



Did U Know?

The Hadlee family has served New Zealand cricket well. Sir Richard Hadlee has captained New Zealand in Test cricket. He held the world record for the highest number of Test wickets, 431, until he was surpassed by Kapil Dev of India. His brother Dayle, and father Walter also played cricket for New Zealand. And that's not all. His wife has also represented New Zealand in women's cricket.



Steve Waugh
(Australia Test skipper)
"Allan has always been a highly respected opponent, a world class bowler and always a huge threat."
While showing his respect to Allan Donald who has just retired from Test cricket.



ESPN
Serie A
Highlights at 12:00 pm
Western Union World Football
2:00 pm
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
5:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
World Cup Soccer Mix
9:00 pm
UEFA Champions League
9:30 pm
STAR Sports
Sportsline Today
Sport News
8:00 am
English Premier Football
Highlights at 8:30 am
Trans World Sport
Int'l Sports News
3:00 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
Pakistan vs West Indies
Third Final
Highlights at 9:30 pm

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).....

ESPN STAR take over



SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) finally ended the deadlock with WorldTel over satellite transmission of Bangladesh's home series when it entered into a tripartite agreement with ESPN-STAR Sports.

Under the accord, the US-based WorldTel relinquished its exclusive five-year TV rights deal after failing to telecast any Test matches since last November. Instead ESPN-STAR Sports will assume the role of the Board's official international broadcaster.

Board president Ali Asghar made the announcement during a packed media briefing at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Wednesday. According to the new agreement signed in Dhaka on February 25, the leading sports channel in Asia will be responsible for producing and telecasting of all international matches here until March 2006. The financial conditions that applied with WorldTel, however, remain unchanged.

Asghar, Karen Mascarenhas, the widow of late Mark Mascarenhas, and Rik Dovey, the managing director of ESPN STAR Sports, signed the tripartite agreement.

Because of a long-standing legal wrangle between WorldTel and Indian broadcaster SET Max, it prevented Bangladesh cricket fans abroad from seeing the national team in action in two successive home series Zimbabwe and Pakistan.

"We are pleased to be associated with ESPN STAR Sports. The signing of this agreement will go a long way in overcoming problems of international broadcast faced in the recent past," said BCB president Asghar.

Influential Board director Syed Ashrafu Huq, who was the chief negotiator when the contract was signed, said that the terms and reference of the original contract would remain the same. "Our first year's deal with WorldTel ends in March. For next four years

ESPN will pay the same amount that WorldTel would have paid," said Ashrafu.

BD TO BID FOR 2006 U-19 WC
In another development the BCB president mentioned that Bangladesh would be bidding to host the 2006 ICC Under-19 World Cup.

He said that the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) offered its support for the bid during a meeting in Sharjah last week.

England will host the 2004 edition of the juvenile carnival.

PROBE INTO NZ DEBACLE

However, Bangladesh's own performance in the first two competitions held in South Africa and Sri Lanka was inspiring. But their recent campaign in New Zealand turned out to be disaster. Amid allegations of infighting among the players,

went wrong in New Zealand.

"We must eliminate those elements soon, otherwise our cricket will suffer," said Asghar adding that the matter would be dealt with seriously.

He added that the committee would begin their work from February 28 and will submit a report within a week.

ASGHAR TO ASSUME ACC PRESIDENCY

Asghar informed that he would take over as ACC chairman from next June from his PCB counterpart Gen Tauqir Zia.

"My first task as will be to bring India and Pakistan back to the cricket field. If India reject to travel to Pakistan for the Asia Cup, then I will offer a neutral venue."

Ashrafu, the chairman of BCB's cricket committee, said that ACC would have a new constitution from



PHOTO: STAR
Bangladesh Cricket Board president Ali Asghar emphasises a point during a news briefing at the conference room of the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Wednesday.

Bangladesh made a exit from the Plate semifinals with a surprise defeat at the hands of newcomers Nepal.

While responding to a query about the dismal showing, Asghar said that the Board has formed a three-member committee headed by Aziz Al Kaiser to investigate what

next June with permanent headquarters either in Kuala Lumpur or Dubai. It will also appoint a chief executive to run the office. A three-member committee headed by BCCI president Jagmohan Dalmiya has been formed to select a chief executive for ACC and choose a venue.

Zia starts superbly

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champion Grand Master (GM) Ziaur Rahman of Biman got off to a flying start in the final phase of the Prof Abdur Razzak 28th National Chess Championship with an easy win over Syed Ruhul Kabir Shiplu of Titas Club at the NSC chess room on Wednesday.

The six-time champion opted for a Catalan Opening against Shiplu and checkmated his counterpart after 35 moves to collect a full point.

While Zia was victorious, his teammate and last year's runner-up International Master (IM) Reefat bin-Sattar shared points with Syed Ejaz Hossain of Dhaka University.

Playing with whites against the Sicilian Defence of Ejaz, Reefat accepted the draw after 26 moves.

IM Abdullah Al-Rakib also won his first round match against Shawkat Hossain Pallab of Ansars. Rakib also played with white pieces and overcame the Benuni Defence of Pallab after 36 moves.

Fide Master Enamul Hossain Rajib, who needs eight points from the 11-round meet to become International Master, also suffered a setback as he was held to a draw with Abu Sufian Shakil.

The other two matches GM Niaz Mursheed v Saifuddin Lovlu and Tayebur Rahman Sumon v Sheikh Nasir Ahmed were still in progress.

The second round begins at the same venue today at 3pm.

Today's matches: Ejaz v rajib, Pallab v Shakil, Shiplu v Rakib, Nasir v Zia, Niaz v Sumon and Reefat v Lovlu.

Square Golf from today

SPORTS REPORTER

A host of familiar names will be challenging the Kurmitola Golf Club's scenic 18-hole course when the Fourth Square Golf Tournament begins today.

Unlike previous editions this year's competition is slightly different in that it will be held over two days. The inaugural day will feature friendly a nine-hole event involving nearly eighty players while on Friday the serious golf takes place.

The organisers had so far received 300 entries for the open event. Players with a scratch handicap, that is a golfer who is between 0-24 is eligible to compete.

On the eve of competition a press briefing was arranged at the National Sports Council Conference Room. Anjan Chowdhury Pintu, a leading sports organiser and a director of the sponsors Square, spoke on the occasion.

He hoped with golf being included as one of the many disciplines in March 11-18 Bangladesh Games, their event would provide a good opportunity for the public to appreciate the beauty of the popular sport.

He said that Square had allocated Taka 16 lakh for the competition. The amount is more than three lakh taka from what they spent last year.

According Anjan there will be at least forty lady players in the fray. He said the total number of participants might exceed last year's figure of 316.

To make it more attractive, any golfer who could sink a 'hole-in-one' would be driving home in a Mitsubishi Lancer. No golfer was capable of the incredible feat last time.

Anjan hoped their endeavour would help to promote the second fastest sport in the world especially among the junior players many of whom started out as caddies. He mentioned teenager M Siddiq, who was recently sponsored by Square, as a success story.

President of the KGC Lt Gen Harun-Ar-Rashid will tee-off at 3.30 pm today.

Last year Raihan Rab and M H Yoon collected the men's and ladies' trophies respectively.

M'singh cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Al Helal AC defeated Asit Memorial Club by eight wickets in the Premier Division Cricket League at the local stadium yesterday.

Winning the toss, Asit Memorial batted first and scored 177 runs all out in 42.1 overs.

In reply, Al-Helal made 180 runs losing two wickets.

BRIEF SCORES
ASIT MEMORIAL CLUB: 177/10, (Emon, 84, Bipul, 25, and extras-45; Mehreb-3/22, Zakir-2/35, Rana-1/20 and Pappu-1/24).
AL-HELAL AC: 180/2, (Moni-108* (not out) Nayeem-27, Mehreb-13* (not out) and extras-32; Sumon-1/39 and Teetu-1/48).



PHOTO: STAR
Grand Master Ziaur Rahman makes a move against Syed Ruhul Kabir during their first round engagement of the Prof Abdur Razzak 28th National Chess Championship on Wednesday.

Tahmim torments Dhaka

ISPAHANI MIRZAPORE TEA 3rd National Cricket League

SPORTS REPORTER

Tahmim Bashar Tushar's six-wicket haul cast a shadow over Dhaka's first League triumph with a match in hand as Khulna took the honours on opening day of their Ispahani National League match at the Jessore Stadium on Wednesday.

The off-spinner finished with six for 41 to bundle league leaders Dhaka out for 159.

Dhaka went into their penultimate game, needing a victory to celebrate their maiden League title. But the decision of captain Khaled Mahmud to bat after winning the toss completely backfired as the visitors tumbled like a pack of cards in the spinning web of Tushar.

The star-studded Dhaka outfit however got off to a sound start with opener Rashedul Huq and one-down Jahangir Alam putting on 76 runs for the second wicket. But once Tushar separated the two, Dhaka lost their way. Their innings lasted only 43.5 overs.

Rashedul fought a lone battle with a characteristically aggressive 50. But the remaining batsman including Test opener Javed Omar,

young sensation Ashrafu and Mahmud failed.

Dhaka however hit back at the end of the day when they reduced the home team to 115 for five.

Left-arm spinner led the fightback with three for 15.

While Dhaka tumbled at Jessore, Rajshahi still cling to hopes of taking the title race into the final round.

The team of Bangladesh captain Khaled Mashud scored 215 for six at stumps against hosts Sylhet.

Young Anisur Rahman led his side with 60 after opener Rafiq laid the foundation, putting on 64 runs for the second wicket with Nuruzzaman.

Rafiq scored a patient 42 while Nuruzzaman, who is the second leading run-getter in the League, chipped in with 39.

On a day for the bowler Sabbir Khan captured five wickets for 63 runs as Chittagong bowled Barisal out for 202 at the MA Aziz Stadium.

The exploits of the gangling off-spinner at one stage left the visitors reeling at 60 for seven. But a spectacular rearguard action between Moin and Anisur Rahman salvaged the bottom side from further ignominy.

They put on 119 runs for the eighth wicket with Moin making a superb 67 and Anisur hammering 56.

Chittagong, in their chase, were

44 for three at close with Minhazul Abedin on the verge of completing a personal landmark.

The experienced right-hander is 77 runs short of becoming the first player to score 1,000 runs in the first-class competition.

SCORECARDS

Scoreboards on the opening day of the three Ispahani National League matches played at different venues across the country on Wednesday:

Dhaka v Khulna
Venue: Jessore

DHAKA: First innings
Rashedul c Raju b Jamal 50
Javed Omar c Salim b Russel 5
Ashrafu c Uzzal b Tushar 11
Halim c Biplot b Tushar 11
Shipon c Nahidul b Tushar 11
K Mahmud lbw b Razzak 15
Neeyamur c Salim b Tushar 4
Fahim c Uzzal b Tushar 10
Rafique not out 8
Rahman c Tushar b Razzak 0
Extras: (b-4, lb-1, nb-2) 7
Total: (All out in 43.5 overs) 159
Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-82, 3-32, 4-105, 5-107, 6-133, 7-133, 8-139, 9-158

Bowler

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Al-Amin	9	3	20	0
Russel	5	1	33	1

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Sachin's chance at hand



REUTERS, New Delhi

Sachin Tendulkar has the chance to draw level with Sir Donald Bradman's tally of 29 Test centuries when India face Zimbabwe in the second and final Test starting on Thursday.

Tendulkar's masterly 176 - his 28th hundred - propelled India to a crushing victory by an innings and 101 runs in the first Test in Nagpur earlier this week.

Another such knock will put him level with the prolific Australian with only compatriot Sunil Gavaskar's world record tally of 34 centuries ahead of him.

New Delhi would provide a perfect setting for Tendulkar as Gavaskar had also equalled Bradman's then world mark at the same Ferozeshah Kotla ground, against West Indies in 1983-84.

However, while Tendulkar will be playing his 91st Test on Thursday, Bradman made his centuries in only 52 international appearances. Gavaskar's 34 hundreds came in 125 Tests.

After being outclassed in Nagpur, Zimbabwe face a huge challenge to lift themselves and avoid a second successive Test series rout, having been crushed 3-

0 in Sri Lanka recently.

Visiting skipper Stuart Carlisle believes the New Delhi pitch will again suit India's spin pair Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh who bowled their side to victory by an innings and 101 runs in the first Test.

"There is even less grass than in Nagpur. It might even start turning

ranking slip to ninth, and is a huge contrast to his form during a 1-0 loss in a two-Test series in India in 2000 when he amassed 540 runs in four innings, including unbeaten knocks of 183 and 232.

India also have concerns in the batting department with skipper Sourav Ganguly and Vangipurappu Laxman needing runs ahead of upcoming Test tours in West Indies and England.

Laxman scored only 13 runs in Nagpur and his place in the middle-order is under threat from in-form Virender Sehwag.

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SACHIN TENDULKAR

viciously from the third day," he told reporters on Wednesday.

Carlisle's biggest concern has been the recent poor batting form of 33-year-old left-hander Andy Flower.

Zimbabwe's leading Test batsman managed just 11 runs in two innings in Nagpur, following 80 in six innings in Sri Lanka.

His lean patch has seen his world

Ali asks Kenya not to worry

AFP, Nairobi

Kenya is to host two matches of the 2003 Cricket World Cup, tournament's director Ali Bacher re-affirmed here on Wednesday after completing his three-day inspection tour of the facilities.

"The 2000 ICC Knock-out tournament was well organised and the pitch was outstanding," Bacher told a news conference at the Nairobi Gymkhana Club, where the two World Cup matches involving hosts Kenya and Sri Lanka and New Zealand will be played in February 2003.

He, however, said the Gymkhana ground needed to be improved to withstand the intensity of the two big matches.

Bacher emphasised the importance of the Cricket World Cup being staged for the first ever time in Africa and said various activities are being organised to make the event a truly African affair.

He said tentative plans have been set for a road show through the four competing countries - Kenya, Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa - and would involve retired sportsmen and women from these nations.

Bacher said the road show would start from the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, two months before the World Cup and would enter Cape Town just hours before the opening ceremony in Newlands on February 8, 2003.

Magura cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Shaheed Mintu Sangha defeated Amora Shikchi Sporting Club by 173 runs in the Econo Cricket League at the Magura Stadium on Wednesday.

Winning the toss, Mintu-Sangha batted first and collected 316 runs for six wickets in the stipulated 35 overs.

In reply, Amora Shikchi were all out for 143 runs in 32 overs



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN
A cavalier rehearses at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Wednesday as part of the opening ceremony's preparations for the Seventh Bangladesh Games which start on March 11.