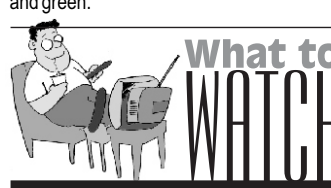




Did U Know?

The Olympic flag has a plain white background with no border. In the centre are five rings forming two rows of three rings above and two below. The rings of the upper row are, from left to right, blue, black and red. The rings of the lower row are yellow and green.



What to WATCH

- BTV**
ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup Super League Second Semifinal England vs West Indies Live at 1:30 pm
- ESPN**
Football Focus Live at 6:30 pm
Sportscentre Sport News Live at 8:30 pm
- STAR Sports**
New Zealand vs South Africa Sixth ODI Live at 4:57 am
Sportsline Sport News Live at 8:00 pm



TALK TURKEY



Imran Khan
(Pakistan cricket legend)
"Akhtar and Sami are the two most destructive bowlers in modern day cricket and if they come up to expectations they can win the series for Pakistan because bowlers win Tests"

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 207
Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm March 12, 2004 and draw

- How many runs did Bangladesh score in the first innings of the first Test against Zimbabwe?

| | | |
|-----|-----|-----|
| 331 | 400 | 390 |
|-----|-----|-----|
- Who is the first Zimbabwe bowler to have claimed a hat-trick in Test?

| | | |
|----------|---------|-------|
| Blignaut | Olonga | Hondo |
| Hayden | Ponting | |
- Who was man-of-the-match in the second ODI between Sri Lanka and Australia?

| | |
|--------|---------|
| Hewitt | Federer |
| Vas | |
- Who clinched the Rotterdam World tennis title?

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
|--|--|

Name

Class

School Address

Phone: (if any)

R'mati cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, R'mati
Joyesh Smriti Cricket Club recorded a seven-wicket victory over Forest Colony Cricket Club in the final of the Shaheed Raju Smriti cricket tournament at the Old Court Building ground in Rangamati yesterday.
Batting first Forest Colony collected 93 after being all out.
In reply, Joyesh Smriti made 94 for three with Javed's unbeaten 39.
Javed was adjudged man-of-the-match.
A total of eight teams took part in the tournament.



PHOTO: STAR
Bangladesh's Enamul Haque raises his arms to celebrate taking the wicket of Omer Hossain of Scotland during their Plate Championship semifinal of the ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup at the Divisional Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

Plate Championship Bowlers take hosts to final

"I have to be a happy man by today's performance. Our bowling and fielding was very good but the batting still requires improvement in order to be competitive. If we bowl as well as we have done in recent matches and our batsmen find form there is no reason why we can't win the final," said Bangladesh coach Richard McInnes after the game.

McInnes' confidence in his bowlers and accuracy of pace bowler Nazmul Hossain and left-arm spinner Enamul Haque in particular. Seven Scots were bowled as the bowlers maintained an immaculate line and length.

Nazmul was adjudged man-of-the-match for his four for 11 in a devastating spell of 6.3 overs. His experienced colleague Enamul took 3 for 31.

The fielding was top brass too but one moment stood out. Scotland were 102 for eight and still fighting it

with captain Kyle Coetzer (41 off 71 balls) in a defiant mood. But Abul Bashar at gully made a diving stop with his right arm at full stretch and rocketed it back to wicketkeeper Dhiman Ghosh who shattered the stumps with Coetzer short of his crease.

Earlier, Bangladesh failed to build worthwhile partnerships as none of the top order batters continued after getting set.

The best stand was 37 between openers Nafees Iqbal and Naeem Islam. Five batsmen crossed 20 but Abul Bashar's 29 was the highest individual score.

SCOREBOARD
Scorecard of the ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup Plate Championship second semifinal match between Bangladesh vs Scotland at the

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
Bangladesh breezed into the Plate final of the ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup with a 91-run thrashing of Scotland in the second semifinal at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

But it was not a plain and simple cruise as the home team's batsmen struggled on a sluggish wicket and were bowled out for 197 with a ball to spare. The bowlers however made up for the batting lapse by skittling out the Scots for 106 in 33.3 overs.

Bangladesh now go on to face Australia in the final at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium in Narayanganj on Thursday.

'It's more than a Sachin-Shoaib competition'

REUTERS, Karachi
Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar says it would be wrong to view the ice-breaking series against India as a duel between him and leading India batsman Sachin Tendulkar.

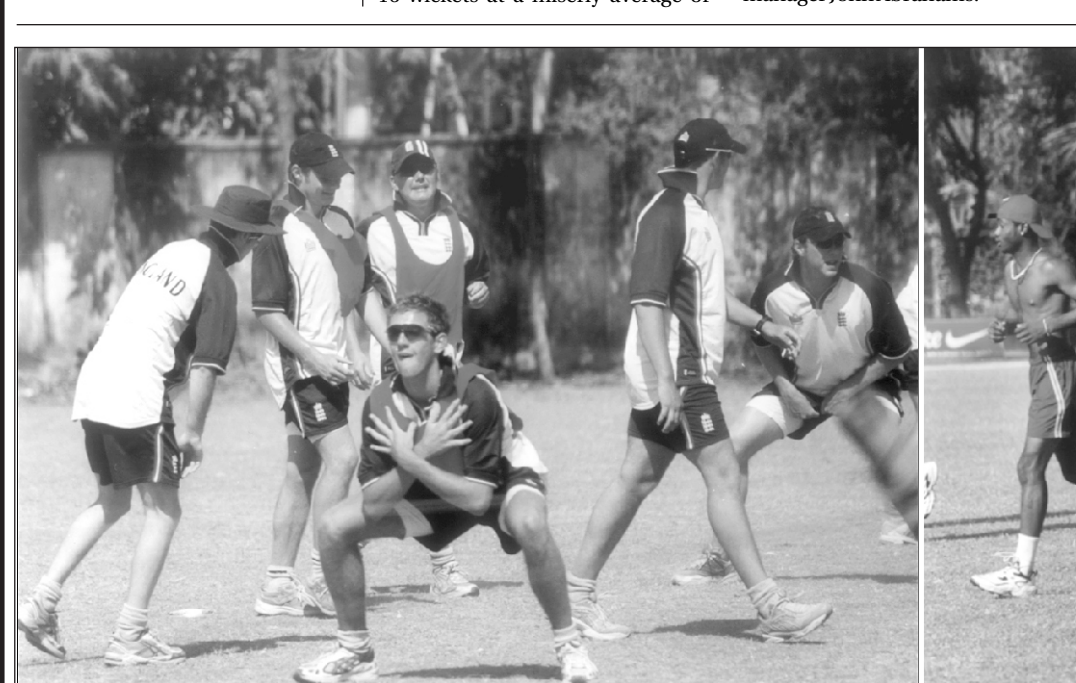
"The media may bill it as a 'Shoaib vs Tendulkar' contest, but this series is much more than that. We have to go at all the Indian batsmen if we want to win the series," Akhtar told this news agency on Monday.

"If we play as a team we will win. Cricket is definitely a team game although individuals might dominate it," the 28-year-old added.

Pakistan and India play five one-day matches and three Tests, starting with the first one-dayer in Karachi on March 13. The Indians have not played any Tests in Pakistan in 14 years.

In the 2003 World Cup in South Africa, Tendulkar belted 98 runs from 75 balls to lead India to a six-wicket win over Pakistan with Akhtar going for 72 runs in his 10 overs.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1



A combo picture shows players of England (L) and West Indies warm up at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium and Mohakhali DOHS ground respectively yesterday. The two sides meet in the second semifinal of the ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

Zimbabwe A arrive on March 10

SPORTS REPORTER
The Bangladesh A team will be announced tomorrow to play two four-day and five limited-over matches against their Zimbabwean counterparts.

Zimbabwe A will arrive in Bangladesh on March 10.

Chief selector Faruque Ahmed said yesterday that players would be chosen based on the performance of Bangladesh Under-19 team as well as those taking part in the National League.

"I think a week-long preparation will be good enough to shape the squad before the tour starts."

"The Board will select a captain and coach after getting the list from us," added the former Bangladesh captain.

He also said that the Zimbabweans would open their 27-day tour against Bangladesh Under-23 in a three-day practice match at the Fatullah Stadium on March 10.

Most of the matches will take place at newly built stadiums across the country except the final limited-overs match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on April 6.

ITINERARY
Mar 12-14: 3-dayer against Bangladesh Under-23 (Fatullah)
Mar 17-20: 4-dayer at Rajshahi.
Mar 23-26: 4-dayer at Bogra.
Mar 28: 1st limited-over match at Bogra.
Mar 30: 2nd limited-over match at Bogra.
Apr 2: 3rd limited-over match at Khulna.
Apr 4: 4th limited-over match at Khulna.
Apr 6: 5th limited-over match at Dhaka.

NCL final round from tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER
The title-deciding final round of the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea Fifth National Cricket League starts at three different venues across the country from tomorrow.

Dhaka will take on Khulna at Jessore while Sylhet host Rajshahi at the local stadium and Chittagong travel to Barisal to play the limited-overs matches first. They start the four-day encounters at the same venues from Thursday.

While Chittagong and Rajshahi will be looking for the one-day title, Dhaka and Sylhet will be gunning for the four-day glory against their respective opponents.

Chittagong top the one-day table with 14 points, only two points ahead of their nearest rivals Rajshahi. Dhaka and Sylhet have already crashed out of the race with eight points each. Khulna and Barisal have secured only six points apiece.

On the other hand, Dhaka and Sylhet go into the last round jointly leading the four-day table with 36 points each. Holders Khulna and Rajshahi are following them with 24 points each. Both Chittagong and Barisal have 18 points after the penultimate round.

Among the bowlers, right-arm pacer Lionel Baker has picked up 12 wickets. However a shin injury makes him doubtful for the big match.

Team manager Roland Sampath said a decision to include Baker would be made in the morning.

West Indies will also be relying on Ravi Rampaul, the only bowler with one-day international experience. He is back to full fitness after recovering from a virus.

But their opponents were not concerned.

"We've seen Ravi in action before on TV. We'll approach this game in the same way as all of our other matches," said England team manager John Abrahams.

DAY'S EVENT

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

ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup Super League Second Semifinal
England vs West Indies (1:30 pm)
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Clubs or devil's den?

SPORTS REPORTER
The sports community of the country woke up on Monday in a deep sense of mourning seeing almost every newspaper with screaming headlines of Dhanmondi Club president Khairul Anwar Piaru's violent death.

Piaru, a former footballer and well-respected organizer, was assassinated on Sunday night when he was leaving the club tent.

Although the killing spree has become part and parcel of city life, the small sports fraternity somehow managed to stay clear of the blood-

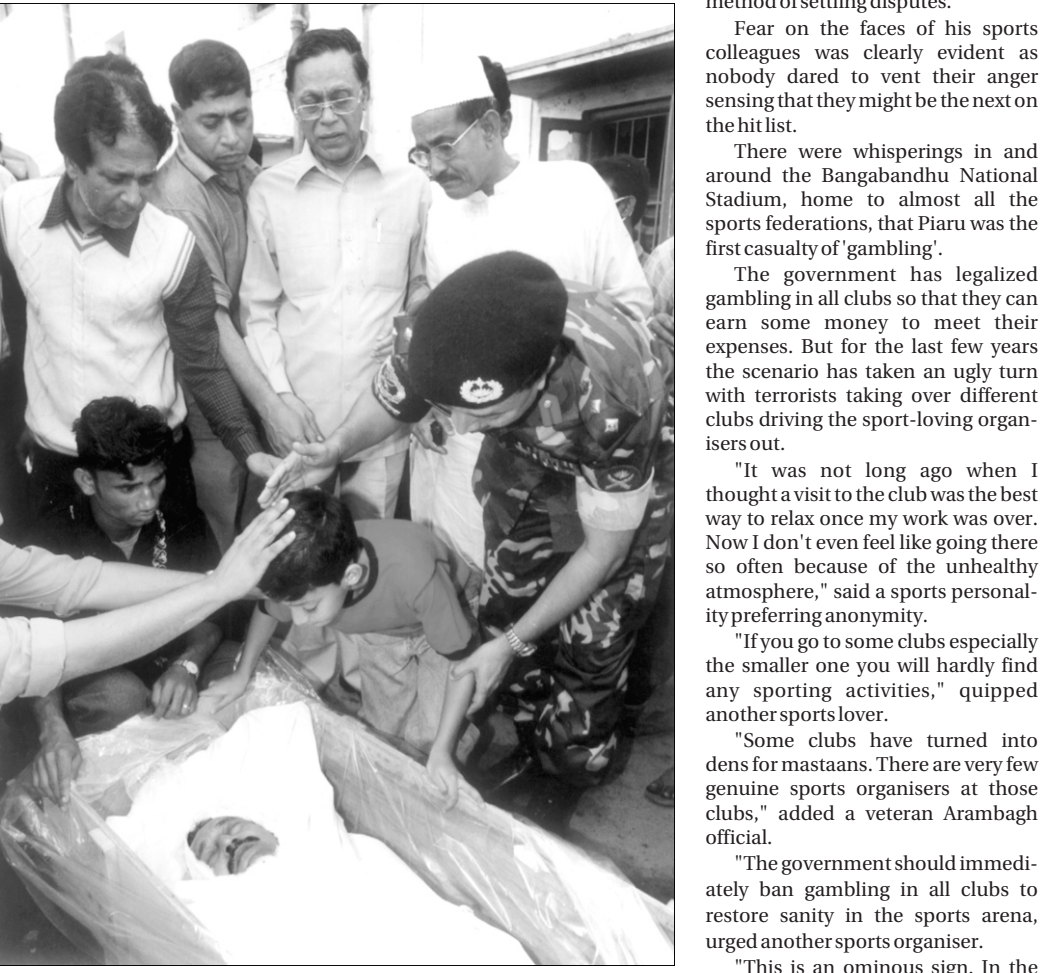


PHOTO: STAR
The little son of Khairul Anwar Piaru sees the body of his father, president of Dhanmondi Club who was murdered in the city on Sunday night, at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue yesterday. Standing next to him is Piaru's younger brother Colonel Anwarul Azim.

Series goes to Zimbabwe

AFP, Bulawayo
Zimbabwe won the two-match Test series against Bangladesh 1-0 as the second Test fizzled out in the fifth and final day here at Queens Sports Club on Monday.

Zimbabwe batsman Stuart Carlisle did his best to live up to proceedings as he completed his second Test century with a 103, including a six and nine fours and he figured in a second wicket partnership of 129 with Trevor Gripper, who made 65.

Bangladesh, resuming from their Saturday 88-5, moved in the morning session to a first innings total of 168.

At the close of play Zimbabwe were 210 for the loss of two wickets, giving them a moral victory if little else except the opportunity for some practice.

In the end Zimbabwe's 183-run victory over Bangladesh in Harare last week proved crucial.

A series of five one-day internationals begins between the two teams begins in Bulawayo on Saturday before moving to Harare for the final three.

The two countries have met 10 times previously in ODI's, with Zimbabwe having won them all.

Carlisle's innings was the highlight of a match curtailed to only one and a half days through rain. There was so much bad weather on and before the first two scheduled days, and again on the fourth, that much of the outfield was left unplayable.

Carlisle was never troubled by the Bangladesh attack and he offered no chances whatever. Gripper also looked safe until he mistimed a hook and gave a high catch to Khaled Mashud off Tapash Baishya.

No man of the match was named, but it might have gone

Anil, Ajit miss Pak ODIs

AFP, Kolkata
Leg-spinner Kumble and seamer Agarkar were omitted from the 15-man touring squad announced on Monday, but were expected to be fit by the time the three-Test series begins on March 28.

The team for the Test matches will be picked on March 22, Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Karunakaran Nair told reporters after a three-hour meeting of the selection committee here.

Kumble, who suffered a shoulder injury on the recent tour of Australia, is India's most successful one-day bowler with 315 wickets.

Agarkar is recovering from a shin injury, also sustained in Australia.

However, seamer Zaheer Khan and middle-order batsman Mohammad Kaif returned to the squad after missing the one-day series in Australia due to injuries.

Rohan Gavaskar, son of legendary opener Sunil, who toured Australia in place of Kaif, was axed.

With Kumble out of action and off-

ONE-DAY SQUAD

Sourav Ganguly (captain), Rahul Dravid (vice-captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag, Venkatesh Laxman, Yuvraj Singh, Mohammad Badani, Hemang Badani, Parthiv Patel, Zaheer Khan, Irfan Pathan, Laxmipathy Balaji, Murali Kartik, Ramesh Powar, Ashish Nehra (last named subject to fitness).
Coach: John Wright.

spinner Harbhajan Singh recuperating from surgery on his bowling hand, India will go to Pakistan without its two leading spinners.

Unleashed Mumbai off-spinner Ramesh Powar was picked after a rich haul in domestic cricket and will share the spin attack with left-arm Murali Kartik.

Zaheer's new ball partners will be Irfan Pathan, Laxmipathy Balaji and Ashish Nehra.

Nehra's selection was subject to his passing a fitness test during a domestic first-class match this week, Nair said.

Captain Sourav Ganguly leads a strong batting line-up that includes one-day cricket's leading run-maker Sachin Tendulkar, the dependable duo of Rahul Dravid and Venkatesh Laxman and the swashbuckling Virender Sehwag and Yuvraj Singh.

Young wicketkeeper Parthiv Patel retained his place in the side despite a mediocre display in Australia.

The Indian cricket board's joint secretary Ratnakar Shetty will be the team's administrative manager, John Wright will be the coach and Amrit Mathur the media officer.

BCCI chief Jagmohan Dalmiya said the team will not be accompanied by a bowling coach, but former world record holder Kapil Dev will assist the selected bowlers during the three-day conditioning camp to be held at the Eden Gardens here from Sunday.

The squad will be briefed by