



Did U Know?

The highest innings score in Test cricket when no batsman made century is 524 for 9 declared by India against New Zealand at Nagpur in 1976-77. All eleven players reached double figures but the highest score was only 70.



Florentine Perez

(Real Madrid president)
"Michael Owen can be one of the world's great players and the best players must play for Real Madrid."



ESPN

Australia v South Africa
Second Test, Day Four
Highlights at 9:00 am
Australia v South Africa
Second Test, Day Five
Live from 2:30 pm
Super Selector
Cricket Programming
4:30 pm
Sportscenter Hindi
Sports News
Live at 9:30 pm
Football Focus
Soccer Magazine
10:00 pm

Arsenal v Deportivo
UEFA Champions' League
Live at 1:30 am (Wednesday)

STAR Sports

Sportsline Today
Sports News
8:00 am and 12:30 pm
Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
8:30 pm
Leeds United v Liverpool
English Premiership
Repeat at 1:00 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sports News
Live at 8:00 pm
England v New Zealand
First Test, Day One
Live at 3:30 am (Wednesday)

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

- 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?
1-0 2-01-1
- Who clinched the National junior chess title?
Jamaluddin Sagar
- Who won the Pan-Pacific Open tennis title?
Narasimha Sivasankar Kournikova

Class. Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (If any)



(L) Young ladies hold placards of participating teams as they lead the athletes' march past. (R) Prime Minister Khaleda Zia releases colourful balloons while declaring the Bangladesh Game open.



PHOTO: STAR

Games unveiled



SPORTS REPORTER

The Seventh Bangladesh Games got off to a rousing start at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Monday.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia formally inaugurated the eight-day sporting carnival amidst fanfare and huge cheers from the packed big bowl, which resembled a moving panorama of a rainbow.

"Apart from cricket and chess we have enjoyed any real successes in other games and sports. So, I think these Games will be the stepping stones for the other sports to make their mark in the international arena," said the prime minister in her

brief speech before declaring the meet open.

Shamima Sattar Mimra, a former high jumper, and middle-distance runner Milzar Hossain lit the eternal flame immediately after the declaration.

Three small aircraft of the Army Aviation Corps flew over, leaving a trail of colours. A helicopter then sprinkled rose petals over the 3,500 athletes taking part in 25 disciplines.

The three-hour spectacle unfolded as soon as the head of the government's motorcade, escorted by fourteen cavalrymen, arrived at the all-purpose venue.

Seven paratroopers carrying seven different flags including the red and green, landed perfectly from an altitude of seven thousand feet on to one of the cricket pitches.

President of the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) Lt Gen Harun-Ar-Rashid BP delivered the introductory speech.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman, in his deliberation, emphasised the importance

of the government was attaching to promote sports in the country.

He added that no expense would be spared to develop the standard of various sporting activities.

A deer, the mascot of the Games, led the march past of nearly 100 participating teams.

Ace sprinter and 200m Madras SAF Games gold medalist Mahabub took the Athletes' Oath.

Noted vocalist Tapan Chowdhury and his group made a full circle on a decorated vehicle singing the Games song.

Tribal dancers, students of Bharatshwary Homes and members of the paramilitary forces later put on a choreography display to entertain the audience.

But the biggest cheer was reserved for the clever Army dog squad and an elite commando unit.

The lavish opening ceremony staged at a cost of 1.75 crore taka, was rounded off by an eye-catching display of fireworks.



PHOTO: STAR

HILL TRACTS ON PLAIN LAND! Chakra artists perform traditional tribal dance during the opening ceremony of the Bangladesh Games at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

McKenzie's near miss

Cricket

REUTERS, Cape Town

Neil McKenzie was run out one run short of his third Test century and leg-spinner Shane Warne took six wickets in his 100th Test as South Africa set Australia 331 to win the second Test on Monday.

South Africa were dismissed for 473 in their second innings on the stroke of tea on the fourth day, Warne completing an astonishing 70 overs and finishing with six for 161 when he had last man Dewald Pretorius caught at first slip for a duck.

It was the most overs the leg-spinner has bowled in an innings in his 100 Test matches, surpassing the 55 against South Africa in Durban in 1993-94.

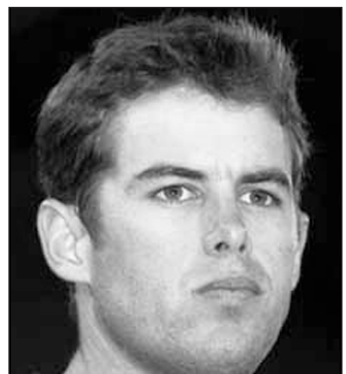
McKenzie suffered the agony of being out for 99 when he pushed Brett Lee into the covers and set off for a single. Damien Martyn dived to his left and threw down the stumps at the bowler's end to catch McKenzie just short of his ground.

McKenzie's 99 came in a little over five hours from 226 balls and included 14 fours, most either pulled or driven with crisp timing.

For the second day in succession, Australian captain Steve Waugh turned to Warne for the first over of the day and after working through 42 overs on Day Three, the leg-spinner again turned into a

sterling performance.

Warne struck with the only wicket of the morning, Ashwell Prince pushing forward on 20, the ball flying off his glove towards silly point where Ricky Ponting took an excellent one-handed catch.



NEIL MCKENZIE

Mark Boucher scored a belligerent 37 before he was trapped on the back foot lbw by Jason Gillespie and Andrew Hall was run out for a duck after athletic work by Lee. Makhaya Ntini was Warne's fifth victim, caught in the deep for 11 after slogging. Paul Adams finished 23 not out which included sixes off both Warne and Mark Waugh.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the fourth day of the second Test between South

Africa and Australia at Newlands Monday:

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 239 (A Hall 70, P Adams 35, M Boucher 26; G McGrath 3-42, J Gillespie 3-52)

AUSTRALIA: First innings 382 (A Gilchrist 138 not out, M Hayden 63, S Warne 63; M Ntini 4-93, P Adams 4-102)

SOUTH AFRICA: Second

innings (overnight 307-4)
Gibbs c Ponting b Warne 39
Kirsten lbw b Lee 87
Smith c Gilchrist b Warne 68
Kallis lbw b Warne 73
McKenzie run out (Martyn) 99
Prince c Ponting b Warne 20
Boucher lbw b Gillespie 37
Hall run out (Lee) 0
Adams not out 23
Ntini c Langer b Warne 11
Pretorius c M Waugh b Warne 0
Extras: (b-8, lb-3, w-2, nb-3) 16
Total: (All out in 162 overs) 473

Fall of wickets: 1-84, 2-183, 3-254, 4-284, 5-350, 6-431, 7-433, 8-440, 9-464

Bowler
McGrath 25 7 56 0
Gillespie 29 10 81 1
Warne 70 15 161 6
Lee 22 3 99 1
M Waugh 9 3 34 0
Martyn 4 0 15 0
S Waugh 3 0 16 0

Umpires: Steve Bucknor (West Indies) and Rudi Koertzen (South Africa).

Glory beckons Cairns

AFP, Christchurch

Chris Cairns is bidding to become the second New Zealand all-rounder along with Sir Richard Hadlee to reach 3000 runs and 200 wickets in the opening cricket Test against England starting here on Wednesday.

Only six players in world cricket have achieved the feat -- Sir Garfield Sobers, Ian Botham, Kapil Dev, Imran Khan, Wasim Akram and Hadlee, the current New Zealand chairman of selectors.

The 31-year-old strike bowler has scored 2830 runs from 54 Tests at an average of 32.9 and 194 wickets at 28.91, leaving him 170 runs and six wickets to do the double.

"There are only a few who have done it so it would be nice to put my name alongside them, in this game," Cairns said here Monday.

"They're my heroes and to see the name Cairns in that company would be something special."

Cairns was an influential figure in the last 1999 series in England, which New Zealand won 2-1 following an 83-run triumph in the fourth Test at The Oval.

Cairns captured 5-31 in the first innings and clouted 80 off 93 balls to set up the victory.

While he may not be his old self following a series of knee and back injuries, Cairns has given himself the all-clear after missing Canterbury's warm-up game against the tourists here over the weekend.

Despite young pacesman Ian Butler being unleashed on England for his first Test in the injury absence of Shane Bond, Cairns will have first use of the new ball.

"In Test match cricket it's about experience, and putting the ball in the right area. I've indicated to (skipper) Stephen Fleming I definitely want the new ball," Cairns said.

"You learn to manage your body and know how far you can push yourself. If it's feeling good, yeah great, if it's not quite right you have to pull back. It's all about management."

"It took me until the last Test to wind up in the last series (in England) so hopefully not so long this time."

Chris Drum, who has taken 28 first-class wickets at 10.71 this season, is expected to be the third seamer with Chris Martin the likely 12th man.

Cairns rated England "a competitive unit" but felt they would badly miss experienced pacesman Darren Gough who returned home after the one-day series. He was only contracted for the one-day tours of India and New Zealand.

Australia well on course

AFP, Cape Town

A century opening partnership between Justin Langer and Matthew Hayden put Australia firmly on course for victory against South Africa at close on the fourth day of the second Test here Monday.

Set 331 to win after the Australians had ended the home side's innings at 473 all out just before tea, Langer and Hayden tore into the Proteas attack with gusto in the final session.

At close Australia were 131 for one, needing only 200 on the final day to achieve the tenth highest winning fourth innings total in history after some brutal batting.

Langer and Hayden gave Australia an ideal start, putting on 102 in 22 overs.

It was the sixth time in nine Tests that the two left-handers had shared a century opening stand. They were particularly severe on left-arm spinner Paul Adams, who conceded 36 runs in five overs during the opening stand.

BD A crushed

Cricket

AP, St Catherine

Jamaica closed their Busta Cup campaign on a winning note Sunday, thrashing Bangladesh A by an innings and 60 runs at the Chedwin Park ground with one day to spare.

The end came with 90 minutes of play remaining on the third day when Bangladesh A were bowled out for 142, the second time they were dismissed in the match or a score under 200.

It was Jamaica's sixth straight victory, and they ended the tournament on 75 points. Bangladesh A, who were making their debut in the West Indies first-class season finished with 22 points from the seven games.

The Jamaicans will turn their attention to the semifinals of the Busta International Shield against Trinidad and Tobago at Sabina Park. The match starts March 16.

So dominant were the Jamaicans, that they won even though the entire afternoon session

was lost to rain.

Resuming their second innings after the scheduled tea break at 96 for the loss of five wickets, Bangladesh A folded quickly with captain Akram Khan who scored 34 and Naimur Rahman who made 16 the best of the lower-order batsmen.

Jamaica fast bowler Darren Powell captured five wickets for 37 runs. Powell, who had eight wickets in the match, was named man-of-the-match.

Starting the morning at 15 for one, Bangladesh A failed to improve on their first innings performance. Mazharul Haque was the first man out in the morning session, lag before wicket to Powell for eight.

Tushar Imran was next out for night, given out handled ball after he prevented a delivery from Powell from hitting the stumps.

Hannan Sarkar, the first-innings hero with 55, looked good again before he was caught by Jamaican captain Robert Samuels off pacer Jermaine Lawson for 37.

Mushfiqur Rahman was the other

SEE PAGE 15

Ansars stay ahead

SPORTS REPORTER

Four golds -- two each in gymnastics and cycling -- were decided on the opening day of the seventh Bangladesh Games on Monday.

Selina Begum of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) clinched the day's first gold in 30km women's road race, creating a new national record of 49 minutes 31 seconds. The previous record was of one hour 10 minutes and 49 seconds.

Selina's teammate Farhana Sultana bagged the silver with 49.31 seconds while Maleka Parveen of Ansars and VDP won the bronze in 51 minutes, 22 seconds.

In men's 100km road race, Khorshed Alam of Ansars and VDP paddled away with the gold in three hours seven minutes and seven seconds. Shah Ittefak Alam Nahid of BJMC missed out on gold by a second. Humayun Kabir of Ansars

and VDP won the bronze.

At the NSC gymnasium, Sharmin Sultana of Dhaka University won the gold in women's balance beam event collecting 12.80 points while two BKSP girls Aklima Akhter Shathi and Nishat Ara Nadia settled for silver and bronze with 12.35 and 12.20 points respectively.

In men's long horse event, Dulal Gomes of Ansars and VDP grabbed the gold with 17.70 points. His teammate Mamun Al-Firozi pocketed the silver and BKSP's Jahirul Islam got the bronze.

Earlier on Sunday, Biman shuttlers Russell Kabir Sumon and Kanika Adhikari won the mixed double gold defeating Mustafa Javed and Sharmin Ahmed Momo 15-8, 15-5 in the final.

After the opening day, Bangladesh Ansars and VDP were leading the standings with two golds, a silver and two bronzes.

HOCKEY

National defender Isa Mia scored the first hattrick of the Games to guide a powerful Faridpur to a 7-2 win over

Rajshahi in a Group B clash yesterday.

Isa converted three short corners in the 13th, 22nd and 24th minutes to as Faridpur enjoyed a 4-0 lead before the breather. Shahidullah Tito scored the first goal of the match for Faridpur nine minutes into the game.

In the second session, Yen, Rubel and Musa Miah scored one each to take the fate of the match beyond any doubt. Kamal scored two goals for the losers.

It was Faridpur's second win in as many matches.

In the other match of the day, Bangladesh Army also registered their second of the competition. In the battle between two service teams Army prevailed 2-0 over Navy. The winners led the first half 1-0.

BASKETBALL

Bangladesh Army, Munshiganj and Bangladesh Air Force won their respective first round matches at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium.

In the day's first match Army outplayed Patuakhali 117-32 while Munshiganj beat Bangladesh Police by 116-76 in the next match. Bangladesh Air Force won the other match against Narail by 93-45.

VOLLEYBALL

Bangladesh Navy beat Rajshahi 3-0 in the opening match of the volleyball competition at the court adjacent to the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Having won the first set with some degree of opposition (25-16), Navy showed no mercy for their opponents, clinching the next two sets 25-5 and 25-8.

In the other match, Bangladesh Air Force recorded an identical (25-11, 25-15, 25-16) win over Khulna. In the eve's event, BJMC beat Khulna by 3-0 (25-4, 25-7 and 25-6).

HANDBALL

Bangladesh Rifles thrashed Natore 40-8 in the day's first match while Dhaka defeated Faridpur by 30-12 in the second match.

In the women's section, Ansars and VDP outplayed Narail 25-9

SEE PAGE 15



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

PERFECT BALANCE: Sharmin Sultana Shumi of Dhaka University displaying her craft on the balance beam during her Bangladesh Games gold medal winning routine in the event at the National Sports Council (NSC) gymnasium yesterday.

Pakistan's home worry

Cricket

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan were Monday looking for a new cricket recipe to avoid home defeats after Sri Lanka dealt them a rude wakeup call in their eight-wicket defeat at the second Asian Test Championship final.

"Lambs at home, tigers abroad," sums up Pakistan's poor home record and a better away record, unlike their arch-rivals who take flak over their abysmal record abroad but who are hard to beat at home.

"The Pakistan team struggles on home grounds because they don't bat and field properly, they must stop taking home series easy and add more professionalism in their approach," said former captain Zaheer Abbas.

Pakistan were bowled out for 234 and 325 and conceded a mammoth 528 against Sri Lanka in the Asian Test Championship final on Sunday.

That poor showing resulted in Pakistan's sixth defeat in the last 14 home Tests with only two wins. They have lost home series against Sri Lanka, England, Zimbabwe and Australia since 1998.

"The team didn't look settled in this match and lost to Sri Lanka who has only Muttiah Muralitharan as their only match winner," Abbas, known as the "Asian Don Bradman" in his heyday, said.

Sri Lanka broke Pakistan's unbeaten home sequence when an Arjuna Ranatunga-led side beat Pakistan 2-1, their first home series

defeat since 1980-81.

A 1-0 defeat against South Africa followed.

Pakistan's only home series win in this period came against West Indies whom they thrashed 3-0 in 1997-98.

"Home defeats prove there is lack of planning and that's why I left the coach's job," former captain and coach Intikhab Alam said.

Alam was sacked mid-way through Pakistan's home series against Sri Lanka two years ago.

"You can't win a Test without an experienced spinner and it was a poor selection because Shahid Afridi and Shoaib Malik can't win you a Test with their bowling," he said.

Pakistan surprisingly left out their experienced off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq and opted for allrounder Malik and did not consider veteran

pacers Wasim Akram and opener Saeed Anwar.

"Openers are not allowed to settle, with Pakistan playing every time with a new set of openers so after such results the chief selector must go," he said.

Chief selector Wasim Bari defended the selection process.

"We select 14 or 15 players and it's up to the captain and coach to select the final 11," Bari said.

"In my opinion pressure of expectations on home grounds and lack of experience of our curator are the reason behind our poor home record," he said.

Pakistan's only curator, Mohammad Bashir, has little experience and everyone, including himself, was left wondering how the pitch would behave.

"Even England is facing such problems and are considering using Australian pitches."

Bari denied there was a lack of harmony between the selection committee and captain Waqar Younis.

"There is no disharmony, we take all the aspects into consideration and then select the squad and pass it to team management," he said.

The chief selector defended Akram's omission.

"There is no doubt on Akram's ability and experience but in the last one year he has struggled with his fitness and its our wish he regain full fitness to assist the side in the 2003 World Cup," he said.

Pakistan now take on New Zealand in a two-Test and three-one day series in April-May.

Big win for Marketing

UNB, Dhaka

Marketing Department defeated Sangskrit and Pali Department by nine wickets in the Dhaka University Inter-department Cricket Competition at the Jagannath Hall ground yesterday.

Bating first, Sangskrit and Pali were shot out for 52 in 21.5 overs.

Bipul top-scored with 18 for the losers while Ishiaque and Danesh bagged four wickets each for the winners.

Marketing Department reached the target for the loss of one wicket in 5.1 overs.