



Did U Know?

Australian men and women have claimed the most Australian singles titles (94) since the inception of the event. Its closest rival is the USA, which holds 29 men's and women's singles titles.



ESPN
Western Union World Football
Repeat at 7:30 am
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
STAR Sports
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
Repeat at 6:30 am
Football Asia
Repeat at 1:00 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 18
Tick the correct answers, post
The Daily Star
Competition closes at 8 pm
Feb 7, 2003 and draw

1. Who clinched the national junior chess title?	Parag	Ali	Zia
2. Bangladesh lost to Namibia by 20 runs 2-wkt 7-wkt			
3. Who became MVP in the SAFF Championship?	Arman	Rajani	Alfaz
4. Who will lead Kenya in the cricket World Cup?			
	O d u m b e		
	Tikolo	Suji	
Name			
Class..... Roll No.....			
School Address			
Phone: (If any)			



Venus Williams
(American tennis star)
"When you lose you are more motivated. When you win, you fail to see your mistakes and ... no one can tell you anything."
After losing in the Australian Open final.

School cricket

UNB, Dhaka
Five more teams Govt Laboratory High School, Monipur High School, Muradpur Adarsha High School, Rabeya Pre-Cadet School and Bamamala High School emerged group champions to reach the quarterfinals of the Dhaka Metropolis zone in the Standard Chartered 21st National School Cricket tournament at different venues yesterday.
Govt Laboratory beat Sultan Mollah High School by eight wickets at East End Club ground, Monipur defeated National Bangla also by eight wickets at Mirpur City Club ground, Muradpur HS beat West End HS by 64 runs at Mirpur Outer Stadium while Rabeya Pre-Cadet School beat National bank School by five wickets at Kalindi KC ground.
At Uttara Friends Club ground, Barnamala declared winner against Janatabagh High School as Janatabagh fielded illegal players.

Khulna on cherry chase Mazhar slams sizzling century

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Young batsman Mazharul Haq scored a brilliant century as Dhaka piled on runs against Khulna on the opening day of the four-day championship final of the Ispahani Mirzapore National Cricket League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.
Mazharul hammered a chanceless 119 to guide the holders to a commanding 339 for seven before bails were taken off at the end of 90 overs.
It was the right-hander's first ton this season and Dhaka could not have asked for a better start in their quest for defending the title.

The boy with a big frame clubbed sixteen sweetly timed hits across the rope in his 167-ball vigil at the crease. More importantly, the aggressive middle-order featured in two vital stands with Naimur Rahman and wicketkeeper Sajjad Kadir.

He shared 96 runs for the fifth wicket with Naimur before the former national captain departed for a typically aggressive 45 that included six boundaries.

He then dominated an 85-run sixth wicket stand with Kadir, who played a perfect foil at the other end with a 54-ball 27.

Mazharul was eventually out in the penultimate over of the day, hoisting Khulna captain Hasanuzzaman to Jamaluddin at wide mid-wicket.

Khulna's decision to field first

completely backfired as Dhaka batted into lunch with 100-odd runs on the board and for the loss of one wicket.

Opening the innings, Javed Omar and Rashedul Haq batted with great comfort against a wayward Khulna pace attack. Javed, who was ignored for the World Cup, scored 26.

Rashedul hammered a stroke-filled 50 off 100 balls that included seven fours.

Hasanuzzaman had to step in for his struggling bowlers. He picked up four wickets for 60 runs with his slow medium pace.

Left-arm spinner Manjarul Islam toiled hard to capture one wicket for 60 runs in his 21 overs.

Fahim Muntasir and Neeyamur

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PHOTO: STAR

Centurion Mazharul Haque of Dhaka Division sweeps Khulna spinner Manjarul Islam (not in the picture) on the opening day of the Ispahani Mirzapore 4th National Cricket Championship final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Shane Warnes

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003

REUTERS, Melbourne

Australia leg-spinner Shane Warne, who has returned to action after a month on the sidelines with a shoulder injury, believes he will regain top form in next month's World Cup.

"With each game I play I'm going to get better and better and more confident. I'm starting to get there. I'm not far away," Warne told reporters in Melbourne after Australia's 2-0 one-day finals series win over England.

The 33-year-old was man-of-the-match for Australia in their 1999 World Cup final victory over Pakistan at Lord's. Warne announced earlier this week he would retire from the shorter version of the game after the upcoming tournament in South Africa and is looking to go out a winner.

Warne dislocated his shoulder in

a match against England at Melbourne Cricket Ground on December 15 and returned to the side for the triangular one-day series finals on Thursday and Saturday, taking one wicket for 28



runs and two for 58.

"I'm probably 25 overs away from somewhere getting back to my best," said Warne, the sixth-leading

wicket-taker in one-day internationals with 291 victims in 193 matches.

"I showed a fair bit of courage to come back as quickly as I have. I said I wouldn't come back until I thought I was right.

"At the moment I'm pretty good. It's just a matter of finding my rhythm out in the middle."

Warne began the 1999 World Cup campaign amid doubts over his fitness and form following shoulder surgery.

The second-leading wicket-taker in Test history with 491, Warne was dropped for a Test against West Indies before the World Cup. However, he proved a match-winner for captain Steve Waugh in the big moments of the tournament.

"Experience can really play a huge part in the World Cup," Warne said.

"I don't think I have to prove

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Asian jnr TT

UNB, Dhaka

Hosts Bangladesh started their South Asian Junior Table Tennis Championship campaign with a happy note winning both the boys' and girls' team event matches on the opening day at BKSP yesterday.

Bangladeshi boys beat Nepal 3-2 while girls easily defeated Bhutan by straight sets.

In the day's other boys' team matches, India outplayed the Maldives 3-0, Sri Lanka beat Bhutan 3-0 and Nepal beat Pakistan 3-0.

In the other girls' team matches, Nepal beat Pakistan 3-1, India beat Nepal 3-0, and Sri Lanka beat Bhutan 3-0.

State Minister for Youth and Sports M Fazlur Rahman inaugurated the five-day seven-nation meet.

School b'ball

UNB, Dhaka

Green Herald International School beat Dhaka Residential Model School 47-37 points in the opening match of Metropolis School Basketball tournament at Dhanmondi wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

Green Herald dominated the first session by 21-17. Towfiq caged 22 and Sajlek 12 for the winners while Kibria made 17 and Nazmul 11 for the losers.

Nitol Group chairman Abdul Matlub Ahmed inaugurated the meet.

Lone African protest

AFP, Durban

While England have defied its government by pledging to play their World Cup match in Zimbabwe, a lone South African player has announced his refusal to tour the country.

Errol Stewart has made himself unavailable for the South African 'A' team's tour to Zimbabwe, saying he hoped his boycott would draw international attention to the plight of Zimbabweans.

"My cricketing career will end some day but I'll have to live with my moral conscience forever. I was therefore not prepared to forego my morality so that I could be a substitute at the World Cup," Stewart told AFP.

His decision to skip the tour that started this week has jeopardised his chances of being selected as one of the five substitutes to the 15-man World Cup squad.

Stewart said his actions were supported by some of his provincial teammates as well as members who are in the current 'A' team in Zimbabwe.

"Despite the England Cricket Board decision, I'd think that many members of the English team are probably going through the same moral soul searching that I experienced before making up my mind not to tour."

Office hockey

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Army beat Interactive Group 3-0 in a super league match of the Office Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

Abdul Halim struck twice and Sirajul Islam netted the remaining goal for the Army, which dominated the first half by 2-0.

12 days

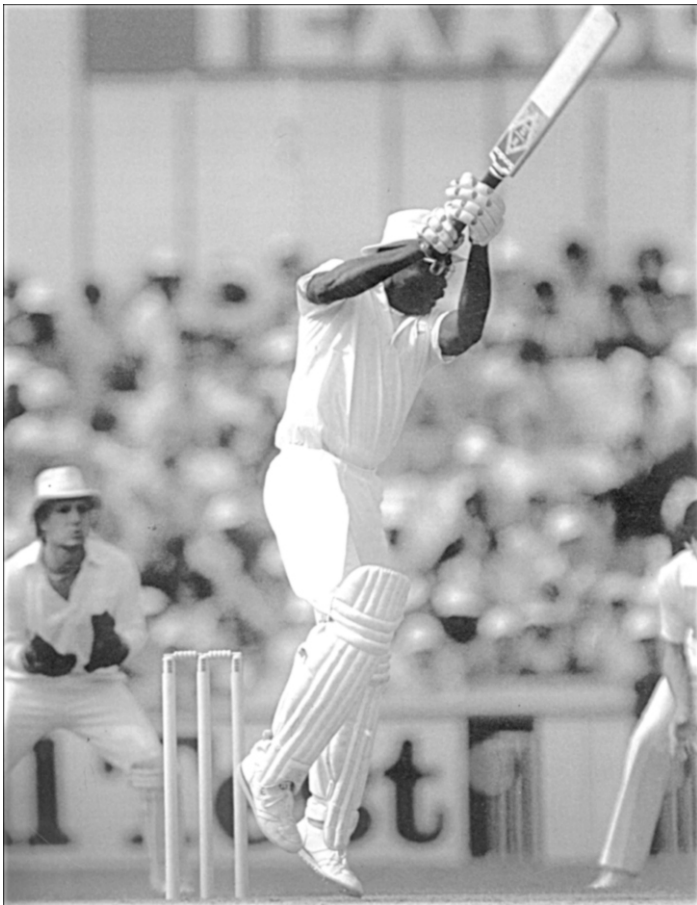


PHOTO: STAR FILE

Clive Lloyd led from the front with a spectacular century in the final as West Indies defeated Australia by 17 runs to take the inaugural World Cup.

Tigers back on track

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh returned to winning ways when they recorded a three-wicket victory against hosts Namibia in the third limited-overs exhibition match on Saturday.

But the victory for Khaled Mashud's men at the Wanderers against the ICC associate membership was far from satisfying. Bangladesh, who suffered a shocking two-wicket defeat in the previous match, are now leading the five-match unofficial one-day series 2-1.

Batting first, Namibia scored a fighting 232 for six in 50 overs against a full strength Bangladesh attack that also included Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza.

Appearing for the first time on the tour, the speedster bowled eight overs and conceded 43 runs without any success.

Bangladesh reached 234 for seven in 44.2 overs. The visitors struggled despite opener Ehsanul Haque and Sanwar Hossain scored half centuries.

Ehsanul made 52 off 85 balls that included four boundaries and a six.

Batting at number four Sanwar played a superb 72 off 85 balls. The lithe right-hander clubbed four boundaries in his sensible innings after which Bangladesh suffered a mini collapse.

Rafique scored an enterprising unbeaten 24 off 21 balls with the

Shield cricket

AFP, Sydney

Former Test batsman Simon Katich turned his hand to bowling Sunday - and snapped up career-best figures of 5-45 as New South Wales pipped Western Australia, his former state, by two runs in a Sheffield Shield thriller.

Katich, who left Western Australia for New South Wales in the off-season, was almost unplayable as he rolled out his left-arm spinners at Newcastle in one of the most memorable Shield match finishes in recent years.

Cruising with 272 for four wickets, only 27 runs short of their victory target of 299, Western Australia lost their last six wickets for only 24 runs.

Australian Test captain Steve Waugh, who leads New South Wales, described match as one of the best victories he had been associated with.

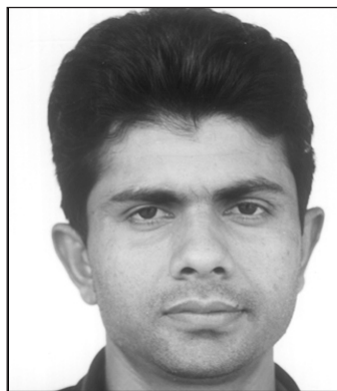
The remarkable win ensured New South Wales (24 points) remain hot on the heels of second-placed Victoria (28). Queensland head the ladder.

Another Western Australian-born player, Test leg-spinner Stuart MacGill, played a major role in the defeat of his former teammates, taking a second innings 5-112 for match figures of 9-212.

In the New South Wales second innings, Michael Clarke produced another eye-catching batting display, finishing on 116 after savaging the Western Australian attack.

Mark Waugh offered valuable support, hitting an unbeaten 83

help of two four and a six. Ashraful scored a duck. Tushar Imran made only six and a consist-



SANWAR ... 72

tent Kapali failed for a change. He scored only three.

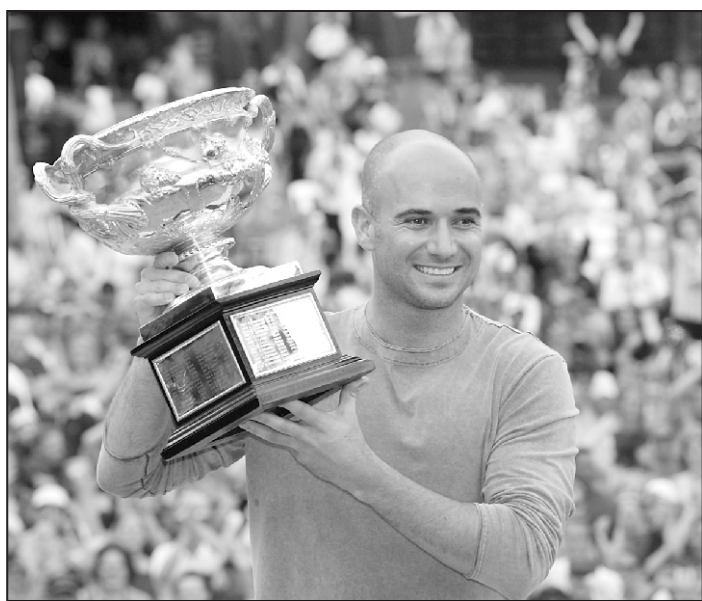


PHOTO: AFP

IT'S MINE: American Andre Agassi shows the winner's trophy after beating German Rainer Schuettler in the final of the Australian Open yesterday.

Agassi's the man

Australian Open

AFP, Melbourne

Andre Agassi crushed German Rainer Schuettler to claim his eighth Grand Slam crown in the most lopsided Australian Open final for 77 years here Sunday.

Awesome Agassi needed just 76 minutes to destroy Schuettler 6-2, 6-2, 6-1.

It was the American's fourth Australian title from as many finals and eighth Grand Slam crown, placing him sixth on the all-time Grand Slam list.

Only five players in history have won more Grand Slam singles titles than Agassi - Pete Sampras tops it with 14 from Roy Emerson (12), Bjorn Borg (11), Rod Laver (11) and Bill Tilden (10).

Agassi became only the fourth man to win four Australian Open titles, behind Emerson (6) and on a par with Jack Crawford (4) and Ken

Aus Fletcher's favourite

AF, Auckland

Australian World record holder, World Cup favourites, but co-host South Africa were a major threat and Pakistan a potential wildcard, England cricket coach Duncan Fletcher said here Sunday.

Fletcher said England's form had improved steadily during their Australian tour, several players were coming back from injury and his team were capable of giving top sides a "fright" on their day.

"Australia must be favourite," Fletcher said of the side that beat England for the 13th consecutive time in one-day internationals in Saturday's second tri-nations series final at Melbourne Cricket Ground.

"But I think South Africa have shown they are pretty good over the last few years.

"They were pretty unsettled about nine months ago, but they've settled down now.

"And you should never forget sides like Pakistan, they are a very dangerous side," he told reporters.

Fletcher said England's failure to beat Australia in a one-day international this season would not play on their mind when they met again in the World Cup.

"It's a concern that we didn't win one, but at the end of the day Australia are a really red-hot team at the moment, and they go in as hot-shot favourites for the World Cup.

"But we got stronger and stronger as the contest went on.

"At some stage a win's going to come ... hopefully it will be at the World Cup where it will be obviously more important."

Kapali however was the most successful Bangladesh bowler, claiming three wickets for 34 runs in his seven overs.

Earlier, the home side total was built around two half centuries by Walters and Murgatroyd. Opener Walter scored 65 off 102 balls while Murgatroyd chipped in with a 95-ball 53.

BRIEF SCORES

NAMIBIA: 232 for 6 in 50 overs (R. Walters 65, Murgatroyd 53, J Burger 22, Extras 33; A Kapali 3/34, Monjurul 1/42, Rafique 1/34, Sanwar 1/32)
BANGLADESH: 234 for 7 in 44.2 overs (Sanwar 72, Ehsanul 52, Al-Shahriar Ashraful 0, Tushar 6, Kapali 3, K Mashud 14, Rafique 24 n.o., Mashrafe 4 n.o.; Snyman 2/41, J Burger 2/24)
Result: Bangladesh won by 3 wickets

Heightened security

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003

AFP, Johannesburg

World Cup organisers have gone on the offensive to allay security fears and have promised tough measures to ensure an event-free competition, including close-circuit television to monitor grounds.

The World Cup's security directorate said they have put in place a 1,000-page blueprint, which had been shaped since talks on safety started in March 2001.

South African police also went on full alert for the competition, shutting the gates at grounds around the country to restrict access to all but essential personnel.

"Our general mission is to ensure a people-friendly, yet secure event," World Cup security chief Patrick Ronan told AFP.

"We are planning to enhance South Africa's image through the World Cup," he added.

But the competition has been overshadowed by security concerns, especially in neighbouring Zimbabwe, where six games are to be played by England, Australia, Pakistan, India, Namibia and The Netherlands.

The England team has already received anonymous letters threat-

ening violence if they play in Harare.

England, currently on tour in Australia, are due to begin their World Cup campaign in the Zimbabwean capital on February 13.

On Friday, the International Cricket Council unanimously gave the green light for the games to go ahead, following assurances that the players and officials' safety would be assured.

"We are complying with the security measures that the security directorate has set down," World Cup general manager in Zimbabwe David Everington assured AFP.

But he admitted that stadiums in Zimbabwe would not be fitted with close circuit television.

"We are dealing with small grounds, which means that security details can keep watch manually rather than electronically," Everington said.

Ronan added: "We are monitoring the situation in Zimbabwe very closely and are in contact there with officials on a day-to-day basis."

And security at the games will be tight - both for players and spectators alike, Ronan promised.

Every member of the 14 teams to arrive in South Africa will be assigned bodyguards, while access to their hotel rooms will be strictly

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PHOTO: AFP

Inspector Snyman of the Maitland Dog Unit puts eight-year-old Zibi through her paces during a police demonstration at the Newlands cricket stadium in Cape Town on January 25. Newlands will be hosting the opening ceremony of the ICC Cricket World Cup on February 8.