



## Did U Know?

Manchester United's youngest hat-trick scorer (and probably the youngest hat-trick scorer in English league history) was Jack Rowley when he hit four against Swansea Town in December 1937. Jack was 17 years and 58 days old and it was only his second game for United.



**Ronaldo**  
(Brazilian superstar)  
"Of course I know all about English football. I have great admiration for Arsenal and Manchester United and what they have achieved. They're both big clubs with strong traditions."  
On his admiration for the English Premiership.



### ESPN

Barcelona v Mallorca  
Primera Liga  
Repeat at 11:00 am  
English Premiership  
Arsenal v Middlesbrough  
Repeat at 3:30 pm  
Aston Villa v Chelsea  
Repeat at 5:30 pm  
Premiership highlights  
Taped version at 7:30 pm  
Sportscenter Hindi  
Sports News  
Live at 8:30 pm  
Australia v Sri Lanka  
5th ODI, VB Tri-series  
Highlights at 9:30 pm

### STAR Sports

Deportivo Coruna v Valencia  
Primera Liga  
Same day delayed at 12:30 pm  
Asia Sport Show  
International Sports News  
Repeat at 5:30 pm  
Sportsline Tonight  
Sports News  
Live at 8:00 pm  
Man City Vs Tottenham  
English Premiership  
Live at 1:55 am (Tuesday)

## Lucky 7 yet to be named

### Performance-based pay bag awaits players



SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is yet to name the seven players to be brought on the new payroll, effective from January 1.

But apart from this minor detail, Board president Ali Asghar approved the financial aspect of the new deal that encourages the performance and opposes the traditional idea of fixed 'take-home' salary. The Board will formally disclose the new pay system by December 31.

Though the gradation would be in four categories -- A, B, C and D -- like the previous contract that expired on August 31, no player is guaranteed of a full contract for one year.

Grade A is designed for players having appeared in at least 61 one-day internationals. Playing a Test match on the other hand will be regarded as the appearance of a player in two one-dayers. A player qualifies for Grade A status by playing in either 61 ODIs or by the combined appearance in both form of the game.

A player with 41 matches under his belt qualifies for Grade B. Players with an experience of 21

matches and above fall in Grade C, and Grade D is for the newcomers.

Those under Grade A will be receiving Taka 40,000 per month instead of Taka 60,000 last year.

Although the salary has been reduced considerably, the Board has decided to compensate it by increasing the international match fee by 10 per cent.

A player who played 16 or more Tests will get Taka 70,000 as match fee. For those who appeared in 31 ODIs or more will receive Taka 28,000 as match fee in one-dayers.

The Board has also introduced a

unique incentive system where both bonus and penalty clause shall apply. The amount of bonus and penalty will however vary as per the strength of opposition.

Moreover, a non-payroll cricketer in the tour party will be entitled to draw monthly salary and enjoy other privileges according to the category he falls under.

In case of injury, any graded player will receive maximum six-month's salary from the time of his injury while on international duty. Treatment and rehabilitation costs will also be covered by the Board.

### PAY STRUCTURE

GRADE	SALARY No. of Matches	In Taka
A	61+	40,000
B	41-60	30,000
C	21-40	20,000
D	1-20	15,000
MATCH FEE (ODI)		
A	31+	28,000
B	21-30	20,000
C	11-20	16,000
D	1-10	12,000
MATCH FEE (TEST)		
A	16+	70,000
B	11-15	50,000
C	6-10	40,000
D	1-5	30,000

## B'desh edge Bengal



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national football team struggled past the visiting Sporting Bengal United of the United Kingdom 2-1 in an exhibition match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday afternoon.

All the three goals came in the first half of the match treated as a warm-up game by the national team which left for Bhutan by road last night. Bangladesh, who are preparing for next-month's South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship, will take part in the Jigme Darji Wangchuk football tournament in Bhutan's capital Thimpu. Bangladesh have been given a direct entry into the quarterfinals scheduled for December 25.

Sporting Bengal, a team made up of expatriate Bangladeshis living in the UK, started brightly but the superior technique of their opponents eventually wore them down. However, the visitors did provide some early scare for George Kottan's charges and could have gone one up in the very fifth minute following a lovely build up from the right. Overlapping defender Abdul Kahir crossed the ball to striker Jamalur Rahman but the diminutive United forward's header brushed past the far post with Bangladesh custodian Aminul comprehensively beaten.

After surviving the close call, Bangladesh, missing ace striker Alfaz Ahmed due to an injury, got their acts together and came out with two goals in six minutes.

Forward Kanchan opened the account placing home after Moni's free kick from the top of the box rebounded off the side post in the 22nd minute. Midfielder Joy made it 2-0 after evading an offside trap in the 28th minute.

Sporting Bengal staged a late first half fight-back and reduced the margin in the 37th minute with defender Abdel Ahmed heading past Aminul from a Khair corner.

The second half was a boring affair with both teams looking to pass time rather than showing any urgency in attack.

### TEAMS

**Bangladesh:** Aminul (Biplab), Hasan Al-Mamun, Rajani, Nazrul, Sujon, Parvez, Sentu, Arman (Uzzal), Joy, Moni and Kachan (Farhad).

**Sporting Bengal:** Helauzzaman, Abdul Ahmed, Sohid Ali, Abdul Kahir, Fozlu Khan, Aroz Miah, Abul Hossain, Abdul Goffur, Sana Miah, Tofozzul Islam and Jamalur Rahman.

### SONALI DHAKA WIN

In another exhibition match between the stars of yesterday's earlier in the day, Sonali Oit Club of Dhaka beat the visiting Sonali Oit UK 2-0.

Former national forwards Shabbir and Joshi scored for the Dhaka team in the first half.



Bangladesh midfielder Arif Khan Joy rejoices after scoring the winner against London-based Sporting Bengal at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

## Tension-filled Test



REUTERS, Hamilton

A day of tension ended with New Zealand easing to a four-wicket victory over India on the fourth day of the second Test, giving the home team the series 2-0.

New Zealand were set 160 to win, a sizeable target in the context of an historic low-scoring Test. They lost wickets regularly and the Indians grew more tenacious as the day went on.

Left-arm seamer Ashish Nehra was the pick of the attack, taking three for 34, while wicketkeeper Parthiv Patel grabbed four catches. But Jacob Oram, playing in his second Test, and wicketkeeper Robbie Hart, in his fifth, shared a seventh-wicket partnership of 24 to steer the Kiwis home.

"It was pretty tense. One mistake or loss of concentration could cost you the game," New Zealand skipper Stephen Fleming told reporters. "In a normal situation it may set you back for a while but not here. This was high-pressure."

"Sitting and watching the last half-an-hour was difficult but it ended up well for us because we won. I wanted the guys to be confident because you get apprehensive when you're timid."

"There's a fine line at the wicket about getting your scoring areas right and getting the confidence and patience to trust everything else,"

said Fleming, who top-scored on Sunday with 32.

"The bottom line was that it was probably about defence and looking out for the opportunities."

An added pressure was the pitch, which misbehaved on Saturday when both teams were dismissed in the 90s. It was the first time in the history of Test cricket that both sides had been bowled out for less than 100 in their first innings.

India coach John Wright, however, said the wicket played well on Sunday.

On Friday and Saturday,

Thursday's play was washed out by rain, the batsmen of both teams found it difficult on a greenish-looking pitch.

Not one half-century was posted in the match, the first time that has happened in a Test since the Bridgetown test of 1934-35 between England and West Indies.

Before the series Saurav Ganguly said that he dearly wanted to be the captain to lead India to their first overseas series win since 1986.

"We would have liked another 40 runs on the board for them to chase

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5



(L-R) India star players Virender Sehwag, Saurav Ganguly and Sachin Tendulkar stand in disappointment during the post-match presentation yesterday.

## Windies take off finally

SPORTS REPORTER

The touring West Indies cricket team left Dhaka yesterday afternoon after dense fog delayed their flight for more than 24 hours.

The Caribbean team was originally scheduled to fly to London by a British Airways flight on Saturday morning at 8:30 am on completion of their 23-day tour of Bangladesh. Accordingly the squad reached the Zia International Airport to catch their flight home only to learn that heavy fog cover prevented the aircraft from coming to Dhaka. The team returned to their hotel later in the afternoon.

## Unstoppable Biman

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Biman maintained their solo lead in the First Division Chess League with 38.5 points at the end of the tenth round yesterday.

The national flag carrier defeated Narayananj City Club 3-1 in this round. Grand Master Ziaur Rahman won against Prasenjit Dutta while FIDE Master Rezaul Haque got walkover against Rezaus Shams. International Master Abdullah-Al-Rakib and IM Enamul Hossain drew their respective games with Yanur Rahman and Anwar Hossain.

Bangladesh Ansars outplayed Titas Club 3-1 to claim the second position with 30 points. The losers slipped to third with 28.5 points.

In other matches of the day, Mohakhali Prodig Sangha beat Leonine Chess Club 2.5-1.5, Kamalapur Samaj Kalyan and Kirra Sangha beat Nirban Chess School 3-1, Sonali Bank thrashed Bangshal Progati Samaj Kalyan Sangstha 3.5-5, Dhaka University Chess Team beat Anushilan Daba Kalyan Chakra 3-1, Farashganj Sporting Club beat Nakhapara Jubo Kalyan Sangha 3-1 and Monipur Chess Club beat Anu Memorial Club 3-1.

## Lee heats up speed gun

AFP, Perth

Australian firebrand Brett Lee hurled down one of the fastest deliveries bowled in Australia here Sunday night during the tri-nations series one-day clash with Sri Lanka.

Lee, 26, was recorded at 156.2 kilometres an hour during a fiery six-over opening spell at the start of the Sri Lankan innings.

The delivery was recorded by a speed gun operated by a Channel Nine TV crew.

The recording was especially significant because Lee was bowling into a stiff south-easterly breeze.

Lee was credited with a personal best speed of 157.3 kilometres an hour in a Test against South Africa in Cape Town in March.

It has long been his ambition to deliver a ball at 161 kilometres an hour (100 mph).

Former Australian Test star Jeff Thomson is recognised as having bowled the fastest ball in Australia. He was recorded at 160.5 kilometres an hour in 1975 at the time when he and Dennis Lillee formed one of the world's most feared pace combinations.

Pakistan's tearaway Shoaib Akhtar claims to have bowled the fastest ball ever recorded in the game.

Pakistan cricket authorities say Shoaib was clocked at 161 kilometres an hour when he bowled to Craig McMillan during a one-day international against New Zealand at Lahore's Gadafi Stadium in April.

## Hick extends contract

AFP, London

Former Worcestershire captain Graeme Hick has agreed a new contract to stay at New Road until the end of summer 2006.

The 36-year-old ex-England batsman has decided to remain with the county he has represented ever since he arrived from Zimbabwe in 1984.

Worcestershire chief executive Mark Newton said: "Graeme is an icon of this club, and we are delighted to have secured his long-term future."

## Top Four v'ball

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Navy defeated Bangladesh Air Force 25-18, 25-19, 25-21 in the Victory Day Top Four Volleyball Tournament yesterday.

Mamun Sheikh of Navy was adjudged man-of-the-match.

The last match of the league phase will be between Bangladesh Rifles and Bangladesh Army today.



State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman addresses a press briefing regarding the SAFF Championship that kicks off in Dhaka on January 10.

## Rahman sees SAFF success



SPORTS REPORTER

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman during a press briefing at a local hotel yesterday.

Rahman, who is also the chairman of the organising committee, said that the eight-team meet starting on January 10 would definitely fulfil the expectations of millions of football fans around the country.

"Hopefully the 11-day meet will give the home crowd something to cheer about after being deprived of international football for such a long time," said the sports minister.

Rahman also said that Prime

Minister Khaleda Zia is expected to grace the opening ceremony.

Regretting the unwanted episode over the ground that cast a shadow over holding the event at the all-purpose Bangabandhu National Stadium, Rahman said that it was gracious of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to accommodate a football tournament in the middle of their season.

"I'm pleased to see cricket and football organisers are working together to make the event a success," said Rahman.

The SAFF championship was originally supposed to take place at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, but had been shifted to the BNS after the sponsors AFC Marketing Limited (AML) complained of poor floodlight facilities over there.

While Rahman termed the event as an opportunity to strengthen the bond among the member nations of South Asia, the championship itself is already attracting a lot of attention with the inclusion of Afghanistan for the first time.

"I'm getting a lot of responses

from European media regarding the tournament. Obviously, interest grew with the introduction of Afghanistan in the meet," said SAFF secretary Sirajul Islam.

Islam, who is also the acting general secretary of the BFF, also said that most of the participating teams have already sent their preliminary lists.

He also said that defending champions India would field their full strength team despite their players' commitment in the domestic competition.

Meanwhile, BFF president SA Sultan announced lucrative cash awards for the national team.

"Each player will receive Taka two lakh if Bangladesh go all the way to winning the trophy," declared Sultan.

But in reality Bangladesh holds a poor track record on the home soil in the regional football competition. Besides, the humiliating 0-3 defeat against India in the Busan Asian Games depicted an altogether different picture.

## Black Caps scrape thru'



AFP, Hamilton

New Zealand tamed the demon pitch to post an exciting four-wicket victory over India in the second and final cricket Test here on Sunday and wrap up the two-match series 2-0.

The hosts were in deep trouble at 105-5 chasing a 160-run target on a seamer-friendly track before Jacob Oram saw them home with a crucial unbeaten 26 under pressure.

New Zealand scored 160-6 to win their second successive Test against the tourists inside three days. The first day's play was washed out without a ball being bowled.

They had won the opening Test by 10 wickets at Wellington.

New Zealand did not find batting easy on a pitch where 22 wickets had fallen on a sensational third day as they struggled for runs.

The carnage appeared to continue as New Zealand lost five wickets in the morning after resuming at 24 for no loss, but Oram and Scott Styris (17) put on 31 for the sixth wicket to help their team win a low-scoring match.

This was the first Test since 1934-35 (England v West Indies at Barbados) when no batsman could score a half-century, India's Rahul

Dravid being the top-scorer of the match with 39 in the second innings.

Two small, but valuable, partnerships made New Zealand's fortunes in a match in which each run put as much pressure on India as the fall of each wicket on the hosts.

Skipper Stephen Fleming (32) added 37 for the third wicket with Craig McMillan (18) and Oram 31 for the sixth with Styris.

Fast bowler Ashish Nehra (3-34) sustained the tourists' hopes with three wickets in the first session, but his effort was still not good enough to stop India from suffering the first whitewash under Saurav Ganguly's captaincy.

Oram, playing only his second Test, considerably eased the pressure on his team when he drove off-spinner Harbhajan Singh through the covers and then Nehra square of the wicket for two boundaries in the closing stages.

Wicket-keeper Robbie Hart completed the job when he turned Nehra for the winning single.

Left-arm seamer Nehra, 23, had thrown the match wide open with a triple-strike, making the batsmen struggle for runs with his tidy line and length.

Ganguly relied on his seamers for early breakthroughs and did not have to wait long for the first success as Tinu Yohannan had Lou Vincent caught behind with the one that moved away a bit in the third

over. Fleming and Mark Richardson appeared to have steadied the innings with a 22-run stand for the second wicket before Nehra broke the partnership.

Nehra put pressure on New Zealand with the dismissal of Richardson, caught by wicket-keeper Parthiv Patel after adding 10 to his overnight score of 18.

Fleming played a few attacking shots as he hit fast bowler Zaheer Khan for two successive fours and then twice on-drove the bowler for boundaries.

The New Zealand captain's brief flourish ended when he mistimed a pull off Nehra to be caught by Zaheer at short mid-on.

The bowler and the fielder nearly collided while going for the catch, but Zaheer managed to hold on to the ball.

McMillan fell after playing a couple of aggressive shots, hoisting Harbhajan over long-on for a six before being trapped leg-before by Nehra.

New Zealand suffered a big blow when the last specialist batsman, Nathan Astle, departed after scoring just 14.

Aste was brilliantly caught by a diving Patel off Zaheer to leave his in trouble at 105-5 -- still 55 short of victory -- but Oram held his nerve under pressure to steer his team home.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



New Zealand cricket team poses after beating India by four wickets in Hamilton yesterday. The Black Caps won on the fourth day of the second and final cricket Test to sweep the two-match series 2-0.

### Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 18

Tick the correct answers, post to **The Daily Star** Win attractive prizes

**Competition closes at 8 pm Dec 27, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards**

1. Bangladesh lost the third ODI against West Indies by:
 

86 runs	5 wkts	120 runs
---------	--------	----------
2. Who won the 2002 Davis Cup?
 

Russia	France	Australia
--------	--------	-----------
3. Who was man-of-the-match in the first Test between Bangladesh and West Indies?
 

Lawson	Gayle	Sarwan
--------	-------	--------
4. Who lifted the women's World Cup hockey title?
 

Argentina	Germany	Australia
-----------	---------	-----------
5. Who was voted World Soccer magazine's player-of-the-year?

Name .....

Class .....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....