



Did U Know?

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



ESPN

Serie 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

Sportsline 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



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.

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 Razaq	Shahid Afridi
5. Which team clinched the Victory Day hockey title?	Bangladesh Army	Abahani	Mohammedan

Name

Class. Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

Discord doomed U-19s



SPORTS REPORTER

In-fighting among the players and the miserable failure of the specialist batsmen were the two main reasons for Bangladesh's disastrous campaign in the ICC World Youth (Under-19) Cup in New Zealand.

Coach of the Bangladesh youth team Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury and manager GS Hassan made this sensational observation during a press briefing at the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) office yesterday.

"Unfortunately the players failed to perform as a unit during the championship. The team captain Nafis Iqbal did not enjoy popular support and couldn't establish harmony with his vice-captain", said Hassan while elaborating the reasons behind the disappointing trip Down Under.

While Hasan blasted the commitment and attitude of the cricketers, Jalal Ahmed admitted his failure to defuse the brewing discontent inside the team.

"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 Ashraf in the squad was a mistake. Ashraf'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 Shikchi Sporting Club by eight wickets in the Econo Cricket League at the Magura Stadium on Wednesday.

Winning the toss, Amora Shikchi 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.

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

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

Although the selectors initially decided to keep Ashraf 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 Ashraf was a total flop in the championship, Nafis, one of the more experienced batsmen in the team, was no exception either.

"Ashraf 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. Shafaq 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

champions India.

Skipper Nafis also conceded that there was a rift in the team.

"I always to tried to be friendly with everybody. But one night I discovered that the rest of my teammates were having a closed door meeting. I was shocked to hear later that they were venting their anger against me", said Nafis without going into details.

The youth team returned home on Monday after conceding a humiliating defeat at the hands of Nepal in the semifinal of the tournament's Plate competition.

This was the first time Bangladesh had failed to make it to the Plate final. They won the Plate title in South Africa in 1999 and finished runners-up to Zimbabwe in Sri Lanka two years ago.

While the latest result reflected a worrying decline of the country's cricket at age group level, the disharmony among the teen-aged cricketers was another issue that couldn't be taken lightly. This is an ominous sign as these players are being groomed as the future Test stars of Bangladesh.



PHOTO: STAR

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

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 Dhanmondi 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 Shaheen 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 of the gallery was yet to be constructed.

Mariner bring in Indians Usha reach last four

SPORTS REPORTER

Usha Krira Chakra became the last semifinalists of the Jamuna Bank Club Cup hockey tournament after the shared points with Sonali Bank in their last Group B match at the Moulana 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 Mohammedan 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 Mohammedan.

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 FIFA ban 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.

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Aimless Cricket Boat

HASAN MASOOD

How the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is being run has become a million dollar question these days.

Look at a few happenings at the Board recently.

Who looks after the financial aspects of the Board? And, who signs the cheques?

Ask the Finance Committee chairman, he does not sign.

Ask the president, he also does not sign.

Then, who does?

Ironically, it is the powerful Cricket Committee chairman who takes care of all financial dealings.

Secondly, which committee deals with matters related to all national selections?

It has been the business of Cricket Committee for long. But shockingly, the Development Committee changed the coach of Bangladesh A days before the team flew off to West Indies to play in the Busta Cup.

Ask the Board president, he will invariably say he is yet to know about the reason.

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

Board officials only say that the

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 Barnerduus 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? Or has the once better-managed BCB become an aimless boat now? If that is the case, then what Asghar should do now is to rename it Aimless Cricket Boat to save his blushes.

Skipper Steve sacked



AFP, Sydney

Steve Waugh is to be replaced as captain of Australia's one-day cricket team, the Australian Cricket Board said here Wednesday.

ACB chief executive James Sutherland said 36-year-old Waugh would not be chosen in the team for the seven match one-day international series in South Africa starting next month.

Waugh, who led Australia in 106 one-day internationals, said he saw his axing as "a setback and a challenge" but he would definitely remain available for selection in the one-day team.

"I'm not in the side right now but I've got to try and turn that around and be selected for the 2003 World Cup," he told a press conference.

Chairman of selectors Trevor Hohns said his panel made an unanimous decision to drop Test skipper Waugh from the limited overs team.

Hohns said the new captain would not be named until the one-day squad for the South African tour was chosen within a week.

Ricky Ponting and Adam Gilchrist are considered favourites for the job.

Hohns said Waugh had been dropped as the selectors make a priority of the 2003 World Cup title defence after the disappointment of not making the finals of this month's

tri series against South Africa and New Zealand.

"Our job as selectors, whether we like it or not, is to pick a team which in our judgement is the best available to represent Australia and to ensure the team has on-going success in the future," said Hohns.

"It was the selectors' unanimous view that there were now other players ahead of Steve for a place in the one-day team."

Hohns added: "We are very hopeful this decision will prolong Steve's Test career."

Waugh will follow the same path



STEVE WAUGH

as his predecessor Mark Taylor, who was replaced by Waugh as the one-day captain in 1997.

That move reinvigorated the team ahead of the 1999 World Cup triumph and the ACB will hope for a similar result in South Africa next

year.

The sacking comes on the eve of Waugh leading the Australian team to South Africa for a three-Test tour.

Those Test matches will be followed by a six-match one-day international series. Waugh will now not play a part in that series.

Waugh's position as national one-day skipper has been under scrutiny after Australia failed to reach the finals of the one-day tournament with South Africa and New Zealand this month.

He has played 325 one-day inter

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MOST ODI APPEARANCES

AFP, Sydney

The top ten players who have played the most one-day cricket internationals following Australian captain Steve Waugh's sacking announced on Wednesday (player, country, matches):

Md Azharuddin (Ind)	334
Steve Waugh (Aus)	325
Wasim Akram (Pak)	323
Sachin Tendulkar (Ind)	286
Saleem Malik (Pak)	283
Aravinda de Silva (Sri)	275
Allan Border (Aus)	273
Arjuna Ranatunga (Sri)	269
Inzamamul Haq (Pak)	254
Sanath Jayasuriya (Sri)	252

Who's the next captain?



AFP, Sydney

Vice-captain Adam Gilchrist, Shane Warne and Ricky Ponting are the leading contenders to succeed Steve Waugh as captain of Australia's one-day cricket team.

Australian Cricket Board chief executive James Sutherland said Wednesday that 36-year-old Waugh would not be chosen in the team for the seven-match one-day international series in South Africa starting next month.

Chairman of selectors Trevor Hohns said Waugh had been dropped as the selectors make a priority of the 2003 World Cup title defence after the disappointment of not making the finals of this month's tri series against South Africa and

New Zealand.

Warne's credentials shapes as the most interesting if selectors want him to lead Australia in its World Cup defence in South Africa.

His captaincy is still rated highly by selectors but he will again have to win over the Australian Cricket Board's 14 directors, some of whom are not enamoured by his off-field behaviour in the past.

The directors, who must approve a recommendation from selectors, preferred Gilchrist to lead the one-day team last summer for three matches in Waugh's absence through injury.

Warne last captained Australia in 1998-99, when he led the team through the entire home triangular series, including the finals wins over England.

He has since had off-field troubles in Wellington, when he allegedly tried to grab a camera from a

teenager who photographed him smoking.

Then came the much-publicised phone-sex incident in England which appeared the last straw for Warne's captaincy claims.

Earlier, Warne and teammate Mark Waugh had admitted taking money from an Indian bookmaker.

In contrast, Gilchrist has been the model player on and off the field and the ACB directors have been impressed, appointing him to lead Australia in two Tests while Waugh was injured.

Gilchrist must overcome doubts over whether he can manage the full-time captaincy along with his batting and wicketkeeping responsibilities.

Ponting has his best chance to

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PHOTO: AFP

THE CONTENDERS: (L-R) Adam Gilchrist, Shane Warne and Ricky Ponting.

Pabna soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Shikhharti 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.