

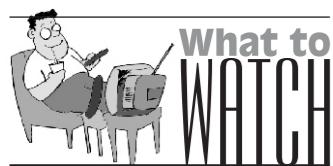
Star SPORT

DHAKA MONDAY FEBRUARY 3, 2003, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com



Did U Know?

Jose Batista of Uruguay was sent off after just 56 seconds against Scotland in 1986! That is the fastest dismissal in World Cup history. His foul on Gordon Strachan gave French referee Joel Quiniou no choice. Uruguay kept the score at 0-0 and progressed to the next round at the expense of Scotland.



ESPN

English Premier Football League
Aston Villa vs Blackburn Rovers
Repeat at 5:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm

English Premier Football League
Southampton vs Man United
Repeat at 9:30 pm

STAR Sports

Cricket Programming
Super Selector
Repeat at 8:30 am
Primera Liga
Bilbao vs Real Sociedad
Repeat at 10:30 am
Sports Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
Repeat at 10:00 pm



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 Alfa
4. Who will lead Kenya in the cricket World Cup?
Odumbe Tikolo Suj
5. Ronaldinho plays for
Name
Class
School Address
Phone: (If any)



Khaled Mashud
(Bangladesh cricket captain)
"The dream of going to the World Cup is over because we are making our second appearance in the big event. We hope to win a couple of matches and repeat the last Cup performance this time."



GrameenPhone Premier Cricket League
Victoria SC vs Indira Road KC
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Mohammedan SC vs Orient SC
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium.



PHOTO: STAR

LEADING FROM THE FRONT: Abahani's Akram Khan sets off for a run after playing the ball square of the wicket against Surjo Tarun yesterday.

Sakib ton goes in vain

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Hossain and Sajjadul Hassan weighed in with 56 and 41.

Electing to bat first, Surjo Tarun posted a challenging total, thanks to a sizzling 106 from captain and one-down Sakib Razzak.

Chasing Surjo Tarun's 238, Akram Khan and Asadullah Khan produced an unbeaten century partnership (118) for the fourth wicket as the popular Dhanmondi outfit reached home in the second ball of the final over.

Former national skipper Akram smashed 73 off 67 balls that included one six and four boundaries. Asadullah, fresh from his unbeaten 73 that won Khulna the first-class championship on January 29, was not out on 54 off 48 deliveries. Among others, opener Mehrab

hundred of the 13-team elite league. In his 75-ball knock, Sakib smote amazing seven sixes and eleven boundaries.

BROTHERS UNION VKALABAGAN KC

Away at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium, Brothers Union handed down a 101-run defeat to Kalabagan Krira Chakra.

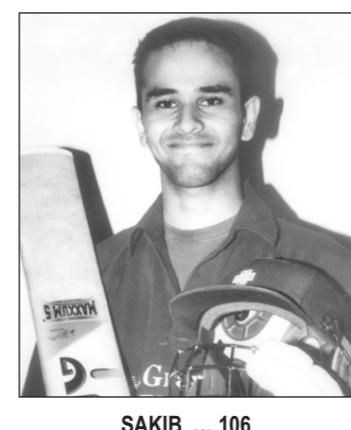
Put into bat, the Gopibagh outfit scored a fighting 251 for nine in 50 overs, middle-order Mahbubur Rahman topscoring with 54. The 1999 World Cupper hit one six and eight fours in his 77-ball stay at the crease.

Captain Halim Shah (41), Masroor (32) and number ten Iqbal (33) were the other notable run-getters for Brothers.

In reply, Kalabagan were bundled out for 150 in 42 overs.

Masroor, Mustakim and Sanjay evenly shared six wickets among them.

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SAKIB ... 106

The 23-year-old right hander took only 70 balls to plunder the first

BFF meeting postponed

SPORTS REPORTER

The executive committee meeting of the BFF (Bangladesh Football Federation) could not be held yesterday because of the non-availability of its president SA Sultan.

The meeting was supposed to finalise two vital issues – on when to start the camp for 9th SAF Games and who to coach the team.

Sultan was in Chittagong yesterday to pursue the port city clubs so that they spare their registered players for the SAF Games camp.

But the postponement notice was not circulated among most of the BFF members as they came to know about the latest development only when they arrived at Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday for the meeting.

The meeting will now be held on February 5, according to the BFF assistant general secretary Badal Roy.

Nasir, Aminul share lead

SPORTS REPORTER

FM Sheikh Nasir Ahmed and Khandkar Aminul Islam jointly led the table with 7.5 points each after the ninth round preliminary phase games of the Professor Abdur Razzak 29th National Chess Championship at the Bangladesh Chess Federation auditorium yesterday.

Sawkat Hossain, Monjur Alam were sharing the second position with seven points each. Following are the ninth round games results: Nasir beat Ejaz Monjur beat Rani Hamid, Javed beat Polash and Debaraj beat Alamgir. Amin drew with Pallab and Lavlu drew with Parag.

School hockey

BSS, Dhaka

Government High of Habiganj defeated Jinjira PM Pilot High of Dhaka 6-1 in the Metro Group National School Hockey Championship at the Maulana Bhashani National Stadium yesterday.

Yusuf Multiple Technical High of Comilla blanked Khanjapur High of Joypurhat 2-0, Khalilur Rahman High of Dhaka trounced Police Line High of Mymensingh 6-0, while Police Lines High of Faridpur routed Chowgacha Shahadat Pilot High of Jessore 7-0 in the other matches of day.

SL will play in Kenya

REUTERS, Johannesburg

Sri Lanka will honour their World Cup fixture in Kenya despite security concerns from rivals New Zealand, said captain Sanath Jayasuriya on Saturday.

New Zealand on Friday refused to play their match against Kenya in Nairobi because of fears over their players' safety.

"We have no problem, we're going to play there," Jayasuriya told reporters shortly after the Sri Lankan squad arrived in South Africa for the World Cup which begins February 9.

Tendulkar played down the significance of India's match against Pakistan in Centurion on March 1, the first time the rivals will clash since the Asia Cup in 2000.

"It's obviously going to be a big game, but from our team's point of view it's just another big game," Tendulkar said.

Coach John Wright said poor pitches had contributed to India's downfall on their tour of New Zealand this season, where they lost the limited overs series 5-2.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

Pumped up Sachin

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003

REUTERS, Durban, SA

India are fit, settled and balanced and have been improving for the last 20 months in anticipation of the World Cup, top batsman Sachin Tendulkar said yesterday.

"We've been improving for the last 20 months, and we've won games in each country we've visited," Tendulkar told the news agency. "Now we've got to show more consistency."

Tendulkar said better selection policies had helped settle the team and had driven India's progress.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1



PHOTO: AFP

I'VE LEARNT A NEW DANCE STEP! Indian batting superstar Sachin Tendulkar is in a happy frame of mind as he jokes with teammate Javagal Srinath during fielding practice at Durban's Kingsmead cricket ground.



WHEN GOD WAS AN ENGLISHMAN: In the 1992 World Cup held in Australia and New Zealand a newly-introduced clause, the run-rate calculation during rain-interrupted matches became a joke when South Africa took on England in the semifinals. When rain interrupted the match, South Africa needed 22 from 13 balls. The very innovative playing conditions now enacted a farce at the Sydney Cricket Ground. When the players returned to the field the target was revised to 22 from one ball. All because the playing conditions did not allow playing time to be extended.

NZC appeals for switch

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003

AFP, Christchurch

really only functional. I did not read anything else into it," said Snedden, who spent the weekend preparing appeal procedures before flying to South Africa on Monday.

New Zealand have pulled out of the game in Nairobi citing security fears after 11 people were killed in a bomb attack at a Mombasa hotel. In 1998, more than 200 people were killed when the US embassies in Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam, in Tanzania, were bombed.

NZC believes the ICC is unreasonable in expecting the Black Caps to play in Kenya, where security issues are significant and the players' safety is jeopardised.

ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed has said he recognised the serious security issues raised by New Zealand and would work to see if the match could proceed or be rescheduled.

Speed said the ICC would make available its intelligence and security advisers to provide a detailed briefing on the advice it had received about a terrorist cell operating in Nairobi.

Speed said he would talk to Snedden to confirm the ICC dispute resolution process to be used.

McGrath's bold vision

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003

INTERNET, undated

but they were beaten by New Zealand and Pakistan in the first round group stage.

"After having to win the hard way in 1999, our goal for the 2003 World Cup is to go through the tournament undefeated, something I believe this team can do," he told the Sunday Telegraph newspaper.

"With such tremendous talent in the squad and great faith in each



GLENN MCGRATH

Seam bowler McGrath took 18 wickets to help his side win the trophy in England four years ago, other's ability, I am convinced that special things are in store for us in South Africa."

McGrath has now recovered from a back problem, which forced him to miss the final of the recent VB Series against England.

He expects to play in their opening game against Pakistan in Johannesburg on 11 February, a repeat of the 1999 final.

No man has managed to win the World Cup twice in succession since the West Indies in 1975 and 1979.

But McGrath believes Australia are up to the task despite a hectic season at home, which also featured five Ashes Tests.

Australia have won 65 of the 89 one-day internationals since the 1999 final, a success rate of over 75 per cent.

They expect hosts South Africa to

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

Kirsten's no to neighbours

INTERNET, Potchefstroom

South African veteran Gary Kirsten has admitted he would refuse to play in Zimbabwe if his side was due to visit the strife-torn nation during the World Cup.

Kirsten's revelation comes on the back of reports of an Al-Qaeda cell planning to attack westerners in Zimbabwe and South Africa if the US goes to war with Iraq.

Kirsten, whose side is not drawn to play any matches in either Zimbabwe or another trouble spot, Kenya, told a charity function he believed there was a "security issue" around matches in Zimbabwe.

"Politics should be left to the politicians," said Kirsten.

"But I would not play in Zimbabwe... there is a security issue."