



Did U Know?

Kevin Nash's first wrestling character was a charter known as Oz. After that he wrestled as Vinnie Vegas before becoming Diesel in the WWF.



DD National

India vs Zimbabwe
Fourth ODI (D/N)
Live at 2:30 pm

ESPN

Sport News
6:30 am
South Africa vs Australia
Third Test, Day One
7:00 am

English Premier Football League
Tottenham Hotspur vs Man United
11:00 am

South Africa vs Australia

Third Test, Day Two
Live at 1:55 pm
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
4:00 pm

English Premier Football League
Middlesbrough vs Liverpool
9:30 pm

STAR Sports

New Zealand vs England
First Test, Day Four
Live at 3:27 am
World Cup Soccer Mix
12:30 pm

Primera Liga
Highlights at 8:00 pm
Gillette World Sports Special
Int'l Sport News
8:30 pm

Primera Liga
Barcelona vs Real Madrid
Live at 2:30 am (Sunday)



Sepp Blatter

(FIFA chief)
"FIFA will do everything it can to curb black market sales of football World Cup tickets over the

World Cup tickets over the



Star WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION 168

Tick the correct answers, post to

The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm

March 29, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who won the Prof Abdur Razzak 28th national chess title?

Reefat-bin- Ziaur Niaz
Sattar Rahman Murshed

2. Who became Asian Test champions?

India Sri Lanka Pakistan

3. Who clinched the World Cup hockey title?

Name

Class. Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

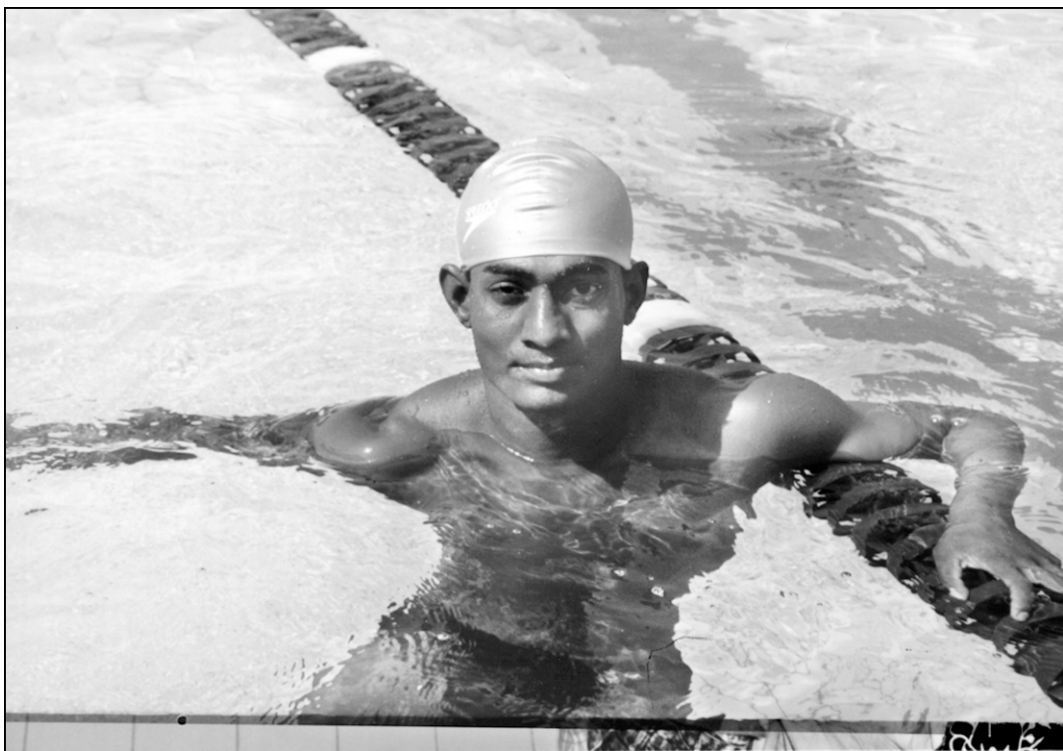
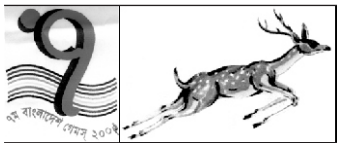


PHOTO: STAR

DOUBLE DELIGHT: Rubel Rana of Bangladesh Navy who won the men's 100-metre backstroke in a record 1min 4.16sec time. Later on, Rana also grabbed the 400-metre freestyle gold.

Doly rules the pool



SPORTS REPORTER

Doly Akhter crowned herself as an undisputed queen of the pool as the BJMC (Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation) swimmer extended her Bangladesh Games gold haul to an amazing eight, two of which came yesterday.

Doly set a new national record of 39.75sec to win 50m breaststroke. The previous record was 43.82sec.

The wily swimmer then up with Merina Khatun, Bobita and Shapla to clinch the women's 4x100m freestyle relay gold with yet another new national record, clocking 5min 9.37sec.

Doly shattered six records so far over the last three days.

Rubel Rana also bagged two gold yesterday to raise his olive tally to six. The Bangladesh Navy natant topped 100m backstroke record, clocking 1min 4.16sec and then went on to clinch 400m freestyle glory in 4mins 29.97sec.

Ace swimmer Karar Samedul Islam, who has already bettered two SAF Games record, set another new national record winning 50m breaststroke in 31.33sec.

SHOOTING

Two men's finals of free rifle (3 positions) and rapid fire pistol were held at the National Shooting Complex in Gulshan yesterday.

Veteran Saiful Alam Chowdhury Rinki of Gulshan Shooting Club clinched the free rifle (3 positions) gold scoring 1112 points while his teammates Golam Shafiuddin Shipu and Shafayet Hossain Apollo settled for silver and bronze scoring 1097 and 1091 points respectively.

In the rapid fire pistol event, Asif Hossain of the same club won the gold collecting highest 544 points while Dhaka Rifle Club's Haider Ali and MA Gaffar of Ansars and VDP snatched silver and bronze with 508 and 507 points respectively.

VOLLEYBALL

Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Air Force reached the men's semifinals after winning their respective quarterfinals yesterday.

Navy beat Khulna by 25-11, 25-

10, 25-14 and Air Force eliminated Dhaka by 25-11, 25-21 and 25-23.

In the women's group, Ansars and BJMC reached the final.

Ansars outplayed Dhaka University 25-4, 25-12, 25-9 in the first semifinal while BJMC defeated Rajshahi 25-10, 25-8 and 25-10.

ATHLETICS

Mohammad Hemayet Kazi clinched gold in the marathon as his team Bangladesh Army finished champions in athletics.

On Friday morning, Hemayet took 2hour 27min 41sec to finish first in the longest distance run of the competition.

Out 36 athletics gold, Army took 15, two more than BJMC. Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protishthan evenly shared the other eight gold.

FOOTBALL

Chittagong and Bangladesh Army moved into the 7th Bangladesh Games football final after winning their respective semifinals at the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium on Friday.

In the first semifinal, Chittagong beat defending champions Dhaka University by a solitary goal.

After a barren first half, national striker Alfaz Ahmed netted the all-important match winner in the 70th minute.

In the other semifinal, Bangladesh Army recorded an identical win over Dhaka district.

Forward Rashedul Hasan scored the match winner for Army in the 60th minute.

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Aussies in sort of trouble



Cricket

AFP, Durban

South Africa clawed their way back into the third and final Test against Australia at Kingsmead here on Friday when the run-out of Ricky Ponting sparked a collapse.

Australia were 230 for six at tea. Ponting top-scored with 89.

The tourists, who were sent in to bat on an easy-paced pitch, were 169 for two and scoring freely before Ponting was run out by a direct hit from Herschelle Gibbs at cover.

Ponting had seemed set for a second successive century as he stroked his 89 off 154 balls with 16 fours.

Ponting clinched Australia's four-wicket win in the second Test in Cape Town Tuesday when, with three needed, he hit Paul Adams for six to

finish on 100 not out.

But he fell victim to a superb piece of fielding by Gibbs after Mark Waugh played a ball by Jacques Kallis into the covers and called for a risky single.

Gibbs, running from backward point, raced in, turned and hit the stumps at the batsman's end with Ponting just short of the crease.

Mark Waugh followed four overs later when he edged Kallis to Graeme Smith at slip.

Steve Waugh, the Australian captain, was caught behind off left-arm spinner Paul Adams for seven and Australia had lost three wickets for 13 runs in seven overs.

It was the third time in successive innings that the unorthodox Adams had dismissed Steve Waugh cheaply.

The in-form Adam Gilchrist carried on in the style which took him to unbeaten innings of 204 and 138 in the first innings of the first two Tests

to score 37 in a partnership of 48 with Damien Martyn before Martyn was bowled off an inside edge by David Terbrugge shortly before tea.

Opening bowler Terbrugge earlier made a successful return to Test cricket after a three-year absence when he took a wicket with his first ball.

South Africa surprisingly sent the world champions in to bat on a hot, sunny day and Justin Langer made a flying start when he took 11 runs off the first over, bowled by Makhaya Ntini, including two fours.

But Langer tried to pull the first ball of the next over, bowled by Terbrugge, and top-edged a catch to square leg.

Matthew Hayden made 28 before

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Wasim wants to carry on

REUTERS/AFP, Karachi

Pakistan cricket great Wasim Akram Thursday said he was itching to play after recovering from injury and would not confine himself to just Test or one-day international matches.

"I have enough fire in the belly to carry on and would not confine (myself) to one form of the game because it would mean that I am not fit and not performing," the 35-year-old former skipper told reporters here.

Akram said that he was still hungry for success, despite being dropped for last week's Asian Test Championship (ATC) final against Sri Lanka.

Selectors and captain Waqar Younis said Akram was not considered for the final against Sri Lanka as they were unsure of his fitness.

The 35-year-old insisted his fitness was not an issue and that Pakistan's performances against New Zealand and Australia later this year will act as a gauge for their chances in the 2003 World Cup.

"It is still far off. Before that we play some very important Tests and one-dayers against New Zealand, Australia and South Africa," he said.

"If we do well against them, we can be confident of doing well in the World Cup."

Akram, the only bowler to take more than 400 wickets in both Tests and one-day cricket, was surprisingly left out of the ATC final which Pakistan lost to Sri Lanka in Lahore last week.

"It's a matter of personal satisfaction and I am satisfied that I can still contribute and once I realise I am not contributing I will quit."

Akram is appearing in Pakistan's national one-day tournament to prove his fitness ahead of next month's tri-nation series in Sharjah, which involves Sri Lanka and New Zealand.

Sampras, Nike make truce

REUTERS, Indian Wells

Seven-times Wimbledon champion Pete Sampras has "kissed and made up" with U.S. sportswear manufacturer and sponsor Nike after a much-publicised split at the beginning of the year.

Having been clad in Nike for the past decade, the holder of a record 13 Grand Slam titles appeared at January's Australian Open de-swooshed, playing in a generic white shirt and wearing a Los Angeles Lakers cap at news conferences.

His deal had expired at the start of the year and Sampras indicated the new offer had not been as lucrative as the last deal.

"They didn't show me respect," Sampras said in January.

But at this week's Indian Wells Masters tournament, the distinctive logo was back on his shirt and a smile was back on his face.

"We've kissed and made up," Sampras grinned. "It feels good that we've patched it up."

"I'm happy to be with Nike for the next number of years. Hopefully, I can do a lifetime deal with them."

Friendly cricket

UNB, Dhaka

Uttara Club earned a comfortable seven-wicket victory over Dhaka Club in a friendly cricket match at the Mirpur City Club ground yesterday.

Batting first, Dhaka Club made 198 runs in 30 overs.

In reply, Uttara Club reached the winning target of 199 runs losing only three wickets.

WHIZZ KID-167 correct answers

1. Who won the U-19 cricket World Cup?
Ans. Australia

2. Who became African Nations Cup football champions?
Ans. Cameroon

3. What was the result of the first ever Test series in Sharjah between Pakistan and West Indies?
Ans. 2-0

4. Who clinched the National junior chess title?
Ans. Parag

5. Who won the Pan Pacific Open tennis title?
Ans. Hingis

WHIZZ KID-167 winner

Sharjana Reza

(Scholastica)

Please produce your ID card and an attested passport size photograph while collecting the winner's prize from the Sports Desk of The Daily Star at 7:30 pm on March 21.

Some cheers for Ashrafu

ISPAHANI MIRZAPORE TEA 3rd National Cricket League

SPORTS REPORTER

Test cap Mohammad Ashrafu scored his first fifty in the Ispahani National Cricket League to guide champions Dhaka to a commanding position against hosts Rajshahi at the Cricket garden in Rangpur on Friday.

On the penultimate day of the four-day match, Ashrafu, the young right hander scored a patient 64 as Dhaka, resuming the day on 39 for four in their second innings, reached

Buoyed by his half century, Ashrafu then cast a leg-spinning web around Rajshahi batsmen. The 19-year old recorded seven maidens in his eight over spell and conceded just one run in return for the wicket of opener Shamimul Haq who was looking good on 59.

Sylhet v Barisal

Away in Sylhet, the home side set Barisal a target of 256 to register their maiden victory.

But the visitors, who have already tasted defeat in eight out of nine matches, lost two wickets for 56 before stumps.

Earlier, resuming the day on 63 for no loss, Sylhet scored 206 in

around a brilliant century (102) from middle order Asadullah Khan.

In his 275-minute stay, the right hander smote 16 boundaries.

Among others, opener Raju Parvez scored 37.

Off spinner Sabbir Khan was the wrecker in chief for Chittagong taking six wickets for 76.

Chittagong were 6 for one in 7 overs at the close of the day's play.

Dhaka vs Rajshahi

Venue: Rajshahi Stadium

DHAKA: First innings 299 all out in 94.3 overs (K Mahmud 66, Fahim 52, Sharif 36 n.o., Sohel 3-83, Aminul jr 2-15)

RAJSHAH: First innings 173 all out in 61.3 overs (rafiquel 66, Imran 21, Arafat 4-33, fahim 2-44)

DHAKA: Second innings (over-night 39 for 4 in 21 overs)

Rashedul c Rana b Aminul jr. 4

Ashrafu b Imran 64

Jahangir lbw b Aminul jr. 0

Shipon c & b Al-Mamun 10

Mossaraf c Rana b Imran 3

K Mahmud c & b Aminul jr. 8

Halim Shah b Aminul jr 0

Sazzad hit wicket b Imran 17

Fahim c Hasan b Aminul jr 30

Sharif c & b Mahbub 16

Afarat not out 6

Extras: (b-5, lb-6) 11

Total: (All out in 67.3 overs) 169

Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-4, 3-17, 4-36, 5-46, 6-50, 7-100,

Bowler **O** **M** **R** **W**

Aminul jr. 24.3 6 59 5

Al-Mamun 15 5 21 1

Rana 7 1 27 0

Imran 12 4 22 3

Mustadir 8 3 19 0

Mahbub 1 0 11 1

RAJSHAH: Second innings

Rafiquel c Halim b Fahim 16

Shamim c Razzak b Ashrafu 59

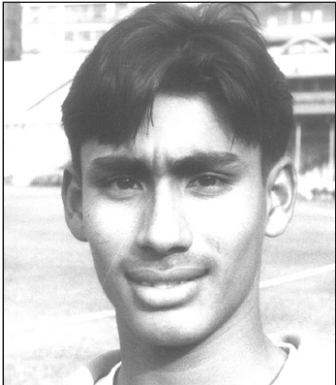
Nuruzzaman batting 9

Nasan batting 0

Extras: (b-1, lb-9, nb-1) 11

Total: (For 2 wktes in 41 overs) 95

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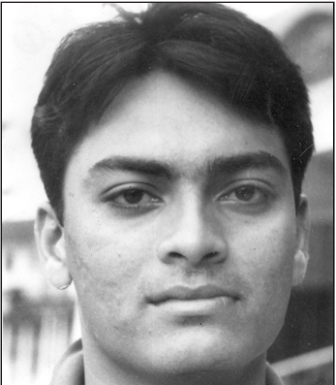
ASHRAFUL ... 64

169 before being all out to take an overall lead of 295 runs.

In reply, the home side made 95 for two at stumps, needing another 201 runs to win the match.

Ashrafu, who has had a rather forgettable season, finally showed glimpses of his potential as he grafted for 253 minutes to lead the Dhaka recovery from the precarious position of 6 for 50 at one stage.

Number nine Fahim Muntasir again batted well and gave Ashrafu good support with 30.



SABBIR ... 6 for 76

their second innings, an overall lead of 255 runs.

Opener Intiaz hit the highest 44 followed by his captain Syed Parvez who added 40.

Chittagong v Khulna

The other match at Comilla Stadium between Chittagong and Khulna appears to be heading for a draw.

On the third day, Khulna, scored 248 runs in their first innings in reply to Chittagong's 325.

The Khulna innings was built



PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka University's Arman Mia is trying hard to keep possession against a host of Chittagong players during their Seventh Bangladesh Games football competition at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on Friday.

Thorpe, Flintoff run riot



Cricket

REUTERS, Christchurch

Graham Thorpe struck the third fastest double century in Test history on Friday as England put the New Zealand attack to the sword on the third day of the first Test.

Thorpe, dropped off the second ball he faced, struck 200 not out from 231 balls as England raced to 468 for six declared in an astonishing turnaround from the first two days when the ball ruled the bat.

At the close New Zealand, set an improbable 550 to win, were 28 without loss when the shadow from the giant western stand at Jade Stadium forced the umpires to call off

play with 12 overs still to bowl.

Only Australia wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist and England's

Ian Botham have reached 200 faster than Thorpe, who struck 28 fours and four sixes.

The Surrey left-hander also shared an England record sixth wicket stand against all countries of 281 with Andy Flintoff (137). The previous best of 240 was scored by Peter Parfitt (131 not out) and Barry Knight (125) against New Zealand at Auckland in 1963.

Flintoff, whose recent Test form has been dire, struck with enormous power, smashing 23 fours and three sixes against a depleted New Zealand attack. Chris Cairns, who took two wickets in the opening over on Wednesday, did not take the field on Friday after injuring his right knee.

After scoring a duck in the first innings, Flintoff was quickly in to his stride and brought up his first Test 50 from 49 balls with nine fours and a six.

Thorpe, who had been dropped second ball by Nathan Astle in the slips after hitting a boundary from his first delivery from paceman Chris Drum, was equally if less spectacularly aggressive.

The afternoon's run feast was totally out of character with the previous pattern of play on a pitch that was still lively when play resumed on Friday.

England, resuming on 63 for two, lost three wickets in the first hour before Thorpe and Flintoff turned the game decisively in their favour.

Captain Nasser Hussain was out early when he followed a wide delivery from fast-medium Chris Drum and snicked the ball to wicketkeeper Adam Parore.

Mark Butcher went for 34 when he stepped on to his stumps attempting to push an Ian Butler delivery from the back foot and Mark Ramprakash (11) played on to Drum.

During that period Hussain was dropped by Astle, a difficult chance, Thorpe was dropped from a straight-forward second slip catch and Ramprakash had a run-out escape when Mark Richardson missed the stumps from two metres.

That was the time New Zealand ever looked like getting back in to the match as Thorpe and Flintoff began to bat with the freedom usually seen in a one-day match.

Thorpe reached his 10th Test century and his third against New Zealand, followed closely by Flintoff and continued to accumulate runs remorselessly.

He reached his 200 in 330 minutes before Hussain decided to end New Zealand's misery and declare

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PHOTO: STAR

Players and officials of Bangladesh Rifles who won the Bangladesh Games kabadi gold.