



## Did U Know?

Bob Beamon has set the men's long jump record of 8.9m way back in the 1968 Olympics and it still stays.



## What to Watch

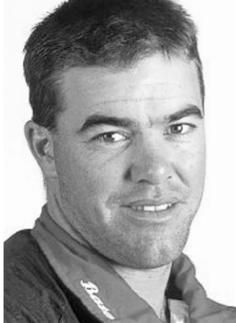
**ESPN**  
Sportscentre Hindi  
Sport News  
6:30 am  
South Africa vs Australia  
Third ODI  
3:30 pm  
Sportscentre Hindi  
Sport News  
Live at 8:30 pm  
World Cup Soccer Mix  
9:00 pm

## STAR Sports

English Premier Football League  
Highlights at 8:30 am  
World Cup Soccer Mix  
6:00 pm  
Gillette WC Football Preview  
7:30 pm  
Sportsline Tonight  
Sport News  
Live at 8:00 pm



## Talk Turkey



**Heath Streak**  
(Zimbabwe fast bowler)  
"Tendulkar is the best batsman I've bowled to."

## 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.

- Who won the Prof Abdur Razzak 28th national chess title?  
Refaat-bin-Ziaur-Niaz  
Sattar-Rahman-Murshed
- Who became Asian Test champions?  
India-Sri Lanka-Pakistan
- Who clinched the World Cup hockey title?

Name: .....  
Class: ..... Roll No. ....  
School Address: .....  
Phone: (If any) .....



## Day's Event

**GrameenPhone Premier Cricket League**  
Abahani KC v Brothers Union  
Venue: Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Cricket Stadium, Fatullah.

# MSC muscle past Young

## GrameenPhone Premier League

### Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club maintained their winning streak in the GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League with a 239-run thrashing of Young Cricketers at the Dhanmondi Stadium yesterday.

The day's other match between Abahani and Brothers Union at the BKSP ground could not be held because of wet pitch. Overnight rain seeped through the pitch cover, thanks to the negligence of ground staffs. The two teams will now travel to Fatullah today to play the match at the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Cricket Stadium.

However the match at the Dhanmondi Stadium was also reduced to 45-over-a-side due to overnight rain.

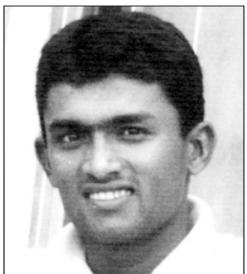
Asked to bat, Mohammedan amassed 310 for six as opener Ehsanul Haque and country's number one batsman Habibul Bashar took the Young attack to the sword with a dazzling stroke-play. Ehsan smashed 110, but Bashar fell seven runs short of the magical three-figure mark.

Left-arm seamer Taposh Kumar Baishya then stepped in to complement the good job of Mohammedan batsmen. The young pacer from Sylhet took five wickets for only 19 runs to shoot out Young Cricketers for a paltry 71.

Ehsan faced 123 balls for his hundred that included eleven boundaries. The Bangladesh A

batsman took the full advantage of the left-off on 24 at mod off as the young right hander raced to his fifty off 46 balls and hundred off 116 balls.

Together with a consistent Bashar, Ehsan shared 182 runs for the second wicket before his more illustrious partner was unfortunately adjudged leg before for 93.



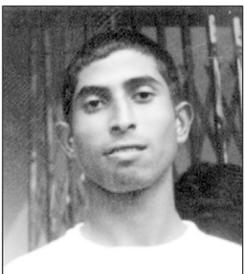
EHSANUL ... 110

Bashar was more aggressive of the two. The elegant stroke-maker extracted his fifty off 42 balls and raced to 93 playing only 73 balls that featured three sixes and half a dozen of boundaries.

Team	M	W	L	Pts
Mohammedan	3	3	-	6
Abahani	2	2	-	4
City Club	2	2	-	4
Biman	3	2	1	4
Brothers Union	1	1	-	2
Victoria SC	2	1	1	2
Young Pegasus	2	1	1	2
Uttara SC	2	-	2	0
Kalabagan KC	2	-	2	0
Surjo Tarun	2	-	2	0
Young Cricketers	3	-	3	0
Dhanmondi Club	-	-	-	-

Young Cricketers, who dropped around a dozen of catches, was also equally pathetic while batting. They could not negotiate the Mohammedan attack led by Taposh. Taposh was ably supported by another left-armed Mohammad Rafique, who took two wickets for 19 with his spinners.

It was Mohammedan's third win



TAPOSH ... 5 for 19

from as many matches that placed them atop the 12-team league table with highest six points.

Abahani, Biman and City Club are in the crowded second spot with four points each.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League match between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Young Cricketers at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Wednesday:

**MOHAMMEDAN SC**  
Sabbir c Rana b Kamal 32  
Ehsanul c Imran b Rana 110  
Habibul lbw b Rana 93  
Tikolo c Kamal b Morshed 26  
Rafique b Rana 0  
Sanwar not out 13

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# U-13 cricket meet Abahani kids Dhaka champs

## Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani Kirra Chakra clinched the BCB Dhaka zonal under-13 cricket tournament title with a 24-run win over Surjo Tarun Club in the final on Tuesday.

Sent in to bat at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Abahani kids plundered 231 runs from the allotted 40 overs with six wickets in hand.

Opener Mofizur Rahman scored highest 91 off 106 balls with two sixes and eight fours while Shafayet blasted 63 from 75 balls with the help of eight hits across the ground.

In reply, Surjo Tarun were all out for 207 in 39 overs with one-down Humayun topscoring with 62.

Abahani's new-ball bowler Mezbahuddin was the wrecker in chief with a haul of four wickets for 37 runs.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
ABAHANI KC: 231 for 4 in 40 overs (Mofizur 91, Shafayet 63, Mahmudul 33 n.o., Hossain 1-32)  
SURJO TARUN: 207 all out in 39 overs (Humayun 62, Mezbah 4-37, Aziz 2-41)

Result: Abahani KC won by 24 runs.

# Customs cruise on Sumon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A brilliant unbeaten century from middle-order Sumon propelled Customs Sports Club to an easy 70-run victory over a lowly Little Brothers in the Ispahani CJKS Cricket League match here at the MA Aziz stadium yesterday.

Sumon, in his 165-minute stay at the crease, hammered 110 not out off 100 balls that included two sweetly timed sixers and a dozen of fours.

With little support from the other end, Sumon sent the newcomers in this year's league on a cherry chase to help his team post 247 for eight.

Little Brothers however accepted the challenge courageously on a relatively flat wicket. At one stage, they were 147 for three to raise hopes of an upset. But Brother's battle came to an end with the departure of two-down Shafiq, who scored a resolute 48 off 75 balls.

Wickets tumbled like nine pins as Brothers lost most of their wickets to reach 168 from 148.

Three fine spells from Sayeed, Layekuzzaman and Arman of Customs SC, who shared three wickets apiece, spelt their doom.

The collapse began at 148/4, when Sayeed had Shafiq in the safe hand of Arman. Shuman, Ismail, Arafat, Faruk and Jahed took no time to follow him.

**BRIEF SCORE**  
CUSTOMS SC: 247 for 8 in 45 overs (Sumon 110 no, Raza 28, Jamal 26 and extras 55. Rukon 3/62 and Bitu 2/36)

**LITTLE BROTHERS:** 177 all out in 39.5 overs (Bitu 60, Shafiq 48 and extras 20: Arman 3/15, Layekuzzaman 3/37 and Sayeed 3/41)

# SA, Australia tie third tie

REUTERS, Potchefstroom

South Africa and Australia tied the third match of the seven-game one-day international series here on Wednesday.

**SCORES:** South Africa 259-7 (Jonty Rhodes 83, Jacques Kallis 71, Brett Lee 4-45) and Australia 295-9 (Matthew Hayden 78; Makhaya Ntini 4-33)

# SA, Australia tie third tie

REUTERS, Potchefstroom

South Africa's Jonty Rhodes sweeps one for a four on way to scoring a magnificent 83 against Australia in the third ODI at Potchefstroom on Wednesday.



PHOTO: AFP

South Africa's Jonty Rhodes sweeps one for a four on way to scoring a magnificent 83 against Australia in the third ODI at Potchefstroom on Wednesday.

# Kiwis draw second Test

## Cricket

REUTERS, Wellington

Lou Vincent struck his second half-century of the match on Monday as New Zealand thwarted England's victory drive in the second Test.

New Zealand, set 356 to win and square the three-match series, were 65 for two at one stage before Vincent (71) and captain Stephen Fleming ground out a 63-run partnership to put the game beyond England's reach.

The pair were dismissed within three runs of each other but Nathan Astle (11 not out) and Craig McMillan (17 not out) also batted patiently as New Zealand finished the day on 158 for four.

Fleming scored only 11 from 108 balls with nudges and gentle pushes and let at least half the deliveries fly harmlessly through to wicketkeeper James Foster before he was bowled by a vicious swinging yorker from Matthew Hoggard.

Nasser Hussain rang the bowling changes and even introduced occasional off-spinner Michael Vaughan in an attempt to force a win after a day and a half was lost to bad weather.

Ashley Giles proved the main danger to New Zealand on the worn pitch and his spin and bounce proved a menace to all the batsmen after he was introduced in the eighth over.

**SCOREBOARD**  
Scoreboard on the fifth day of the second Test between New Zealand and England at the Basin Reserve on Monday:

**ENGLAND:** First innings 280 (N Hussain 66)  
**NEW ZEALAND:** First innings 218 (M Richardson 60, L Vincent 57; A Caddick 6-59)

**ENGLAND:** Second innings T'cothick c Richardson b Vettori 88

Vaughan c Drum b Vettori	34	Home c Foster b Flintoff	38	
Butcher c Martin b Drum	60	Vincent lbw b Hoggard	71	
Flintoff c and b Vettori	75	Fleming b Hoggard	11	
Hussain not out	13	Astle not out	11	
Thorpe not out	1	McMillan not out	17	
Extras: (b-5, lb-13, nb-4)	22	Extras: (b-2, lb-2, nb-2)	6	
Total: (For 4 wks dec in 65 overs) 293	158	Total: (For 4 wks in 84 overs) 158	158	
Fall of wickets: 1-79, 2-194, 3-209, 4-291	4-131	Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-65, 3-128, 4-131	4-131	
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Butler	6	0	32	0
Drum	16	2	77	1
Vettori	24	1	91	3
Astle	9	4	18	0
Martin	7	1	40	0
McMillan	3	0	17	0
<b>NEW ZEALAND:</b> Second innings Richardson c Thorpe b Giles	4			

# ACB calls off Zim tour

## Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

Australian cricket chiefs abandoned next month's tour of Zimbabwe Wednesday, but insisted they had not bowed to political pressure.

The current world Test and one-day champions had been due to play a two-Test tour in the southern African country from April 11.

But the Australian Cricket Board pulled the plug following Robert Mugabe's controversial re-election and Canberra's insistence that Prime Minister John Howard's role in having Zimbabwe suspended from the Commonwealth could put Australians at risk in the southern African country.

ACB chairman Bob Merriman said the decision to withdraw was made overnight after the government refused to downgrade its warning to Australians not to travel to the strife-torn country.

"The security of our people is our first priority and it is now clear that travelling to Zimbabwe would compromise their safety," he told a press conference.

"This is a decision that the ACB has deliberated on deeply and it is recognised that it will impact most on the cricket community within Zimbabwe," Merriman added.

"This is something that is deeply regretted.

"Nevertheless the safety of the players and team management must take precedence and I hope there are other initiatives that the ACB and the Zimbabwe Cricket Union can adopt that will provide

much needed support to the game in Zimbabwe."

Merriman said a proposal to play the matches in South Africa had been ruled out by Zimbabwe.

ACB chief executive James Sutherland said the board was aiming at rescheduling the matches with Zimbabwe to 2004.

Sutherland denied reports the players had been considering a boycott, but said Wednesday's decision would come as no surprise to them.

International Cricket Council president Malcolm Gray said Australia would not be penalised for the decision.

"The game has already lost recent series in Pakistan and this latest disruption is regrettable from a cricketer's perspective," Gray said in a statement.

"Having said that, the safety and security of teams, officials and spectators must always remain the priority in judging whether a series or match should go ahead."

Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer denied the ACB had been pressured into making the decision.

"Our cricket team cannot go to Zimbabwe because President Mugabe has turned Zimbabwe into a country which is too dangerous for our team to visit and this is a terrible indictment of President Mugabe and his government," he told reporters.

"It would have been politically unhelpful if our cricketers had visited a country whose so-called president has just stolen a presidential election in total defiance of the norms of democracy and civil rights," he added.

"The Australian cricket team wouldn't have wanted to be used for

propaganda purposes, but President Mugabe would have done everything he could to have used the world's best cricket team for propaganda purposes as a sign of 'well, the world has been a bit grumpy but at the end of the day it's just business as usual in Zimbabwe."

Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU) officials earlier this week had urged the Australians to avoid applying what they described as sporting sanctions.

"There really is no threat whatsoever to the Australian cricketers," ZCU security chief Dan Stannard said on Monday.

Stannard said reports of security concerns had been exaggerated and denied suggestions of an anti-Australian feeling in Zimbabwe.

"All the blacks I've spoken to said you cannot lump politics and sport—quite right," he said.

Zimbabwe's High Commissioner to Australia Florence Chitaura said she was disappointed with the decision because the tour would have helped her country's healing process.

"All the grounds concerned are still safe, we have tourists in Zimbabwe as we speak," she told ABC radio.

"I have not up to now heard of any sport mixed with politics."

The last time Australia refused to tour a country was during the 1996 World Cup in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka when Australia would not play matches in Colombo.

Australia's next Test series is against Pakistan in Pakistan in September.

# Hundreds remember Ben Cremation today

## Cricket

AFP/AP, Perth

England Test captain Nasser Hussain and former captain Alec Stewart were among hundreds of mourners at the funeral of Australian-born England Test and one-day international cricketer Ben Holloake on Wednesday.

Hussain represented the England team, currently on tour in New Zealand, at the service at Our Lady of Mt Carmel Catholic church in the port city of Fremantle.

Holloake, 24, was killed when his Porsche hit a brick retaining wall after leaving a Perth freeway early Saturday morning.

His 23-year-old girlfriend Janaya Scholten, who was in the same car, remains in a critical condition in Royal Perth Hospital with severe head and chest injuries.

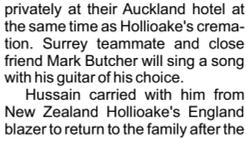
The couple were returning from a family celebration in Perth when Holloake apparently lost control of the car on a tight bend.

The Melbourne-born all-rounder was in Western Australia visiting his parents and taking a break after being with the England one-day squad in New Zealand. He made his Test debut in 1997.

He was in the city with older brother Adam, also an England international player.

Hussain was not expected to attend Holloake's private cremation at Fremantle Cemetery Thursday because he will be flying back to New Zealand ahead of the third and final Test against the Black Caps starting Saturday at Eden Park.

The England team will gather



BEN HOLLOAKE

privately at their Auckland hotel at the same time as Holloake's cremation. Surrey teammate and close friend Mark Butcher will sing a song with his guitar of his choice.

Hussain carried with him from New Zealand Holloake's England blazer to return to the family after the

ate person to go," England coach Duncan Fletcher was quoted as saying.

"We've asked Butch to sing a song of his choice because I think it will go down quite well," Fletcher said.

# AIUB Cup cricket

UNB, Dhaka

The quarterfinals of the AIUB Cup inter-private university cricket tournament begin today at the Old DOHS ground with favourites North South University taking on City Dental College in the first quarterfinal.

Independence University will meet Stamford University in the second quarterfinal on March 30, American International University-Bangladesh will face Darul Ihsan University on March 31 while Asian University of Bangladesh will encounter Queens University on April 1 in the other quarterfinals at the same venue.

# Inter-varsity cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Khulna University (KU) defeated Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) by six wickets in the inter-varsity cricket competition at the Jahangirnagar University playground yesterday.

Battling first, BAU scored 134 runs in nine wickets in the stipulated 40 overs.

In reply, KU reached the target of 135 runs for four wickets in 33.3 overs.

# Parore to call it quits

## Cricket

AFP, Auckland

New Zealand wicketkeeper-batsman Adam Parore said Wednesday he was quitting first class cricket.

His last Test will be that against England here this Easter.

Aveteran of 77 Tests, Parore, 31, has been struggling to remain enthusiastic in the sport, but despite performing below his best, Parore retained his place for the third Test against England.

Retirement comes as Parore is also on the verge of a major milestone, needing four wicketkeeping dismissals to raise his career tally to 200.

Overall, he has 199 dismissals but three of those were as a fieldsmen in 1995-96 when Lee Germon was the captain and wicketkeeper.

Selection panel convener Richard Hadlee said despite some mixed form, Parore was still the selectors' first choice and the player wanted to atone for his earlier efforts in the series against England.

Parore's international career has spanned close to 12 years since he

made his Test debut at the age of 19 in July 1990.

He made his one day international debut in 1992 and has played in 179 one-dayers, including the 1996 and 1999 World Cups.

He holds the New Zealand wicketkeeping record for most one



ADAM PARORE

day international dismissals with 136, made up of 111 catches and 25 stumpings.

Parore's greatest asset has been his duel contribution to the side as a specialist gloveman and a more than useful batsman.

"Adam has served his country and his team-mates over a 12-year period at the highest level. His contribution deserves the highest praise and recognition from New Zealand cricket fans," he said.

# IOA talks of 'Pak cricket'

REUTERS, New Delhi

A top Indian sports official said on Monday he would discuss resuming cricketing ties with neighbouring Pakistan, hit by political and military tensions, during a regional meeting in Islamabad later this week.

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president Suresh Kalmadi said he has received positive signals from authorities to use a meeting on the South Asian Federation (SAF) Games on Saturday to talk to Pakistani cricket officials.

"The idea is to start sporting ties again through Olympic sports," he told this news agency. "We are also looking at bilateral exchanges in hockey, tennis and athletics," he said.

Kalmadi will take part in a SAF games committee meeting to discuss fresh dates for the regional games, put off from October last year because of the security situation in Afghanistan.

Kalmadi, a former federal minister and currently an upper house lawmaker from the main opposition Congress party, said federal sports