



Did U Know?

England once scored 903 for 7 declared against Australia, and went on to beat them by an innings and 579 runs, the largest ever margin of victory in a Test match so far.



Shaun Pollock

(South Africa cricket captain)
"I think as a captain I've learnt a hell of a lot on this tour about my team, about myself, about how to compete against the strong side."
After the Australian tour.



DD Sports

India vs Zimbabwe
Second Test, Day Three
Live at 10:00 am

ESPN

Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
7:30 pm

English Premier Football League
Aston Villa vs Man United
11:00 am

English Premier Football League
Liverpool vs Fulham
Live at 8:55 pm

Cricket Programming
Super Selector
11:30 pm

STAR Sports

Asia Sport Show
11:30 am

World Cup Soccer Mix
12:30 pm

Primera Liga
Highlights at 5:00 pm

Cricket Programming
Super Selector
8:30 pm

Gillette World Sports Special
Int'l Sports News
10:30 pm

Primera Liga
Real Madrid vs Celta De Vigo
Live at 2:00 am (Sunday)

NOTICE

Dear **WHIZZ Kids**, we are sorry that we could not hold the draw of the **Competition 167** last night due to some difficulties. It will now be held on the 15th of this month.



Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm March 15, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who won the U-19 cricket World Cup?	Australia South Africa 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?	Jamaluddin Sagar
5. Who won the Pan-Pacific Open tennis title?	Narasimha Suresh Kournikova
Class.	Roll No.
School Address	
Phone: (If any)	

Halim, Javed propel Dhaka

ISPAHANI MIRZAPORE TEA 3rd National Cricket League

SPORTS REPORTER

Brilliant half-centuries from Halim Shah and national player Javed Omar put Ispahani National League leaders Dhaka in the driving seat against hosts Khulna at the Jessore Stadium on Friday.

On the penultimate day, Halim slammed 94 while Javed hit 66 as Dhaka, resuming on 133 for two, scored 363 for nine in their second innings before captain Khaled Mahmud declared. It left the home side chasing a victory target of 271 runs.

At close of play, the home side, who enjoyed a 93-run first innings lead, lost three wickets with 42 runs on the board.

A victory for the star-studded capital team will ensure their maiden championship with a match in hand.

However, the day began badly for Dhaka as they lost two wickets in the morning leaving them on 141 for

four.

But the middle-order pair of Halim and Javed put on 139 runs for the fifth wicket to steer their side out of trouble.

The magnificent stand ended when Halim was trapped leg before by Tushar. He hammered seven fours in his 276-minute vigil.

Javed, who fell to the occasional spin of Hasanuzzaman, hammered six boundaries.

Left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique, claimed two for 10 from five overs while Khaled Mahmud grabbed the other wickets.

At the MA Aziz Stadium, visitors Barisal avoided their seventh successive defeat when opener Imran Ahmed carried his bat against Chittagong.

The right-hander scored an unbeaten 89 as Barisal took their overnight 6-0 to 213 for six at stumps. It gave them a lead of 148 runs.

Imran's six-hour knock contained eleven boundaries. Middle-order Kamal (33) was the other notable scorer.

Away in Sylhet, second-placed

Rajshahi grabbed a 17-run first innings lead over the home side after bowling them out for 283.

Opener Syed Parvez top-scored with 97 while middle-order Rajin Saleh added 75 as Sylhet, 199 for four overnight, were dismissed just before tea.

In reply, Rajshahi, who scored 300 in the first innings, were 38 for one in 29 overs.

SCORECARDS

Scoreboards on the third day of the three Ispahani National League matches played at different venues across the country on Friday.

Dhaka v Khulna

Venue: Jessore

DHAKA: First innings 159 all out in 43.5 overs (Rashedul 50, Jahangir 26; Tushar 6/41, Razzak 2/21)

KHULNA: First innings 252 all out in 98.5 overs (Hasanuzzaman 77, Asadullah 28, Tushar 27, Rafique 5/73, K Mahmud 2/32)

DHAKA: Second innings (overnight 133 for 2 in 34 overs)

Rashedul b Jamal 19
Sajjad c Hasanuzzaman b Al-Amin 38
Jahangir c Salim b Russell 49

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Tamim may step down

SPORTS REPORTER

The Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) chairman GS Hasan Tamim has threatened to quit if the senior division clubs of Dhaka do not cooperate with him.

Tamim, who is also a director of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), was reacting to the news that the inter-club cricketers transfer might be deferred from the scheduled March 4 date to allow the Bangladesh A team players return from the West Indies and participate in the bourse.

Tamim, who came back to Dhaka from Malaysia on Thursday night, said that it would be very unfortunate for local cricket if the clubs demand yet another delay in the transfer programme.

"Nine of the 12 Premier Division clubs told me that they wanted the transfers to begin from March because of post Eid hangover. But nobody has told me anything regarding A team players," said Tamim adding that all the clubs had agreed on holding a day-long long transfer exclusively for the A team cricketers when they return home.

"But now it seems we have developed a new problem with the A team. This is not a healthy sign for cricket. If the players' burse is late, inevitably the league will start behind schedule. If the Premier league is delayed once again, clubs may not agree to play in the next season's league which we had planned to kick off in October," Tamim said.

"If required I will resign but I won't tolerate this kind of disorder any more. No one is cooperating with me," said a visibly frustrated Tamim.

Tamim also informed that he has asked all the clubs to put forward their demands in writing so that he can arrange an emergency meeting in this connection.

Meanwhile, the CCDM have sent a request letter to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday for not relegating Lalmatia Club and Indira Road Krira Chakra from First Division this season.

Zia prevails in battle of GMs

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman of Biman continued his impressive form in the Professor Abdur Razzak 28th National Chess Championship with an easy win over fellow Grand Master Niaz Murshed in the third round at the NSC chess room on Friday.

Playing with whites against the King's Indian defence of Niaz, Zia checkmated the country's first Grand Master after 32 moves to register his third win in a row.

Zia maintained his solo lead in the 12-term final round having raised his tally to three points, half a point ahead of International Masters Reefat-bin-sattar, Aldullah Al-Rakib and Fide Master Enamul Hossain Rajib and Abu Sufian Shakil.

On Friday, Reefat beat Taibur Rahman Sumon of BPATC, Rakib defeated Sheikh Nasir Ahmed of Ansars, Rajib outplayed Shawkat Hossain Pallab while Shakil posted a facile victory over Syed Ruhul Kabir Shiplu.

In the other match of the day, Saifuddin Lovlu beat Syed Ejaj Hossain.

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

Points table: 3 points-Zia, 2.5 points-Reefat, Rakib, Rajib, Shakil, 1 point- Niaz, Lovlu, .5 pointSumon, Nasir, Shiplu, Ejaj.

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

Square Golf Faisal, Kyung clinch titles

SPORTS REPORTER

Faisal Hossain emerged as the men's winner while Ok Kyung Jang captured the ladies' version on the final day of the Square Golf Tournament at the Kurmitola Golf Club on Friday.

Square Group, a leading business house, has been sponsoring the event for the fourth year running. The two-day event attracted a record 330 local and foreign participants. They included a good number of lady golfers.

Although the organisers offered a Mitsubishi Lancer to the first golfer who could manage to sink a 'hole in one', but for second successive year none could collect the keys.

Nearly 250 players took part in the 18-hole competition on the concluding day.

On Thursday, Siraj Uddin Ahmed won the friendly nine-hole competition while A Qudus finished runner-up. Eighty golfers featured in it after president of the club Lt Gen M

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PHOTO: STAR

A GRAND BATTLE: Country's first Grand Master Niaz Murshed makes a move against the only other GM of the country Ziaur Rahman during their Prof Abdur Razzak National Chess Championship third round engagement on Friday.

Most refs are Asians



INTERNET, London

Former West Indies skipper Clive Lloyd has been included in an elite five-man panel of match referees who will officiate in every Test from the beginning of April.

The decision to appoint fully professional referees, and an eight-man panel of umpires who have yet to be named, was taken by the International Cricket Council (ICC) in an attempt to improve player discipline and raise standards of officiating.

Sri Lankan Ranjan Madugalle was appointed as chief referee last November, and he will also be joined by Wasim Raja of Pakistan, South African Mike Procter and India's Gundappa Viswanath.

There are no representatives from England or Australia, the game's two oldest Test-playing nations.

The claims of Mike Denness were overlooked, despite him having the backing of the England and Wales Cricket Board.

The members of the new panel,

who have all agreed two-year contracts, played a combined total of almost 300 Tests and have an average age of 51, 10 years lower than the current ICC panel.

All 10 Test-playing countries were asked to nominate candidates for the panel, and more than 30 were interviewed by Madugalle.

He then made recommendations to International Cricket Council chief executive Malcolm Speed and Sunil Gavaskar, chairman of the ICC's Cricket Committee-Playing, who had the final say.

Gavaskar took no part, however, in considering the claims of Viswanath, who is his brother-in-law.

"I know that international captains and cricketers are looking to match referees to take a sensible and consistent lead on disciplinary and other matters," said Gavaskar.

"This new panel is a tremendous group of former Test cricketers, who I am sure will command the respect of teams around the world."

Of the five, only Madugalle and Viswanath are members of the existing panel, although Lloyd did the job for three years until 1995-96 before taking up the job of West Indies team manager.

Wasim has been working as a teacher in India, while Procter has concentrated on media work since giving up the job of South African coach in 1994, although he remains a national team selector.

"Restructuring the panel from 20 part-time referees to five full-time professionals will take standards of decision-making and authority to new levels."

"The referees will work closely with the new panel of eight elite umpires and I am confident that with a new disciplinary code to back their judgement, we will see a distinct improvement in on-field behaviour in a short space of time," Speed commented.

The appointments come at a time when the ICC is embroiled in an ongoing row over the officiating of former England captain Denness during the South Africa v India Test at Bloemfontein last November.

He punished six Indian players for dissent and other breaches of discipline, prompting furious protests and the setting up of a review panel to look into the matter.

Their findings may be made public later this week.

Ramp targets NZ series



REUTERS, Queenstown

England batsman Mark Ramprakash is aiming to shake off his nearly-man tag by transforming good starts into Test match hundreds in the forthcoming series with New Zealand.

Ramprakash's 133 against Australia at The Oval last year was only his second Test century and it is a record he must improve over the next month if he is to remain a part of coach Duncan Fletcher's plans.

"At The Oval I just got through that mid-innings period and kicked on," he said at a news conference. "I'm well aware that as a member of the top five or six it's very important for the team that I make a start and push on."

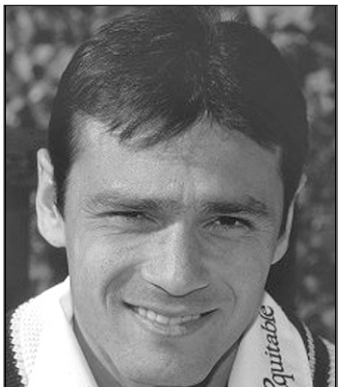
Ramprakash arrived in New Zealand last weekend and will get his first outing of the tour when England meet Otago in a three-day game in Queenstown, starting on Saturday.

It will be the first three-day game staged at the new Queenstown Events Centre, and Ramprakash and the five other recent arrivals are looking to find their form straight away.

Despite 10 years as an on-off international cricketer and 49 Tests, Ramprakash is still not certain of his place in the England side.

"The main thing for me is that I'm very happy with the way I've been approaching the game since the Ashes series. I feel relaxed at the crease, and I keep that going then the scores will follow," he said.

"Wherever possible I'm going to go for my shots and play positively and I need to keep that approach going."



MARK RAMPRAKASH

"All the players who have come out from England all want to get in the swing of things quickly. Hopefully the sun will shine and we will get a

game in."

While England were playing 11 one-day internationals in India and New Zealand at the start of the year, Ramprakash spent his time netting at The Oval and watching Arsenal Football Club at their Highbury home.

However, avenging the home series defeat by Stephen Fleming's side in 1999 is now his prime concern.

"As far as the cricket goes we all know we are in for a stern test against New Zealand," he said. "They have players who have played a lot of Test cricket and youngsters like (Andre) Adams and (Shane) Bond have come in and done very well."

"We are going to have to play very well to compete. They beat us in 1999 and that is a bitter memory. They were very focused and determined in that series and they really played hard."

"When we lost the last Test at The Oval it was one of the lowest points in my career. Both sides are very

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Aussie delegates all for Pak tour

AFP/REUTERS, Karachi

Australian cricket officials Friday played down security concerns over their September-October tour of Pakistan and said it should go ahead.

"Pakistan is no different from other countries and we are proceeding on the basis that the tour will go ahead, once the facilities and security of our players are guaranteed," Richard Watson, Australian Cricket Board (ACB) general manager of cricket operations, told reporters while inspecting the national stadium here.

He was visiting the arena in southern Karachi with Tim May, chief of Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA), and ACB security expert Reg Dickson on the first day of a week-long reconnaissance trip.

The delegation is also due to meet representatives of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), police and government officials.

Watson said the pre-tour checks in Pakistan were the same as for any destination.

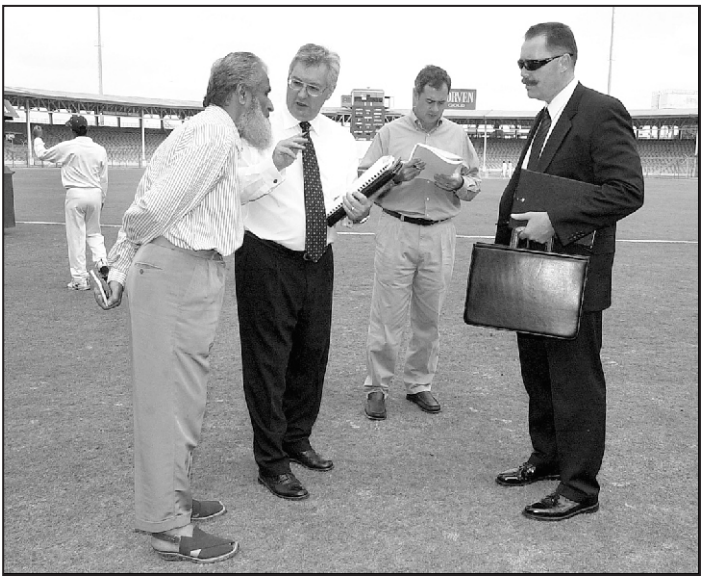


PHOTO: AFP

An Australian Cricket Board (ACB) executive talks to a Pakistan cricket official during the ACB team's visit to Karachi National Stadium on Friday.