



Did U Know?

On May 31, 2002, the 17th FIFA World Cup will kick off. It will be the first time two countries host the World Cup football. The final will be played on June 30th.

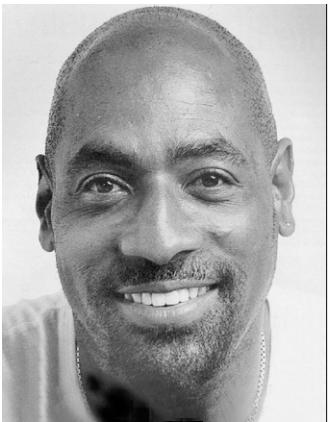


ESPN

World Cup Mix
Football Magazine
10:30 am
Charlton v Tottenham
English Premiership
Repeat at 11:00 am
Australia v South Africa
First one-day international
Live from 1:55 pm
Sportscenter Hindi
Sports News
Live at 9:30 pm
Western Union World Football
10:30 pm
Super Selector
Cricket Programming
11:00 pm

STAR Sports

England v New Zealand
Second Test, Day Two
Live from 4:00 am
Repeat from 4:00 pm
Sportsline Today
Sports News
12:00 am
Arsenal v Aston Villa
English Premiership
Repeat at 1:00 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sports News
Live at 8:00 pm
Here we go!
Football Magazine
8:30 pm
Super Selector
Cricket Programming
10:00 pm



Vivian Richards

(West Indies cricket legend)
"Sachin Tendulkar deserves everything he gets, because he takes everything out on to the field."

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 Mursheed

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)

Premier League kicks off today

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Holders Mohammedan Sporting Club take on promotees Young Pegasus in one of the three matches scheduled for the opening day at the newly built Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Cricket Stadium in Fatullah when the much anticipated GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League kicks off today.

In the other two games, last year's runners up Abahani Krira Chakra will meet Uttara Sporting Club at the Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protishthan (BKSP) ground in Savar while another title contender Bangladesh Biman play Young Cricketers at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Twelve premier Dhaka-based clubs are taking part in the elite league which will be fought over two phases.

After the first round, the top six teams will qualify for the 'Super League' while the bottom six will battle to escape relegation.

GrameenPhone, one of the country's leading cellular phone companies, have decided to sponsor the league for the next three seasons including this year's one.

GrameenPhone's deputy general manager (marketing) Intekhab Mahmud at a press conference at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday gave details of the sponsorship deal.

Grameen plan to spend Taka 36 lakhs (Taka 12 lakhs for each sea-

son). Apart from the sponsorship sum, GrameenPhone will also award Taka 1 lakh to the champions, 50,000 to the runners up and the third placed team Taka 30,000. Besides, players who will become man-of-the-match in the first phase will receive Taka 1,000 while in the Super League the prize will double to Taka 2,000.

Intekhab also informed that they would award a mobile phone and Taka 10,000 in cash to the most valuable player of the league.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) directors Jalal Yunus and GS Hasan

FIXTURES

Date	Match	Venue
March 22	Mohammedan SC v Young Pegasus	KOACS
	Biman v Young Cricketers	DCS
	Abahani KC v Uttara SC	BKSP
March 23	Kalabagan KC v Victoria SC	BKSP
	Surjo Tarun v City Club	DCS
March 24	Biman v Brothers Union	KOACS
	Mohammedan SC v Uttara SC	DCS
March 25	Abahani KC v Young Cricketers	BKSP
	Kalabagan KC v City Club	DCS
March 26	Surjo Tarun v Young Pegasus	BKSP
	Biman v Victoria SC	DCS
March 27	Abahani KC v Brothers Union	KOACS
	Mohammedan SC v Young Cricketers	DCS
March 28	Kalabagan KC v Surjo Tarun	KOACS
	Dhanmondi Club v City Club	BKSP
	Uttara SC v Young Pegasus	DCS
	Mohammedan SC v Brothers Union	BKSP
	Abahani KC v Victoria SC	KOACS

Note:

KOACS: Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Cricket Stadium, Fatullah
DCS: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.
BKSP: Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protishthan
BNS: Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Media Conference



Intekhab Mahmud, deputy general manager (marketing) of GrameenPhone, addresses a media conference at the BCB office at Bangabandhu National Stadium on Thursday in connection with the Premier Cricket League which begins today.

Rain makes Butcher smile Day One washed out in Wellington

Cricket

AFP, Wellington

Windy Wellington's notorious weather claimed the opening day of the second cricket Test Thursday but it was welcomed by England batsman Mark Butcher.

The umpires abandoned play without a ball bowled with the Basin Reserve buffeted by gale-force winds and driving rain. More rain is forecast for early Friday but it is expected to clear.

Butcher cracked his right thumb taking a slips catch in the opening Christchurch Test win over New Zealand, and was considered out of the running for the Wellington match.

But he has batted in the nets this week and Thursday's weather intervention bought him some more

time in his recovery to play. England coach Duncan Fletcher said Butcher was confident he would be able to bat, but that catching was a problem.

"We want to wait for as long as we can to test his thumb before we make a decision," said Fletcher Thursday.

"Twenty-four hours made a big difference to Butcher this week, so this will be an advantage to him."

England lead the series after their 98-run win in last weekend's Christchurch Test.

Fletcher took the team to an indoor facility in the afternoon to keep the players active after the loss of the first day's play.

"It would be easy to go back to the team hotel and switch off, but we have to be ready to switch on and play, even though we are one-up in the series," he said.

Fletcher confirmed the same 12

that played in Christchurch would be fielded again in Wellington, meaning that if Butcher could not convince selectors of his fitness then all-rounder Craig White would come into the starting eleven.

Butcher would be given fielding drills to check if he could last out the Wellington Test, Fletcher said.

Fletcher said the Basin Reserve pitch looked "underprepared" when he glanced at it earlier in the week before the deterioration in the weather.

The pitch has been under large covers for the past two stormy days and locals believe it to be a result-pitch given the outcome of domestic games there this season.

High winds and rain are forecast to continue with clearing conditions expected Friday.

Play will be extended by an hour over each of the four remaining days to make up for some of the lost playing time.

Great awaits great

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

West Indian great Brian Lara said on Thursday he was fully recovered from injury and looked forward to the challenge of playing against Sachin

"Tendulkar is the best player in the world and playing cricket on the same pitch as him is a challenge," Lara told Star News in an interview at his home in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.

The gifted left-hander, who suffered a shoulder injury on the Sri Lankan tour in January, said he was fit and raring to go in the five-Test

The battle between the two modern greats is expected to be the highlight of the demanding tour.

Lara, 32, has scored 7,221 runs from 83 Tests at an average of 50.49 with 18 centuries and 34 half-centuries.

Tendulkar, who turns 29 on April 24, has 7,673 from 91 Tests at 58.57 with 28 hundreds and 30 half-centuries.

The Indian is far ahead in one-day internationals, with a world record 11,069 runs and 31 centuries from 286 matches.

Lara, who has played only 193 one-dayers, has scored 7,257 runs with 14 hundreds.

Before sustaining the shoulder injury, Lara showed he was back to his best form when he hammered the Muttiah Muralitharan-led Sri Lankan attack for 688 runs in just

SEE PAGE 15

Tendulkar in the upcoming series against India

series against the Indians from April 11.

BRIAN LARA

SACHIN TENDULKAR

Tikolo in Dhaka, due to play today

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending Premier Division cricket league champions Mohammadan Sporting Club's architect of last year's success Steve Tikolo arrived in Dhaka yesterday.

The star Kenyan batsman amassed 1222 runs with an astonishing average of 111.09 in the last season and almost single-handedly guided the popular Motijheel outfit to the coveted title after a barren spell of five years.

Tikolo, who is also an agile fielder and a useful off-spinner, is set to resume his Mohammedan career in the League opener against Young Pegasus at the Fatullah Stadium today. This will be Tikolo's third year with Mohammedan in the Dhaka league.

While Mohammedan will start their title defence with Tikolo, arch-rivals Abahani will miss their foreign recruit Pakistani all-rounder Mohammed Hossain for their first match against Uttara Sporting Club today.

Club sources informed that the southpaw will not be available before Abahani's third match against Brothers Union on March 26.

Club sources informed that the southpaw will not be available before Abahani's third match against Brothers Union on March 26.

Club sources informed that the southpaw will not be available before Abahani's third match against Brothers Union on March 26.

Club sources informed that the southpaw will not be available before Abahani's third match against Brothers Union on March 26.

Club sources informed that the southpaw will not be available before Abahani's third match against Brothers Union on March 26.

Club sources informed that the southpaw will not be available before Abahani's third match against Brothers Union on March 26.

Club sources informed that the southpaw will not be available before Abahani's third match against Brothers Union on March 26.

Club sources informed that the southpaw will not be available before Abahani's third match against Brothers Union on March 26.

Club sources informed that the southpaw will not be available before Abahani's third match against Brothers Union on March 26.

Club sources informed that the southpaw will not be available before Abahani's third match against Brothers Union on March 26.

Club sources informed that the southpaw will not be available before Abahani's third match against Brothers Union on March 26.

Club sources informed that the southpaw will not be available before Abahani's third match against Brothers Union on March 26.

Club sources informed that the southpaw will not be available before Abahani's third match against Brothers Union on March 26.

Club sources informed that the southpaw will not be available before Abahani's third match against Brothers Union on March 26.

Club sources informed that the southpaw will not be available before Abahani's third match against Brothers Union on March 26.

Club sources informed that the southpaw will not be available before Abahani's third match against Brothers Union on March 26.

Club sources informed that the southpaw will not be available before Abahani's third match against Brothers Union on March 26.

Club sources informed that the southpaw will not be available before Abahani's third match against Brothers Union on March 26.

Club sources informed that the southpaw will not be available before Abahani's third match against Brothers Union on March 26.

Club sources informed that the southpaw will not be available before Abahani's third match against Brothers Union on March 26.

Club sources informed that the southpaw will not be available before Abahani's third match against Brothers Union on March 26.

Club sources informed that the southpaw will not be available before Abahani's third match against Brothers Union on March 26.

Club sources informed that the southpaw will not be available before Abahani's third match against Brothers Union on March 26.

Club sources informed that the southpaw will not be available before Abahani's third match against Brothers Union on March 26.

Club sources informed that the southpaw will not be available before Abahani's third match against Brothers Union on March 26.

Club sources informed that the southpaw will not be available before Abahani's third match against Brothers Union on March 26.

Club sources informed that the southpaw will not be available before Abahani's third match against Brothers Union on March 26.

Club sources informed that the southpaw will not be available before Abahani's third match against Brothers Union on March 26.

Club sources informed that the southpaw will not be available before Abahani's third match against Brothers Union on March 26.

Club sources informed that the southpaw will not be available before Abahani's third match against Brothers Union on March 2