DHAKA TUESDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2001, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com



We all hear popular superstitions when the 13th day of the month falls on a Friday. It's bad luck to hold more than two balls at a time when serving in lawn tennis. And no player wants to wear the number 13. It is said that superstitions have been a part of sports since their beginning. Players and fans alike have their ways of avoiding bad luck.

superstitions are stranger than others. For example, Michael Jordan (a graduate of North Carolina) always wore his blue North Carolina shorts under his Bulls uniform for good luck. Baseball pitcher Turk Wendell brushes his teeth and chews liquorice between every inning. Wade Boggs eats only chicken the day of a game and draws a symbol that means "To Life" in the dirt before every at-bat. Former pitcher Mark "The Bird" Fidrych used to play with the dirt on the mound and talk to himself before every inning.





Tim Henman

(British tennis star) "I couldn't classify myself as a fashion guru."

Giving his view on dress sense at the Australian Open.



Star Sports

New Zealand vs Sri Lanka 3rd one-day international Live at 3:15 am Australia vs Zimbabwe 12th ODI in Carlton series 6:00 pm (1hr highlights) Primera Liga

ESPN

8:30 pm

New Zealand vs Sri Lanka 1st one-day international 7:30 pm (1hr highlights) Serie A highlights 2:00 pm



Competition 144 ✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Post to Chr Daily Star Win attractive prizes Competition closes at 8 pm Feb 16, 2001 and draw shortly afterwards

Division cricket league champs? Chittagong Biman Khulna Who lifted Milo U-13 cricket title?

1. Who became Green Delta Premier

Rajshahi | Rajshahi | Barisal Tista Maroons Commonwealth Bank Cricket Academy clinched the threematch one-day series

Who lifted the Australian open mens title?

Rafter Who lifted the Australian open

women's title? Devenport Capriati Hingis

*********************** Class. Roll No. School Address



U-17 fiesta from Feb 15

Title sponsorship goes to GP

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The second edition of the Under-17 Asia Cup, involving ten teams, will begin in the city on February

The inaugural edition of the juvenile tournament, launched by the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) as part of the ICC's (International Cricket Council) development programme in Asia, was staged in Pakistan last year.

The event might lack star value and the usual enthusiasm of fans, but it will indeed provide a unique opportunity for India and Pakistan to restore cricketing ties, which has been deteriorated further with Indian government's stubborn stance of not playing any matches with their bitter neighbours, whom they accused of fomenting violence in Kashmir.

Only on Saturday, India, who had cancelled a proposed tour of Pakistan last year, turned down a tri-nation one-day series, also involving Bangladesh, in aid of earthquake victims in Gujrat.

However, India will lead Group A that includes Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, Malaysia and Oman. Pakistan on the other hand will lead the other group, also featuring Singapore, Nepal. Kuwait and hosts Bangladesh.

Former Indian captain Ravi Shastri will be present during the 10-day meet as an ICC ambassa-

Grameen Phone, the leading cellular phone service provider in the country, will be the title sponsor of the event. They won the rights at an expense of Taka 15 lakhs. Bulk expenses of the 1,33000 US dollar meet would however come from the ICC-ACC fund.

"ICC will pay 40000 USD and the ACC 50000 USD to run the meet," revealed event manager Mahmud-ul Huq during a press

briefing at the Conference Room of the Bangabandhu National Stadium vesterday.

BCB (Bangladesh Cricket Board) president Saber Hossain Chowdhury meanwhile promised that the tournament would give an indication of what "we are actually going to get out of it".

He was referring to his Board's from the BNS. just concluded talent-hunting programme for three different age

will be held in Dhaka, Saber said that they are keen to organise at least two important first round Savar. matches in Jessore and Rajshahi.

"We are persuading Biman to readjust their flight schedule so that we could hold the Sri Lanka-India match in Jessore and the Bangladesh-Pakistan game in Rajshahi," he said. Both the matches will be held on February

The semifinals are billed for February 22 while the final will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on February 24. Bangladesh Television is likely to cover one semifinal match and the final

The participating teams will be accommodated in the Hotel Purbani and most of the first round Although most of the matches matches will be held at two grounds of the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) in

GROUPINGS

Group A: India, Sri Lanka, UAE, Malaysia and Oman.

Group B: Pakistan, Bangladesh Singapore, Nepal and Kuwait.

FIXTURE

Date	Match	venue
Feb 15:	Sri Lanka vs Oman	BKSP 1
	India vs UAE	BKSP 2
	Pakistan vs Kuwait	BUET
	Bangladesh vs Nepal	BNS
Feb 16:	India vs Malaysia	BKSP 1
	Sri Lanka vs UAE	BUET
	Bangladesh vs Singapore	JN Hall
	Pakistan vs Nepal	BKSP 2
Feb 17:	Sri Lanka vs Malaysia	DCS
	UAE vs Oman	JN Hall
	Pakistan vs Singapore	BKSP 2
	Kuwait vs Nepal	BUET
Feb 19:	India vs Oman	BKSP 1
	Malaysia vs UAE	BUET -
	Bangladesh vs Kuwait	BKSP 2
	Singapore vs Nepal	JU
Feb 20:	Sri Lanka vs India	BKSP 2/ Jessore
	Malaysia vs Oman	BUET
	Singapore vs Kuwaii	BKSP 1
	Bangladesh vs Pakistan	BNS/Rajshahi
Feb 22:	1st semifinal	BNS
	2nd semifinal	
Feb 24:	Final	BNS
Feb: 25:	Reserve day for Final	

*Note: BNS: Bangabandhu National Stadium; JN Hall: Jagannath Hall Ground, Dhaka University; BUFT: Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology ground; DCS: Dhanmondi Cucket Stadium; JU: Jahangirnagar University, Savar.

ICC set for Test talk

Cricket

INTERNET, London

The introduction of a 10-year Test schedule and consideration of a world championship will be two of meeting in Melbourne.

co-ordinated calendar of international cricket has been adopted, giving the opportunity for long term planning and preparation. It will also provide newer Test playing nations such as Zimbabwe and Bangladesh with regular fixtures against all other teams.

structured to allow all Test playing countries to play each other at home and away over a five-year period. However, long established and traditional fixtures such as the Ashes series would continue on a four-year cycle.

The development of the future Sunday. tours programme has been largely undertaken by Chris Doig, Chief Executive of New Zealand Cricket, on behalf of the ICC.

This schedule would provide the framework for the introduction of an official Test cricket world championship. The meeting will discuss the potential structure and timing of this and consider the benefits of adding context and enhanced spectator interest to the game at Test level. The Melbourne meeting will

also receive a progress update from Sir Paul Condon, head of the ICC Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU), on its investigations into matchfixing and corruption.

Following the conclusion of the executive board deliberation there will be a meeting of current Test the major topics of discussion at captains on Monday, to be chaired February's ICC executive board by Sunil Gavaskar. This meeting will concern itself with issues such This would be the first time a as playing conditions and the use

Tanima second SPORTS REPORTER

Tanima Parveen became runnersup in 22nd National Women Chess Championship after beating The tours programme is last year's champion Nazrana Khan Eva of Manikgonj in the second place decider at the NSC chess room yesterday.

> In the play-off, Tanima recorded a 2-1 victory over Eva after both of them finished at 7.5 points each after end of final round on Africa.

Farzana Khan Ava got walkover against Syeda Afsana Parveen Nira in the play-off for the 7th Final positions: Champion:

IWM Rani Hamid; runner-up: Tanima Parveen; third: Nazrana Khan Eva; fourth: Zakia sultana; fifth: Afroza Khanam Bably; sixth: Masuda Begum; seventh: Farzana Khan Ava; eighth: Syeda Afsana Parveen Nira; ninth: Sharmin Sultana Shirin and tenth: Saima

of technology in the decision making process. Recommendations will go forward to the ICC Cricket Committee-Playing meeting during May, which will review playing conditions for international cricket for the next three

Captains confirmed to attend include Stephen Waugh, Stephen Fleming, Jimmy Adams, Heath Streak, Naimur Rahman, Sanath Jayasuriya, Moin Khan and Shaun Pollock. Nasser Hussain and Kushtia: 186 for 9 in 50 overs Saurav Ganguly are unable to at- (Sanjay 85, Titu 35; Nadim 3/27, tend as they will be preparing for | Kalim 2/29) forthcoming series against Sri Lanka and Australia respectively.

Other major agenda items at the two-day Executive Board Result: Kushtia won by 95 runs. meeting from February 9-10 will include confirmation of future ICC tournaments, including the 2001 ICC Trophy in Canada, venues for the 2002 Under-19 World Cup and 2002 ICC Knockout and an update on the 2003 World Cup in South

Delegates will discuss the ICC Development Programme, which will include confirmation of a budget to cover the next two years of 13 million USD and the intention to recruit a full time High Performance Manager to assist the three qualifying Associate Mem bers prepare for the 2003 World

There will also be an update on progress in recruiting a new ICC Chief Executive to succeed David Richards, who announced his resignation six months ago.

Premier Cricket now from Feb 12

SPORTS REPORTER

The Premier Division Cricket League will start from February 12, as per the latest decision of the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Me-

tropolis (CCDM) taken last night. The meeting also decided to start the First Division Cricket League in the city from February

Talking to The Daily Star Sport over telephone, CCDM secretary Mahmud Ul Haq said that all the clubs were provided with the draft by-laws during the meeting. The clubs have been given four days to raise objections, if any.

Fixture of the Premier League would be completed by February 9. Holders Abahani are likely to nals in Malaysia in March. take on promotees Young Cricketers in the opening match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The meeting also maintained its last season's decision on foreign players. Each of the 12 Premier Division clubs will be allowed to register four foreign cricketers, out of which two can play in a

BSF body fires its parting shot

SPORTS REPORTER

The outgoing committee of the Bangladesh Shooting Federation (BSF) blew its own trumpet at a press conference in Gulshan yes-

BSF president Abdul Muyeed Chowdhury spent a great deal of time in praising his committee's achievements in last three years, during which time Bangladesh earned a single SAF gold.

With the election only two weeks away, officials were found to be very busy again at the briefing that started at the National Shooting Complex one-hour behind the schedule.

Muyeed claimed that his committee brought back discipline in the federation and that the suspension of five shooting clubs was an example of it. Muyeed's committee came under severe criticism after it was revealed that seven of its affiliated body were engaged in illegal selling of the imported Federation arms to open

The programme was also attended by BSF vice-president Azizul Haque, general secretary Afzal Karim and treasurer Nazimuddin Chowdhury.

Kushtia finish with a win

SPORTS REPORTER

A virtuoso all-round show by captain Sanjay throttled Kushtia to a massive 95-run victory over Nilphamari in the final Group D match of the 20th National Youth Cricket Championship at the Thakurgaon Stadium yesterday.

Sanjay scored a superb 85 off 106 balls as Kushtia recovered from a shaky start to post a fighting 186 for nine in the stipulated 50 overs. The middle-order bat hammered 11 fours and a couple of sixes in his virtual match winning knock.

After the good work with the bat, Sanjay also shone with the ball. He captured two wickets giving away only six runs in his seven overs to help his side shot Nilphamari out for 91 in 31.2.

The victory for Kushtia however offered them some sort of solace after Chittagong had already confirmed their passage in the final round from this group with two wins from as many

matches. BRIEF SCORE

Kushtia vs Nilphamari

Nilphamari: 91 all out in 34.2 overs (Raihan 24 not out; Rana 3/28. Sanjay 2/6, Bokul 2/17)

UNB, Dhaka

Uttara Hockey Club registered a cricket series in Sharjah to raise convincing 6-2 victory over Tejgaon Agragami in the Metropolis Junior Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday. The winners led the first half by

Raju struck thrice, Lalu, Liton and Rana netted one each for the

winners while Mamun and Kamal | thumbs up for Pakistan-India scored one each for the losers. In the day's other match, being deprived," he said. Dilkusha SC beat Cantonian SC 2-

Mohammad Mustaque netted there in 1999," Akram, who led both the goals for the winners in Pakistan to the last Test series the 38th and 63rd minutes. between the arch rivals, said.

WC hockey qualifiers

BD face tough task

Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

National hockey coach York the second round in the qualifiers, Schumacher believes Bangladesh and of them only seven will make will be tested as they compete in it to the finals. Also, in a group the 2002 World Cup qualifiers to containing Argentina and Belbe held in Edinburgh, Scotland. The 16-team qualification tournament begins on July 17.

The competing teams will be stage," Schumacher admitted. placed in four Pools A, B, C and D for the 13-day competition in the in the finals last time. Belgium is Scottish capital. But eventually seven nations progress to the fi-

in Pool B alongside Argentina, Belgium and France. Former Olympic champions India, Egypt, USA and Wales have been drafted

Japan, Chile, and Spain join the hosts respectively in Pool C while Canada is pitted against Poland. Zimbabwe and Russia in Pool D.

According to Schumacher, who. has been preparing the team for Hockey Federation to abandon a last three months at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium, Bangladesh's

group is the toughest. Talking to Daily Star Sport at Minister's Gold Cup Tournament the Bangladesh Hockey Federa- in Dhaka next month, my boys will tion yesterday, the 37-year old

German rated Argentina and Bel-

gium very highly. "You see only the top two finishers from each group advance to gium, I think it's going to be tough

for my boys to finish ahead of

them at the end of the preliminary "Argentina have already played an excellent side because they beat Germany in Germany during a Test series before the Sydney

Bangladesh have been placed Olympic Tournament," he added Schumacher was nevertheless relieved in the knowledge that Bangladesh would avoid being put through the pre-qualifiers after

finishing sixth at the 1998 Bangkok

Commenting on his preparations, he said it was unfortunate that recent devastating earthquake in Gujarat forced the Indian

four-match Test series. "However, if the BHF can stage the proposed 10-nation Prime still get enough practice before

their trip to Scotland," he said

Except for finding an official sponsor, BHF general secretary Shamsul Bari said all the necessary formalities have almost been completed. The organisers hope to settle the issue through a local consortium -- Matra and Ardent -

by next week. India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Japan, Chile, Singapore, Ireland, Scotland and Egypt have confirmed their participation in the tournament likely to start on

March 10. The German coach also revealed that a Test series against Malaysia in May might be played

Initially, Schumacher began the camp in November with 77 players. After two weeks, it was reduced to 33. Now after two months there are 26 boys for the final phase commencing in two

weeks time. SQUAD

Ashique, Bappi, Habul, Isa Mia, Jahangir, Javed, Kamal, Khokon, Shahidullah. Khurshid, Mamun, Miraj, Moksed, Musa Mia, Naqib, Prince, Abdur Rahman, Ramij, Mamhub Ahsan, Tawfiq Rana, Sawkat, Shamim, Shuvo, Titu, Tuhin and Yamin.

Sirajganj cricket OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Dhopakhandi Ekadosh defeated Kornosuti New Boys Ekadosh by 139 runs in the TM Smriti cricket tournament at Haji Korop Ali Memorial Degree College playground today.

Winning the toss, Dhopakhandi decided to bat first and collected 189 runs losing all wick-

In reply, Kornosuti were bundled out for 50 runs in 20 overs. Meanwhile, the First Division football league will start tomorrow (Tuesday) at Shaheed Shamsuddin

Sharjah meet called off

Cricket

in Gulshan yesterday.

AFP, New Delhi

near future.

A cricket tri-series in Sharjah to raise funds for Indian earthquake victims was officially cancelled on Monday, raising fears that archrivals India and Pakistan were unikely to play each other in the

The tri-nation series between India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, scheduled to be held in the Gulf emirate from Thursday to raise funds following the devastating quake in Gujarat state which killed an estimated 30,000 people, was called off after India refused to

play against Pakistan. "It's off because the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) could not confirm their participation," said a spokesman for the Asian Cricket Foundation, the

organisers of the series. India's Sports Minister Uma

participation, saying she stood by the government's previous stance of not having cricket ties with Pakistan, whom India accuses of fomenting violence in the troubled state of Kashmir.

"There is no need to play matches against Pakistan in Sharjah or anywhere in the world," said Bharti, a firebrand politician from Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's ruling Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP).

It was the fourth successive time India had cancelled a cricket series against Pakistan, much to the disappointment of officials across the border.

"India is isolating itself from international cricket," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Gen Tauquir Zia said, adding he intended to complain to the International Cricket Council (ICC), the game's world governing body.

will not approve the ICC's 10-year programme of cricket schedules." "We are supposed to play India

at least four times during the next

10 years and if they refuse to tour

us all the time, then why sign such a programme?" Zia said. The ICC is due to approve a 10year schedule for all Test-playing countries in Melbourne later this

month. Unless the Indian government changes its policy, observers fear that another Sharjah tri-series between India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in April will also be affected. "There are still two months to go, but I am pessimistic," said a

senior official of the BCCI. "It could be a long time before India and Pakistan play each other

BCCI president AC Muthiah

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pleaded helplessness, saying he

Akram for Indo-Pak cricket

"After India's constant refusal,

AFP, Karachi

Famous Pakistani pacer Wasim Akram on Monday urged Indian cricket fans to pressure New Delhi to allow matches between Pakistan and India and to keep the sport above politics.

urge their Government to change its anti-cricket stance and revive Pakistan-India cricket, just for the love of the game," Akram told this news agency. The former Pakistani captain

was reacting to India's refusal of a

"I call on the Indian fans to

funds for quake victims in the Indian state of Gujarat. "I know the fans love Pakistan-India ties and get engrossed in them but they are starved due to politics which should not be min-

"Even if today you hold a poll 70 per cent of Indians will give

gled in the game.

matches, they want this and are "How can I forget the Chennai 0 after a barren first half at the crowd that gave Pakistan a standing ovation when we won a Test

"I also admire the Calcutta crowd who did show their resentment during that same series but the trouble makers were very few, Indians love cricket like anything and they can change this all."

The Asian Cricket Foundation (ACF) proposed the fund raising tri-series later this week in Sharjah but Indian Government turned down the proposal in protest over Islamabad's alleged support to

WASIM AKRAM

separatist militants in Kashmir.

"I must say cricket should not be affected. Pakistan showed a great gesture by agreeing to raise funds for India victims," Akram

of all the Pakistani players that they want to play India anywhere in the world." The cancellation of the series allowed Akram to leave for Ireland

"I can safely say this on behalf

where his wife gave birth to their second son last week. Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Lieutenant General Taugir Zia said Sunday he was worried for another tri-nation series, involving

Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka, in Zia demanded the Sharjah organis2ers to confirm India's participation in that tournament.

Former Pakistan captain Intikhab Alam said India should not be allowed to do whatever it chose. "Indians are doing what they

Pakistan is maintaining a positive stance all the time while India is negative." Alam told AFP. Alam, however, saw no danger

like and it should not be this way.

for the Sharjah tri-series in April. "I think since Sharjah event is a regular commitment India will

honour it," he said.

ets in 30 overs. Bangladesh Shooting Federation (BSF) president Abdul Muyeed Chowdhury addressing at a press conference at the National Shooting Complex Stadium. Nine team will participate the tournament. Bharti rejected the national team's we are now left with no choice. We