



Did U Know?

The first Test century by a woman was scored in the second Test at Sydney on January 7, 1935 by Myrtle MacLagan. She made 119 for England against Australia.



BTV

Nitol-Tata National Football League
Muktijoddha vs Bangladesh Army
Live at 4:00 pm

ESPN

Football Focus
Repeat at 1:00 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

Soccer Soap
Dream Team
Repeat at 8:30 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
Soccer Soap
Dream Team
Taped Version at 10:00 pm



TALK TURKEY



Lance Klusener

(South African all-rounder)
"It's like you boss calling you on a Saturday night and saying, 'Sorry, old chap, but you don't have to come to work on Monday. You're fired!'"
On his omission from the national team.



COMPETITION 196
Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
July 25, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

| | | | |
|---|---------------|---------|-----------|
| 1. Who clinched the Premier Division Hockey League title? | BDR | Wari | Eskaton |
| 2. Who became Confederation Cup champions? | France | Cameron | Brazil |
| 3. Who won the Wimbledon women's singles crown? | Serena | Venus | Clijsters |
| 4. Which country will host the Asia Youth Cup cricket tournament? | | | |
| Name | | | |
| Class | Roll No. | | |
| School Address | | | |
| Phone: (If any) | | | |

Super League hockey begins today

SPORTS REPORTER

The four-team super league of the Green Delta First Division Hockey League begins today at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

League leader Azad Sporting Club take on Victoria Sporting Club in the opening match at 2:15pm.

The super-league teams are: Azad SC, Dhaka Wanderers Club, Shishu Kishore SC and Victoria SC.



A goalmouth action during the Nitol-Tata National Football League clash between Moulvibazar Wanderers and Jhenidah Mohammedan at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Wanderers flying high

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet.

Wanderers Club of Moulvibazar virtually assured themselves of place in the Super Sixes after defeating Jhenidah Mohammedan Sporting Club 3-1 in the penultimate Sylhet-leg match of the Nitol-Tata Third National Football League yesterday.

The comprehensive victory at the Sylhet Stadium placed the home side at the top of the Group A table with defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club. Both Mohammedan and Wanderers Club have maximum six points from two games.

Milon struck twice and

Wanderers' Nigerian recruit Bode Baba Lola scored other goal on a ground where ball control was very difficult most of the time.

The home team led the visitors 2-0 at the breather.

Milon sent the home supporters into a real frenzy with a nice placing shot in the 17th minute after being fed by medio Mithu inside the box.

A lanky Bode Baba, who figured in every Wanderers attack, doubled the margin in the 42nd minute with a powerful header that left Mohammedan custodian Mashur with no chance to move even an inch.

Mashur however thwarted a pile-diver by the Nigerian a minute after Milon opened the scoring for Wanderers.

Jhenidah Mohammedan

showed signs of a comeback when their forward Prince scored from a controversial penalty awarded into the 12th minute after the break.

Referee Tajul Islam pointed to the dreaded spot following a tackle on Prince by Mithu although TV replays suggested that Mithu's intervention was legal.

The goal inspired Jhenidah to create two good chances in the 20th and 36th minute. Hakim wasted the first opportunity shooting the ball wide from a vantage position.

But Amirul was unlucky since his shot came off the woodwork.

After surviving the two close calls, Wanderers took the match away from their opponents with Milon firing his second goal.

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Schools football

SPORTS REPORTER

Khilgaon High School and Emarat Hossain Adarsha High School won their final round matches of the Dhaka Metropolitan inter-school football tournament that began at the outer stadium yesterday.

Khilgaon High students overpowered their Government Laboratory High counterparts 3-1. Kamrul put Khilgaon ahead in the third minute while Rumman doubled the margin in the 17th minute but Yasir reduced the margin for Laboratory eight minutes before the breather.

Kamrul then doubled his tally in the 39th minute.

Emarat Hossain Adarsha High School earned a solitary goal victory against Dakkhin Banashri Model High School.

Ali Hossain netted the all-important goal in the 30th minute.

Schools kabadi

BSS, Dhaka

Ansars & VDP High School and Dholaipar High School moved into the final of the schools kabadi competition with comfortable wins at the outer stadium yesterday.

Seven lonas helped Ansars & VDP send Alhaj Zafar Bepari High School packing with a 79-30 victory in the first semifinal. The winners led 44-11 at the breather.

In the other semi, Dholaipar thrashed Maniknagar Model High School 79-50. They earned six lonas.

Final of the boys group will be held on July 25.

Maniknagar Model High School meet Alhaj Zafar Bepari High School today in the third-place play-off.

Also the play-off in the girls' section between Rajdhani High School and Khilgaon Government Staff Quarters Primary School will be held.

The final of the girls' group to be held on July 25 is between Dholaipar High School and Khilgaon Government Staff Quarters High School.

Ali's first point

SPORTS REPORTER

National junior champion Mohammad Ali collected his first point in the 26th Asian Chess Championship as he won his fifth round game in the competition in Sri Lankan capital Colombo on Monday.

Thirty players from Asia and Australia are participating in the championship.

U-20, U-17 C'ships AFC rearranges qualifying zones

SPORTS REPORTER

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) last Friday adopted a four-zone formula for October's qualifying rounds for next year's AFC Under-20 Championship in Malaysia and the U-17 Championship in Japan.

Taking the lead from the long-term 'Vision Asia' masterplan for Asian football, all competing nations have been divided into four zones: West Asia, Central and South Asia, ASEAN and East Asia.

The switch from a five-zone concept was done for more diverse selection of competing nations in the finals, with the traditionally strong regions of West and East Asia set to be joined by four each from the ASEAN and Central and South Asia zones.

According to the new format, the Central and South Asia zone comprises Iran, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Maldives, although a South Asian nation, has been placed in the ASEAN zone.

BKSP U-16s fly to Oslo tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

The BKSP Under-16 team leaves tomorrow for Oslo to take part in the Norway Cup football tournament to be held from July 27 to August 2.

A record 1,467 teams from 40 countries will participate in the different age-group categories in the 31st edition of the biggest gathering of juveniles anywhere in the world.

The country's leading cellular phone operator GrameenPhone and their Norwegian shareholder Telenor AS are jointly sponsoring the BKSP team, which for the first time is going to participate in the meet.

The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Bangladesh has agreed to bear the team's airfare.

"The idea of the tournament is to build friendship among the participating players. Even Palestine and Israel will send a combined team," said managing director of GrameenPhone Ola Rae at a press conference yesterday.

Director general of BKSP Brigadier General Mohammad Ali Sikdar and Second secretary of the Royal Norwegian Embassy Monika P. Thowsen also spoke on the occasion.

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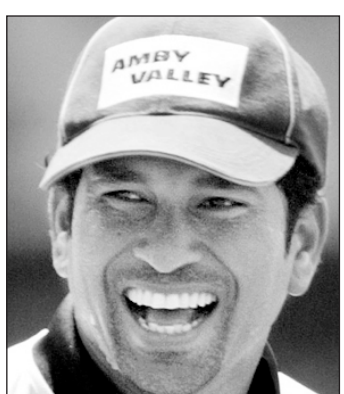
Sachin looking to Aussie challenge

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

India's batting star Sachin Tendulkar is ready to face the might of world champions Australia later this year after having fully recovered from a hand injury, officials said on Tuesday.

The record-breaking 30-year-old underwent surgery in the United



SACHIN TENDULKAR

States in May to repair the ring finger of his left hand which was damaged while attempting a catch

last November.

The injury did not prevent Tendulkar from scoring a record 673 runs during the World Cup in February-March in which India reached the final where they lost to Ricky Ponting's Australia.

India face the mighty Aussies again in a one-day triangular series at home in October-November, also featuring New Zealand, before undertaking a keenly-awaited four-test tour of Australia in December.

Tendulkar will join the rest of his team-mates in a pre-season training camp at Bangalore from August 12 to September 6 to prepare for two home Tests against New Zealand, India's first international engagement since April.

India have not played Test cricket since December when they toured New Zealand for two matches, losing both.

Tendulkar will make a rare appearance in two domestic tournaments at the start of the new season, according to Ratnakar Shetty, secretary of the master batsman's home association in Bombay.

Tendulkar will take part in the limited-overs Challenger series in Bangalore from September 10-14 featuring the top 36 cricketers of the

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Alec to go after SA series

Cricket

REUTERS, London

England wicketkeeper Alec Stewart will retire from Test cricket after the five-match series against South Africa starting on Thursday.

Stewart, 40, who plays his 129th Test at Edgbaston this week, has scored 8,281 runs at an average of 40.19, including 15 centuries, since making his debut in 1990.

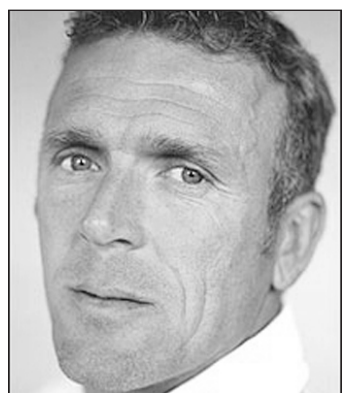
He has played more Tests than any other England player and is second only to his former captain Graham Gooch in the list of England Test run-scorers.

"I've given it a lot of thought, and I let Duncan (coach Duncan Fletcher) know this morning over breakfast and then informed (chairman of selectors) David Graveney as well," Stewart told a news conference on Tuesday.

"It's not something I've taken lightly. I had 13 years as an international cricketer and it's not something you just give away.

"I could have left it until the end of the summer but I felt it was better to get it over now."

Fletcher said: "I still believe that Alec is the best all-round wicket-



ALEC STEWART

keeper we have got by some distance but there are some young keepers coming through.

"I think he has got better and

better over the last couple of years and the thing that has impressed me most is his professionalism and the way he has been a role model for younger guys."

Since making his Test debut against West Indies in Jamaica in 1990, Stewart has been one of England's most devoted servants.

His Test average testifies to his ability as a batsman but it would have undoubtedly been several points higher if he had not also kept wicket for most of his career.

He formed a successful opening partnership with former captain Mike Atherton during the 1990s, with the high point coming in the fourth Test against West Indies in Barbados in 1994.

Stewart tamed the West Indies fast bowlers to score 118 and 143 as England became the first Test side to win in Bridgetown for 59 years.

A handsome, upright batsman who hits the ball crisply both sides of the wicket off the back foot, S t e w a r t

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Bankers freeze Mariner account

Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Sonali Bank pulled off a surprise in the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League when they handed giants Mariner Young's Club a 2-0 defeat at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

The youthful bankers mesmerised the Arambagh-based club in a match that many thought would be a cakewalk for Mariner.

While Mariner went down fellow title contenders Usha Kriya Chakra scored a hard-fought 2-0 victory against Ajax Sporting Club in another match.

In the day's match, Sonali Bank fielded an imposing side that included three Indians -- Kishore Kurur, Gurundar Singh and Anil Ekka -- to bamboozle their mighty opponents in the second half.

Although the first session ended goalless both sides still created

opportunities to sound the board. Custodian Ainal salvaged the bankers twice before the breather.

After the break Hosne Mobarak Sumon and Sohel led Sonali Bank to launch a series of raids on their opponent's half.

Forward Sumon stunned the third placed Mariner in the 43rd minute while his attacking partner Sohel doubled the margin six minutes later capitalising a rebound by Anil Ekka.

Both scorers got two more easy chances but defender Yamin and goalie Ashiqul Haq Rinku denied them to extend the margin.

USHA-AJAX SC

Earlier, Usha scored two second half goals to earn full points. The solid Ajax defence withstood Usha's pressure to keep the first half goal-free.

It was striker Moududur Rahman Shuvo who ended the drought with a

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British Chess C'chip Good start by Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman, IM Enamul Hossain Rajib and FM SK Nasir Ahmed won their opening round games in the Smith and Williamson British Chess Championship, now being held in Edinburgh of Scotland, on Monday.

Zia won his board against IM Simon Ansell of England. Rajib beat IM Craig Pritchett of Scotland and Nasir checkmated New Zealander David Guthrie.

IM Reefat-bin-Sattar drew with WGM Aarthi Ramsawamy of India and IM Abdullah Al Rakib lost to GM Stuart Conquest, who has an international rating of 2560, of England.

Shawkat Hossain Pallab is taking part in the Major Open event where he drew his first round game against Will R Douglas of Scotland.

A total of 94 players including 15 Grand Masters, 16 International Masters and three Women Grand Masters are participating in the championship. Besides, 94 players including one Grand Master are participating in the Major Open.



Ajax's goalkeeper Mohammad Sohail tries to block an Usha attack during their Green Delta Premier Division League at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Tigers can be proud

Cricket

CHIPS MACKINOLTY from Darwin

On the night of the second day of the historic first Bangladesh v Australia Test, I made a big call about the Tigers: "they deserve a place in international Test cricket."

Nothing that has happened since then, including the mid order collapse on Sunday, that has made me change my mind, but I wrote it in the face of considerable hostility from commentators in the Australian press about the inclusion of Bangladesh as an ICC Test side. Former Australian Test player, David Hookes, for example, predicted the game would be over in a day.

I have personal theories about the motivation behind these calls to exclude Bangladesh, but the Tigers emphatically proved them wrong -- despite their loss.

And this is a view shared by the majority of journalists who covered the match and - more significantly -- by members of the Australian side. In typical Northern Territory style, the local Darwin fans took Bangladesh to their hearts, which included the formation of a "Supporters of

Bangladesh" cheer squad at the game.

Let's get it into perspective. Bangladesh has been playing Test cricket since November 2000 -- less than three years. We should not forget that it took New Zealand 26 years and 40 Tests to win a Test. India took 35 years and 25 Tests to make the grade. The West Indies started in 1928 and, although they drew their second series against England were not to become a significant opponent until 1950. Even then, it took them 35 years to beat Australia in 1965.

Australian batsman Justin Langer was full of praise for the Bangladeshis in a piece he wrote in the Australian press yesterday.

"Bangladesh would be proud of the disciplined way they went about their work in the field.

"What they lack in raw talent and experience that Bangladeshis certainly make up for in discipline, determination and effort."

The praise for the Bangladeshis in the field was universal, and there is considerable excitement about Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza, who was recorded as bowling at 143 kilometres an hour on Saturday and caused considerable unease for the Australians.

Make no mistake about it.

The current Australian side is one of the most formidable in the history of the game. The slips cordon ranged behind Hannan Sarker and Javed Omar was not so much intimidating as murderous. That was a deliberate tactic by an Australian team that has adopted a "take no prisoners" approach to international contests. It was the fourth time in 20 Tests that Bangladesh failed, in the first innings of this Test, to make 100 but we should not forget that England were skittled out for 79 by Australia late last year.

And England would have been jealous of the figures achieved by Habibul Bashar and Hannan Sarker at the beginning of the second innings, belting the Australian speed attack for more than 4 runs an over for their 81 run partnership.

The Bangladesh team last night enjoyed a community celebration with their compatriots who now call Darwin home. The team heads off today for Cairns in north Queensland where they will play another Test and two one day matches, before their return to Darwin for the final one day match on August 6.

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Lee fit for 2nd Test

CRICINFO, Sydney

Brett Lee has been cleared to play in the second Test against Bangladesh at Cairns starting on July 25 despite suffering from back problems at the weekend during the Darwin Test.

Lee withdrew from the attack on the third morning of the match complaining of pain in his back. He was diagnosed as suffering from an inflamed facet joint and given an anti-inflammatory injection.

Errol Alcott, Australia's physiotherapist, explained that the injury was probably caused by Lee bowling prolonged spells after a long lay-off.

"It's not uncommon," Alcott told the Australian newspaper.

"It usually happens at the start of a season when players are with their states, but because we've gone straight into a Test series after a six-week break the body has not had the chance to get used to bowling again."

Aussies' day out

Cricket

AFP, Darwin

The Australian cricketers should have been playing the final day of their Test match with Bangladesh on Tuesday, but instead they spent the day eating buffalo and fishing with Aborigines on the remote Tiwi Islands north of here.

Steve Waugh's team brushed aside Bangladesh in double-quick time winning the first of two Tests by an innings and 132 runs on the third day Sunday. The second Test begins in Cairns, north Queensland, on Friday.

The world's best cricket team mixed with the tiny indigenous community of Milikapiti on Melville Island.

They ate buffalo and wallaby, learnt about Tiwi Island culture and went fishing with locals.

"It's been a real eye-opener for us, to visit an Aboriginal community and see the culture and traditions, and the way people live,"

captain Steve Waugh said.

"It's something new to us and it's a great experience."

"Australian football is obviously number one here, but I think cricket, the kids here have definitely got potential for cricket," Waugh said.

"I see a lot of talent. I think they probably need a role model and they need people to come up here and to show them how to play the game."

Islander Mary Elizabeth Moreen said the community loved to watch international cricket matches on television, but had never played the sport.

"Our children have never ever had cricket in the community. This is the first time," Moreen said.

"They didn't know about how the game is played. They were all excited and happy."

Fast bowler Jason Gillespie, who has Aboriginal heritage, said the Australian team could inspire Aboriginal talent to come through and play top-level cricket.