



Did U Know?

The oldest winner of an Olympic event was Patrick 'Babe' McDonald, who was 42 years 26 days old when he won the 56-lb weight throw in Belgium in August 1920.



BTV
SAFF Championship
Nepal v Maldives
Live at 3.45 pm
Bangladesh v Bhutan
Live at 5.45 pm

ESPN
Australia vs Sri Lanka
World Series, Ninth ODI
Live at 9:13 am
Football Focus
Repeat at 5:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
STAR Sports
Australian Open
Men's/Women's Second Rd
Live at 6:00 am
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm



Murray Goodwin
(Former Zimbabwe cricketer)
"I think they must play there (in Zimbabwe), otherwise cricket will be pretty much a non-event in years to come."
While commentating on the Zimbabwe boycott issue during the World Cup.

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 18

Tick the correct answers, 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'Chari Ramangati	M y m e n s i n g h	Rangamati
5. Who won the man-of-the-match award in the fifth and final Ashes?			
Name			
Class.			
School Address			
Phone: (If any)			

ECB standing against govt?

AFP, London

English cricket authorities were poised Tuesday to reject British Premier Tony Blair's call to boycott Zimbabwe during next month's World Cup.

A meeting of the England and Wales Cricket Board at Lord's was expected to ignore pleas from the Government to pull out of the game on Feb 13 in Harare because of human rights abuses of Zimbabwe president Robert Mugabe.

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PHOTO: STAR

Pakistan forward Shahid (front) bursts past Afghanistan's Ahmed Rahill (on the ground) during their SAFF Championship clash at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Rasool Pakistan's hero



SPORTS REPORTER

A ninth minute strike by Sharfaraz Rasool ensured Pakistan topped Group A in the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship with a lone goal victory against Afghanistan at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The 26-year-old midfielder separated the two neighbours with a powerful right-footer after being nicely fed by Qadeer Ahmed at the top of the box.

Already confirmed of a place in the semifinal with victories against India and Sri Lanka, Pakistan preferred to a casual approach against a team that has only returned to the international scene after a long absence.

Rasool's third goal in the eight-team meet made him the joint top-

scorer with the Maldives Ali Shiham.

He scored the solitary goal against India and struck the second in his side's 2-1 victory over Sri Lanka in the previous match.

The defeat on the other hand completed Afghanistan's unimpressive showing. They return home winless and goalless. Even the influence of five Germany-based booters could not help them from being eliminated from the preliminary stage. They conceded six goals in three games including a 4-0 whitewash by India.

They however tried their best to bow out with goal to their name, but were only denied by Pakistan custodian Jaffar Khan.

Pakistan themselves were thwarted by the woodwork in getting a second goal when Qadeer's 40th header came off the far post.

The high-flying Pakistani now have to wait for outcome of the two final Group B games today to know

their semifinal opponents.

Their likely opponents will be the winners between Maldives and Nepal, provided that hosts Bangladesh do not lose badly against newcomers Bhutan in the other match.

TEAMS

PAKISTAN: Jafar Khan, Ashfaq Ahmed, Tanvir Ahmed, Haroon Yousof, Qadeer Ahmed, Mohammed Sameen (Zakir Hussain), Sazzad Hussain, Ayez Mahmud, Sharfaraz Rasool (Majeed), Shahid, Amir Khan (Sazzad Haider).

AFGHANISTAN: Abdul. Salem, Najib Naderi, Ahmad Zia (Rohillah), Omar Nazar, Ahmed Rahil, Bashir Ahmed (Farid Ahmed), Nasir Ahmed, Najibullah, Obaidullah (Kamrani Bashir), Reza Razae and David Yagubi.

Referee: Ram Krishna Gosh (Bangladesh).



PHOTO:: ANISUR RAHMAN

HOW DARE YOU! Sri Lanka's KM Fuard (L) decides to take matters into his own hands and challenges India's Renedy Singh during their SAFF Championship clash at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

SL impresses Whatmore



AFP, Sydney

Former World Cup one-day champions Sri Lanka are enjoying an ideal preparation for this year's World Cup contest starting next month despite an unimpressive recent win-loss record, coach Dav Whatmore said here Tuesday.

Back-to-back wins over Australia and England in the tri-nation limited-overs series have eased the pain of the all-out total of 65 against Australia A in Adelaide last week.

Those wins ended a five-match losing streak, helping to improve Sri Lanka's disastrous record on their southern hemisphere tour, now standing at three wins from 10 matches in South Africa and Australia.

Captain Sanath Jayasuriya said Tuesday the transformation had occurred because the "batting and bowling has improved."

But Whatmore said continued exposure to hard, bouncy pitches was paying dividends for a team which achieves most of its success

at home.

"This is probably the best World Cup preparation we could have," Whatmore said.

"There's still a fear that the team can get beaten badly again -- and if you keep getting beaten your confi-



DAV WHATMORE

dence can take a bit of a knocking.

"But a team like Sri Lanka, coming from our conditions to play one-day cricket in South Africa and then playing here does us no end of good."

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Booters play Bhutan today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh football coach George Kottan said the he would rest his key players in his side's final Group B match of the SAFF Championship against a lowly Bhutan today.

The match, which will also be the last game of the first round, will kick off at 5.45pm. Earlier, Maldives and Nepal will face each other to decide the other semifinal slot.

The Austro-Hungarian said that he would give all his nine reserves a chance to kick the ball for the first time in the eight-team meet.

With the semifinal assured with back-to-back wins against Nepal and Maldives, Kottan will be hoping to finish group champions and avoid picking up any injuries before the knockout stage.

Asked who would be his preferred last four opponents, Kottan said that his motivated charges were ready to even face India.

Cricketers' bourse from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The inter-club cricketers' transfer for the Premier and First Division Leagues begins at the National Sports Council Auditorium today. The three-day bourse involving the Dhaka-based clubs will be conducted from 2-8 pm.

The focus will mainly be on the twelve Premier League clubs including defending champions Victoria Sporting Club and two bitter foes Mohammedan and Abahani.

But this year trading will be expectedly low because of the non-availability of the national players who are on international duty.

Junior tennis

SPORTS REPOTER

A total of 16 boys and girls moved into the quarterfinals of the GrameenPhone International Junior Tennis Championships at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday.

In the boys' singles second round matches, Leo Tai Wee of Chinese Taipei defeated Uzbekistan's Uzakov Vaja 6-2, 6-2; Korea's Chuang Kuang beat Sumit Gupta of India 6-3, 6-0; Uzbekistan's Ishnatov Gafur beat Kim Hiang Zin of Korea 7-6, 6-2; Chang Huai of Chinese Taipei defeated Rupesh Rai of India 7-6, 6-0; Yuda Yuchi of Japan beat Sanam Singh of India 6-4, 6-4; Michael Wahi of Austria beat E Chuang of Chinese Taipei 6-2, 6-1 and India's Chatwinder Singh beat compatriot Kartiq Raju.

In the girls' singles matches, Wan Ting Chang of Chinese Taipei beat India's Poza Comrededy 6-0, 6-1; Sue Son Me of Korea defeated Shifat Nushrat Baishaki of Bangladesh 6-2, 6-4; Thailand's Varinia beat Huang Hui Cho of Chinese Taipei 6-2, 7-5; India's Marufa Devi beat Bangladesh's Ishrat Sultana 6-1, 6-0; Sin Jung of Korea beat Rifat Sharjin 6-1, 3-6, 6-2; India's Murali Bandana beat Kim He Shang 6-1, 6-0 and Thailand's Pichaya beat Japan's Shimura Chikako 6-0, 6-0.

ICC crosses India fingers

REUTERS, London

The International Cricket Council (ICC) are expecting to receive signed World Cup contracts from India on Tuesday amid confusion over whether the players have agreed to play in the tournament starting next month.

"Today is the deadline," said ICC corporate affairs manager Brendan McClements. "We understand we are going to receive the playing contracts today."

"The ICC is reserving its position until it has seen them and understands what they contain."

The Indian board announced last week that all 15 squad members had signed up for the February 9 to March 23 event in South Africa but were still unhappy about some terms relating to sponsorships.

It is unclear whether the players have signed under protest or deleted two disputed clauses, as reported by some sections of the Indian media, thus rendering the contracts invalid.

India's players, who make more money through endorsements than through match fees, are opposed to ICC demands that they freeze personal advertising before, during and after the tournament so as not to clash with official World Cup sponsors.

Jagmohan Dalmiya, head of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), said last week the players were "extremely keen to participate" but said he was not sure if their "qualified signatures" would end the impasse.

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Dhaka seize initiative



SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka thrived on half-centuries by Rashedul Huq, Sajjad Ahmed Shipon and Neeyamur Rashid to pile up a massive total against Rajshahi on the second day of their Ispahani Mirzapore Third National League at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Opener Rashedul scored a dazzling 85, Shipon returned to form with a polished 62 and all-rounder Neeyamur Rashid blasted a 77-ball 72 as Dhaka rattled up 361 in their first innings before being all out 81 overs.

The holders took a commanding lead of 191 runs after they bowled Rajshahi out for 171 on Monday.

Rajshahi, in their second essay, were 10 for one at stumps.

Dhaka's day got even better with the news that Khulna, their rivals for a place in the final, had suffered a stunning collapse against Sylhet at

the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Chasing a huge Sylhet first-innings score of 311, Khulna, who needed a victory to pip Dhaka to the post for a final clash with Chittagong, were shot out for 197.

Manjarul Islam with 78 was the lone Khulna batsman who showed any defiance after Sylhet's middle-order Rajin Saleh added 18 runs to his overnight 109.

SCOREBOARDS

Scoreboards on the second day of the two Ispahani Mirzapore National Cricket League matches played at different venues yesterday:

Dhaka v Rajshahi

Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

RAJSHAHI: First innings 171 all out in 53.5 overs (Jamiul 43, Nuruzzaman 28, Mahbub 25; Munir 3-24, Fahim 3-58, Mosaddek 3-23)

DHAKA: Firstinnings

Rashedul c Aminul jr. b Imran	85
Anwar run out	1
Jahangir lbw b Mustadir	38
Mazharul c Hasan b Imran	15
Sajjad c & b Shafaq	62
Kadir c & b Imran	22

Fahim run out	20
Neeyamur b Shafaq	72
Mosaddek lbw b Mahabub	2
Arafat c Shamim b Shafaq	5
Munir not out	3
Extras: (b-13, lb-9, nb-11, w-3)	36
Total: (All out in 81 overs)	361

Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-137, 3-159,

4-177, 5-221, 6-254, 7-289, 8-316,

9-358

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shafaq	17	3	61	3
Aminul jr.	11	1	61	0
Mushfiq	7	1	34	0
Imran	19	2	82	3
Mustadir	13	0	53	1
Nuruzzaman	4	1	16	0
Mahabub	10	1	32	1

RAJSHAHI: Secondinnings

Jamiul batting	6
Shamsul c Kadir b Neeyamur	2
Imran batting	1
Extras: (b1-)	1
Total: (For 1 wicket in 7 overs)	10

Fall of wicket: 1-4

Bowler	O	M	R	W

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India end tour in sorrow



AFP, Hamilton

India's dismal tour of New Zealand ended in yet another defeat after they were skittled out for 122 in the seventh and final one-day international here on Tuesday.

New Zealand survived early setbacks to scamper home with six wickets in hand, winning the series 5-2 on top of the 2-0 whitewash in the Test matches.

The Kiwis slipped to 32-3, before skipper Stephen Fleming and Scott Styris added 84 for the fourth wicket to lead the hosts to an emphatic win. Styris was dismissed for 29 when seven runs remained for victory, but Fleming was unconquered with a match-winning 60 not out.

It was the fourth time in seven matches that India's star-studded batting lineup was bundled out for 122 or less, with the start of the World Cup looming on February 8.

Saurav Ganguly's men have two weeks to regroup before they head off to South Africa for two practice matches ahead of their first World

Cup match against the Netherlands at Paarl on February 12.

"This tour has obviously not gone our way, but I know we are a better side than the results here suggest and we will do well at the World Cup," Ganguly said.

Fleming described the series as "a war of attrition" on wickets that were conducive to seam bowling and hampered stroke play.

"The bowlers had a good time here, but this victory gives us confidence for the World Cup," the New Zealand captain said.

"I am really happy the way my team responded in the series, hope we can continue the good work in South Africa."

Yuvraj Singh's 33 was the top score as the Indians lasted just 44.5 overs on a seaming wicket after Fleming won the toss and predictably elected to field.

None of the top five batsmen passed 15 as they collapsed to 44-6 by the 1 bounce to the Kiwi pacemen.

Virender Sehwag, who hit two centuries in the series, began the slide when he was caught behind off Kyle Mills for four in the sixth over.

Tendulkar (1) and Dinesh

Mongia fell on successive deliveries from Daryl Tuffey, who finished with two for 26 from his 10 overs.

Andre Adams, who clean bowled Ganguly and then polished off the tail, was the most successful bowler with four for 21. Mills claimed 2-29.

When New Zealand batted, India's pace spearhead Srinath bowled Matthew Sinclair and Chris Cairns in his first spell to take his overall tally to 299 one-day wickets.

At the other end, left-armer Zaheer Khan trapped Brendon McCullum leg-before to reduce the Kiwis to 32-3, but Fleming and Styris ensured there were no further hiccups.

SCOREBOARD

Full scoreboard of the seventh and final one-day international between India and New Zealand on Tuesday:

INDIA	
Ganguly b Adams	15
Sehwag c McCullum b Mills	4
Tendulkar c Fleming b Tuffey	1
Mongia c Fleming b Tuffey	0
Dravid c Styris b Mills	12
Yuvraj c Vincent b Styris	33

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Serena, Lleyton hang on



AFP, Melbourne

Top seeds Serena Williams and Lleyton Hewitt were given a saving by two underdogs at the Australian Open here Tuesday before scraping into the next round.

World number one Williams and male counterpart Hewitt are the overwhelming favourites with bookmakers to lift their respective singles titles in Melbourne.

But both players were grateful to survive searching first round examinations on the Rod Laver Arena on Tuesday after being put through the grinder by their unheralded oppo-

nents.

Williams, chasing a 'Serena Slam' with victory in Australia to add to her French, US and Wimbledon titles won last season, found herself out-thought and out-fought for long periods of her match against France's Emilie Loit.

Employing some clever shot variation to move the powerful American around the court, world no.56 Loit reduced Williams to an obscenity-screaming mass of frustration at one stage.

Williams, who was given a code violation for her verbal barrage, eventually came through to win 3-6, 7-6, 7-5 in a gruelling 2hr 3min tussle. Williams now faces Belgium's Els Callens in the second round on Thursday.



PHOTO: STAR

Pichaya of Thailand executes a forehand against Shimura Chikako of Japan during their Grameen Phone 17th Bangladesh International Junior Tennis Championship second round match at the National Tennis Complex yesterday.

Hewitt, who has the weight of national expectation bearing down on his 21-year-old shoulders as Australia hopes for its first Open winner since 1976, was taken to five sets by Swedish qualifier Magnus Larsson.

The 32-year-old Larsson's booming forehand caused all manner of problems for Hewitt before his superior fitness told and he secured a 6-3, 3-6, 6-1, 6-7, 6-2 win. Hewitt will now play compatriot Todd Larkham in the next round.

Both Williams and Hewitt said they were simply relieved to have reached the second round after toughing out two matches they both described as a wake-up call.

"I'm happy to be through to the second round," Hewitt said. "It's a little bit of a wake up call for me," said Hewitt, praising his opponent Larsson.

"I thought he played incredibly well for a guy who didn't play many tournaments last year."

Williams meanwhile said she was mystified at her inability to deal with Loit. "I don't know where I was today," she said. "But I'm okay."

"I didn't play anywhere near the way I can. It was me making errors and not attacking and focusing and a little tense and not doing the things I had to do."

"But now I'll be in the groove. Maybe this match was just the heads up for me that I needed. Everyone wants to try and beat me and I probably just need a reminder."

"I just had a bad day today," said Williams, the reigning French, US and Wimbledon champion. "I haven't had a bad day in a little while."

Though under pressure at times, Williams insisted she had always been confident of victory.

"I never thought I was going to lose. That thought never crossed my mind. I did think to myself 'Gosh, this is bad' but I never felt I was going to lose," said the 21-year-old. Loit described the match as as the highlight of her career.

"That's the best match I've ever played in on a tennis level and a feeling level," she said. "I was playing on the centre court, the public was great. It was a great match."

While Williams and Hewitt laboured to victory, there were no such worries for Belgian fourth seed Kim Clijsters, who revelled in the

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