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Star SPORT

DHAKA MONDAY FEBRUARY 19, 2001, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com

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Did U Know?

Legendary Sunil Gavaskar was a complete opening batsman. He combined a rock solid defence with an ability to dispatch the ball for four. For a large part of his 17-year international career, he seemed to stand between India and defeat. He was also an outstanding slip fielder. But many of us fail to acknowledge little master Sunil Gavaskar as a bowler. He has one wicket in one-dayers and one in Test match, and incidentally it is the same batsman and it is none other than Pakistan's big scoring Zaheer Abbas!



What to WATCH

ESPN
New Zealand vs Pakistan
Second one-day international
Live at 6.55 am (Tuesday)
UEFA Champions League
2 pm (1 hr weekly highlights)

Star Sports
Primera Liga
8.30 am (Replay)
12.30 pm Futbol Mundial



TALK TURKEY



Md Azharuddin
(Former Indian cricket captain)
"There is no transparency to the probe conducted by the investigating authorities."

Sports WHIZZ KID

Competition 145
✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to: The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
March 2, 2001 and draw shortly afterwards

- Bangladesh beat Mongolia in the 2002 World Cup qualifier
2-0 3-2 3-0
- Who clinched the Paris Indoor Open title?
Huber Higgins Mauresmo
- Sri Lanka won the one-day series against New Zealand
3-2 5-0 4-1
- How many Tests will Bangladesh play in five years?
34 35 36
- Who lifted the national under-19 cricket crown?
Chittagong Rajshahi BKSP

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



DAY'S EVENT

Under-17 Asia Cup
Bangladesh v Kuwait
(Venue: BKSP-2)
India v Oman
(Venue: BKSP-1)
Nepal v Singapore
(Venue: Jahangirnagar University)
UAE v Malaysia
(Venue: Jagannath Hall)



Participants watch the draw for the Fifth United Insurance Grand Masters' Chess Tournament take place at the NSC chess room yesterday.

Spotlight on Zia

Chess
SPORTS REPORTER

All eyes will be fixed on International Master Ziaur Rahman when the fifth United Insurance Grand Masters Chess Tournament begins at the Conference Room of the National Sports Council today.

Zia, who won his second GM norm in the just concluded Goodricke International Open Chess Tournament in Calcutta, would require nine and a half points from the biennial event to become the second GM of the country after Niaz Murshed.

But to achieve the unique feat the 27-year-old will have to overcome as many as seven Grand Masters, five International Masters and a Fide Master in the 13-round Swiss League meet. This is a category 9 tournament with an average rating of 2472.

The highest rated player in the meet is Estonian GM Jhan Elhvest (2638). The tournament offers a cash award of 5,000 USD for the winners.

"This for the first time the tournament will be available on the Internet at www.bdcf.org," said general secretary of Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) Syed Sujauddin Ahmed at a press briefing yesterday.

The BCF general secretary also disclosed that many Grand Masters had shown their interest to take part in the meet but they could accommodate only seven due constraints.

The briefing was also attended by BCF vice-president Dr. AR Khan and Rafiqul Islam, the general manager of the sponsors United Insurance company.

Matches will start at 2.30pm everyday.

The participants are—GM Jhan Elhvest (Estonia) Rating-2638, GM Alexander Volzhin (Russia) Rating-2539, GM Miezis Normunds (Latvia) Rating-2532, GM Igor Rausis (Latvia) Rating-2525, GM Alexei Barsov (Uzbekistan) Rating-2500, GM Nigel Davies (England) Rating-2464, GM Niaz Murshed (Bangladesh) Rating-2457, IM Vakhidov Tahir (Uzbekistan) Rating-2482, IM Reefat Bin Sattar (Bangladesh) Rating-2458, IM GB Prakash (India) Rating-2453, IM Ziaur Rahman (Bangladesh) Rating-2447, IM Sandipan Chanda (India) Rating-2431, IM Abdullah Al Rakib (Bangladesh) Rating-2359 and FM Enamul Hossain Rajib (Bangladesh) Rating-2323.

Fixture on the opening day: Reefat vs Rakib, Zia vs Rajib, Prakash vs Meizis, Barsov vs Niaz, Volzhin vs Nigel, Sandipan vs Tahir.

Shoaib storm hits NZ

Cricket
AFP, Auckland

Pakistan speedster Shoaib Akhtar was only on the field 20 minutes before he started tearing apart New Zealand in the first of one day cricket internationals here Sunday.

Akhtar took the last five New Zealand wickets in the space of 11 balls to end with five for 19 and help his side to a six-wicket win here at Eden Park, playing on a very dead wicket.

Having been sent into bat, New Zealand were bowled out for 149 in 35.3 overs and Pakistan reached their target with five overs to spare.

It was Akhtar's first game for Pakistan in 10 months.

After claiming Jacob Oram as his first wicket, he took the last four scalps in the space of six balls as the home side plummeted from 142 for five.

It was his best one-day international return, beating his previous best of four for 37. He bowled at speeds of consistently better than 140kmh, with a fastest ball of 147kmh.

After an ordinary first spell of none for 15 off four overs, he took five for four off his next 2.3 overs.

He bowled Oram, Lou Vincent, Daniel Vettori and James Franklin before ending the innings when he trapped Daryl Tuffey leg before wicket first ball.

Akhtar, 25, warned afterwards he was bowling within himself and was yet to release the brakes.

"I was a bit scared, I didn't want to go all out. My senior teammates just told me to take it easy in my first game," Akhtar said.

"I wasn't near full pace today. It was just my third game after a long break so I didn't go all out."

New Zealand lacked a batting anchor in their innings. The top three fell inside the first seven overs.

Adam Parore chopped the first ball of the match from Wasim Akram on to his stumps, while Nathan Astle and Roger Twose fell to edges off swinging deliveries to make it 26 for three.

There were just two partnerships of substance in the innings, 52 for the fourth wicket between captain Stephen Fleming and Craig McMillan and 53 for the sixth between Oram and Vincent.

McMillan top-scored with 35 off 44 balls, including six fours, but he went for a suicidal second run and was comfortably run out by an Abdur Razaq throw.

Vincent batted well for 31 and with Oram he had the run rate at a healthy five an over before Akhtar weaved his magic.

New Zealand bowled and

up he could afford to omit leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed and pace bowler Azhar Mahmood.

"It was a perfect combination, the best one-day combination we have," Moin said.

"We were aiming to get them out for under 200. The conditions were good for the bowlers early on and they took full advantage of it."

The second match is in Napier on Tuesday.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the first one-day international between Pakistan and New Zealand in Auckland on Sunday.

NEW ZEALAND:
Parore b Akram 0
Astle c Moin b Waqar 20
Fleming b Saqlain 18
Twose c Afridi b Akram 18
McMillan run out 35
Oram b Akhtar 16
Vincent b Akhtar 31
Harris not out 5
Vettori b Akhtar 0
Franklin b Al-hitar 0
Tuffey lbw b Akhtar 0
Extras: (lb-13, w-10, nb-1) 24
Total (All out in 35.3 overs): 149

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Pakistani speed demon Shoaib Akhtar exults after claiming another New Zealand wicket in the first one-day international in Auckland yesterday.

Bangladesh play Mongolia today

Cricket
SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will be seeking some solace when they take on Mongolia in their last qualifying match of the 2002 World Cup at the Fahad Bin Abdul Aziz Stadium in Dammam today. The match will kick off at 9.30 pm (BST).

Tormented by hosts Saudi Arabia on Saturday, where Bangladesh conceded half a dozen goals without any reply, the boys of George Kottan would be looking for a win to make sure that they avoid the ignominy of finishing last among the four participating teams in Group 10.

Bangladesh scored a 3-0 win against Mongolia in their first leg match on February 12. That was their only victory in an otherwise inspiring first leg, where Bangladesh held Vietnam to a goalless draw and suffered a 3-0 defeat against the hosts.

But the return leg saw a reversal of fortune for Bangladesh, who swallowed as many as ten goals in their first two games including a 4-0 defeat against Vietnam.

Schools cricket BKSP in final

Cricket
SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan (BKSP) stormed into the Dhaka Zonal final of Standard Chartered Grundlays Bank 19th School Cricket Championship with a seven-wicket win over New Model High School in the second semifinal at the Uttara Police Lines ground yesterday.

In a low-scoring affair, BKSP, chasing a modest New Model total of 130 all out in 27.5 overs, raced to 131 for three wickets in 22.4 overs. Opener Naeem led the team from the country's lone sports institute with a swashbuckling 59 off 56 balls that included thirteen boundaries.

BKSP will take on Scholastica in the final tomorrow. Scholastica advanced into the final defeating Green Herald by eight runs in the first semifinal on Saturday.

It may be mentioned here that all the four semifinalists had earlier confirmed their berth in the final round.

INDIA-M'SIA SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the U-17 Asia Cup match between India and Malaysia at the number two ground in BKSP yesterday:

MALAYSIA
Zakaria c & b Gaurav 20
Ramly b Devendra 5
Abdul Aziz c Patel b Gaurav 22
Vigneshwaran st Patel b Mishra 43
Zabri c Shankara b Rathod 5
Alagaratnam st Patel b Rathod 2
Kathiravelu c & b Mishra 14
Sambo not out 7
Bakhrunnuddin b Rathod 0
Abdul Rahim run out 2
Patmanathan lbw b Mishra 0
Extras: (b-4, lb-6, w-8, nb-5) 23
Total: (all out in 44.5 overs) 143
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-47, 3-77, 4-85, 5-102, 6-120, 7-138, 8-139, 9-143

Bowler O M R W
Devendra 5 0 25 1
Binny 5 1 12 0
B Mohanty 5 0 9 0
Gourav 9 0 25 2
Shankara 8 1 27 0
Rathod 7 0 21 3
Mishra 5.5 2 14 3

INDIA-M'SIA SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the first one-day international between Pakistan and New Zealand in Auckland on Sunday.

NEW ZEALAND:
Parore b Akram 0
Astle c Moin b Waqar 20
Fleming b Saqlain 18
Twose c Afridi b Akram 18
McMillan run out 35
Oram b Akhtar 16
Vincent b Akhtar 31
Harris not out 5
Vettori b Akhtar 0
Franklin b Al-hitar 0
Tuffey lbw b Akhtar 0
Extras: (lb-13, w-10, nb-1) 24
Total (All out in 35.3 overs): 149

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Thomas' ton lifts UAE

Cricket
SPORTS REPORTER

An unbeaten century by opener VV Thomas propelled United Arab Emirates to a seven-wicket win

against Oman in their Group A match in the GrameenPhone Under-17 Asia Cup at the number one ground of BKSP yesterday.

Thomas was not out on 101 off 109 balls as UAE, chasing a commanding Oman total of 230 in 45



A smiling UAE opening batsman VV Thomas poses after scoring 101 against Oman in the GrameenPhone U-17 Asia Cup yesterday.

STANDINGS

GROUP A	M	W	L	Tie	Points
Sri Lanka	3	3	0	0	6
India	2	2	0	0	4
UAE	3	1	2	0	2
Oman	2	0	2	0	0
Malaysia	2	0	2	0	0

GROUP B	M	W	L	Tie	Points
Pakistan	3	3	0	0	6
Bangladesh	2	2	0	0	4
Nepal	3	1	2	0	2
Singapore	2	0	2	0	0
Kuwait	2	0	2	0	0

overs, reached 231 in 39.2 overs with seven wickets to spare.

The UAE opener struck a dozen fours.

Middle-order batsman Imran Butt chipped in with 57 off 47 balls with two sixes and four boundaries.

The pair put on 113 runs for the unbroken fourth wicket.

Oman's total was built around a superb 73-ball 87 from one down Adnan. Middle-order Shameel (43) and Hashmi (21) were the other notable run-getters.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the GrameenPhone Under-17 Asia Cup match between UAE and Oman at the number one ground in BKSP yesterday:

OMAN

Jackson c Imran b Rehman	3
Pranav b Carlo	0
Adnan b Feroz	87
Rustam c Hussain b Carlo	2
Shameel b Feroz	43
Hashmi b Thomas	21
Yash c & b Thomas	0
Omar c Thomas b Khalid	14
Mohammad c Mohsin b Wasim	8
Deshi not out	3
Extras: (b-2, lb-6, nb-4, w-30)	42
Total: (All out in 43.0 overs)	230
Fall of wickets: 1/2, 2/15, 3/4, 4/132, 5/181, 6/185, 7/190, 8/210, 9/220	

Bowler O M R W
Carlo 6 0 28 2
Rehman 2 0 21 1
Khalid 8 1 39 1
Imran Butt 1 0 12 0
Imran Khan 3 0 20 0
Feroz 9 0 48 2
Thomas 9 0 38 2
Wasim 6.3 2 16 2

UAE

Hussain run out	10
Thomas not out	101
Odeel run out	21
Carlo c Hashmi b Yash	21
Imran Butt not out	57
Extras: (lb-1, nb-2, w-14)	20
Total: (for 3 wickets in 39.2 overs) 231	
Fall of wickets: 1/20, 2/86, 3/118	

Bowler O M R W
Rustam 7 2 37 0
Adnan 8 0 35 0
Shameel 4 0 29 0
Jackson 2 0 19 0
Yash 9 0 34 1
Hashmi 5.2 0 34 0

Result: UAE won by seven wickets.
Man-of-the-match: VV Thomas (UAE).

Response to BCB's view

READERS' ZONE

Do you have any observation regarding sports and its management in Bangladesh? Do you feel certain issues need to be addressed before time runs out? Then, hurry up and send us your burning questions, critical views and thoughtful suggestions not in excess of 400 words. Let your thought buzz at your corner, the READERS' ZONE.

—Sports Editor

In reply to my letter published in the Readers' Zone on February 16, BCB (Bangladesh Cricket Board) has given its view through its general secretary the very next day. The content of it was expected. But what surprised me most is that it was Syed Ashraf Haque who, despite being an educated person, renowned organiser and having an excellent family background, tried to defend a controversial decision of his Board.

I do not understand how he could be so sure of the actual age of Mohammad Sharif and Mohammad Ashraf. Except for Sri Lanka, no other countries in South Asia have a recognised system to maintain proper birth record. Does always a birth or academic certificate reflect the actual age of one in our country? I do not know what method the BCB uses to determine the age of a player. But, I think, the age of Mohammad Sharif can easily be ascertained from his childhood playmates in Narayangong. It is also applicable in case of Ashraf.



Indian left-handed opener Shikhar Dhawan gets into awkward position while attempting to pull during his match-winning knock of 64 against Malaysia at the BKSP yesterday.

Rajshahi cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Baikali Sangha recorded a five-wicket victory over Bright Star Club in a match of the Rajshahi Premier Division Cricket League at the local district stadium yesterday.

Winning the toss, Bright Star batted first and collected 175 runs for all in 36 overs.

In reply, Baikali Sangha reached the target of 176 runs for five in 38.4 overs.

Siraj Memorial Cricket
Al-Rashid Cricket Club (A) defeated Jatir Janak Smriti Club by 94 runs in the third AB Bank Siraj Memorial Cricket tournament at the Rajshahi Medical College playground yesterday.

Al-Rashid batted first and were bowled out for 198 in 34.4 overs.

In reply, Jatir Janak were shot out for 104 in 25.4 overs.