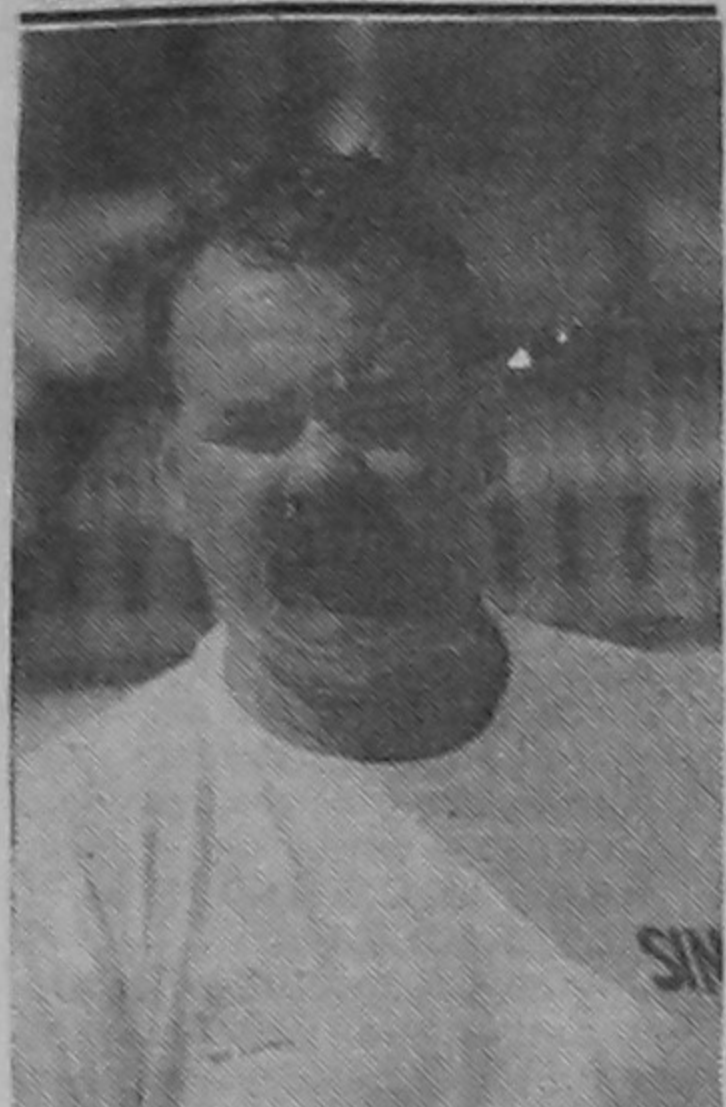


Column One

SPORTS TALK



Dav Whatmore

(Sri Lankan cricket coach)
"Australia seems to have a strong side but like South Africa we are keen to have success along the way and doing so trying to rebuild a team for the only major tournament of cricket, the World Cup."

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-126

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to Utr Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Feb 22 2000 and draw
shortly afterwards

- How many centuries did Tendulkar score in the Tests series against Australia recently?
One Two Three
- Who won the last ever European Cup Winners' Cup soccer?
Lazio Barcelona Man United
- Who was named player of the cricket World Cup?
Klusemer S Waugh David
- Where did Maurice Greene break the 100m world record?
Athens Seville Toronto
- Who lifted the National Cricket League title?
Chittagong Sylhet Khulna

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

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Summit Cup golf goes to Col Kamal

Sports Reporter
Colonel K. Lenin Kamal won the prestigious Summit Cup Golf Tournament held at the Kurmitola Club course yesterday.

In total 258 players took part in the event sponsored by Summit Group of Companies. President of the KCG and Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen M. Mustafizur Rahman teed-off in the morning.
Later he gave away prizes at the Club House in the evening. Muhammad Aziz Khan, chairman of the sponsors, addressed the function.

OTHER RESULTS
Ladies' Winner: Elani Zulkifly; Senior Champion: Franz George; Junior Champion: M. Anika; Best Gross: Chan Lee; Runner-up: Aminur Rahman; Junior Runner-up: Riasat; Second Runner-up: Hajj Yakub Jumaat; Front Nine Winner: Masud Ahmed; Ladies' Front Nine Winner: H. J. Hwang; Back Nine Winner: Brig Zahid Latif; Ladies' Back Nine Winner: Eun Suk Choi; Nearest to Pin: Iqbal Bahar Chowdhury; Longest Drive: Hissam Ahmed; Junior Longest Drive: Asif; Champion (Professional): Mohammad Nurul Islam (Gani); Runner-up (Professional): Mohammad Ismail; Eagle: Iqbal Mahmood.

Bangladesh are 133rd

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh slipped to 133 in the FIFA World Rankings for February which was released on Wednesday.
The 1999 SAF Games champions moved down two places due to no international commitments last month.
Except for non-movers Sri Lanka (153) and Nepal (157) who hosted the eighth South Asian Games from September-October, all the other regional football teams fell slightly because of being inactive.
India occupy 107th spot. Previously they stood one place higher. Maldives go from 144 to 145. Pakistan are in 181 position. At the beginning of the year they were 179th.

About time they delivered

Hassan Masood



Brothers Union Club are always a serious title contender in Premier Division cricket but they always seem to crumble during the crunch and finish without the prized silverware. No wonder they have won the league championship only once—in the 1990-91 season.

Last year the boys from Gopibagh had a wonderful opportunity of finishing joint top with Bangladesh Biman when they faced Abahani in their last league match. However, staying true to their reputation of being the 'eternal brides maid', they lost the match by 129 runs.

As always, Brothers have strengthened the side for this season with star players from the national pool and also took full advantage of the new law which permits each club to field three foreign players in a match. They have already roped in three Pakistanis—all-rounders Amir Hanif and Naim Ashraf and leg spinner Shahed Mahmud.

Brothers showed a little flash of their strength when they beat title aspirants Abahani Krira Chakra by six wickets in a 47-over-a-side practice match at the Dhanmendi Cricket Stadium last week. A new found confidence and purpose is evident in the team lead by inspirational national all-rounder Khaled Mahmud.

"We want to prove our critics wrong and win the Premier League this season," said Mahmud.

Premier League

Brothers Union



KHALED MAHMUD

"We need to play as a team and perform to our potential. If we can do that, half the job will be done."

Regarding the influence of the foreign recruits, Mahmud believed that they should be instrumental to local talent will decide the fate of the championship.

"It will be the performance of the local cricketers which will make the difference in the championship race," said Mahmud.

The diminutive cricketer, well appreciated for his fighting qualities, thought that opener Shahriar Hossain and leg spin-

ner Shahed Mahmud will be the key players of his team.

"Shahriar is in very good nick. I hope he continues the form into the league and score as many runs as possible."

Shahriar is coming off back to back centuries in a first class match against the touring MCC last month.

Shahed Mahmud took a staggering 54 wickets in the inaugural National league and looks set to bamboozle a few more.

"He has proved his mettle. His leg spinners will be very effective on the turning pitches of the Bangabandhu National Stadium," opined Mahmud.

About his team's possible batting order, Mahmud informed that promising opener Ehsanul Haque will accompany Shahriar followed by Jahangir Alam and Sanwar Hossain at numbers three and four. Amir Hanif will come at number five while the captain himself is thinking of batting six.

Brothers have a predominantly pace attack with Shahid Mahmud and Ahmed Kamal expected to operate with the new ball. Mahmud, Amir Hanif and left handed Naim Ashraf will come in as change bowlers.

In the spin department, Shahed Mahmud will be supported by offies Jamaluddin and Sanwar.

With the players they have in their disposal, Brothers are undoubtedly a force to be reckoned with. But the big question is—can they break the 'second best' barrier and lift the coveted Premier League crown?



RALLYING FOR A NOBLE CAUSE: Former and current footballers and cricketers led by State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader parade through the city streets yesterday. The procession was brought out to create enthusiasm for today's charity football match for former national captain Monem Munna. —Star photo

Pakistan need a win



LAHORE, Pak-istan, Feb 18: The Pakistan cricket team vowed today to strive hard to avert a 3-0 white wash against the touring Sri Lankans in the third and last one-day match tomorrow, reports AFP.

"We want to finish the series with a win and enter the Test series with our morals high," Pakistan captain Saeed Anwar said.

Pakistan lost the first match in Karachi by 29 runs and second at Gujranwala by 34 runs, leaving the last match a formality.

"Our young team has learnt from mistakes and now will do its best to win the last game," Anwar said.

Pakistan is likely to bring in off-spinner Arshad Khan for out of form Saqlain Mushtaq. Unfit pacer Shoaib Akhtar will make way for Shahid Nazir and batsman Faisal Iqbal is set to make his debut replacing Imran Abbas.

Pacer Waqar Younis also joined the camp after his wedding last week.

Pakistan was blanked 3-0 in the Test series by Australia and were beaten 2-0 by Steve Waugh's team in the finals of the tri-series also involving India.

Sri Lankan captain Sanath Jayasuriya felt satisfied his boys are giving hundred per cent.

"I won't say it's a whitewash but I think winning against Pakistan like we have achieved is a huge motivation for future," he said.

"I don't mind any result if we win."

Sri Lankans have fond memories of the Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore where they lifted the World Cup in 1996.

Middle-order batsman Mahela Jayawardene was down with fever and if he doesn't recover his place will go to Chamara Silva.

"The way we are playing at the moment I am sure it will be a good game," he said.

A full house is not expected for the match since the home team has already lost the series and the match clashes with the Basant, a kite flying festival, in Punjab.

TEAMS
PAKISTAN (from): Saeed Anwar (captain), Aamir Sohail, Imran Abbas, Younis Khan, Faisal Iqbal, Moin Khan, Yousuf Youhana, Azhar Mahmood, Arshad Khan, Abdur Razzak, Saqlain Mushtaq, Wasim Akram, Imran Nazir, Shahid Nazir, Shoaib Malik.

SRI LANKA (from): Sanath Jayasuriya (captain), Mahela Jayawardene, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Marvan Atapattu, Tillekeratne Dilshan, Chamara Silva, Russel Arnold, Indika de Saram, Chaminda Vaas, Nuwan Zoysa, Muthumudali Pushpakumara, Ravindra Pushpakumara, Praniyoda Wickremasinghe, Muttiah Muralitharan, Upul Chandana and Indika Gallage.

They beat Hotel Al-Rashid Eleven by six runs in the final held today at Western Railway playground.

Winning the toss, Al-Rashid invited their opposition to bat first. Raninagar scored 170 before being all out in 35 overs.

Nayan made the highest 67 followed by 23 from Mithu and 21 from Rassel. Mushfiq Babu bagged five wickets for 18 runs.

In reply, Al-Rashid were bundled out for 164 in 34.4 overs. Abid Hanif made 59 runs. Tareque, Nayan, Tonoy and Litu bagged two wickets each.

Nayan of the winning side was adjudged man-of-the-match.



Winners of the Summit Cup tournament which was held at Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday. —Star photo

NFL travels to Khulna

March 3

Sports Reporter

The next four first round matches of the Nitol-Tata National Football League will start at the Khulna Stadium from March 3. This was announced by Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday after meeting of the league committee held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium Thursday night.

The eight-team inaugural league commenced with four games in Chittagong from February 9 to 12. Rajshahi will stage the remaining four encounters of the preliminary phase from March 10.

Eight teams have been divided into two groups for the first round.

Premier Division champions Mohammedan Sporting Club head Group One made up of three regional Abahanis from Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi. The other group comprises Abahani Krira Chakra, Netrokona, Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra and Sylhet Chattranga Jubo Sangha.

Abahani Krira Chakra will face Muktijoddha Sangsad in the opener at Khulna. The next game is between Chittagong and Khulna Abahani. Sylhet Chattranga Sangha take on Netrokona Mohammedan in match three. Dhaka Mohammedan versus Rajshahi Abahani is the last fixture on March 6.

Abahani Krira Chakra will face Muktijoddha Sangsad in the opener at Khulna. The next game is between Chittagong and Khulna Abahani. Sylhet Chattranga Sangha take on Netrokona Mohammedan in match three. Dhaka Mohammedan versus Rajshahi Abahani is the last fixture on March 6.

Save Munna match today

Sports Reporter

The much-awaited charity football match between Premier Division champions Mohammedan Sporting Club and Federation Cup champions Abahani Krira Chakra, organized to help ailing former national captain Monem Munna, will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium this afternoon.

The money raised from the gala evening will go towards the former ace defender's kidney transplant operation in Bangalore.

The four-part programme begins at 4:30 pm with a friendly match between the former players of Mohammedan and Abahani. Followed by more fun and games when officials of Bangladesh Football Federation and Bangladesh Cricket Board take to the field. The actual event is at 5:30 pm under floodlights.

A cultural function starring noted vocalists, television and cine stars will round off the show.

Meanwhile, a grand rally to drum up support for the game was brought out from the venue yesterday. The rally ended at the Jatiya Press Club.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader, BFF joint-secretary Badal Roy, Abahani director Ashrafuddin Ahmed Chunnun, national cricketers, footballers and members of both Abahani and Mohammedan football teams took part.

Int'l junior tennis from tomorrow

Sports Reporter

The 14th Bangladesh International Tennis Championship will start tomorrow at the Ramna National Tennis Complex, reports UNB.

President of Bangladesh Tennis Federation (BTF) Syed Alamgir Farouk Chowdhury, also secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, will inaugurate the ITF-approved Group 3 event.

The tournament is jointly sponsored by Sadharan Bima Corporation and Jiban Bima Corporation.

Nearly 97 players from 18 countries, including hosts Bangladesh, will compete in the week-long tourney.

The participating countries are — Armenia, Australia, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Denmark, Hong Kong, India, Latvia, Japan, South Korea, South Africa, Thailand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan, Ukraine and the United States.

Details of the tournament were disclosed by the BTF president at a press conference held at the federation office yesterday.

LOCAL SQUADS

Boys: Nadim Kamran Khan, Fahim Ahsan Romi, Shahriar Haider, Alamgir Hossain, Babu Lal, Amol Roy, Mustafizur Rahman Russel, Moin Kabir Chowdhury, Shahfiquur Rahman Banik, Khorsheed Alam, Reshad Imam Amit and Sirajul Majid Sico.

Girls: Deesha Islam, Ashma Sultana Misti, Seneyat Jahjan, Zohora Maria and Nowreen Afroz.

Participation of local top-seed girl Baishakhi is yet uncertain due to her examination.

Four Bangladesh top players from the boys' and girls' groups will directly play in the main-draw, each consisting of 32 seeded players.

The remaining players will play in the qualifying round.

A budget of Tk 8.5 lakh has been allocated for the meet. Sadharan Bima will provide Tk 5 lakh and Jiban Bima Tk 3 lakh respectively.



South African all-rounder Jacques Kallis (L) doing catching practice during a training session at the Brabourne Stadium in Bombay yesterday. —AFP photo

Cronje quite confident



BOMBAY, Feb 18: South Africa are confident playing against India, but will miss the services of spinner Paul Adams in a tough tour, reports AP.

In Test cricket you have to take 20 wickets in a match. It's very hard. Someone will have to make up for Adams," Cronje told reporters after net practice in Bombay, the venue of the opening match.

A broken finger has kept Adams out of the tour.

Before the Test series begins, South Africa will take on the Board President's XI, and Indian side packed with probabilities for the series, on Saturday in a three-day Test, India are yet to announce their team.

Cronje said the match would be sufficient practice for the first Test that begins on February 24.

Every single player wants a victory under his belt in India.

"This team is stronger than the one that toured India in 1996," Cronje said.

India won the 1996 Test series 2-1.

Before the India tour, South Africa beat England 2-1 in a Test series and also won a three-nation one-day series that included Zimbabwe.

In contrast, India were thrashed 3-0 by Australia in the Test matches and won a single one-day match in the tri-series, which also featured Pakistan.

"I think India in India is one of the toughest tours, though I must say they were disappointing in Australia," Cronje said.

He said India missed batsmen Mohan and Azharuddin, Ajay Jadeja and wicketkeeper Nayan Mongia on the Australian leg.

"But the younger players are sometimes more effective at home. So we don't want to underestimate those players," he said.

While confident about his team's abilities, Cronje did not speculate on the result.

I don't know what the chances are.

He described all-rounders Shaun Pollock and Jacques Kallis as "two players who have been terrific in the last 20 months."

In addition to all-rounder Lance Kluseener and versatile wicketkeeper Mark Boucher, Cronje said openers Gary Kirsten and Herschelle Gibbs, and batsman Darryll Cullinan were in form.

South Africa will tour India till the end of March and play Test matches in Bombay and the southern city of Bangalore. They will also play five one-day matches.

They later fly to Sharjah for a one-day series with India and Pakistan.

Meanwhile, India received a massive blow when opener Sadagoppan Ramesh was ruled out of the first Test because of a broken thumb.

"Ramesh will not be able to play till February 25," Jaywant Lale, secretary of the Board for Cricket Control in India, told reporters in Bombay on Friday.

Ramesh, 24, broke his thumb while playing in the third and final Test in Australia.

Considered a certainty to open the innings for an Indian side that has been facing trouble finding a steady opening pair, Ramesh opened the innings right through in Australia.

A promising left-handed batsman from the southern Indian state Tamil Nadu, Ramesh made his debut against Pakistan last season.

India will announce its team Sunday.

England scrape past Zimbabwe

Sports Reporter

England recorded a sensational one-wicket victory over Zimbabwe in the second one-day international in Bulawayo yesterday.

Chasing a paltry Zimbabwe total of 131 in a rain-reduced 48-overs-a-side match, the tourists reached 134 for nine in 44.2 overs with all-rounder Mark Ealham scoring highest 32. Craig White (26) and Vikram Solanki (24) were the other notable run-getters for England.

Earlier, the hosts were bundled out for 131 in 47.3 overs in the face of some fired up bowling from White who returned with career best figures of five for 21.

England also won the first one-day international at the same venue by 34 runs on February 16.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the second one-day international between Zimbabwe and England at the Queens Sports Club on Friday:

ZIMBABWE
Johnson c Hussain b White 30
Campbell c Hick b Caddick 6
Carlisle c Reed b White 31
Goodwin c Hick b Mullally 21
G Flower c Reed b White 3
Vijoen c Reed b White 2
Streak c Hick b Caddick 18
Rennie not out 1

ENGLAND
Hussain lbw b Streak 2
Knight c A Flower b Streak 0
Hick c A Flower b Streak 13
Maddy c Olonga b Brent 13
Solanki c Streak b G Flower 24
White c Goodwin b Olonga 32
Ealham lbw b Brent 26
Read c sub (Wishart) b Brent 0
Caddick b Vijoen 4
Gough not out 0
Mullally not out 15
Extras: (lb-5, w-9, nb-1) 15
Total: (9 wickets, 44.2 overs, 192 mins)
Fall of wkts: 1-2; 2-6; 3-30; 4-58; 5-73; 6-120; 7-124; 8-125; 9-125

Bowler O M R W
Streak 10 4 24 2
Rennie 5 0 17 0
Olonga 10 1 29 1
Brent 5.2 0 29 3
G Flower 10 2 18 1
Vijoen 4 1 10 1

Result: England won by one wicket.

Man-of-the-match: Craig White.

Asia vs World cricket match ticket rates

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Cricket Board yesterday announced the rate of tickets for the limited-overs match between the Asian and Rest of the World Eleventh to be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on April 8.

The match has been arranged by International Cricket Council in observance of its "Cricket Week" from April 2 to 9.

An air-conditioned hospitality box containing ten seats will cost Taka 50,000 while a non-air-conditioned ten-seat box is 10,000 taka cheaper.

A chair at the VIP Gallery (Shaheed Jewel Gate) is available for Taka 2,000 while the rates at the Western and Eastern Club Houses have been fixed at Taka 1,500 and Taka 1,000 respectively.

Spectators will have to pay 800 taka to enter the International Gallery.

Entry into the Western Gallery will cost 150 taka. On the Eastern side it is Taka 100.

The BCB also revealed the rate of two types of hospitality boxes for the forthcoming Pepsi Asia Cup which will be held at the same venue from May 29.

An AC box for the whole tournament will cost Tk 2,50,000 while a non-AC version is 50,000 taka less.