



## Did U Know?

Nadia Comaneci of Romania won three gold medals in 1976, by scoring a perfect ten.



## What to Watch

**ESPN**  
Sportscentre Hindi  
Sport News  
7:30 am  
New Zealand vs South Africa  
First Final  
Highlights at 8:00 am  
New Zealand vs South Africa  
Second Semifinal  
Live at 9:27 am  
World Cup Soccer Mix  
1:00 pm  
Sportscentre Hindi  
Sport News  
Live at 8:30 pm

**STAR Sports**  
Sportsline Today  
Sport News  
8:00 am  
English Premier Football League  
Highlights at 8:30 am  
West Indies vs Pakistan  
Second Test, Day One  
Highlights at 11:00 am  
West Indies vs Pakistan  
Second Test, Day Two  
Live at 11:57 am  
Football Asia  
3:00 pm  
Sportsline Tonight  
Sport News  
Live at 8:00 pm  
Cricket Programming  
Super Selector  
10:00 pm



## Talk Turkey



**Waqar Younis**  
(Pakistan cricket captain)  
"Bangladesh is still an inexperienced team. It needs to play a lot of cricket and will take time to establish itself."

## 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

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

# Asghar to start afresh



## SPORTS REPORTER

President of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Ali Asghar intends to start afresh to get the game back on track.

Having been deeply disturbed by the poor performance of different national selections recently, the BCB boss felt that some changes should be made to lift the standard of the game and its management as well.

His fresh campaign includes appointment of a long-term manager for the national team, a new coach preferably from the sub-continent, an uninterrupted domestic calendar for the next five years and a drive to strengthen the financial position.

"We will no longer entertain the existing Board policy of appointing managers from directors by rotation," said Asghar while talking to reporters at a wide-ranging discussion in the city's Gulshan area on Thursday afternoon. "I want to follow the standard practice elsewhere in the cricket world. A manager, preferably a former cricketer with sound knowledge of the game and the ability to understand the mental make-up of players, would be appointed at least for two years."

Asghar decision to appoint a permanent manager came following a soul-searching conversation with a group of national cricketers, coach and the latest manager of the Bangladesh team, Shaiful Huq.

Asghar, the BNP lawmaker from Khulna, was apparently not happy with the performance of Bangladesh's Australian coach Trevor Chappell too.

He declined to state if the Board had evaluated Trevor's one-year tenure, but at the same time he disclosed that Bangladesh is seriously looking for a new person.

"We are trying to find a new coach. And soon as we get one, we can say goodbye to him. We are even planning to give advertise-

ments on the Internet to attract prospective candidates, preferably from India, Pakistan or Sri Lanka," said the bespectacled Board president.

Having arrived more than an hour behind the scheduled start, Asghar promised to devote his whole time and energy to serve the game.

"Owing to the various international commitments like two home series against Zimbabwe and Pakistan, sending the A team to the West Indies and involvement in the Under-19 World Cup in New Zealand, we could not focus our attention on domestic cricket. But

the country. Also the domestic cricket is hanging in limbo. The all-important National League badly misses quality cricket and more participation of teams, and above all it lacks seriousness on the part of the organisers.

The same is the case with the other nine standing committees.

Asghar however said that he would make changes only where it is necessary for the good of the game. "I will not allow political interference in the decision-making process."

Yet, Asghar removed his prolific predecessor Saber Hossain Chowdhury as head of the



Bangladesh Cricket Board president Ali Asghar speaks to reporters during a press conference at a city restaurant on Thursday.

from now we will formulate a five-year domestic calendar which we will strictly follow," said Asghar.

While Asghar talked enthusiastically about cricket in general, but in reality the tempo of sport's development had not taken off since he assumed office a few months ago.

For instance, the Development Committee has miserably failed to carry on the various age-group competitions and install indoor facilities at 13 selected locations in

Development Committee to pave the way for Arifat Rahman, the youngest son of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Defending the move Asghar said that it was not a politically motivated decision, adding that in future more such appointments would be made.

When asked whether he had been courteous enough to discuss

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# Raju blazes for Jannat



## SPORTS REPORTER

Raju scored a brilliant unbeaten century to guide Jannat Academy to an eight-wicket win over Motijheel Government High School in a Dhaka zone qualifier of the Standard Chartered 20th National Schools Cricket Championship on Thursday.

He smashed a whirlwind 107 off 62 balls as Jannat made light work of Motijheel students' total of 166 at the Dhanmondi Club Ground. With Raju in full cry, Jannat Academy romped to 168 in only 20.3 overs. Enam scored 51.

At the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Noorjahan High School also scored a huge 194-run victory over West End High School.

Batting first, Noorjahan piled up 259 for five in the stipulated 35 overs with Rajib notching highest 79. Rana and Omar also cracked half-centuries.

In reply, West End were bundled out for 65 runs in 15.2 overs. Aftab and Mishu combined to cause havoc, taking three wickets each.

Elsewhere, Rahmatullah Model School defeated Dhanmondi Tutorial by 35 runs at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Motaleb hammered a run-a-ball 94 to propel Rahmatullah High to a commanding 241 for six in 35 overs. He struck 14 boundaries and a couple of sixes.

Dhanmondi could manage 206 for nine in their allotted overs.

**BRIEF SCORES**  
Jannat Academy vs Motijheel Government High School  
Venue: DCC  
MOTIJHEEL GOVT. HIGH SCHOOL: 166 all out in 30 overs (Mithu 54, Shamim 24; Sumon 3/19, Rony 2/13)

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# Sharjah Cup April 8-17

## REUTERS/AFP, Sharjah

New Zealand will clash with Pakistan and Sri Lanka in the Sharjah Cup limited-overs tournament here from April 8-17, it was announced on Thursday.

The tournament gives the three teams a chance to assess each other's strengths ahead of the World Cup in South Africa in February-March next year.

The dates of the event have been adjusted in mind of New Zealand's proposed three-Test tour of Pakistan in April and May.

**SCHEDULE**

Apr 8: Pakistan v Sri Lanka  
Apr 9: New Zealand v Sri Lanka  
Apr 11: New Zealand v Pakistan  
Apr 12: Pakistan v Sri Lanka  
Apr 14: New Zealand v Sri Lanka  
Apr 15: New Zealand v Pakistan  
Apr 17: Final

It will be New Zealand's second visit to this offshore desert venue in the last 12 months, having played here last April.

Sharjah, which has hosted more one-day internationals (181) than any other venue in the world, is currently holding its first Test series ever between Pakistan and the West Indies.

"Naturally, we had a say in finalising the dates," Khalid Butt, media officer of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), told Reuters.

"We want New Zealand to tour Pakistan," he said.

New Zealand refused to travel to Pakistan last year citing security concerns following the September 11 attacks on the United States.

"Brigadier Munawwar Rana, director of PCB, is already in New Zealand and an announcement on the proposed tour will be made shortly," Butt said.

The Kiwis are expected to tour Pakistan for the Test series soon after the Sharjah Cup ends.

# DBBL BD Open Golf Feroz, Sanjay share lead

## SPORTS REPORTER

Feroz Ali leapt over title-contender Mukesh Kumar in the leaderboard on the second day of the Dutch-Bangla Bank Bangladesh Open at the Kurmitola Golf Club course on Thursday.

Feroz fired a two-under 70 to give him a share of the lead with Sanjay Kumar in the Taka 15-lakh event.

The joint leaders tally five-under 139 at the mid-way stage of the 19th leg of the Hero Honda Golf Tour.

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# Nepal upset youths



## SPORTS REPORTER

It was not a defeat, but more of a disgrace.

Bangladesh youths suffered an embarrassing 23-run defeat against newcomers Nepal in the second Plate semifinal of the ICC Under-19 World Cup on Thursday.

The match at Lincoln Park in New Zealand, which had to be played over two days due to rain, saw the team from the Himalayan Kingdom defend a modest total of 180 to set up a final clash against favorites Zimbabwe today.

Nepal, resuming their overnight score of 136 for five, pushed the score in the last five overs thanks mainly to a 52-ball 41 from Basanta Thapa. The number seven batsmen struck two boundaries.

Bangladesh, in their chase, were all out 157 in 47.3 overs. Only Wassel stood among the ruins with 37.

Bangladesh never recovered after they were reduced to 59 for five in 20.5 overs. Star batsman Mohammad Ashraf and skipper Nafis Iqbal failed to deliver at the crunch moment. Ashraf fell for a duck and Nafis made only 17 before being caught off Regmi.

The latest debacle comes following the senior team's poor home series against Pakistan. Moreover, the shocking result also calls into question the wisdom of having Test players included in the juvenile team.

Ashraf, Test cricket's youngest

centurion on debut, scored only 124 runs in five games including a 74 not out. Paceman Talha Jubair was picked despite not being fully fit. He collapsed in the second match of the first round and did not play a single game afterwards.

Many observers at home felt that the inclusion of Ashraf and Talha upset the balance of the team that spent nearly six weeks in Australia ahead of the junior cricket carnival.

Besides, coach Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury's role as a motivator now is a matter of debate. It was on advice that led to the selection of the two players.

Prior to the team's departure Jalal proudly exclaimed that this team was capable of making it to the super six stage, if not go all the way to the final itself.

However at the end of the day, the record will show that this is by far Bangladesh's worst campaign. On two previous occasions they made it to the Plate finals in South Africa and Sri Lanka.

But for Nepal, coached by former Sri Lankan Test cricketer Roy Dias, they have made great strides. Dias' boys defeated Pakistan and almost gave England a scare earlier in the competition.

**SCOREBOARD**  
Scoreboard of the Plate Championship semifinal of the Under-19 Cricket World Cup between Bangladesh and Nepal at Lincoln on Thursday:

**NEPAL**

K Chaugai b Rassel	14
Y Subedi lbw b Ashiqur	0
B Chalise lbw b Wassel	27
S Gauchan b Rassel	1

P Chaudhury c Nafis b Arman 25  
B Das c Arman b Ashraf 17  
B Thapa not out 41  
M Shrestha not out 27  
Extras: (b-6, lb-5, w-16, nb-1) 28  
Total: (For 6 wks in 50 overs) 180  
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-30, 3-37, 4-81, 5-90, 6-124  
Did not bat: S Regmi, L Lama, M Katuwal

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Ashiqur	10	3	27	1
Russell	10	1	41	2
Al Zahir	9	0	37	0
Wassel	10	1	31	1
Arman	10	0	29	1
Ashraf	1	0	9	1

**BANGLADESH**

Salauddin c Gauchan b Shrestha 23	5
Atif c Gauchan b Das	5
Nafis c Katuwal b S Regmi	17
Ashraf lbw b Das	0
Shariful run out (Katuwal)	22
Hasibul run out (Das)	0
Wassel st Katuwal b Chalise	37
Arman c Das b Chalise	3
Ashiqur not out	24
Russell b Chalise	4
Al Zahir b Chalise	9
Extras: (lb-2, w-11)	13
Total: (All out in 47.3 overs)	157
Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-32, 3-32, 4-57, 5-59, 6-106, 7-113, 8-125, 9-131	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Das	9	1	24	2
Shrestha	6	0	33	1
Gauchan	8	1	14	0
S Regmi	8	1	18	1
Chalise	9.3	0	38	4
Lama	7	0	28	0

**Result: Nepal won by 23 runs.**  
**Man-of-the-match: B Chalise.**

# AFC for lifting BD ban



## Football

## SPORTS REPORTER

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has agreed to ask FIFA to lift the suspension on Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF).

The game's continental governing body took the decision in its executive committee meeting yesterday at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel in Kuala Lumpur.

"The AFC will recommend to FIFA to lift the suspension on the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF)," read an AFC media release.

"The BFF was suspended by FIFA following the dissolution of the democratically elected body by the Government on December 20th 2001. The government then formed an ad hoc committee to manage the BFF's affairs. On February 4th 2002, the BFF's elected executive committee was reinstated and the ad hoc committee dissolved.

"This was confirmed by the BFF secretary Mr Harunur Rashid who requested the AFC Executive Committee at its meeting today (Thursday) to request FIFA to lift the suspension. The AFC Executive Committee will request the BFF to amend its constitution to comply with the statutes of the AFC and FIFA."

Meanwhile, a BFF media release further added that the AFC recommendation would be forwarded to FIFA in a couple of days.

FIFA suspended Bangladesh from international football on January 9, a day after AFC forwarded their recommendation to ban Bangladesh.

Apart from the Bangladesh issue, the AFC has postponed its May 10 presidential election to avoid factionalism ahead of the World Cup, secretary-general Peter Velappan said to media after the meeting.

"The AFC executive committee noted that Asia should give its undivided attention to the organisation of the 2002 World Cup in Korea and Japan," Velappan told reporters.

"As elections tend to factionalise the Asian football family, the executive committee felt that it is not wise to do so before the greatest festival of football to be hosted in Asia."

Velappan said the executive committee unanimously agreed to postpone the election during their two-day meeting.

Meanwhile, Qatar's Mohammed bin Hammam, a member of FIFA's executive committee, has announced he would vie for the post, which has been held by Malaysia's Sultan Ahmad Shah since 1994.

Sultan Ahmad told reporters after the meeting Thursday that he would announce whether he would run again when filing of nomination closes on March 14.

# Fletcher angry at Gavaskar

## REUTERS, Hamilton

England coach Duncan Fletcher was scathing about comments attributed to Indian cricket great Sunil Gavaskar, who said the England tourists were the biggest winners in world cricket.

Speaking to media in Hamilton on Thursday, Fletcher said: "There are two things I would like to comment on."

"I think it's very important that as he is on the ICC panel he is meant to have an unbiased opinion, and secondly, it's very sad when a good wine goes sour."

Meanwhile on the field, all-rounder Craig White is likely to play in both one-day warm-up matches against Northern Districts on Friday and Sunday after recovering from keyhole knee surgery on both legs.

Fletcher said: "We will be looking at that. We want him to get as much practice as possible and there is a good chance he will play in both games."

Yorkshire fast bowler Matthew Hoggard underwent a medical examination in Hamilton on Thursday after being struck down by a stomach virus in India.

The virus affected him so badly he passed out during an internal flight.

An England spokesman said Hoggard was examined by a Hamilton doctor and was able to take a full part in net practice in the afternoon.

# MSC give Jamuna a sizzling start

## Wari blown away with Kamal wind



## Hockey

## SPORTS REPORTER

Rafiqul Islam Kamal celebrated his debut for Mohammedan Sporting Club with six goals including a hat-trick as the Premier Division champions blanked Wari Club by ten goals in the inaugural match of the Jamuna Bank Club Cup hockey

tournament on Thursday. The popular Motijheel outfit led the first half of the Group A clash 3-0 at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium with Kamal notching his hat-trick.

Playing his first ever match for Mohammedan after serving Usha for a long time, the discarded national striker put his team ahead fifth minute into the game, placing home an Ashiq pass from the midfield.

Kamal then made it 2-0 connecting a Musa hit in the 29th minute and then went on to complete his treble five minutes later capitalising on another Musa pass.

Mohammedan returned in the second half only to bring out their marauding worst against the hapless Wari Club, who were cornered to their own half most of the time. Launching a series of offensives, they eventually added seven more to their account with Kamal scoring thrice in the 48th, 53rd and 59th minutes. Ashiq added two goals in the 58th and 61st minutes while Tuhin and Moududur Rahman Shuvo scored the other two goals were netted by in the 36th and 54th minute.

The winners will now take Dhaka Railway in their last Group A match on February 11.

Earlier, Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) president Air Vice Marshal M Rafiqul Islam inaugurated the 12-team tournament 45 minutes before the schedule. Solaiman Khan Majlish, the MD of sponsor Jamuna Bank, BHF vice-president Shaheen Mahmud and general secretary Shamsul Bari were also present.

Abahani Kirra Chakra will take on Dhaka Wanderers in today's first match at 1:45 pm while the second match between Mariner Youngs Club and Barnak Samaj will start at 3:15 pm.



Mohammedan forward Rafiqul Islam Kamal (C), who scored five times including a hat-trick, threatens the Wari Club goal during their Jamuna Bank Club Cup hockey tournament clash on Thursday.

# Mushfiq the saviour



## AP, Scarborough

A half-century from Mushfiqur Rahman and other useful knocks from Mazharul Haque and Ahsanullah Hasan helped Bangladesh A post a respectable 238 all out against Trinidad on Wednesday, the opening day of their Busta Cup third-round clash.

After being asked to bat first when local captain Richard Smith won the toss and inserted the opposition, the visitors slumped to 68 for four at lunch and were in danger of being blown away by the joint leaders.

Mukesh Persad, the wily off-spinner who won the man-of-the-match award in the win over West Indies B earlier for three of the four scalps early.

But resolute batting, punctuated by dogged defence and selective stroke-play, allowed the visitors to recover. Mushfiq led the charge with a gutsy 57, inclusive of two boundaries from 162 balls in 210 minutes of batting.

Earlier Mazharul chipped in with 37 with two boundaries, as the batsmen found runs hard to come by. Then at the death and unbeaten 35 from Ahsanullah added further frustration to the bowlers, who tried desperately to remove him but couldn't.

In the end 238 represented a wonderful recovery in 87.5 overs,

and gives the visitors something to bowlat.

But the home side's batting has been particularly impressive with scores of 300 and over in almost every innings they have played so far, and with the inform Lincoln

Trinidad and Tobago squad from the one coming off the win over the West Indies B team.

Trinidad and Tobago start their reply on Thursday morning.

**SCOREBOARD**  
Scoreboard on the first day of the four-day Busta Cup round three cricket match between Bangladesh A and Trinidad and Tobago at Shaw Park in Scarborough, Tobago on Wednesday:

**BANGLADESHA:** First innings  
Hannan lbw b Persad 3  
Ehsanul c Smith b A Jan 0  
Mazharul b Badree 37  
Tushar c I Jan b Persad 5  
Akram b Persad 16  
Naimur c Kanhai b Black 27  
Mushfiqur c Mohammed b A Jan 57  
Anwar b Mohammed 16  
Ahsanullah not out 35  
Alamgir b Black 7  
Aziz b Badree 6  
Extras: (b-8, lb-3, w-6, nb-12) 29  
Total: (All out in 87.5 overs) 238  
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-26, 3-33, 4-53, 5-82, 6-118, 7-154, 8-218, 9-229

**Bowler**    **O**    **M**    **R**    **W**

Black	17	8	24	2
I Jan	15	4	48	2
Persad	22	3	61	3
Badree	15.5	0	44	2
Mohammed	17	0	47	1
Kanhai	1	0	3	0

**TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO:** R Smith, I Jan, A Jackson, L Roberts, S Badree, A Kanhai, K Mason, D Mohammed, A Jan, M Persad, M Black.

The latter came in for Denzil James as the only change to the

# Ajim lifts Chittagong

## ISPANHANI MIRZAPORE TEA 3rd National Cricket League

## SPORTS REPORTER