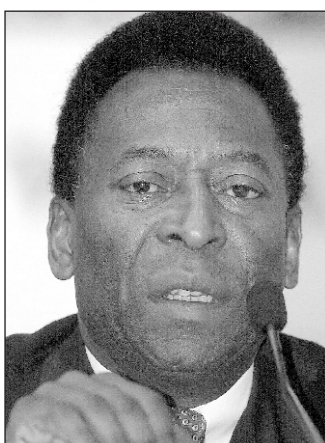




Did U Know?

Sledging is a common practice in the modern version of the game of cricket. It is the action when fielders standing in close catching positions try to provoke, irritate or distract the concentration of a batsman by the use of words. In the days when the sport was truly a 'gentleman's game' such practices were considered unethical and below the dignity of the game.



Pele
(Brazilian soccer legend)
"We know we have good players but we don't have a team organised yet for the World Cup."



ESPN
South Africa vs Australia
Fifth ODI
Highlights at 7:00 am
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
12:00 pm
UEFA Champions League
Liverpool vs Bayer Leverkusen
6:00 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
World Cup Soccer Mix
9:00 pm
UEFA Champions League
Panathinaikos vs Barcelona
9:30 pm

STAR Sports
English Premier League
Highlights at 8:30 am
Primera Liga
Vallecano vs Betis
9:30 am
English Premier Football League
Arsenal vs Sunderland
1:00 pm
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
7:00 pm
Sportline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
Australia vs South Africa
Third ODI
Highlights at 11:00 pm

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 169
Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
April 12, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who clinched the Indian Wells Masters Series tennis title?
Hewitt Henman Agassi
- Who won the Bangladesh Games hockey title?
Dhaka BDR BJMC
- How many balls did Nathan Astle face to score Test cricket's fastest double century?
..... 1532 0
- Who lifted the Bangladesh 'Games football' title?
Chittagong Dhaka Army
- How many gold medals did Doly Akhter win in Bangladesh Games?
Nines Seven Ten

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

Rain pain persists

GrameenPhone Premier League



SPORTS REPORTER

Heavy early-morning rain spoilt yesterday's all the three Grameen-Phone Premier Division Cricket League matches at different city venues.

Weather permitting, the matches will be played today.

Holders Mohammedan Sporting Club, who lost their last game against Victoria on Monday, will take on City Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium while Biman confront Surjo Tarun at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. The other match pitting two Youngs -- Pegasus and Cricketers -- is to be held at the BKSP ground in Savar.

It was for the fifth time that the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) had been forced to suspend matches due to rain since the most colourful cricketing event commenced 13 days back.

Many fear that the League this year is destined to fall victim of

monsoon rain because of a delayed start.

However, yesterday's important match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium between Mohammedan and City Club was postponed mainly because of the delay in drying up the outfield by the groundsmen.

Team	M	W	L	Pts
Mohammedan	5	4	1	8
Abahani	5	4	1	8
City Club	4	3	1	6
Victoria SC	4	3	1	6
Biman	3	2	1	4
Y Pegasus	4	2	2	4
Surjo Tarun	4	2	2	4
Brothers Union	4	2	2	4
Kalabagan	5	2	3	4
Uttara SC	5	1	4	2
Dhanmondi	3	-	3	0
Y Cricketers	4	-	4	0

Although the match was scheduled to start at 9 am but the groundsmen started to get the field ready almost an hour later.

"We were late today (Wednesday) in working on the wet outfield. When we made the ground all right for play, it was already 1:15 pm. That is why we had no other alternative but to reschedule the match," said CCDM co-ordinator Abid Hossain.

Mohammedan, who are now jointly sharing the top spot along with arch-rivals Abahani with each having won four out of their five matches, should have reasons to rejoice with the postponement of yesterday's match as Pakistani hard-hitting batsman Zahoor Elahi is scheduled to join them on Thursday morning.

But a Mohammedan official, Tariqul Islam, disagreed by saying Elahi might not play against City Club.

"It all depends on how he feels on his arrival in the morning tomorrow (Thursday)," he said. If Elahi does not play, Sri Lanka Test cap Hashan Tillekeratne would fill up their foreign player's quota, he informed.

Each of the twelve Premier Division clubs are entitled to field only one foreign player in a match, and Mohammedan already bolstered their batting with imported ones. Elahi is their third foreign recruit.

Kenyan star Steve Tikolo played the first four matches before flying back home for national duty last week while Tillekeratne played the last match against Victoria Sporting Club.

But his slow scoring rate failed to impress the Mohammedan officials who then opted for Elahi.

First Div Hockey on Azad blank Policemen

SPORTS REPORTER

Azad Sporting Club made a dream start in the Metropolitan First Division Hockey League with a 8-0 drubbing of Police Athletic Club in one of the two matches played on the opening day Wednesday at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium.

The winners scored four goals either side of the breather.

Russell struck twice while Asif, Zahid, Mobarak, Wahid, Rajib and Sultan added one apiece to the winners' credit.

In the other match, Sadharan Biman outplayed Barnak Samaj by five goals to none.

Abdus Samad found the net twice while Murad, Sharafat and Shah Alam scored one goal each for the insurance men. They had a 4-0 lead at the lemon break.

5th ODI SA make 267/7

CRICINFO, Kingsmead

Jonty Rhodes (76) and Mark Boucher (41 not out) put on 97 for the sixth wicket in a partnership that enabled South Africa to reach 267 for six in their 50 overs in the first Standard Bank one-day international against Australia at Kingsmead in Durban on Wednesday.

The pair came together at 158 for five in the 36th over and stayed there until the 49th to give South Africa perhaps their best chance in the series of finally winning a match.

With Australia slow in getting through their overs they ran 20 minutes over their allotted three-and-a-half hours - the South Africans may find themselves having to defend their total in less than the regulation 50 overs.

White Plus GM's Chess Reefat, Rajib catch Sermek

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladeshi International Master (IM) Reefat-bin-Sattar and compatriot Fide Master Enamul Hossain Rajib caught up with top seed Grand Master (GM) Deazen Sermek of Slovenia at the top of the White Plus Grand Masters Chess Tournament standings after winning their respective fifth round games at the National Sports Council (NSC) chess room yesterday.

Reefat, who fell behind pace setter Sermek after the third round, came back in style defeating IM Erlend Johannessen of Norway while Rajib beat fellow Bangladeshi Taibur Rahman.

The win enabled Reefat and Rajib raise their tally to four points and join Sermek who drew his fifth round fixture with India's Roktim Bandyopadhyaya.

Country's number one player GM Ziaur Rahman, Indian GM Dibyendu Barua and Roktim are half a point adrift of the leading trio. Yesterday, Zia drew with Dibyendu. GM Niaz Murshed, GM Alexander Fominyh of Russia, GM Alexander Goloshchapov of Ukraine, IM Johannessen and Indian IM Neeraj Kumar Mishra were sharing the crowded third spot with three points.

The 6th round starts at 3 pm at the same venue today.

Inter-varsity football from April 10

UNB, Dhaka

The inter-university football competition will start from April 10 at the Dhaka University central playground.

Dhaka University announced an 18-member preliminary squad for the competition and requested the



GrameenPhone Premier Cricket League
Mohammedan SC v City Club
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium.
Biman v Surjo Tarun
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.
Young Pegasus v Young Cricketers
Venue: BKSP
Metro Premier Division Hockey
Usha KC v Wari Club (4 pm)
Venue: Maulana Bhasani Stadium.
White Plus GM Chess Tournament Round Six
Venue: NSC Chess Room.



CRICKETERS' DAY-OFF: As rain made sure no play is possible on the day, players of both Mohammedan and City Club engage themselves in a gossip on the verandah of the dressing room of Bangabandhu National Stadium Wednesday.

Parore quits in style



AFP, Auckland

Adam Parore's bid for Test wicketkeeping's exclusive 200-club haunted him for the past three weeks but now the New Zealand cricket gloveman is looking forward to starting a normal life.

Parore, 31, officially retired from all cricket Wednesday after playing a prominent role in New Zealand's 78-run third Test win over England to square the series 1-1.

It was Parore's 78th Test and he ended with 201 wicketkeeping dismissals - only the eighth gloveman in Test history to reach the mark - along with 2,865 runs at an average of 26.28.

He finished with a batting double of 45 and 36 after opening in the second innings.

A qualified lawyer, Parore made his Test debut in England in 1990 and in the late 1990s emerged as consistently one of the world's best.

He was on 196 dismissals going

into the Auckland Test and took three catches in the first innings including Andrew Flintoff for number



PARORE ... goodbye to cricket

199 to an appalling decision from umpire Doug Cowie.

Parore finally got number 200 when he caught Graham Thorpe off Daryl Tuffey for three, and he added James Foster as his last scalp.

"I messed with my head badly for three weeks," Parore said. "That was a big milestone from a wicketkeeping point of view, and

that is the club to be in.

"It's a true honour to be in that club, those guys have been my heroes since I was a little kid.

"I'd have been absolutely gutted if I didn't make it. Between some pretty average wicketkeeping and some abysmal umpiring I stuttered my way towards it."

The most successful New Zealand wicketkeeper said the retirement had been brewing since the start of the season and the recent tour of Australia, after which he was dropped for the one-day series against England.

He said his interest in cricket hadn't waned but other things had become more important, including spending more time with his partner.

"I'd like to pursue a career in business, have a social life, not tour, hopefully have a family at some stage ... all the things that as a full-time professional cricketer you just can't do."

"I'm 31, don't have a job and I'm not married. Chasing a career is very important. I don't want to be remembered (only) as a cricketer."

Inconsistency India's bane



AFP, Georgetown

India believe they a chance of ending a 16-year drought in the Test series against the West Indies if they can overcome their maddening inconsistency.

"We have the potential to beat any side in the world," coach John Wright said Wednesday after his touring squad's first practice session here.

India have not won an away Test series since 1986 when they beat England 2-0 under Kapil Dev's captaincy.

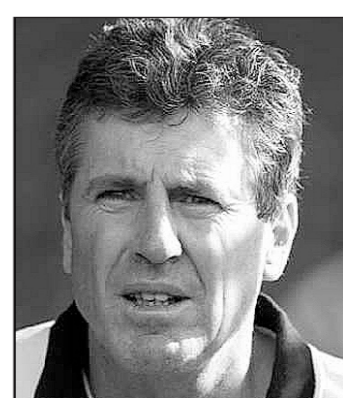
The West Indies have been passing through a lean patch of late, having lost Test series against Australia, England, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

"If we play as well as we can, we can clinch the series," said Wright, a former New Zealand captain whose greatest moment as coach came when India stunned Steve Waugh's Australians 2-1 in a home series last year.

India's overseas record, however, has remained dismal. They have lost in Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka

and South Africa in the past 10 months.

Their best opportunity to wrap up an away series came in Zimbabwe when they won the opening Test at Bulawayo, but collapsed in the



JOHN WRIGHT

second at Harare to settle for a 1-1 draw.

Wright said inconsistency was the main reason for India's poor record abroad despite their possessing several world-class batsmen.

"This (inconsistency) is really

frustrating," said Wright. "What we require is self-belief. We've got to believe that we are capable of winning away from home. It's a very important factor.

"Another important thing is that we should play as a team. We have quite a few brilliant players, but have yet to click as a team. What we need is a collective effort."

The India coach said he expected an improvement in the team's performance this time.

"We have come here with a strong squad, having two young talented seamers in Zaheer Khan and Ashish Nehra. Both look fitter and stronger. The boys should enjoy the tour and concentrate on the game.

"Moreover, the conditions here are different from those in South Africa or Australia. Let's see what type of wickets we get in the Test series.

"It's better to play five Tests as there's always a chance of fighting back."

India, who will also play five one-day internationals after the Test series, open their tour with a three-day game against Guyana here on Friday.

Exciting NZ square series



AFP, Auckland

New Zealand rejoiced only their third home Test victory over England with a spirited 78-run win to square the series in the third cricket Test at Eden Park here Wednesday.

Set 312 runs to win on the last day, England were dismissed for 233 off 62.5 overs with captain Nasser Hussain topscoring with a fighting 82 before he was the eighth man out.

The Kiwis, who lost the first Christchurch Test by 98 runs, fought back from 19 for four on Saturday's opening day to claim a famous victory after dismissing England for 160 to take a 42-run first innings lead.

Man-of-the-match Daryl Tuffey and Test newcomer Andre Adams relished the seaming conditions of the drop-in pitch to prove decisive on a compelling last day's play after only 82 overs in all were possible on the first three weather-affected days.

Tuffey, who claimed Test career-best 6-54 in the first innings, set up the Kiwi triumph with 3-62, including a sensational two wickets off three balls just before lunch.

Adams ended England's last realistic hope of victory with a diving catch and bowled to dismiss Hussain after the England captain had threatened to hold his team's innings together.

"I always felt that after day one when we were 151 for five with the nature of the wicket that we got ourselves into a good position, we got out of 4-19 and we able to push on and get a score and then be in a position to dictate the rest of the Test," said Kiwi skipper Stephen Fleming.

"It was a special win for a number of reasons," he said. "Obviously, the position we were in in the series, there were a couple of guys playing their last Tests and it was history, it was our 50th Test win."

Hussain, whose team failed to get its reward for overall dominance, said there were two key points in the Auckland Test.

"We had them at 19 for four but we bowled poorly to let them get up to 200 and then batting that evening in difficult light and the way they bowled to get us 10 for three (in first innings)," he said.

Fleming declared at New Zealand's overnight second innings total of 269 for nine leaving England an enticing target to chase.

England, who had begun positively in their run chase, slumped from 122 for two to 125 for five in the space of eight balls.

Thorpe feathered a catch to Adam Parore, in his farewell Test, to be out for three and in the same over Tuffey topped Flintoff when the ball clipped the top of his leading pad and was bowled for a duck.

Mark Butcher was out minutes before Thorpe when he was surprised by one that spat off the pitch from Nathan Astle and was caught at point for 35.



ON CLOUD NINE! New Zealand pacemen Daryl Tuffey (R) celebrates taking the wicket of Mark Ramprakash of England with Mark Richardson on the fifth day of the third and final Test at Auckland on Wednesday. Tuffey was adjudged man-of-the-match.

Hussain no 'whinger'



AFP, Auckland

Nasser Hussain insisted Wednesday he was no 'whinging' captain as he refused to blame England's defeat in the last cricket Test on New Zealand's pivotal decision to play on under lights.

New Zealand flayed the England bowlers under floodlights after turning down the umpires' offer of bad light on Tuesday evening to smash their way to a 311-run lead and set up Wednesday's 78-run series-leveling victory.

Senior England batsman Graham Thorpe urged cricket authorities to look at the situation, but Hussain was having none of it.

"The last thing I want to do is sit here and be like a whinging English captain," Hussain told reporters after the defeat at Eden Park.

"The cricket has been excellent, all this other stuff has to be looked at by people off the field, ICC (International Cricket Council), ECB, what



NASSER HUSSAIN

ever, they've got to look at it. "The thing last night was simple. Some of our boys were struggling to

see the ball, I mentioned that to Venkat (Indian umpire Srinivas Venkataraghavan), he fully agreed with me, he said it was difficult.

"But at no time in the history of the game has any team been taken off fielding and as far as ICC regulations go you can't take the fielding side off, so you will have to talk to the ICC about it."

England had to settle for a series draw after dominating large tracts of the series, especially in the 98-run win in the first Christchurch Test and the drawn Wellington Test.

Hussain, whose team were berated as "champion whingers of the world" by former India captain Sunil Gavaskar in February, said England deserved more than finishing the northern winter season without a series victory in India or New Zealand.

"If it was just down to heart, effort



Grand Masters, (L) Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh and Dibyendu Barua of India, are engrossed in deep thinking during their New White Plus Grand Masters Chess Tournament at the NSC on Wednesday.