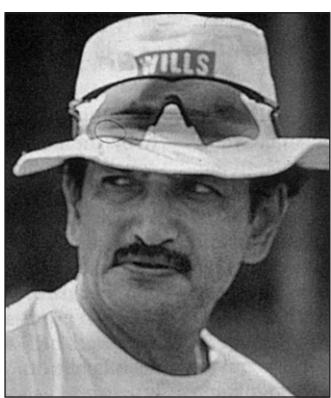




Former Australia cricketer MHN Walker was named his country's best-selling author in 1990 after three of his books- "How to Hypnotise Cooks", "How to Tame Lions", and "How to Kiss a Crocodile"- each sold over 150,000 copies.



Ajit Wadekar
(Former Indian cricket captain)
"I think some amicable solution could have been found. We are stretching it too far."
On the Mike Denness issue.



BTV
7th Bangladesh Games Opening Ceremony Live at 4:00 pm
ESPN
South Africa vs Australia Second Test, Day Four Live at 2:25 pm World Cup Soccer Mix 4:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sports News Live at 9:30 pm UEFA Champions League Weekly Highlights at 10:00 pm Western Union World Football 11:00 pm
STAR Sports
Sportsline Today Sport News Live at 7:30 am Trans World Sport Int'l Sports News 8:30 am
English Premier Football League Tottenham Hotspur vs Man United 1:00 pm
Primera Liga Real Sociedad vs Tenerife 4:00 pm
Cricket Programming Super Selector 7:30 pm
Sportsline Tonight Sport News Live at 8:00 pm Harsha Online Cricket Talk Show 11:00 pm

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?	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?	
Names ... Seles ... Kournikova.	
Class. Roll No.	
School Address	
Phone: (If any)	

Games' grand opening today



SPORTS REPORTER

The Seventh Bangladesh Games, country's first Olympic event of the new millennium, begins at the all-purpose Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will declare the quadrennial extravaganza open at 4 pm. State-run Bangladesh Television will cover the three-hour long spectacular ceremony live from the imposing big bowl.

About three thousand five hundred athletes are expected to fight for 251 gold medals that will be up for grabs in 25 disciplines over the next eight days.

President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury is expected to close the Games on March 18.

Although the Games, organised after a gap of six years, is representing the new age yet the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) is still languishing in the bygone days.

The forgetful BOA, while ignoring to compose the Games' theme, the essence of any sporting occasion, was very much focused on the opening and closing ceremony. Indeed nearly half of the Taka 3.5 crore budget has been allocated towards both lavish ceremonies, overlooking the needs of the athletes.

Recently the Bangladesh Football Federation has complained of a sub-standard pitch at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium at Mirpur. The athletic track at the same venue is also not in good shape to run on.

Besides, competitors have been provided with a minimal allowance.

In the backdrop of such gross anomalies, many observers have been led to believe that the grand show is concerned about the opening and closing ceremony only and not for the Games itself.

The staging of the event may

come as a relief for participants especially after the cancellation of the Ninth SAF Games in Islamabad last October. But the inclusion so many disciplines without giving due consideration to factors such as training and facilities will not bring about any qualitative changes in our perception of those sports.

Shamima Sattar Mimmu, a former high jumper has been given the honour to light the Games flame for the second time along with middle-distance runner Milzar Hossain.

Perhaps only Mimmu will shed a tear for 17-year-old Khulna cyclist Snigdha Sultana Helen, who died last week while training for the Games, since the BOA remained ignorant or indifferent to the human tragedy. BOA, which was late in expressing its condolence over Snigdha's death has not planned yet to observe a minute's silence even in memory of the unfortunate cyclist of Khulna. Snigdha died in a tragic road accident while training on the Dhaka-Mawa Road on March 5.

Golden Russell-Kanika



SPORTS REPORTER

Russell Kabir Sumon and Kanika Adhikari won the first gold medals of the Seventh Bangladesh

Games. The Biman pair won the badminton mixed doubles final at the NSC wooden floor gymnasium on Sunday afternoon.

Somun and Kanika outplayed Mustafa Javed and Sharmin Ahmed Momo 15-8, 15-5 in the all-Biman contest.

But the champions will have to wait until the opening ceremony is over before they can receive their medals.

Later, the bronze medal match between two Biman pairs Shakil and Elina and Palash and Noori could not start on time due to a power failure.

FOOTBALL
Bangladesh Army moved into the semifinals of the football competition with a solitary goal win over Bangladesh Police in their second Group C match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur. Striker Ashish Banowary broke the deadlock in the 65th minute to guide his side to their second successive victory.

The Army have earned six points, two more than second-placed Chittagong who have played the same number of outings.

The port city team were held to a 2-2 draw by Khulna.

Khulna took a surprise 2-0 lead against star-studded Chittagong in the first half through Faisal's strikes in the 7th and 29th minutes.

But Chittagong wiped out the deficit after the break.

Former national striker Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib scored in the 47th minute while midfielder Arman Miah

equalised in the 64th minute.

Chittagong will take on Army in their final Group C match tomorrow at 6:30 pm.

HOCKEY
Defending champions Dhaka got off to a flying start in the hockey compe-

tion with a 5-2 win over Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) in their first round Group A opener at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium.

The winners led the first half 2-1.

SEE PAGE 15



PHOTO: STAR

Mixed doubles badminton champions -- Kanika Adhikari (R) and Russell Kabir Sumon.

A team in ignominy



Cricket

AP, St Catherine

Champions Jamaica closed the second day of their Busta Cup cricket match in command of Bangladesh A at Chedwin Park on Saturday.

Replying to Jamaica's first innings total of 368, Bangladesh A were bowled out for 166 and following-on, were 15 for the loss of one wicket.

Bangladesh A are still 145 runs adrift of the imposing Jamaica score. Eshanul Haque was the batsman out when the tourists batted a second time, bowled by fast bowler Darren Powell for seven.

Bangladesh A struggled throughout the day with none of their batsmen able to dominate the bowling. Opening batsman Hannan Sarker top-scored with 55 before he was fourth out, shortly after the lunch break. He hit seven fours and batted for 117 minutes.

Hannan and captain Akram Khan, who made 46, were the only bright spots in their team's batting, which got off to a fairly good start before losing wickets regularly.

With the score on 30, Eshanul was caught by Ricardo Powell off fast bowler Darren Powell for six. Ten runs later, Mazharul went for two, caught in the slips by Jamaica captain Robert Samuels off the off-spinner Gareth Breese.

The visitors, who were 72 for two at lunch, lost Hannan and Tushar Imran in the afternoon period as the home team maintained their dominance. With the score on 78, Imran became the third casualty, bowled by Darren Powell for 18.

Besides Akram, none of the

remaining batsmen made any significant contribution. He and Mushfiqur Rahman put on 35 for the fifth wicket, but part-time bowler David Bernard came on and broke the partnership, bowling Mushfiq for 16 with his first ball.

With no addition to the score (123), Bernard trapped Naimur Rahman leg before wicket for naught.

Spinners Breese and Ryan Cunningham then combined to wrap up the innings with Akram defiant stand carrying his team to within 34 runs of saving the follow-on. He was last out, caught by wicketkeeper Keith Hibbert off Cunningham for a defiant 46.

Bowling for Jamaica, Cunningham captured three wickets for 40 runs off 16 overs. Darren Powell also had three wickets at a cost of 39 runs in 11 overs.

Breese claimed two wickets for 22 runs from his 14 overs. Earlier, Jamaica, resuming at 331 for eight, added another 47 runs before their innings closed. Darren Powell made 38, Jermaine Lawson (8) and Cunningham finished unbeaten on 12.

Bangladesh A paceman Tareq Aziz Khan had the best figures, capturing four wickets for 86 runs. Jamaica won the Busta Cup earlier in the week when they beat Trinidad and Tobago by seven wickets to tally an unassailable 63 points.

Bangladesh A are seventh in the eight-team tournament with 22 points.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the first day of the Busta Cup seventh round match between Bangladesh A and Jamaica at Chedwin Park, Spanish Town, Jamaica on Thursday:

JAMAICA: First innings (over-	
night 331-8)	
Garrick lbw b Kabir	0
Hinds c and b Mosaddek	78
Cuff lbw b Aziz	1
Hibbert c Anwar b Mosaddek	18
Samuels c Anwar b Aziz	31
R Powell b Mosaddek	86
Breese c Akram b Aziz	72
Bernard c Imran b Kabir	9
D Powell c Aziz b Kabir	38
Lawson c Anwar b Aziz	8
Cunningham not out	12
Extras: (b-9, lb-1, w-1, nb-4)	15
Total: (All out in 94.5 overs)	368
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-1, 3-90, 4-131, 5-157, 6-278, 7-295, 8-331, 9-349	
Bowler	O M R W
Kabir	21.5 4 76 3
Aziz	21 2 86 4
Mushfiqur	10 0 39 0
Mosaddek	32 2 133 3
Naimur	10 1 40 0

BANGLADESHA: First innings	
Hannan c D Powell b C'gham	55
Eshanul c R Powell b D Powell	7
Mazharul c Samuels b Breese	2
Imran b D Powell	17
Akram c Hibbert b C'gham	46
Mushfiqur b Bernard	16
Naimur lbw b Bernard	0
Anwar b D Powell	4
Mosaddek c Garrick b Breese	9
Kabir c and b C'gham	2
Aziz not out	0
Extras: (b-2, lb-3, w-1, nb-2)	8
Total: (All out in 70 overs)	166
Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-44, 3-78, 4-88, 5-123, 6-128, 7-144, 8-162, 9-166	
Bowler	O M R W
D Powell	11 1 39 3
Lawson	13 3 34 0
Breese	13 5 23 2
C'gham	15 4 39 3
R Powell	8 1 11 0
Bernard	6 2 8 2

SEE PAGE 15

India won't accept it

AP, New Delhi

India rejected the Pakistani cricket board's plan to hold a cricket match between the two rival countries to mark Pakistan's 50 years in Test cricket, Indian news agencies said.

"Certainly, this is not the time for resumption of such cricket ties," the Press Trust of India news agency on Friday quoted Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Nirupama Rao as saying.

The United News of India also reported the statement.

Rao was responding to a statement earlier Friday by Gen Tauqir Zia, president of the Pakistan Cricket Board, in Lahore.

Zia said Pakistan wanted to invite India to play a Test as part of the golden jubilee celebrations of Pakistani cricket, despite the hostile relations between the two countries.

Pakistan played their first-ever Test match in 1952 against India in New Delhi. India won the match.

India has refused to allow its cricket team to play Pakistan during the past two years because of simmering political tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbors. Hindu-majority India accuses Muslim-majority Pakistan of supporting Muslim rebels waging a bloody secessionist war in the disputed Kashmir region since 1989.

Pakistan, which was carved out of India in 1947 as a Muslim state, denies the charge. It has often tried to get sporting relations back on track, saying sports and politics should be kept separate.

Pakistan cricket authorities have planned several programmes as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations, including awards for all the 171 cricketers who represented the country in Test cricket. Umpires and board officials will also be awarded, Zia said.

The board also plans to honour the 1992 World Cup winning team, he added.

Lee still not satisfied

AFP, Cape Town

Australian fast bowler Brett Lee says he would like to become the first modern fast bowler to break through the 160kmh barrier -- but he's not going to make it a goal.

Lee was timed at 157.4 kmh on the first day of the Test at Newlands Friday -- the fastest speed recorded since reasonably reliable measuring devices became a regular feature at big matches.

"If it happens, it happens," said Lee. "You tend to bowl your fastest when you are not trying to bowl fast." But he said he would be proud if he went through the 160 mark, which equates to the old 100 miles an hour barrier.

"Speed is my biggest asset," he said.

Lee twice went past 157 kmh Friday. His fastest delivery was bowled to Neil McKenzie in the 17th over but Lee said he was unaware of the speed flashed on a board at the ground until he was told about it during the lunch break.

The previous fastest recorded delivery was 157.2kmh by Pakistan speedster Shoaib Akhtar in a one-day match against Australia in Cardiff in June 2001.

Ironically Lee played in that match, conceding 85 runs off 10 overs, the most by an Australian in a one-day game.

Former Australian fast bowler Jeff Thomson was timed at 160.5kmh during the 1970s when timing devices were less reliable.

Even the modern machines are subject to scepticism. Australian wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist said he wasn't aware of Lee generating extraordinary pace Friday.

"I don't want to steal anyone's thunder," said Gilchrist, "but sometimes you take a delivery you think is quick but it only shows up as 145kmh. Other times it shows a high figure you don't think it was that quick."

But Per Henri Johnson, a spokesman for the manufacturers, said the system in use at Newlands was "based on proven military technology" and had been accepted for use by the United States Army. The same system was used for measuring bowlers' speeds in India, West Indies, Sri Lanka and England.

Johnson said the measurements were accurate to within one percent. He said the speed measured was when the ball left the bowler's hand and not the average speed over the pitch distance.

Magura cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Abul Hossain Khan Smriti Sangsad beat Hercules Sporting Club by eight runs in the Econo Cricket League at the Magura Stadium on Sunday.

Winning the toss, the winners batted first and scored 132 runs all out in 30 overs.

In reply, Hercules were all out for 124 runs in 34.5 overs.

Zia's reign continues



SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman added another feather to his crown when he clinched the Professor Abdur Razzak 28th National

Championship at the NSC chess room on Sunday.

In the final of the 11-round robin league meet, Zia, the defending champion, beat little known Shawkat Hossain Pallab to win the title for a record seventh time.

Playing with black piece, Zia took

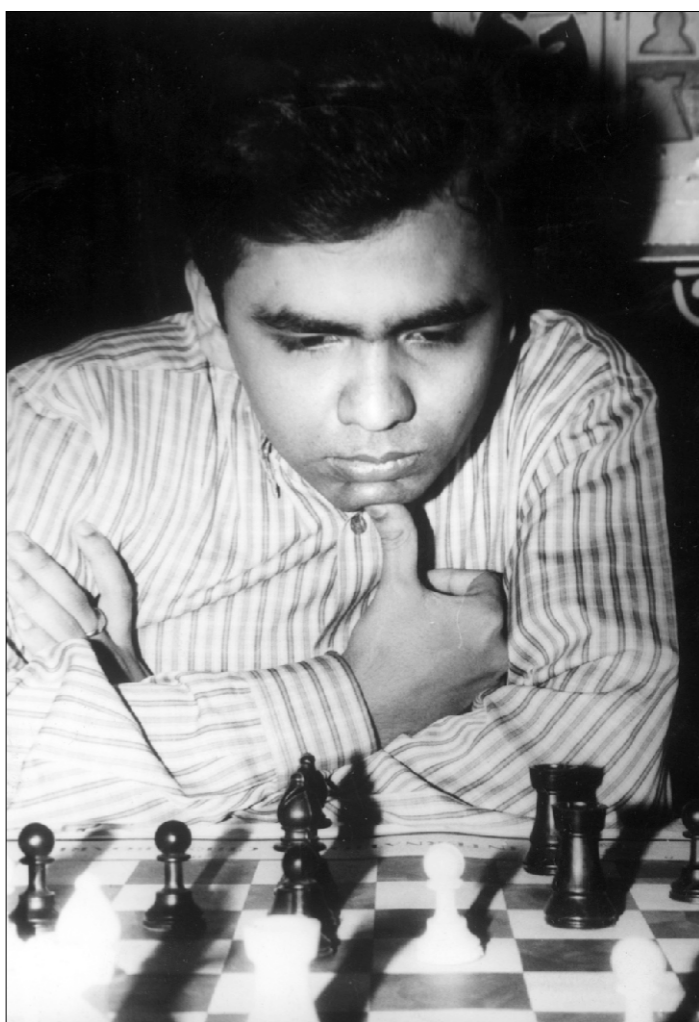


PHOTO: STAR

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman ponders his next move against Shawkat Hossain Pallab during their 11th round engagement in the Prof Abdur Razzak National Chess Championship on Sunday. Zia emerged champion for a record seventh time.

Jamal jolts Barisal

ISPAHANI MIRZAPORE TEA 3rd National Cricket League

SPORTS REPORTER

A brilliant all-round performance from Jamaluddin helped Khulna register their fourth win in the one-day competition of Ispahani 3rd National Cricket League with a thumping 100-run victory over hosts Barisal Sunday.

In a low scoring match at the Barisal Stadium, the middle-order batsman scored a composed 44 off 57 balls to help Khulna score 196 in 47.4 overs all out.

With the ball, Jamal then mesmerised Barisal batsmen to skittle them for a meagre 96 in 28.4 overs. The tall off-spinner was at his miserly best, taking four wickets for only eleven runs off his 6 overs.

Electing to bat first after calling the coin correctly, Khulna were off to a poor start losing three wickets for 43 runs. But a responsible 47 from one-down Bijan Bhattacharya and good knock from Jamal gave the visitors a sizeable total to defend. Bijan smote five boundaries off the 68 balls he faced.

Among others, Hasanuzzaman chipped in with 26 while opener Niaz Murshed made 20.

In reply, Barisal, who lost all of their previous eight matches, failed to negotiate with the left-right spin combination of Jamal and Abdur Razzak, who shared seven wickets among them.

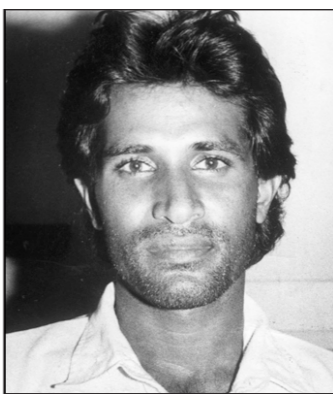
Razzak, the left-arm twerker, took three wickets for 20.

With yesterday's win, Khulna raised their collection to eight points from nine matches.

The final round of the league begins from March 15.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the limited-overs match of Ispahani National League between Khulna and Barisal at the



JAMAL ... m-o-m

Barisal Stadium on Sunday:

KHULNA	
Niaz b Ashfaq	20
Salim b Anisur	4
Bijon run out	47
Shahriar b Ashfaq	1
Hasanuzzaman c Sanwar b Sohail	26
Biplob c Nayan b Sohail	8
Jamal c Sanwar b Sohail	44
Raj b Anisur	13
Masud st. Shaheen b Sohail	6
Al-Amin not out	7
Russel c Ashfaq b Sohail	4
Extras: (lb-7, w-9)	16
Total: (All out in 47.4 overs)	196
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-28, 3-43, 4-	

105, 5-111, 6-118, 7-122, 8-182, 9-189

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Anisur	9	2	30	2
Israk	2	0	19	0
Ashfaq	8	1	27	2
Kamal	10	1	36	0
Rajat	10	0	40	0
Sohail	8.4	1	37	5

BARISAL	
Ashfaq c Hasanuzzaman b Raj	5
Ranin run out	27
Shaheen c Biplob b Al-Amin	2
Nayan lbw b Masud	16
Kamal c Masud b Raj	12
Sanwar c Masud b Raj	0
Saurav c Biplob b Jamal	10
Sohail b Jamal	0
Anisur b Jamal	6
Rajat b Jamal	0
Israk not out	0
Extras: (lb-7, nb-1, w-10)	18
Total: (All out in 28.4 overs)	96
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-48, 3-71, 4-72, 5-81, 6-88, 7-91, 8-92, 9-92	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Russel	7	0	30	0
Al-Amin	6	2	18	1
Raj	7.4	1	20	3
Masud	2	0	10	1
Jamal	6	2	11	4
Result: Khulna won by 100 runs.				
Man-of-the-match: Jamal Babu (Khulna).				

STANDINGS				
(ONE-DAY)				
Team	M	W	L	Points
Sylhet	9	7	2	14
Rajshahi	9	6	3	12
Chittagong	9	6	3	12
Dhaka	9	4	5	8
Khulna	9	4	5	8
Barisal	9	-	9	0

Rain doesn't stop SL



AFP, Lahore

Sri Lanka dethroned Pakistan as Asian Test champions Sunday with an eight-wicket victory on the fifth day of the final at the Gaddafi Stadium here.

After bad weather halted their victory march on the fourth day, the second new ball did the trick for the visitors as they wrapped up Pakistan's second innings for 325 with experienced batsman Inzamamul Haq dismissed on 99.

That left them needing just 32 to win. Mahela Jayawardene hit pacer Shoaib Akhtar to the cover boundary to conclude an emphatic victory after Pakistan had claimed the wickets of openers Marvan Atapattu and Sanath Jayasuriya.

Placed fourth on the International Cricket Council's Test ratings, Sri Lanka recorded their ninth consecutive win and move to England in a

month's time with their tails up.

Pakistan's captain Waqar Younis paid tribute to the way Sri Lanka performed.

"They (Sri Lankans) played better cricket and our first innings score of 234 cost us the match," Younis said.

"Sri Lanka batted well and Kumar Sangakkara's double hundred took the match away from us and then Muralitharan bowled us out."

Sri Lanka dominated the match right from the word go after winning the toss and dismissing Pakistan for 234 on the first day.

Man-of-the match Kumar Sangakkara scored 230 to help Sri Lanka notch 528 in their first innings.

A debatable decision by Australian umpire Daryl Harper brought Pakistan's downslide in the fourth over with the new ball as he adjudged the home team's last hope Inzamamul Haq's leg before off Chaminda Vaas for 99.

Inzamam, Pakistan's vice captain, fought a lone battle for his team for 300 minutes and hit six fours and

a six during his 228 balls stay at the crease. It was the sixth time that he had been dismissed in the nervous nineties in 80 Tests.