

Did U Know?

The shortest match in World Wrestling Federation history was Bob Backlund versus Diesel for the WWF Championship title. It was only 7 seconds long.



What to WATCH

- SET Max**
Sri Lanka vs Zimbabwe
Second Test, Day One
Live at 9:30 am
ESPN
- World Cup Soccer Mix
9:30 am
- Western Union World Football
8:00 pm
- Sportscentre Hindi**
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
- STAR Sports**
South Africa vs Australia
Third Test, Day Three
Live at 5:57 am
Sportsline Today
Sport News
8:00 am
- English Premier Football League
Man United vs Newcastle United
1:30 pm
- Sportsline Tonight**
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
Football Asia
9:00 pm



TALK TURKEY



Jennifer Capriati
(American tennis star)
"Who would have ever thought I would have made it here after so much has happened? Dreams do come true if you keep believing in yourself."

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)

Premier kabadi

UNB, Dhaka

Fire Service and Civil Defense reached the semifinals of the Premier Division Kabadi League beating Sonali Bank 91-54 at the court adjacent to the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium on Thursday.

The winners dominated the first half 40-31.



TAKING A BREAK FROM CRICKET! (L) Pakistanis (L-R) Yousuf Youhana, Shoaib Akhtar, Saqlain Mushtaq and Abdur Razzaq share a light moment while (R) Rashid Latif discharges (!) the duties of a photojournalist during their practice session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Thursday.

Contrasting practice

ing Pakistan in the first Test," said skipper Mashud at the end of the session.

The national team returned home on Tuesday night from New Zealand, where they lost both the Tests by huge margins.

"I do not feel like staying home the whole day. It's great to be back on the field," said Bangladesh's first Test centurion Aminul Islam.

Ashraf is also keen to get among the runs after a lacklustre show down under.

Test cricket's youngest centurion on debut tried to identify the reasons for failing to score in New Zealand.

"If you take me for example then it was down to lack of patience against a very accurate attack. The ball came nicely on to the bat and I can remember not a single delivery out of 59 bowled on my leg so that I could play on the on-side," the teenager said.

Earlier, the visiting team spent a good three hours practising at the big bowl in morning.

Before attending the nets, most of the players warmed up with a game of football for half-an-hour.

While coach Mudassar Nazir was making his boys toil, only Wasim Akram was seen enjoying the warmth of the sun with team manager Yawar Saeed.

Later, the 36-year-old sultan of swing padded up for a brief time before leaving for the hotel with his teammates.

The visitors who arrived in Bangladesh on Wednesday, start their tour with a three-day practice match against Bangladesh A at the Bangladesh Kriya Shiksha Protisthan (BKSP) tomorrow morning.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Rate of tickets for BD-Pak series

The Bangladesh Cricket Board on Thursday announced the rate of tickets for the Coca-Cola Series between Bangladesh and Pakistan.

The Western Gallery tickets have been increased from Taka 30 to Taka 50 for both one-day internationals in Dhaka.

And for the Eastern Gallery the price is Taka 40 for the day-night matches in the capital.

The daily gallery tickets for the first Test starting on January 9, has been fixed at Taka 30 and Taka 20 respectively.

A seat in the International Enclosure for the Dhaka Test will cost Taka 50-per-day and Taka 75 for the final two one-dayers.

The Board will release a total of 36,205 tickets for the Dhaka matches.

Tickets will go on sale at seven branches of Al Baraka Bank from January 9.

The branches are -- Dilkusha, VIP Road (Naya Paltan), Gulshan (Circle-1), Mirpur Road, Karwan Bazar, Imamganj and Principal Office (Motijheel).

Following are the rate of tickets:

SEASONAL	
Hospitality Box (AC)	: Tk 25,000 (one Test and 2 ODIs)
Hospitality Box (Non AC)	: Tk 20,000 (one Test and 2 ODIs)
DAILY	
VIP Gallery	: Tk 150 (Test) and Tk 300 (ODI)
Club House (East)	: Tk 75 (Test) and Tk 100 (ODI)
Special Enclosure	: Tk 30 (Test) and Tk 50 (ODI)
International Gallery	: Tk 50 (test) and Tk 75 (ODI)
Western Gallery	: Tk 30 (test) and Tk 50 (ODI)
Eastern Gallery	: Tk 20 (test) and Tk 40 (ODI)

Ahsanullah sends Rajshahi reeling

ISPAHANI MIRZAPORE TEA 3rd National Cricket League

With left-arm spinner Ahsanullah Hasan wreaking havoc with both the bat and ball, Rajshahi were forced to follow on against Chittagong on the second day of the Ispahani Third National Cricket League match at the Comilla Stadium on Thursday.

Rajshahi were bowled out in their first innings for 142 runs after Chittagong added 46 to their overnight score of 303.

Ahsanullah easily became the most valuable player for the port city team with a fine 83 followed by a haul of 4 for 43.

Ahsanullah resuming on 58, took his side to a commanding 349 before being dismissed thirteen runs short of what would have been maiden first-class century.

After his fine batting display, Ahsanullah then partnered fellow spinner Sabbir Khan to destroy the visitors batting line up in 64.3 overs. Sabbir took three wickets for 33 runs.

Rajshahi scored 23 runs for no

loss in their second innings but need another 184 runs make the home team bat again.

The bowling of veteran left-arm spinner Mustadir Litu was the only saving grace for Rajshahi. Mustadir, who took five wickets on the opening day, added another to his account yesterday to finish with six for 95 in the Chittagong innings.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the second day of the Ispahani Third National Cricket League match between Chittagong and Rajshahi at Comilla Stadium on Wednesday.

CHITTAGONG: First innings (over-night 303 for 8)
Anis hit wicket b Mustadir 20
Faisal c Aminul jr. b Mustadir 43
Azam Mustakim Ripon 18
Minhazul b Mustadir 85
Masum c Mustadir b Mostakim 11
Sabbir b Mustadir 20
Sumon c Kalim b Mustadir 0
Mortuza lbw b Sumon 9
Ahsanullah c Sumon b Ripon 83
Debabratro c Rojel b Mustadir 27
Sabbuddin not out 0
Extras: (b-7, lb-9, nb-16, w-1) 33
Total: (All out in 105.3 overs) 349
Fall of wickets: 1/70, 2/91, 3/126, 4/176, 5/208, 6/208, 7/213, 8/281, 9/344

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Mazharul, Halim run riot

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the second day of the Ispahani Third National Cricket League match between Dhaka and Barisal at Barisal Stadium on Wednesday.

DHAKA: First innings (Overnight 202 for 4 in 93 overs)
Sajjad c Shaymol b Shahnewaz 11
Sadiq c Tinku b Sayem 0
Jahangir c Kiron b Sayem 8
Halim not out 161
Naimur c Shahnewaz b Biplob 21
Mazharul c sub b Mukul 171
Neeyamur b Biplob 34
Sajjad Kadir lbw b Shahnewaz 45
Extras: (b-2, lb-3, nb-6, w-3) 14
Total: (For 7 wks in 157.2 overs dec.) 465
Fall of wickets: 1/2, 2/14, 3/20, 4/51, 5/309, 6/356, 7/465

BOWLER

	O	M	R	W
Shahnewaz	32.2	16	73	2
Sayem	17	6	59	2
Moin	20	9	33	0
Biplob	29	5	75	2
Mukul	32	5	75	1
Shaymol	18	0	64	0
Shaheen	6	0	36	0
Kamal	2	0	18	0

BARISAL: First innings
Mofizul not out 47
Moin c Halim b Naimur 5

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Dhaka, riding on centuries from Mazharul Haq and Halim Shah, declared their first innings on a massive 465 for seven against hosts Barisal on the second day of their four-day Ispahani National Cricket League match at the Barisal Stadium on Thursday.

Mazharul and Halim enjoyed a run-feast in a superb 258-run stand for the fifth wicket.

Mazhar, who completed his hundred on Wednesday, went on to compile 171 runs, while Halim, resuming the day on 55, blazed away to an undefeated 161.

The two centuries were separated when young Mazhar was caught off-spinner Mukul in the 158th over of the Dhaka innings. He hammered 20 boundaries and half a dozen sixes in his 285-ball vigil at the crease.

Halim struck eight boundaries in his 484-minute long innings.

Barisal, in reply, scored 70 for two at close with opener Mofizul unbeaten on 47.



AKHTAR'S ACTION: A combo picture taken from different angles shows Pakistani speedster Shoaib Akhtar bowl during the practice session on Thursday.

Even going at Sylhet

SPORTS REPORTER

Khulna took a 41-run lead over hosts Sylhet on day two of their Ispahani National League match on Thursday but by close, Sylhet had crossed that deficit and moved ahead.

The visitors, resuming on 56 for four, were bowled out for 181 in reply to Sylhet's first innings total of 132.

Off spinner Sohel Islam, who had been one of the chief destroyers of the Sylhet first innings with four wickets for 33, top scored with 37 for Khulna in what is turning out to be a low-scoring affair.

The home team had reached 47 for one at stumps.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the second day of the four-day National Cricket League match between Sylhet and Khulna at the Sylhet Stadium on Wednesday.

SYLHET: First innings 132 all out in 65.1 overs (Parvez 36, Hussain 33, Rajin 27; Jamaluddin 4/31, Sohel 4/33, Manjarul 2/20)

KHULNA: First innings (over-night 56 for 4)
Sajjadul b Taposh 6
Nahidul c Nasirul b Nayeem 15
Salim c Nasirul b Mistu Das 17
Raju not out 20
Manzarul lbw b Hussain 1
Sohel c Rajin b Hussain 37
Moinur lbw b Aloke 30
Asadullah c Parvez b Enamul 27
Jamaluddin c Mistu b Enamul 8

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Damen Martyn swept his way to a fourth Test century and then the spinners took charge as Australia began closing off South Africa's escape routes from a series whitewash at the Sydney Cricket Ground Thursday.

Martyn showcased his batting virtuosity with four boundaries off reverse sweeps in his innings of 117 as Australia amassed an unbeatable 554 in even time and then tightened the noose around the paralysed Proteas.

South Africa were on the run by stumps with Glenn McGrath striking twice and Stuart MacGill coaxing an edge off Jacques Kallis with a leg-break and removing Herschelle Gibbs.

The worst nightmares of Shaun Pollock's team were being realised with leg-spinners Shane Warne and MacGill bowling in tandem from either end, tormenting the batsmen, smothered by a close-in field, with their flight and turn.

At stumps on the second day, South Africa were 93 for four with Neil McKenzie (20) and Test debutant Justin Ontong (8) fighting for survival. The Proteas were still 262 runs behind the follow-on target.

The Australians have already clinched the series with comprehensive wins in Adelaide and

Handle with care

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Young paceman Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza's prospect of playing in the first Test against Pakistan hangs in the balance as he faces a fitness test on January 6.

The 19-year-old, after suffering a back injury during the New Zealand tour last month, has been advised to go on a complete rest immediately after Bangladesh returned home on Tuesday night.

Considered as the fastest bowler of the country, Mashrafe, who is now resting at his hometown Narail, will return to the city on Sunday to go through a fitness test under national team physio John Gloster.

"He tore a back muscle which needs some time to be healed. I am not very sure whether he can recover in time to be considered for the match. I'm not going to take any chances," said Gloster while talking to this correspondent during a reception in honour of the Pakistan team at the Pakistan High Commission in the evening.

"You see, it was too early for Mashrafe to play international cricket. It would have been better had he played in two more domestic seasons before walking into the senior team.

"He needs more time to get physically fit for Test cricket," said the Australian.

Meanwhile, chief selector Mainul Haq in the morning said that they were still keen to play the young right-arm seamer against Pakistan in Dhaka and later send him to New Zealand for the World Youth Cup.

"I don't know how serious his injury is. Neither have I talked to him nor I got the report from the physio. Let me talk to them first before making a decision," said Mainul to a group of reporters at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The chief selector also revealed that he would name the Test squad on January 7 and announce the Bangladesh A team, which will take part in the Busta Cup in West Indies later this month, shortly afterwards.

But observers believe that Mashrafe's injury is due to over-bowling since being picked for the A



MASHRAFE-BIN-MORTUZA

said so. But what a pity he has been overworked," said coach of the Bangladesh Under-19 team Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury.

"Definitely Bangladesh is blessed to have such a talent. So, the message should be 'Handle him with care'."

Sultan meets ousted body

SPORTS REPORTER

The ad-hoc committee of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) postponed its emergency meeting today because of the absence of general secretary Anwarul Haque.

The meeting was convened in the light of AFC's threat to ban BFF if the elected body of Harun-ur Rashid was not reinstated by January 5.

But the crucial meeting was cancelled since Anwarul is yet to return home from USA.

Meanwhile, it was learnt that BFF president SA Sultan met members of

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A negative step

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Pakistan manager Yawar Saeed considers the refusal by West Indies to tour Pakistan later this month as yet another setback for the game in his country.

The West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) does not want to allow the national team tour from January 25 after expressing fears over Indo-Pak tensions. Last year New Zealand and Sri Lanka called off visits following the September 11 attacks on the United States and military action in Afghanistan.

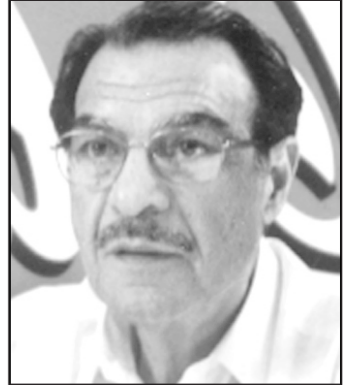
In light of the current situation, the son of former Pakistan cricket captain Mian Mohammed Saeed, has called for cooperation from the international cricket community to prevent it from sliding into a prolonged isolation.

"It is very sad that we are not playing cricket as per the programme which was agreed earlier," said Saeed who spent two years in Rangpur, Thakurgaon and Kushtia in the sixties while working for the British American Tobacco company.

Despite the gloomy picture, Saeed told The Daily Star Sport at Bangabandhu National Stadium on Thursday that things can still be rectified.

"If the West Indies are unable to come then we will play series at a neutral venue. The idea is being discussed by both Boards," said the Islamabad-based organiser.

"Among the mutually acceptable places being considered are Dhaka, Sharjah, Colombo or may be even Tangiers in Morocco. Negotiations are going on and in the next three or four days we will know exactly where we are going to play these Test matches against West Indies," he said.



YAWAR SAEED

World Cup.

"One can only prepare for such a big event by playing international cricket," added the former director of PCB.

He also revealed that Pakistan will produce more exciting cricketers in the future as the National Cricket Academy will begin functioning from next March.

Former Pakistan captain and coach Javed Miandad had been given the responsibility to take over the academy as chief instructor.

Meanwhile, Reuters reported that Pakistan Cricket Board president Tauqir Zia is worried that his country could be deprived of international cricket at home until September this year.

"We face a situation where we could go without international

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TRY THIS: Pakistan fast bowler Wasim Akram (R) shows his new practice shoe to captain Waqar Younis during a break from practice yesterday.