



Did U Know?

May is the month when the FA Cup final takes place.



What to WATCH

DD Sports

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

ESPN

English Premier Football League
Arsenal vs Newcastle United
9:00 am
&
Bolton Wanderers vs Blackburn Rovers
11:00 am
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
1:00 pm
Serie A
Lecce vs Roma
3:00 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
UEFA Champions League
Weekly Highlights at 10:00 pm
Western Union World Football
11:30 pm

STAR Sports

Sportline Today
Sport News
Live at 7:30 am
Trans World Sport
Int'l Sports News
8:30 am
English Premier Football League
Liverpool vs Fulham
1:00 pm
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
7:00 pm
Sportline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
11:00 pm



TALK TURKEY



Matthew Hayden

(Australia's cricketer of the year)
"We are the best side in the world, there's no doubt about that."



Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 167

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?	1-0 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?	N a m i s
Names ... Seles ... Kournikova	
Class. Roll No.	
School Address	
Phone: (If any)	

Sylhet scramble home

Sabbir clobbers Barisal

ISPAHANI MIRZAPORE TEA
3rd National Cricket League

SPORTS REPORTER

Sylhet left the one-day competition of the Ispahani National League wide open when they pulled off a sensational two-wicket win over leaders Rajshahi at the Sylhet Stadium on Sunday.

The victory of Sylhet in the rain-affected match now leaves the League race poised for a three-way titanic tussle. Both Sylhet and Rajshahi share top spot with Chittagong on 12 points.

However, among the three teams Chittagong have played one match more than Rajshahi and Sylhet's eight games.

Sylhet will now travel to Rajshahi to play their penultimate match, which will start on March 6.

In a dramatic finish tail-ender Taposh Baishya scored an unbeaten 21 as Sylhet overcame a middle-order collapse to reach a revised target of 188 with three balls to spare.

After Rajshahi scored 196 for nine in the stipulated 50 overs, Sylhet were asked to score 188 in 45 overs.

But the home team lost their way after opener Hadi made 67 off 103 balls.

At one stage they were struggling at 156 for eight before the paceman Taposh stepped in to turn the match on its head.

At the MA Aziz Stadium, Sabbir Khan hammered an electrifying century in hosts Chittagong's massive 137-run victory over lowly Barisal.

Sabbir, better known for his off-spin, celebrated his promotion up the order with 140 off 136 balls as the port city team piled up 269 for six in 50 overs.

The young right-hander struck twelve boundaries and two sixes.

Enamul Hoque also took the Barisal attack to the sword, scoring a run-a-ball 34.

Barisal were bundled out for 132 in 36.1 overs with Sabbir claiming three wickets for 10 runs to eventually win the man-of-the-match award.

Nayan scored highest 61 for Barisal, who have yet to earn a point



SABBIR ... 140

in either version of the game.

Elsewhere at Jessore, hosts Khulna recorded an impressive 93-

ONE-DAY TABLE				
Team	M	W	L	Points
Rajshahi	8	6	2	12
Sylhet	8	6	2	12
Chittagong	9	6	3	12
Dhaka	9	4	5	8
Khulna	8	3	5	6
Barisal	8	-	8	0

run victory over new National League champions Dhaka.

Dhaka, who lifted the four-day championship on Saturday, were apparently in no mood to chase a fighting Khulna total of 228.

Rather, they were more concerned to return to the capital as they spent only 29.5 overs at the crease to make 135.

SCORECARDS

Scoreboard of the three Ispahani 3rd National Cricket League matches

held at different venues on Sunday:

Rajshahi v Sylhet
Venue: Sylhet Stadium

RAJSHAHI				
Rafiqul b Kapali				30
Samiul run out				3
Nuruzzaman b Hasibul				9
Anisur lbw b Nayeem				13
Hasan run out				0
K Mashud c Nayeem b Rajin				61
Mustakim c & b Rajin				17
Russel c lmon b Rajin				34
Tariqul not out				3
Aminul Jr not out				0
Extras: (b-5, lb-6, nb-5, w-10)				26
Total: (For 8 wickets in 50 overs)				196
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-36, 3-59, 4-59, 5-70, 6-110, 7-193, 8-196.				
Bowler				
	O	M	R	W
Hasibul	10	0	39	1
Taposh	10	1	35	0
Nayeem	8	1	13	1
Parvez	5	0	20	0
Kapali	7	0	36	1
Rajin	10	0	42	3

SYLHET				
Parvez c Samiul b Mamun				18
Hadi st Samiul b Mahbub				67
Tushar c Nuruzzaman b Mamun				13
Rajin run out 14 Nasirul lbw b tariqul				26
Kapali c Samiul b Aminul Jr				4
Rana run out				1
Hasibul c Rafiqul b Aminul Jr				3
Taposh not out				21
Nayeem not out				3
Extras: (b-1, lb-4, nb-2, w-11)				18
Total: (For 8 wickets in 44.3 overs)				188
Fall of wickets: 1-44, 2-70, 3-118, 4-147, 5-148, 6-150, 7-156, 8-156.				
Bowler				
	O	M	R	W
Faisal	3	0	30	0
Aminul Jr	9	2	33	2
Nuruzzaman	9	1	30	0
Mamun	8	2	33	2
Tariqul	9	0	38	1
Mustakim	6.3	1	16	1

Fall of wickets: 1-44, 2-70, 3-118, 4-147, 5-148, 6-150, 7-156, 8-156.

Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-58, 3-142, 4-144, 5-264, 6-280, 7-321, 8-331, 9-340.

Bowler				
	O	M	R	W
Streak	37.2	11	92	4
Watambwa	18	5	47	0
Friend	19	2	75	1
Price	50	15	108	3
G. Flower	5	0	17	0

ZIMBABWE: Second innings
Carlisle c and b Harbhajan
Gripper c Dravid b Harbhajan
Campbell c Dravid b Harbhajan
A. Flower c Das b Harbhajan
Ebrahim lbw b Kumble
G. Flower c Harbhajan b Kumble
Streak lbw b Kumble
Friend b Harbhajan
Taibu c Bangar b Kumble
Price c Das b Harbhajan
Watambwa not out
Extras: (b-2, nb-1)
Total: (All out in 67.3 overs) 146

INDIA: First innings (overnight 319-6)
Das c Taibu b Streak 13
Dasgupta lbw b Friend 19
Ganguly c Gripper b Price 136
Tendulkar lbw b Price 36

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the second and final Test between India and Zimbabwe at the Ferozeshah Kotla ground on Sunday:
ZIMBABWE: First innings 329 (D Ebrahim 94, A Flower 92, T Friend 43; A Kumble 3-88)
INDIA: First innings (overnight 319-6)
Das c Taibu b Streak 13
Dasgupta lbw b Friend 19
Ganguly c Gripper b Price 136
Tendulkar lbw b Price 36

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PHOTO: AFP

HARBHAJAN IS NO FRIEND! India's spin sensation Harbhajan Singh castles Zimbabwe's Travis Friend at the Ferozeshah Kotla in New Delhi yesterday.

A change of heart?

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Ali Asghar is said to be ready to side with an unholy alliance of some club organisers by cancelling the relegation of Lalmatia Club and Prantik Krira Chakra from the First Division Cricket League.

Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) chairman GS Hasan Tamim disclosed to the Star Sport on Sunday that Asghar has already given him a verbal assurance that he would allow the two relegated clubs to play in the First Division.

Only three months back Asghar found no reason why he should back two teams that played badly and got relegated. So, in his first meeting with the Board of Directors in late December, he decided that both Lalmatia Club and Prantik KC would be relegated to Second Division this season despite his predecessor Saber Hossain Chowdhury excused them from relegation last season for some unexplained reasons.

Asghar had a change of heart when he got a letter from CCDM on Friday that requested him to reconsider his verdict to avoid 'unnecessary complication' in starting the First Division League.

The 12 First Division clubs have already ganged up and threatened they would not play if not Lamatia and Prantik clubs were excused.

Cricketers bourse Transfer deferred the for fifth time

SPORTS REPORTER

As expected, the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) on Sunday set a fresh date of the three-day inter-club cricketers' transfer for the Senior Division League.

The much-delayed transfer will now start March 17. This was for the fifth time the date for the transfer was deferred since last October.

And most interestingly 12 Premier Division clubs will get only two days to practice as CCDM, in an emergency meeting last evening, also decided to start the Premier Division league from March 22.

The First Division league will start from March 31.

Chaired by CCDM chairman GS Hasan Tamim, all the clubs unanimously decided to defer the date of transfer that was scheduled to start from today.

Nine leading Premier Division Clubs in a letter on Saturday asked the CCDM to defer transfer date to allow Bangladesh A team cricketers to take part in the bourse. A cricketers are now playing Busta Cup in West Indies and scheduled to return home on march 15.

The meeting also decided that the inter-club transfers for Second and Third Division clubs will be held from March 20 and 21.

Kaiser given freedom

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board president Ali Asghar has excluded former national captain Rouqibul Hasan from the three-member probe committee to investigate the reasons behind Bangladesh's debacle in the under-19 World Cup last month.

The Board president on Wednesday nominated Rouqibul as none of the two members of the committee headed by Board director Aziz Al-Kaiser. But Kaiser said to reporters on the following day that he would have preferred to choose his fellow investigators.

It was learnt that BCB president has finally permitted Kaiser to select his two colleagues. Accordingly, Kaiser has selected two BCB directors -- Mobasser Hossain and Mahbubul Aman -- on Saturday.

The committee is expected to submit its report by the second week of March.

'Goal' workshop in Malaysia

SPORTS REPORTER

The regional development office of FIFA in Colombo has organised a five-day long workshop for five South Asian 'Goal project' beneficiary countries -- India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

The workshop will be held in Malaysia from March 25 to 29.

General secretaries of all the five national football associations and their nominated coordinators will join the workshop in Kuala Lumpur.

From Bangladesh, BFF general secretary Harunur Rashid and Goal project coordinator Shamuzzaman Basunia will take part in the workshop. FIFA is yet to approve the project for the five countries.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

BATTERED AND BRUISED: The precious cricket pitches at the Bangabandhu National Stadium are in a devastated state courtesy of Bangladesh Army personnel who have been pounding the strips with their boots during their drills in preparation for the opening ceremony of the Seventh Bangladesh Games. This photo was taken yesterday.

BD A baffle Windwards

Cricket

AP, Kingston

Bangladesh A team bowlers put the Windward Islands' batsmen in a spin Saturday as they admirably defended a modest total to eke out a mere 12-run first innings lead on the second day of their sixth-round Busta Cup match at Arson Vale.

Off-spinner Naimur Rahman, with five for 31 off 26.1 probing overs, and leg-spinners Mosaddek Hossain, who took three for 41 off 21 overs, combined to rout the Windwards for an inadequate 151 in response to Bangladesh's first innings total of 163.

In-form 20-year-old left-handed opener Devon Smith top-scored for the Windwards with a solid 57, studded with seven fours off 143 balls in 174 minutes, but there was no other innings of substance as the Windwards meekly surrendered their last eight wickets for just 41 runs to a series in indiscreet shots.

At the close, the Bangladesh A were 56 for two in their second innings an overall lead of 68 runs with Mazharul Haque not out on 27 and Naimur not yet off the mark.

After play started 70 minutes late because of early morning rain, the Windwards moved their overnight score of 37 without loss to 62 for one, losing the solitary wicket to opener Kirsten Casimir for five to fast bowler Anwar Munir.

On resumption, Munir added the scalp of John Eugene for 24 to finish with two for 40, but the Windwards slipped from a promising position of 110 for two when Smith was trapped leg before wicket by Naimur after sharing a three-wicket stand of 40 with Junior Murray.

In an eventual post-lunch session, the Windwards lost Smith, Clyde Telesford (3), Murray (17) and captain Rawl Lewis (5) to spin twins Naimur and Mosaddek, but Orlanzo Jackson and Deighton Butler took the score to 142 for six at tea.

At that stage, a further 22 runs were required for the lead, but they gathered only nine of them as Jackson, Fernix Thomas (0), Butler and last man Shane Shillingford were all sent back to the pavilion.

In 28 overs before the close, the tounsts overcame the loss of Hannan Sarkar for a duck in the first over from Thomas to stave off the wicket-hungry Windwards bowlers as opener Ehsanul Haque was the only other casualty, falling for 26 just before the close.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the second day of the sixth round Busta Cup Series match between Bangladesh A and the Windwards at Arnos Vale on Saturday:
BANGLADESH A: First innings 163 all out in 76.1 overs.
WINDWARDS: First innings (overnight 37 for no loss in 11 overs)

Bowling				
	O	M	R	W
Tareq Aziz	9	2	33	0
Anwar	14	2	40	2
Naimur	26.1	14	31	5
Mosaddek	21	5	41	3
BANGLADESH A: Second innings				
Hannan lbw b Thomas				0
Ehsanul c Lewis b Butler				26
Mazharul not out				27
Naimur not out				0
Extras:				0
Total: (For 2 wickets in 27 overs)				53
To bat: Akram Khan, Tushar Imran, Mushfiqur Rahman, Anwar Hossain, Mosaddek Hossain, Tareq Aziz, Anwar Hossain Monir.				
Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-51.				
Bowling				
	O	M	R	W
Thomas	6	0	1	5
1				
Butler	8	2	1	4
1				
Peters	4	1	1	1
0				
Jackson	5	0	8	
0				
Shillingford	4	1		5
0				

Toss: Windward Islands. Umpires: I Lord and C Mack.

Pakistan on course

Hockey

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Pakistan and Argentina scored crucial wins on Sunday to keep their semifinal hopes alive in the field hockey World Cup here.

Argentina defeated New Zealand 3-1 and Pakistan quashed Spain's challenge 2-0 in Pool A matches, leaving both winners at par with Germany on 12 points each.

Reigning champions Holland, who lead the tough group with 13 points, play their sixth match against

Germany later on Sunday.

Pakistan must beat Germany and Argentina need to overcome Spain in the last round of matches on Tuesday, and hope the other results go their way, if they are to qualify for the semifinals.

Pakistan scored twice in the last 10 minutes to hand Spain their first defeat in the tournament.

Ali Raza, taking over the penalty corner specialist's role from Sohail Abbas, put Pakistan ahead in the 60th minute, before veteran Atif Bashir ensured victory with the second goal seven minutes later.

Spain paid dearly for the yellow card penalty earned by Jordi Quintana, which left them with 10 players in the critical final minutes of the game.

Both teams were thwarted in their bid to get early goals by excellent work from the rival goalkeepers, Bernardino Herrera of Spain and Mohammad Qasim of Pakistan.

Herrera saved three penalty corner shots from Abbas in the first half, while Qasim padded out two set-piece attempts by Pol Amat and Eduard Tubau.

Pakistani manager Khalid Khokhar said the win had given his team a good chance of making the semi-finals.

"Beating Spain makes us confident of taking on Germany on our terms," he said.

"We changed tactics a bit in the second half and decided not to take direct penalty corner shots. That worked."

Spanish coach Toni Forrellat termed it a "high-class match" but said the umpiring was not of the same standard.

Argentina, meanwhile, swamped the New Zealand defence to leave the Kiwis with their fifth defeat in six matches.

Star striker Jorge Lombi opened the scoring for Argentina in the fourth minute, before Ryan Archibald drew level with a penalty corner five minutes later.

Matias Vila made it 2-1 four minutes before half-time, but the Kiwis kept the Argentines at bay till the 66th minute when sloppy work by goalkeeper Simon Towns gave the South Americans their third goal.

Towns failed to pad away a weak reverse push by Mario Almada and the ball trickled into the goal to the horror of the Kiwis.

Argentine coach Jorge Ruiz said the last league match against Spain was very important to his team.

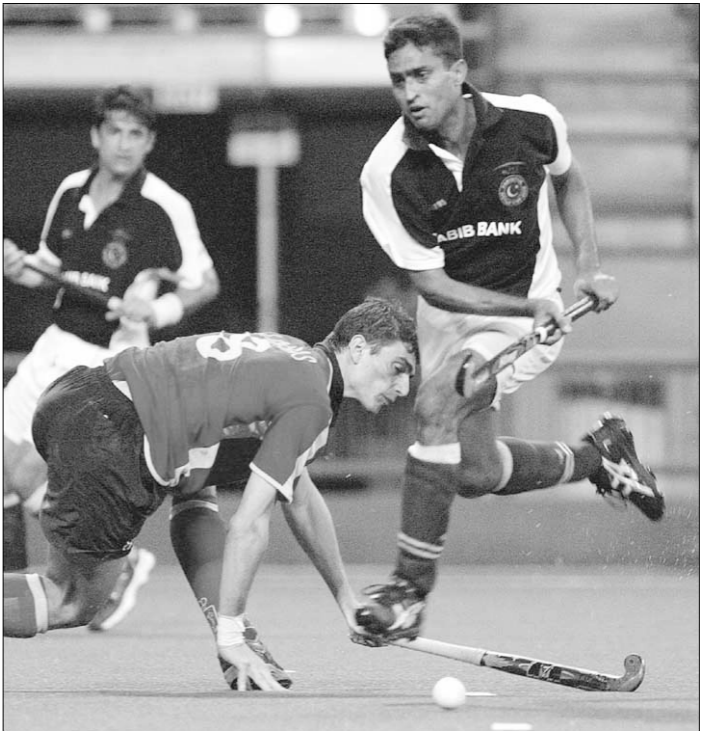


PHOTO: AFP

Pakistan hockey legend Shahbaz Ahmed skips a challenge to orchestrate another attack in their World Cup game against Spain on March 3. Pakistan won 2-0.