


Did U Know?

Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, the youngest ever Test captain, and a very fine batsman played for a long time with a glass eye.



What to WATCH

ESPN

Serie A
Highlights at 10:00 am
Juventus v Deportivo
UEFA Champions' League
Repeat at 4:00 pm
Sportscenter Hindi
Sports News
Live at 8:30 pm
Pakistan v West Indies
3rd one-day international
Highlight at 12:00 am (Thursday)
Barcelona v Roma
UEFA Champions' League
Live at 1:30 am
Bayern Munich v Boavista
UEFA Champions' League
Delayed as live at 4:00 am

STAR Sports


England v New Zealand
3 rd one-day international
Live at 7:00 am
Super Selector
Cricket Programming
3:00 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sports News
Live at 8:00 pm
World Cup Mix
Football Magazine
8:30 pm



TALK TURKEY



Rashid Latif
(Pakistan wicketkeeper)
"It may have cost me a few years in the game, but I do not regret what I did. Exposing corruption in the game has given me a lot of satisfaction."



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

- Who won the U-19 cricket World Cup?
Australia South Africa New Zealand
- Who became African Nations Cup football champions?
Cameroon Senegal Ghana
- What was the result of the first ever Test series in Sharjah between Pakistan and West Indies?
2-0-1
- Who clinched the National junior chess title?
Parag Jamaluddin Sagar
- Who won the Pan Pacific Open tennis title?
Hingis Seles Kournikova

Name

Class. Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

Dighton drives Tasmania

REUTERS, Melbourne

Michael Dighton has scored a century and shared in a 197-run partnership with Michael DiVenuto to help Tasmania claim first innings points on the third day of an Australian interstate championship match with Victoria.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN
THAT MADE THE DIFFERENCE: Mohammedan hero Rafiqui Islam Kamal (C) follows the path of the ball after scooping it to score the winning goal over Usha Krira Chakra in the Jamuna Bank Club Cup hockey tournament final at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

Kamal breaks Usha's heart MSC's first Club Cup

Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club won a seven-goal thriller against Usha Krira Chakra to clinch the Jamuna Bank Club Cup hockey tournament at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium on Tuesday.

But Mohammedan's first Club Cup victory celebration was marred after Usha walked out of the ground in protest against the 64th winning goal by ace forward Rafiqui Islam Kamal.

After waiting for more than ten minutes for the two-time champions to return, umpires Aslam Omar Belim and Abdur Rashid Khan finally blew the whistle.

To make matters worse Usha did not bother to turn up at the prize-giving ceremony despite several requests by even the State Minister

for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman, the chief guest on the occasion.

The unprecedented scene happened after Kamal, who switched from Usha to the black and whites this season, sealed the tense encounter with a clever reverse hit in a goalmouth melee with six minutes left on the clock.

Instantly it caused Usha players to rush towards umpire Abdur Rashid Khan. They argued that ball hit the leg of Mohammedan defender Zahirul Haq Mitul before Kamal collected it. However, the umpires paid no heed to the objection.

The frustrated Usha players marched off never to return.

Before that unforgettable episode unfolded, the final itself was a topsy-turvy affair.

The popular Motijheel outfit took the lead through Ariful Haq Prince who flicked the ball home from a Moudoudur Rahman Shuvo pass in the 17th minute. But it was Usha,

which went ahead twice against the six times League champions.

Former national captain and defender Mamunur Rashid equalised for Usha with a powerful short corner hit in the 20th minute while striker Maksud Alam Habul put the old-towners ahead with a brilliant field goal after nine minutes.

Kamal, the leading scorer of the tournament, made it 2-2 at the stroke of the breather.

Inspired by the equaliser, Mohammedan went all out in the second half and kept their counterparts virtually in their own half.

But Usha grabbed the lead again against the run of play when Mamun, the penalty-corner specialist, made no mistake to blast the board with a spectacular hit in the 52nd minute.

Yet the experience of Mohammedan prevailed in the end with two goals in two minutes by Musa Miah and Kamal.

Shaun fights to be fit

REUTERS, Potchefstroom

Shaun Pollock faces a fitness test before being cleared to lead South Africa against Australia in the first Test in Johannesburg on Friday.

Selector Rushdi Magiet, who announced the team during the second day of a three-day match between South Africa A and Australia in Potchefstroom on Monday, said fast bowler Pollock suffered a side strain while bowling for his province, Natal, in a domestic first class match in Durban at the weekend.

Pollock was expected to be passed fit for the Test, but fast bowler Andre Nel had been put on stand by in case the skipper did not make the grade, Magiet said.

Wicketkeeper and vice-captain Mark Boucher would take over the captaincy should Pollock be ruled out, Magiet added.

Giles' best dinner

REUTERS, Napier

England cricketer Ashley Giles' Norwegian wife rang her husband from the other side of the world to tell him she was going into labour – and then apologised for interrupting a team dinner on the tour of New Zealand.

"My wife is brave and a real Viking -- I'm very proud of her," the left-arm spinner told reporters.

"I'm sure there has been a lot of emotional strain on her but she has kept it hidden from me which has helped.

"When she went into labour she apologised for interrupting a team meal which shows the lengths she has gone to please me.

"It has been tough for me being the other side of the world but she has been very strong and allowed me to concentrate on my cricket."

Giles said he was ready to concentrate on his job again after his wife gave birth to a daughter, Mathilde, on Monday in Worcestershire.

Neither the England and Wales Cricket Board nor Giles' county, Warwickshire, would give further details of the birth of his second child.

He has been out of form in the two opening one-day internationals but now his wife Stine and Mathilde are at home, Giles was adamant he could rediscover his form and help to propel England to their second comeback of the winter in the one-day series with New Zealand. They currently trail 2-0 in the five-match series.

"It is my job and now I can concentrate on my cricket and getting the tour back on track.

"It's our second child and I'm very sad that I could not be there but it was a brilliant moment."

Natore cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Natore Cricket Club recorded a six-wicket victory over All Star Club in the local cricket League at Natore Stadium on Tuesday.

Batting first, All Star scored 177 before being all out in 35.2 overs. Natore Cricket Club reached the victory target scoring 179 for four in 35.4 overs with Sumon hammering an unbeaten 51.

Earlier, Babu captured five wickets for the winners giving away 25 runs.

But the highest scorer in the match was All Stars Tony with a dazzling 72.

Top guns blaze

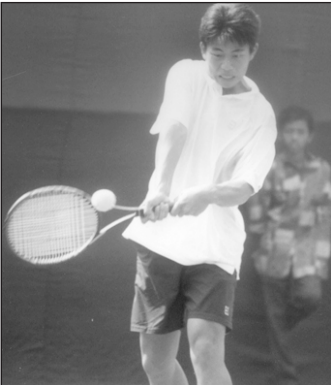
Tennis

SPORTS REPORTER

Isha Lakhani set up a intriguing final meeting with Wang Ting Wen in the girls' singles event of the Dhaka Bank 16th Bangladesh International



ALEX MIOTTO



LIU TAI



PHOTO: STAR

Isha Lakhani of India reaches for a return against Noha Mohsen of Egypt during their girls' singles semifinal of the 16th Bangladesh International Junior Tennis Championships at the National Tennis Complex at Ramna yesterday.

Make or break for England

Cricket

REUTERS, Napier

England need another brave fightback to keep alive their hopes in the one-day international series against New Zealand.

The tourists go into the third match in the series of five in Napier on Wednesday 2-0 down after surrendering the advantage in Christchurch to lose by four wickets, then capitulating miserably in Wellington to be beaten by 155 runs.

They were also 2-0 down in India earlier this year but fought back to draw their one-day international series there 3-3 prior to flying to New Zealand.

But England's desperation to win is matched by the Kiwis' desire to take the series with a third victory.

New Zealand skipper Stephen Fleming said: "We obviously want to

win every game we play in our home country. Naturally we expect them to come back stronger. We would be foolish if we didn't.

"We want to win the series and if we can win it tomorrow it will be great and then we can look forward to bigger possibilities, but the series is first and foremost.

"The Napier ground was, for a long time, New Zealand's most successful ODI venue but some recent results have not been so impressive. The side want to rebuild their successful record at the ground."

The McLean Park pitch could provide the key to victory for either side on Wednesday.

It is hard and it is fast and if England go into the match with the same pace trio of Darren Gough, Andy Flintoff and Matthew Hoggard, they will get the sort of help they never got in Christchurch or on the pudding of a pitch in Wellington.

England enjoyed the pitches they

brave fight to win the second set against Isha, who had not conceded a set in the tournament so far.

But Mohsen eventually ran out of steam in the third and deciding set.

"I think playing under the hot sun for two consecutive days wore me out. So, in the third set my legs gave up," said the glamour girl of the tournament who has been playing tennis since the age of nine.

While Isha lived up to her reputation, Wang Ting of Chinese Taipei upset second seed Pichaya Laosirucho of Thailand 6-2, 6-2 in the first semifinal.

The girls' singles final will be held at 10 am.

In the boys' section, Taipei's Wang Cheng's dream of completing a delightful double ended with defeat in the semifinal against top-seed Liu Tai. Wang won the crown in Rajshahi.

Liu won the contest of the compatriots 6-4, 6-2.

He will now take on Alex Miotto of Britain in the final at 3 pm today.

Alex, runner-up in the Rajshahi leg, continued his fine form with a 6-2, 7-6 victory over Thai Natapong Pongnunsui.

Meanwhile, in the girls' double Isha and Indonesian Maya Rosa moved into the final beating Noha and German Sarah Raab 7-5, 6-2. They will meet the Taipei pair of Wang and Kho Shao-Yuan in the final today.

The Taipei pair cruised to a 6-2, 6-1 victory over Indian Khushmi Chheda and Taipei's Hsu Wen-Hsin.

In the boys' doubles Amanjot Singh of India and Wu Yi Chang of Taipei set up an final clash against the all Indian pair of Jacot Mathew and Somdev KD Verman.

Warne let off the hook

REUTERS, Sydney

Australian police have cleared Shane Warne of any wrongdoing during an investigation into allegations that a man tried to blackmail the Australian Cricket Board (ACB).

A man was arrested but later released by police after allegedly demanding money and season tickets from the ACB to keep quiet about false accusations of misconduct by Warne.

Police said the man claimed Warne, while in the company of his Australian team mate Brett Lee, tried to kiss his teenage niece in Queensland in January, but investigations found the claims were untrue.

World Cup hosts Japan on high alert



MONZURUL HUQ

As merely a hundred days remain before the kick-off of the World Cup 2002 finals in Japan and Korea, preparations are underway in Japan to make the show a real impressive one.

Seventy-two years after the inaugural tournament was held in Uruguay in 1934, the World Cup is not only coming to Asia for the first time but the finals of the competition are also going to be played outside the traditional venues in Europe and Americas for the first time.

Hence, the importance of organising the tournament this year in Asia is quite significant. Managing the World Cup tournament in Japan is the task of Japan Organising Committee for the 2002 FIFA World Cup (JAWOC). Under JAWOC's supervision and with active partici-

pation of central and various local governments of Japan, 10 brand new stadiums with state of the art design and fittings are already in place, waiting for the big turnout of spectators from various countries of the world. Out of these 10 new stadiums, the Yokohama international stadium has been chosen for the final of the competition, which will be played on June 30.

JAWOC initially expected to generate revenues of 50 billion yen and also estimated an expenditure tuned to that amount. However, the higher-than-expected ticket sales might push revenue figure higher than that. But at the same time, the events of September 11 in America have also compelled the organisers to significantly increase expenditure on security side. New security measures include the formation of special units to look out for suspicious people or objects, extra security cameras to cover all blind spots in stadiums, as well as metal detectors placed at the gates and barcode readers to check the authenticity of media and VIP credentials. In addi-

tion to such direct security measures, a large number of doctors and emergency aid workers will remain standby in all venues throughout Japan to treat and care possible injured fans in case of any terrorist incident. A drill to rehearse treatment of injured spectators at the World Cup final matches was held last week at Yokohama international stadium to prepare for the possibility of terrorist attacks and accidents that could result in large number of victims. About 200 doctors and emergency aid personnel took part in the exercise.

Organising the World Cup 2002 will also provide an opportunity to host countries to portray themselves as favourite destinations. As Japan lags behind other advanced nations in attracting inbound tourism, country's national tourist organisation (JNTO) is looking forward to exploiting the opportunity to co-host the World Cup for all possible gains. Ten designated World Cup venues in Japan stretch from Hokkaido in the north to Kyushu in the south. In addition to the venues, various

national teams will also be based in training camps located in other areas across the country.

According to projections by the ministry of land, infrastructure and transport, Japan expects 443,000 visitors between the period from May 31 to June 30, and 383,000 of that total will visit the country for the World Cup finals. The ministry also projects that more than 3 million people will travel to 10 host cities in Japan to see matches. The ministry also predicts that during the World Cup a total 2.5 million spectators will be staying in hotels and inns in Japan. To handle this massive movement of increasing number of tourists, Japan's second largest airliner All Nippon Airways has already announced that it will increase ten times the number of international flights it operates at Tokyo's Haneda airport in 2002 than it did in 2001.

Meanwhile, as the day of the kick-off draws nearer, Japanese press seems to be feeling more vulnerable about the possibility of soccer hooliganism spilling over to

the country from the British Isles. The English team will be playing its all three group games at three different venues in Japan. As a result, Japanese media as well as the organisers of the World Cup 2002 are now paying special attention on ways to counter any possible threat from English football fans. England's notorious football hooligans have recently generated much more attention in Japan than the English team itself. As English football hooliganism is taking more space in the Japanese press, celebrated world-class superstars of English football like David Beckham or Michael Owen are seldom finding their rightful place in sports events of the Japanese media.

Osaka city education office is considering closing down of all primary schools near city's Nagai stadium on June 12, the day England

Prince pulls SA A

Cricket

AFP, Potchefstroom

Left-handed batsman Ashwell Prince provided the only resistance for South Africa A as opening bowler Glenn McGrath shone for Australia in a three-day tour match Tuesday.

Prince was on 92 not out as South Africa A reached 179 for eight at tea on the final day of a match effectively reduced by rain to a one-innings contest. McGrath had figures of four for 16 off 12 overs.

Australia declared their innings earlier after skipper Steve Waugh reached his 67th first-class century. Waugh finished on 102 not out in a total of 366 for eight declared.

McGrath dismissed Graeme Smith, Jacques Rudolph and Daryll Cullinan, regarded as the three A team players most likely to challenge for Test places, as South Africa A crashed to 40 for three.

Prince, 24, batting at number three, played aggressively before lunch as he reached a half-century

off 59 balls. But he was tied down by some steady bowling during the afternoon, although he added another six fours in facing 107 more deliveries before the tea break.

McGrath had the left-handed Smith caught at second slip for nought in his first over, then bowled fellow opener and left-hander Rudolph for 14 in the first over of a second spell after he changed ends. Then he had Test veteran Cullinan caught behind for four.

Left-handed all-rounder Goolam Bodi slammed 33 off 26 balls, with

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Magura cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Shreepur Rising Star Club defeated Amra Shikhihi SC by five wickets in the Econo League at the local Stadium on Tuesday.

In a low-scoring affair Rising Start raced to 88 for five in 17 overs after they bowled the leamers' team for 84 in 19.3 overs.