

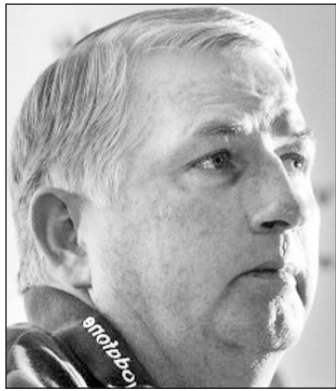


## Did U Know?

Clive Lloyd holds the record of winning the most number of tosses in Tests. He won 35 tosses in 74 matches as captain.



**ESPN**  
Premier League Asia Cup  
Birmingham City vs Newcastle United  
Live at 6:00 pm  
Sportscentre Hindi  
Sport News  
Live at 9:00 pm  
**STAR Sports**  
Soccer Soap  
Dream Team  
Repeat at 8:30 am  
England vs South Africa  
First Test, Day One  
Live at 3:45 pm  
Sportsline Tonight  
Sport News  
Live at 11:00 pm  
Soccer Soap  
Dream Team  
Taped Version at 11:30 pm



### Duncan Fletcher

(England cricket coach)

"I still believe that Alec is the best all-round wicketkeeper we have got by some distance."

On Alec Stewart after the England wicketkeeper revealed his retirement plan on Wednesday.

**Star WHIZZ KID**

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	Cameroon	Brazil
3. Who won the Wimbledon women's sigles crown?	Serena	Venus	Clijsters
4. Which country will host the Asia Youth Cup cricket tournament?			

Name .....

Class. .... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

## Schools soccer

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Residential Model and Dolaipar High won their respective matches in the final round of the Dhaka Metropolis inter-school football competition at the outer stadium yesterday.

Residential Model blanked Kamarpara High 3-0 in their Group A encounter. Nazrul struck twice while Sui Jui Ching, who was later adjudged man-of-the-match, scored the other.

In Group B, Dolaipar posted a 2-0 win against Rahmatullah Model High. Raisul and Al Amin shared the goals. Al Amin was declared the man-of-the-match.

# Chess checkmated

SPORTS REPORTER

The National Sports Council (NSC) in a surprise move, demolished the Bangladesh Chess Federation Auditorium yesterday.

The arbitrary action took place in the morning when the workers of a construction firm, which has reportedly received the NSC's order to pull down the two-story building, started dismantling it despite protests from a number of Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) officials. Some young chess players, who were attending a training programme at that time, were also stunned by the happenings.

The dismantling operation stopped for the day after sometime but the destruction left precious belongings of the BCF loitering in the open.

This congested yet popular hall has been the home of Bangladesh's chess since 1986. But recently the NSC decided to build a 20-story building in its place and accordingly instructed the BCF to shift to a new location.

However, the manner in which the ruling body of the country's sports drove its most successful affiliated body out, raised quite a few eyebrows.

"It is totally unacceptable the way the NSC is treating us. We are yet to get any formal letter from them regarding our shifting to a new place," said a shocked BCF general secretary Sujauddin Ahmed.

"We have so far only received verbal assurance from the Sports Minister that we will get room on the second floor of the main NSC building. But nothing has come in writing.

"We are trying our level best to improve the standard and popularity of the game despite acute financial crisis. But this harsh treatment is nothing short of a fatal blow," added Sujauddin.

While Sujauddin was shattered, the NSC authorities remained unperturbed by this apparently damaging development.

The Daily Star Sport tried in vein to contact NSC secretary Mashud Elahi. State Minister for Youth and

Sports Fazlur Rahman was also not available as he was out of the city.

However, Major (Retd.) Enamul Haque, who is the NSC's auction committee chairman, decided to make some blatant remarks on the controversy.

"I'm just complying with the instruction from the higher authority. Besides, we couldn't wait any longer because the Prime Minister is scheduled to lay the foundation of the planned NSC Tower on August 5," said the director-administration of the NSC.

When asked whether the NSC had sent any letter to the BCF regarding the dismantling operation or if they had relocated the Federation, Enam expressed his ignorance.

"I can only tell you that it was decided on the July 16 in an executive committee meeting."

Interestingly, the relocation of the BCF was not even included in the minutes of that particular executive committee meeting

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# Cairns causes a concern



AFP, Cairns

A green pitch, promising to help Australia's formidable pace bowling battery, threatens Bangladesh's inexperienced batsmen in the second cricket Test starting here Friday.

Groundsman Kevin Mitchell said Wednesday recent wet weather had produced more grass on the wicket than he had expected and there had not been enough sun to dry the grass.

The pitch will be cut again before the start, but experienced observers said they believed it was almost certain the wicket would be far more lively than the pitch in the first Test in Darwin.

In that game, Bangladesh were skittled for 97 and 178 as they crashed to defeat by an innings and 132 runs, but new coach Day Whatmore and captain Khaled Mahmud said gradual improvement was the main goal for a team that entered Test cricket three years ago and has a record of 19 losses and one draw.

Australia's top order batsmen Matthew Hayden and Ricky Ponting will both be keen for big scores after making a combined 21 on the slow-paced Darwin track.

"We enjoy playing aggressive cricket and it won't change," Hayden told reporters.

Australia have passed 400 in their first innings 29 times under Steve Waugh's captaincy and won 25 of those games.

"I'd rather have three exciting days and make the spectators enjoy the cricket we play. I think we'll continue that way," Waugh said.

Mahmud said he was confident his team would improve.

"This is a learning experience for us. We batted better in the second innings but we have a lot of things we need to improve and slowly we will do it," he said after the first Test.

The absence of Shane Warne from the Bangladesh series because of a 12-month doping ban has been little help to the tourists.

It has simply given reserve leg-spinner Stuart MacGill more opportunities to impress, including a five-wicket haul in Bangladesh's second innings last

week.

Australia's fastest bowler Brett Lee would love to open the Australian attack in the historic match the first Test to be played in the far north Queensland city.

But he knows he will probably have to wait behind senior pacemen Glenn McGrath and Jason Gillespie, who have just surpassed Ray Lindwall and Keith Miller as Australia's best opening bowler partnership.

### TEAMS

**AUSTRALIA** (from): Matthew Hayden, Justin Langer, Ricky Ponting, Darren Lehmann, Steve Waugh (captain), Martin Love, Adam Gilchrist, Brett Lee, Jason Gillespie, Stuart MacGill, Glenn McGrath, Andy Bichel.

**BANGLADESH** (from): Javed Omar, Hannan Sarkar, Habibul Bashir, Mohammad Ashraful, Al Shahriar, Alok Kapali, Khaled Mashud, Khaled Mahmud (captain), Tapas Baisya, Mashrafebin-Mortuza, Manjurul Islam, Sanwar Hossain, Mohammad Rafique, Anwar Hossain, Tareq Aziz.

## Lee relishes the pacy prospect

BBC ONLINE, Cairns

Brett Lee is expecting early success in the second Test against Bangladesh after finding a wicket likely to aid pace bowlers in Cairns.

After being shot out for 97 and 178 in last week's opening Test defeat in Darwin, the tourists will not relish the wicket for the Bundaberg Rum Stadium's first ever Test.

"I haven't seen a nice fast wicket for a while, but this looks as close to a green-top as possible," Lee said after inspecting the pitch.

Lee, who captured 3-23 in the first innings and 1-34 in the second in Australia's innings victory, said he would love to open the Australian attack.

But the New South Wales pace man knows he will probably have to wait behind Glenn McGrath and Jason Gillespie.

"I've made it a goal of mine to be the main bowler for Australia eventually," Lee said.

"Whether that happens in one,

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# Kambli's ambition



AFP, Bombay

Vinod Kambli, a stylish batsman better known as Sachin Tendulkar's childhood friend, wants to play for India again after being cold-shouldered for eight years.

The 31-year-old left-hander, who once scored double-centuries in back-to-back Tests against England and Zimbabwe in 1993, was on Wednesday named in Bombay's list of probabilities for the new season.

"I want to play again for Bombay and India," said Kambli, who played the last of his 17 Tests against New Zealand in Cuttack in November, 1995.

He skipped the domestic season last year, in which Bombay won the Ranji Trophy, to play as a professional for Ireland in South Africa's first-class cricket.

"I wanted the experience of playing on the bouncier pitches of South Africa," Kambli said. "But now I want to prove myself there once again."

Kambli enjoyed an enviable average of 54.20 in 17 Tests, mainly due to the two double-centuries and two

other hundreds in his first seven Tests, before his career declined.

Critics said he lacked discipline, unlike his friend Tendulkar who is regarded as one of the game's leading



VINOD KAMBLI

batsmen.

Both players shot to fame with an unbeaten stand of 664 runs in schools cricket in Bombay when

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Action from yesterday's First Division hockey Super League match between Azad Sporting Club and Victoria Sporting Club at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium.

## ICC bosses due in November

SPORTS REPORTER

International Cricket Council (ICC) president Ehsan Mani is expected to arrive in Dhaka on November 11 to unveil the logo of the Under-19 World Cup to be held in the country next February-March.

Tournament director of the ICC Under-19 World Cup Roquibul Hassan, the former Bangladesh skipper, told The Daily Star yesterday that the ICC chief would arrive here along with ICC chief executive officer Malcolm Speed for the official launching of the tournament.

He also informed that ICC senior event manager Chris Pettit would come here in November to work with local officials.

It was earlier learnt that the tournament schedule might be revised to reduce the time span of the tournament but Roquibul hinted that there was little chance to change the proposed fixture.

"It will be a tough job to complete the 54-match tournament in a short time," he said.

## Railway get running

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Railway made a good start in the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League with a 5-2 win over Bangladesh Sporting Club at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Railway, a side studded with Indians, led the first half 2-1.

Although Bangladesh Sporting took an early lead when Mohammad Rubel scored from a penalty corner in the eighth minute, but their joy did not last long as Railway's Indian recruit Bharat netted two consecutive goals before the breather.

The Indian forward showed his character also in the second half with two more goals. Besides, Russel Rahman also hit the board for the winners.

For Bangladesh Sporting it was again Rubel as he reduced the margin minutes before the long whistle.

### AZAD ABASE VICTORIA

Meanwhile, in the First Division Super League, leaders Azad Sporting Club thrashed Victoria Sporting Club 9-0 in the opening match at the same venue.

Azad were enjoying a 5-0 lead at half-time.

Nannu Miah scored four goals including a hatrick while Zahid and Iqbal struck twice each. Asif was the other scorer.

### TODAY'S MATCH

Dhaka Wanderers vs Shishu Kishore Sangha (2:15pm)

Abahani KC vs Wari Club (4:15pm)

Venue: Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium

## Nasir jointly in the lead

SPORTS REPORTER

FIDE Master Sheikh Nasir Ahmed was sharing the lead with five other players with maximum points at the end of the second round in the Smith and Williamson British Chess Championship now being held in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Nasir beat IM John K Shaw of Scotland.

GM Ziaur Rahman earned 1.5 points. He drew with FM Stewart Haslinger of England. IM Enamul Hossain Rajib lost to GM Pentala Harikrishna of India. IM Reefatbin-Sattar lost to Rajko Vujatovic of England. IM Abdullah Al Rakib drew with Stephen Gordon of England.

Meanwhile, Shawkat Hossain Pallab earned 1.5 points in the Major Open. He beat Saran Agarwal of India.

## NSC baptises four stadia today

SPORTS REPORTER

The executive committee of the National Sports Council (NSC) meets today to finalise the names of the four new stadia across the country.

It is almost certain that the newly-built football stadium at Kamalapur will be named after Bir Sheshra Flight Lieutenant Matiur Rahman.

Besides, three divisional stadiums in Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna will also be named in the meeting.

The divisional arenas are expected to be ready before the ICC Under-19 World Cup begins in February next.

## Ali wins again

SPORTS REPORTER

National junior champion Mohammad Ali earned another point to raise his tally to two at the end of the sixth round in the 26th Asian Junior (Under-20) Chess Championship in Colombo.

Ali won his 6th round game against Fernand Avanka of Sri Lanka.

# Mukti too good for Army

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet



Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra thrashed Bangladesh Army 3-0 in the last second-leg match of the 3rd Nitol-Tata National Football League at the Sylhet Stadium

yesterday.

Playing in front of a packed crowd, the all reds totally dominated the army men and were unlucky not to have won by a bigger margin.

With this comfortably victory, the Muktis moved at the top of Group B with full six points from two matches. Army, who started the NFL with a bang by holding Abahani to a 1-1 draw in their first game, were outdone by the superior technique and experience of their illustrious counterparts.

The Muktis wasted little time to take control in the one-sided game but had to wait till the 24th minute for their first goal. Ghanaian defender Ghansa initiated the move down the middle, which was clinically finished off by the country's ace marksman Alfaz Ahmed. The dark and dapper attacker dodged past two defenders before unleashing an unstoppable low shot into the net (1-0).

This was Alfaz's first goal in the competition.

Muktijoddha doubled their lead in the 75th minute when Belal's long throw from the left was delicately turned in by forward Saifur Rahman Moni (2-0).

Nine minutes from time, Moni scored his second of the match with another fine header to complete the rout (3-0).

With his double strike, the young attacker joined Mohammedan's Farhad as the joint top scorer in the NFL with

four goals.

Muktijoddha and country's number one central defender Rajani Kanta Barman was adjudged man-of-the-match.

The third leg of the NFL will commence in Barisal from July 27.

### TEAMS

**MUKTIJODDHA SANGSAD KC:** Aminul, Pradip (Belal), Sujun, Pavel Masud, Rajanai Kanta Barman, Lajuk, Arman Miah (Mehdi), Rakib, Alfaz (Mithun), Saifur Rahman Moni and Charles Ghansa.

**BANGLADESH ARMY:** Kabirul Islam (Captain), Rashedul Hassan (Tutul Mina), Abdur Razzaque (Anwar Hossain), Altaf Hossain, Nasir Uddin, Abdullah Al Mamun, Ashish Banwari, Masum Kamal, Deedarul Haque, Shahidul Islam and Ripon Biswas.

Referee: Taiyab Hasan.



PHOTO: STAR

Rajani of Muktijoddha Sangsad receives the man-of-the-match's award from State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman (3rd from R) after the end of the Nitol-Tata National Football League match against Bangladesh Army at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday.

# First Test begins today



AFP, Birmingham

Jacques Kallis' absence from the first Test against England, which gets underway at Edgbaston here on Thursday, has left South Africa with a huge hole in their team.

Kallis was South Africa's in-form batsman during the triangular one-day NatWest Series scoring 329 runs, including back-to-back hundreds, before returning home after the Proteas' one-sided, seven-wicket final defeat by England at Lord's on July 12.

And without his lively pace bowling, South Africa's attack new-ball duo Shaun Pollock and Makhaya Ntini excepted is vastly inexperienced.

All of South Africa's other top-order batsmen made fifties in the tourists' final warm-up match, against India A, which concluded at Arundel on Monday.

Herschelle Gibbs' innings was especially welcome after a run of low scores.

But batting on a placid pitch, against an attack of modest pace, was no preparation for facing England quicks James Anderson

and Darren Gough.

Whether Gibbs, a gifted stroke-player, can make the late adjustments that are often required against the swinging and seaming ball remains to be seen.

Much will depend on 35-year-old left-hander Gary Kirsten, South Africa's most capped player with 89 Tests, who missed the triangular series after retiring from one-day internationals following the World Cup.

Kirsten's immense powers of concentration make him adept at anchoring an innings as England will recall from the 210 he made in the Headingley Test on South Africa's last tour here in 1998.

Edgbaston is not known for helping spinners which means South Africa are likely to field a four-man pace attack while packing the batting in a bid to deny England the 20 wickets they need for victory.

But who will support Pollock and Ntini? At Arundel, uncapped 20-year-old Monde Zondeki looked a lively prospect while Deward Pretorius showed plenty of determination.

However Charl Willoughby rested from the Arundel match could come into contention. He is a left-arm swing bowler and that is

not something batsmen come up against that often.

England welcome back Test captain Nasser Hussain, who resumes the leadership from one-day skipper Michael Vaughan and wicketkeeper Alec Stewart.

Both men, like Kirsten, quit one-day internationals after the World Cup.

Surrey stalwart Stewart, 40, announced on Tuesday he would retire from Test cricket at the end of this series. But he remains a superior batsman to his England rivals.

Test regular Mark Butcher further strengthens England's batting. But there is no room for his fellow Surrey left-hander Graham Thorpe who has made himself available for internationals again following personal problems.

Instead Anthony McGrath retains his middle-order place although the Yorkshire captain still appears the weakest link in England's top six.

Andrew Flintoff's undoubted talent started to flower in the one-dayers and, after missing England's previous eight Test through injury, home fans will hope this is the series where the all-rounder comes into full bloom.

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# Akram's denial



AFP, Karachi

Pakistan's former cricket great Wasim Akram has denied allegations he appeared in an Indian liquor advertisement, a day after a court summoned him to explain his position over a private petition.

"The news that a petition is filed against me in a Pakistan court surprised me because I never featured in a liquor advertisement and can never imagine to break religious laws," Wasim told AFP, speaking by telephone from Manchester, England.

The 37-year-old, who retired in May after an illustrious career spanning 19 years, was summoned by a Lahore court to appear in September to face charges he damaged Muslim sentiments for posing in a liquor advertisement.

The petition, filed by a Pakistani citizen, Mohammad Fayyaz, last year, demands a public apology from Wasim and damages of 25,000 rupees (around 400 US dollars).

"I think it's a publicity stunt which is very common in Pakistan and I am



WASIM AKRAM

of principle.

"I have all the documentary proof to substantiate that I modelled

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## Kallis loses father

AFP, Johannesburg

The father of 27-year-old all-rounder Jacques Kallis died Wednesday, the United Cricket Board of South Africa said.

The cricketer returned to Cape Town from England after the triangular one-day NatWest Series to be with his 65-year-old father Henry, who had been diagnosed in March with lung cancer.

His absence leaves a huge hole in the South African line-up for the first Test against England at Edgbaston starting Thursday.

"This is a terribly sad and difficult time for both Jacques and Janine, who have suffered along with their father for some time," said cricket board chief executive officer Gerald Majola.

"Jacques has always named his dad as his biggest influence and mentor and Henry gave his everything to support both his children. Our thoughts are with them."

South Africa's team management has said Kallis could rejoin the

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