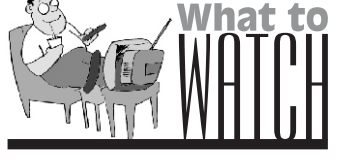




Did U Know?

John Kelly of Derbyshire achieved a remarkable analysis against Lancashire at Old Trafford on July 5, 1955 and the press gave it some prominence. It read: Overs - 0, Maidens - 0, Runs - 4, Wickets 0. His first and only delivery was a no-ball, hit for four by Jack Dyson!

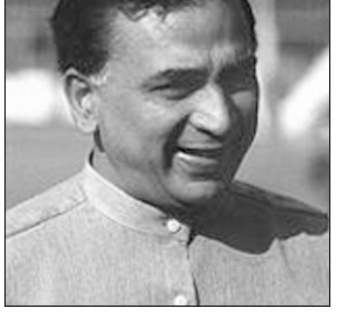


What to Watch

- BTV**
Pakistan vs Sri Lanka
Sharjah Cup Tri Series (D/N)
Live at 5:00 pm
- ESPN**
English Premier Football League
Bolton Wanderers vs Ipswich Town
3:30 pm
- Leeds United vs Sunderland
5:30 pm
- Sportscentre Hindi**
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
Crickit Programming
Super Selector
9:00 pm
- English Premier Football League
Leicester City vs Man United
9:30 pm
- STAR Sports**
Gillette World Sports Special
Int'l Sports News
12:30 pm
- English Premier Football League
Arsenal vs Tottenham Hotspur
1:00 pm
- Trans World Sport
Int'l Sports News
3:00 pm
- Crickit Programming
Super Selector
7:30 pm
- Sportsline Tonight**
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
Harsha Online
Crickit Talk Show
11:00 pm



Talk Turkey



Sunil Gavaskar
(Indian cricket legend)
"This is a great cricket team and we have the privilege of seeing them. If the youngsters need to learn something it is the mental toughness, like the Australians have."
On Australia.

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)



Sheikh Mohammed Aslam, former ace national striker, picks up a team during the draw and logo unveiling ceremony of the Nitol-Tata National Football League at a local hotel yesterday.

Abahani given easy go

Nitol-Tata NFL from April 16

The winners of the inaugural edition in 2000 have placed along with T&T Club of Barisal, Chaturaga Sangha of Sylhet, Khulna Abahani and Bangladesh Army. The sky-blues are expected to be tested only by Bangladesh Army.

When Abahani get an easy go, their arch-rivals Mohammedan are going to face stiff challenge from Chittagong Abahani and Muktiyodha Sangsad Krira Chakra in the other group that also includes Mohsin Club of Narayanganj and Rajshahi Abahani.

Chittagong Abahani and Muktiyodha Sangsad Krira Chakra finished third and fourth respectively in the previous edition.

Top two teams from each group would qualify for the semifinals. But, to decide who to face whom in the semis, the teams would engage in an unusual league, named 'super four'.

Team finishing atop in the 'super four' would meet the third team while the second and fourth team would engage in the other semifinal.

The robin league matches are going to commence in four venues, Chittagong, Sylhet, Jessore and Rajshahi, while the 'super four', semifinals and final will be held in Dhaka.

As per the draft fixture of BFF, the final should take place on May 25.

Champions will receive Taka five lakh and runners up Taka two lakh. The third and fourth placed teams will be richer by Taka two and one lakh respectively.

The most valuable player of the league would earn Taka fifty thousand and all the ten clubs will also receive Taka one lakh each as appearance money.

In a bid to make the meet more lucrative, sponsors Nitol-Tata would also offer some additional prizes.

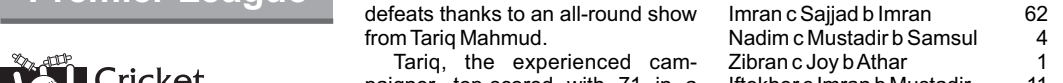
Champions would get a Tata Human Hauler and the most valuable player would become an owner of a Nitol Rider Motor Cycle.

BFF has earmarked a budget of Taka 85 lakh for the league, out of which Nitol Group would provide Taka 40 lakh.

Chaired by Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president SA Sultan MP, the programme was also attended by chief guest and Jute Minister Hafizuddin Ahmed, Bir Bikram, Abdul Matlub Ahmed, chairman of Nitol Group, Ramchandran, the country manager of Tata in Bangladesh, BFF general secretary Harunur Rashid and Sirajul Islam Bachchu were also present on the occasion.

Brothers mean business

GrameenPhone Premier League



SPORTS REPORTER

Brothers Union enhanced their reputation as serious candidates for a Super Six berth when they thrashed minnows Young Cricketers by eight wickets in a GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

In the other match of the day, Dhanmondi club rode on the brilliance of Pakistani recruit Tariq Mahmud to overwhelm Young Pegasus by 80 runs at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Brothers v Young Cricketers
Brothers' fourth win from six games put them in the second position along with Abahani Krira Chakra and Victoria Sporting Club behind holders Mohammedan.

Abahani and Victoria have however played a game less than Brothers. Mohammedan are top of the 12-team table with 12 points from seven matches.

Brother's victory was in little doubt when they put Young Cricketers in to bat and bowled them out for a paltry 155 in 47.3 overs.

The Gopibagh outfit rattled up the required 156 for victory for the loss of just two wickets in 36.4 overs with opener Sajjadul Islam remaining unbeaten on 52.

Sajjad shared 83 runs for the undefeated third wicket with Pakistani batsman Masroor, who struck 51 off 62 balls.

Earlier, sent into bat, Young Cricketers lost wickets at regular intervals against some tight bowling from Brothers' bowlers. Only opener Imran Ahmed showed a willingness to fight with a patient 62 off 104 balls.

Left-arm spinner Mustadir Litu with three for 35 was the most successful Brothers bowler. The pace trio of Morshed Ali Khan, Shamsul Arefin and Athar Ail evenly shared six wickets.

Young Cricketers
Venue: BNS
YOUNG CRICKETERS
Imran c Sajjad b Imran 62
Nadim c Mustadir b Samsul 4
Zibran c Joy b Athar 1
Iftkher c Imran b Mustadir 11
S Huda c Morshed b Athar 10
Nayan c Masroor b Mustadir 24
Kamal c sub b Morshed 12
Sohel lbw b Morshed 3
Alam c Athar b Mustadir 5
Tanvir b Samsul 10
Babu not out 3
Extras: (b-1, lb-5, nb-1, w-3) 10
Total: (All out in 47.3 overs) 155
Fall of wkts: 1-26, 2-35, 3-55, 4-75, 5-115, 6-119, 7-134, 8-135, 9-148
Bowler
Morshed 10 1 35 2
Samsul 8.3 2 19 2
Athar 10 3 28 2
Mustadir 9 0 35 3
Imran 10 0 32 1
BROTHERS UNION
Sajjadul not out 52
Harun run out 18
Athar c Sohel b S Huda 23
Masroor not out 51
Extras: (lb-1, nb-1, w-10) 12
Total: (For 2 wkts in 36.4 overs) 156
Fall of wkts: 1-31, 2-73
Bowler
Babu 5 1 23 0
Tanvir 2 0 15 0
Imran 7 0 21 0
S Huda 10 0 29 1
Alam 6 0 28 0
Sohel Rana 2 0 13 0
Kamal 4 0 24 0
Zibran 0.4 0 2 0
Result: Brothers Union won by 8 wickets.
Dhanmondi Club vs Young Pegasus
Venue: DCS
DHANMONDI
Taj lbw b Majid 41
Hasibul c Tariqul b Uzzal 9
Tariq b Rana 71
Kamrul c Rozel b Saifullah 0
Ahmed run out 39
Islam c Uzzal b Saifullah 10
Tahmim c Tariqul b Saifullah 0
Hakim not out 17
Debabrotto c b Majid 10
Turjo not out 7
Extras: (lb-2, nb-3, w-7) 12
Total: (For 8 wkts in 50 overs) 216
Fall of wkts: 1-27, 2-86, 3-87, 4-157, 5-170, 6-175, 7-183, 8-203
SCOREBOARDS
Scoreboards of the two GrameenPhone Premier Cricket League matches held at different city venues on Sunday:
Brothers Union vs

Metro hockey Abahani struggle against Sonali

An early second half strike from forward Ashrafur Islam Shishu helped title-aspirants Abahani Krira Chakra register a hard-fought solitary goal win over Sonali Bank in their Metro Premier Division Hockey League opener at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

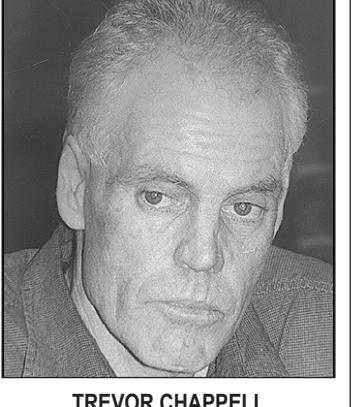
After a barren first half, Abahani heaved a huge sigh of relief when their young recruit Shishu scored 39th minute field goal to notch full three points.

Earlier, in a First Division match, Dhaka Wanderers blanked Victoria Sporting Club by 4-2.

The winners led the first half 3-0. Rashed, Nayan, Kalam and Imran netted one each for Wanderers while Abed Hossain struck twice to reduce the margin for defeat.

Trevor in town

Bangladesh's Australian coach Trevor Chappell returned to Dhaka yesterday apparently to wind up his one and half year's association with the Test babes.



Trevor, who took over from South African all-rounder Eddie Barlow in November 2000, was well aware of the fact that he would be no more in the hot seat before going on a month-long leave in February.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Ali Asghar also made it no secret when he announced that former Pakistan paceman Mohsin Kamal would replace the Australian before Bangladesh's next Test series in Sri Lanka in July.

Trevor however refused to make any comment regarding his future. The younger of the famous Chappell brothers only said that he wanted to talk to the BCB president before making any comments.

Pollock salutes awesome Aussies

South African skipper Shaun Pollock on Saturday paid tribute to the mighty Australians after the visitors succeeded in the highest run-chase in the history of one-day limited overs cricket.

"It's an awesome effort, you have to give credit to the Aussies," Pollock told the SAPA news agency after his side succumbed to three-wicket defeat while defending 326.

"We knew they'd come out guns blazing. We'd spoken about it but there's not too much you can do in the first 15 overs with the fielding restrictions.

"You just have to hang in and hope for a breakthrough and then apply pressure. It just didn't happen Saturday," Pollock said.

But he said he still believed Australia, the world champions, could be beaten.

"I don't believe they are unbeatable. If things are running for you, as they can in cricket, we can beat them," Pollock said after the match.

"I think we tried as much as we could," explained Pollock. "It's questionable whether any tactics would have worked today."

India bowlers dominate

off successive balls in his fourth over and then Kumble took two in three overs to press home the advantage given by Sanjay Bangar, who top-scored with 76.

All-rounder Bangar started cautiously before exploding with a flurry of big shots in the later part of his innings, hitting four sixes and six fours in his 210-minute knock.

Srinath and Kumble struck after the Indian batsmen had struggled to seize the initiative against a second-string, but disciplined, Guyanese attack in the first two sessions.

The tourists scored 248 in reply to their opponents' 118, but not

DAY'S EVENT

GrameenPhone Premier Cricket League
Biman v City Club
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium.
Abahani KC v Surjo Tarun
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.
Metro Premier Hockey League
Mariner Youngs Club v Farashganj SC (4 pm)
Venue: Maulana Bhasani Stadium.
New White Plus GM Chess Tournament
Round Ten.
Venue: NSC Chess Room.

GM norm for Reefat

Chess

International Master (IM) Reefat-bin-Sattar earned his first Grand Master's norm yesterday after he shared points with Indian Roktim Bandopadhyaya in the ninth round of the White Plus GM Chess tournament.

The match lasted for only few minutes as both players accepted the draw after just six moves.

Although the draw forced Reefat to lose the solo lead in the 11-round Swiss League meet, but the half a point he earned yesterday was good enough for him to earn a nine-round GM norm.

If Reefat can manage 1.5 points more from the remaining two rounds, his norm would be recognised as an eleven-round norm.

Reefat is now jointly sharing the top spot with Indian GM Debendy Barua who beat GM Niaz Murshed on Sunday. Both Reefat and Debendy have collected seven points.

The penultimate round begins at Top seed Drazen Sermek of Slovenia and IM Johannessen of Norway were in the second spot, managing six and half a points each.

Sermek beat Russian GM Alexander Fominhy while Johannessen defeated Kayes Hasan. GM Ziaur Rahman, who beat IM

Satisfaction guaranteed

Pakistan face Lanka today in Sharjah

Lou Vincent - New Zealand are confident of doing well.

"The important thing is to adjust to the conditions," Fleming said. "From the cold weather at home to the heat here is a big change, but we should be okay by the time we play our first match."

New Zealand, who are due to tour Pakistan for a Test series immediately after the April 17 final here, play Sri Lanka in their opening match on Tuesday.

While the Kiwis are clearly the flavour of the month, Sri Lanka and Pakistan are quietly confident of starting their preparations for next year's World Cup on a winning note.

Pakistan have recalled veteran all-rounder Wasim Akram and off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq after keeping them out of the Asian Test final against Sri Lanka last month.

The Sri Lankans too are at full strength, hoping to use the tournament as a build-up for the upcoming Test tour of England and the World Cup in South Africa in February-March.

"With the World Cup less than a year away, our aim is obviously to prepare for that, but each victory from now onwards will contribute to that," Jayasuriya said.

Both New Zealand and Sri Lanka are drawn in the same World Cup preliminary group.

Pakistan captain Waqar Younis, whose team plays Sri Lanka in Monday's opening match, said the return of Akram and Saqlain had befooled up his team for what he believed would be a tough contest.

"It's a tournament which will be fought hard between three well-matched teams," Waqar said. "I am glad Akram and Saqlain are back to lend their experience."

Each team plays the other twice in the preliminary rounds, with the top two advancing to next week's final.

SCHEDULE

April 8: Pakistan v Sri Lanka
April 9: New Zealand v Sri Lanka
April 10: Rest day
April 11: New Zealand v Pakistan
April 12: Pakistan v Sri Lanka
April 13: Rest day
April 14: New Zealand v Sri Lanka
April 15: New Zealand v Pakistan
April 16: Rest day
April 17: Final



WAQAR YOUNIS

did in the recent home series against England.

He struck the fastest double-century in Test cricket at Christchurch in 153 balls, the second hundred coming off just 39 deliveries.

By the time he was dismissed for 222 off 168 balls, Astle had struck 28 boundaries and 11 sixes in a brilliant display of power hitting that stunned teammates and rivals alike.

Astle followed that with 65 off 51



SANATH JAYASURIYA

Pakistan, fans in this popular desert venue are assured of a batting feast.

"Astle is batting like a champion and we hope he will continue in the same vein," said Kiwi captain Stephen Fleming soon after his squad's arrival here on Sunday morning.

Despite injuries to six frontline players - star all-rounder Chris Cairns, fast bowlers Shane Bond, Dion Nash and Shayne O'Connor, spinner Daniel Vettori and batsman

before they were given a scare or two by left-arm spinner Hemmarine Harinarine and fast bowler Reon Griffith.

Harinarine finished with 3-54 and Griffith 2-46 to deny the Indians' valuable batting practice ahead of the first Test against the West Indies, starting at Bourda here on April 11.

The Indians were reeling at 104-5 before Bangar pulled his team out of trouble with an 82-run stand for the sixth wicket with Venkatsai Laxman (43).

Skipper Sourav Ganguly (52) and Laxman spent more than two hours in the middle, but failed to play big knocks.

Bangar steadied the innings with his stand with Laxman after Griffith had exposed the tourists' batting limitations against pace with two vital wickets.

The 23-year-old fast bowler dismissed master batsman Sachin Tendulkar (18) and Rahul Dravid in his five testing overs to reduce the Indians to 136-5 at lunch after the tourists had resumed at 73-2, losing three wickets in a space of 10 runs.

The Indians' batting preparations, however, for next week's Test left a lot to be desired as their famed middle order collapsed against pace and the lower order against spin.

Griffith, who had taken 10 wickets in his six first-class matches, rocked the Indians in his fiery opening spell as he conceded just seven runs in as many overs.

Ganguly and Tendulkar both paid the penalty for playing one shot

PHOTO: STAR

Inter-varsity cricket DU move into final

JU CORRESPONDENT

An allround show by Rubel steered Dhaka University (DU) into the final of the inter-varsity cricket competition defeating Islamic University (IU) by seven wickets in the second semifinal at the Jahangirnagar University Central playground yesterday.

DU will take on hosts JU in the final on Tuesday.

Winning the toss, IU batted first and collected 110 runs all out in 37.1 overs.

Akhter and Shimul made 22 runs each. Rubel took 3 wickets for 16 runs while Ripon grabbed 2 for 27 and Debashish 2 for 22.

In reply, DU scored 114 runs for the loss of 3 wickets in 21.4 overs.

Rubel made team highest 64 and Debashish 19 runs.

Rubel won the man-of-the-match award.

IU face CU today in the third place deciding match.



REEFAT-BIN-SATTAR

Abdullah Al-Rakib on Sunday, and Roktim are sharing the third spot with six points.

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



Action from yesterday's Premier Division Hockey League match between Abahani Krira Chakra and Sonali Bank at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium.