



Did U Know?

The world of athletics better knows James Cleveland as Jessy Owens.



ESPN

Series A
Udinese vs Chievo
11:00 am
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
4:00 pm
West Indies vs Pakistan
First ODI
Live at 4:27 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm

STAR Sports

Sportline Today
Sport News
8:00 am
English Premier Football League
Highlights at 8:30 am
&
Man United vs Charlton Athletic
1:00 pm
England vs New Zealand
First ODI
3:00 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
Zimbabwe vs England
Ninth ODI
Highlights at 9:30 pm



TALK TURKEY



Mike Denness

(English cricket match referee)
"It's back to business for me. The ICC had told me before I went to South Africa that there will be an appointment for me in the new year. So this is it."

On his appointment as the match referee for the Pakistan-West Indies series in Sharjah.



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 Razzaq Shoaib Akhtar

5. Which team clinched the Victory Day hockey title?
Bangladesh Army Abahani Mohammadan

Name

Class

School Address

Phone: (If any)

Pabna soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Shikhar Sports Institute defeated Shaheed Mohsin Smriti Sangha 2-0 in the A R Cement First Division Football League at the local stadium yesterday.

Echo and Nayan netted one each for the winners.

Discord doomed U-19s

ICC U19 CRICKET WORLD CUP
NEW ZEALAND 2002

SPORTS REPORTER

lightly in the false belief that he would do all the scoring," the coach added.

Ashraful, Test cricket's youngest centurion, could manage only one half-century in the tournament.

Although the selectors initially decided to keep Ashraful at home to play in the Test series against Pakistan, he was drafted into the under-19 team at the last moment at Jalal's insistence.

If Ashraful was a total flop in the championship, Nafis, one of the more experienced batsmen in the team, was no exception either.

"Ashraful and Nafis were our two main batsmen. But they just couldn't score. Moreover, injury to two of the main fast bowlers also cost us dearly. Talha Jubair collapsed in the second match and did not play during the rest of the tour. Shafiq Al-Jabir's injury in the second match against Canada also didn't help matters", Jalal said.

Bangladesh tied their second group match against minnows Canada which eventually cost them a place in the next round despite a creditable victory against former

"I accept the fact that I couldn't motivate the team. The enthusiasm of the boys was not up to the desired level. I won't say they did not try to play good cricket, but I felt they lacked the fighting spirit", said Jalal. Besides, the decision to include Test batsman Mohammed Ashraful in the squad was a mistake. Ashraful's presence only upset the rhythm and balance of the team and his reputation led other batsmen to take things

Magura cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Zia Smriti Sangsad defeated Amora Shikhi Sporting Club by eight wickets in the Econo Cricket League at the Magura Stadium on Wednesday.

Winning the loss, Amora Shikhi batted first and collected 92 runs all out in 20.5 overs.

In reply, Zia Smriti made 95 runs for two wickets in 9.3 overs.



PHOTO: STAR

Action from yesterday's Jamuna Bank Club Cup hockey encounter between Sonali Bank and Usha Krira Chakra at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium.

Akram-up Pak v rookie WI

Cricket

AFP, Sharjah

Wasim Akram will set a new bowling benchmark when Pakistan take on beleaguered West Indies in three one-day internationals here from Thursday.

The brilliant all-rounder, the only bowler to top 400 wickets in both Tests and one-dayers, needs just four more to reach the unprecedented figure of 450 in the shorter version of the game.

Akram, fully recovered from a hamstring injury that kept him out of two recent Test series against Bangladesh and the West Indies, warned his rivals that he was eager to produce his best.

"I am fit and raring to go," the 34-year-old veteran said on Wednesday. "Having lost out on a lot of cricket, I am hungry for wickets."

The left-hander, who also has 414 Test wickets under his belt, was not missed when Pakistan destroyed the injury-hit West Indies in the two Tests that ended last week, winning the first by 170 runs and the second by 244.

But the former Lancashire pro-

fessional remains an integral part of the Pakistani attack and looks forward to playing in his fifth World Cup in South Africa next year.

Akram's return for the one-day series, along with young off-spinner Shoaib Malik, bolsters an already top-class Pakistani attack comprising captain Waqar Younis, Shoaib Akhtar, Abdur Razzaq and Saqlain Mushtaq.

That will hardly be good news for Carl Hooper's West Indians, struggling to bat their way out of trouble in the absence of injured stars Brian Lara, Ramnaresh Sarwan and Marlon Samuels.

The West Indies have called up rookie all-rounder Runako Morton to replace Samuels, who underwent arthroscopic surgery on a painful left knee here last week.

The 23-year-old Leeward Islands player won a trip to this desert venue after scoring 104 against Trinidad in a recent domestic match that gave him the highest aggregate of 294 runs in the season so far.

The adage that catches win matches appears to be lost on the West Indies. At the moment they would not even catch a cold, having failed to grasp 13 chances in the two Test matches here.

"Tickets are back in demand," an official said. "There should be a full house on Thursday, Friday and Sunday."

"We've obviously got to improve our fielding and catches if we are to

Collapse costs Eng dear

Cricket

AFP, Christchurch

It's something we have to break if we are going to be successful," he said.

"It's massively important that we started off well because when you taste defeat for a couple of games you start to get a bit edgy and that came out at the start of this match."

"It means a lot to us to get back on home soil and start with a win."

Nick Knight gave the England innings a sprightly start by sharing an 82-run partnership with captain Nasser Hussain (35), and 72 with Graham Thorpe.

Knight struck 11 fours in his 73, his third half-century in four one-day international innings, before chipping Daryl Tuffey to short mid-wicket.

Gough, who has not been selected for the Test leg of the tour, replays confirmed McMillan had not conceded a four. England then lost six wickets in a 12-over spell that decided the match.

"At 25 overs we were well ahead of our game plan but I'm not going to sit in the dressing room and start blaming people," Hussain said.

"I had to bowl Goughie out. If we got a couple more wickets we would have been back in it again. It gets

National cricket resumes today

SPORTS REPORTER

Leaders Dhaka take on Khulna in one of the three matches of the Ispahani National Cricket League that resumes in different venues today.

The match will commence at the Dhamrai Cricket Stadium.

Elsewhere, second-placed Rajshahi will host Barisal at the Rajshahi Stadium while Chittagong will travel to Sylhet in this round.

Dhaka are leading the table with highest 36 points having won six out of their seven four-day matches. Rajshahi have collected 20 points, Chittagong 14, Sylhet 12 and Khulna 10.

Barisal are yet to earn any points so far in their six matches.

All the four-day matches will be followed by limited-over matches.

Osman Ali Stadium's debut today

SPORTS REPORTER

The newly built Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium will hold its first cricket match today when New Model High School take on T&T High School in the Dhaka zonal qualifying round final of the Standard Chartered Bank 20th National School Cricket Championship.

Although, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Ali Asghar was scheduled to formally inaugurate the stadium, it was learnt last night that Asghar was indisposed and BCB's new tournament committee chairman Nurul Kabir Shaheb MP will take his place as chief guest.

The construction of the 25,000 capacity stadium began in 1998 and BCB took over the responsibility of the ground in November 2000.

Talking to The Daily Star Sport, BCB director and secretary grounds committee Alam Chowdhury said that the ground was completely ready but a portion of the gallery was yet to be constructed.

Mariner bring in Indians

Usha reach last four

SPORTS REPORTER

Usha Krira Chakra became the last semi-finalists of the Jamuna Bank Club Cup hockey tournament after the shared points with Sonali Bank in their last Group B match at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium on Wednesday afternoon.

The match ended in a goalless draw and both teams finished atop with four points each. However, Usha emerged group champions on superior goal difference.

Usha now face Abahani in the second semifinal on Sunday. The first semifinal between Mohammad Sporting Club and Mariner Youngs Club will be held tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Mariner Youngs Club have recruited two Indian players Sanjeev Kumar and Sandeep Singh to reinforce their team ahead of Friday's semifinal against Mohammad Sporting Club.

Sanjeev, a centre half, represented India in the Atlanta Olympic Games in 1996 and the World Cup in 1994 while Sandeep, a left in, played for India in the Sultan Azlan Shah Tournament in Malaysia last year.

BFF EGM on March 5

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will hold an extra ordinary general meeting (EGM) on March 5 to inform the councilors about the recent developments regarding the BFF and other issues.

The reinstated executive committee of BFF in its first meeting on Tuesday evening took this decision.

Chaired by BFF president SA Sultan MP, the meeting also decided to discuss the fate of five members, who had resigned from the elected committee to join the ad-hoc body which was dissolved on February 4, in its next meeting on February 17.

"We have convened the EGM to discuss the events of the last few months. We also want the councilors' opinion regarding our next course of action," said BFF assistant general secretary Badal Roy while talking to The Daily Star Sport yesterday evening.

When asked whether the issue of holding a new election would be raised in the EGM, Badal said that they never considered it as the elected body had been in office for less than two years. However, according to sources close to the sports ministry, the present government was trying its best to convince the councilor to hold a new election immediately.

"My heart was ticking when the wickets went down because when a team gets on a roll it's hard to break," New Zealand skipper Stephen Fleming said.

"At 25 overs we were well ahead of our game plan but I'm not going to sit in the dressing room and start blaming people," Hussain said.

"I had to bowl Goughie out. If we got a couple more wickets we would have been back in it again. It gets

Aimless Cricket Boat

HASAN MASOOD

British Airways and London Airport Authority were unaware that the players would get port entry visa on reaching Antigua.

The fact is that officials

concerned forgot to provide any supporting document with the players. As a result, the two players had to fly twice and the cash-strapped Board had to foot the bill. Yet, you would not find any one at the Board who would accept the responsibility. And, as usual, the president does not know how it could happen.

Then comes the appalling performance of under-19 team in the World Cup where Bangladesh tied with Canada and lost to Nepal in the Plate semifinals.

Carlton Barnardus was looking after the under-19 team for the last one year. But Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury was selected ahead of the Sri Lankan for the New Zealand tour since he was the local coach for the team. The Board wisdom however seemed to have backfired.

It is being widely observed that Jalal, whose aim was to take Bangladesh in the Cup phase, failed miserably to diffuse the team in-fighting and motivate the youngsters, and the outcome was very much obvious.

Recently, Board president Ali Asghar had a heart-to-heart discussion with national team players.

Cricketers reportedly mentioned their choice of managers.

If the players are to decide who should manage them then what is the point of having a Cricket Committee to look after these affairs? Does it not also reflect that the BCB boss lacks confidence in his standing committees?

Finally, what has actually held Asghar back from addressing the issues involving national team coach Trevor Chappell and physio John Gloster, who made headlines recently for all the wrong reasons?

Trevor seemingly does not have many tricks up his sleeves to bring the best in his charges and Gloster turns himself into the doctor devil by aggravating players' injury.

The Board president was very vocal about replacing Trevor only a few months back, but suddenly he took his horns back. The reason behind his U-turn is shrouded in mystery.

Having analysed all these Board activities, one can only get confused about how cricket is being managed these days. Does any chain of command really exist at the Board?

Thirdly, why two A team cricketers -- Tareq Aziz Khan and Tushar Imran -- had to return home from London on their way to West Indies?

Recently, Board president Ali Asghar had a heart-to-heart discussion with national team players.

Skipper Steve sacked

Cricket

AFP, Sydney