



## Did U Know?

The shortest ever Test match to date was between Sri Lanka and India in Colombo, in 1996. All but 50 minutes of the match was rained out.



### ESPN

Sportscentre Hindi

Sport News

7:30 am

UEFA Champions League

Deportivo vs Bayer Leverkusen

9:00 am

English Premier Football League

West Ham United vs Man United

11:00 am

South Africa vs Australia

First ODI

3:00 pm

English Premier Football League

Man United vs Middlesbrough

Live at 8:55 pm

### STAR Sports

New Zealand vs England

Second Test, Day Three

Live at 4:27 am

Cricket Programming

Super Selector

11:30 am

World Cup Soccer Mix

12:30 pm

Football Asia

8:00 pm

Primera Liga

Highlights at 8:30 pm

New Zealand vs England

Second Test, Day Three

Highlights at 9:30 pm

Primera Liga

Betis vs Sevilla

Live at 2:30 am (Sunday)



### Malcolm Speed

(ICC chief Executive)

"Restructuring the panel will take the standards of decision-making and authority to new levels."

On the appointment of a new streamlined panel of international match referees.



PHOTO: STAR

**WELCOME BACK:** Mohammedan's star Kenyan recruit Steve Tikolo plays one towards fine-leg against Young Pegasus at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

## Big guns all blaze



### SPORTS REPORTER

Star Kenyan batsman Steve Tikolo got into business straightaway as holders Mohammedan Sporting Club made a blistering start to their GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League campaign with a seven-wicket win over promotees Young Cricketers at the newly built Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Cricket Stadium in Fatullah yesterday.

Elsewhere, centuries from young opener Nafis Iqbal and former Bangladesh captain Naimur Rahman powered last year's runners up Abahani to an emphatic 161-run mauling of minnows Uttara Sporting Club while Bangladesh Biman posted a facile seven-wicket victory over Young Pegasus at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

**Mohammedan v Young Pegasus**  
At Fatullah, Tikolo, the right-handed stroke-maker, picked up from where he left off last season by smashing an unbeaten 86 as the popular Motilheel based club, chasing Young Cricketers 199 in 50 overs, reached 200 in 43.4 overs

Coming to bat at number four with Mohammedan struggling a little on 32 for two in the eighth over, Tikolo, who had amassed a record 1222 runs last year, promptly saw his side through.

Together with opener Ehsanul Haque, Tikolo put on 137 runs for the third wicket to lay the foundation of the win. The stand was broken on 167 when Ehsanul was caught at long off for a well made 61.

Ehsan, in his patient 111-ball innings, hit five boundaries. After Ehsan's departure, Sanwar joined Tikolo and the two ensured no further hiccups.

Tikolo hammered one six and

eight boundaries in his 101-ball knock while Sanwar was unbeaten on 15 off 28 balls.

Earlier, put into bat, Pegasus were restricted to 199 for eight in the stipulated 50 overs.

Opener Jamal Ferdous and Pakistani middle order Majed Jafri scored 55 runs each while Haque (31) were the other notable run getter.

Mohammedan pacer Taposh Baishya, off spinner Sabbir Khan and captain Minhazul Abedin captured two wickets apiece.

#### Abahani v Uttara Sc

Away at the BKSP ground,

was dropped from the Bangladesh squad after the home series against Zimbabwe last November, got out.

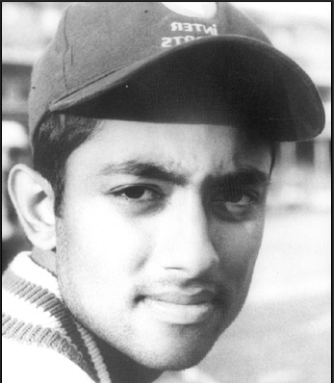
In his swashbuckling 76-ball innings, Naimur smote half a dozen sixes and eleven fours.

After losing Naimur, Nafis shared another 104-run stand with his captain and uncle Akram Khan before getting run out.

Nafis, faced 144 balls for his knock that included eight boundaries.

Akram Khan made merry with the bat in making an unbeaten 56 off 63 balls (3x4).

In reply, Uttara were shot out for



NAFIS IQBAL....115

opener Nafis Iqbal scored 115 while Naimur Rahman blasted a typically aggressive 107 to help Abahani pile up a mammoth 339 for four in the allotted 50 overs after captain Akram Khan elected to bat first on winning the toss.

Abahani lost their first wicket on 34 when opener Moniruzzaman was run out for 15 but then Naimur joined Nafis to send the newcomers on a leather chase.

The duo shared a mighty 193-run second wicket stand off just 24.2 overs before, Naimur, who



NAIMUR....107

178 in 43.4 overs with opener Tinku scoring exactly 50.

Abahani pacer Alamgir was the pick of the bowlers taking three for 39 while Naimur Rahman, with his off spinners, and left arm spinner Ahsanullah Hasan evenly shared four wickets.

#### Biman v Young Cricketers

At Dhanmondi, Biman bowled Young Cricketers out for 165 in 49 overs with medium pacers Khaled Mahmud and Aminul Hussain junior

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## Umpires say no problem

REUTERS, Cape Town

Cricket's newly appointed elite panel of international match umpires has backed the International Cricket Council's (ICC) plan to experiment with extended television technology to aid umpiring decisions.

The eight umpires on the panel have agreed to test the new system during this September's ICC Champions Trophy tournament in Sri Lanka, the ICC confirmed on Thursday.

The decision was reached on the first day of the ICC umpires and referees conference at the Arabella Country Estate near Cape Town.

"This endorsement was a positive outcome from a very good day's business for the conference," said ICC chief executive officer Malcolm Speed.

"The issue of technology was debated at some length and it was agreed that a trial was the best way to move forward, to judge if more technological assistance would be of benefit."

Under the system, which was agreed at an ICC meeting in Cape Town on Sunday, on-field umpires will be able to consult with the third official on any decision.

Consultation will be optional but, when a third umpire is contacted, he will be allowed only two replays before passing information to the on-field officials.

The third umpire will not be able to intervene unless he is called upon by the on-field umpires.

Line decisions, hit wicket and boundary referrals will continue to be decided by the television umpire, as they are at present.

The ICC recommendation for the extended use of television technology will now go forward for final ratification by the ICC's executive board, which will meet in England this June.

The ICC's umpires panel comprises: Steve Bucknor (West Indies), Asoka De Silva (Sri Lanka), Daryl Harper (Australia), Rudi Koertzen (South Africa), Dave Orchard (South Africa), David Shepherd (England), Russell Tiffin (Zimbabwe) and Srinivas Venkataraman (India).

## Age-gp cricket

BSS, Dhaka

The semifinals of the under-13 cricket competition of the Dhaka Metropolitan zone will be held on March 24 in the city.

Abahani Krira Chakra will meet Kalabagan Krira Chakra at the Dhanmandi Club Ground while Mohammedan sporting Club take on Surja Tarun Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The final of the competition takes place on March 26 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

## Inter-varsity cricket Second win for BAU

UNB, Savar

Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) earned the successive second victory in the inter-university cricket competition beating Shahjalal Science & Technology University by two wickets at the Jahangirnagar University playground yesterday.

Batting first, Shahjalal Science & Technology University, who suffered consecutive second defeat, managed 137 runs for nine wickets in the stipulated 40 overs. Rajib made 31 while Mohsin and Shubashish 21 runs each.

Parvez picked up three wickets conceding 27 runs while Babul three for 19 runs for the winners.

In reply, BAU reached the target scoring 139 runs for eight wickets in 34 overs. Sachin scored team highest 47 runs.

Pallab was the another notable scorer contributing 34 runs.

Emon captured three wickets for 11 runs while Joy two for 18 runs.

Today's match: Dhaka University vs Khulna University at the same venue.

## Barisal cricket

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Fakirbari Cricket Club defeated BM College by 140 runs in the First Division Cricket League at the Shaheed Abdur Rab Seraniat Stadium yesterday.

Winning the toss, BM College batting first and scored 97 runs losing all the wickets in 31.01 overs.

Rajib and Zahid scored 28 and 22 runs respectively. Sohail took 4 wickets for 5 runs.

In reply, Fakirbari scored 237 runs losing 7 wickets in 43 overs.

Mamun and Nahid scored 59 and 73 runs respectively while Propid took 2 wickets for 32 runs.

## Bangladesh in super four



BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh, Oman, Kyrgyzstan and Bahrain qualified for the super four round of the Davis Cup Asia-Oceania zone Group Four yesterday.

Despite losing 1-2 to Sri Lanka in the last group match at the National Tennis Complex at Ramna, Bangladesh finished top in Group B, followed by Oman, Sri Lanka and Jordan.

Bangladesh, Oman and Sri Lanka all earned four points each. But the hosts ensured their promotion by winning more individual matches. Oman and Sri Lanka also won same number of matches, but the Gulf nation prevailed in their clash against Sri Lanka yesterday.

Kyrgyzstan and Bahrain finished first and second in Group A by securing six and four points respectively.

Bangladesh, who had earlier won 3-0 both against Oman and Jordan, suffered a shock 1-2 defeat at the hands of the Lankans.

Shibu Lal started in fine fashion for Bangladesh, registering an easy 6-2, 6-1 win over Harshana Godamanna. But Dilip Pasia, although he won the first set 7-5 in

tie-breaker, surprisingly failed to maintain his game and gave up the remaining two sets 2-6, 1-6 to Rajeev Rajapakse.

In the doubles, Lal and Pasia showed some resistance against their Lankan opposition in the first set, but finally conceded a 6-7, 4-6 defeat.

Oman, who were blanked by Bangladesh on the first day, came back into their own selves the next day and won against Sri Lanka (2-1) and Jordan (3-0) to confirm their berth in the round of four.

Favourites Kyrgyzstan put themselves on top of Group A with an all-win record. They beat Brunei 3-0 yesterday. Bahrain secured the second spot after they had beaten Iraq 2-1 in their last group match on the day.

Following are the third day's results of the Davis Cup Asia-Oceania zone Group Four matches Friday:

Sri Lanka beat Bangladesh 2-1 (Sri Lanka names first)

Harshana Godamanna lost to Shibu Lal 2-6, 1-6; Rajeev Rajapakse beat Dilip Pasia 6-7, 6-2, 6-1; Harshana Godamanna/Rajeev Rajapakse beat Shibu Lal/Dilip Pasia 7-6, 6-4.

Bahrain beat Iraq 2-1 (Bahrain names first)  
Abdul Rahman Shehab beat

Haider Hussain Kadhim 7-6, 4-6, 6-4; Esam Abdulaal beat Saddam Hussain Kadhim 3-6, 6-2, 6-4; Esam Abdulaal/Abdul Rahman Shehab lost to Saddam Hussain Kadhim/Hussain Ahmed Rashid 6-7, 3-6.

Kyrgyzstan beat Brunei 3-0 (Kyrgyzstan names first)

Ruslan Eshmuhamedov beat Izannia Abu-Bakar 6-0, 6-0; Eduard Koifman beat Ian Chok 6-0, 6-2; Ruslan Eshmuhamedov/Eduard Koifman beat Izannia Abu-Bakar/Mohamed Ridzuan 6-0, 6-0.

Oman beat Jordan 3-0 (Oman names first)

Mudrik Al-Rawahi beat Tareq Shkakwa 6-1, 6-3; Khalid Al-Nabhani beat Fabio Badra 7-6, 7-5; Khalid Al-Nabhani/Mohammed Al-Nabhani beat Fabio Badra/Tareq Shkakwa 6-1, 6-2.

### STANDINGS

(Tabulated under, played, won, lost, matches won, matches lost, points):

**Group A**

Kyrgyzstan 3 3 0 7 2 6

Bahrain 3 2 1 5 4 4

Iraq 3 1 2 5 4 2

Brunei 3 0 3 1 8 0

**Group B**

Bangladesh 3 2 1 7 2 4

Oman 3 2 1 5 4 4

Sri Lanka 3 2 1 5 4 4

Jordan 3 0 3 1 8 0



PHOTO: COURTESY

Sri Lankan pair of Harshana Godamanna and Rajeev Rajapakse in action against Bangladesh duo of Shibu Lal and Dilip Pasia (not in picture) during their Davis Cup encounter at the National Tennis Complex yesterday.

## Little play on Day Two



AFP, Wellington

New Zealand's chances of squaring the cricket series with England may have disappeared amid the continuing problems of protecting Wellington's slow-drying Basin Reserve wicket.

The weather-tormented second Test finally made a start Friday, five sessions of play having been lost to the elements and the inability of the groundstaff to protect the pitch surrounds from overnight rain and

gale-force winds.

Only 30 overs were possible Friday as the start of play was delayed until after tea on the second day under clear skies after Thursday's entire opening day was lost to the stormy weather.

When fading light ended play at 5:47 pm (0547 GMT), England were 92 for two with Mark Butcher not out 24 and skipper Nasser Hussain on 16.

New Zealand trail in the series after losing the opening Christchurch Test by 98 runs last weekend and the last thing they

needed was lost playing time as they search to bowl the tourists out twice to take the series to a decider in Auckland next week.

Marcus Trescothick, who was one of the two England wickets to fall in the few hours' of play, was more philosophical about the condition of the ground.

It was a belittling day for New Zealand cricket. The old scoreboard was festooned with a jumble of odd-shaped lettering for the players far more in place at a rural setting than for a venue of an international Test match.

Kiwi skipper Stephen Fleming won the toss and despite fielding a largely-inexperienced pace attack sent England into bat.

Michael Vaughan lasted 38 minutes before he edged the impressive Chris Drum to Fleming at first slip for seven leaving England at 26 for one.

Fleming brought left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori into the attack straight after the first of two drink breaks to exploit some small cracks on the pitch.

Vettori was cleared to play after doubt over his long-standing back complaint, and he was the key bowler in the Kiwi attack, where the three pace bowlers had played a total of 13 Tests between them.

England lost their other opening batsman when Trescothick attempted to smack Vettori over mid-wicket only to sky a catch chest-high to Lou Vincent for 37.

Left-handed Trescothick was attempting the same stroke after slogging Vettori over mid-wicket for four, but was deceived by a slower delivery next ball into playing a false shot.

Butcher, who cracked his right thumb in taking a catch in the Christchurch Test and had been in doubt right up to the delayed start to this Test, batted solidly with Hussain to the close.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard after the second day of the second cricket Test between New Zealand and England at the Basin Reserve Friday:

**ENGLAND:** First innings

Trescothick c Vincent b Vettori 37

Vaughan c Fleming b Drum 7

Butcher not out 24

Hussain not out 16

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## Klusener almost ...



AFP, Johannesburg

Australia survived a late assault by back-in-form Lance Klusener before clinching a 19-run win in the first one-day international against South Africa at the Wanderers Stadium Friday.

Jason Gillespie ripped out South Africa's first three batsmen inside the first 10 overs and Ricky Ponting seemed on target for an easy win in his first match as captain when South Africa, chasing 224 to win, crashed to 93 for seven.

But Klusener, who surprisingly only batted at number eight, slammed 83 off 77 balls, with eight fours and a six, before he was last man out, caught on the long-on boundary off Glenn McGrath. Klusener hit 39 of South Africa's last 40 runs.

Ponting, who has replaced Test captain Steve Waugh as one-day skipper, admitted: "It was a bit nerve-wracking towards the end."

But he said he had always been confident that his team could defend a total of 223 for eight on a pitch which became slower as the match went on.

"Overall it was a pretty good game for us."

Medium-pacer Ian Harvey followed up Gillespie's opening burst with a three-wicket spell and Australia were in complete command when off-spinner Nathan Hauritz took a wicket with his fifth delivery in international cricket to

dismiss Boeta Dippenaar for 51. Klusener and Nicky Boje gave South Africa a glimmer of hope as they put on 71 for the eighth wicket before Boje was run out when he was sent back by Klusener, seeking a second run after driving into the covers.

Klusener, dropped from the Test side after a dismal run of form in Australia earlier in the season, thrilled a crowd of 29,000 as he farmed the strike and played a



GILLESPIE....m-o-m

succession of powerful strokes before he fell to McGrath.

Earlier, Australia made a flying start after Ponting won the toss, with Adam Gilchrist and Matthew Hayden hitting 39 off the first six overs.

But Makhaya Ntini, who came on as South Africa's first change bowler, slowed Australia's momentum. Ntini started with two maidens, then had Gilchrist caught at midwicket for 37.

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