

Did U Know?

CB Fry has not only captained England in cricket, but has represented England in football, and once equalled the world long-jump record.

What to Watch

ESPN
South Africa vs Australia
Third Test, Day Two
6:30 am
English Premier Football League
Middlesbrough vs Liverpool
10:30 am
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
12:30 pm
South Africa vs Australia
Third Test, Day Three
Live at 1:55 pm
World Cup Soccer Mix
4:00 pm
English Premier Football League
Aston Villa vs Arsenal
Live at 10:00 pm
STAR Sports
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
3:30 pm
Primera Liga
Valencano vs Valencia
Live at 1:30 am (Monday)

Talk Turkey

Brian Lara
(West Indies star batsman)
"It's hard for me to say when I'll be back. I think that has to come from a doctor, but hopefully I'll be able to play one or two matches for Trinidad and Tobago before getting ready for the series versus India."
On his possible comeback deadline.

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?			
Refaat-bin-Sattar	Ziaur Rahman	Niaz 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)			

AIUB cricket

UNB, Dhaka

Stamford University reached the quarterfinals of the AIUB inter-private university Cricket tournament beating Gono Bishyabidyalaya by five wickets at the Old DOHS cricket ground in the city Saturday.

Batting first, Gono Bishyabidyalaya made 211 runs for 9 wickets in the stipulated 40 overs. In their turn, Stamford overhauled the target, making 213 for five, in 34 overs.



PHOTO: STAR

DOLY DOESN'T STOP: BJMC's Doly Akhter swims to clinch the 50-metre freestyle gold, her ninth overall, at the Mirpur National Swimming Complex on Saturday.

Doly, first to last



SPORTS REPORTER

Doly Akhter completed a phenomenal run in the Seventh Bangladesh Games, finishing with nine golds as curtains came down on the swimming competition of the meet yesterday.

The BJMC natant added the 50m freestyle gold at the Mirpur National Swimming Complex yesterday but the Kowmi student from Rajbari, barely missed out on equaling country's ace swimmer Mosharaf Hossain's record of 10 gold medals achieved in the first Bangladesh Games in 1987. Also, the disqualification of the BJMC ladies in the 4x100 metres relay meant that Doly had to be satisfied with 9 golds.

However, that slight disappointment was overshadowed when Doly clocked 32.01 seconds in the freestyle to become the fastest women swimmer of the country.

The strapping BJMC girl however was all humility as she admitted to the press after her heroic deeds that the absence of another leading swimmer Sabura Khatun helped her rule the pool.

"I was expecting a tough competition from Sabura in all the events except the breaststrokes", said an elated Doly.

Sabura, who won seven medals in the 1999 Kathmandu SAF Games including a silver, could not take part in the meet following an unfortunate legal wrangle between Kushtia District Sports Association and BJMC.

Sabura was a registered swimmer of Kushtia. But this year she wanted to switch to BJMC.

While Doly established herself as the queen of the pool, Kazi Monirul Islam of Bangladesh Navy retained his status as the fastest man.

The 27-year-old swimmer from Gopalganj won his favourite event with a timing of 25.03 seconds. It should be mentioned that Monirul had never lost his crown since he won the event way back in 1997. It was his fifth gold in the meet.

Rubel Rana was the other outstanding performer in the competition, winning eight gold medals. The Bangladesh Navy swimmer won two golds on the concluding day includ-

ing one in the 1500-metre freestyle event with a record timing of 18 min 03.20 sec. The previous mark was 18 min 06.07 sec.

But the most eye-catching performance in the swimming competition was reserved for Karar Samedul Islam, who shattered two SAF Games record on his way to win the 100m and 200m breaststrokes. The ace swimmer of the country also won the 4x100m medley relay gold to improve his tally to four.

Bangladesh Navy established their supremacy again winning the highest 19 gold and 13 silver. BJMC finished second with 13 gold, one silver and 2 bronze while Ansars and VDP grabbed six gold, 11 silver and seven bronze. Rezaul Islam won Bangladesh Army's all three gold medals in the diving event on the opening day.

MEDAL TABLE			
Team	G	S	B
Ansar and VDP	47	42	48
BJMC	44	29	16
Army	34	31	30
Navy	23	20	8
BDR	12	11	14
BKSP	9	17	17
Biman	7	6	4
Titas Gas	3	3	3
Dhaka Rifle Club	3	1	2
Gulshan SC	3	1	1
Dhaka University	2	6	8
Dhaka Div	2	0	0
Police	1	7	8
Dhaka Dist.	1	6	6
N'ganj Rifle Club	1	2	2
Jessore	1	1	10
Rajshahi	1	1	9
Gulshan Club	1	1	1
Rangamati	1	1	1
Bogra	1	1	0
Jessore EB	1	0	2
Joypurhat	1	0	1
ASA	1	0	0
Notrumps	1	0	0
Madaripur	1	0	0
Saikat Gym.	1	0	0



MONIRUL ... 50m freestyle gold

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But the most eye-catching performance in the swimming competition

DU-Dhaka hockey finale



SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka University and Dhaka District set up a repeat final clash after six years when they prevailed over their respective opponents in the semifinals of contrasting fashion at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium on Saturday.

In the first semifinal, runners-up Dhaka came from behind to pull off a sensational 2-1 victory over Faridpur.

Holders Dhaka University also scored an identical 2-1 victory against Bangladesh Army in the second encounter which is bound to be best remembered for some bizarre ruling by the umpire Maksudur Rahman.

The first match was a spectators' delight, packed with forays and counter forays. Faridpur took a 30th minute lead through national midfielder Musa Miah. But their joy lasted only a minute as Habul equalised.

Rafiqul Islam Kamal, the fleet-footed forward, then struck the winner for Dhaka in the 58th of a match in which fortune kept on fluctuating from one end to the other.

Dhaka shrugged off a tough Army resilience with their prolific marksman Moududur Rahman Shuvo, who scored both the goals. The dapper forward gave the holders a sixth minute lead before Sirajul restored parity for Army five minutes later.

But Shuvo was again in the thick

of things as he sealed the fate of the match in favour of the university team with a 83rd minute golden goal.

Dhaka University could have won the match during the regulation time had Shuvo not ruled out two of their fair attempts.

FOOTBALL

Dhaka Division finished third in the Bangladesh Games football competition as they defeated Dhaka University 2-0 in the third-place decider at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur Saturday.

Mehdi Hasan Tipu and Hanif Pradhan were scorers.

SHOOTING

Sabrina Sultan won her second gold in the shooting competition yesterday.

The ace shooter, who won her favourite .177 rifle event on Thursday for her first gold in the Games, claimed the sports rifle 3 position 20 shots gold with a score of 558.

Her namesake -- Sabrina Rahman of Chittagong Rifles Club -- won the silver with a score of 540 points.

VOLLEYBALL
Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) lifted the

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PHOTO: STAR

SOMERSAULT! An Army stick-wielder falls over while fighting for possession with a Dhaka University player during their Bangladesh Games hockey competition semifinal at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium on Saturday.

India go level

AFP, Hyderabad

India beat Zimbabwe by five wickets in the fourth one-day international to level the five-match series 2-2 here on Saturday.

BRIEF SCORES

Zimbabwe 240-8 in 50 overs; India 244-5 in 48.1 overs

Age-gp cricket

UNB, Dhaka

Orient Sporting Club, Jatrabari Krira Chakra and Eskaton Sabuj Sangha won their respective under-15 tournament matches at different venues in and around the city Saturday.

Orient defeated Lalamatia Club by three wickets at the newly built Fatulla Stadium.

The winners raced to 221 for seven in 38.4 overs while replying to Lalamatia's 220 for eight in 40 overs.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Jatrabari earned an exciting one-wicket victory over Azad Sporting Club.

Azad scored an imposing 256 in 39.3 overs before being all out. But Jatrabari started the chase in a positive manner and ended up winners, making 257 for nine in 45 overs.

At the Dhanmondi Club ground, Eskaton beat Gopibagh Friends' Association by 45 runs.

Gopibagh were bundled out for 198 in 41.5 overs in reply to Eskaton's 243 from 45 overs.

In the day's under-13 tournament, Abahani, Mohammedan Sporting Club and Surjo Tarun Club recorded massive wins against their respective rivals at different city venues.

Inter-university cricket Mar 20

JU CORRESPONDENT, Savar

The inter-university cricket competition will begin at the Jahangirnagar University Central Playground on March 20, official sources said.

In total nine teams, divided into two groups, will play in the round robin preliminary phase. All the matches will be 40-overs-a-side affairs.

Meanwhile, the groupings have also been done. Hosts Jahangirnagar have been placed in Group A along with Dhaka University, Khulna University, Bangladesh Agricultural University and Shahjalal University of Science and Technology.

Group B consists Rajshahi University, Chittagong University, Islamic University and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

Vice-Chancellor of JU Prof Jasim Uddin Ahmed is expected to officially inaugurate the competition. In the first match, the hosts will take on Agricultural University.

The final is slated for April 9.

Meanwhile, a 16-member JU team has been named on Saturday. Sabbir Khan will lead the side while Monjurul Islam will be his deputy. Other members of the team are Shuvro, Chayon, Hannan Sarkar, Debabrata, Sajal, Tuhin, Sanjay, Rana, Roni, Thin, Firoj, Kabir, Turza and Romel.

Anwar left out of Pak side

AFP, Karachi

Opener Saeed Anwar was Saturday left out of Pakistan's 30-strong probable squad for the forthcoming Sharjah tri-series.

"Anwar is regaining fitness and doctors have told me that it would take him three to four weeks to get full fitness," chief selector Wasim Bari said.

"Anwar would definitely come in our scheme of things once he gets fully fit," he said.

Pakistan, Sri Lanka and New Zealand feature in the competition from April 8-17.

Former fast bowling captain Wasim Akram and off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq are included in the list after being axed for the Asian Test Championship final which Sri Lanka won by eight wickets in Lahore last week.

The 33-year-old Anwar, who has played 55 Tests and 230 one-day games, broke his wrist during a similar competition in Sharjah in October last year and missed Pakistan's series against Bangladesh and West Indies earlier this year.

Anwar, who holds the world record of highest one-day innings of 194, became a devout Muslim last year, prompting several observers to speculate he would not play again.

Reports in Pakistan media suggested Anwar is being kept out of the team because he distracts other players by preaching in the dressing room, an assertion Bari rejected.

"It's absurd and I think there is nothing of this sort, let him start playing and he would be considered for selection," he said.

Anwar last month said he would love to play in next year's World Cup in South Africa and shrugged off claims that his turning towards religion would end his career.

Bashar toast of transfers



SPORTS REPORTER

Habibul Bashar is going to be the most sought-after player in the three-day inter-club cricketers' transfer, which begins at the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) office today.

According to sources, defending Premier League champions Mohammedan Sporting Club has already confirmed the services of the country's top batsman for an undisclosed sum.

Mohammedan is set for an ambitious campaign with Test batsman Sanwar Hossain and left-arm spinner Mohammed Rafique likely to fill their quota of three

national pool players.

Mohammedan, who rode on the brilliance of Kenyan batsman Steve Tikolo to regain the title after a barren spell of five years last season, however may have to sacrifice left-arm paceman Monjurul Islam to accommodate Bashar.

Bashar has always been a Bangladesh Biman player ever since joining the national airlines team a decade ago. If he opts for Mohammedan, it will be his first shift in allegiance in years.

Mohammedan is also after gangling off-spinner Sabbir Khan and young wicketkeeper Anwar after their attempt to lure national captain Khaled Masood failed.

Mohammedan's arch-rival and last year's runners-up Abahani on the other hand are concentrating on retaining the same line-up from the previous season. The reputed Dhanmondi outfit have reportedly managed to convince their long-standing captain Akram Khan, all-rounder Naimur Rahman and opener Mehrab Hossain to stay for at least another year.

Abahani are also desperately trying to get the services of two young pacemen Alamgir and Anwar Hossain Monir.

Bangladesh Biman too are following the Abahani lead. Biman have made sure that Aminul Islam, opener Javed Omar and all-rounder Khaled Mahmud doesn't leave along with Hanuzzaman and Aminul jr. They are also trying to rope in national under-19 all-rounder Aftab.

Victoria Sporting are likely to emerge as a big-spending side. The moderate team in a bid to make their centenary celebrations memorable, have already enticed a host of star players like Test opener Al-Shahriar, veteran slow left-arm Enamul Hoque, Monjurul Islam and Khaled Mashud.

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

BASHAR JUNIOR IS BORN: National cricket superstar Habibul Bashar caresses his just-born baby boy as his wife Shaon looks on at the Bangladesh Medical College Hospital on Saturday.

Dhaka champs unbeaten

ISPAHANI MIRZAPORE TEA 3rd National Cricket League

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka rounded off a fantastic campaign in the Ispahani National League with a 109-run victory at Rajshahi on Saturday.

The win, Dhaka's ninth from ten games, also means the team from the capital finish as the unbeaten champions in the first-class competition.

Off-spinner Fahim Muntasir fashioned Dhaka's success with a five-wicket haul as Rajshahi, resuming the day on 95 for two, were bundled out for 186.

Fahim finished with figures of 5-34.

Away at Sylhet, the hosts recorded a 49-run victory over a pointless Khulna thanks to an astonishing match-haul of 11-93 by Alok Kapali.

The leg-spinner followed up his first innings return of 7-36, capturing

four wickets for 60 runs as Barisal tumbled for 206. The victory was a boost for Sylhet, who will go into the limited-overs match against the bottomers for a win today to lift the one-day competition.

At Comilla, the match between Chittagong and Barisal ended in a dull draw.

Hosts Chittagong, resuming the day on 6 for one, finished on 203 for seven with Nafis Iqbal hammering an unbeaten 61.

Wicketkeeper Mortuza struck an equally impressive 66.

SCOREBOARDS

Final scoreboards of the three Ispahani National League matches held at different venues on Saturday.

Dhaka vs Rajshahi
Venue: Rajshahi Stadium
DHAKA: First innings 299 all out in 94.3 overs (K Mahmud 66, Fahim 52; Sohail 3-83)

RAJSHAH: First innings 173 all out in 61.3 overs (Rafique 66, Imran 21; Arafat 4-33)

DHAKA: Second innings 169 all out in 67.3 overs (Ashraf 64, Fahim 30; Aminul jr 5-59, Imran 3-22)

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Astle antics go awry



AFP, Christchurch

New Zealander Nathan Astle blasted Test cricket's fastest-ever double-century Saturday but it could not stop England winning an extraordinary first Test by 98 runs.

Astle's astonishing knock saw him reach 200 off 153 balls, the second century coming off just 39 deliveries.

His performance smashed the previous record of 200 off 212 balls set by Australian Adam Gilchrist against South Africa in Johannesburg last month.

The home-town hero ripped into the England bowlers, particularly

first-innings destroyer Matthew Hoggard, with some of the lustiest hitting seen at the Jade Stadium in Christchurch.

England's players jumped with glee when Astle's batting pyrotechnics came to end as he flashed at a wide Hoggard delivery and was gloved by James Foster for 222 at 5:09pm (0409 GMT).

The belligerent Kiwi No. 5 was at the crease for 231 minutes and struck 28 boundaries and 11 sixes off 168 balls.

Such was his bazooka hitting that he lost two balls with mighty blows out of the ground.

While Astle was blasting away an unthinkable victory was still a possibility as he partnered a crooked

Chris Cairns (23 not out) to put on 118 runs in 55 minutes for the last wicket.

Cairns batted at No.11 because of knee ligament damage, which has ruled him out of the remaining Tests in Wellington and Auckland.

"We were just out there in the zone and everything was going so we just wanted to carry it on and maybe if we got to 70-80 runs to win we'd have a serious look at it," said Astle.

"It was one of those innings that I will probably not play again, but we're 1-0 down and the biggest disappointment was dropping Graham Thorpe on four (who went on to score 200) and for me that was the turning point of the game."

It was astonishing cricket as England bowlers, just one wicket away from victory, appeared impotent to make the final breakthrough as Astle took the sword to them.

Astle earned a standing ovation from the crowd when he reached his 150 off 136 balls and then proceeded to launch into successive sixes off Caddick, the second which cleared the roof of a grandstand forcing a replacement ball to be found.

He took the long handle to another Caddick over with three sixes off three balls. Caddick finished with 6-122 off 25 overs.

"That was a magnificent Test match, he just struck the ball brilliantly," said England captain Nasser Hussain.

"We mixed it up, we bowled slower balls, bouncers, yorkers, length and wherever we bowled it he hit it for six, so you have just got to give credit to the bloke, that was a great innings."

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PHOTO: AFP

New Zealand's Nathan Astle is over the moon after making history during the first Test against England at Christchurch on Saturday.