



Did U Know?

Windies great Garfield Sobers hit all the six balls of an over for a six in first-class cricket in England. Former India skipper Ravishankar Shastri is the other player to do so in a domestic cricket championship. He achieved the feat while playing for Mumbai in their Ranji Trophy match against Vadodara in 1984-85.

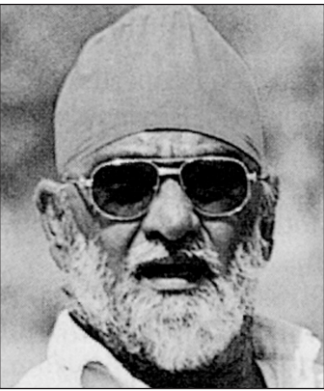


ESPN

English Premier Football League
Arsenal vs Sunderland
12:30 pm
UEFA Champions League
Weekly Highlights at 2:30 pm
Serie A
Juventus vs Lazio
3:30 pm
English Premier Football League
Leeds United vs Man United
5:30 pm

STAR Sports

New Zealand vs England
Third Test, Day Two
Live at 4:27 am
New Zealand vs England
Third Test, Day Two
Highlights at 9:00 pm



Bishan Singh Bedi

(Indian legendary spinner)
"The team should take a lesson or two from his attitude towards the game and his professionalism and commitment and try to follow in his footsteps rather than feel demoralised at the fall of his wicket and hope for some miracle to happen."
While praising star batsman Sachin Tendulkar.



Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
April 12, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who clinched the Indian Wells Masters Series tennis title?			
Hewitt	Henman	Agassi	
2. Who won the Bangladesh Games hockey title?			
Dhaka	BDR	BJMC	
3. How many balls did Nathan Astle face to score Test cricket's fastest double century?			1532 0'0"
4. Who lifted the Bangladesh Games football title?			
Chittagong	Dhaka	Army	
5. How many gold medals did Doly Akhter win in Bangladesh Games?			
Nine	Seven	Ten	
Name			
Class	Roll No.		
School Address			
Phone: (If any)			



GrameenPhone Premier Cricket League
Young Cricketers v Uttara SC
Venue: KOACS, Fatullah
Kalabagan KC v Young Pegasus
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium..
Dhanmondi Club v Surjo Tarun
Venue: BKSP.



PHOTO: STAR

CAPTAIN'S KNOCK GOES IN VAIN: Abahani's Akram Khan sweeps one on way to scoring an unbeaten 102 against Victoria in the GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium on Saturday.

Victoria's costly victory

GrameenPhone Premier League



SPORTS REPORTER

Title aspirants Victoria Sporting Club returned to winning ways in style with an exciting two-wicket win over last year's runners-up Abahani Krira Chakra in a GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League match at the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah yesterday.

Chasing a formidable Abahani total of 235 in 50 overs, Victoria, who lost to Biman by six wickets at the same venue on March 26, had to wait till the last ball of the nerve-wrecking match to get the winning run.

But a pall of gloom, not the gladness, fell upon the Victoria camp knowing afterwards that their spill-thrill victory cost them dear. Their beloved coach Dowlattuzzaman could not take the heat of the match and eventually died of heart attacks during the second session of the match.

Elsewhere, defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club, riding on an unbeaten half-century from Bangladesh batting mainstay Habibul Bashar, thrashed Brothers Union by eight wickets at the BKSP ground in Savar.

The outcome of two matches left Mohammedan atop the 12-team table with full eight points from four matches. On the other hand, Abahani, who suffered their first defeat after three wins, remain glued to six points.

Abahani v Victoria
At the picturesque stadium in Fatullah, former Bangladesh captain Akram Khan scored an undefeated 102 to help Abahani post a fighting 235 for six after being put in to bat first.

Coming in to bat at number five after Abahani lost their third wicket on 49 in the 16th over, the big-hitting middle-order reproduced his old form to send Victorians on a cherry chase.

Dropped on 53 by Victoria keeper Khaled Mashud at square leg, Akram, who took 72 balls to

reach his fifty, stepped up the tempo as he used another 27 balls to reach the magical three figure with a six in the last ball of the 50th over.

In his 99-ball knock, Akram hit five sixes and four boundaries.

But his gallant effort went in vain when Victoria successfully overhauled the target in the last ball of the day.

Opener Al-Shahriar and one-down Jahangir Alam led the Victoria chase scoring 53 and 54 runs respectively.

Al-Shahriar, the Bangladesh opener, hit one six and half a dozen of boundaries in his 55-ball innings while Jahangir hit three fours in his 103-ball knock.

Later in the innings when Victoria kept losing wickets at regular interval, lower orders

10 overs.

For Brothers, opener Sajjadul Hasan scored highest 62 off 133 balls with a six and three fours. His partner Harunur Rashid (22) was the other batter who could reach double figure.

In reply, Habibul Bashar hammered an unbeaten 75 as Mohammedan raced to victory in only 28.2 overs. Bashar's 92-ball innings was laced with twelve boundaries.

Among others, opener Rashedul Haque chipped in with a 47-ball 38.

Mohammedan's Kenyan recruit Steve Tikolo, who returned home last night to play for Kenyan national team in a six-nation tournament in Namibia, was not out on 11. His replacement, Sri Lankan Test

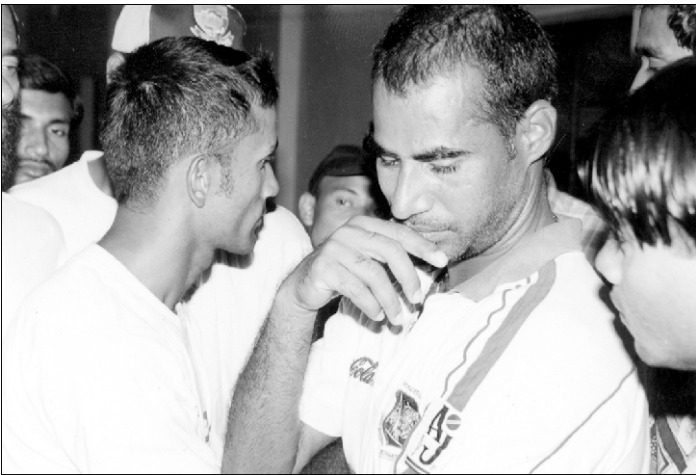


PHOTO: STAR

Victoria captain Khaled Mashud (L) and spinner Enamul Hoque stand silently beside the body of Dowlattuzzaman at the club premises on Saturday.

Enamul Hoque and Alok Kapali steered their team safely to the coast making 19 runs each.

Brothers Union v Mohammedan
It was a completely different game at the BKSP ground in Savar where Brother Union were shot out by Mohammedan for a paltry 132 in 48.5 overs after they elected to bat first.

The left and right spin combination of Sabbir Khan and Mohammad Rafique claimed seven Brother wickets giving away only 42 runs. Sabbir was at his miserly best taking four wickets for 14 runs off his

cricketer Hashan Tillekeratne, was scheduled to arrive in the capital yesterday.

SCOREBOARDS

Scoreboards of the two Grameen-Phone Premier Division Cricket League matches held at different venues on Saturday:

Victoria SC v Abahani KC	
Venue: KOACS, Fatullah	
ABAHANI KC	
Nafis b Enamul	30
Hossain c Kashud b Monjurul	6
Naimur lbw b saiful	7

SEE PAGE 15

White Plus GM meet Winning start for Zia, Niaz

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master (GM) Ziaur Rahman got off to a good start in the White Plus Grand Masters Chess tournament with a victory over Shawkat Hossain Pallab in the opening round at the NSC conference room on Saturday.

GM Niaz Murshed also won his board against Abu Sufian Shakil.

However, Tayebur Rahman Sumon of Bangladesh stole the day's limelight forcing Ukrainian GM Alexander Goloshchapov to a draw.

In the day's other matches, top seed GM Drazen Sermek of Slovenia beat Syed Mahfuzur Rahman, IM Johansson beat Khandkar Kayes Hasan, Indian Raktim Bandopadhyaya beat IWM Rani Hamid, and Shabana Parveen Nipa beat Aminul Islam.

Three matches between Indian GM Dibendyu Barua and Malaysian IM Wang Jheng, Russian GM Fominyh and Indian Nisha Mehta, and Parag and Indian Girinath ended in draws.

The second round begins at the same venue at 3 pm today.

Age-gp cricket Sonargaon in final

UNB, Dhaka

An unbeaten 114 runs by Asif Babu steered Sonargaon Cricketers to reach the final of the BCB Under-15 age-group cricket tournament beating East End Club by four wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

East End scored 211 runs for eight wickets in the stipulated 45 overs after deciding to bat first. Opener Sagir Hossain made team highest 78 off 93 balls.

Captain Nafiz Ahmed made 37 off 60 balls and Mustafizur Rahman added 38 off 52 balls.

Tanveer Ahmed bagged two wickets for 37 runs in 9 overs while Asif Babu took two for 43 runs in 8 overs.

In reply, Sonargaon Cricketers reached the target of 212 runs losing six wickets in fixed 45 overs.

Number four batsman and captain Asif was not out with 114 runs off 123 balls that featured eleven boundaries and an over boundary while Risadul Sakib was another notable scorer making 37 off 58 balls.

Taibur Rahman and Asim Chowdhury took two wickets each giving away 33 and 28 runs respectively.

Inter-varsity cricket

JU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) became Group A champions in the inter-university cricket competition defeating hosts Jahangirnagar University (JU) by 25 runs in their last round robin league match at the JU Central playground yesterday.

Winning the toss, DU decided to bat first and collected 169 runs for eight wickets in the stipulated 40 overs.

Opener Debashish scored team highest 56 runs while Rubel made 38 and Lovlu 30 runs.

Debabrata, Sajal and Kabir bagged two wickets each for 51, 25 and 25 runs respectively.

In reply, JU were all out for 144 runs in 37.3 overs.

Sajal scored team highest 26 runs while Tuhin and Debabrata made 21 and 17 runs respectively.

Rubel, Mdul and Ripon of DU evenly shared six wickets for 17, 11 and 19 runs.

Debashish of DU was adjudged man-of-the-match.

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology take on Chittagong University today.

AIUB Cup cricket

UNB, Dhaka

Stamford University moved into the semifinals of the AIUB Cup inter-private university cricket tournament beating Independent University at the Old DOHS ground yesterday.

The match ended in a tie as both the teams scored 237 runs in the stipulated 40 overs but Stamford won the battle due to loss of less wickets to book seat in the last four.

Batting first, Stamford scored 237 runs for seven wickets in fixed 40 overs.

Hassan made unbeaten 82 runs and later picked up three wickets for 20 runs to receive the man-of-the-match award.

In reply, Independent University were all out for 237 runs in 40 overs with Russel making 57 and Farhan 39 runs.

American International University of Bangladesh take on Darul Ehsan University in the third quarterfinal match today at the same venue.

Sports remedy to Indo-Pak rift

AFP, Islamabad

Sporting ties will ease friction between nuclear rivals Pakistan and India and should not suffer because of tension between the South Asian neighbours, India's Olympic chief said Saturday.

"I strongly feel that sporting relations will help ease whatever political tension exists between Pakistan and India and whatever be the political scenario, sports should go on," Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President Suresh Kalmadi told the news agency.

The IOA president was speaking while on a three-day visit to Pakistan to attend an executive committee meeting of the Ninth South Asian Federation Games.

He also held talks to discuss the possibility of reviving sporting contacts between India and Pakistan.

Both countries have amassed some 800,000 troops on their shared border following an attack last December on the Indian parliament which New Delhi alleges was carried out by Pakistan-based

militants.

Already weak sporting relations between Pakistan and India have suffered as a result of the stand-off, with cricket the worst hit.

"Both Pakistan and India should now go step-by-step and I am here as the first step and the process should be furthered by mutual cooperation," he said.

When asked if he saw any chance of India playing a commemorative Test against Pakistan in October this year, Kalmadi declined to comment.

"It's too early to say and when I return home Sunday morning I will give a report of my tour to the sports ministry and hope that some positives would come out."

Pakistan's Cricket Board has plans to invite India to play a commemorative Test to mark the 50th anniversary of the first ever India-Pakistan Test played in 1952-53.

India is also scheduled to tour Pakistan in April-May next year which, if it goes ahead, would be their first full Test tour of the country since 1989-90.

Pakistan broke a deadlock of 13

years when its cricket team crossed the border to play a Test series and a triangular tournament in 1999.

Both countries have not met on a cricket field since the Asia Cup tournament in Bangladesh in June 2000.

Kalmadi added that he believed the Ninth South Asian Federation Games, which were Saturday rescheduled from March 29 to April 17 next year, would open the door for a renewal of sporting ties.

"After meeting with Pakistan Olympic Association officials we mutually agree that regular meets like athletics, football, hockey, kabaddi and cricket should be held," Kalmadi said.

Pakistan and India revived their cross-border hockey series in 1998 but this was terminated the following year following an outbreak in hostilities.

Kalmadi also held discussions with Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Lieutenant General Tahir Zia on Friday.

"Overall it was a fruitful tour and I hope results will come," he added.

Japan to help sports sector

BSS, Dhaka

Japan will provide all-out cooperation to Bangladesh to build a international standard sports complex and youth centre.

Japanese ambassador to Bangladesh Jiro Kobayashi revealed this during a meeting with State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman at the latter's Secretariat office on Saturday.

They also discussed about the development of the youth and sports sector.

Youth and Sports secretary Muhammad Nurul Huda was present during the meeting.



PHOTO: STAR

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman (L) ponders his next move against Shawkat Hossain Pallab during their New White Plus Grand Masters' Chess Tournament engagement at the Bangladesh Chess Federation Auditorium on Saturday.

Ponting pounds Proteas



BBC ONLINE, Bloemfontein

Australia proved too hot to handle for South Africa in the fourth one-day international at Bloemfontein, thanks to a century from captain Ricky Ponting.

Ponting's 129 set up an Australian total of 290 for six from their 50 overs which proved far too much for a South African side who collapsed to 253 all out in 48.3 overs as the run-rate became impossible.

With this 37-run win, Australia now have an unassailable 3-0 lead in the seven-match series with three games to play - the third game having ended in a tie.

Ponting dominated the Australian innings with his first century as captain in an exhibition of one-day batting.

Some judicious shot selection and excellent running kept the Australian rate going throughout the innings, with all the batsmen exploiting the wide open spaces of the Bloemfontein outfield.

Ponting was ably assisted by Darren Lehman who made 39 from 37 balls at a crucial stage.

The pair put on 119 for the fourth wicket from only 92 balls, taking Australia past 250.

Shaun Pollock eventually bowled out Lehmann and also took the catch that dismissed Ponting for 129.

He also picked up the wicket of Ian Harvey who holed out in the deep in an attempt to get quick runs.

Earlier Roger Telemachus, in the side for the injured Lance Klusener, impressed with an accurate opening spell.

Having already picked up the wicket of Matthew Hayden, Telemachus added the scalp of Adam Gilchrist, clean-bowling the Australian vice-captain for a relatively tame 34 from 59 balls.

Gilchrist and Hayden had given Australia a steady start but it was only when Ponting came to the crease that they were able to up the run rate.

In the South African reply, debutant Graeme Smith started a revival with a quickfire 41 from 49 balls after losing early wickets.

He saw his new opening partner Gary Kirsten depart after only three overs and Andrew Hall, promoted to number three, followed soon afterwards.

Both men fell to catches behind the wicket off Glenn McGrath who bowled a typically classy opening spell.

The 20-year-old Smith eventually showed his inexperience playing on

to Ian Harvey in the first ball after the drinks break.

Jacques Kallis and Neil McKenzie tried to take over from where Smith left off, rotating the strike without taking total command.

The pair put on 71 for the fourth wicket before Kallis offered a return to catch to the innocuous left-arm spin of Darren Lehmann.

Jonny Rhodes then joined McKenzie and together they built another 50 partnership, allowing McKenzie to complete his fifth ODI half-century off 69 balls.

However, with the run-rate edging up towards ten per over McKenzie was yoked by Brett Lee trying to make room.

Mark Boucher followed in the same fashion from the very next ball and with Shaun Pollock capitulating for just two, South Africa's chances were gone.

Lee also picked up the wickets of Boje and Rhodes for 56 to finish with his second four-wicket haul in consecutive matches as South Africa subsided to 253 all out.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the fourth one-day international between South Africa and Australia at Springbok Park on Saturday.

AUSTRALIA	
Gilchrist b Telemachus	34

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Caddick owes it to Nasser



AFP, Auckland

Andrew Caddick took his place among England's best Test bowlers and immediately thanked captain Nasser Hussain.

One of Hussain's first tasks when he took over as captain in the summer of 1999 was to recall Caddick to the Test arena.

And the Somerset fast bowler has rewarded the faith Hussain placed in him by becoming the ninth England player in history to grab 200 Test victims.

His four for 57 on the opening day of the final Test at Eden Park, helped reduce New Zealand to 19 for four until a determined half-century from Chris Harris guided them to 151 for five at the close.

Caddick described reaching the milestone as one of the highlights of his career but one that would not have been possible had it not been for the more relaxed approach introduced by Hussain when he became captain alongside coach Duncan Fletcher.

"As a captain he always backs you," enthused Caddick. "We've had our ups and downs and disagreements but for 90-95 per cent of the time he is backing you."

"He knows what you're trying to do, he knows what he wants me to try and do and the relationship between us goes quite well."

"Duncan is also useful because he's had a bowling background and it's been great to have someone as your coach that knows what it's like



CADDICK ... 200 Test wkts haul

to be out there bowling.

He added: "The low points usually outweigh the high points during a career, but when these sort of milestones and highs come along you do enjoy them."

"I find proving people wrong,

it's something I like doing and sometimes you need that just to give you a kick up the backside to make sure you're on song."

"It's not my most satisfying moment in my cricket career, but it's definitely a highlight," Caddick said.

"The fact that Goughie (Darren Gough) isn't here just puts a little bit more pressure on me and I actually enjoy the responsibility."

"With the added responsibility you tend to get on with it a bit more and tend to think about it more as opposed to just running up and bowling."

Officers' Club tennis Rashid clinches singles title

UNB, Dhaka

Professor Rashiduddin Ahmed won the singles title of the Officers' Club annual tennis championship at the club court on Friday.

He defeated Giasuddin Ahmed in the final.

In the veterans' doubles, Khondker Musa Khaled and Anwarul Huq won the title beating Giasuddin Mahmud and Dewan Shah Alam.

Major (ret'd) AKM Rezaul Islam and Dr SB Nasim bagged the doubles title defeating Qamrul Islam Siddiqi and AMM Nasiruddin.



HARRIS ... 55 n.o.

McMillan and Parore.

England fast bowler Andy Caddick was irresistible in the morning conditions and claimed his 200th Test wicket.

The New Zealand-born Caddick captured 4-28 to have New Zealand

myself a chance."

Harris was promoted to number four in the order as part of a couple of team changes aimed at squaring the series after the Kiwis lost the opening Christchurch Test by 98 runs.

Harris, who had a Test average of 19.4 from 19 matches going into the Test, took 37 minutes to get off the mark but grew in confidence and anchored partnerships with Craig

Captain Stephen Fleming correctly called the toss ahead of England counterpart Nasser Hussain for the third time in the series and chose to bat on a drop-in pitch in humid conditions.