



Did U Know?

Post the 1956 games, about 40 per cent of this Hungary's Olympic contingent chose to defect rather than return to their home country, invaded by the then USSR.



Talk Turkey



Mudassar Nazar
(Pakistani cricket coach)
"The umpires are under a lot of pressure due to the increased intrusion of television in coverage of their decisions."



What to Watch

- ESPN**
- World Cup Soccer Mix 7:00 am
 - UEFA Champions League Liverpool vs Bayer Leverkusen 2:00 pm
 - &
 - Panathinaikos vs Barcelona 4:30 pm
 - Western Union World Football 7:00 pm
 - Sportscentre Hindi**
 - Sport News
 - Live at 8:30 pm
 - South Africa vs Australia Fifth ODI
 - Highlights at 9:30 pm
 - Cricket Programming
 - Super Selector 11:00 pm
- STAR Sports**
- Sportline Tonight
 - Sport News 8:00 am
 - English Premier League Tottenham Hotspur vs Leeds United 1:00 pm
 - Sportline Tonight
 - Sport News
 - Live at 8:00 pm
 - Cricket Programming
 - Super Selector 10:00 pm
 - Zimbabwe vs New Zealand First ODI
 - Highlights at 11:00 pm

MSC bounce back

GrameenPhone Premier League



SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club roared back on track with a brawny 170-run win against City Club in a GrameenPhone Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The pace pair of Safiuddin Ahmed and Taposh Kumar ran havoc with the new ball as City Club were shot out for 71 in reply to Mohammedan's impressive 241.

They bowled their quota of ten overs each without any break to capture nine wickets to finish the match in just 21.2 overs.

It was a good comeback for the popular Motijheel outfit after their defeat against Victoria Sporting Club in the previous game.

Safiuddin, a former right-arm paceman, was simply outstanding with figures of five for 38. The tall Chittagong bowler extracted considerable pace and bounce to rip through the City top-order to make a mockery of a contest.

His young striking partner Taposh also ably supported at the other end, taking four wickets for 30.

The victory put Mohammedan at the top of the table with 10 points from six games. On the other hand, it was City Club's second successive defeat after three wins on a trot.

If it was totally a disappointing day for City Club, who created a sensation by roping in some quality players in the inter-club transfer, then Mohammedan also should not be carried with this victory as they failed to slog in the last ten overs.

Mohammedan could not think of a better start when in-form Ehsanul Huq and country's top batsman Habibul Bashar put on 132 runs for the second wicket.

Ehsanul cracked a superb 84 off 117 balls with the help of four boundaries and two sixes. The young right-hander also completed his league's 300 runs in the process.

Bashar on the other hand played a responsible knock of 59 off 86 balls that featured three fours and a six.

But Mohammedan could score only 52 runs from the last ten overs, losing seven wickets for that.

Mohammedan's Sri Lankan Test cap Hassan Tillekeratne again failed to live up to the expectation, making only 28 runs.

Biman vs Surjo Tarun National opener Javed Omar scored an unbeaten 95 as Bangladesh Biman recorded a six-wicket win over Surjo Tarun Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Javed was only five runs short of his first century when the national airline outfit reached the victory mark of 221 in 47.1 overs.

The dapper right-hander played the sheet anchor role after Biman, responding to Surjo Tarun's 220 all out in 49.5 overs, lost three quick

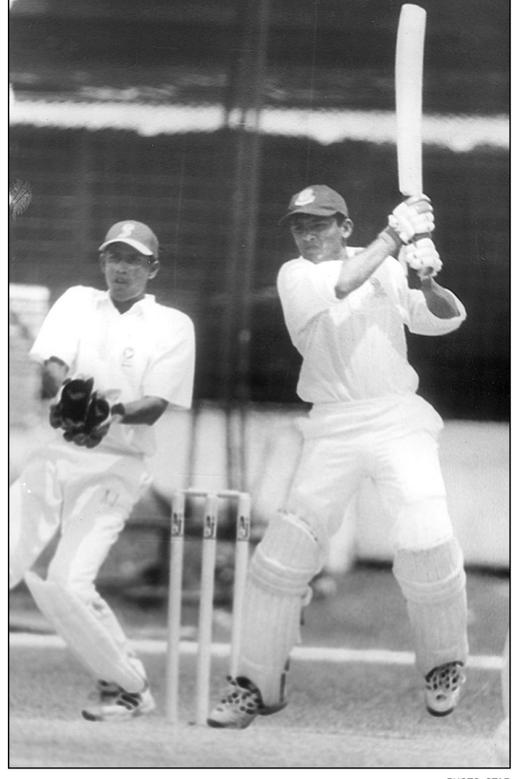
wickets. He shared 99 runs for the fourth wicket with Hasanuzzaman, who scored 52 off 70 balls before becoming the last batsman out in the 40th over.

Javed struck nine boundaries and a six in his 148-ball knock. His innings was overshadowed by yet another fine innings from

spotlight following the successful Caribbean tour with the Bangladesh A team, scored 31 off 51 balls.

Veteran left-arm paceman Anisur Rahman was the most successful Biman bowler with three for 23.

It was Biman's third victory from four games. For Surjo Tarun, it was their third defeat against two wins.

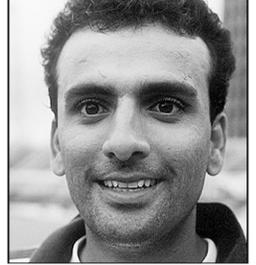


Mohammedan opener Ehsanul Haque executes a drive off the back foot during his knock of 84 against City Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

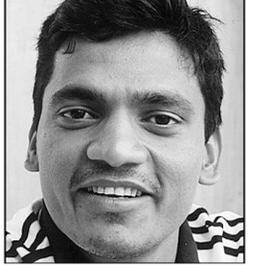
Surjo Tarun's Pakistani recruit Iqbal, who hammered a 117-ball 97.

But Iqbal apart other Tarun batsmen including Test cap Ashraf

SCOREBOARDS
Scoreboards of the two GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League matches at different venues



JAVED OMAR ... 95
failed miserably. Playing in his first match after having a laparoscopic surgery, Ashraf scored only 4. Mazharul Huq, who shot into the



SHAFIUDDIN ... 5 for 38
on Thursday:
Mohammedan SC v City Club
SEE PAGE 15

Metro Hockey Usha whack Wari Club

SPORTS REPORTER

Usha Krira Chakra blanked Wari Club 6-0 in a Metro Premier Division Hockey League match at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 1-0. Tutul Kumar Nag and Habul struck twice while Raju and Shariful added one each for the winners.

Earlier, Dhaka Wanderers Club registered a 3-1 win over Mukta Bihanga.

Asif, Imran and Rashed scored one each for Wanderers while Iqbal pulled one back for Bihanga.

White Plus GM's Chess Sermek, Reefat share lead

SPORTS REPORTER

The race for the first-ever White Plus GM's Chess Tournament title became a two-way battle after the sixth round yesterday when Fide Master Enamul Hossain Rajib fell behind losing to previous day's co-leader International Master (IM) Reefat-bin-Sattar.

Grand Master (GM) Drazen Sermek of Slovenia and Reefat are now jointly leading the table, having collected five points each from six matches.

Tournament's top seed Sermek beat local GM Ziaur Rahman.

Indian GM Dibyendu Barua remained second with 4.5 points as he won his board against fellow Indian Raktim Bandyopadhyaya yesterday.

GM Niaz Murshed, GM Alexander Fominyh of Russia, IM Johannessen of Norway, FM Enamul Hossain Rajib were in the crowded 3rd position with a collection of 4 points each.

Following is the result of 6th round: GM Drazen Sermek (Slovenia) beat GM Ziaur Rahman, IM Reefat-bin-Sattar beat FM Enamul Hossain Rajib, GM Dibyendu Barua (India) beat Raktim Bandyopadhyaya (India), IM Johannessen (Norway) beat GM Alexander Goloshchapov (Ukraine), GM Niaz Murshed beat P.D.S. Girinath (India), GM Alexander Fominyh (Russia) beat IM Neeraj Kumar Mishra (India), IM Abdullah Al-Rakib beat WFM Syeda Shabana Parveen, Kayes Hasan beat FM Zi Jing Wong (Malaysia), FM Abu Sufian Shakil drew with SK Nasir Ahmed, Aminul Islam beat Syed Ruhul Kabir Shiplu (Titas), IWM Nisha Mohota beat FM Taibur Rahman, IWM Rani Hamid beat Saifuddin Lovlu, FM Rezaul Haque beat Mehdi Hasan, Syed Mahfuzur Rahman beat Sawkat Hossain Pallab.

The 7th round games starts on today from 3:00 p.m. at the same venue.

AIUB Cup cricket final today

UNB, Dhaka

The final of the AIUB Cup inter-university cricket tournament will be held at the Old DOHS ground today.

North South University (NSU) take on Asian University of Bangladesh (AUB) in the title decider. AUB booked seat for the final defeating Stamford University by five wickets.

In the day's second semifinal, the Stamford University were all out for 160 runs after deciding to bat first at the same venue.

Imran made team highest 32 runs while Ahsan and Javed 26 each.

Mohaiminur was the most successful bowler for the AUB picking up four wickets for 32 runs and he was adjudged man-of-the-match while Ziaul Kader took three for 41 runs.

In reply, the Asian University reached the target of 161 runs losing five wickets.

Sayed made 60 while Sumon 31 unbeaten. Shamsul Huda captured two wickets for 38 runs.

DAY'S EVENT

GrameenPhone Premier Cricket League Brothers Union v Dhanmondi Club

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Victoria SC v Uttara SC

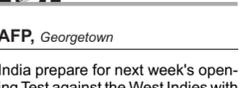
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

First Division Cricket League

Khelaghar SKS v Jatranbari KC

India open WI tour today

Opening tourists' cause for concern



AFP, Georgetown

India prepare for next week's opening Test against the West Indies with a prayer on their lips, hoping to find a reliable opening pair in a warm-up game here on Friday.

Shiv Sunder Das is the only established opener in the squad, but does not know who his partner will be in the first Test starting at Bourda here on April 11.

"We have not decided who the openers will be in the practice game," said Indian coach John Wright on the eve of his team's

three-day match against Guyana Board President's XI at the Everest ground.

India look to either make-shift opener Deep Dasgupta or Wasim Jaffer to provide a solution to their problem on the two-month tour, featuring five Tests and as many one-day internationals.

Dasgupta began his Test career against South Africa last year as a middle-order batsman before being asked to open the innings, while Jaffer returned from wilderness after more than a year.

Jaffer scored just 46 in his two Tests against Hansie Cronje's South Africans at home in 2000 before being dumped.

He is the only specialist opener besides Das in the team, having got the selectors' nod after scoring heavily in domestic tournaments this season.

Dasgupta is a part-timer rather than a regular at the top of the order. He was initially included as a wicketkeeper, but managed to retain his place as a batsman.

It is more than just a warm-up game for the Indians in that it provides the only opportunity to them to find the right combination before the real battle begins.

And opening an innings is turning out to be a major worry for the tourists who are still undecided whether to try out Jaffer or persist with Dasgupta and leave out Ajay Ratna, a better wicketkeeper.

Dasgupta has batted well within his limitations for 344 runs in seven Tests, including a century against England at home last year.

His keeping, however, has left a lot to be desired, especially against spinners Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh.

"We have yet to decide on the opening and wicket-keeping slots, but will surely play with two spinners," said Wright.

There were no such problems for Guyanese manager Ivor Mendonca, who said he was hopeful of an impressive performance from his squad, comprising many youngsters.

The first-choice Guyanese team is busy playing the Busta International Shield against Jamaica in Kingston.

"We have some promising youngsters in the team capable of doing well, especially Rayon Griffith who is really quick," said Mendonca, a former wicketkeeper-batsman who played two Tests against India in 1961-62 at home.

TEAMS
INDIA (from): Sourav Ganguly (captain), Shiv Sunder Das, Wasim Jaffer, Deep Dasgupta, Rahul

SEE PAGE 15



Players of Usha Krira Chakra and Wari Club locked in a scramble during their Metro Premier Division hockey league clash at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

Hot Pakistan awaits NZ



REUTERS/INTERNET, undated

New Zealand can expect a hot reception when they arrive later this month for their postponed tour of Pakistan, according to Mudassar Nazar.

"It is not the best time of the year to have a Test series and the weather will not be ideal for both teams," the Pakistan coach said on Wednesday.

"The team that adjusts itself well to the hot and humid conditions should have the edge."

New Zealand embark on their first tour of Pakistan since 1996-97 on April 18 to play three one-day internationals and two Tests at venues - Karachi, Rawalpindi and Lahore - that traditionally boast very hot weather in April and May.

Temperatures in Karachi, where New Zealand play the first one-day international on April 21, have already touched 40 degrees centigrade.

Nazar said there was no other time slot available for the visit before the World Cup early next year.

New Zealand had originally been due to tour last year but opted out of the trip following the September 11 attacks on the United States. Pakistan were also forced to shift a home series against West Indies to Sharjah.

New Zealand, in a bid to counter the hot and humid conditions, have

asked for air-conditioners and ice-filled tubs in their dressing rooms at all venues.

Australia used ice jackets during their 2000 tour of India.

"New Zealand at the moment are playing very well... The win over England (in the third and final Test at Auckland) would have only boosted their morale," Nazar added.

"But they are without some players due to injuries and I have a feeling they will particularly miss Chris Cairns in Pakistan, who has been a quality performer in such conditions."

New Zealand will also be without injured strike bowlers Shane Bond and Dion Nash.

Meanwhile, Kiwi batsman Lou Vincent has been ruled out of the Sharjah Cup tri-nation one-day tournament beginning on April 8 and will be replaced by former international Mathew Sinclair.

Vincent was struck on the chest by a ball from Andy Caddick on the first day of the final Test between New Zealand and England in Auckland, which the hosts won by 78 runs to square the series.

Initially, it was thought Vincent had severe bruising of his rib cage, but X-rays have revealed bruising to his left lung and a rupture of his left airway.

Vincent will be available to join the New Zealand team when they fly to Pakistan for the tour at the conclusion of the Sharjah event.

New Zealand, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will contest the seven-match Sharjah Cup tournament, with the final taking place on April 17.

Looking on the bright side



AFP, Auckland

England were far superior in the opening Christchurch Test winning by 98 runs and the weather ruined their chances of wrapping up the series at Wellington's Basin Reserve.

"There are certain technical things, we need more big runs, big hundreds... they're the sides that are winning, the Australians are getting big hundreds, double hundreds, we have to get the 20s and 30s out of our system," said Hussain.

"If we are really going to get up and beat sides that's where we've got to improve."

"Freddie" Flintoff, who has been likened to an emerging Ian Botham, was a hero with the singing Barmy

rumbustious 75 off 44 balls in the Wellington Test in 53 exhilarating minutes.

Hoggard, playing instead of the absent Darren Gough, began the series with 7-63 off 21.2 overs in the first innings at Christchurch and finished the series with 17 wickets.

Foster had his detractors early in the series, particularly with his fumbling displays behind the stumps, but his efforts with the bat gained him admirers in his bid to hold off any attempt by Alec Stewart to regain his Test place after missing the India and New Zealand tours.

New Zealand-born Andy Caddick was England's best-performed bowler. He finished with 19 wickets for the series and relished the extra responsibility of leading the attack in Gough's absence.

Hussain played by example. It was his fighting 82 which kept England on track of winning the Auckland Test before he was the eighth wicket down.

Hussain with a series aggregate of 280 at an average of 56 shaded Thorpe's 274 at 68.

It was a tough tour for Hussain's team emotionally.

News came through early on the third day of the second Wellington Test that teammate Ben Hollis was killed in a car crash in Australia.

It was a death that devastated the players, who wore black armbands and observed a minute's silence before the start of the fourth day's play. Hussain left the touring party to represent the team at Hollis's funeral in Perth just before Easter.

The players wore black armbands again in the final Auckland Test to mark the death of the Queen Mother.

England may have drawn their series with New Zealand but the infusion of young talent was beneficial for the Test side in the countdown to this year's Ashes cricket tour of Australia, skipper Nasser Hussain said.

New Zealand claimed only their third home Test victory over England with a spirited 78-run win to square the series in the final Auckland Test at Eden Park on Wednesday.

The loss culminated an arduous winter tour of India and New Zealand where England had to settle for drawn series, but the bigger picture was encouraging for English cricket, according to Hussain.

"The young lads have progressed immeasurably," Hussain said. "Andy Flintoff, Matthew Hoggard, Richard Dawson and James Foster have all come on."

"The young lads who we are bringing into the side are doing well and that's got to be good for English cricket."

"The heart, the effort, the way they sticks to their plans, Flintoff's long spells, the heart of Hoggard, Foster, the way he has progressed with his batting throughout the series, it's all been encouraging."

Hussain is looking to build a competitive England team for the five-Test Ashes tour of Australia from November after the 4-1 drubbing by Steve Waugh's Australians in England last year.

For the most part England were clearly better than New Zealand, something that Kiwi captain Stephen Fleming freely admits, but in the end a drawn series was England's return.



NASSER HUSSAIN
Army England fans, especially after his thumping 137 studded with 110 runs in boundaries, 23 fours and three sixes, in 215 minutes while batting with Graham Thorpe in the Christchurch Test.

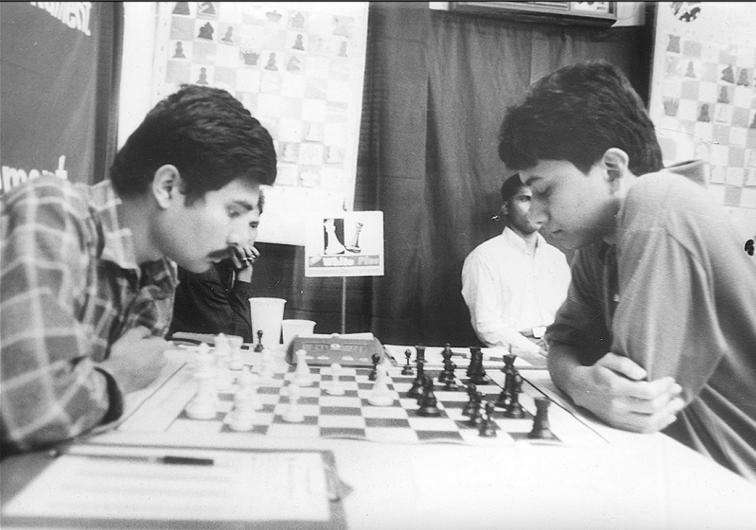
Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 169

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 0
- Who lifted the Bangladesh Games football title?
Chittagong Dhaka Army
- How many gold medals did Doly Akhter win in Bangladesh Games?
Nine Seven Ten

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



Two of the country's hottest prospects, International Master Reefat bin Sattar (L) and Fide Master Enamul Hossain Rajib engrossed in a battle of wits during their New White Plus Grand Masters chess tournament fixture at the National Sports Council (NSC) Chess Room yesterday.