake-up call for Sri Lanka, who failed to qualify for the final after losing to Pakistan and Zimbabwe in league matches.

Yet, the hosts could not return to their winning ways even at home

under new captain Hashan Tillakaratne as Stephen Fleming's New Zealanders put up gutsy performances to draw a two-Test series.

Veteran opener Marvan Atapattu is the new one-day captain on whose shoulders lies the burden of redeeming the team's image.

He, however, is a doubtful starter for Saturday's match as he has yet to recover from a head injury sustained in a collision with New Zealander Daniel Vettori while trying to run the batsman out in the second Test at Kandy.

Vice-captain Mahela Jayawardene will lead the side if Atapattu does not regain fitness.

FIXTURES	
May 10:	Sri Lanka v Pakistan at Dambulla
May 11:	New Zealand v Pakistan at Dambulla
May 13:	New Zealand v Sri Lanka at Dambulla
May 17:	Sri Lanka v Pakistan at Colombo
May 18:	Sri Lanka v New Zealand at Colombo
May 19:	New Zealand v Pakistan at Colombo
May 23 (final):	At Colombo (day/night)

Pakistan also find themselves in a more or less similar situation despite winning the Sharjah tournament in April after beating a none-too-formidable Zimbabwe in the final.

Senior cricketers, including fast bowlers Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis and batsman Inzamamul Haq, have been axed following the World Cup debacle when Pakistan failed to qualify even for the Super Series.

The Sharjah success was an encouraging beginning, but skipper Rashid Latif has said the new-look team still has a long way to go before becoming a force to reckon with in international cricket.

Equally eager to perform well in this tournament is Pakistani fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar, who has already been warned that this series could make or mar his career.

"This is his last chance to revive his career," Pakistan cricket board chairman Tauqir Zia has said of Shoaib.

Shoaib, with 133 wickets in 81 one-day internationals, was a disappointment in the World Cup despite having the pace and bounce to unsettle the best in the world.

Of the three teams, New Zealand appear to be at peace with themselves.

They came here without ace all-rounder Chris Cairns and experienced batsman Nathan Astle, but still managed to overcome off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan's threat to draw a two-Test series in hot and humid conditions.

New Zealand did what India, the West Indies and Zimbabwe could not do in recent years, as all of them

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

Kalabagan relegated

SPORTS REPORTER

Kalabagan Krira Chakra were relegated to First Division yesterday when Bangladesh Biman handed them a 28-run defeat in a relegation play-off match of the GrameenPhone Premier League at the BKSP ground in Savar.

Electing to bat first in a rain-reduced 25-over-a-side match, Biman scored 149 for seven in the allotted 25 overs with veteran opener Ather Ali Khan hammering highest 60 off 76 balls with two sixes and three boundaries.

Kashif Naveed scored 54 off 52 balls with a six and half a dozen of fours.

In reply, Kalabagan were restricted to 121 for 9 in 25 overs.

Biman captain Aminul Islam took three wickets for 28 runs in his four overspell of off-spin.

Kalabagan also lost their other relegation play-off match against Orient SC and will join Surjo Tarun Club in the First Division next season.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Biman: 149 for 7 in 25 overs (Ather Ali 60, Kashif 54, Imran 4-24)
Kalabagan KC: 121 for 9 in 25 overs (Lovelu 24, Sadiq 17, Aminul 3-28)
Result: Biman won by 28 runs.

StanChart Nat'l school cricket

UNB, Dhaka

Kalindi High School and Islamia High School reached the Group B final in the Standard Chartered 21st National School Cricket Championship yesterday.

The two teams will meet in the group final today.

Kalindi High defeated Sirajganj Multilateral High School by 49 runs at the Dhaka University Jagannath Hall ground.

Deciding to bat first, Kalindi scored 154 runs all out in 39.4 overs with Masud making 46 and Mithu 31. Sumon captured five wickets conceding 18 runs while Halim Babu took three for 22.

In reply, Multilateral High were all out for 105 runs in 33.2 overs with Riyal Talukdar making team highest 19. Rocky picked up three wickets for 14 and Babu two for 27.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket ground, Islamia High School of Gaibanda beat Muradpur High School of Dhaka by 67 runs.

Islamia scored 173 runs all out in 32 overs with Pronab making 38. Tanveer claimed four wickets for 29 while Arif took three for 32.

In reply, Muradpur High were all out for 106 runs in 26.5 overs with Hasan scoring 25. Nayeem grabbed five wickets for 18 and Tahir took three for 14.

Victoria restrained

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Victoria Sporting Club failed to capitalise on the good job done by the bowlers as the defending champion lost the initiative against title aspirants Mohammedan Sporting Club in their GrameenPhone Premier Cricket Super League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

On the second day of the four-day match, Victoria all-rounder Mushfiqur Rahman grabbed the three remaining Mohammedan wickets in quick succession. Mohammedan who resumed the day on 272 for 7, folded for 289 in their first innings.

But Victoria, looking for a first innings lead (two points), which would guarantee them the league title, were struggling at 23 for seven by close. They still need 67 runs from 17 available overs of the stipulated 100 per innings to overtake Mohammedan.

Although, most of the Victoria batters got set in the middle, no one really carried on to post a big score.

Pakistani opener Wasim Nayeem top-scored with 51 followed by wicket-keeper Mohammad Salim and one-down Rafiqul Islam who added 41 and 31 runs respectively.

Skipper Azam Iqbal chipped in with 24.

With Sabbir Khan and Nuruzzaman at the crease and useful batsmen Masudur Rahman and Abdur Razzak to come, Victoria were still a good bet to cross Mohammedan who must prevent Victoria taking any points from this game to have a remote chance of winning the league.

SCOREBOARD

Scorecard on the second day of the GrameenPhone Premier Cricket Super League clash between Mohammedan SC and Victoria SC at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday:

MOHAMMEDAN SC: First innings

(overnight 272 for 7 in 91 overs)	
Javed c Azam b Razzak	67
Nafees c Salim b Razzak	15
Aftab run out	0
Rajat c W Nayeem b Razzak	129
Minhazul c & b Razzak	0
Naimur b W Nayeem	13
Anwar c Azam b Mushfiq	36
Enamul c Salim b W Nayeem	0
Hasibul c Salim b Mushfiq	5
Ariflbw b Mushfiq	4
Munir not out	1
Extras: (b-4, lb-5, nb-2, w-3, pen-5)	19
Total: (All out in 96 overs)	289
Fall of wickets: 1-20, 2-20, 3-161, 4-161, 5-186, 6-264, 7-265, 8-273, 9-283.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mushfiq	22	4	52	3
Parvez	3	1	13	0
Razzak	39	9	108	4
Sabbir	10	2	35	0
Masudur	11	1	42	0
W Nayeem	11	1	25	2

VICTORIA SC: First innings

W Nayeem c Javed b Naimur	51
Parvez b Enamul	7
Rafiqulbw b Rajat	31
Azam c Anwar b Arif	24
Mushfiq c Anwar b Naimur	13
Salim c Aftab b Enamul	41
Anisur b Arif	11
Nuruzzaman batting	10
Sabbir batting	20
Extras: (b-6, lb-9)	15
Total: (For 7 wickets in 83 overs)	223
Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-63, 3-115, 4-117, 5-159, 6-187, 7-187.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Munir	6	1	22	0
Hasibul	12	1	35	0
Rajat	7	2	18	1
Enamul	28	11	46	2
Naimur	16	2	45	2
Arif	14	2	42	2



Mohammad's Mohammad Salim tries to scoop the ball while attempting to sweep yesterday.

Symonds wants to prove a point

AFP, Brisbane

Andrew Symonds says he wants to show the cricket world that his World Cup heroics which helped Australia to victory in South Africa in March were no fluke.

Symonds leaves with one-day teammates Michael Bevan, Nathan Hauritz and Ian Harvey for the Caribbean on Friday to play in the seven-match limited over series against the West Indies.

Symonds, who was considered a controversial selection for the contentious allrounder position after a string of disappointing performances, opened Australia's World Cup with a dazzling 143 not out.

The 27-year-old Queenslander went on to score 326 World Cup runs at an average of 163.

His century against Pakistan in Johannesburg and an invaluable 91 not out against Sri Lanka in Port Elizabeth were highlights.

"I guess people will be thinking 'was it a fluke?'," Symonds said here on Thursday.

"I don't think it was I know it wasn't and hopefully now I can be a consistent contributor."

Symonds said he would draw on memories of the World Cup to retain his confidence.

"I just have to keep referring back to what I've done and trust



ANDREW SYMONDS

myself," he said.

"If things don't go well in a couple of games I just have to trust myself."

"It's mainly a mental thing with me, not making it too complicated or try and get too clever early in the innings."

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

Hondo wrecks Worcester

BBC ONLINE, London

Doug Hondo produced a three-wicket burst to spark a Worcestershire collapse during the afternoon session at New Road.

Having reached lunch on 155-2, the county side lost momentum following the dismissal of Vikram Solanki on an aggressive 74.

Seam bowler Hondo removed Kadeer Ali, Ben Smith and Gareth Batty in quick succession to finish with 3-53.

He was well supported by Andy Blignaut, Grant Flower and Ray Price, who all claimed two wickets each, and there were five victims for wicket-keeper Tatenda Taibu.

Blignaut provided the initial breakthrough by dismissing openers Anurag Singh (14) and Stephen Peters (18) with the new ball.

But with Heath Streak only able to bowl two overs because of a sore back, Worcestershire responded with a stand of 129 between Solanki and Smith.

Solanki hit a six and 14 fours in his 79-ball innings, four of his boundaries coming in the same over from Travis Friend, whose six overs before lunch cost 54.

But his innings came to an end following the resumption when he was stumped by Taibu from the

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1



(L) Sri Lankan players join hands while (R) Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar warms up in the nets at the Dambulla Stadium yesterday. Both teams face each other today in a one-day international.

PHOTO: AFP