



Did U Know?

Argentinean football legend Diego Maradona termed his left hand the 'Hand of God' after he scored his infamous World Cup goal against England.

What to WATCH

ESPN

West Indies vs Pakistan
Third ODI
7:00 am
Serie A
Atalanta vs AC Milan
4:00 pm
UEFA Champions League
Weekly Highlights at 7:30 pm

Sportscentre Hindi

Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
9:00 pm

STAR Sports

Sportsline Today
Sport News
Live at 7:30 am
Trans World Sport
Int'l Sports News
8:30 am
Primera Liga
Malaga vs Celta De Vigo
10:30 am
English Premier Football
Man United vs Blackburn Rovers
1:00 pm
Futbol Mundial
5:00 pm
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
7:30 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
11:00 pm



TALK TURKEY



Romario
(Brazilian superstar)
"It is right that Romario should go to the World Cup because right now I am the best. I was before and I am again now."



Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 167

Tick the correct answers, post to

The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

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

1. Who won the U-19 cricket World Cup?	Australia SouthAfrica New Zealand
2. Who became African Nations Cup football champions?	Cameroon Senegal Ghana
3. What was the result of the first ever Test series in Sharjah between Pakistan and West Indies?	2-01 - 1
4. Who clinched the National junior chess title?	P a r a g
5. Who won the Pan Pacific Open tennis title?	Jamaluddin Sagar
Name of the first ever Test series in Sharjah between Pakistan and West Indies? Selés Kóúrníkóvā
Class. Roll No.	
School Address	
Phone: (If any)	

Hasan spoils spirit

ISPAHANI MIRZAPORE TEA 3rd National Cricket League

SPORTS REPORTER

Leaders Dhaka sailed to a ten-wicket victory over Khulna in a crucial match of the Ispahani National League at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

But the game will be remembered for all the wrong reasons with the Khulna team behaving in the most unsporting and rowdy manner. Khulna intentionally threw the match away apparently in protest of an umpiring decision when they declared their second innings on 210 for eight, leaving the hosts to score only two runs.

The surprise declaration came following an lbw verdict against Khulna captain Hasanuzzaman.

Hasan was adjudged leg before off the bowling of paceman Neeyamur Rashid by umpire MA Reza when the batsman was on 15. Not happy at being given out, the visibly irate Khulna skipper vented his anger by smashing a couple of chairs inside the dressing room.

Hasan then made the game a total farce by placing nine men in the slip cordon while asking his wicketkeeper Salim to bowl the first over.

Pacemen Neeyamur Rashid, who opened the innings with fellow new-ball bowler Bikash, hit the first ball for a six to give Dhaka its seven win from eight matches. Dhaka now need only a win from their remaining two matches to pocket the League title.

Thankfully, the day's unbecoming events were not taken lightly by match referee Rafiqul Alam who suspending Hasan for the one-day match against Dhaka.

The League Committee also came down hard on Khulna and fined the team Taka 10,000 for abusing the spirit of the game and tarnishing cricket's image.

Yesterday's incident was another example of the evil that is slowly but surely gripping our domestic cricket. In this year's League, cricketers have been regularly found showing dissent to umpiring decisions and creating chaos on the field. Worrying still is the attitudes of the captains of different teams.

Last week Dhaka captain Khaled Mahmud allegedly slapped a Rajshahi bowler in response to abusive words. On Saturday, Barisal captain Salim Shahed was suspended for one match for showing his displeasure against a ruling at Rajshahi.

Neutral observers felt that the discontent among the players and frequent use of foul words could have been checked had national Test skipper Khaled Mahmud, who is also the skipper of Rajshahi, was not let off easy by match referee Dipu Rai Chowdhury for committing the same offence in Mymensingh against Dhaka last week.

RAJSHAHI-BARISAL

Meanwhile, at Rajshahi the hosts handed an innings and 11-run defeat on Barisal.

Barisal survived only 21.4 overs on the final day and could add 72 runs to their overnight score of 128 before being all out before lunch.

The victory improved Rajshahi's tally to 28 points from seven games. Barisal on the other hand were yet to open their account.

SYLHET-CHITTAGONG

The match between hosts Sylhet and former champions Chittagong ended in a tame draw.

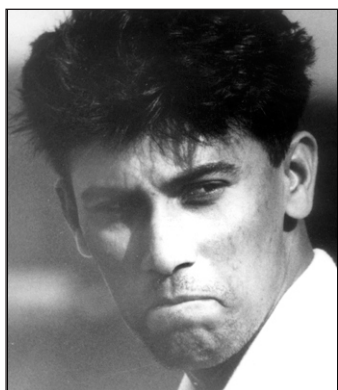
Both teams agreed to call it a day after Sylhet made 31 for two in reply to Chittagong's first innings total of 343.

Sylhet had scored 303 in their first innings.

The highlight of the match was veteran campaigner Minhazul Abedin's 144. Resuming on 128, the former national captain added 16

runs before being bowled by Sylhet skipper Hasibul Hossain. It was the third century for the ever-green middle-order batsman who is now just 77 runs short of completing a record 1000 runs in the League.

SCORECARDS



HASANUZZAMAN

Final scoreboards of the three Ispahani National Cricket League matches held at different venues on Sunday:

Rajshahi v Barisal
Venue: Rajshahi Stadium
RAJSHAHI: First innings 508 for 8 dec. (Nuruzzaman 161, Anisur 119,



PHOTO: STAR

Usha defender Mamun-ur Rashid (R) looks back at the goal post anxiously along with an Abahani forward during their Jamuna Bank Club Cup hockey tournament semifinal yesterday.

BD A on the ropes



AP, Georgetown

After declaring at tea at 456 for five, the Guyana bowlers grabbed six Bangladesh A team wickets to leave the visitors reeling at 105 for six at Saturday's close of the second day of their fourth-round Busta Cup match.

Fast bowler Kevin Darlington, who took 28 wickets in last year's competition, picked up three for 38 from 13 overs. He was ably supported by skipper and leg-spinner Mahendra Nagamootoo with three for 15 from eight overs.

Only Hannan Sarkar, with six boundaries in his 39, and Ehsanul Haque, with four boundaries in his 38, showed the dedication and concentration required to bail the visitors out as they face a massive total on Sunday.

At stumps Anwar Hossain was batting on nought and skipper Akram Khan on 15. Sixteen overs were lost from three rain breaks during the day.

Earlier, the home side resuming on 327 without loss, slumped to 456 for five with opener Azeemul Haniff moving 180 to reach 235, his maiden century in this competition.

His opening partner, Sewnarine Chattergoon, added only five runs to his Friday total to close off at 143.

Tareq Aziz was the pick of the Bangladesh bowlers, taking two for 100 from 22 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the Busta Cup fourth round fixture between Bangladesh A and Guyana in Georgetown on Saturday: **GUYANA:** First innings (overnight

327 for no loss in 91 overs)					
Haniff c Anwar b Mushfiqur	235				
Chattergoon c Mushfiqur b Tareq Aziz	143				
Dowlin c Mazharul b Naimur	1				
Cush lbw b Tareq Aziz	0				
Deonarine c Anwar b Mushfiqur	10				
Percival not out	11				
Ally-Haniff not out	43				
Extras: (b-6, lb-2, w-3, nb-2)	13				
Total: (For 5 wickets dec, 126 overs)	456				
Did not bat: Nagamootoo, McGarrell, Darlington, King.					
Fall of wkts: 1-340, 2-342, 3-343, 4-379, 5-410					
Bowling	O	M	R	W	O
Tareq	22	2	1	0	0
Mushfiqur	24	7	79	2	
Ehsanul	3	0	6	0	
Naimur	39	3	1	5	
1					
Mosaddek	18	1	69	0	
Ahsanullah	12	1	5	2	
8	0	27	0		

MAZHAHARUL : First innings					
Hannan c Ally-Haniff b Darlington	39				
Ehsanul lbw b Darlington	38				
Mazharul lbw b Darlington	2				
Tushar Imran lbw b Nagamootoo	0				
Akram Khan not out	15				
Naimur lbw b Nagamootoo	0				
Mushfiqur c Haniff b Nagamootoo	2				
Anwar not out	0				
Extras: (b-6, lb-3)	9				
Total: (For 6 wickets in 38 overs)	105				
To bat: Ahsanullah Hasan, Mosaddek Hossain, Tareq Aziz.					
Fall of wkts: 1-64, 2-84, 3-87, 4-95, 5-95, 6-105.					
Bowling	O	M	R	W	O
King	11	3	1	9	
0					
Darlington	13	2	3	8	
3					
McGarrell	6	1	2	4	
0					
Nagamootoo	8	2	15	3	

Jamuna Cup Hockey Abahani shown the door

SPORTS REPORTER

Aspirants Abahani crashed out of the Jamuna Bank Club Cup hockey tournament on Sunday when a spirited Usha Krira Chakra handed them 1-0 defeat in the second semi-final.

In a rather dreary affair where Usha remained defensive throughout the proceedings after taking a first half lead, striker Habul scored the all-important goal 10 minutes into the first half. Habul blasted the board with a reverse hit after being nicely fed by Raju from a goal mouth melee.

The defending champions will now face a high-flying Mohammedan Sporting Club in the Tuesday's final.

Usha, despite being failed to form a strong team this season because of fund crisis, played within their limitations and stuck to an effective plan by not allowing Abahani any room to launch attack.

Two veteran defenders Mamunur Rashid, the former national captain, and Hasan Rony manned the Usha defence in company of two youngsters -- Junnun and Tawfiqul Islam. Three national forwards -- Shamim Reza, Mahbub Ehsan Rana and Sheikh Ramijuddin -- were made so ineffective that they even failed to initiate an organised attack.

Although the sky-blues got three short corners in the last half, it was poor finishing that denied them an equaliser.

BCB names pool players

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday announced a list of 23 players on the national pool.

But the pool restriction would not be applicable for two national wicketkeepers -- Bangladesh skipper Khaled Mashud and his understudy Anwar Hossain.

The two apart, the remaining 21 cricketers will be at the centre of attraction in the inter-club players' transfer.

The three-day bourse, which was earlier scheduled to begin on March 1, will now commence on March 4.

According to the Board's policy, each club is permitted to sign up three cricketers from the national pool.

The Pool Players are: Naimur Rahman, Akram Khan, Aminul Islam, Javed Omar, Habibul Bashar, Enamul Hoque, Mohammad Rafique, Mehrab Hossain, Al-Shahriar, Hasibul Hossain, Mohammed Ashraf, Mohammed Sharif, Bikash Ranjan Das, Fahim Muntasir, Mushfiqur Rahman, Sanwar Hossain, Tushar Imran, Khaled Mahmud, Tariq Aziz Khan, Monjurul Islam and Mashrafe-bin Mortuza Kowshik.

Hooper ton propels WI

INTERNET, Sharjah

Captain Carl Hooper scored a superb century to lead the West Indies out of desperate early trouble to a challenging 260 for five in the third and final one-day international against Pakistan in Sharjah on Sunday.

With Pakistan having clinched the three-match series 2-0, the Caribbean side saw their top order fail again, crashing to 61 for four in the 14th over.

But their veteran captain came to the rescue, timing the ball to perfection in an innings of 112 from just 127 balls, with eight fours and four sixes.

Hooper and Shivnarine Chanderpaul added 154 for the fifth wicket in 31 overs. It was all-time record for the West Indies. Left-hander Chanderpaul reaching 68 before being caught behind off Abdul Razzaq.

Ridley Jacobs was 13 not out at the end, having fed the strike to his captain well in a stand worth 45 in the final five overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the third and final one-day international between Pakistan and West Indies on Sunday:

WEST INDIES					
Ganga c Latif b Waqar	0				
Gayle c Younis b Shoaib	19				
Hinds c Younis b Sami	22				
Morton lbw b Waqar	3				
Hooper not out	112				
Chanderpaul c Latif b Razaq	67				
Jacobs not out	13				
Extras: (lb-10, w-12, nb-2)	24				
Total (For five wickets, 50 overs)	260				
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-28, 3-38, 4-61, 5-215					
Bowler	O	M	R	W	O
Waqar	8	1	47	2	
Shoaib	10	0	45	1	
Razzaq	10	1	36	1	
Sami	9	0	54	1	
N Latif	1	0	13	0	
Afridi	8	1	35	0	
Malik	4	0	20	0	



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

FREE FOR ALL? The Bangabandhu National Stadium is supposed to be a venue where serious cricket or football is played. However in recent times, the sanctity of this ground have been violated twice. First, there was the Microcell laser show on February 13 and 14. A scheduled first-class cricket match had to be shifted to another venue for that show. If that wasn't negligence enough, another National Cricket League fixture was transferred to Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium because of the Dhaka Metropolis schools sports competition yesterday.

It's all about balls Lebu takes over Sports

AFSAN CHOWDHURY

So we hear that the Finance Minister has sought balls aid from the IMF mission Chief soon after FIFA lifted the ban on Bangladesh football. It's all mystifying. So, I went to my all knowing neighbour friend to get matters clarified.

"Things are serious."
"Oh my God. What has happened?"

"Lebu has taken a major initiative which can change many national plans."

"Lebu? I don't know any Lebu. Patal yes, Lau yes. But, Lebu?"

"You don't know much, do you? Saifur Rahman Lebu, our Finance Minister."

"Why Lebu?"

"He is from Sylhet. That place is full of oranges. Kamla Lebu, Lebu for short."

"But what is the problem?"

"He wants to be the Sports Minister. He was behind the cancel-

lation of the elected committee and also lifting the ban on FIFA. But all this so he could negotiate for the job he really wants."

"But why this job?"

"He says there is no difference between Sports and Finance. Both are in a mess. Falling value of taka and cricket... Share index and football. He wants World Bank to take charge of sports. He has advised all Bank MDs to go to office in shorts."

"Is that why he wants to close bank branches?"

"Of course. He says we don't need democracy, we need balls."

"Is he planning anything spectacular?"

"Yes. He is developing a special FIFA ranking. You see he has got the ban lifted but we will have to accept minus ranking. We will of course be minus one since we are the first people to get it. And this will get us confessional loans."

"And the under19 team? Was their internal fighting due to Lebu?"

"Who else. This was a fixed series. You see by doing worse every time we play, we will force the odds down and then we will win the betting and improve the foreign currency reserve!"

"But how can you say we will win? We don't win anytime."

"I know. But Lebu says we are not under developed anymore. We are now developed. Bangladesh Bank has issued a circular on cricket so officially we are good now. Our cricket is pegged to Australia. Whatever their ranking, that's ours. Like Argentina did to their currency by fixing it to dollar."

"Has the World Bank said anything?"

"Yes. We are now part of the Solid Waste Disposal Project."

"You mean all our balls are wasted?"

"It's like either reform the balls or lose them."

"And what about Lebu?"

"Well, lebus are balls too!"

Baishakhi, Alamgir exit



SPORTS REPORTER

The last two remaining local representatives in the Dhaka Bank 16th Bangladesh International Junior Tennis Championship bowed out of the competition at the Ramna National Tennis Complex on Sunday.

Shefat Nusrat Baishakhi lost in the second round to Wang Ting Wen of the Chinese Taipei while Alamgir Hossain's path was blocked by India's Somdev K Barman. He lost 7-5, 6-1.

Baishakhi, who had earlier trounced compatriot Taslima Akhtar 6-0, 6-0 to increase her ITF ranking points tally to 30, was outclassed by her Taipei opponent 6-1, 6-1 in their second round encounter. Wang meets Ksu Wen in an all-Taipei quarterfinal.

The unseeded Ksu, who upset another Taipei player sixth seeded Kao Shao Yuan 6-3, 6-2 on Saturday, booked her place with 6-3, 6-1 win over Korean Ji Hweon Lee.

However, both top seeded

Weng Cheng Hiseh of Chinese Taipei and Isha Lakhani of India breezed into the last eight.

Wang Cheng, who collected the title in Rajshahi, blew India's Arka Mondal away by dropping just one game. Isha walked through the first set against France's Narhen Pitae without breaking a sweat, but conceded four games in the next set to eventually win 6-0, 6-4.

Girls' number two Pichaya Laosiruchon won the 'battle of the Thais' with a 6-0, 6-1 victory over Varanya Vijskan.

Sixth seeded Chan Yung Jan advanced to a quarterfinal meeting with Lakhani after eliminating Korea's Hee Sun Lya Suh 6-4, 6-0.

In fact, all the leading girl players entered the quarterfinals.

In the boys' action, unheralded Alex Miotto of Britain made progress. The losing finalist in Rajshahi marched into the last eight with a surprise 7-6, 6-0 victory over fourth-ranked Saurabh Singh of India.

Also on the day sixteen doubles matches were held.

Top seeded pair Amanjot Singh of India and Taipei's Wu Yi Chang won their opener against Bangladesh's Amol Roy and Korea's Seung Tae Lee 7-6, 6-3.

Pepsi v'ball

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Rifles reached the final of the Pepsi National Men's Volleyball Championship eliminating their respective rivals in the semifinals at the Dhaka Volleyball Stadium yesterday.

The two teams will play the final today at 3 pm at the same venue.

In the day's semifinals, Bangladesh Army beat Titas Club 25-13, 25-18, 25-19 while the Rifles men earned a 22-25, 25-17, 25-21, 25-21 victory over Bangladesh Air Force.

In the national women's meet, two top teams of the league basis matches. BJMC SC and Ansar & VDP will meet in the final, also billed for today at the same venue.

Magura cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Shaheed Mintu Sangha defeated Patriot Sporting Club by 141 runs in the Econo Cricket League at Magura Stadium on Sunday.

Winning the toss, the winners batted first and collected 279 runs for eight wickets in the stipulated 35 overs.

In reply, Patriot managed 138 runs all out in 31.