



Did U Know?

The first batsman to get a duck in Test cricket was Australian Edward Gregory, against England at Melbourne in the first-ever Test match in 1876-77.



What to WATCH

ESPN

Cricket Programming
Super Selector
7:00 am

English Premier Football League
Leeds United vs Man United
10:30 am

South Africa vs Australia
Sixth ODI
Live at 1:55 pm

Cricket Programming
Super Selector
5:30 pm

English Premier Football League
Arsenal vs Tottenham Hotspur
11:30 pm

STAR Sports

Football Asia
10:30 am

Cricket Programming
Super Selector
11:00 pm

World Cup Soccer Mix
12:30 pm

Gillette World Sports Special
Int'l Sports News
6:00 pm


Primera Liga
Highlights at 10:30 pm



TALK TURKEY



Andy Caddick
(England paceman)
"They sledge us, we sledge them. What's new?"
While bowling some verbal bouncers at the Kiwis.



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

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
212			
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)		

Hattrick hero Morshed

GrameenPhone Premier League

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Experienced left-arm seamer Morshed Ali Khan bagged an excellent hattrick as Brothers Union sailed past Dhanmondi Club, while Victoria overcame Uttara Sporting Club in yesterday's GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League matches.

Brothers Union v Dhanmondi

Morshed, a veteran campaigner in the Dhaka league, took five for 29 from 9.1 overs in his unique spell as Dhanmondi were bowled out for 196 after being invited to bat first at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

After giving Brothers an early breakthrough with two wickets in his opening spell, Morshed came back in the closing overs and captured the last three Dhanmondi wickets in three balls to become the season's first hattrick-taker.

Dhanmondi's Debabrata Paul was the first of his hattrick victims when he was caught by Sajjadul at mid wicket in the fifth ball of the 48th over. Morshed then took a return catch to send middle order Adil Ahmed (38) back with the following delivery. In the very first ball of his next over, Morshed forced last man Ashraf to edge to wicketkeeper Joy Kumar to complete the rare feat.

Pakistani veteran right hander Tareq Mehmud scored highest 61 off 77 balls for Dhanmondi.

In reply, Brothers reached their target in the 45th overs with eight wickets to spare.

Brothers' Pakistani Mohammed Mashrur top scored with an unbeaten 81 off 96 balls that featured two sixes and eight boundaries while opener Sajjadul Hasan chipped in with 34.

Victoria v Uttara

In the other match of the day, Victoria Sporting Club registered a hard-fought three-wicket win over newcomers Uttara Sporting Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Opener Al-Shahriar scored a stroke-filled 72 as Victoria, chasing a fighting Uttara total of 218 in 50 overs, reached 221 in 45.3 overs with only three wickets in hand.

Al-Shahriar, the right handed Bangladesh opener, took only 63

balls for his magnificent innings that included a six and a dozen fours.

Among others, Jahangir Alam made 46.

It was Victoria's fourth in win five matches. They join last year's runners up Abahani in the second position in the league with both having eight points.

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Brothers Union's Pakistani player Mohammad Masroor (R) and Mustadir Litu leave the field after coasting their team home against Dhanmondi Club in the GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Friday.

India not afraid of pace

Cricket

AFP, Georgetown

India skipper Sourav Ganguly said Thursday his team was well-equipped to deal with fast bowling in the upcoming Test series against the West Indies.

"We've come here well-prepared to win the Test series," said Ganguly, who joined the squad two days late as he had to attend to his ailing wife.

West Indies captain Carl Hooper had earlier said his team would rely more on pace than spin to put pressure on the Indians, known for collapsing against fast bowling.

"I know they are not going to give us spinner-friendly tracks. Why would they?" said Ganguly.

"No team would like to give an advantage to the visiting side. I know we have to play on grassy and pacy pitches because the West Indies are known to rely on their fast bowlers."

Ganguly said his team had the best opportunity to win a Test series outside the sub-continent in 16 years if it plays up to its potential.

"It's the best opportunity for us to win a Test series in the West Indies."

"They're a good side at home, but we are well-prepared too," said Ganguly, who is yet to lead India to an away Test series victory since taking over the captaincy from Sachin Tendulkar in 2000.

India, under his leadership, drew 1-1 in Zimbabwe and then lost in Sri Lanka and South Africa last year.

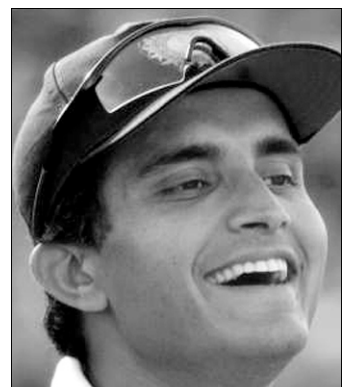
"We'll have to be at our best,"

said Ganguly.

"We've to take care of all aspects of the game if we've to win in the West Indies."

"Our batting, bowling and fielding will have to be organised. We have to excel in all departments of the game to win the Test and one-day series on this tour."

India, who play five Tests and as many one-day internationals, open their two-month tour with a three-day game against a second-string Guyana Board President's team



SOURAV GANGULY

here on Friday.

The Indian captain said his squad would have to make the most of the only warm-up match before the first Test, starting at Bourda on April 11.

"It can't be helped if Guyana is playing the Busta final," he said.

"We've to get the maximum advantage of this game. We've to get used to the weather and playing conditions. The batsmen will have to

spend as much time as possible in the middle."

The Indian skipper, however, conceded the opening and wicket-keeping slots remained a big problem. "We'll play the best option possible," he said.

Pak demand

REUTERS, Karachi

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has urged the sport's world governing body to come up with compensation rules after losses they say amount to more than 20 million dollars from India pulling out of matches against their team.

"The ICC's finance committee needs to quickly have a procedure in place for member countries making compensation claims," PCB chief Tauqir Zia told this news agency.

"With Australia also pulling out of its tour to Zimbabwe for security reasons, the finance committee must quickly finalise regulations and a procedure for dealing with compensation claims," he added on Friday.

At the last International Cricket Council executive board meeting in Cape Town, Pakistan said it wanted compensation for being forced to play its home series against the West Indies earlier this year at a neutral venue, Sharjah.

"We are working out details for our compensation claim, but first we are waiting for the finance committee to complete their work," Zia said.

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Bangladesh Grand Master Niaz Murshed (R) ponders his next move against Slovenian GM Drazen Sermek during their New White Plus Grand Masters' Chess Tournament fixture at the National Sports Council Chess Room yesterday.

Div I hockey S Bima, Azad post wins

UNB, Dhaka

Sadharan Bima and Azad SC recorded their consecutive second wins in the First Division Hockey League beating their respective rivals at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Sadharan Bima outplayed Police AC 6-1 after leading the first half 2-1. Abdus Samad Mamun netted three goals while Shahen Shah Ali, Murad Ekram Ullah and Sharafat Ali Jewel one each for the winners. Shishir scored lone goal for the losers.

Azad Sporting Club defeated Barnak Samaj 4-1 after dominating the first session 3-0 at the same venue.

Asif struck twice while Hossain and Russel Mahmud one each for the Azad SC. Imran Ahmed netted one for Barnak.

Reefat goes in front

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Drazen Sermek of Slovenia suffered a setback in his bid for the New White Plus GM's Chess Tournament title when Niaz Murshed defeated him in the seventh round at the Chess Room of National Sports Council Friday.

The top-seeded Slovenian surrendered only after 22 moves against Murshed, the first GM of the sub-continent who was playing with black pieces and adopted modern defence.

However the Sermek reversal did Reefat-bin-Sattar good as it helped the Bangladesh International Master take a solo lead in the tournament. In the round Reefat drew with Indian GM Dibyendu Barua. Reefat also played with black pieces and the game came to a stalemate after 45 moves.

Reefat now has highest 5.5 points to his credit. On the other hand, Sermek, Murshed, Barua and IM Johannessen of Norway are jointly sharing the second spot with each having five points.

GM Ziaur Rahman, IM Abdullah Al Rakib and Roktim Bandopadhyaya are in the 3rd place with 4.5 points each.

Seventh round results are: Reefat drew with Barua, Murshed beat Sermek, IM Johannessen beat FM Enamul Hossain Rajib, Al Rakib beat GM Alexander Fominyh of Russia, Zia beat Aminul Islam, GM Alexander Goloshchapov of Ukraine beat IM Neeraj-Kumar Mishra of India, Roktim of India beat IWM Nisha Mohota of India, Syed Ruhul Kabir Shiplu drew with Keyes Hasan, PDS Girinath of India beat Nasir Ahmed, FM Abu Sufian Shakil drew with Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa, FM Taibur Rahman Sumon beat IWM Rani Hamid, Saifuddin Lavlu beat Mehdi Hasan Porag, FM Rezaul Haque drew with Syed Mahfuzur Rahman and Sawkat Hossain Pallab beat FM Zi Jing Wong of Malaysia.

The eighth round starts today from 5 pm at the same venue.

AIUB Cup cricket NSU clinch title

UNB, Dhaka

North South University (NSU) clinched the AIUB Cup inter-private university cricket tournament title beating Asian University of Bangladesh (AUB) by 48 runs at the Old DOHS ground yesterday.

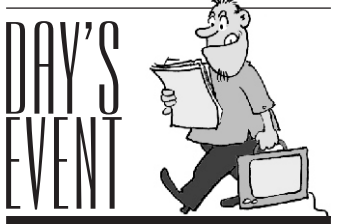
Batting first, NSU scored 251 runs for eight wickets in the stipulated 40 overs with Ethen making team highest 77 runs.

A 185-run target was set in 25 overs for the AUB but they were all out for 137 runs in 24.4 overs with Russel making 34 runs.

Mithu was the most successful bowler picking up three wickets for 32 runs.

Yasir of NSU won the man-of-the-match award while Mithu bagged player-of-the-tournament.

Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Barrister Jamir Uddin Sarker distributed the prizes.



GrameenPhone Premier Cricket League
Mohammedan SC v Surjo Tarun
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium.
White Plus GM Chess Tournament
Round eight
Venue: NSC Chess Room.

Mashrafee in injury abyss

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Injured Bangladeshi pace sensation Mashrafee-bin-Mortuza will be out

of cricket for at least another seven to eight months.

Mashrafee, the 18-year old wonder boy, who is regarded as the fastest bowler of the country, is now undergoing treatment at a nursing home in Dhaka after tearing ligaments of his left knee. Incidentally,



BARRED FROM BOWLING FAST: Bangladesh fast bowler Mashrafee-bin-Mortuza walking yesterday on crutches at the Community Hospital where he is undergoing treatment on his damaged knee.

the latest injury was result of training with a skipping rope at his home in Narail in the last week of February at the advice of Indian doctor Thomas Chandi, who was treating Mashrafee for a serious strain in the back.

The injury was not initially detected in X-rays at Narail. However, during his last routine visit to Dr. Chandi's Hosmat Hospital in Bangalore on March 7, the new unfortunate tear was spotted.

Mashrafee returned from India with his left foot bandaged. The bandage was removed on April 1 but the pain remained. Finally Mashrafee admitted himself at the Dhaka Community Hospital in Maghbazar on the same day and is currently undergoing physiotherapy twice a day under the supervision of Dr. Abdus Salam. The unstable knee has forced him to walk on crutches.

"I still feel pain in my knee for which I am taking pain killers. Hopefully this pain will go within a month," said a positive Mashrafee while talking to The Daily Star Sport at his hospital cabin yesterday.

"But, I will not be able to play competitive cricket for another eight months. Dr. Chandi is however optimistic that I will be able jog after four months."

Mashrafee revealed that he will go to Bangalore in a few weeks to have another check up.

The young paceman was understandably disappointed for not being able to come charging down his run-up and hurl those hostile deliveries at the batsmen.

"What makes me sad is that I could not show my worth in the Premier League this time. I had a dream to play for a leading club. But luck was not on my side. I'm hoping for a bright comeback in the near future," Mashrafee said.

Mashrafee also expressed his gratitude to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) for bearing the entire expenditure of his treatment.

Pakistan's WC preps

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan cricket captain Waqar Younis said Friday his side was eager to win the Sharjah tri-series this month as a way to launch their World Cup preparations.

"Although there is still time and much cricket to be played before next year's World Cup I hope we can win this tri-series to open our campaign," Younis told this news agency.

Pakistan's 16-man squad leaves for Sharjah Friday night to feature in a series with Sri Lanka and New Zealand over April 8-17.

"Both New Zealand and Sri Lanka are competitive teams and will give us ideal competitive cricket but I have confidence in my team and hope to achieve the best possible result," Younis said.

Ace pace bowler Wasim Akram and experienced off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq are back in the squad after being left out of the Asian Test Championship final in Lahore last month.

Pakistan will play as many as 31 one-day internationals in the lead up to next February's World Cup in South Africa, including two indoor limited-overs matches in Australia in June.

"These matches will give us a chance to rotate players and try them before the World Cup because some of our key players will also play county cricket in England," the Pakistan captain said.

Pakistan face problems at the top of the order with seasoned opener Saeed Anwar sidelined due to a wrist injury.

Imran Nazir was recalled for the Sharjah series along with middle-order batsman Misbahul Haq who

could also open the innings with popular all-rounder Shahid Afridi.

"We are trying various combinations and hopefully we'll get a pair (of openers) before we announce a pool of players for the World Cup," Younis said.

Pakistan also host New Zealand for three one-day internationals and two Tests this month, a series postponed in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks in the United States.

Pakistan also plan to host Australia and New Zealand for a tri-



WAQAR YOUNIS

series in August-September this year.

SQUAD

Waqar Younis (captain), Inzamamul Haq (vice-captain), Imran Nazir, Shahid Afridi, Misbahul Haq, Younis Khan, Yousuf Youhana, Abdur Razzaq, Wasim Akram, Saqlain Mushtaq, Shoaib Malik, Azhar Mahmood, Rashid Latif, Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammad Sami and Faisal Iqbal.

Coach: Mudassar Nazar.

Manager: Yawar Saeed

Div I cricket Khelaghar beat Jatrabari

UNB, Dhaka

An unbeaten 73-run captain's knock by Bijon helped Khelaghar SKS to earn a two-wicket victory over Jatrabari KC in the First Division Cricket League at the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatulla, yesterday.

Batting first, Jatrabari scored 222 runs for seven in the stipulated 50 overs riding on an unbeaten 58-run knock by Zahir Uddin Sajal.

Shakil Ahmed claimed four wickets conceding 35 runs in 10 overs while Nadim took two for 25 runs in 10 overs.

In reply, Khelaghar reached their winning target of 223 runs for eight in 48.3 overs.

One down Bijon remained unbeaten with 73 runs off 97 balls that featured eight boundaries.

Zahir Uddin Sajal was the most successful bowler for Jatrabari picking up three wickets for 40 runs in 10 overs.

Premier Div volleyball

BSS, Dhaka

The National Bank Premier Division Volleyball League began at the Dhaka Volleyball Stadium yesterday.

Bangladesh Rifles beat Audit Krira Sangsad 25-13, 25-13 and 25-11 in the opening match.

Titas Club got walkover against Bangladesh Bank Club in the other match of the day.

A total of ten teams are taking part in the league, organised by Bangladesh Volleyball Federation while the National Bank Limited is sponsoring the meet.

The teams are: Bangladesh Rifles, Titas Club, Audit Krira Sangsad, Bangladesh Bank Club, Water Development Board, Power Development Board, Dikusha Sporting Club, Bangladesh Police, Wari Club and Azad Sporting Club.

Water Development Board take on Azad Sporting Club while Dikusha Sporting Club face Wari Club in today's matches at the same venue.

Scholten stable

AFP, Perth

The girlfriend of dead England cricketer Ben Hollisake has improved, hospital officials said Friday, nearly two weeks after the car accident that claimed her boyfriend's life.

Janaya Scholten has been transferred from the intensive care unit to a ward but remains in a serious

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Action from yesterday's Metro First Division Hockey League encounter between Azad Sporting Club and Barnak Samaj at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium.