



Did U Know?

Indian captain Sourav Ganguly is the only cricketer to have won four consecutive man-of-the-match awards in one-day internationals.



DD Sports

India vs Zimbabwe
First Test, Day One
Live at 10:00 am

ESPN

English Premier Football League
Leeds United vs West Ham United
4:00 pm

UEFA Champions League
Roma vs Barcelona
6:00 pm

Sportscentre Hindi

Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm

World Cup Soccer Mix
9:00 pm

STAR Sports

Sportsline Today
Sport News
8:00 am

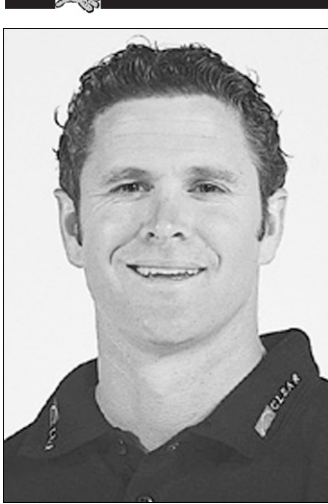
Primera Liga
Real Madrid vs Bilbao
8:30 am

English Premier Football
Tottenham Hotspur vs Liverpool
1:00 pm

Sportsline Tonight

Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm

Zimbabwe vs West Indies
Second ODI
Highlights at 9:30 pm



Chris Cairns
(New Zealand all-rounder)
"He has been the find of the tour for us and the majority of our successes can be attributed to him."
On Shane Bond.

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?
2-0-1-1
- 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)

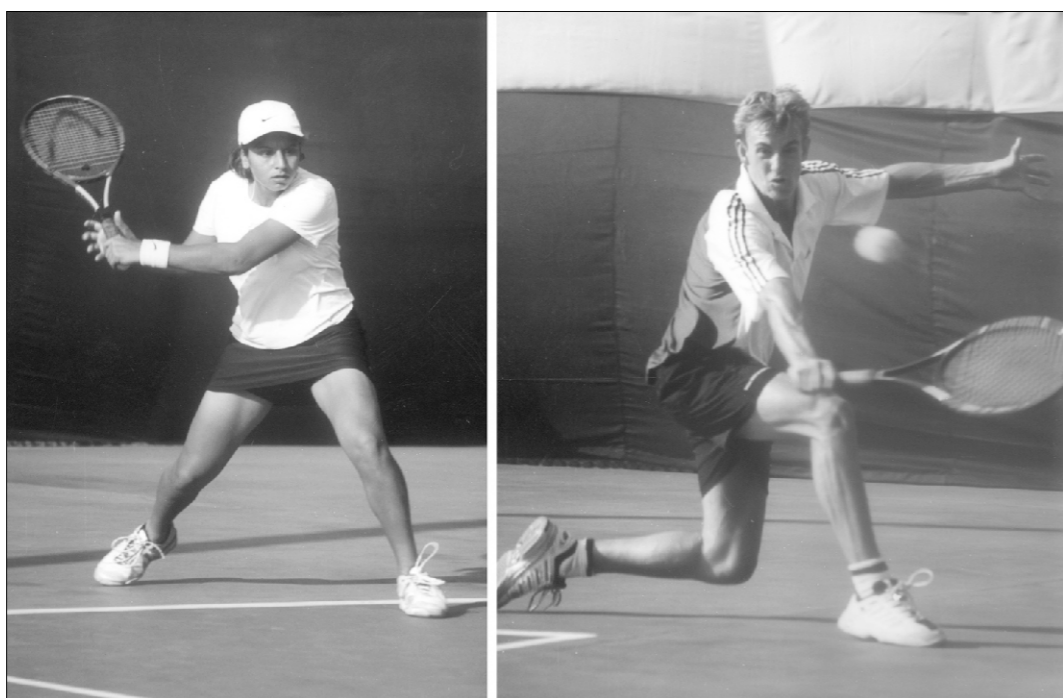


PHOTO: STAR

THE CHAMPIONS: Girls' singles winner Isha Lakhani (L) of India and Briton Alex Miotto, the boys' singles titlist.

Miotto, Lakhani victors



SPORTS REPORTER

Alex Miotto and Isha Lakhani have every reason to smile after enjoying six wonderful days in the capital.

They came into the Dhaka Bank 16th Bangladesh International Junior Tennis Championships from Rajshahi with something to prove. The former finished as the boys' singles runner-up and the latter emerging girls' singles champion.

Miotto, after losing to Wang Cheng Hiseh of Chinese Taipei, was not willing to let another final slip from his grasp. And on Wednesday the unheralded Briton did just that by shocking the tournament's top seed Liu Tai-Wei of Chinese Taipei 6-2, 7-5 at the Ramna National Tennis Complex to win his first-ever ITF event.

Lakhani, the teenager from Bombay, completed a delightful double but only after overcoming third-seeded Wang Ting Wen 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 in a match that lasted nearly two hours.

The top Indian girl reached the

final defeating Egyptian No 4 Noha Moshen in the semifinals 6-2, 5-7, 6-1.

The top Indian who had also annexed the girls' doubles title in Rajshahi, was very much on the offensive with a combination of attacking groundstrokes, top-spins and lobs to take the first set.

But in the second as Lakhani began to feel the effects of playing a number matches without break, her opponent seized the opportunity.

Yet like a true champion she raised her game in the deciding set.

To the cheers of the crowd in the special enclosure and among them was her relieved mother, left-handed Lakhani eventually triumphed.

However, she missed a clean sweep by a whisker when she and Indonesian partner Maya Rosa lost the girls' doubles final 7-5, 7-6 to Chinese Taipei pairing of Wang Ting Wen and Kao Shao Yuan held in the afternoon.

In the boys' event Miotto hardly put a foot wrong in the opening set as his plan of keeping his fancied finalist pinned on the baseline worked to perfection.

Although Wang held serve in the

first game but Alex's pinpoint forehand left the Taipei player often flat-footed in the 30-minute first set.

Both players settled into a rhythm in the second. Liu began finding the depth on his sliced returns, which made Alex very tense. At one stage he was angry with himself for missing an easy point. But strangely the chair umpire did not warn him of any code violation.

Ultimately it was Liu's constant foot-faults that cost him dearly in the later stages of what was turning into a mouth-watering contest.

Earlier on, after the girls' final was completed on Court Number One in the morning, Amanjot Singh of India and Chinese Taipei Wu Yi Chang clinched the boys' doubles title beating the all-India team of Jaco Mathew and Somdev Verma 7-5, 6-3.

Later State Minister for Foreign Affairs Reaz Rahman distributed prizes in a simple ceremony on the final day. Chairman of Dhaka Bank ATM Hayatuzzaman and president of Bangladesh Tennis Federation Alamgir Farook Chowdhury were present as special guests.

Giving his all for the game



LENIN GANI

Alex Miotto prefers to be half-British and half-Italian. The ever-smiling six-foot-one winner of the Dhaka Bank 16th Bangladesh International Junior Tennis Championship loves everything about the Italian lifestyle.

"I enjoy eating spaghetti and pizzas," said Miotto whose father is a retired Italian railway engineer and English mother is a former mathematics teacher.

"When I live in north Venice I go and watch Serie A side Udinese's matches. But I don't watch any Italian films rather I like American movies like the Matrix. My favourite actor is Wesley Snipes and actress has to be Meg Ryan," he revealed to the Daily Star Sport just hours before Wednesday's final.

His father who sponsors and practically accompanies his son to every tournament said the reason for the dual role was to avoid Miotto getting called up for military service.

Miotto has been playing tennis from an early age. In the beginning,

his older brother who is nearly five years his senior, was always beating him. But it was only recently that when Miotto started to turn the tables that his father realised his young sibling had some talent.

"While in England I beat some good players but still the Lawn Tennis Association did not want to help me in anyway, probably because of my Italian connections. However now I am getting some financial assistance because I am in the top junior rankings. Currently I am in 90s," he said.

Strangely his favourite player is neither English or Italian.

"It's not Tim Henman he's too soft. I admire Gustavo Kuerten for his determination."

When asked to name his top ladies' player. The blond-haired Miotto blushed before uttering "Anna Kournikova."

Just like any other professional player he takes the sport very seriously. He practises regularly for hours. Such is his will to succeed that Miotto convinced his parents that he needed to discontinue his studies. Now his only dream is playing in the Grand Slams.

National League to restart Feb 27

SPORTS REPORTER

The Ispahani National Cricket League will resume on February 27 after a weeklong break due to the Eid-ul-Azha.

Dhaka will travel to Jessore to play their penultimate match against Khulna. A victory for Dhaka will enable them to lift their maiden National League title with a match in hand against Rajshahi.

Sylhet will host second-placed Rajshahi while Chittagong are scheduled to meet Barisal at the Barisal Stadium in the other two fixtures.

Dhaka have so far won seven out of their eight matches and sit pretty atop the table with 42 points while Rajshahi have earned 28 points from seven games.

Rajshahi, however, are leading the one-day contest with 12 points.

STANDINGS

Teams	M	W	Lead	L
Dhaka	8	7	-	1
Rajshahi	7	4	2	1
Chittagong	8	2	2	2
Sylhet	7	2	1	2
Khulna	7	1	2	2
Barisal	7	-	-	7

Teams	M	W	L	Points
Rajshahi	7	6	1	12
Sylhet	7	5	2	10
Chittagong	8	5	3	10
Dhaka	8	4	4	8
Khulna	7	2	5	4
Barisal	7	-	7	0

Clubs asked to form age-group squads

SPORTS REPORTER

The Development Committee of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has asked the twelve Dhaka Premier Division clubs to form Under-13 teams.

The development committee directive came as part of the Board's plan to develop different age group selections.

The Board has decided to launch a nation-wide age group competition consisting of six divisional teams and Dhaka Metropolis.

The Metropolis team will be selected from the U-13 competition of the twelve Premier League sides.

The committee also asked the First Division teams to form Under-15 teams and the Second Division sides to organize Under-17 teams.

The age group tournaments that also includes Under-15 and Under-17 will start next month. The committee headed by Arafat Rahman will finalise the details in a meeting on March 1.

DU booters off to Kolkata

UNB, Dhaka

A 20-member national star-studded Dhaka University football team left for Kolkata on Tuesday to play friendly matches.

Calcutta University will organise the friendly matches on the occasion of the International Mother Language Day.

Sports Minister of West Bengal Subhash Chakrabarti will inaugurate the meet on Friday.

Players: Aminul Haq, Julfikar Mahmud Mintoo, Arif Khan Joy, Murad Ahmed Milon, Saifur Rahman Moni, Hasan Al Mamun, Saiful Islam Saif, Firoz Mahmud Titoo, Masud Khan Johnny, Amit Khan Shuvro, Prodip Kumar Poddar, Mustafizur Rahman Munna, Abu Faisal Ahmed, Mustafa Anwar Parvez and Mohammed Monwar.

Officials: Prof Anwar Hossain (leader), Prof Sirajul Islam (Deputy leader), ASM Mofazzal Hossain (Coordinator), Dr Sara Shamsur Rouf (Manager) and Sayed Hasan Kanon (Coach).

Ben stays Surrey's

AFP, London

England all-rounder Ben Hollis has agreed a new one-year deal with Surrey, the county confirmed Tuesday after courting interest from rivals Warwickshire.

But he has not tied himself long-term to the Oval-based county, receiving the 12-month deal he asked for rather than the three-year contract Surrey originally offered.

However, because he is on tour with England in New Zealand, Hollis has yet to sign on the dotted line.

"There were a couple of points they hadn't agreed on but that's all sorted, it has been verbally agreed," Surrey communication manager John Graves said Tuesday.

"All the terms have been agreed on a one-year contract. Geography means he hasn't physically signed, but all parties are committed to the deal."

England back in business



AFP, Napier

Stephen Fleming said he would be stupid not to expect England to bite back after their humiliation in Wellington, and his caution proved well placed after a 43-run victory for Nasser Hussain's men in Napier.

New Zealand still hold a 2-1 advantage in the five match series, but their hopes of wrapping up the rubber on Wednesday night were ended by a far more determined England side than had been on show in the previous two encounters.

Durham all-rounder Paul Collingwood proved to be an unlikely hero taking 4-38 as New Zealand capitulated from 140-4 to 201 all out. Fleming made an unbeaten 76 in vain as England coasted to a comfortable victory that belied their form going into the game and kept the one-day series alive.

Earlier, Nick Knight scored 80 and Graham Thorpe 52 as England posted 244-5 from their 50 overs to erase the nightmare of their 89 all out on Saturday evening.

Knight, who needed three stitches in his chin after top edging a pull off Ian Butler into his face, compiled a patient knock to anchor his side's innings. The left-hander hit four boundaries during his 129 ball stay and shared two vital partnerships, a characteristic that had been missing from England's game during the first two matches.

England got off to a good start with Knight and Marcus Trescothick adding 71 for the first wicket before Chris Cairns made a breakthrough in the 13th over.

Trescothick cut to point to end an innings of 41 and a 20-minute stoppage for rain ensued.

The interruption seemed to put a dampener on the England innings with Knight and Nasser Hussain getting stuck in a rut. However, Knight persevered and after Hussain's removal put on 65 for the

third wicket with Thorpe. It was a partnership that ensured England would set New Zealand a competitive target for the first time in the series.

England made two breakthroughs with the new ball dismissing openers Nathan Astle and Chris Nevin with 31 runs on the board. Astle was unlucky to have been adjudged caught behind by umpire Billy Bowden for two, with the ball passing between bat and pad.

New Zealand then lost Craig McMillan for 14 but Lou Vincent and Fleming gave their side hope with a 58-run fourth wicket partnership.

Hussain turned to Collingwood as his sixth bowler and it proved to be a masterstroke as New Zealand slumped from 128-4 to 168-7 with dangermen Vincent and Cairns falling to the medium pacer.

Andre Adams failed to stretch his golden run with the bat as he fell to

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PHOTO: AFP

A tumbling Paul Collingwood of England sees the off for a boundary during the third one-day international against New Zealand in Napier on Wednesday.

First India-Zimbabwe Test from today



AFP, Nagpur

Top Zimbabwe batsman Andy Flower sounded a warning to India ahead of Thursday's first Test here, saying he was hopeful of returning to big-scoring ways.

The left-hander troubled the Indian bowlers on Zimbabwe's last tour in 2000, performing the dual roles of batsman and wicketkeeper remarkably well to make 540 runs in two Tests with the help of a double-century and a century.

Flower, however, could not do justice to his stature on the recent tour of Sri Lanka, making just 80 in six Test innings.

"I hope to regain batting form in

India," Flower said.

"The tracks here are good for batting, even though spin and reverse-swing might make things tricky."

Zimbabwean skipper Stuart Carlisle said Tendata Taibu would keep wicket in the two-Test series this time.

"It will be a good test for him (Taibu) on this tour as Flower will not be keeping wickets in Tests," Carlisle said, adding he hoped Flower would be among runs again.

"He played very well last time and I hope he will do the same this time as well," said Carlisle.

"I only hope our top-order batsmen get runs so that we can put pressure on the Indian batsmen. The pitch looks good for batting and we would like to bat first."

Flower struck form in his very first match of the current tour,

scoring a strokeful 94 on Sunday in a drawn warm-up game at Vijayawada in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh.

"It was important for me score a few runs, since I did not have a very good tour of Sri Lanka," said Flower, the top run-getter in the Zimbabwean side with 4,552 in 59 Tests with 12 centuries.

"I relish batting on Indian wickets. It encourages me to experiment and hence I was prompted to try the reverse-sweep," said Flower.

Sourav Ganguly, under pressure as India captain because of his poor batting form, said Flower would not find it easy.

"It will not be easy for Flower and company to reverse-sweep spinners Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh as they have been bowling well," said Ganguly, who has scored just three half-centuries in his last 27 Test innings.

"We now have a stronger side than the one that played Zimbabwe last time," said the Indian skipper, whose team won the two-Test series 1-0 two years ago. Leg-spinner Kumble missed that series due to a shoulder-injury, while off-spinner Harbhajan was replaced with Sarandeep Singh.

TEAMS

INDIA (from): Sourav Ganguly (captain), Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, Venkatesh Laxman, Shiv Sundar Das, Virender Sehwag, Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Jagavallab Sinath, Zaheer Khan, Tinu Yohannan, Deep Dasgupta, Sanjay Bangar and Sarandeep Singh.
ZIMBABWE (from): Stuart Carlisle (captain), Heath Streak, Alistair Campbell, Dion Ebrahim, Andy Flower, Grant Flower, Travis Friend, Trevor Gripper, Mpuemelelo Mbangwa, Raymond Price, Gavin Rennie, Tendata Taibu, Brighton Watambwa and Craig Wishart.

Umpires: David Shepherd (England) and Srinivas Venkataraghavan (India).

Match referee: John Reid (New Zealand).

Magura cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Hercules Sporting Club recorded a seven-wicket victory over Confidence Sporting Club in the Econo Cricket League at the Magura Stadium on Wednesday.

Winning the toss, Confidence batted first and scored 157 runs being all out in 34.5 overs. Hercules reached the target of 158 runs for three wickets in 32.3 overs. Babu captured five wickets for the winners giving away 35 runs.

Aussies start favourites



AFP, Johannesburg

With South African captain Shaun Pollock a doubtful starter because of a side strain, Australia will be favourites to continue their domination over South Africa in the first of three Tests starting at the Wanderers Stadium here Friday.

The Australians moved to Johannesburg Wednesday after an impressive warm-up match against South Africa A in Potchefstroom.

Opening bowler Glenn McGrath, one of the stars of Australia's 3-0 clean sweep when the two sides met in Australia earlier in the season, tuned up by taking five wickets against the South African second string.

The Australians were buoyed by centuries by Test captain Steve Waugh and new one-day captain

Ricky Ponting, two batsmen who performed moderately in the home series.

Although Australia won the series in Australia in overwhelming fashion, the official world Test championship will again be at stake, with South Africa, because of their superior record against other countries, needing only to share the series to take the title.

Australia cannot improve their points position because they are defending the championship points they gained when they beat South Africa by two Tests to one in a series in South Africa five seasons ago.

The 1996/97 triumph included an innings win in Johannesburg when Steve Waugh and Greg Blewett shared a fifth wicket record stand of 385.

The tourists can expect the Wanderers pitch to be different to the lifeless surface they played on five years ago. Former South African player Alan Kourie, director

of cricket at the Gauteng cricket board, which hosts the game, said it would be more like a "traditional" Wanderers pitch.

"There will be good pace and bounce, with a bit of early life on the first two days, and some help for the spinners by about the fourth afternoon," said Kourie.

South Africa's pace bowlers were surprisingly ineffective in Australia, where the pitches gave them virtually no assistance.

Pollock is a key member of the South African attack and if he fails a fitness Test Thursday it will leave a big gap in the South African team.

Allan Donald, South Africa's all-time leading wicket-taker, will carry a big responsibility although at the age of 35 he has struggled to produce his best in recent seasons. He had a disappointing series in Australia.

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