



Did U Know?

Baseball player Charlie Brown was a true sportsman. Participating in a match was more appealing to him than winning. After 43 years of losing, he actually won a baseball game on March 30, 1993!



Romario
(Brazilian soccer superstar)
"I intend to play in the World Cup. I will do my utmost to be included in the team of my country and if I don't manage I will probably end my career."



ESPN
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
6:30 am
Western Union World Football
3:00 pm
New Zealand vs South Africa
First Final
3:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
World Cup Soccer Mix
9:00 pm
STAR Sports
Sportsline Today
Sport News
9:30 am
West Indies vs Pakistan
First Test, Day Five
Highlights at 11:00 am
West Indies vs Pakistan
Second Test, Day One
Live at 11:57 am
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm

Star WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION 166
Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Feb 15, 2002 and draw
shortly afterwards

1. How many ODI matches did Sachin Tendulkar play to score 11000 runs?	300	284	276
2. Who won the Australian Open title?	Hingis	Capriati	Davenport
3. Who became National women's chess champion?	Rani Hamid	Shabana Parveen	Tanima Parveen
4. Who won the man-of-the-series award in the Bangladesh-Pakistan one-dayers?	Waqar Younis	Abdur Razzak	Shahid Afridi
5. Which team clinched the Victory Day hockey title?	Bangladesh Army	Abahani	Mohammedan
Name			
Class.	Roll No.		
School Address			
Phone: (If any)			

Snooker meet

SPORTS REPORTER

The 18th National Snooker Championship begins at the JIBB's Snooker Parlour in the city from Saturday.

Sixty-one players from 10 affiliated clubs of Bangladesh Billiards and Snooker Federation are expected to take part in the week-long event.
The final will be held at 2:30 pm on February 15.

BCB be cricket-wise

LENIN GANI

There seems to be a gigantic gap between what some people say and what they really mean by it.

Not too long ago the Bangladesh Cricket Board unveiled an ambitious plan to tap the unexplored human resources existing outside the capital. They selected certain persons to go 'talent-spotting' in one or two areas of the country as part of the initial phase.

Yet, since then there has been no follow-up visit. As a matter of fact, the Board officials hardly revealed any details of what their first 'scouts' found during the tours.

To legitimise their noble intentions, the Board even planned to set up a number of cricket academies across the country. But no such academy has still opened its doors to students.

Recently the Board decided to slash its huge operating costs. Among the austerity measures included terminating the contracts of four Sri Lankan age-group coaches and sacking the regional development officers.

While we agree that like any other organisation, the BCB reserves the right to cut costs, but it should not have been done at the expense of sending out a coded message that is designed to maintain the status quo. Dhaka remains the 'centre of all cricket activities.'

Sitting in the air-conditioned

offices in the capital, one cannot possibly gauge the overwhelming popularity of the game in the heartlands. From Chittagong to Magura tournaments are being played week-in and week-out.

In order to bring those few special players to the forefront, the Board must immediately restart the various age-group (Under-14, 15,17 etc) competitions and ensure these are held annually without interruption throughout the country.

Another interesting observation is the current state of the National League. At the moment only 84 cricketers in total are eligible to play in the first-class competition.

While a select group may enjoy the benefits of being on the payroll, at the same time several hundred others are left on the sidelines, deprived of means to earn some income.

The situation arose after defending champions Bangladesh Biman and Dhaka Metropolis were deliberately omitted for no apparent reason just before this year's competition began. The circumstances surrounding both teams' last-minute removal still remain a mystery to this very day.

Also the quality of this year's six-team League speaks volumes about the standard of our national team's overall performance. The statement is based upon the top performers so far being a couple of ex-national players.

Former Bangladesh opener Jahangir Alam has scored three successive centuries and also let us not forget veteran Minhazul Abedin's Herculean effort. If former players can walk straight into the League and make runs or take wickets, it does not help promising players trying to break into the big league.

That brings us to the worrying aspect of the pitches being used during the competition.

There was a time when it was believed that Bangladesh's strength lay in its batting. But even on tailor-made wickets we have watched them fail to cross the 250-run mark in the home series against Pakistan.

Obviously, we must ask ourselves what are the persons responsible actually doing? Preparing batsman-friendly pitches serves no purpose for a mediocre player who thinks by scoring heavily in the domestic scene he will translate that success on the seaming wickets abroad.

One does not need to be reminded of the team's dismal results during the tour of New Zealand last December.

Cricket will only prosper if proper infrastructure exists and planning at the grass-roots level is done.

Even though we have a National

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Rain the spoiler Bangladesh keep



AFP, Christchurch

Heavy rain washed out the Under-19s World Cup semifinal here on Wednesday between the West Indies and Australia and restricted the Plate semifinal between Bangladesh and Nepal to less than one innings.

Australia and the West Indies will return to the Bert Sutcliffe Oval on Thursday to play their semifinal.

In the Plate Championship semifinal between Nepal and Bangladesh, rain restricted Nepal's innings to just 45 overs.

Nepal made slow progress with the wet outfield making boundaries hard to score and ended the day at 136-5.

Bardan Chalise was Nepal's top scorer, making 27 from 89 balls before being trapped lbw by a ball that nipped back from Wassel Uddin.

Bangladesh bowled tidily and will return on Thursday confident of restricting Nepal to a low total.

Zimbabwe await either Nepal or Bangladesh in Friday's Plate Championship final.

Pepsi v'ball on

UNB, Dhaka

Pepsi inter-district men's and women's volleyball championship began yesterday at the Dhaka Volleyball Stadium and Sultana Kamal Women Sports Complex.

On the opening day, four men's group matches and two of women's group were decided.

Dhaka beat Chittagong 15-13, 25-23, 25-17, Khulna beat Satkhira 25-15, 27-25, 27-27, 25-20, Rajshahi beat Comilla 25-23, 25-10, 20-25, 25-20, Kushtia beat Rangpur 25-22, 25-15, 23-25 and 25-19.

In the women's group, Rangpur beat Gazipur 25-8, 25-8 and 25-7 while Tangail got walkover against Kushtia.

A total of 10 men's and 8 women's teams are taking part in the meet.

The formal opening of the tournament will be held today at the Dhaka Volleyball Stadium.

Int'l jr tennis from Feb 8

BSS, Rajshahi

A week-long International Junior Tennis Championship begins at the Rajshahi Tennis Complex on February 8.

Speaking at a news conference yesterday, General Secretary of the Rajshahi Tennis Complex Mushtaq Ahmed said at least 90 players, including 28 girls, from 19 countries, are expected to take part in the meet.

The countries are: India, Indonesia, England, Thailand, Pakistan, China, France, Egypt, Russia, South Korea, Turkey, Syria, Uzbekistan, Croatia, Sweden, Ukraine, Chinese Taipei, Germany and hosts Bangladesh.

Nine boys and three girls are taking part from the hosts Bangladesh.

Siraj memorial cricket from Feb 9

BSS, Rajshahi

Fourth Siraj Memorial cricket tournament organised by Rajshahi Metropolitan Sports Association (RMSA) will start from February 9 at district ground.

Sponsored by Arab Bangladesh Bank, the tournament is being participated by 16 teams who will play in 4 groups.

Shrirampur and RCCS will play in the inaugural match of the tourney.

Pepsi h'ball BDR retain title

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Rifles defeated Dhaka 26-18 in the Pepsi 14th National Men's Handball Competition yesterday to retain their title.

Riflemen who earned the title for the 13th time in 14, dominated the first half 13-8.

Jahangir Alam scored highest seven goals for the winners while Akram Hossain, who was later adjudged best-player-in-the-tournament, scored nine goals for the losers.

In the third place-deciding match, Bangladesh Police beat Bandarban 37-18 go after leading the first half 15-6.

Director of Transcom Beverage Limited Atiqur Rahman distributed prizes as chief guest.

Nat'l TT in Patuakhali

SPORTS REPORTER

The 25th National Table Tennis Championship will be held at the district gymnasium in Patuakhali from February 8 to 14.

A total of 177 paddlers including 75 women from 32 teams will take part in the week long event that will be inaugurated by Home Minister Air Vice Marshall (retired) Altaf Hossain Chowdhury.

Participants and officials have been asked to report at Patuakhali DSA by February 7.

Women's cricket

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka earned a massive 200-run victory over Narayanganj in the women's cricket tournament at the Dhanmondi Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex yesterday.

Dhaka batted first to score a huge 307 for 4 in the stipulated 50 overs.

In reply, Narayanganj were all out scoring 107 runs in 30 overs.

President of the Bangladesh Women's Sports Association Begum Shamsunnahar Khawja Ahsanullah witnessed the match as chief guest and later distributed prizes.

Kibria in thick of things



SPORTS REPORTER

A brilliant all-round performance by Kibria helped Rahmatullah Model High School post an emphatic seven-wicket win over Scholastica in one of the four Dhaka zonal qualifying matches of the Standard Chartered Bank 20th National School Cricket Championship at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Kibria took three wickets for 16 to shot Scholastica out for 161 in 34.5 overs. He then topscored with 54 off just 45 balls with the help of nine boundaries as his team reached to 165 in just 25.5 overs with seven wickets in hand.

Kibria apart, Rajib scored a run-a-ball 38 while Ujjal and Motaleb chipped in with 31 and 30 respectively.

At the nearby Dhanmondi Club ground, New Model High School registered an identical win over Saint Joseph High School while Khilgaon High School beat Maple Leaf by four

wickets at the Gulshan Youth Club ground.

Away at the Mirpur Outer Stadium, Dhanmondi Tutorial handed Model Academy a sizzling nine-wicket defeat.

BRIEF SCORES
Rahmatullah Model v Scholastica
Venue: DCS

SCHOLASTICA: 161 all out in 34.5 overs (Sanjid 32, Farhan 31, Kibria 3/16, Motaleb 2/13)

RAHMATULLAH MODEL: 165 for 3 in 25.5 overs (Kibria 54, Rajib 38, Uzzal 31, Motaleb 30)

Result: Rahmatullah Model High School won by 7 wickets.
New Model v Saint Joseph
Venue: DCG

SAINT JOSEPH: 174 for 9 in 35 overs (Wakar 41, Iqbal 30, Saiful 2/28)

NEW MODEL: 175 for 3 in 27.4 overs (Sohel 56 n.o., Ashique 48)

Result: New Model High School won by 7 wickets.
Khilgaon High School v Maple Leaf
Venue: GYG

MAPLE LEAF: 139 all out in 28.4 overs (Juno 22, Asif 16, Prodeep 3/30, Robin 3/12)

KHILGAON HIGH SCHOOL: 143 for 6 in 23.5 overs (Hadi 40, Rahman 31)

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Hair Test for Shoaib



AFP, Sharjah

Pakistani fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar faces a critical five days when his team takes on injury-hit West Indies in the second cricket Test here from Thursday.

Shoaib, whose action has been reported by umpires and match referees twice in the last three years, escaped unscathed during the first Test which ended at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Monday.

The 25-year-old, dubbed the "Rawalpindi Express", was hailed by teammates and rivals alike during a blistering 5-24 spell that gave Pakistan a resounding win by 170 runs and earned him the man-of-the-match award from match referee Mike Denness.

The second Test, however, could be different as Shoaib will be up against Australian umpire Darrel Hair, who reported the Pakistani's action during a Test tour down under in 1999-2000.

Hair, who shot to fame in 1996 when he no-balled Sri Lankan spinner Muttiah Muralitharan for throwing, replaces England's George Sharp as the international panel umpire for the second Test.

Shoaib's action was closely watched by Denness during the first Test, but none of the on-field umpires, Sharp or Mohammad Riazuddin of Pakistan, had any objections.

If Hair reports Shoaib again, the speedster faces a one-year suspension from international cricket as a panel of experts work on his bowling action.

Pakistani manager Yawar Saeed told this news agency on Wednesday that his country's cricket board had approved Hair's name for the series.

"We have no problem with Hair or anyone standing in the match," Saeed said.

Pakistani captain Waqar Younis, himself an outstanding fast bowler, said the controversy over Shoaib's action was "over and done with".

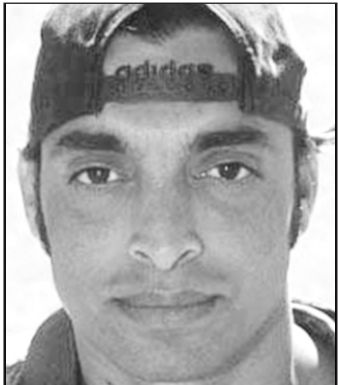
"He is a match-winner and I hope

he continues to bowl as well as he did in the first Test," Waqar said.

Meanwhile, the West Indies, already without star players Brian Lara and Ramnaresh Sarwan, suffered further blows when batsmen Sherwin Campbell and Marlon

while Samuel underwent orthoscopic surgery Wednesday on a painful left knee and has been advised rest for six weeks.

"We have asked for one batsman to be flown in for the one-day series which starts on February 14," West



DARREL HAIR

Samuels were ruled out of the Test with injuries.

Campbell broke the index finger of his right hand during the first Test,

SHOAIB AKHTAR

Indian manager Ricky Skeritt said. With no reserve batsman left in

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PHOTO: COURTESY

Captain of the Bangladesh Rifles team (L) receives the Pepsi 14th National Handball Championship trophy from Atiqur Rahman (4th from R), managing director of sponsors Transcom Beverages Limited, on Wednesday.

Rajshahi face Dhaka today

ISPAHANI MIRZAPORE TEA 3rd National Cricket League

SPORTS REPORTER

Runaway leaders Dhaka will take on rivals Rajshahi in one of the three four-day matches of the Ispahani 3rd National Cricket League at the Mymensingh Stadium today.

Elsewhere, Chittagong will host Sylhet at the Comilla Stadium while Barisal will travel to Jessore to meet

Khulna in this round.

Dhaka top the four-day table with highest 30 points from six matches and Rajshahi are following them with 20 points from five matches.

Chittagong are at the third place with 14 points from six matches while Sylhet have earned 12 points from five matches.

Barisal are the cellar-dwellers having not managed a point yet.

A limited-over match will follow all the matches.

FOUR-DAY TABLE

Teams	M	W	Lead	L	Points
Dhaka	6	5	-	-	30
Rajshahi	5	3	1	1	20
Chittagong	6	2	1	2	14
Sylhet	5	2	-	2	12
Khulna	5	-	2	1	4
Barisal	5	-	-	5	0

ONE-DAY TABLE

Teams	M	W	L	Points
Rajshahi	5	4	1	8
Sylhet	5	4	1	8
Chittagong	6	4	2	8
Dhaka	6	3	3	6
Khulna	5	1	4	2
Barisal	5	-	5	0

Jamuna Cup starts today

Shamsul for no more pause to league



SPORTS REPORTER

Top hockey officials do not know for sure what actually held them back from running the domestic fixtures last season.

Bangladesh set a world record of sorts by conceding goals to finish last among the 16 teams of the Scotland qualifiers last July.

When asked why they could not run the league later in the year, Bari could not give any satisfactory answer.

Speaking at a press conference

on the eve of the Jamuna Bank 4th Club Cup hockey tournament, the long-serving general secretary said their involvement with the World Cup qualifiers and the Prime Minister Cup in April was the main reason for not holding the league.

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When asked why they could not run the league later in the year, Bari could not give any satisfactory answer.

"You see, we had some problem last year. But what I can assure you



PHOTO: STAR

Shaheen Mahmud (2nd from L), director of Jamuna Bank Limited, speaks at a press conference on Wednesday in connection with the Club Cup Hockey Tournament.

Proteas burst in front



AFP, Melbourne

South Africa continued their one-day domination of New Zealand here Wednesday with a crushing eight-wicket win in the opening final of the tri-nations series.

In a clash watched by only 20,691 fans following Australia's shock elimination from the series, South Africa romped to victory with 191 for two with 29 balls to spare in reply to New Zealand's paltry 190.

It was South Africa's 17th win over New Zealand in 18 one-day clashes between the countries and could be enough to decide the best-of-three series.

The second and third finals scheduled for the Sydney Cricket Ground Friday and Sunday remain in doubt because of unseasonal rain in New South Wales.

Fast bowler Makhaya Ntini was South Africa's match-winner with his second five-wicket haul in a one-day international. He was on a hat-trick at one stage.

Ntini, bowling with great pace and hostility, snapped up 5-31 from 10 overs after snaring Dion Nash and Adam Parore with successive balls in the 44th over.

South African captain Shaun Pollock praised his team's performance, particularly in the field.

"I thought we played really well from up front, taking two early wickets to put them under pressure," he said.

"Then the way we finished off the innings was really good."

Pollock said the New Zealanders could have made 230 to 240 if they had capitalised on their position

midway through the innings.

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming said a total of 230-plus was the goal. "I think we fell 30 to 40 runs short of what we would have wanted -- that was due to losing wickets and just not getting any momentum after a pretty good foundation," he said.

"You would like to increase the tempo and the way the trend has been going, finish off the innings with a flurry."



NTINI ... m-o-m

Fleming said the loss of pace bowler Dion Nash early in the South African innings had not helped his team.

South Africa's top order took few risks in reaching their victory from 45.1 overs.

Boeta Dippenaar, who survived a

Parag nat'l jr chess champ

UNB, Dhaka

Mehedi Hasan Parag emerged champion in the 23rd National Junior Chess Championship with one round in hand yesterday.

Parag of Titas Club secured full eight points after the eighth round. He beat Jamaluddin at the federation chess room yesterday to retain his national junior title.

Syed Azaz Ahmed of Dhaka University, sub-junior champion Minhazuddin Sagar and Mahtabuddin Ahmed Rabin of Anirban are jointly following the leader with 6.5 points.

The ninth and last round matches will be held at the same venue today from 3 pm.

Meanwhile, the first round of the Abdur Razzak 28th National Chess Competition will begin on Friday.

U-13 cricket

UNB, Dhaka

Manik's maiden century in the 4th under-13 cricket tournament to guide Discovery to a massive 170-run victory over CCS at the Kalabagan Club ground yesterday.

Deciding to bat first, Discovery scored 235 runs for one in 20 overs riding on a sparkling unbeaten 134-run knock by Manik that came from 62 deliveries.

In reply, CCS were bundled out for 65 in 18.5 overs.

that from now on league will never be interrupted," he said.

Bari apart, Solaiman Khan Majlish, the managing director of sponsor Jamuna Bank Limited, Obaidur Rahman Khan, vice-president of Senior Division League Committee and BHF vice-president Shaheen Mahmud also addressed the briefing.

A total of 12 teams, nine from Premier and three -- Sadharan Bima, Dhaka Wanderers and Barnak Samaj -- from First Division will take part in the 12-day meet. Split into four groups, the teams would play on round robin league format from where group champions will move into the semifinals.

Premier Division champions Mohammedan Sporting Club have been drafted into the Group A along with Wari Club and Dhaka Railway while defending champions Usha Kirra Ch