



Did U Know?

In 1924, Sybil Bauer became the first woman to break an existing men's record, when she won the 200m backstroke at the Olympic Games.



BTV
ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup
Bangladesh vs India
Live at 9:00 am

ESPN
Bangladesh vs Zimbabwe
First Test, Day Two
Live at 1:50 pm

STAR Sports
South Africa vs New Zealand
Third ODI
Live at 6:57 am

Sportsline
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm

TEN Sports
Australia vs Sri Lanka
First OD
Live at 2:30 pm



Malcolm Speed
(ICC chief executive)
"I believe the role of a cricket umpire is the hardest officiating task in international sport. Cricket is a complicated sport but human umpires are an integral part of the fabric of the game."

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 20

Tick the correct answers, Post to The Daily Star

Competition closes at 8 pm Feb 27, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards

- How many teams are taking part in the ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup?
16 12 20
- How many months was Shane Warne banned from cricket?
12 13
- Who won the Pan Pacific Open title?
Davenport Clijsters
- Who won the Tokyo Marathon?
Njenga Osaki
Sebastian

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

Gough given tour chance

AFP, London

Darren Gough has been handed a chance to join England's West Indies tour after being invited to attend a training session with other specialist one-day players, it was announced Wednesday.

Gough, 33, was not included in the one-day squad for tours to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka late last year.

But the selectors have two pace bowling vacancies for the seven-match series in the Caribbean, beginning in April.

"Darren will bring considerable experience to the squad if selected," said chief selector David Graveney.

Tigers start brightly



CRICINFO, Harare

Tapash Baisya took a wicket in his first over of consecutive sessions, and Mohammad Rafique chipped in with two big wickets after tea, as Bangladesh gave Zimbabwe a run for their money on a rain-shortened first day at Harare.

By the close, Zimbabwe had recovered from a wobble to reach 175 for 4. But Bangladesh would have been encouraged by their efforts, as they seek to win a Test at their 27th attempt.

The day began in a soggy fashion, with no play possible in the morning session after heavy overnight rain. But, the weather eventually cleared and after a two-hour mopping-up session, Heath Streak won the toss and chose to bat first. He was quickly given reason to doubt his decision, however, as Trevor Gripper carved wildly at the first ball of the second over, and Bangladesh's new captain, Habibul Bashar, celebrated his appointment with a magnificent one-handed pluck at first slip.

But Stuart Carlisle, who recently scored his maiden Test century against the mighty Australians, was in no mood to bow to the Bangladeshis. He flayed at his first ball from Manjural Islam over cover for six, and cashed in on Tapash's over-eagerness. He was joined in a 107-run stand for the second wicket by Dion Ebrahim, who began in more circumspect fashion, but grew in confidence as his innings progressed.

Ebrahim had a moment of good fortune as he bisected the slip cordon to bring up the fifty partnership, and he later steered a full toss from Manjural straight through the hands of Tapash at mid-on, but chances were few and far between for Bangladesh as Zimbabwe reached tea on 101 for one.

After tea, however, Zimbabwe's fragility was exposed. Carlisle, who had brought up his half-century from 96 balls, punched Tapash's third ball of the session through the covers for four, but then fell in the same over, as he drove too soon at a full deliv-

ery and offered a simple return catch to the bowler..

Ebrahim quickly responded by cracking a wide one from Tapash past point for four to bring up his fifty.

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PHOTO: CRICINFO

THIS IS THE BEGINNING: Bangladesh paceman Tapash Baisya celebrates the dismissal of Zimbabwe opener Trevor Gripper, who was magnificently caught at first slip by new captain Habibul Bashar, on the first day of the first Test at Harare yesterday.

Nepal, Zimbabwe can dream



SPORTS REPORTER

Giant slayers Zimbabwe and Nepal firmly put back the pressure on international cricket heavyweights Australia and South Africa after securing wins in the ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup yesterday.

Zimbabwe thrashed Canada at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra by eight wickets in Group A. The result means that defending champions Australia must now win against Sri Lanka today to qualify for the Super League.

Nepal's five wicket victory over Uganda at Chittagong has set up an intriguing last day's climax in Group B with South Africa in win-only situation against England.

In a Group C game at the Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protisthan (BKSP), New Zealand did everything right to stay in the competition. They handed Scotland a 240-run hiding and will pray for an Indian win against Bangladesh today.

In Group D's clash of the minnows, Ireland thumped Papua New Guinea by 70 runs at Khulna.

ZIMBABWE V CANADA

Zimbabwe's comfortable victory in front of a packed Chandu Stadium only boosted their chances of making it to the Super League.

If Australia lose against Sri Lanka today, the Africans are through. Even an Australian win would leave them with a possibility provided they end up having a better run-rate than Sri Lanka.

After restricting Canada to 180 for 9, Zimbabwe cruised home with nearly 14 overs to spare. The hero against Australia Thinashe Panyan-gara didn't get any wickets but off-spinner Prosper Utseya was there to lead the attack with figures of four for 41.

Zimbabwe lost opener Brendon Taylor early but James Cameron and Sean Williams steadied the innings. Williams was run out for 35, but Tintonda Mawoyo helped Cameron complete the win. Mawoyo finished on 32 not out, while Man of the Match Cameron was not out on 84 as victory was secured in 36.2 overs.

NEPAL V UGANDA

Nepal, who pulled off the biggest upset in the competition by beating South Africa on Wednesday, were harbouring a very realistic dream of securing a place in the Super League after predictably seeing off Uganda at the MA Aziz Stadium.

NEW ZEALAND V SCOTLAND

After India and Bangladesh both scored at fantastic rates against Scotland, New Zealand needed to do the same.

When they were sent in, Liam Chrisp raced to 48 off 47. Bradley John Watling and Brad Wilson then went on the rampage against the hapless Scots putting on 273 for the second wicket before Watling was caught in the 48th over on 154. Wilson finished unbeaten on 144 from 118 balls as New Zealand amassed 389 for two.

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PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

Nepal captain Shakti Gauchan follows through on an off-drive during his man-of-the-match performance against Uganda in their ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup match at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

Badda, D'mondi share points

SPORTS REPORTER

Badda Jagarani Sangsad and Dhanmondi Club played out a goalless draw in the lone Western Union Premier Football League match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

But the result did little to help the cause of both teams, who are destined to face demotion from the Premier League.

A winless Dhanmondi, who are languishing at the bottom of the ten-team table, improved their tally to three points from 12 games. Badda, on their other hand, raised their points to five also from the same number of matches.

Spinners' action causes ICC a concern

REUTERS, London

Cricket's ruling body is commissioning research into the bowling action of spinners to counter suggestions that certain bowlers are being protected.

Sri Lanka off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, who has taken 485 Test wickets, has been a particular target of Australian critics who have alleged some of his deliveries are illegal.

"The ICC is commissioning new research relating to spinners so that we have a clear, fact-based understanding of what actually takes place in a spinner's (action) and rather than solely rely on the naked eye or on TV replays which have proven to be deceptive," the International Cricket Council (ICC) said in a statement.

The research, under the direction of ICC general manager David Richardson, will take place later this year.

"I would also emphasise that every umpire and every referee judges these issues solely on what they see in front of them," said ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed.

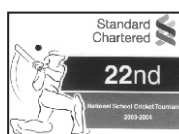
"From time to time there are suggestions made that a particular player is either targeted or protected. This is simply untrue," he said.

"The ICC is committed to dealing with this issue and will continue to examine the best process to address any concerns."

In the past year three fast bowlers West Indian Jermaine Lawson, Bangladesh's Sanwar Hossein and Pakistan's Shabbir Ahmed have been reported for suspect bowling actions and undergone work to reshape their deliveries.

School qtrs from today

SPORTS REPORTER



Loretto take on AK High School at the Residential Model High School ground as the Dhaka Zonal quarterfinal round matches of the Standard Chartered 22nd National Schools Cricket Championship get underway today.

The semifinals will be played on February 22. The first semi will be at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium (DCS) while the second semifinal is at the Mirpur Outer Stadium.

The final is billed for February 24 at the DCS.



ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup
Bangladesh vs India (9:00 am)
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Australia vs Sri Lanka (9:00 am)
Venue: Rajshahi Divisional Stadium

South Africa vs England (9:00 am)
Venue: Chittagong Divisional Stadium

West Indies vs Pakistan (9:00 am)
Venue: Khulna Divisional Stadium

Western Union Premier Division Football League
Brothers Union vs Victoria SC (5:00 pm)
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Mirpur

Any win will do



SPORTS REPORTER

The task is simple for Bangladesh going into their final group match against India. They need a win today if they are to progress to the Super League phase of the Fifth ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup.

It's simple because the home side at least would not require a calculator despite New Zealand's impressive victory against Scotland at the BKSP yesterday since the net run-rate was in favour of the young Tigers.

Although it sounds easy, but the boys of Richard McInnes will need to play out of their skins to beat the formidable Indians in the final Group C game at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Bangladesh Television will cover the 50-over contest live from the big bowl at 9am.

The game will give the home side an opportunity to erase bitter memory of being bundled out for 34 when the sides met in Pakistan last year.

"This is a totally different side and my boys are eager to do better despite the fact they lost a close game against New Zealand. I am optimistic of a U-turn in our fortunes and a place in the super-league stage is not far away. What the boys need to do now is seize that opportunity and not let it go," said the 29-year-old Australian during his team's final practice session at the venue yesterday.

"My boys have all the ability to beat India. If Nepal can beat South

GROUP C TABLE					
Team	M	W	L	Pts	NRR
India	2	2	0	4	+3.390
New Zealand	3	2	1	4	+1.175
Bangladesh	2	1	1	2	+1.771
Scotland	3	0	3	0	-5.441

Africa and Zimbabwe upset Australia then anything is possible in cricket," he added.

McInnes was not interested to look at the gloomy side of another meeting with India, rather he wanted to draw inspiration from a one-wicket win at the 2002 youth World Cup in New Zealand.

Never made it past the Pate competition, Bangladesh this time have their best shot to go past that barrier on home soil with opener

Nafees Iqbal letting his bat do the talking.

The young right-hander from Chittagong has already hit a half-century against the Kiwis and scored 39 in the undefeated second-wicket stand with Naeem Islam against Scotland that Bangladesh won by nine wickets.

Besides, Shahad Hossain emerged from nowhere to create

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Nafees Iqbal honing his batting skills during a practice session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) yesterday. Bangladesh beat India in a make-or-break match in the Under-19 World Cup at the BNS today.

Ex-stars already into it



AFP, Patiala

Even as cricket officials struggle to work out the details of India's Test tour of Pakistan next month, veteran players from either side have already renewed the rivalry.

Ex-internationals from Pakistan, led by Saeed Anwar and Ijaz Ahmed, took the field in this northern Punjab town on Thursday in a friendly match against India's veterans captained by Mohinder Amarnath.

The limited-overs game between the aging stars drew almost 15,000 fans to the Baradari Stadium. The atmosphere promises to be even more electric when the real battle starts next month.

Sourav Ganguly's men are due to play three Tests and five one-day internationals during the March-April visit, India's first full tour of

Pakistan in almost 15 years.

Even though the Indian government last Saturday ended weeks of speculation by clearing the ice-breaking tour, the respective cricket boards have failed to reach an agreement on where the matches should be played.

The bone of contention is the southern metropolis of Karachi and the north-western city of Peshawar, where South Africa and New Zealand declined to play earlier this season because of security concerns.

Karachi has a history of ethnic violence and bomb blasts, while Peshawar is situated close to the volatile Afghanistan border areas.

While the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) wants two of the three Test matches to be hosted at these venues, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) would prefer to play only one-day matches there.

The detailed itinerary is expected to be announced on Friday based on the recommendations of a three-

member BCCI delegation that visited Pakistan recently.

The delegation included a security expert from the federal home ministry, but Pakistan's former stars pleaded with the Indians not to worry about their well-being.

"The Indians will receive a warm welcome wherever they go because Pakistanis have been wanting this series to happen for so long," said Anwar, the former opener who now preaches Islam.

"My advice to the Indian players is to come over without fear and enjoy the renowned Pakistani hospitality."

Mushtaq Ahmed, the former Test leg-spinner, said he expected it to be a well-fought series between India's seasoned batsmen and the young Pakistani bowlers.

"India may have the edge because of batsmen like Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid, but we have fast bowlers of the calibre of Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad

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Warne the Victor-ia

AFP, Melbourne

Shane Warne claimed four wickets to steer Victoria to a 218-run victory over Tasmania in their Sheffield Shield cricket match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Thursday.

The home side needed only three overs after tea to take the last three wickets and dismiss Tasmania for 221.

Warne finished the second innings with figures of 4-51 and took six wickets for the match and is expected to be named on Friday in Australia's Test tour of Sri Lanka next month.

Warne returned to cricket last week after a 12-month doping suspension.

Michael Dighton top-scored for Tasmania with a quick-fire 54 from 41 balls before Warne had him stumped. Matthew Elliott top scored in the first innings with 166 and became the first Victorian batsman to score six Shield centuries in a season.

In Sydney, centuries by Darren Lehmann and Graham Manou had South Australia 182 runs away from a stunning outright victory over New South Wales.

Set a massive 521 runs to win after NSW declared their second innings at 299 for four early on the third day, South Australia made a big fist of it with Manou scoring 130 and Lehmann unbeaten on 149 with former Zimbabwean Test batsman Andy Flower not out 21.

South Australia required a further 182 runs with seven wickets in hand on Friday's final day to bring off a sensational win.



PHOTO: STAR

New Zealand U-19's Bradley Watling smashes one through covers for four during their U-19 World Cup fixture against Scotland at BKSP in Savar yesterday.