



Did U Know?

Nicholas de Groot was a talented all-rounder from Guyana who was vice-captain of the West Indies under-19 team that toured Bangladesh in 1995-96. De Groot will again face Bangladesh at the World Cup in South Africa but not as a West Indies player. De Groot will represent Canada.



What to WATCH

- ESPN**
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
Repeat at 9:30 am
English Premier Football League
Liverpool vs Everton
Repeat at 11:30 am
English Premier Football League
Leeds United vs Chelsea
Live at 8:55 pm
- STAR Sports**
Australia vs England
Fourth Test, Day Three
Live at 5:57 am
South Africa vs Pakistan
First Test, Day Three
Live at 1:55 pm
English Premier Football League
Man United vs Birmingham City
Live at 8:55 pm



Malcolm Gray
(ICC President)
"It is entirely fitting that Australia should be the first recipient of the magnificent new ICC ODI shield."

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 18

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

Competition closes at 8 pm
Jan 10, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who lifted Div I chess title?
Titans Club | Biman | Ansars
- Who won Reuters' sportswoman of 2002 award?
Hinglis | Serena | Jones
- Who won the man-of-the-match award in the second and final Test between Bangladesh and West Indies?
Jacobs | Kapali | Mashud
- Who won 2002 FIFA World Player of the Year award?
Owen | Ronaldo | Carlos
- Who clinched World Squash Open title?
Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (If any)

National Youth Cricket results

UNB, Dhaka
Faridpur, Chittagong, Nilphamari, Mymensingh, Barisal, Pabna and Magura moved into the next round of the CityCell Digital 22nd National Youth Cricket Championship zonal qualifying round after winning their respective matches at different venues across the country yesterday.
At Mymensingh, Faridpur earned a massive 118-run victory

Awful Chittagong!



SPORTS REPORTER

Sylhet made National Cricket League history after they devastated Chittagong in the one-day competition at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Chittagong suffered the ignominy of scoring the lowest total ever in the four-year old competition after they were bundled out for 30.

Sylhet's opening bowlers Nasir Hussain and Rezaul Haque, both left armers, simply tore apart the strong Chittagong batting line up that was only missing veteran Minhazul Abedin and Azam Iqbal. Incidentally, none of the batters reached double figures.

Nasir bagged five for eight in an astonishing 10-over spell while Rezaul claimed four for 20 as Chittagong lasted just 20.4 overs after being put into bat.

In reply, Sylhet took only 6.3 overs to sail home with eight wickets in hand.

It was Sylhet's second victory in three matches. They now have four points and are joint second with Khulna in the six-team table.

On the other hand, Chittagong suffered their second loss in three

matches. They have two points.

Elsewhere, Dhaka defeated Khulna by seven wickets at the BKSP ground to stay atop while Rajshahi registered their first win with a seven-wicket win over point-less Barisal at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

The match at BKSP was reduced



NASIR ... 5 for 8

Team	M	W	L	Pts
Dhaka	3	3	0	6
Khulna	3	2	1	4
Sylhet	3	2	1	4
Chittagong	3	1	2	2
Rajshahi	3	1	2	2
Barisal	3	0	3	0

to a 35-over-a-side contest as heavy fog delayed start. Electing to bat, Khulna could muster 156 for the loss of six wickets.

Wicketkeeper Mohammad Salim made the highest 66 off 84 balls.

In reply, a 133-run opening partnership between Rashedul Haque and veteran Jahangir Alam guided Dhaka to their third win as they reached the target in 29 overs with seven wickets intact.

Rashedul scored a 65-ball 69 with a six and eleven boundaries while Jahangir made 59 off 62 balls with eight fours. Dhaka have six points.

Rajshahi booked Barisal for 119 in 44.2 overs after inviting them to bat first.

Barisal's middle order batsman Towhid Hossain fought a lone battle scoring 55 off 108 balls.

Imran Parvez took three wickets for Rajshahi.

Rajshahi in reply, scored 121 in 32.2 overs for the loss of three wickets.

Opener Jahurul Islam top-scored with 31.

The Relegation League between the bottom seven teams will however be of usual 50-overs-a-side matches.

A team will be allowed to field only one foreign player in a match in the Premier League while four teams will be relegated to Second Division from the First Division this season.

Cricket from Jan 25 Players' bourse January 15-17

SPORTS REPORTER

The inter-club cricketers' transfers for the Premier and First Division Cricket Leagues will be held from January 15 to 17 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Premier, First, Second and Third Division Club representatives at the Bangabandhu National Stadium Thursday night.

Chaired by Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) advisor and tournament committee chairman Shah Nurul Kabir, MP, the meeting also decided to start the Premier and First Division Leagues from January 25.

The Premier Division will have a new format this season that will involve 13 teams. Apart from 12 regular teams, the Development Squad of BCB will also play in the Premier League.

The first round of the League will be played with white balls and coloured dresses while the Super League, where top six teams from the first round will compete, matches will be three-day affairs.

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ICC fears for cricket

AFP, London

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Friday warned that the explosive row with the Indian board over contracts for next year's World Cup could damage the long-term health of the sport.

On the day that Indian government threw its weight behind its country's cricket establishment in its showdown, the chief executive of the ICC warned again that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) must recognise the implications of their stand.

"The current agreement between world cricket and the Global Cricket Corporation is in the best interests of the game," said Malcolm Speed.

"It will provide 550-million-dollars for the sport over the life of the agreement, an injection that will allow cricket to thrive over the coming years."

"The deal helps ensure that the 85 countries that are part of the ICC have the financial resources to develop and grow the games across the globe."

"Critical to this is the need for all countries that have entered into legally binding agreements to deliver what they have promised. This includes the BCCI."

Earlier, Indian sports minister Vikram Verma urged the ICC to adopt "a practical approach" while trying to resolve the differences with

India over the contentious players' contracts.

"As long as the stand is in the interest of the game and country, the government is with the players and will extend all possible help in the matter," Verma told reporters.



MALCOLM SPEED

Unthinkable as it may sound, the prospect of India boycotting the showpiece event in southern Africa from February 8-March 23 next year cannot be ruled out if the ICC refuses to alter the ambush marketing clauses any further.

"No one wants to stay away from the World Cup, but we have already said the current set of contracts are not acceptable to us or the players," an official of the BCCI told AFP in

New Delhi.
"It's for the ICC and the tournament's sponsors to decide. The ball is in their court."

The BCCI rejected the ICC's final offer on Christmas Day, saying it will not force its players to break their existing personal contracts to please the World Cup's official sponsors.

In his statement, Speed said that recent suggestions by some commentators that the BCCI is not, or would not, be contractually bound to deliver on their obligations were inaccurate.

"The BCCI has willingly committed itself to delivering its best team to the World Cup and to ensuring that this team will agree to the conditions accepted by the BCCI," said Speed.

"Following discussions with the BCCI on this issue I carefully outlined the legitimate and transparent process by which the BCCI accepted and committed to its contractual obligations in a letter to the Indian Board earlier this month."

Speed added that with the two groups at loggerheads over the issue, the ICC would even consider seeking compensation against the Indian authorities.

"The reality is that any person or organisation that fails to live up to its commitments risk claims for compensation being made against it and the BCCI is no different," said Speed.

Decision on Sachin today



AFP, Napier

India have delayed making a final decision on whether to include batting star Sachin Tendulkar in their team for Sunday's second one-day international against New Zealand here.

The master batsman missed the day-night first game at Auckland on Thursday due to an ankle injury sustained while bowling in the nets on the match-eve.

"The final decision on Tendulkar will only be taken tomorrow (Saturday)," said Indian team manager Nathu Ram Chaudhary.

"He is improving, but we don't want to take any chances before the World Cup (starting in South Africa next February). That's the main reason we are taking a very cautious approach," said Chaudhary.

Encouraging news for India was that all-rounder Sanjay Bangar (knee) and off-spinner Harbhajan Singh (hand) regained fitness ahead of the second match. "Both of them are fit," said Chaudhary.

The trio's absence severely affected India's chances in the

opening game on the portable Eden Park wicket as the tourists were bundled out for their lowest total of 108 against New Zealand in 62 one-dayers.

The hosts won the match by three wickets to gain a 1-0 lead in the seven-match series.

The Indian manager said opener Shiv Das had left for home and seamer Rakesh Patel joined the squad for the remaining one-dayers.



SACHIN TENDULKAR

Das was included in the team for the Auckland game at the 11th hour

following injuries to the three key players.

He turned out to be the top-scorer of the low-scoring match with 30 on a drop-in pitch, later criticised by rival skipper Stephen Fleming of New Zealand and Saurav Ganguly of India.

The pitch here promises to be more friendly to batsmen than the ones provided for two Tests at Wellington and Hamilton and the one-dayer at Auckland.

New Zealand won both the Tests inside three days to complete a clean sweep.

It was here that India had crossed the 200-mark for the only time on their current tour, against Central Districts in a three-day game early this month.

"It'll bounce, but it's looking good," Central Districts official Blair Furlong was quoted as saying in a local daily on Friday.

Curator Phil Stoyanoff, however, was non-committal, saying he never made predictions and it was up to the players (to score runs).
"It's 80 per cent brown and 20 per cent green on top now, but it will brown off a lot now," he said.

Jigme Dorji tourney Bangladesh in semis

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh stormed into the semifinals of the Jigme Dorji Wangchuk Memorial Football Tournament in Bhutan with a trashing 5-0 victory over Thimpu Eleven in their last Group B clash in Phuentsholing yesterday.

Forward Rokonuzzaman Kanchan struck twice while Alfaz, Joy and Tito scored the other goals for the tourists who led the first half 3-0.

Alfaz, the former Bangladesh captain, put Bangladesh ahead in as early as the fifth minute while Kanchan doubled the margin in the 20th minute. Joy extended the lead in the 40th minute.

Kanchan was lucky again in the second-half as he scored for the second time in the 53rd minute and Tito sealed the fate of the match in the 77th minute.

It was Bangladesh's third win in as many matches that placed them on top of the group. They will take on Oil India in the second semifinal on December 30.

SAFF Championship Pakistan send Probables' list

SPORTS REPORTER

Pakistan has yesterday sent a list of 25 probables for next-month's third South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship.

The eight-nation meet will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium here over January 10-20.

With Pakistan sending the list, three countries have so far sent their lists of probables.

Pakistan squad: Haroon Yousuf, Amir Khan, Saffaraz Rasool, Muhammad Niaz, Khuda Bux, Falak Sher, Syed Raza, Majid Ali, Muhammad Sameen, Jaffer Khan, Abdul Ghani, Shahid, Tanveer Ahmed, Fareed Majeed, Qadeer Ahmed, Zahid Niaz, Amir Shahzad, Ayaz Muhammad, Muhammad Nawaz, Shakir Hussain, Muhammad Shahid, Sajjad Haider, Zakir Hussain, Ashfaq Ahmed and Sajjad Hussain

Biman couldn't be grounded

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Biman became unbeaten champions in the First Division Chess League, organised by the Bangladesh Chess Federation, at the National Sports Council Chess Room yesterday.

They beat Leonine Chess Club by 3.5-5 points in the 15th and final

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WHIZZ KID-186 winner Nafi Aman

(St Joseph School, Mohammedpur, Dhaka)

Please produce your ID card and an attested passport size photograph while collecting the winner's prize from the Sports Desk of The Daily Star at 7:30 pm on January 5.

Langer rattles England



AFP, Melbourne

A ferocious spell by Brett Lee had beleaguered England struggling to save going down 4-0 in the Ashes series to rampant Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Friday.

Bolstered by a Justin Langer-

days' play remaining in the fourth Boxing Day Test.

Skipper Steve Waugh called a halt to the home side's run spree 15 minutes before tea on the second day after Langer reached his highest Test score of 250.

England were under the cosh yet again with top three batsmen Michael Vaughan, Marcus Trescothick and Mark Butcher sent back to put the tremors through the

resistance with a thunderbolt that seared off his gloves to Adam Gilchrist.

Glenn McGrath made the first breakthrough when Vaughan tentatively played on for 11.

Vaughan, who fumbled catches off Martin Love and Langer earlier in the day, played late and got a bottom edge to one which cannoned on to his stumps.

There was another disputed catch controversy which went to the third umpire and went in Nasser Hussain's favour when he was on 14.

Langer and Test debutant Martin Love said Jason Gillespie was adamant he made the diving 'catch' off Stuart MacGill three overs from the end of play.

Butcher fell lbw to Gillespie for 25 in the day's penultimate over, while nightwatchman Richard Dawson survived a huge lbw shout in the same over.

At the close, England, looking at another seeming lost cause, were 97 for three with Hussain not out 17 and Dawson yet to score.

The dismissal of Adam Gilchrist for one in the 146th over was the trigger for Waugh to call a halt to the Australian run avalanche, possibly influenced by deteriorating weather conditions forecast for late on the weekend.

Love, getting his chance while Darren Lehmann is in hospital recovering from a severely infected leg, remained 62 not out.

Langer occupied the crease for 578 minutes for his 250, an innings studded with 30 boundaries and a six which raised his 100 on Thursday's opening day.

Langer, who topped his previous highest Test innings of 223 against India in Sydney two years ago, gave only one chance during the vigil -- he was dropped on 223 in the covers by Vaughan off Craig White.

"I wished it never ended," Langer said. "It's going to be a great memory to score a big score in front of that crowd for two days, the atmosphere was fantastic.... I had my eyes on 500 (500)."

Earlier, Waugh fell short of a



PHOTO: AFP

Justin Langer, the Australia opener who scored a career-best 250, cuts one square of the wicket on the second day of the fourth Ashes Test at MCG yesterday.

fuelled first innings declaration of 551 for six after almost 10 hours at the crease, Australia grabbed three English wickets in the final session in their push for victory with three

crisis-prone tourists.
Wounded up by the 'Barmy Army' English supporters chanting 'no-ball' to each of his deliveries, fearsome Lee ended Trescothick's 37-run

Govt backing for Indians



AFP, New Delhi

The World Cup contracts row intensified Friday after the Indian government threw its weight behind the country's cricket establishment in the tussle with the sport's world governing body.

Sports Minister Vikram Verma urged the International Cricket Council (ICC) to adopt "a practical approach" while trying to resolve the differences with India over the contentious players' contracts.

"As long as the stand is in the interest of the game and country, the government is with the players and will extend all possible help in the matter," Verma told reporters.

Unthinkable as it may sound, the prospect of India boycotting the showpiece event in southern Africa from February 8-March 23 next year cannot be ruled out if the ICC refuses to alter the ambush marketing clauses any further.

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said the current set of contracts are not acceptable to us or the players," an official of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) told AFP.

"It's for the ICC and the tournament's sponsors to decide. The ball is in their court."

The BCCI rejected the ICC's final offer on Christmas Day, saying it will not force its players to break their existing personal contracts to please the World Cup's official sponsors.

"Certain restrictive clauses in the proposed ICC contracts are unjustified and the Indian board will not be a party in an attempt to induce the players to break existing contracts," BCCI chief Jagmohan Dalmiya had said on Wednesday.

The Indians have agreed to forego personal endorsements which conflict with official sponsors only during the World Cup, instead of 30 days before and five days after the event as laid down in the ICC's new proposals.

The cricketers will also allow their images to be used by sponsors for just two months after the event,

instead of three as demanded by the ICC.

With the Indians refusing to back down, the ICC faces the ire of its sponsors, who insisted on the ambush marketing clauses when signing a seven-year deal worth 550 million dollars.

The ICC can ill afford to displease both its sponsors and India, whose vast cricket-crazy television audiences have guaranteed the huge pay packet for the governing body.

At least three of the four major World Cup sponsors -- Pepsi, LG Electronics and Hero Honda -- have major commercial interests in India.

Dalmiya even issued a veiled threat to the three sponsors that they could be blacklisted from the lucrative Indian cricket market in future if they insisted on the players signing the current contracts.
"The Indian sponsors and Indian partners of global concerns should grant dispensation to players and help pave the way for them to participate in the World Cup," he said.

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