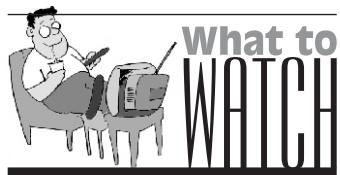




The motto of Pierre de Coubertin reads, "The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph, but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered, but to have fought well."



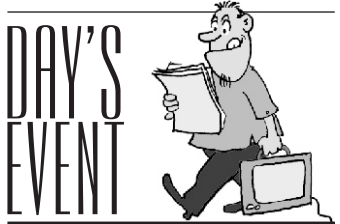
ESPN
Bangladesh vs Zimbabwe
First Test, Day One
Live at 1:50 pm
Sportscentre
Sport News
Live at 9:00 pm
STAR Sports
Sportsline
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
Futbol Mundial
Taped Version at 8:30 pm



Muttiah Muralitharan
(Sri Lanka spin wizard)
"I definitely want Shane to come to Sri Lanka and I am looking forward to the challenge."

Star WHIZZ KID
OMPETITION 20
Tick the correct answers,
Post to
The Daily Star
Competition closes at 8 pm
Feb 27, 2004 and draw
shortly afterwards

1. How many teams are taking part in the ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup?	16	12	20
2. How many months was Shane Warne banned from cricket?	12	13	16
3. Who won the Pan Pacific Open title?	Davenport	Clijsters	
4. Who won the Tokyo Marathon?	Njenga Sebastian	Osaki	
Name			
Class			
School Address			
Phone: (If any)			



ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup
Zimbabwe vs Canada (9:00 am)
Venue: Shaheed Chandu Stadium, Bogra
Nepal vs Uganda (9:00 am)
Venue: M A Aziz Stadium, Chittagong
New Zealand vs Scotland (9:00 am)
Venue: BKSP
Ireland vs Papua New Guinea (9:00 am)
Venue: Khulna Divisional Stadium
Western Union Premier Division Football League
Badda Jagarani vs Dhanmondi (5:00 pm)
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Mirpur



Mohammedan custodian Bijon Barua fists the ball away before Abahani striker Khokon could pose any threat during the clash of the titans at the Sher-e-Bangla national Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Jewel sparks rare happiness

SPORTS REPORTER

WESTERN UNION
SARIF MUHAMMAD
Mohammedan Sporting Club gave their bruised and battered fans something to remember the season by when they handed bitter foes Abahani a 1-0 defeat in their Western Union Premier Division football league return leg match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

With no hopes left of mounting a challenge on the title, the Black and Whites only played for pride and fittingly enough, it was veteran skipper Jewel Rana who got the winner early in the first half.

The defeat was a fatal blow for

Abahani who are now nine points behind runaway leaders Brothers Union who have 30 from 12 games. It will take a string of results to go Abahani's way from the remaining games if they are to get even near Brothers. Muktiyoddha perhaps have the only realistic chance of chasing Brothers all the way down to the wire. They are five points adrift from the top on 25.

Mohammedan improved their tally to 17 points from 12 matches and still lie in mid-table. But they celebrated avenging the 2-1 defeat in the first round against the Sky Blues.

The match of the two most popular teams in the country drew a poor 5000-odd crowd but was a keenly

contested one.

Jewel, the former national defender tapped the ball home in the 10th minute when it came his way through a deflection off Cameroonian Kisito from a Farhad corner.

For Jewel, it a personal triumph after a horrendous season. Apart from seeing his side stoop to an all-time low both on and off the field, he also had to serve a one-game ban for attacking match officials during Mohammedan's match against Muktiyoddha last month.

Abahani were the more adventurous of the two sides. Brazilian midfielder Alessandro opened up a number of opportunities but strikers Khokon and Ujjal failed to

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Kapali dropped



SPORTS REPORTER

Alok Kapali was dropped when Bangladesh announced the squad for the first Test against Zimbabwe which begins in Harare today.

The talented middle-order batsman, who has been a regular member of the side since making debut against Sri Lanka at Colombo in 2002, was not considered for the match due to his poor run of form. His omission led the way for a deserving debut for left-arm spinner Manjarul Islam, who continued to impress coach Dav Whatmore since making his one-day debut against England last year.

Batting down the order, Manjarul scored a vital 40 in the Tigers' victory in the three-day match against Zimbabwe A on Monday.

The match will also mark the return of opener Shahriar Hossain, Mohammad Ashraful, and left-arm paceman Monjurul Islam to the Test fold.

Shahriar was in the wilderness after playing the historic inaugural Test against India in 2000. The gutsy right-

SQUAD
Habibul Bashar (captain), Hannan Sarker, Shahriar Hossain, Rajin Saleh, Mohammad Ashraful, Mushfiqur Rahman, Khaled Mashud, Manjarul Islam, Mohammad Rafique, Tapash Baisya and Monjurul Islam.

hander, one of the heroes of Bangladesh's victory against Pakistan in the 1999 World Cup, forced his way back in the national team after impressive showings in the first-class competition in Pakistan.

For Ashraful, the youngest Test centurion, it is a return to the stage where many feel he belongs after missing the home series against England. The young right-hander showed signs of hitting form with a half-century in the three-day game.

Monjurul was preferred ahead of the two young pacers Tareq Aziz Khan and Alamgir Kabir, who were instrumental in forcing a win against Zimbabwe A because of his sweet Harare experience when the Tigers toured this part of the world in 2001.

Dhaka Zone's last eight confirmed

SPORTS REPORTER



22nd National School Cricket Championship was finalised with four teams confirming their berths yesterday.

AK High, National Bangla High, Progati High and Rahmatullah Model High emerged group champions with comfortable victories against their rivals at different city venues to join Loretto, Sher-e-Bangla Ideal, Willes Little Flower and Biddyaniketon Pre-Cadet.

National Bangla, riding on a 69-run knock by Sajjad, recorded a massive 161-run victory when MA Latif Memorial Institute were bundled out for 114 runs in 20.5 overs as they were chasing a mammoth 275 at the Uttara Friends Club ground.

At the Mirpur Outer Stadium, Hasan hit 62 as AK High raced to 171-1 for a facile nine-wicket win

against Sabuj Biddypathi who managed 170 for 9 in allotted 35 overs.

In the other matches, Progati High beat Monipur High by four wickets at the Dhanmondi Club ground and Shaheen grabbed six wickets for 42 as Rahmatullah Model High earned a 30-run victory over Jatrabari Power Development Board High at the Residential Model School ground.

The first two quarterfinals will be held tomorrow with Loretto facing AK High at the Mirpur Outer Stadium and Progati taking on Rahmatullah Model at the Residential Model School ground.

SCORES IN BRIEF

National Bangla: 275/10 in 34.4 overs (Sajjad 69, Monirul 29, Nishad 29, Jamal 27, Sumon 21, Karim 2-24, Sohan 2-31)
MA Latif Memorial: 114/10 in 20.5 overs (Sohan 25, Pias 15, Nishad 3-30, Rinku 2-6, Shahin 2-25)
Result: National Bangla won by 161 runs.

Sabuj Biddypathi: 170/9 in 35 overs

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India's Sunny Singh, who slammed 68 off 81 balls to become the man-of-the-match, follows through on a lofted on-drive during their U-19 World Cup fixture against New Zealand at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Minnows marvel



SPORTS REPORTER

Lightweights Zimbabwe and Nepal stole the show at the ICC Cricket World Cup on Wednesday.

Zimbabwe fast bowler Tinashe Panyangara destroyed champions Australia with a six-wicket burst in a must-win Group A clash at Shaheed Chandu Stadium. While tiny Nepal, coached by former Sri Lankan Test star Roy Dias, pulled off an exciting one-wicket win against title-contenders South Africa at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium.

But thankfully it was not all doom and gloom for major teams as India and West Indies recorded victories over New Zealand and Papua New Guinea respectively in other venues.

NEPAL V SOUTH AFRICA

An all-round show by Shakti Prasad Gauchan led the boys from the Himalayan Kingdom to enjoy their greatest moment as an ICC associate member.

After taking two South African wickets, Gauchan then steered the team home scoring 51 not out.

The target for Nepal was a very modest 157 in 50 overs but in the end they needed six runs off the final over.

And when last man Kesari somehow managed to edge the ball off Vaughn van Jaarsveld's fourth ball past outstretched right hand of the Protea wicketkeeper for four it created a roar in the packed stadium.

Kesari besides hitting the winning runs was instrumental in a last wicket stand worth 19 runs.

In a cameo knock Kesari hit 13 runs off nine balls with beautiful fours in a game where fortunes swung like a pendulum.

Roy Dias always believed the strength of his side lay in the batting and that was evident again against the mighty South Africans.

Only inexperience cost them losing four wickets for just six runs after at one stage being 118-4.

Earlier, South Africa were bowled out for 156 with only Keegan Africa standing tall with a superb 52 not out off 62 balls.

Manjeet Shreshtha was the pick of Nepal bowlers with figure 4-15.

"It is an outcome of disciplined batting and bowling," said a happy Dias during the post match briefing.

The famed Sri Lankan was looking forward to defeating Uganda today to move into unknown territory the Super League.

Man-of-the-match Shakti Prasad was ecstatic and hardly found any words to express his feelings.

"I'm happy and will try to win the next match," he uttered.

The South Africans were still coming to terms with the shock defeat.

"We lost too many wickets at the beginning and that created havoc," said South African manager TB Shah.

AUSTRALIA-ZIMBABWE

Panyangara not only earned the man-of-the-match accolade but the right-arm quick's fantastic figures of 10-1-31-6 were the second best ever recorded in youth World Cups. The Australians never recovered after that burst of speed and aggression.

Reaching a relatively comfortable 50-2 in 11 overs, after electing to bat, Australia was decimated in

the next seven overs and ended up making just 73 with openers Paine (19) and Doropoulos (26) crossing double figures.

Panyangara's partner in crime was fellow right-arm fast bowler Elton Chigumbura with four for 17 in

held in Sri Lanka in 2000 besides our preparation was not all that good because we assembled the team only on February 1. However I don't want to give those as excuses I think Phil Simmons who was a former West Indies international himself



PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

CAPTAIN LEADS FROM THE TOP! Shakti Guachan, the hero of Nepal U-19's famous victory over South Africa, has a ride on a teammate's shoulders after the match against the young Proteas at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

five overs.

The Southern Africans, who lost to Sri Lanka in their opening match, got home despite losing three wickets in 17.1 overs.

Talking to The Daily Star Sport over phone, team manger Brian Freedman said that his middle-order totally failed to the conditions.

"If you look at the history of the youth World Cup we also struggled on the subcontinent when it was

has done a tremendous job as technical advisor of the Zimbabwe academy. But we'll live to fight another day."

Freedman also paid tribute to Nepal's success against the South Africans.

"This result and Nepal's victory is the success of the ICC's development programme. It shows how smaller teams are catching up with big boys and this is brilliant for world

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PHOTO: HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU

Australian opener Theo Doropoulos looks behind to see his off stump lie flat on the ground after it was hit by Zimbabwean fast bowler Tinashe Panyangara (insert) during their ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup match at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday.

Tigers eye Test chance



BBC ONLINE, undated

Bangladesh have their best chance yet to win a Test when they take on Zimbabwe in the first match of two in Harare on Thursday.

The Tigers are still waiting for a win after 26 matches, although their sole draw came in a rain-hit match at home to Zimbabwe in 2001. The Africans have won just seven of the 71 Tests they have played since 1992.

Their hosts have not won a Test since the second match of the same series.

But captain Heath Streak said: "Bangladesh are a very improved side under Dav Whatmore but we've been playing good cricket and there's no reason why we shouldn't dominate and win both the Test and one-day series."

However, Bangladesh have improved greatly since their last encounter with Zimbabwe, running Pakistan close in two Tests during their tour last August.

Under coach Whatmore, they also forced England to work for a 2-0 series victory in October.

With Habibul Bashar taking over as captain from Khaled Mahmud, they proved their calibre with a 29-run victory over Zimbabwe A at the same ground last weekend.

Uncapped medium-pacer Tareq Aziz Khan strengthened his Test claims with figures of 6-46 and could fill the gap left by pace bowler Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza's knee

second.

Last month Zimbabwe took part in the one-day triangular series in Australia, where they failed to win a match against either the hosts or India.

"We were competitive in a few games and we managed to run them to the wire a couple of times, even after losing (batsmen) Craig



HABIBUL BASHAR



HEATH STREAK

injury.

Zimbabwe's last Test series was against West Indies late last year, when they got the best of a drawn first match before conceding the

Wishart and Mark Vermeulen to injuries," Streak said.

"We were disappointed that we

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