



Did U Know?

At the 1936 Berlin Olympics, a popular Bangladeshi sport, Kabaddi, was a demonstration event. Ironically though, despite kabaddi enjoys the status of national sport Bangladesh could not win even regional supremacy till to date.



SET Max

Sri Lanka vs Zimbabwe
First Test, Day Four
Live at 9:30 am

ESPN

English Premier Football League
Newcastle United vs Leeds United
12:00 pm

Liverpool vs West Ham United
2:00 pm

Leeds United vs Southampton
4:00 pm

World Cup Soccer Mix
6:00 pm

English Premier Football League
Man United vs Fulham
Live at 7:50 pm

Western Union World Football
11:00 pm

STAR Sports

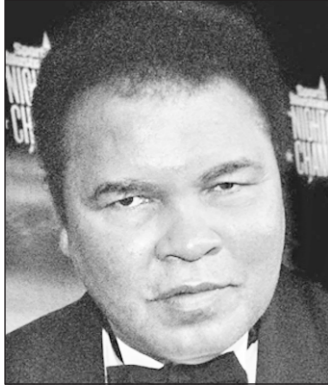
South Africa vs Australia
Second Test, Day Five
Live at 5:57 am

World Cup Soccer Mix
1:00 pm

South Africa Tri Series
Tenth ODI, Final
6:00 pm

South Africa vs Australia
Second Test, Day Five
Highlights at 11:00 pm

TALK TURKEY



Muhammad Ali

(Boxing legend)
"They said it should be banned because it's too brutal. Football is brutal, (and) wrestling. Motor-car racing. The reason they think it's bad is black people control it."
On proposals to ban boxing.

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 163

Tick the Correct Answers Post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Jan 4, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who became FIFA's World Player of the Year?
Beckham Figo Raul
- Which team scored the lowest one-day international total?
Bangladesh Zimbabwe West Indies
- How many wickets did Chaminda Vaas take in a one-day match to set a new world record?
Seven Eight Nine
- In how many Test did Anil Kumble take 300 wickets?
88 6676
- Who won the Sri Lanka tri-series?
West Indies Sri Lanka Zimbabwe

Name

Class..... Roll No.....

School Address

Phone: (If any)

BFF skating on thin ice

FIFA ban hangs over Bangladesh



SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) faces the prospect of being banned from game's ruling body FIFA if it fails to reinstate the elected executive committee, which was dissolved by the government on December 20.

The threat was issued by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) general secretary Peter Velappan on December 27 in response to a statement sent by BFF executive secretary Shankar Shikder on the changes in the BFF set up.

Recognising the ousted Harun-ur Rashid-led committee as the only legitimate body, the AFC letter clearly stated that the BFF had violated its code of conduct.

"Any change of government has no bearing on the elected officials of the Bangladesh Football Federation. Therefore, I respectfully ask you to allow the former elected federation to continue their term of office. If any change is required it can only be done by an Emergency or Extraordinary Congress of the delegates and not by the government in power," read a statement signed by Velappan.

The strongly worded communication also gave BFF an ultimatum to get their house in order by January 5 or face the music.

"I would ask you (Shankar) to restore this elected body to govern the

federation by January 5, 2002 failing which the Bangladesh Football Federation will be suspended by FIFA," the letter read.

The AFC also did not even recognise the appointment of SA Sultan as BFF president and objected to the constant interference by the government.

"I'm deeply disappointed that the Ministry of Youth and Sports has seriously violated the FIFA and AFC statutes by appointing SA Sultan as president of the Bangladesh Football Federation on November 26," said Velappan, who also advised that the elected body be allowed to serve out its four-year term (2001-05).

Sultan while admitting that he was aware about the AFC letter, however, considered it as being very harsh.

"They cannot write such a letter to a sovereign country. I think they have been misled because our sport bodies have always been run by the law of the country and under such circumstances ad-hoc committees are permitted," explained Sultan yesterday.

When asked whether FIFA endorses national federations being run by non-elected persons, he wondered if even five elected national bodies existed in AFC.

"To the best of my knowledge AFC cannot boast of having five proper committees within its fold. Besides, ad-hoc bodies have run our football for many years. So, I do not think it would cause any major problem," said Sultan.

"On several occasions I tried to explain the BFF's position. I even assured

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Dazzling win for Dhaka

Chittagong sent in a spin



SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka pulled up a spectacular 24-run victory over hosts Chittagong in their opening Ispahani National Cricket League match at the MA Aziz Stadium on Saturday.

It was a remarkable achievement for an under-strength Dhaka side that missed half a dozen key players due to their international commitments in the crucial match against the former champions.

Chittagong were in a better position to win the four-day contest when they started the final day with only 186 runs needing for victory.

But the home side, resuming on 18 for 1, were bundled out for 179 in 69.4 overs, thanks to a combined spin effort from Naimur Rahman and Mosaddek Hossain. The spin duo evenly shared six wickets to present Dhaka full six points.

This is a very important victory for the Dhaka team that is yet to lift the title of the first-class competition since its introduction in 1999.

Skipper Naimur mesmerised the middle-order to finish with 3/68. The dapper all-rounder, smarting under a painful exclusion from the national

team, took four wickets in the first innings.



NAIMUR ... 7-wkt match haul

On the other hand, young leg-spinner Mosaddek captured three wickets for 50 runs. He also celebrated the Dhaka victory in style having Safiuddin Ahmed clean bowled for duck.

Chittagong's hopes for a turnaround after Dhaka gained a first innings advantage suffered big blow when their overnight opener Anisul Hakim and number four Ehsanul Huq fell quickly.

Hakim added three runs to his overnight score of 13 before being snapped up behind the wicket off

veteran paceman Saiful Islam. Ehsanul fell to the off-spin of Naimur for five.

Akram shrugged off his first innings disappointment with 30. But once the big right-hander and first-innings hero Minhazul Abedin, who made 26, were dismissed, a defeat was written on the wall for the port city.

Minhaz was the sixth batsman out at the score 140 and Chittagong lost their last four wickets with the addition of 39 runs.

The two sides will play the regulation one-day match at the same venue today.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard of the four-day National Cricket League match between Chittagong and Dhaka at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong on Saturday:
DHAKA: First innings 285 in 99.1 overs (Mehrab 60, Halim Shah 57, Neeayamur 37, Jahangir 28, Tariq 5/68)
CHITTAGONG: First innings 237 all out in 93.4 overs (Minhazul 78, Azam 63, Sabbir 31; Naimur 4/68, Saiful 3/50, Mosaddek 2/33)
DHAKA: Second innings 155 all out in 60.5 overs (Neeayamur 37, Halim 21; Tariq 5/44, Sabbir 2/34)

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Nat'l Sports Award giving ceremony

BSS, Dhaka

The National Sports Award-2000 giving ceremony will be held at Osmani Memorial Hall today.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to hand over the awards at 11 am.

The winners: ASM Raquibul Hasan, Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu (cricket); M Abu Taher (posthumously), Sheikh M Aslam (football); Sabbir Yousuf (hockey); Abdus Sattar Nini (shooting); M Rowshan Ali (swimming); Sq Leader M Rafiqul Islam (swimming); Shamima Sattar Mimun and Razia Sultana Anu (athletics).

Lara assaults his girlfriend?

AP, Port-of-Spain



The girlfriend of West Indies star cricketer Brian Lara filed a police report accusing him of physical abuse, police said.

British model Lindsay Ward, 20, filed the report Wednesday night at the St. Clair police station in the Trinidadian capital, less than a kilometer from Lara's mansion on the city's outskirts, police said Friday.

Attempts to contact Lara and Ward were unsuccessful Friday. It was unclear if Ward was still on the island.

Ward said she did not wish to press charges, but told officers she was leaving Lara's home, police said.

Rajshahi cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Karaitola Sporting Club and Tiger Sporting Club credited their wins in the seventh Bir Sreshtha Shaheed Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir Smriti Local Cup cricket tournament at the local Railway playground yesterday. In the first match of the day, Karaitola defeated Rajshahi Sporting Club by nine runs.

Sent into bat first Karaitola made 123 for seven in the stipulated 25 overs.

In reply, Rajshahi Sporting were all out making 114 in 20.5 overs. In the second match of the day played at the same venue, Tiger Sporting handed a five wicket defeat to Rajshahi Primary Sports Training Centre.

Rajshahi Primary won the toss and decided to bat first. They collected 134 runs conceding nine wickets in the stipulated 25 overs.

In reply, Tiger reached the target (136) in 23.5 overs losing five wickets.

Pepsi nat'l h'ball

UNB, Dhaka

Hosts Narail emerged zone-two champions of the Pepsi 14th National Handball (Women) Championship beating Jessore 7-6 in the final at the Narail Stadium yesterday.

Narail reached the zonal final beating Magura 18-9 in the first semifinal while Jessore moved into the final beating Khulna 14-9 in the second semifinal.

Khulna finished third defeating Magura 15-2 in the third-place deciding match.

PHOTO: INTERNET

Amazing Australia



AFP, Melbourne

Australia confirmed themselves as cricket's premier Test team as they inflicted another crushing defeat on South Africa in the second Test to clinch the series at the Melbourne Cricket Ground Saturday.

Steve Waugh's Australians won by nine wickets late on the fourth day, replicating their demoralising 246-run demolition of the Proteas in the first Adelaide Test.

Only Jacques Kallis offered any resistance. Like his unbeaten 65 in the second innings in Adelaide, he again played a lone hand and was gallantly run out on 99 going for a make-or-break second run which would have claimed his 10th Test hundred.

South Africa, dismissed for 219, at least forced Australia to bat for a second time with the home side

needing 10 runs to clinch the Test and the series.

It proved an anti-climax when Justin Langer was caught by Claude Henderson off Shaun Pollock for seven but man-of-the-match Matthew Hayden fittingly hit the winning run.

Kallis was given a standing ovation as he left the arena where four years earlier his fighting 101 salvaged a draw for Hansie Cronje's team in the corresponding Boxing Day Test.

"Fortunately, it's been my two Test matches, I might go nought and nought in the next game," said Kallis. "I'm in a team where all the guys can contribute and fortunately, it's been my turn, but I hope as a unit we can get it together."

It was Australia's seventh win in their last 14 encounters, with South Africa yet to win a series in Australia.

Australia, superior in all departments, controlled the Melbourne Test throughout and their relentless pressure cracked the Proteas wide

open. The body language of some of the South African batsmen appeared as though they did not believe they could fight their way out of trouble.

The tourists will be under pressure to make team changes for the Sydney Test, with most scrutiny on out-of-form all-rounder Lance Klusener, who was only used for seven overs here along with two low scores.

Australia effectively won the Test with four wickets in the middle session for 61 runs. Shane Warne finished with 3-68.

Just minutes before tea, Pollock was run out needlessly for 18 by a direct throw from Damien Martyn at the striker's end when Kallis scampered off for an impossible run.

Neil McKenzie, who top scored with 67 in the first innings, lasted almost an hour before a Warne leg-break found an outside edge of his bat to be caught by wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist for 12.

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THE CONQUERORS: Victorious Australia cricket team members pose for a photograph after defeating South Africa in the second Test at Melbourne on Saturday.



PHOTO: INTERNET

New Zealand all-rounder Craig McMillan is all set to have a go at a delivery during the third day's play of the second and last Test against Bangladesh in Wellington on Friday. McMillan was adjudged man-of-the-match.

Same sorry defeat for BD



AFP, Wellington

New Zealand took just 65 minutes to wrap up their third consecutive innings win at home in the second cricket Test against Bangladesh at the Basin Reserve here Saturday.

New Zealand took the five wickets they needed on Day Four to win the match by an innings and 74 runs and clean up the series 2-0.

They bowled Bangladesh out for 135 in 41 overs in their second innings.

The match lasted just 193 overs, the equivalent of just over two days after Day Two was washed out. The two-match series lasted just over four days of playing time.

Saturday's win followed on from New Zealand's record innings and 185-run win over Pakistan in Hamilton in March and the innings and 52-run win in the first Test at the same venue last week.

It gave New Zealand a Test record of three wins, four draws and a loss from their eight Tests against Pakistan, Australia and Bangladesh in 2001, and was captain Stephen Fleming's 15th win in his 41st Test in charge.

For Bangladesh it was their fifth innings loss in their short nine-Test

history. A brief rearguard action from No. 10 Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza prolonged the match as he cracked 29 off 21 balls, including four fours and six off paceman Shane Bond, who ended with four for 54 off 15 overs.

New Zealand immediately got among the Bangladesh tail-enders as the tourists resumed on 67 for five Saturday in their second innings, trailing by 142 runs overall.

Off the seventh ball of the day, Khaled Mahmud attempted a quick single but was beaten by a sharp throw from Craig McMillan and run out on a third umpire's decision for four.

Bond took his fourth wicket in the fifth over of the day when he enticed overnight batsman Sanwar Hossain into a drive and shattered his stumps to make it 79 for seven.

Vettori then had Hasibul Hossain caught behind before Mortuza and Khaled Mashud added 49 for the ninth wicket.

Chris Cairns removed Mortuza then immediately had Monjurul Islam caught at slip to end the match 35 minutes after midday.

Cairns had two for 27 and Vettori two for 38 off 17 overs to take him to 125 Test wickets and fifth on the all-time New Zealand list.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard of the

Bangladesh-New Zealand second Test on the fourth day at the Basin Reserve in Wellington on Saturday:

BANGLADESH: First innings 132 (Alslam 42, C Cairns 3-34)

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 341-6 declared

BANGLADESH: Second innings (overnight 67-5)

Omar lbw b Bond 12
Al-Shahriar c Home b Bond 0
Bashar lbw b Drum 32
Aminul c Vettori b Bond 4
Ashraf lbw b Vettori 10
Sanwar b Bond 7
Mahmud run out 4
Mashud not out 19
Hasibul c Parore b Vettori 7
Mashrafe b Cairns 29
Monjurul c Sinclair b Cairns 0
Extras: (lb-7, w-1, nb-3) 11
Total: (All out in 41 overs) 135

Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-28, 3-41, 4-62, 5-64, 6-75, 7-79, 8-86, 9-135

Bowler O M R W
Cairns 6 1 27 2
Bond 15 5 54 4
Vettori 17 8 38 2
Drum 3 0 9 1

Result: New Zealand won by an innings and 74 runs and take the series 2-0.

Man-of-the-match: Craig McMillan.

Umpires: Daryl Harper (Australia) and Brent Bowden (New Zealand).

Part of the learning curve



REUTERS, Wellington

Bangladesh's learning curve steepened sharply during their brief tour of New Zealand, but they leave the country with the belief that their first victory in the Test arena will not take as long as New Zealand's did.

Bangladesh were all out for 135 half-an-hour before lunch on the fourth day of the Test on Saturday and lost by their innings and 74 runs, marking their second innings defeat in as many Tests.

The margin would have been worse had the tail not waggled significantly in the form of Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza and skipper Khaled Mahmud, who built an entertaining 49-run partnership in 43 balls to ruin some New Zealand bowling figures and give the 4,000 crowd a bit more to cheer about.

Stephen Fleming, the New Zealand captain, said he appreciated and respected Bangladesh's position in world cricket more than anyone.

Then Mashud watched Sanwar,

"It's been tough for them," Fleming said after the match. "They were facing conditions they don't really face and we have exploited them."

"If they stay positive and play the game in the right spirit that I enjoyed, it won't be long before they get some results and they'll do it faster than New Zealand did."

"It took us 26 long years to win our first Test and we got some thrashings on the way."

New Zealand's first victory came in Auckland in 1956 against the West Indies.

Mashud, who showed the sort of class lacking in the Bangladesh team, acknowledged the power of the New Zealanders and said they should go on and beat England.

"I don't know much about England," the Bangladesh captain said, "but I do know a lot about New Zealand and they are good."

It didn't take long for Mashud to come into the game on Saturday. Khaled Mahmud was run out by Craig McMillan after a dreadful on-off on quick run backward of square with Sanwar Hossain.

Then Mashud watched Sanwar,

a capable batsman and one of the Bangladesh finds of the tour, being bowled by Shane Bond for five balls short of a length and then being bowled by a fuller delivery for seven.

Hasibul Hossain failed to lift his bat high enough to let a Daniel Vettori delivery go, got a nick to his retreating gloves and through to Adam Parore. And then came Mashrafe.

His first scoring shot was a retreating bat to a Bond lifter getting a nick over the slips to the boundary.

After that he took to Bond who suffered the indignity of having 32 hit off his last three overs, including a majestic straight six by Mashrafe, who had some class to go with his unorthodoxy.

He and Mashud quickly knocked up the 49 partnership, but the old master Chris Cairns gave Mashrafe a slower ball -- something Bond lacked -- and bowled him.

Last man Monjurul Islam went next ball and the match was over, with Mashud stranded on 19.

Murali makes Zim follow-on



AFP, Colombo

Off-spin wizard Muralitharan boosted Sri Lanka's hopes of maintaining their winning streak with six wickets in the first Test against Zimbabwe here on Saturday.

Sri Lanka, seeking their seventh win in eight Tests since August, dismissed Zimbabwe for 184 to gain a 402-run lead after having posted 586-6 declared in their first innings.

The tourists were 64-2 at stumps in their second innings on the third day after being asked to follow on, with skipper Stuart Carlisle batting on 22.

They now face a stiff task of saving the Test when play resumes on Monday after rest day on Sunday. None of the Zimbabwean batsmen could solve the Muralitharan puzzle as the Sri Lankan spinner kept a testing line and length to finish

with 4-53 in the first innings and 2-1 in the second.

Muralitharan tasted success early in the morning when he accounted for Trevor Gripper and then continued to haunt the tourists, removing Hamilton Masakadza (28) and Gripper (10) in his last 8-7-1-2 spell of the day.

Zimbabwe faltered against pace also, with left-arm seamers Chaminda Vaas and Nuwan Zoysa sharing four wickets in the first innings to provide valuable support to Muralitharan.

Andy Flower was the top-scorer with 42 in a dismal batting performance by the tourists against the hosts' disciplined pace-spin combination.

He alone offered some resistance to the home team with his defensive batting before being bowled by off-spinner Thilan Samaraweera in the post-lunch session.

Gripper (30) and Gavin Rennie (35) also failed to play big knocks

after having spent more than an hour at the crease as the Sri Lankan bowlers continued to strike at regular intervals.

The highest stand of the innings was 41 between Andy Flower and Craig Wishart (21) for the sixth wicket.

Sri Lanka kept the pressure on the tourists from the beginning, with Muralitharan taking two wickets and Vaas one in the morning session.

Muralitharan struck in his opening spell when he had Gripper caught by Mahela Jayawardene in the slips after the tourists had resumed at 14-1.

Rennie fell in the closing overs of the morning session, adjudged leg-before after hitting five boundaries in his 68-ball 35.

Vaas, who had taken 14 wickets in the third Test when the West Indies here early this month, got an early wicket when he had Carlisle (10) caught by Sanath Jayasuriya in the

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