



Did U Know?

Mike Tyson probably took more punches in his shock 1990 defeat by James Buster Douglas than all the punches he had taken



What to Watch

ESPN

Bangladesh vs Zimbabwe
First Test, Day Three
Live at 1:50 pm
Primera Liga
Barcelona vs Valencia
Live at 2:30 am (Sunday)

STAR Sports

English Premier Football League
Chelsea vs Arsenal
Live at 6:25 pm
Newcastle United vs



Talk Turkey



Bennett King

(Australia's U-19 cricket coach)
"Everything about their game was perfect. I can't remember a game where we have been so completely dominated."
After his side were trounced by Zimbabwe in the Under-19 World Cup.

Forlorn hosts



SPORTS REPORTER

A Super League berth remained elusive as ever for Bangladesh when they were thrown out of the main competition of the ICC U/19 Cricket World Cup by India at the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) yesterday.

It was an emphatic 131-run victory in the end for Robin Singh's charges in Group C's last match after the home side capitulated to

ladesh skipper Ashiqur Rahman had won the toss and put India. It was a strange decision considering the history of the pitches at the BNS where every team wants to bat first for their fitness and the tendency to get slower and lower with the progress of the game.

Indian openers Shikhar Dhawan and Robin Uthappa went about their business in resounding fashion to further establish that fact. Left-hander Dhawan, who already had an unbeaten hundred to his name scored against Scotland, brought up his second ton with a 148-ball 120 adorned with 14 fours.

Uthappa was the other notable

scorer with 59 off 63 deliveries and hit nine boundaries.

The two scored at a fantastic pace and never let the Bangladeshi pacemen settle down. Opening bowlers Nazmul Hossain and Rubaiyat Huq were treated with disdain and were smacked to all parts of the ground. Even fast bowler Shahadat Hossain Rajib, so impressive in two earlier games, found the going tough against the marauding Indians who put on 135 before Uthappa was lbw to left-arm spinner Nadif Chowdhury in the 25th over.

India lost captain Ambati
SEE PAGE 14 COL 4



S DHAWAN ... m-o-m

178 all out in 40.3 overs chasing India's 309 for seven disappointing the expectant holiday crowd of around 30,000.

Only a win yesterday would have taken Bangladesh to the Super League but instead, they will now have to settle for the Plate competition that features the bottom two teams from the four groups. India topped the Group with three straight wins while New Zealand finished second to move into the next round.

It all went wrong after Bang-

FINAL STANDINGS

(Played, won, lost, tied, no result, run rate, points)

Group	Team	P	W	L	T	NR	RR	Pts
Group A	Sri Lanka	3	2	1	0	0	+1.27	4
	Zimbabwe	3	2	1	0	0	+1.03	4
	Australia	3	2	1	0	0	-0.31	4
	Canada	3	0	3	0	0	-2.50	0
Group B	England	3	2	1	0	0	+1.58	4
	S. Africa	3	2	1	0	0	+0.61	4
	Nepal	3	2	1	0	0	-0.11	4
	Uganda	3	0	3	0	0	-2.17	0
Group C	India	3	3	0	0	0	+3.13	6
	New Zealand	3	2	1	0	0	+1.16	4
	Bangladesh	3	1	2	0	0	+0.17	2
	Scotland	3	0	3	0	0	-5.47	0
Group D	Pakistan	3	3	0	0	0	+3.17	6
	West Indies	3	2	1	0	0	-0.03	4
	Ireland	3	1	2	0	0	-0.34	2
	PNG	3	0	3	0	0	-2.81	0

* The top two teams from each group qualify for the Super League while the bottom two teams play in the Plate Championship.

Super League Group One

Sri Lanka, South Africa, India, West Indies

Super League Group Two

Zimbabwe, England, New Zealand, Pakistan

Plate Championship Group One (for 3rd/4th placed teams)

Australia, Nepal, Scotland, Papua New Guinea

Plate Championship Group Two

Canada, Uganda, Bangladesh, Ireland

Brothers further clear

SPORTS REPORTER

Leaders Brothers Union ran away with a 4-1 victory over Victoria Sporting Club yesterday, but the Western Union Premier Division Football League match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur was shrouded in questions.

With the 'big win', the high-spending Gopibagh side continued their march towards clinching their maiden Premier League title as they raised their tally to 33 points from 13 matches, eight points clear from their nearest rivals Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra.

The match looked to be alright until the 37th minute when Victoria's Ugandan striker Idris was taken off the field by team officials citing injury. In the minute before, Idris was fouled by Brothers mid-fielder Iqbal inside their box.

The offence was ignored by referee Tazul Islam, and although Idris was felled, he appeared to be fine after he stood up. He was seen arguing the decision to withdraw him with the officials.

The tall striker was instrumental behind his team's counter attacks until that moment and his withdrawal kicked up a fuss among the spectators that the match had been fixed. And once he was off the pitch, it was an all Brothers affair.

Fresh from their draw against another giants Muktiyoddha three days ago, Victoria, powered by their foreigners dependant forward line-

up, started the match in good spirit and maintained the same pace against the star-studded Brothers.

Brothers went in front as early as in the 4th minute when mid-fielder Arman Mia placed the ball home from a corner from Firoz Mahmud Hossain Titoo.

However, it was Idris who restored

parity in the 35th minute. He received a cross from his Liberian striking partner Doli inside the opponents' danger zone and released a fiery right-footer which custodian Biplab had nothing to do with.

The first session finished here. In the second-half, Brothers' Ugandan

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR

Brothers Union's Alfaz Ahmed dodging past a sliding Victoria custodian Tutul only to shoot wide during their Western Union Premier Division Football League encounter at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Pollock almost did it



REUTERS, Wellington

Scott Styris blitzed 45 off 27 balls and then removed both of South Africa's openers to set up a nail-biting New Zealand victory in their rain-affected third one-day international on Friday.

South Africa looked sure of victory twice in the game only for Styris to thwart them each time as the New Zealanders scraped home by five runs to go 2-1 up in the six-match series.

Yet Graeme Smith's side almost stole the match in the last over when, with 27 needed, Shaun Pollock, batting with a runner after injuring his groin, hit three sixes off four balls.

A fourth maximum off the last delivery would have seen them home but Kyle Mills held his nerve to produce a near-perfect leg-stump yorker which Pollock just kept out.

New Zealand captain Stephen

Fleming admitted he was worried during Pollock's assault.

"I backed Kyle Mills to bowl it and I knew Shaun Pollock was a good clean hitter. Kyle did it for us and he will come away a better player at bowling at the death."

New Zealand, put in after the match was cut back to 38 overs a side after a two-and-a-half hour delay, looked in trouble after losing three top-order wickets for seven runs to slip to 170 for five late in their innings.

But Styris and wicketkeeper Brendon McCullum came together and put on an undefeated stand of 84 at 10 runs an over to take the final score to 254.

The real fireworks came in the last four overs, when the pair hit five sixes and six fours in scoring 69 off those final 24 deliveries. Makhaya Ntini's last over went for 16.

"Scotty and Brendon won the game for us without a doubt," Fleming said. "That score would have psychologically put South Africa back."

Smith, meanwhile, was unim-

pressed by his side's efforts. "I think we bowled rubbish today. We didn't bowl well enough from the start. We have no excuses at all," he said.

Man-of-the-match Styris, favouring the straight and mid-wicket boundaries, hit four sixes and one four. McCullum hammered a 24-ball 41 not out.

Michael Papps had made 67 off 100 balls at the top of the order, but South Africa's hopes took a huge blow when strike-bowler Pollock was injured after an exemplary spell of 5.5 overs costing eight runs.

The South Africans, however, looked in control again after reaching 134 for one from 20 overs only for Styris, who had earlier dismissed Smith for 43, to strike again by removing Herschelle Gibbs for 69.

That prompted a collapse as five wickets fell for 19 runs.

SCOREBOARD

Full scoreboard of the third one-day international between New Zealand and South Africa on Friday:
SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

McInnes comes to his senses

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh U/19 coach Richard McInnes found himself at the centre of a media outrage after the loss against India yesterday.

The Australian was faced with a volley of questions from the aggrieved local sports correspondents about his handling of the youth team which totally disappointed the home supporters in the U/19 World Cup.

When he was asked to evaluate his own performance since taking over in October 2003, a period in which Bangladesh stooped to its lowest ebb when India bowled them out for 34 in an Asian youth competition late last year, McInnes at one stage got incensed and accused the reporters of a Bengali daily of making a personal attack.

When it was pointed out to him that at a media conference journalists can ask anything, McInnes got even more furious and stormed out of the room.

Thankfully, the coach came to his senses later and unconditionally apologised for his outburst.

In a press release, the 29-year-old said: "I extend my profound and sincere apology to the media for my emotional reaction at the post match press conference today."

He also sought understanding from everybody concerned with Bangladesh cricket.

"I apologise unequivocally to all the media it was an emotional reaction resulting from my desire to see our team do well."

McInnes has been at odds with the local sports media from the very beginning of his tenure and has often reacted sharply to criticisms of his training method.

18,000 tickets sold in Khulna!

QUAZI AMANULLAH

A total of 18,000 tickets were sold for the 16,000-capacity Birshreshtha Shaheed Matiur Rahman Stadium before yesterday's ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup match between West Indies and Pakistan.

It was alleged that tickets priced Tk 15 and Tk 30 respectively were sold on the black market for Tk 50 and 100.

But venue manager Major Hasan said a total of 18,000 including 2,500 VIP tickets were released for sale on match day.

Still hundreds of cricket-crazy fans couldn't enter the stadium because, only those spectators with special 'passes' were given priority.

However, contacted Bangladesh Cricket Board president Ali Asghar was more than happy seeing the good crowd at the newly built stadium.

"I'm really delighted that the people here are so passionate about the game. It will help the stadium become Test venue."

He assured that the ticket touts would be firmly dealt with in future.

AK High, R'ullah reach last four



SPORTS REPORTER

Captains stole the show as AK High and Rahmatullah Model High romped into the Dhaka Zone semifinals of the Standard Chartered 22nd National School Cricket Championship with facile wins in the quarterfinals at different city venues yesterday.

AK High thrived on an all-round performance from captain Mohammad Jewel as they handed Loretto a massive 126-run defeat at the Mirpur Outer Stadium.

Jewel hit 75 to guide his side pile up 227 all out in 32.5 overs after deciding to bat with Mohammad Rony making second highest 33.

Chasing the challenging total, Loretto managed only 101 runs before being bowled out in 23.3 overs.

At the Residential Model School ground, a quick-fire 65 by skipper Motaleb steered Rahmatullah Model High to an eight-wicket victory over Progoti High.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 8



Western Union Premier Division Football League
Abahani vs Arambagh (3:00 pm)
Muktiyoddha vs Mohammedan (5:00 pm)
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Mirpur

It's Streak's day



REUTERS, Harare

Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak followed his 10th Test half-century

with an early wicket on the second day of the first Test against Bangladesh on Friday.

When bad light ended play early, Bangladesh were 14 for one in reply to Zimbabwe's 441.

Zimbabwe, who resumed their



PHOTO: AFP
Bangladesh spinner Mohammad Rafique is ecstatic after trapping Zimbabwe's Tatenda Taibu lbw on the second day of the first Test in Harare yesterday.

first innings at 175 for four, built their handsome total on the back of six half-centuries.

All-rounder Sean Ervine top-scored with a Test career best of 86 from 197 balls with 11 fours compiled in more than four hours at the crease.

Left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique was the pick of the Bangladesh bowlers, taking four for 121 from 57 overs.

Tatenda Taibu and Ervine took their overnight fifth-wicket stand to 125 before Taibu was trapped in front by the slow bowler in the 12th over before lunch.

Taibu scored 59, his third half-century, in almost three hours at the crease during which he faced 126 balls and hit nine fours.

Taibu and Ervine unsettled the Bangladeshis with their contrasting approaches.

The bustling Taibu scored most of his runs with nudging strokes behind square on both sides of the wicket.

The left-handed Ervine, meanwhile, scored all round the ground, and hit six of his boundaries through the covers.

Ervine was out in the ninth over after lunch when he pushed tentatively at a delivery from medium pacer Tapash Baisya and was smartly caught behind by Hannan Sarker at second slip.

An hour before tea Andy Blignaut, on seven, advanced down the pitch to a ball from Rafique and was stumped by Khaled Mashud.

The aggressive Gavin Ewing then joined Streak, and together they added 106 for the eighth-wicket in a stand that drained the fight out of the tourists.

Medium-pacer Mushfiqur Rahman ended the partnership when Streak flicked at a leg-side delivery and was smartly caught behind by Mashud for 68.

Streak batted for 3-1/2 hours, faced 178 balls and hit seven fours and a six.

Ray Price scored nine before
SEE PAGE 14 COL 2

Aussies out, SA thru'

Nepal fairytale ends



SPORTS REPORTER

Australia's reign as youth kings ended despite a tense two-run victory over Sri Lanka in their final group match of the Fifth ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup champions yesterday.

However, South Africa, the runners-up of the last edition, earned their place in the Super League by beating England by one wicket at the Divisional Stadium in Chittagong.

The result was heartbreak for Nepal who were banking on an English victory.

The Australians, who finished equal on points in Group A with their opponents and Zimbabwe, will now feature in one of the Plate Championship tables.

Pakistan topped Group D after crushing West Indies by 163 runs at the Khulna Divisional Stadium. Both teams had already qualified for the Super League.

AUSTRALIA V SRILANKA

Australia put into bat struggled to make 186 for nine in 50 overs. Left-hander Ahilken Beadle scored highest 36 off 75 balls and Moises Henriques

hit 30 off 46 balls.

Lankan pacer Suraj Mohammad claimed three for 37 and skipper Parveez Maroof also claimed two wickets for 25 runs.

In their chase of a modest target, the Lankans ended up scoring 184 all out in 49.1 overs.

The Lankan skipper kept in his side in the hunt with 56 off 90 balls while all-rounder K Silva made 46.

ENGLAND V SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa, despite its shocking defeat to Nepal, qualified by the narrowest of margins.

Their win meant Nepal, who had defeated the Proteas in an earlier game, missed out on net run rate.

The Himalayan team will however be staying a few more days in the port city to play in the Plate Championship with defending champions Australia, Papua New Guinea and Scotland in Group One starting next Sunday.

It was a must-win situation for the South Africans before the game and they survived thanks to a brilliant half-century by opener Vaughn van Jaarsveld.

The southpaw stayed nearly three hours on the crease to take his team to the target.

Electing to bat, England made a modest 189 in 48.3 overs with Steven Michael Davies, the wicketkeeper,

scoring 63.

Jaarsveld adjudged man of the match for his patient 76 off 108 balls that also featured one big six and 10 boundaries.

"A sudden middle-order collapse caused our downfall," said the English coach Robert Andrew Pick during post-match briefing.

His South African counterpart Russell Domingo, however, believed that it was the good planning and homework that brought the win eventually.

"It was a do-or-die situation. So we stuck to a certain strategy and it worked."

WEST INDIES V PAKISTAN
There was nothing at stake for the two big guns except to find out who would top the group at Khulna.

And it was Pakistan who had more appetite than their opponents as pacer Riaz Afridi destroyed the West Indians with a five-wicket haul.

The Caribbean cricketers chasing 252 for victory crashed to 88 all out in 27.3 overs.

Afridi finished with 5-28.

Earlier the Pakistan total revolved round Jahangir Mirza's 104-ball 92 as they eventually finished at 251-9.



PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER
UPSIDE DOWN: England Under-19's Steven Davies, who scored highest 63, is clean bowled by South Africa's Vincenzo Pennazza during their ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup at the Divisional Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

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

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

3. Who won the Pan Pacific Open title?
Davenport Clijsters

4. Who won the Tokyo Marathon?
Njenga Osaki

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

Big three in action today

SPORTS REPORTER

While Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra will be trying to return to winning ways to keep their hopes alive, revenge will be on Mohammedan Sporting Club's mind when the two giants meet in their return match of the Western Union Premier Division Football League today.

The clash of the titans kicks off at 5pm at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Abahani Krira Chakra will also be playing today as they take on Arambagh Krira Sangsad in a crucial match at the same venue that starts at 3pm.