

# Star SPORT

DHAKA THURSDAY JANUARY 31, 2002, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com

## League resumes today

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Leaders Dhaka will take on Sylhet in one of the three National Cricket League matches at the Sylhet Stadium today.

Chittagong will travel to Barisal while Khulna will play their home match against Rajshahi at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in this round.

The Khulna-Rajshahi match was scheduled to commence at the Jessore Stadium, but the organiser had to shift the venue because of the annual sports of Jessore Education Board.

Dhaka have won four of their five four-day matches so far and are now leading the race with highest 24 points. Much to the worry of their opponents, Dhaka are going to field

a full strength side for the first time today as Javed Omar, Mehrab Hossain, Al-Shahriar, Aminul Islam and Khaled Mahmum join the team following their national duty.

Sylhet, on the other hand, have earned 12 points from two wins in

POINTS TABLE				
Four-day table				
Teams	M	W	Lead	L Points
Dhaka	5	4	-	24
Rajshahi	4	2	1	14
Sylhet	4	2	-	12
Chittagong	5	1	1	8
Khulna	4	-	2	4
Barisal	4	-	4	0

One-day Table				
Teams	M	W	L	Points
Rajshahi	4	3	1	6
Sylhet	4	3	1	6
Chittagong	5	3	2	6
Dhaka	5	3	2	6
Khulna	4	1	3	2
Barisal	4	-	4	0

four matches.

With the joining of national seamer Hasibul Hossain, the home team is expected to offer a good fight against Dhaka this time. In their away match, Sylhet lost by seven wickets.

Chittagong, the champions of the inaugural edition and the runners-up last season, however are yet to live up to their reputation.

With Akram Khan, Ehsanul Huq, Tareq Aziz Khan, Nafis Iqbal and Aftab Ahmed on national duties, the Minhazul Abedin-led side could win one out of their five matches to collect eight points.

On the other hand, their latest rivals Barisal have lost all of their four matches.

Rajshahi are in the second place with 14 points from four matches while Khulna have managed only four points to their account.

## Cricketers' bourse from March 1

SPORTS REPORTER

The inter-club cricketers' transfer for the Premier and First Division Cricket Leagues will be held over three days, starting from March 1.

The Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) in its adjourned meeting at the Bangabandhu National Stadium last night also unanimously decided that the leagues will begin from March 20.

The meeting also sought the Board decision over the relegation issue involving Lalmatia Club and Indira Road KC. Both were relegated from First Division last season, but the Board, in a controversial move, afterwards cancelled it.

The decision was again changed by Board's new president Ali Asghar on December 30. But the clubs want Asghar to review their plea to keep them in First Division.

Chaired by Khondar Jamiluddin, the meeting also decided to hold the three-day transfer for the Second and Third Division leagues from February 10. The leagues will start from February 28.

A source, preferring not to be named, revealed that all the 12 Premier Division and ten First Division clubs have asked for the Board donation to form their teams.



GOT TO WAIT FOR A WHILE! Young cricketers wait for their turn to bat during their under-13 tournament engagement at the Kalabagan Cricket ground yesterday.

## Run chase order of the day



SPORTS REPORTER

A swashbuckling half-century from Momin propelled Bidyanikaton Pre-Cadet High School to a comprehensive seven-wicket victory over Udayan Kindergarten High School on Wednesday.

The Dhaka Zone match of the Standard Chartered 20th National Schools Championship at the Dhanmondi Club ground finished earlier than expected when Momin hammered a breezy 84.

With Momin in full cry Bidyanikaton toppled the Udayan total of 185 in only 25.2 overs.

Away at Polytechnic Institute Ground, Siddeshwari Boys High School sailed to a ten-wicket win in just two hours.

They bowled Shaheedbagh High School out for 45 runs in 16.5 overs and then notched up their required runs without losing any wickets

inside ten overs.

Nawabpur Govt. High School won a close match by two wickets against neighbors Wari High School at the Mirpur Outer Stadium.

Batting first, Wari scored 153 before being all out in 32.2 overs. Nawabpur reached the victory target of 156 with three balls to spare and two wickets in hand.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Moshir Rahman scored 89 in Scholastic High School's 174 for nine. It was also the highest individual score in the four games played on the day.

But still his School ended as losers as Khilgaon Govt. High School successfully chased the runs with for the loss of five wickets with ten overs to spare.

**BRIEF SCORES:** Siddeshwari Boys High School vs Sahidbagh High School Venue: PIG

Shahidbagh High School 45 all out in 16.2 overs (Maruf 8, Sohagh 3/0, Tanjil 2/8, Dipak 2/10)

Siddeshwari Boys 50 for no loss in 9.5 overs (Bidyut 27, Munna 15)

**Result: Siddeshwari Boys High School won by 10 wickets.**

Khilgaon Govt. High School vs

Scholastic High School

Venue: DCS

Scholastic High School 174 for 9 in 35 overs (Moshir 89, Khaled 4/16)

Khilgaon Govt. 175 for 5 in 25 overs (Nahid 54, Sadat 37)

**Result: Khilgaon Govt. High School won by 5 wickets.**

Nawabpur Govt. High School vs Wari High School

Venue: MOS

Wari High School 153 all out in 32.2 overs (Sohel 46, Imran 21; Shimul 2/1, Rubel 2/34, Chisty 2/20, Liton 2/30)

Nawabpur High School 156 for 8 in 34.3 overs (Amir 38, Russel 27, Arman 2/24)

**Result: Nawabpur Govt. High School won by 2 wickets.**

Bidyanikaton Pre-Cadet High School vs Udayan Kindergarten

Venue: DCG

Udayan Kindergarten 185 all out in 35 overs (Sairur 62, Afaz 32, Tarekul 3/22, Rafiq 3/30, Anwar 3/34)

Bidyanikaton Pre-Cadet 187 for 3 in 25.2 overs (Momin 84, Pervez 32, Shamim 31)

**Bidyanikaton Pre-Cadet won by 7 wickets.**

## Sub-junior chess Minhaz champ

SPORTS REPORTER

Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar retained the national sub-junior chess championship title with a 1.5-5 win over Nazir Salehin in a play-off at the NSC chess room yesterday.

Both Salehin and Sagar finished on seven points at the end of the eight-round meet on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, 57 players won their first round matches in the 23rd national junior chess began at the same venue yesterday.

A total of 115 players from 21 districts are taking part in the nine-round tournament.

## Sankar Govinda Stadium or Natore Stadium?

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Has the name of 'Sankar Govinda Chowdhury Stadium' been changed?

The district sports association (DSA), in their invitation card for the inaugural ceremony of Natore Cricket League 2002, mentioned the stadium as 'Natore Stadium.'

Even those who spoke at the inaugural ceremony yesterday, called the stadium as 'Natore Stadium. LGED and co-operative deputy minister Advocate Ruhul Kuddus Talukdar Dulu inaugurated the cricket league while DC of Natore Sadar-Uddin Ahmed, DSA officials Aminul Haq, Nurul Ahsan Bakul and the district BNP general secretary Shahidul Islam Bachhu spoke on the occasion among others.

In January, 1997, former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had inaugurated the stadium and named it after valiant local freedom fighter and Awami League leader late Sankar Govinda Chowdhury.

The signboard on top of the stadium still reads 'Babu Sankar Govinda Chowdhury Stadium', but in recent times for all official correspondence and ceremonies, the only stadium in the district is being called as Natore Stadium.

Surprisingly, concerned officials failed to give any answer when asked whether the name of the stadium has been changed or not.

## Navy lift V-Day basketball trophy

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Navy clinched the FedEx Victory Day Basketball Tournament title defeating Bangladesh Army by 93-88 points at the Dhanmondi Wooden Floor Gymnasium on Wednesday.

The sailors led the Armymen 56-39 points at the breather in the nail-biting final.

Rashed caged in the highest 31 points for Navy.

Navy also won a cash award of 6000 Taka apart from the glittering champion's trophy.

Runners-up Bangladesh Army became richer by 4000 taka.

Josephite was adjudged the best disciplined side in the meet.

Titans of Dhumketu Club won the best players' award.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman gave away prizes. President of the Bangladesh Basketball Federation Maj. Gen. (Retd.) ZA Khan was also present.

## Eng hopes dealt a blow

ICC U19 CRICKET WORLD CUP NEW ZEALAND 2002

AFP, Christchurch

England's chances of qualifying for the semifinals of the ICC Under-19s World Cup took a nosedive when tournament favourites Australia crushed them by 116 runs here Wednesday.

Another near-perfect performance from Australia saw England totally outplayed at Hagley Oval, and they must now beat South Africa on Friday, and hope New Zealand lose to Australia, in order to qualify for the last four.

England must beat South Africa comprehensively and pick up a bonus point to edge ahead of their rivals into second spot as their run-rate is the poorest in the group.

However, England scarcely deserve a place in the last four after losing yet against a Test-playing nation, and the fact their only wins in this competition have come against Nepal and Papua New Guinea gives a clear indication of their form.

Slapppy performance in the field, which saw three catches spilled, allowed Australia to post a commanding 281 for five from their 50 overs with 71 runs added in a disas-

trous final five overs for England.

George Bailey swiped 69 runs off 55 balls and Craig Simmons made 67 as Australia posted the highest score so far in Christchurch.

England needed to get off to a good start to stand any hope of victory but they lost opener Kadeer Ali with 28 on the board, and after his dismissal they lost wickets at regular intervals with only captain Nicky Peng (57) offering some resistance.

Left-arm spinner Beau Casson finished with 4-33 and Jarrod Burke 3-13 for Australia as England succumbed for 165.

England manager James Whitaker was clearly angered by his side's performance, but still held out some hope his side could make the semifinals.

"If we beat South Africa we stand a chance but to do that we will have to raise our game considerably," he said. "South Africa are a reasonable side and we will have to improve in several areas.

"We knew this would be a tough game but I expected a little more resilience from us.

"We dropped three catches and I would have liked to have seen a little more fight in our middle-order. We will have to think quite hard about

the personnel in the team and decide who deserves to play on Friday."

Also Wednesday, New Zealand squandered the opportunity to seal their spot in the next round when they lost to South Africa by 24 runs.

After narrowly defeating England at the start of the week New Zealand went into the game full of confidence against a South African side recently mauled by Australia.

New Zealand got off to a good start reducing their opponents to 85-4 but a fifth wicket stand worth 140 between Ryan Bailey (69) and David Jacobs (63) enabled South Africa to make 241 for seven.

In reply, New Zealand looked comfortable at 88 for one but a mid-innings collapse saw them slip to 191 for seven as the game turned South Africa's way. Four run outs hardly helped New Zealand's cause and they were bowled out for 217.

**On Thursday Super League Group One will be decided by India's mouth-watering clash against Pakistan and Sri Lanka's clash with the West Indies. In the Plate Championship Bangladesh take on Zimbabwe and Papua New Guinea meet Kenya.**

## Young WI against Pakistan

Cricket

REUTERS, Sharjah

West Indies skipper Carl Hooper said his young and inexperienced team would produce competitive cricket when they take on Pakistan in the first test, starting on Thursday, in Sharjah.

"We have lost a number of senior players and that's what has led to the decline in the team's performance, but the new players are getting better and better," veteran all-rounder Hopper told reporters.

"Ideally, we would have liked to play some warm-up matches before the test series, but then we all know under what circumstances the series has been shifted to Sharjah," he said.

West Indies declined to play the two tests and three one-dayers in Pakistan because of security concerns, forcing the Pakistan Cricket Board to move the series to the mutually-agreed neutral venue in the United Arab Emirates.

"The important thing is that the series is on and we are happy to be playing against Pakistan," Hooper

said.

Pakistan skipper Waqar Younis said his team felt comfortable playing in Sharjah.

"We all wanted the series to be played in Pakistan, but then nothing could be done since circumstances were different," he said. "We have been playing in Sharjah for the last 15 to 20 years and we have not totally lost out on the advantage of playing at home."

The rival captains were unsure how the wicket would behave.

"There is no grass and the wicket is very hard, more suited for one-day games," Younis said, adding that the spinners would be required to do more work.

The spinners, led by Muttiah Muralitharan, did most of the damage when West Indies toured Sri Lanka, he said.

"If Sri Lanka had Murali, Pakistan have Saqlain Mushtaq, also a world class bowler. But we are ready for the battle," he said.

The absence of Brian Lara, who suffered a hairline fracture in his left elbow in Sri Lanka in mid-December, has further added to West Indies' woes.

"We will certainly miss him," Hooper said.

Pakistan also have worries.

"We will certainly feel the

absence of Wasim Akram (ham-string) and Saeed Anwar (wrist injury). Akram is recovering fast and I think he may join the series after the first test," Younis said.

Pakistan manager Yawar Saeed said the series has been reduced to two tests from the original three because his side did not have enough time.

**TEAMS**

**PAKISTAN** (likely): Waqar Younis (captain), Taufeeq Umar, Shahid Afridi, Younis Khan, Inzamam Haq, Yousuf Youhana, Abdur Razaq, Rashid Latif, Shoab Akhtar, Saqlain Mushtaq, Danish Kaneria.

**WEST INDIES** (from): Carl Hooper (captain), Daren Ganga, Sherwin Campbell, Chris Gayle, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Wavell Hinds, Marlon Samuels, Ryan Hinds, Ridley Jacobs, Mervyn Dillon, Cameron Cuffy, Pedro Collins, Corey Koolmore, Darryl Brown, Dinanath Ramparine.

**Umpires:** George Sharp (England) and Mohammad Riazuddin (Pakistan).



Players and officials of Bangladesh Navy team pose with the winner's trophy after beating Bangladesh Army in the FedEx Victory Day basketball final yesterday.



## Did U Know?

Of the 9 baseball players in the field, no player can request a time-out. It can only be called by an umpire.



## What to WATCH

**DD National**  
India vs England  
Fifth ODI  
Live at 9:30 am

**ESPN**  
Sportscentre Hindi  
Sport News  
6:30 am

English Premier Football League  
Liverpool vs Bolton  
11:00 am

Cricket Programming  
Super Selector  
6:00 pm

English Premier Football League  
Man United vs Bolton Wanderers  
6:30 pm

**Sportscentre Hindi**  
Sport News  
Live at 8:30 pm

World Cup Soccer Mix  
9:00 pm

English Premier Football League  
Leeds United vs Chelsea  
9:30 pm

## STAR Sports

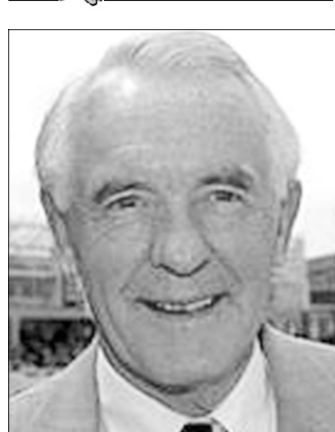
Sportline Today  
Sport News  
7:30 am

**Pepsi Cup Home Series, Sharjah**

West Indies vs Pakistan  
First Test, Day One  
Live at 12:00 pm

**Sportline Tonight**  
Sport News  
Live at 8:00 pm

Australia Tri Series  
Pakistan vs Australia  
Second Final  
Highlights at 9:00 pm



## Mike Denness

(ICC match referee)

"I did what I believe was appropriate at the time... I have no regrets."

On his decision to penalise six Indian cricketers in South



Tick the Correct Answers Post to

**The Daily Star**  
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm  
Feb 1, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

1. How many Test matches did Muttiah Muralitharan play to take 400 wickets?	98	78	72
2. Who won the Sydney Int'l tennis title?	Capriati	Kournikova	Hingis
3. What was the result of the Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe Test series?	2-1	2-0	3-0
4. Who won the man-of-the-match award in the first Test between Bangladesh and Pakistan?	Waqar Younis	Danish Kaneria	Abdur Razzak
5. Who clinched Koooyong Int'l tennis title?	Agassi	Hewitt	Sampras

Name .....

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

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

## Aussies' Watson surprise

Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

Shane Watson, a 20-year-old seen as potentially Australia's best all-rounder in decades, was Wednesday named in the Australian squad for the upcoming three-Test tour of South Africa.

Watson gained his first call-up to the national team while South Australian batsman Darren Lehmann was recalled to the Test squad for the first time since the 1998-99 season.

West Australian Ashes tour

batsman Simon Katich was left out to



SHANE WATSON

make way for Lehmann in the 15-man squad, which leaves on February 14.

Watson has excelled this summer taking 22 Sheffield Shield wickets for Tasmania at 23.36, including 11 in a match against Queensland in Hobart in January.

His 292 Shield runs have come at 29.20 and he has a highest score of 58 not out.

Watson was earmarked for national selection when he made his Australia A debut this season, playing one-day matches against South Africa and New Zealand.

Watson said he had always regarded himself as a batsman first