



Did U Know?

The game of basketball was first played at the YMCA where Dr James Naismith (founder) was a member.



ESPN

English Premier Football League
Liverpool vs Chelsea
7:30 am
&
Fulham vs Tottenham Hotspur
9:30 am
South Africa vs Australia
Second ODI
11:30 am
Serie A
Parma vs Juventus
4:30 pm
UEFA Champions League
Weekly Highlights at 7:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
9:00 pm

STAR Sports

New Zealand vs England
Second Test, Day Five
Live at 4:27 am
Asia Sport Show
Int'l Sports News
6:30 am
Futbol Mundial
11:30 am
English Premier Football League
Man United vs Middlesbrough
1:00 pm
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
7:30 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
New Zealand vs England
Second Test, Day Five
Highlights at 8:30 pm
Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
11:00 pm



Lennart Johansson

(WC Organising Committee Chairman)
"FIFA will introduce tough anti-doping measures to check the use of banned substances at the World Cup this summer."



PHOTO: STAR

Mohammedan's Habibul Bashar misses an attempted sweep against Uttara Sporting Club in the GrameenPhone Premier Cricket League on Sunday.

MSC sail, Biman baffled

GrameenPhone Premier League



SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club recorded their second successive victory in the GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League with a six-wicket cruise over new-comers Uttara Sporting Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

Elsewhere, Brothers Union stunned title contenders Bangladesh Biman by 58 runs at the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah. The other match scheduled for the day between last year's runners up Abahani Krira Chakra and Young Cricketers could not be held at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) in Savar where over-night rain made the ground unplayable.

Weather permitting, the game will be played today at the same venue.

Mohammedan SC v Uttara SC

Star batsman Habibul Bashar scored a half-century as Mohammedan, chasing a modest Uttara Sporting Club total of 159, reached home in the 32nd overs with six wickets to spare.

Habibul, arguably country's number one player, had a rather uneventful start to his Mohammedan career when he managed just nine runs in the League opener on Friday. But the right-hander made up for that disappointment with a work-man-like 53 off 80 balls which featured eight boundaries.

Kenyan master bat Steve Tikolo followed his majestic 86 from the first game with an important run-a-ball 41 that included six boundaries.

Habibul and Tikolo shared a 63-run third wicket stand to put Mohammedan on course.

Earlier, electing to bat first, Uttara

Sporting never had any momentum going and were shot out in 48.4 overs.

Paceman Taposh Baishya gave Mohammedan the ideal breakthrough with three for 37. Spinners Mohammad Rafique and Sabbir Khan then polished off the tail with two wickets each.

Taposh was later adjudged as the man of the match.

Brothers Union v Biman

The game at Fatullah was reduced to a 45-over-a-side affair as the soggy outfield forced a late start.

Having been put in, the old war-horses of a supposedly weak Brothers Union plundered the Biman bowling with former national openers Harunur Rashid (92 off 105 balls) and Ather Ali Khan (56 off 46 balls) in devastating mood. Brothers eventually piled up an imposing 264 for five in their allotted 45 overs.

After Brothers had lost their first wicket on 54 in the 12th over, Harun and Ather shared a blistering 106-run partnership for the second wicket in just 16 overs to lay the foundation of the big total.

Harun, smashed two sixes and eleven boundaries while Ather smote two sixes and five fours.

Among others, left hander Mustadir Litu contributed 36 off 46 balls with three fours while Mahbub chipped in with 21 (26 balls).

For Biman, all-rounder Khaled Mahmud took three for 67 with his gentle medium pacers.

In reply, Biman were restricted to 206 for nine in the face of some inspired bowling from experienced left arm seamer Morshed Ali Khan and another left armer, spinner Imran Rahim.

Morshed returned with three for 31 from eight tight overs while Imran captured two wickets giving away 38 runs from his nine overs.

Number eight Ziaur Rashid (57) was the only Biman batsman who came to terms with the Brothers attack.

SCORECARDS

Scoreboards of the two GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League matches at different venues on Sunday:

Mohammedan SC v Uttara SC

Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

UTRARASC

Zaman c Anwar b Taposh	6
Niaz c Tikolo b Shafuddin	0
Mahfuz c Anwar b Taposh	3
Faisal run out	36
Intiar st Anwar b Sabbir	19
Sumon lbw b Rafique	1
Moin c Rashedul b Sanwar	6
Rashed c Minhazul b Sabbir	45
Arman c Tikolo b Rafique	7
Rabbani c Sanwar b Taposh	0
Ashfaq not out	10
Extras: (lb-11, nb-8, w-7)	26
Total: (All out in 48.4 overs)	159

Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-14, 3-16, 4-53, 5-64, 6-82, 7-100, 8-124, 9-126.

Bowler

	O	M	R	W
Taposh	10	1	37	3
Shafuddin	9	0	25	1
Rafique	10	2	20	2
Sabbir	6.4	1	28	2
Tikolo	8	1	22	0
Sanwar	5	0	16	1

MOHAMMEDAN SC

Rashedul b Rabbani	0
Ehsanul c Rabbani b Barua	10
Habibul c Faisal b Arman	53
Tikolo c Barua b Faisal	41
Minhazul not out	20
Sanwar not out	12
Extras: (lb-6, nb-9, w-10)	25
Total: (For 4 wickets in 31.4 overs)	161

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-62, 3-125, 4-138.

Bowler

	O	M	R	W
Rabbani	4	0	26	1
Ashfaq	5	0	26	0
Barua	7	0	24	1
Mahfuz	4	0	18	0
Faisal	4	0	33	1
Moin	5	0	13	0
Arman	2.4	0	15	1

Result: Mohammedan SC won by six wickets.

Brothers Union v Biman

Venue: Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Cricket Stadium, Fatullah.

BROTHERS UNION

Harun st Sajjad b Shariful	92
Sajjad c Faruque b K Mahmud	15
Ather Ali c Aminul b K Mahmud	56
Mustadir c Aminul jr b Aminul sr	36

SEE PAGE 14

Under-13 tournament Abahani, Tarun in final

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani Krira Chakra and Surjo Tarun Club set up a final clash in the Under-13 cricket tournament being held under the auspices of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB). Abahani advanced into the final by outplaying Kalabagan by 64 runs at the Dhanmondi Club Ground while Surjo Tarun prevailed over Mohammedan Sporting Club by 14 runs at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The final will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Tuesday.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has organised the first-ever age group tournaments involving juvenile selections of leading clubs of Dhaka in a bid to spot talented youngsters. The development committee will select about 50 cricketers from the 12 teams that have taken part in the competition and will form two teams from that pool of players which will take part in final round under the banner of Dhaka Metropolis.

BRIEF SCORES

Abahani vs Kalabagan

Abahani 216 for 8 in 40 overs (Tommy 62, Kajol 43; Russel 2/37, Jewel 2/23)

Kalabagan 152 all out in 31.5 overs (Anwar 24, Abir 26; Sohagh 3/20, Lincoln 2/38)

Result: Abahani won by 64 runs.

Surjo Tarun vs Mohammedan

Surjo Tarun 158 all out in 40 overs (Saiful 29, Nadim 22, Ali Hossain 27; Delwar 3/17, Moazzem 2/27)

Mohammedan 144 all out in 37.1 overs (Arfat 36; Nuruzzaman 4/34, Noman 3/23)

Result: Surjo tarun won by 14 runs.

Sobers eager to help Windies

AFP, Port of Spain

Barbados's most famous son, Sir Garfield Sobers, who is sharing his experiences and his talent with 22 West Indies cricket players at a week-long training camp here, cannot understand the reason for the team's recent failures.

"I think we have a lot of youngsters coming on and I really couldn't see the reason for all of our failures", the 65-year-old former captain told a local television station, CCN TV6, Friday night.

Saying he was hopeful he can help, Sir Gary added: "I would like to see what I can do to help and get the West Indies cricket team back on top."

He said he was delighted that the WICB president Wes Hall and others involved have invited him to come to Trinidad and have a look at the players preparing for the series against India next month.

"What I intend to do is to have a chat with them, have a look, then take it from there and see what I can do to help".

Also assisting the players is former West Indies fast bowler, Antiguan Andy Roberts.

The cricketers, accompanied by coach Roger Harper and manager Ricky Skerritt are involved in the camp under the supervision of physiotherapist Ronald Rogers.

Batting first, Trinidadian Brian Lara, a former captain, meanwhile admitted he was still in pain as a result of a fractured left elbow sustained last December in Sri Lanka but said he hoped to be match-fit for the start of the first Test against India on April 11.

Carl Hooper has been retained as captain of the Caribbean squad.

Led by Sourav Ganguly, the 16-man Indian team is due to arrive in the Caribbean early in April for the series which includes five tests and five one-day internationals.

The series kicks off in Guyana.

Inter-varsity cricket

UNB, Dhaka

Holders Jahangirnagar University (JU) earned a massive 141-run victory over Shahjalal Science & Technology University in the inter-university cricket competition at the Jahangirnagar University playground yesterday.

Batting first, JU scored 223 runs for seven in 30 overs. Hannan Sarker made team highest 48 runs.

In reply, Shahjalal University were all out for 82 runs in 29.4 overs.

Monday's match: Agricultural University vs Khulna University at the same venue.

TODAY'S MATCHES

GrapeenPhone Premier Division Cricket League
Abahani Krira Chakra vs Young Cricketers
Venue: BKSP
Surjo Tarun Club vs Young Pegasus
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

Davis Cup Bangladesh bow out



BSS, Dhaka

Kyrgyzstan humbled Bangladesh 3-0 in the one-sided last round match of Super Four in the Davis Cup Asia-Oceania zone group four at the Ramna national tennis complex here today.

Favourites Kyrgyzstan and Bahrain qualified for the group three next year as they took the first and second positions respectively at the end of last round matches.

Oman and Bangladesh got the third and fourth positions.

Following is the fifth and final day result:

Kyrgyzstan 3, Bangladesh 0
Ruslan Eshmuhamedov beat Shibu Lal 6-2, 6-4
Eduard Koifman beat Dilip Pasia 6-1, 6-2
Ruslan Eshmuhamedov/Eduard

Koifman beat Shibu Lal/Amol Roy 6-4, 1-6, 6-1

Bahrain 3, Oman 0

Abdul Rahman Shehab beat Khalid Al-Nabhani 6-2, 6-1

Esam Abdulalrh beat Mohammed Al-Nabhani 6-4, 6-4

Omar-Mohamed Ahmed/Al-Sayed Ismaeel beat Mudrik Al-Rawahi/Saleh Al-Zadjali 6-0, 6-2

Sri Lanka 2, Iraq 1

Franklyn Emmanuel lost to Husain-Ahmed Rashid 6-7 (4-7), 2-6
Rajeev Rajapakse beat Haider-Hussain Kadhim 6-3, 6-0

Franklyn Emmanuel/Rajeev Rajapakse beat Haider Hussain Kadhim/Husain-Ahmed Rashid 6-0, 6-1

Jordan 3, Brunei 0

Tareq Shkakwa beat Ian Chok 7-5, 6-4.

Fabio Badra beat Billy Wong 6-2, 6-4

Fabio Badra/Tareq Shkakwa beat Ian Chok/Billy Wong 7-6 (10-8), 6-4

Pepsi Media Cup cricket from Mar 27

UNB, Dhaka

The Pepsi Media Cup cricket tournament for journalists, organised by Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association, begins on Wednesday at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman will inaugurate the meet, sponsored by Transcom Beverage Limited, to be participated by 16 national dailies, news agencies and television channels.

On the opening day, Bangladesh Television will take on Daily Matribhumi at 8:30 am, Ekushey Television meet Bhorer Kagoj at 9:45 am, ATN Bangla face the New Nation at 11:00 am and Arthonity take on Janakantha at 12:00 noon.

The participating teams are: BTV, Inqilab, Jugantor, Matribhumi (Group-A); ETV, Aker Kagoj, UNB,

SEE PAGE 14

Aussies again too strong



CRICINFO, Centurion

With only a few minor alterations, Australia and South Africa read from a script first used at the Wanderers last Friday. This time round, however, Australia increased their winning margin to 45 runs as they took a 2-0 after the second of the Standard Bank One-Day Internationals at SuperSport Park on Sunday.

Again Australia batted first although on this occasion they were asked to do by Shaun Pollock; again they cobbled together a total (226 for eight) that seemed perhaps 30 or 40 runs light; and again South Africa's top and middle order collapsed.

The sense of déjà vu went so far as to include another defiant attempt by Lance Klusener to rescue a lost cause. Once again, though, his efforts were in vain as South Africa were bowled out for 181, Klusener's contribution being a thunderous, run-a-ball 59.

For this match Australia were forced into two changes to the side

that won on Friday. One of them involved giving Jimmy Maher only his third match in an international one-day career that started four years ago. The 28-year-old Maher made the most of this rare opportunity, holding the innings together with a thoughtful 95 and sharing in Australia's two key partnerships.

The first, with Matthew Hayden, produced 85 for the second wicket and then, after Nicky Boje had accounted for Hayden and Ricky Ponting in successive deliveries, Maher and Damien Martyn added 93 for the fourth wicket.

The stand ended when Martyn was caught behind off Roger Telemachus for 42. Batsman and bowlers exchanged words as Martyn departed and Telemachus sent Martyn on his way with a two-fingered gesture. It is understood that the explanation from the dressing room is that Telemachus was indicating that it was the second time in as many games that he has taken Martyn's wicket.

Whether match referee Cammie Smith will buy this one remains to be seen. Telemachus also picked up the wicket of Maher, caught on the cover boundary as Australia

attempted to step up the moment in the closing overs of their innings. He would have been disappointed to have fallen only five runs short and, indeed, Australia might have felt they didn't kick on with sufficient vigour.

Overall, though, South Africa did a good job in the field with Shaun Pollock taking four for 32 to suggest that he is regaining his sharpness.

At bat, though, South Africa started badly and got worse, slipping to 110 for seven before Klusener found his range. There were two wickets apiece for Glenn McGrath and Jason Gillespie and two quite outstanding run outs effected by Ponting's quickness and accuracy in the field to get rid of Boeta Dippenaar and Pollock.

He also snapped up two excellent catches and if Jonty Rhodes won the personal duel in the field between the two in the first game at the Wanderers, Ponting walked this one. His direct hit to run out Dippenaar came in with razor sharp accuracy and it was his speed to the balls and quickness of release that caught Pollock short as he tried to get back into his ground.

SEE PAGE 14

Pakistan turn to old guards



REUTERS, Karachi

Pakistan have recalled the experienced trio of Wasim Akram, Saqlain Mushtaq and Azhar Mahmood in their 15-man squad for the three-nation one-day series in Sharjah starting on April 9.

The selectors also named in the squad on Sunday middle order batsman Misbahul Haq and opener Imran Nazir as they made several changes to the team which lost this month's Asian Test Championship (ATC) final to Sri Lanka in Lahore.

Misbah made his debut for Pakistan in New Zealand early last year, but has not been selected since.

Nazir, a specialist one-day opener, has also been ignored since last year's series in England.

"It's a very balanced team and we have based our selection on the recent performances of the players in the national one-day championship," chief selector Wasim Bari told the news agency.

"Wasim has been included as the selectors are satisfied with his

fitness and form in the one-day game."

Wasim was controversially overlooked for the ATC final, while off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq was also left out of the Pakistan team which lost to Sri Lanka by eight

training camp in Lahore for the Sharjah tournament.

"Moin is without doubt a very experienced and proven performer," added Bari.

"He was invited to the camp as a reserve to Rashid Latif, keeping in mind the hectic commitments of the Pakistan team leading up to the World Cup.

"But since Latif has been performing very well, he remains the number one wicketkeeper."

Also left out were youngsters Taufiq Umar, Faisal Iqbal and leg spinner Danish Kaneria, although all three featured prominently in the series against West Indies and in the ATC final.

Faisal Iqbal, nephew of former Pakistan captain Javed Miandad, has been out of favour with the selectors, despite an impressive run of scores as a makeshift opener in the domestic one-day championship.

SQUAD

Shahid Afridi, Imran Nazir, Younis Khan, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Yousuf Youhana, Misbah-ul-Haq, Shoaib Malik, Rashid Latif, Abdul Razzaq, Waqar Younis (Capt), Wasim Akram, Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammad Sami, Saqlain Mushtaq, Azhar Mahmood



WASIM AKRAM

wickets.

All-rounder Azhar Mahmood has been sidelined by the Pakistan selectors since last year's Test and one-day series in England.

But there was no place in the squad for wicketkeeper Moin Khan, who was invited to the national

Eng tighten grip on NZ



AFP, Wellington

England batted their way into an impregnable position after seamer Andy Caddick wrecked New Zealand's chances on the fourth day of the second cricket Test at the Basin Reserve here Sunday.

NZ-born Caddick captured 6-59, his 12th five-wicket haul in Tests, and edged closer to the 200-club to help dismiss the Kiwis for 218.

That gave the tourists a significant 62-run innings lead in a low-scoring Test on a deteriorating pitch.

When bad light stopped play with three overs left, England had again outplayed New Zealand and swelled their advantage to 246 runs at 184 for one with Monday's final day remaining.

Marcus Trescothick cracked his highest score of the series to be unbeaten on 77 with Mark Butcher providing staunch support on 57 not out.

Trescothick scored his 10th Test half-century to lead the way for England, while Butcher clipped his eighth Test 50.

Caddick, along with left-arm spinner Ashley Giles (4-102