



Did U Know?

The most medals won by a man in World Track and Field Championships is 10. The world record is held by great American sprinter Carl Lewis.



What to WATCH

- ESPN**
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
Repeat at 11:00 am
Western Union World Football
Repeat at 12:00 pm
English Premier Football League
West Ham United vs Liverpool
Live at 7:55 pm
&
Aston Villa vs Blackburn Rovers
Live at 10:00 pm
- STAR Sports**
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
Repeat at 1:30 pm
Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
Repeat at 3:30 pm
Primera Liga
Bilbao vs Real Sociedad
Live at 1:30 am (Monday)

Biggies made to sweat



SPORTS REPORTER

Big teams struggled on the opening day of the GrameenPhone Premier Cricket League yesterday.

At the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Victoria Sporting Club launched their title defence with a shaky three-wicket win against the BCB Development Squad.

Set to score a modest 142, the holders crashed to 69-6 before young all-rounder Manjarul rescued Victoria with a dazzling 48.

The southpaw led a spectacular recovery operation with his Khulna mate Mohammad Selim. The pair added 71 runs for the seventh wicket before Manjarul departed leaving his side only two runs away from victory.

Manjarul, the best all-rounder in the National League this year, clubbed six fours and a magnificent six over wide long on in his 67-ball knock.

Wicketkeeper Selim scored an unbeaten 21.

Earlier, the Development Squad faltered after a flying start, losing five wickets for 40 runs. Nazimuddin scored a superb 54 off 84 balls. The young Chittagong opener struck half a dozen boundaries.

It was a near miss for the Development Squad, who are making a guest appearance in the 12-team League as part of their preparation for the World Youth Cup. They lost the close match only due to their inexperience despite

superb spell from right-arm pace-man Ziaur.

Ziaur ripped through the top-order to finish with 3 for 25 in his 10 overs.

MSC-INDIRA ROAD

Elsewhere, Mohammedan Sporting Club also registered a hard-fought 13-run win against Indira Road Krira Chakra at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Sent into bat, Mohammedan scored 209 for eight in 50 overs. Nafis Iqbal celebrated his first outing for the popular Motilheer outfit with a polished 50 off 86 balls. The young right-hander struck six fours.

Nafis apart, veteran left-arm spinner Enamul Hoque was the other notable contributor in an otherwise sorry card. The southpaw scored a vital 43 off 55 balls after Mohammedan were reduced to 116 for five.

Enamul also captured three important wickets as the stage when the promotees appeared running away with the match.

Indira Road were strongly placed 163 for five after opener Kabir gave them a flying start with 74 off 101 balls. He hammered nine boundaries. But they lost their way in the last five overs.

BIMAN-ORIENT SC

While Mohammedan and Victoria survived a scare, Bangladesh Biman collapsed to Orient Sporting Club at the Fatullah Stadium.

Defending a not-so-impressive total of 205-8, the national flag carrier surrendered to a stubborn Rashed Hanif.

The Pakistani left-hander almost single handedly took Orient to

victory with a 99-ball 85.

The younger brother of former Pakistan International Aamir Hanif struck six boundaries and three sixes in his enterprising knock that came to end in the last over with Orient needing three runs.

SCOREBOARDS

Scoreboards of the three GrameenPhone Premier Cricket League matches played at different city venues yesterday:

Victoria vs Development Squad

Venue: BNS

DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

Sahagir b Saiful	2
Nayeem run out	26
Nazimuddin b Sabbir	54
Kafi c Azam b Manjarul	1
Raid st Azam b Sabbir	12
Arafat run out	1
Ashique lbw b Saiful	12
Rubayat c Azam b Nayeem	5
Shafaq c Rahman b Nayeem	0
Ziaur c & b Manjarul	15
Enamul not out	0
Extras: (b-2, lb-7, w-4)	13
Total: (All out in 49.1 overs)	141
Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-52, 3-62, 4-98, 5-101, 6-106, 7-120, 8-120, 9-139.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Saiful	7.1	4	8	2
Nayan	10	1	29	0
Manjarul	10	0	21	2
Sabbir	10	3	25	2
Razzak	8	0	32	0
W Nayeem	4	0	17	2

VICTORIA SC

Parvez c Sahagir b Ziaur	10
Rafiqul b Ziaur	6
Azam b Ziaur	7
W Nayeem b Enamul	13

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MOMENT OF GLORY: Bangladesh staged the biggest upset of the 1999 Cricket World Cup at Northampton on May 31. The Cup debutants defeated eventual finalists Pakistan in a Group League game.

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 18
Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star. Win attractive prizes.
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?
Odumbe Tikolo Suji

5. Ronaldinho plays for

Name

Class

School Address

Phone: (If any)



Dilip Vengsarkar
(Former Indian cricket captain)
"We need an Indian coach who knows the game very well and has led the team from the front."

School hockey

Police Line High of Mymensingh outplayed Khanjanpur High of Joypurhat 8-1 in the opening match of Metro Group National School Hockey Championship at the Maulana Bhashani National Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 6-1. In the other matches of the opening day, Chowgacha Shahadat Pilot High of Jessore beat Jinjira PM Pilot High of Dhaka 1-0. Police Line High of Faridpur blanked Government High School of Hobiganj 3-0 and Khalilur Rahman High of Dhaka trounced Yusuf Multiple Technical High of Comilla 8-0.

Twenty four teams from across the country, including nine from Dhaka, are taking part in the competition organised by BHF.



Manjarul Islam of Victoria sweeps during their GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League match against BCB Development Squad at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Chris rates Ricky lowly



AFP, Pretoria

New Zealand vice-captain Chris Cairns said Friday Australian skipper Ricky Ponting had yet to prove himself as an international captain and that the world champions should be put under early pressure.

"Ricky Ponting is an unproven international captain, whereas guys like Shaun Pollock and Steven Fleming have been around for a while," he said at a media open day at the team's training camp in Centurion, south of the capital.

"But they are great front runners so you have to get them under pressure early. It's not easy, that's why they are so successful," he said.

"Also when you get rid of someone with the stature and ability of (former skipper) Steve Waugh it can have a negative effect on the team."

Regarding his own team, Cairns said he believed the current squad is the country's most effective ever at a World Cup.

"We have a number of very

useful experienced guys and a number of very talented young players," he said.

"In addition, many of them -- such as (all-rounder) Shane Bond, (all-rounder) Jacob Oram, (bowler) Andre Adams and (bowler) Darryl Tuffey -- have not been seen by the South Africans, would work in our favour."

The prospects though of facing South Africa at The Wanderers in Johannesburg, ironically a ground on which Cairns yet has to play, were pretty daunting.

"We've got a shocking record

against South Africa in recent years. I think we have won one of our last 15 matches. It's obviously not going to be easy, especially with their home support," he added.

In all though Cairns believed this year's world cup would deliver some good cricket.

"I think you are going to see very good bowling, very good batting and very good fielding. I don't believe you are going to see high totals, because the quality of the bowling is so good, gone are the days of slog-ging big scores," Cairns said.



An armed Zimbabwean policeman stands guard at the Harare Sports Club ground on January 31.

School cricket Kalindi High stun Willes

SPORTS REPORTER

Parjoyar Kalindi High School pulled off a sensational one-run victory against Willes Little Flower School in the Dhaka Zone final of the Standard Chartered 21st National School Cricket Championship at the Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday.

Defending a fighting total of 199, the boys from Keraniganj restricted the fancied capital school to 198-9 in 40 overs.

Willes were in sight of victory when opener Mehrab scored a superb 105 off 114 balls.

Mehrab struck ten boundaries and two sixes before he was run out in the penultimate ball of the innings, leaving his side to score two runs from the last ball.

But last batsman Tobo could run for only a single in a gripping finish.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PARJOYAR KILINDI HIGH SCHOOL: 199 all out in 39.3 overs (Milon 50, Rana 40, Johnny 32, Jitu 3/33, Rony 2/45, Tobo 2/28)

WILLES LITTLE FLOWER: 198 for 9 in 40 overs (Mehrab 105; Milon 2/57, Tariqzaman 2/13)

Result: Parjoyar Kilindi High School won by one run.

WC's six-man security team

REUTERS, London

Six men will take responsibility for this Sunday for deciding whether or not countries can refuse to fulfil World Cup fixtures because of security concerns.

If satisfied that a team has a reasonable case the International Cricket Council (ICC) technical committee can order that the four points for the match are shared.

Three judges from South Africa, Zimbabwe and Kenya will comprise a final appeal body if the technical committee turns down a request.

On Friday, New Zealand pulled out of their World Cup fixture in Nairobi because of security fears over player safety.

England and Australian players have expressed concerns about playing their matches in Zimbabwe.

Following are the members of the

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GrameenPhone Premier Cricket League
Abahani vs Surjo Tarun
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.
Kalabagan vs Brothers Union
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium.
Young Pegasus vs Uttara SC
Venue: BNS.

Practical Mashud



INTERNET, undated

Bangladesh captain Khaled Mashud has taken a realistic view of his side's chances during the World Cup.

"They have lost their last 26 one-day internationals and ending that run is the top priority for the team."

But he did not rule out the possibility of Bangladesh pulling off an upset against South Africa, the West Indies, New Zealand or Sri Lanka in the group stages.

"Our prime target is to win against Kenya and Canada as we are aware of the realities," he conceded.

"We'll also try to win against any of the other four teams in the group. I think, on a given day, we can make things difficult for fancied sides."

Bangladesh have won just three of their 61 one-day matches since being granted international status in 1985-86.

They beat Kenya in the ICC Trophy in 1997, but have since lost five out of six games against the African side.

They have played Canada twice, winning once and losing the other match.

Bangladesh's confidence has been lifted by a 4-1 win over Namibia in a warm-up series, which

ICC softens its stand?

INTERNET, London

The International Cricket Council has hinted that they are looking at alternatives to New Zealand playing their controversial World Cup game in Kenya.

Tournament director Ali Bacher had told New Zealand they would forfeit the match if they refused to face Kenya in Nairobi on February 21.

But on Friday the game's ruling body admitted the prospects of the game going ahead were looking increasingly bleak.

And ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed said in a statement that he would work to see if there was any prospect of the match being rescheduled if it could not go ahead.

"The issue of safety and security is clearly the main concern of both the ICC and New Zealand Cricket, and at present NZC is not satisfied that it is safe to play in Kenya," said Speed.

"The ICC Cricket World Cup Organising Committee and the ICC will make available our intelligence and security advisers, to provide a detailed briefing on the advice that we have received in relation to this game."

"There are also independent processes available to the NZC

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KHALED MASHUD

event," said Mashud.

"We hope to win a couple of matches and repeat the last Cup performance this time."

Bangladesh boast the youngest player in the tournament in 16-year-old pace bowler Talha Jubair.

They ditched a number of senior players to introduce fresh faces in their World Cup squad.

"We have a young, but balanced squad," said Mashud.

Lighter Inzamam



AFP, Johannesburg

Pakistan vice-captain Inzamamul Haq, who has been the butt of jokes at grounds around the world because of his weight, has unveiled his new slim-line look.

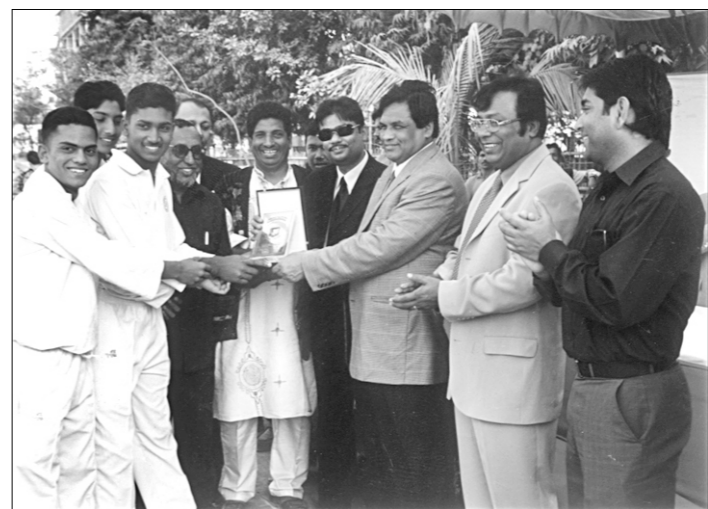
The batsman, who played a crucial role in Pakistan's progress to their World Cup triumph in 1992, said that he had lost 23 pounds in

the last six months.

"I want to look the same as I looked during the 1992 World Cup -- a shy and thin boy," smiled Inzamam who boasts an international one-day record of 8,939 runs from 284 games at 39.20.

It was as a raw 22-year-old that he made his mark in the 1992 finals when he hit 60 off 37 balls against New Zealand in the semifinal before helping his side to a 22-run win over England in the final.

"It has taken a lot of sacrifice to lose weight but then if I had to be in the best of shapes, I had to do it."



State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Amanullah Aman (3rd from R) hands over the prize of the Standard Chartered 21st National Cricket Championship Dhaka Zonal final at the Dhanmondi Club Ground yesterday.

NOTICE
In our Saturday's caption under the Transcom Cup Golf Tournament picture, it was mentioned that it was a courtesy photo. In fact, the photo was taken by The Daily Star's photographer Amran Hossain.