


Did U Know?

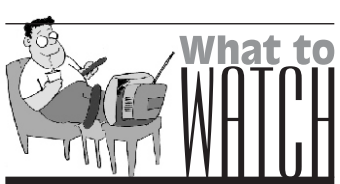
Slazenger has provided every tennis ball for The Championships Wimbledon since 1902.



TALK TURKEY



Wasim Akram
(Pakistan cricket legend)
"Playing against India means pressure and I have told the players to enjoy the pressure and try to excel"




What to WATCH

ESPN

Bangladesh vs Zimbabwe
First ODI
Live at 1:20 pm
Primera Liga
Valencia vs Deportivo
Live at 2:30 am (Sunday)

STAR Sports

English Premier League
Birmingham City vs Bolton Wanderers
Live at 8:55 pm
Primera Liga
Real Madrid vs Racing Santander
Live at 12:30 am (Sunday)



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

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

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

Blignaut	Olonga	Hondo
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3. Who was man-of-the-match in the second ODI between Sri Lanka and Australia?

Hewitt	Ferrero	Federer
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4. Who clinched the Rotterdam World tennis title?

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Name

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

School Address

Phone: (If any)

BSFNA cricket
RU CORRESPONDENT

Katakali Cricket Academy defeated Hit or Miss by three-wickets in the Bangladesh Sports Foundation of North America (BSFNA) cricket tournament at the Rajshahi College playground yesterday.

Winning the toss, Hit or Miss decided to bat first and collected 126 runs in 40 overs after being all out.

In reply, Katakali reached the target of 127 runs losing seven wickets in 47 overs.

Shakil of Katakali was adjusted man-of-the-match.

SCORES IN BRIEF

HIT OR MISS : 126 all out in 40 overs (Anwarul 26 , Tusher 19, Golam 19; Golam 3/25, Joney 2/38)

KATAKALI CRICKET ACADEMY: 128 for seven wickets in 47 overs (Milon 22 not out, Mahmud 22 ; Shakil 4/32, Sumon 3/15)

Good, but could be better



LENIN GANI

Yes, Pakistan have won the ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup, but in reality the tournament showed it was more than just a development-oriented competition. Maybe there were no real stars that emerged in the end, but it is hoped that the organisers of the sixth edition take pains to make it more meaningful, or in other words it becomes the breeding ground of the players who will go on to rule the world.

However, it will not be unfair to say that the fifth edition was an overwhelming success story for Bangladesh cricket in terms of its organisation and handling of the biggest international sporting event since the ICC mini World Cup in 1998.

The 16-team juvenile meet presented an interesting challenge to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on how to accommodate such a vast fixture in more than three weeks since it started on February 10. The solution was to devise a method of having matches played at four different zones of the country. So, the BCB decided to upgrade and in some cases build totally new infrastructure. The picturesque Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra and the Divisional Stadium in Chittagong were two such marvellous venues made for the occasion.

As a result of the Board's initiative of not having games all played traditionally at Dhaka, there was packed houses at each of the six venues no matter the quality of the opposition or that the home side

was not on show on that particular day.

Unfortunately, the same success couldn't inspire our young Tigers to compete in the Super League much to the dismay of the cricket-loving public. The hopes and dreams of a nation vanished after Richard McInnes' boys lost to New Zealand and India in the group stages.

They however made up for the non-appearance in the Super League by bringing glory on a Plate after handing surprise finalists Australia an eight-run defeat.

The U-19 World Cup is not only worth remembering from that point of view. There have been plenty of characters and matches to reflect on throughout the competition.

If unpredictability is the most significant aspect of the game then Nepal deserves kudos for bringing South Africa down to earth. The team from the tiny Himalayan kingdom, who has only recently taken up the sport, really rocked the juvenile World Cup boat.

But it was Zimbabwe who designed the downfall of Australia thanks to a remarkable spell of 6-31 by fast bowler Tinashe Panyangara. It was history repeated by the southern African nation since their senior team's upset of the Australians at the 1983 World Cup in England.

India were going great guns until they found their final path blocked by eventual winners Pakistan.

But India's Shikhar Dhawan stole the batting headlines with three big hundreds despite the fact his side failed to reach the final. The Delhi southpaw amassed 505 runs in seven matches before walking away with the glittering 'man of the tournament' trophy. He was also instrumental in his side's mammoth 425 against Scotland, the

second highest team total in the history of youth World Cups.

After India it was England that looked like potential champions. But their semifinal meeting with West Indies did not live up to expectation. It was a real shame when one thinks that England seemed to be the most consistent side in the showcase event. The reason for the disappointment was captain Alastair Cook himself who until that game was showing maturity beyond his years, but suddenly he lost the ability to middle the ball something that he had been doing so perfectly on way to becoming the second highest run-getter with 383 runs.

Surprisingly Sri Lanka was another team that fell away unnoticed. The only solace for them was the individual performances of Kosala Kulasekara who picked up two successive man-of-the-match awards and a match-winning hundred by wicketkeeper-batsman Upul Tharanga against South Africa at the Fatullah Stadium in Narayanganj.

The lightweights also had their day under the sun. Scotland showed they too had great resolve. Hit for sixes left, right and centre, the plucky Scots demonstrated the strength within. A few days after being knocked over by Australia for the lowest score of the meet, 22, they picked themselves up and beat Papua New Guinea.

Fellow British Isles team Ireland had a memorable time after giving West Indies a real scare in a high-scoring thriller in the group stages. But their fighting spirit deserted them in the next couple of games and so they were relegated to the lower rung the Plate competition.



MAN-OF-THE-MATCH: Pakistan's Asif Iqbal (L) responds to the crowd's applause after reaching his half-century against West Indies in the final of the ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

BD-Zim 1st ODI today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's batting will be the main concern when the Tigers start their one-day campaign against Zimbabwe in Bulawayo today.

But the first of the five one-day internationals maybe a curtailed affair after three days of heavy rain has affected the venue.

"Further rain has been forecast and a large part of the outfield is unplayable at the moment," said Bangladesh team manager MA Latif over telephone last night.

Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar, who was struck on the forearm during the team's final practice match on Wednesday, will lead the side.

"He is absolutely fit but we haven't finalised the team as yet," said Latif when this report was filed at 10.15 pm.

For the records Zimbabwe have won all ten matches between the two countries so far.

After the Test debacle Bangladesh fared no better in that one-day practice match being restricted to 96-5 in 28.3 overs before a rainstorm washed out play.

Mohammedan lose points

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club again dropped points in the Western Union Premier Division Football League when they were held to a goalless draw by Dhaka Wanderers Club at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The two sides had also drawn their first-leg encounter, 1-1, at the same venue.

With the outcome of the day, Mohammedan increased their tally to 25 points from 16 matches while the point Wanderers earned kept them afloat in the Premier Division. Their collection is now 19 points from 16 matches.

In the other match, Victoria Sporting Club registered an important solitary goal victory over bottom-placed Dhanmondi Club

Saqlain, Afridi recalled

AFP, Karachi



Pakistan Friday recalled popular all-rounder Shahid Afridi and experienced off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq to its 16-member squad for the first two one-day matches against India starting next week.

"We feel that we needed more all-rounders to cope against the Indian batting powerhouse and that's why we have included three all-rounders with Afridi top in it," Pakistan's chief selector Wasim Bari told AFP.

Indian players will arrive in Lahore Wednesday for their first tour of Pakistan in years, as relations between the nuclear-armed rivals thaw.

They play a warm-up match there on Thursday ahead of the first of five one-day matches in Karachi on March 13.

Wily off-spinner Saqlain has fallen out of favour with the selectors after playing against South Africa last year.

"Saqlain is handy in both forms of the game and has a good record

against India and we think this is the best side we could choose against India who are playing well in the one-day matches," said Bari, a former wicketkeeper and captain.

Saqlain, who also plays for English county Surrey, last year criticized coach Javed Miandad for omitting him and had to apologise before a disciplinary committee for his outburst.

The second one-day match will be played at Rawalpindi on March 16, the third in Peshawar on March 19, followed by two day-night matches in Lahore on March 21 and 23.

Afridi, who has played 176 one-day matches against India, said he would do his best to come good against India.

"I know the importance of playing against India and will do my best to come good and help the team win," said Afridi.

The 24-year-old holds the world record for the fastest century in a one-day match, scoring 100 runs off 37 balls against Sri Lanka in 1997.

Another all-rounder in the squad is Rana Naveedul Hassan, who played two one-day games in Sharjah last year.

Pacer Rao Iftikhar, the second highest wickettaker behind Hassan



ICC U/19 CRICKET WORLD CUP BANGLADESH 2004

FINAL SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the ICC U-19 Super League final between Pakistan and West Indies at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday:

PAKISTAN					
Latif st	Ramdin b	Bachan	20		
Zaheer	b	Bachan	33		
Mirza	c	Ramdin b	Khan	11	
Mahmood	st	Ramdin b	Bachan	10	
Iqbal	run out	(Bachan)	54		
Qadir	c	Matthew	Sebastian	42	
Fawad	c	Augustus	b	Rampaul	10
Haider	not out			23	
Afridi	b	Matthew		1	
Amjad	c	Ramdin b	Matthew	9	
Imran	not out			5	
Extras:	(lb-3, w-6, nb-3)			12	
Total:	(For 9 wks in 50 overs)			230	
Fall of wks:	1-53, 2-58, 3-79, 4-81, 5-178, 6-179, 7-195, 8-197, 9-211.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W	
Rampaul	10	0	54	1	
Matthew	10	2	35	2	
Simmons	2	0	25	0	
Bachan	10	0	34	3	
Khan	10	0	35	1	
Sebastian	8	0	44	1	
WESTINDIES					
Marshall	c	Haider	b	Mahmood	26
Maraj	run out			32	
Simmons	lbw	b	Mirza	5	
Fudadin	c	Qadir	b	Mirza	13
Ramdin	lbw	b	Afridi	36	
Augustus	run out			25	
Z Khan	c	Haider	b	Mahmood	10
Rampaul	not out			24	
Sebastian	run out			0	
Matthew	c	Haider	b	Mahmood	2
Bachan	run out			1	
Extras:	(b-4, lb-16, w-9, nb-2)			31	
Total:	(All out in 47.1 overs)			205	
Fall of wks:	1-69, 2-72, 3-84, 4-94, 5-144, 6-169, 7-197, 8-200, 9-203, 10-205.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W	
Afridi	6	0	39	1	
Imran	5	0	23	0	
Qadir	10	1	33	0	

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Halim gives Dhaka hope



ISPAHANI Mirzapore Tea

5th National Cricket League

SPORTS REPORTER

An unbeaten 91 by Halim Shah brought Dhaka back into contention in the title race with Sylhet at the end of the second day of their Ispahani Mirzapore Tea National Cricket League match yesterday.

Veteran right-hander Shah, who started the day six runs short of a half-century, steered Dhaka to finish on a huge total against holders Khulna, who were struggling at 141-6 at the Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jessore.

Meanwhile, Rajshahi made a spirited reply before being all out for 329. It gave Sylhet however a vital first innings lead of 42 at their home ground. And by stumps they increased it by a further 19 runs losing one wicket.

At the Barisal Stadium, Arif Ahmed (90) enabled Chittagong to take a first innings lead against the hosts.

DHAKA V KHULNA

Resuming on 258-6, Dhaka took their first innings 358-8 before declaring with Halim clobbering 14 boundaries in his unbeaten 91 off 213 balls. He got good support from Fahim Muntasir (29 off 49 balls) and Arifat Sunny (20 n.o off 69 balls).

Later Mahabubul Alam, Rashedul Haque and Mehrab Hossain each claimed two wickets to destroy Khulna's batting.

Tamim Bashir and Ahsanullah Hasan provided Khulna's innings some substance sharing 81 runs for the sixth wicket after the team slumped to 58-5.

Bashir was unbeaten on 49 while Hasan added 33 off 79 balls.

SYLHET V RAJSHAHI

A massive 174-run opening stand by the Islam brothers dashed Sylhet's hopes of taking a big first innings lead at the Sylhet Stadium.

Test cap Rafiqul was more aggressive in reaching fifty. He hit thirteen fours to score 82 while Raqibul smashed 72 off 123 balls with seven hits to the fence.

After the pair fell in the space of

eight balls, captain Nuruzzaman and Hasanuzzaman responded by putting on 60 runs for the third wicket as Rajshahi were all out for 329 in reply to Sylhet's 371.

The Rajshahi skipper was the third highest scorer with 61 off 117 while Hasan added 36 off 59 balls.

Spinner Ahmed Sadequ wrapped up the lower-half claiming four for 47 in 21.4 overs.

CHITTAGONG V BARISAL

Chittagong took a slim three-run first innings lead with three wickets in hand against Barisal.

Tariqul Islam grabbed four wickets as the port city team made 254-7 in 83 overs before stumps were drawn for the day.

Earlier Barisal added only one run to their overnight total before being all out for 251.

Monirul Islam and Yasin Arafat shared six wickets.

SCOREBOARD

Scorecards on the second day of

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1



Different club officials, players, coaches and organisers brought out a rally in the city yesterday to protest the killing of Khairul Anwar Piaru, president of Dhanmondi Club. Piaru was gunned down on February 29 night near his club.



DAY'S EVENT

Nat'l Cricket League (Day-3)

Barisal vs Chittagong
Venue: Barisal Stadium

Rajshahi vs Sylhet
Venue: Sylhet Stadium

Dhaka vs Khulna
Venue: Jessore Stadium

It's not study time

AFP, New Delhi



country on the tour of Pakistan.

sions for the duo, leaving them no option but drop a year at school.

India's first full tour of Pakistan in almost 15 years, which begins on March 10 and ends April 18, clashes with the school-leaving exams in which both Patel and Pathan were due to appear.

This is the third time that Patel, India's Test wicketkeeper, has been forced to bypass the exams to honour his cricketing commitments at national or international level.

Pathan, the promising left-arm

"It's not a difficult choice," said Patel. "I would prefer to play for my country any day, but studies are also important. Maybe I will pass next year."

Gujarat's education minister Anandiben Patel refused to entertain request from the players' families to allow them to take the exams after their return from Pakistan.

"There is no provision in the law for students to ask for a later date for their exams," the minister said.

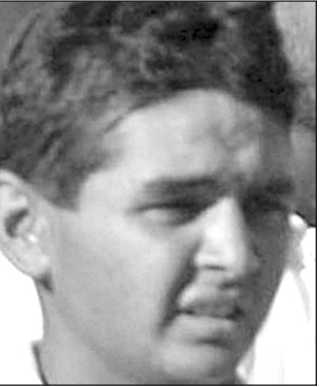
"If we make an exemption for these cricketers, lot of others will queue up citing various reasons other than sports."

The examinations, held all over India in March-April, have dampened the enthusiasm for students towards the long-awaited cricket series.

"It will be difficult to keep my eyes off the television, but my parents have told me to concentrate only on studies," said Delhi student Rajnish Gupta.

"It's not fair for India to play against Pakistan when the exams are on."

Sourav Ganguly's Team India is due to play five one-day internationals and three Test matches on their first full tour of Pakistan since 1989.



PARTHIV PATEL



IRFAN PATHAN

But education officials in the western state of Gujarat, where both the 19-year-olds hail from, have refused to make any conces-

seamer who made a big impression on his first senior tour to Australia earlier this year, also missed his final exams last year.