


Did U Know?

The oldest Wimbledon tennis champion is Margaret Du Pont of the USA. Du Pont was 44 years 125 days old when she won the mixed doubles in 1962.



What to WATCH

BTV

SAFF Championship
Afghanistan v Pakistan
Live at 3.45 pm
India v Sri Lanka
Live at 5.45 pm

ESPN

New Zealand vs India
Seventh ODI
Live at 7:00 am

Western Union World Football
Repeat at 4:30 pm

Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

Australian Open
Men's/Women's First Rd
Live at 6:00 am
Asia Sport Show
Int'l Sports News
Repeat at 6:00 pm

Sportline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm



TALK TURKEY



Nasser Hussain
(England cricket captain)
"The immediate future against Australia is not great unless we start turning things around."



WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 18

Tick the correct answers,
Post to
The Daily Star

Competition closes at 8 pm Jan 24, 2003 and draw

1. How many teams will play in next month's Cricket World Cup?	16	12	14
2. Who won the Hopman Cup title?	Australia	Russia	America
3. How many Test centuries has Steve Waugh scored?	34	31	29
4. Who became Tribal football champions?	K'Chai	M y m e n s i n g h	Rangamat
5. Who won the man-of-the-match award in the fifth and final Ashes?			
Name			
Class			
School Address			
Phone: (If any)			

Ctg football

CU CORRESPONDENT

Kwality Sports Club and Kollol Sangha won their CJKS Elite Paint Senior Division football league matches yesterday at the MA Aziz Stadium.

In the first match of the day, Kwality Sports defeated Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) 2-1.

Proshanto and Monir scored for the winners while Imrul reduced the margin for CPA.

Kollol Sangha needed a 4-3 tiebreak win to overcome Brothers Union after both sides finished goalless.



HERE WE GO! (L) Bangladesh cricketers waiting for their baggage to be taken in at the Zia International Airport yesterday. (R) Former national skipper Naimur Rahman wishing the best to present captain Khaled Mashud at the airport. The national cricketers left Dhaka to participate in the World Cup in South Africa.

Rajshahi rocked



SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka kept their hopes alive for a final berth in the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea National Cricket League when they dismissed Rajshahi cheaply in their first innings at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

After a delayed start Rajshahi were shot out for 171 in 53.5 overs on the opening day of the four-day match. Dhaka won the toss

Spinners Fahim Muntasir and Mosaddek Hossain and right arm seamer Anwar Hossain ripped through Rajshahi's batting with three wickets each.

Opener Jamilul Islam (43) and Aminul Islam Junior who added 32, offered some resistance.

Dhaka begin their first essay today.

In the other match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, middle order Rajin Saleh put Sylhet in a commanding position against Khulna.

Rajin was batting on 109 as Sylhet scored 251 for five in 69 overs at the close of play after being put into bat.

Golam Mowla was the other notable run-getter with 41.

SCOREBOARDS

Scoreboards on the first day of the

two Ispahani Mirzapore Tea National Cricket League matches played at different venues yesterday:

Dhaka v Rajshahi				
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium.				
RAJSHAH: First innings				
Jamiul c & b Fahim	43			
Shamimul c Anwar b Neeyamur	16			
Nuruzzaman b Mosaddek	28			
Anisur c Anwar b Mosaddek	19			
Mushfiq lbw b Fahim	0			
Hasan c Jahangir b Fahim	0			
Mustadir c Mazharul b Mosaddek	5			
Mahbub not out	25			
Aminul jr lbw b Monir	32			
Imran lbw b Monir	0			
Shafaq c Kadir b Monir	0			
Extras: (b-2, lb-1)	3			
Total: (All out in 53.5 overs)	171			
Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-83, 3-97, 4-106, 5-106, 6-106, 7-112, 8-167, 9-167.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Monir	9.5	1	24	3
Neeyamur	8	2	32	1
Arafat	11	2	31	0
Fahim	16	4	58	3
Mosaddek	9	5	23	3

Khulna v Sylhet				
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.				
SYLHET: First innings				
Parvez run out	23			
Imtiaf lbw b Rana	31			
Nasirul c & b Al-Amin	22			
Rajin Saleh batting	109			
Mowla c Salaudhin b Razzak	41			

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India-SL fight for semis spot today



SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions India will take on Sri Lanka in a crucial Group A match of the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) championship at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today evening.

Having won one match against a defeat, India need a draw today to secure a semifinal spot behind Pakistan who have already made it to the last four winning both their matches against India and Sri Lanka.

The Indians looked a much relieved side after their 4-0 thrash-

ing of Afghanistan on Sunday. Stephen Constantine's charges, who lost their first game 0-1 against perennial rivals Pakistan, were in a confident mood during practice yesterday afternoon at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

On the other hand, Sri Lanka, still smarting from their 1-2 loss at the hands of group leaders Pakistan, have no option but to win against India.

The match will kick off at 5:45pm Bangladesh Standard Time at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

In the day's first encounter, Pakistan, who have already confirmed a last-four berth with two wins in two matches, take on no-hoppers Afghanistan.

POINTS TABLE							
Teams	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	Points
GROUP A							
Pakistan	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
India	2	1	0	1	4	1	3
Sri Lanka	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Afghanistan	2	0	0	2	0	5	0
GROUP B							
Bangladesh	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
Maldives	2	1	0	1	6	1	3
Nepal	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Bhutan	2	0	0	2	0	8	0

Murali only the fourth

REUTERS, Sydney

Sri Lanka off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan became only the fourth bowler in history to claim 300 wickets in both Tests and one-day internationals when he bowled England's Jimmy Anderson on Monday.

The 30-year-old is playing his 202nd one-day match. He also has 437 scalps in 78 Tests.

The only other bowlers to achieve the double are Pakistan frontline seamers Wasim Akram (490) and Waqar Younis (409) and Indian leg-spinner Anil Kumble (302).

Muralitharan reached the milestone when he beat the left-hander's defences for one in the 47th over as England slumped to 234 for 286 chasing Sri Lanka's total of 294 for seven.

The normally quiet Muralitharan raised both arms in triumph at the wicket and finished the over to take

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School cricket Islamia High champs

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Gaibandha

Islamia High School clinched the Standard Chartered 21st National School Cricket Championship (Gaibandha region) beating Gaibandha Government Boys High School by four wickets in the final at Gaibandha Govt Boys High School ground yesterday.

Winning in the toss, Gaibandha Govt Boys batted first and scored 139 runs all out in 28 overs.

In reply, Islamia made 142 runs for six wickets in 26.2 overs.

Johnny of Islamia was declared man-of-the-match.

Nepal edge past Bhutan



SPORTS REPORTER

Nepal faced an unlikely opposition from a lowly rated Bhutan before registering a 2-0 victory in their second Group B clash of the third South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Forwards Niranjan Manjhi and Kumar Thapa scored one goal each to keep the semifinal hopes of the Himalayan country afloat.

Having lost their first match 0-1 to hosts Bangladesh on Saturday, Nepal went all out right from the start against the lowest ranked side in the eight-nation meet. But Bhutan, who conceded six goals against Maldives in the first match, caught the Nepalese by surprise with a watertight defence.

Nepal ruled the field most of the time but their forwards failed to break in the stubborn defence wall of Bhutan more than once in either half.

Their first goal came in the 17th minute when Niranjan headed home a long cross from veteran Hari Khadka from the right.

Nepal tried their best to extend the lead, but their half a dozen attacks in the first half were fended off by the Bhutanese defenders.

Their next scoring opportunity finally came at the stroke of the final whistle when an unguarded Kumar Thapa got the ball from a goal mouth melee. The tall forward wasted no time to fire the ball into the far corner of the net.

Having made their international debut only on Friday, Bhutan looked a remarkably improved side yesterday. With their limited abilities, they not only guarded their fort commendably but also surprised their more illustrious opponents with quick counter attacks.

They came close to score when midfielder Kinley Dorji got the ball at the top of the box from a right side Tenzin cross. But Nepal custodian Upendra Man Singh managed to foil that attempt.

Nepal will play their last match Wednesday against Maldives, who also have a win against a defeat.

Yellow card: Namgye Dorji (Bhutan).

TEAMS

Nepal: Upendra, Rakesh, Deepak, Narottam (Ramesh), Bal Gopal, Niranjan, Anant Raj, Rajesh (Rajan/ Sukra Man), Basanta Thapa, Hari Khadka and Kumar Thapa.



Bhutanese goalkeeper Jigme Singye thwarts a Hari Khadka (R) attempt during their SAFF Championship encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Ganguly looks for runs



AFP, Hamilton

India skipper Saurav Ganguly said Monday he was confident of regaining form despite having failed in 10 successive innings on the current New Zealand tour.

"I will be back in form soon," Ganguly said ahead of the day-night seventh and last one-day international against the hosts, starting at the Westpac Park here on Tuesday.

New Zealand, leading 4-2, have already wrapped up the seven-match series following victories in the first four games.

"It is good to get runs under your belt, but it has not worked here. The World Cup is a different tournament," said the Indian captain, who has scored 29 runs in four Test innings and 43 in six one-dayers.

"Mentally, this has been a hard series," said Ganguly.

"We have travelled a lot and are looking forward to a break. We have two weeks off before the World Cup which I think will be very useful as we have been on the road for nearly 10 months.

"Obviously, the results have not been good here but it does happen when you play day in and day out."

India lost a two-Test series 2-0 and then suffered four successive defeats in the one-dayers before winning the last two games.

Ganguly said he was keen to make it three victories in a row, for it would put the team in a better frame of mind before the World Cup starting in South Africa next month.

"It is very important for us to win this game," he said. "I don't believe in a moral victory, but it is good for the team to win three matches in a row. It will show we are back on our winning ways."

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming conceded that his team had been finding it difficult to keep the

momentum going after having clinched the series.

"Our intensity has not slipped intentionally, but there are signs that we are coming to the end of a campaign that we have already won," he said.

The hosts were far from their best in the previous game at Auckland on Saturday as they dropped three catches and then bowled 12 wides and nine no-balls before suffering a one-wicket defeat in the last-over finish.

"We have to be sharp to go 5-2 up in the last game. We want to do that," said Fleming.

India and New Zealand were involved in a low-scoring second Test here on a seamer-friendly pitch, with neither team crossing the 100-mark in the first innings.

Fleming, however, said the pitch looked good this time.

New Zealand are likely to rest

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Capriati down and out



REUTERS, Melbourne

Jennifer Capriati was sensationally knocked out of the Australian Open by Germany's Marlene Weingartner on the opening day of the year's first grand slam event.

The third-seeded American's hopes of winning a hatrick of titles at Melbourne Park came to an abrupt halt on Monday when she blew a commanding lead to go down 2-6, 7-6, 6-4 in the first round to a player ranked 87 places below her.

Capriati looked to have the match under control when she raced through the first set then opened up a 4-2 lead in the second. But her lack of match practice suddenly caught up with her and her game fell apart at the seams.

She failed to hit her serves with any consistency and started spraying her groundstrokes all over the court as Weingartner, sensing her opportunity, pounced.

The German captured the second set tiebreaker 8-6 and snatched

victory when she broke Capriati's serve on her first match point to pull off the biggest upset of her career.

Capriati, looking heavier and slower than when she saved four match points to beat Martina Hingis in last year's final in one the great comebacks of tennis history, said she was not fit enough this time.

"I felt like I didn't give myself the proper preparation," Capriati said.

"If I wasn't the defending champion, I probably wouldn't have shown up."

Capriati's stunning defeat has increased the chances of another all-Williams final after Venus swept past Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-4, 6-2.

With little sister Serena due to begin her campaign for a non-calendar year Grand Slam on Tuesday, Venus showed she is still looming as the biggest threat with an effortless win.

Andre Agassi also showed why he is being tipped to win a fourth title in the men's competition after he bulldozed fellow American Brian Vahaly 7-5, 6-3, 6-3.

The three-time champion spent just over two hours booking his next

round spot. He had been unable to defend his title here last year because of a wrist injury and looked thrilled to be back on court, blasting 36 clean winners.

"To be back here... there is a lot of nerves," Agassi smiled courtide afterwards. "It's been a while."

Champion in 2000 and 2001, Agassi has not lost at Melbourne Park since a fourth round loss to Vince Spadea in 1999.

"At this stage I am very physically prepared to do whatever is needed of me here," he said. "I feel good at slams. I feel good in my matches."

Once Venus had shaken off the ring-rustiness caused by two months away from competitive action she also ran away with her match, demolishing the gifted Kuznetsova.

"I've been practising, going out, living life," she giggled when asked of her preparations. "I was just a little rusty out there but at times I was my old self."

"I didn't expect to be 100 per cent

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