



Did U Know?

Sir Garfield St Auburn Sobers of West Indies is widely regarded as one of the greatest cricketers in the history of the game. He played for the West Indies 93 times and captained the team 39 times. At his peak, Sobers was the undisputed king of world cricket, having scored over 8,000 runs, including 26 centuries, and taken 235 wickets. He came to England in 1968, captaining the Nottinghamshire side until his retirement in 1974. For his county team, Sobers set a mind-blowing world record by smashing 36 runs off a six-ball over for on August 31, 1968. India's Ravishankar Jayadritha Shastri emulated the feat while playing for Bombay on January 10, 1985.



What to Watch

- SET Max**
Sri Lanka vs New Zealand
Sharjah Cup tri-series
Live at 4:50 pm
- ESPN**
South Africa vs West Indies
Fourth Test, Day Four
Highlights at 7:00 pm
- South Africa vs West Indies**
Fourth Test, Day Five
Live at 8:00 pm
- English Premiership
at 9:30 am
- Serie A**
Highlights at 10:00 pm
- Star Sports**
Harsha Online
Crick Talk Show
at 1:00 pm
- Crick Magazine India's
Greatest Cricket Moments
India vs New Zealand
1998 Coca-Cola Cup
First One-Day Highlights
at 11:00 pm
- Asian Football Show
at 9:30 am
- Futbol Mundial
at 11:30 am
- Primera Liga
at 8:30 pm



Talk Turkey



David Trezeguet
(Juventus' French striker)
"I would be disappointed if I wouldn't make the same choice if I had to do it again."

On limited opportunities to play at the Serie A giants.

Sports WHIZZ KID

- Competition 147**
✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to *Star Daily*
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
April 20, 2001 and draw
shortly afterwards
- Who became Active Chess champion?
Ziaur Reefat Rakib
 - What was the result of the Sri Lanka and England one-day series?
2-1 3-0 2-0
 - Who clinched the ATP Masters Series?
Sampras Agassi Safin
 - Who became Dhaka Reporters' Unity cricket champions?
Inqilab BanglarBani Sangbad
 - How many one-day matches did Tendulkar play to score 10,000 runs?
238 266 283
- Name: _____
Class: _____ Roll No.: _____
School Address: _____
Phone: (If any) _____

MSC back to business

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

It was again business as usual for Mohammedan Sporting Club as they handed Agrani Bank an eight-wicket defeat in their Premier Division Cricket League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Monday.

Opener Harunur Rashid struck a defiant 93 as Mohammedan, chasing a paltry Bank total of 164 in 50 overs, reached home with more than 15 overs to spare.

The popular Motijheel club on Saturday, surrendered an impressive seven-game winning streak to Dhamondi Club after suffering a surprise three-wicket loss.

Along the way Harun, the former national team batsman, shared 49 runs with Rashedul Haque (19) for the first wicket and 42 runs with one down Kenyan Steve Tikolo (16). The icing on the cake was an unbeaten 75-run third wicket stand with middle-order Sanwar Hossain.

Sarwar hit a 51-ball 31 with three boundaries.

During his 109-ball match winning knock, Harun smote two sixes and eleven boundaries.

Earlier electing to bat, the bankers were shot out for 164 after a combination of pace-spin by Shafuddin Babu and Mustadir Litu. They shared eight wickets.

Only Agrani Bank skipper Ziauddin Ahmed with a 61-ball 47, managed to offer some semblance of resistance.

Mohammedan's eighth victory in nine matches, meant they joined arch rivals Abahani at the top of the league table with 16 points. On the other hand, Agrani Bank tasted their sixth defeat.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Premier Division Cricket League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Monday.

Shafuddin	9.1	0	27	4
Jamal	5	0	21	0
Minhaz	5	0	17	1
Mustadir	10	1	27	4
Hayat	10	2	29	1

AGRANI BANK				
Narayan c Mustadir b Shafuddin	14			
Ujjal b Shafuddin	7			
S Shahaed c Sanwar b Shafuddin	3			
Sajjad c Tikolo b Mustadir	19			
S Malik c Hayat b Minhaz	14			
Ziauddin c sub b Shafuddin	47			
Imran b Mustadir	8			
Monir c Taposh b Mustadir	0			
Russell c Jamal b Mustadir	15			
Ripon b Hayat	7			
Ashraf not out	24			
Extras: (lb-5, w-19)	24			
Total: (All out in 49.1 overs)	164			
Fall of wickets: 1/19, 2/18, 3/37, 4/70, 5/78, 6/95, 7/95, 8/122, 9/141.				

MOHAMMEDAN SC				
Rashed c S Malik b Imran	19			
Harun not out	93			
Tikolo b Ripon	16			
Sanwar not out	31			
Extras: (lb-2, nb-1, w-4)	7			
Total: (For 2 wks in 34.4 overs)	166			
Fall of wickets: 1/49, 2/91.				

Bowler				
Imran	8	1	27	1
Ashraf	5	0	37	0
Ujjal	1	0	11	0
Ripon	6	0	28	1
Russell	8	2	23	0
S Malik	4	0	26	0
S Shahaed	1.4	0	9	0
Ziauddin	1	0	3	0

Result: Mohammedan SC won by eight wickets.



Mohammedan heroes Harun-ur-Rashid (L) and Sanwar Hossain leaving the field after leading their side to an eight-wicket victory over Agrani Bank in the Premier Division Cricket League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Monday.

Waqar wrecks Lanka

Cricket

AFP, Sharjah

New captain Waqar Younis grabbed four wickets as Pakistan shrugged off the cricketing turmoil back home to defeat Sri Lanka by 16 runs in the opening match of the Sharjah tri-series here on Sunday.

Saeed Anwar hit 90 and Inzamam-ul Haq scored 44 as Pakistan piled up 255-9 from their 50 overs after Waqar elected to take first strike in the day night international.

Sri Lanka, fresh from a 3-0 drubbing of England, folded up for 239 after Waqar trapped his counterpart Sanath Jayasuriya leg-before with the second ball of the innings.

Waqar led the way with his sizzling yorkers and spinners Saqlain Mushtaq, Shoaib Malik and Shahid Afridi chipped in with two wickets each to give Pakistan a perfect start in the tournament also featuring New Zealand.

Romesh Kaluwitharana (63) and Marvan Atapattu put on 88 for the second wicket before Malik removed both batsmen in his first and third overs to make it 101 for three.

Afridi then dismissed Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardena in quick succession as Sri Lanka slipped to 151-5 in the 34th over.

Waqar, returning for his second spell in the 44th over, broke a 50-run stand for the sixth wicket by bowling Russel Arnold with his first ball.

He then yorced Muthiah Muralitharan later in the over and ended Indika de Saram's defiant 38 off 44 balls with another well-directed yorker to quash Sri Lanka's challenge.

Earlier, Pakistan rode on a 88-run stand for the third wicket between Anwar and Inzamam to move to 197 for three, before Sri Lanka hit back with six wickets in the space of 54 runs.

Nat'l snooker Ghosh, Mithun in final

UNB, Dhaka

Narayan Chandra Ghosh and Rifat Hossain Rizvi Mithun of Narayan-ganj Club will play in the final of the 17th National Snooker Competition at the club on Friday.

Narayan Chandra defeated Golam Mostafa of Gulshan Club by 6-1 frames while Rifat beat Mofazzal Hossain, also from the Gulshan Club, by 6-5 in the semi-final earlier Sunday.

President of Bangladesh Billiard and Snooker Federation Azimuddin Ahmed will distribute prizes among the winners, said a press release.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Sharjah Cup tri-series one-day international between Pakistan and Sri Lanka here on Sunday.

PAKISTAN: 255 for nine in 50 overs (Saeed Anwar 90)

SRI LANKA				
Jayasuriya lbw b Waqar	0			
Kaluwitharana b Malik	63			
Atapattu st H. Farhat b Malik	28			
Jayawardena lbw b Afridi	27			
Sangakkara c I. Farhat b Afridi	11			
Arnold b Waqar	25			
De Saram b Waqar	38			
Muralitharan b Waqar	7			
Vaas not out	16			
Zoysa lbw b Saqlain	6			
Ganagama st H. Farhat b Saqlain	0			
Extras: (b-1, lb-7, w-7, nb-3)	18			
Total: (All out in 48.3 overs)	239			
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-88, 3-101, 4-135, 5-151, 6-201, 7-209, 8-222, 9-239				

Bowler				
Waqar	8	0	49	4
Sami	6	0	24	0
Razaq	8	0	37	0
Saqlain	9.3	0	46	2
Malik	10	0	42	2
Afridi	7	0	33	2

Result: Pakistan won by 16 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Saeed Anwar.

Next match: Sri Lanka v New Zealand on Tuesday.

READERS' ZONE

An utter failure

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 thoughts buzz at your corner, the READERS' ZONE.

---Sports Editor

The recently concluded Prime Minister Gold Cup Hockey Tournament was a sheer disappointment as far as staging and organization is concerned. It has clearly opened another chapter of failure by the organisers.

The event hardly attracted the attention of hockey lovers, spectators. The negligent organisers forgot to give out complimentary tickets to clubs, schools and colleges so that they could learn about the game.

Being a former national player, I felt so ashamed of the farce in the name of a tournament, that I voiced my comments in a live interview on Bangladesh Television in the game between Egypt and Scotland.

After the success of the Second Asia Cup in 1985, I was proud and at the same time hopeful that the Prime Minister Gold Cup would enjoy the same admiration.

We can still remember that every match in the Asia Cup was a sell-out at the then Dhaka Stadium. The attendance for the final between giants India and Pakistan is still regarded as a record for any game (cricket or football) here.

So, we were confident that our place in the world of hockey was assured. Even the sport's governing body Federation of Interna-

tional Hockey (FIH) rated our country as an emerging hockey arena. Bangladesh hockey took a giant leap.

Unfortunately, even with modern amenities including a separate stadium with astro turf, our hockey has suffered immensely. I cannot express it in words. Nevertheless, the national team made the nation proud by finishing fifth in the Gold Cup.

About the tournament I wish to share a few interesting observations:

a) Refreshments supplied free of cost for the players were sold to the general public.

b) Cards were distributed among people having nothing to do with hockey

c) A friend of mine bought a dinner card for Taka 200 at Hotel Sonargaon

d) Hockey legend Shabaz Ahmed, ex-captain Abdus Sadik, coach Sikender and many others pointed the overall situation.

The only thing that caught the eye was the souvenir. I hope there is a proper review of the whole situation so that such a 'flop of the century' does not happen again. Anvir Adil Khan, ex-national hockey player, 47, Eskaton Garden (Elephant Road), Dhaka-1000

Biman Cup football

UNB, Moulvibazar

Hosts Moulvibazar and Laxmipur won their respective matches in the final round of the Biman Cup Under - 14 National Football Championship at the local stadium on Monday.

Riding on a Rony hattrick, Moulvibazar defeated Narail 4-0 in the day's first Group B encounter.

Rony scored three goals in the first half while Kawsar netted the other goal for the winners in the 10th minute of the second half.

Laxmipur beat Natore by a solitary goal in another group B. Shahidur scored in the 50th minute.

Steve for ODI rankings

REUTERS, Sydney

Australian captain Steve Waugh has called for the International Cricket Council (ICC) to introduce a world championship rankings system for limited-overs matches similar to the ICC Test Championship.

The Test Championship, which starts on May 1, will rank all 10 Test-playing nations as they play home and away matches against each other within a five-year period.

The rankings will be updated after each series victory around the world and the trophy will be handed on from one country to the next when a nation loses the top spot.

Australia won the limited-overs series 3-2 against India last week. Australia are World Cup champions in the one-day arena and won a world record 16 consecutive Tests before losing two matches to India as the home side claimed the series 2-1.

"We won 3-2 in the subcontinent which is a great achievement, yet what does it really mean? It doesn't contribute to any points system," Waugh told reporters at Sydney Airport on Monday.

"There is a World Cup, but there should be something in the meantime for one-day cricket as well."

SA 275 ahead

STAR SPORT Monitor

South Africa were 168 for seven, a total lead of 275, in their second knock against West Indies at lunch on the fourth day of the fourth Test at Antigua on Monday.

Rajshahi cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Medical Campus defeated Kalabagan by three wickets in the Hasan Imam and Ali Imam Pintu Smriti cricket tournament at the Rajshahi Medical College Hostel play ground yesterday.

Winning the toss, Kalabagan scored 122 all out in stipulated 25 overs.

In reply, Medical Campus reached the target in 18.4 overs losing seven wickets.

NZC sending letter to PCB

REUTERS, Wellington

New Zealand cricket authorities have said they will send a letter to Pakistan urging it to formally investigate allegations of match-fixing during a recent tour of New Zealand.

New Zealand Cricket (NZC) operations manager John Reid told this news agency he was surprised and disappointed that sacked Pakistan coach Javed Miandad had accused his team of deliberately losing a one-day series to New Zealand in February.

"There will be a letter sent from New Zealand Cricket to the Pakistan board urging them to take some action to verify the nature of the allegations and whether or not the evidence Javed (Miandad) said he has got stands up under scrutiny," Reid said.

The letter was being drafted and would be sent on Monday, he said, adding that the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Anti-Corruption Unit needed to have direct input into any investigation.



DAY'S EVENT
Premier Division Cricket League Brothers Union v Dhamondi Club (Bangabandhu National Stadium)

Enter the Black Caps

Cricket

AFP, Sharjah

The heat is literally turned on New Zealand as they prepare to face Sri Lanka in their opening match of the Sharjah tri-series here on Tuesday.

The Kiwis, who accepted a last-minute invitation to replace India, arrived here with a new-look team that has barely had two days to adjust to the energy-sapping heat and humidity of the Gulf region.

"It is certainly much hotter than at home, but we are trying to get used to it," said national selector Ross Dykes, who doubles up as team manager.

An appearance fee of 200,000 dollars offered by desperate organisers to fill the void created by

they will encounter on a tour of Sri Lanka in July and Pakistan in September.

The team, led by Craig McMillan in the absence of the rested Stephen Fleming, bears little resemblance to the one that won the elite International Cricket Council knock-out tournament in Kenya last October.

Besides Fleming, regulars like wicket-keeper Adam Parore, opening batsman Nathan Astle and Roger Ivoe have been rested after the hectic home series against Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

Worse, the injury list just keeps growing with star all-rounder Chris Cairns, Dion Nash, Daniel Vettori and Geoff Allott on the sidelines for most part of the season.

Seam bowlers Kyle Mills and Andre Adams lead the newcomers making their first tour with the senior side, and Dykes believes the experience will hold them in good stead.

"Of course we want to win, but the aim is to give the developing players an opportunity to play in conditions that are very different from what they get at home," he said.

The presence of seniors like McMillan, who struck a record-equaling 26 runs in one over against Pakistan last month and Chris Harris will ensure the Kiwis are respected by their rivals.

Sri Lanka, for one, will not take anyone lightly after suffering a shock 16-run defeat by a relatively young Pakistan in the tournament opener on Sunday.

The Sri Lankans, the only full-strength side in the tournament, were so shaken by the reverse that coach David Wharmore ordered nets on Monday morning barely a

few hours after the late-night finish on Sunday.

Skipper Sanath Jayasuriya refused to take victory for granted against the young Kiwis despite a thumping 4-1 win in New Zealand at the start of the year.

"We can't afford another loss," he said. "You can never tell what happens in one-day cricket and New Zealand are quite capable of creating a few upsets."

TEAMS

NEW ZEALAND: (from): Craig McMillan (capt), Andre Adams, Matthew Bell, Grant Bradburn, James Franklin, Chris Harris, Kyle Mills, Chris Nevin, Jacob Oram, Matthew Sinclair, Daryl Tuffey, Lou Vincent, Brooke Walker.

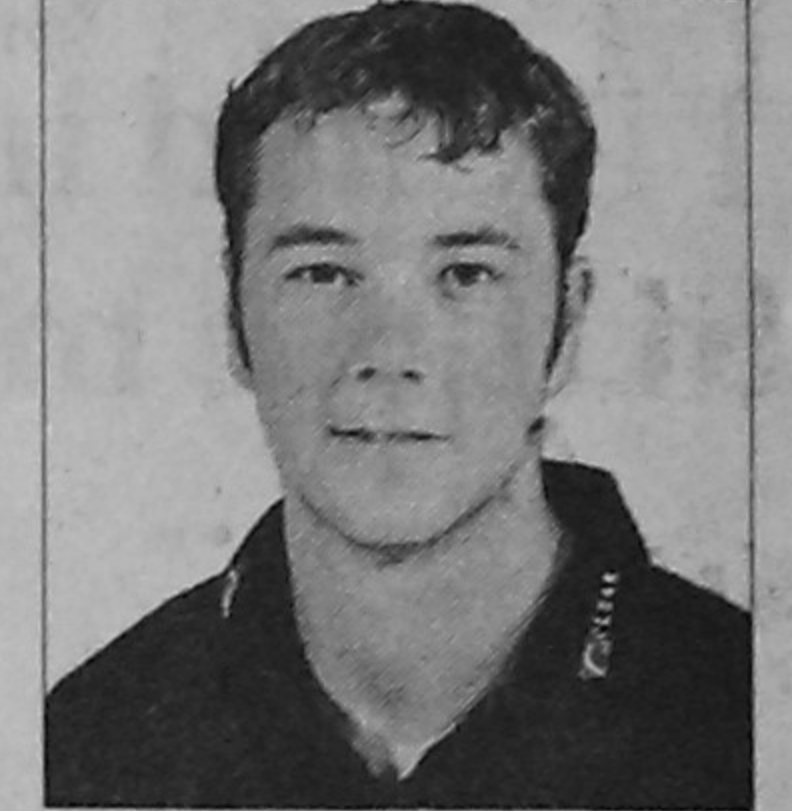
SRI LANKA: (from): Sanath Jayasuriya (capt), Marvan Atapattu, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Mahela Jayawardena, Kumar



SANATH JAYASURIYA

India's pull-out was not the only reason why New Zealand accepted the late invitation.

It gives the many youngsters in the side a chance to experience similar conditions and wickets



CRAIG McMILLAN

Dharmasena, Rassel Arnold, Kumar Gangaema, Nuwan Zoysa, Dilhara Fernando.

Slow going in Antigua

Cricket

AFP, St John's

West Indian leg-spinner Dinanath Ramnarine slowed South Africa's progress after the tourists had moved into a strong position to clinch the series on the third day of the fourth Test at the Antigua Recreation Ground Sunday.

South Africa finished the day on 122 for three, an overall lead of 229, and remained firm favourites to take a winning 2-0 lead in the five-Test series.

No team has made more than 216 to win in the fourth innings in a Test in Antigua and the pitch was showing signs of deterioration with two days still remaining.

But South Africa were able to score only 72 runs in 61 overs between lunch and the close.

Ramnarine was able to keep the South Africans