

soccer game was the 300 who showed up during the 1930 World Cup of soccer in





Shahid Afridi

(Pakistan cricket all-rounder) "I know the importance of playing against India and will do my best to come good and help the team win."



ESPN

Bangladesh vs Zimbabwe Second ODI Live at 1:20 pm

STAR Sports

Futbol Mundial Repeat at 2:00 pm



The Haily 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

. Who is the first Zimbabwe bowler to have claimed hattrick in Test?

Blignaut Olonga

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

Hayden Ponting Vaas 4. Who clinched the Rotterdam World tennis title?

Class...... Roll No..... School Address

Phone: (If any)



Football League

Jagarani (3:00 pm) Brothers Union vs Abahani

Stadium, Mirpur

Nat'l Cricket League (Day-4) Barisal vs Chittagong Venue: Barisal Stadium Rajshahi vs Sylhet Venue: Sylhet Stadium Dhaka vs Khulna Venue; Jessore Stadium

History beckons Brothers

SPORTS REPORTER



Union Premier Division Football League resumes today after a day's break with leaders Brothers Union taking on Abahani in what promises to be a title-deciding

The clash of the giants will kick off at the Sher-e-Bangla National

Smarting under a 1-0 defeat ngainst Sheikh Russell in their revious game, the big-spending copibagh outfit will be desperately ooking for a victory to celebrate heir maiden league triumph. Abahani on the other hand will play for pride as their title-hopes have already been put to rest. Although Brothers, who are

presently enjoying a five-point lead second-placed Russell, can afford a draw in their penultimate league game, but their officials wanted to settle the title issue before going into their final game against Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira

"We don't want to wait for the last game because you know this club has bitter memories in the past," said Brothers manager Amer Khan to The Daily Star Sport yes-

Brothers came close to winning the coveted title once in 1985 before a 3-2 defeat against Abahani broke their hearts in the final game when they needed only a draw.

But Amer said that his all-star team is determined to turn the tables round this time. "The players are determined to

settle the issue tomorrow evening. No doubt Abahani is a big name but they are definitely not in good spirit this time," he added. The first-leg encounter between the two teams produced an exciting 3-

It is true that Abahani has not

been playing good football since they knew that title race was over for them, but the pressure will certainly be on Brothers with Russell breathing down their

The Russell boys have become a revelation in this year's Premier League despite the fact that the best in the business

The unheralded Uttara outfit have already made their maiden appearance in top flight football a memorable one by making the second spot on their own, an achievement no other team had done before. They will take on relegation-bound Badda Jagarani in the first match of the day at 3pm. A victory will definitely keep their slim chances alive to pip Brothers

Tendulkar's appeal

CRICINFO, undated



Sachin Tendulkar has appealed to India's fans and media to not get carried away by the hype around the Pakistan tour.

Speaking to Reuters at a cricket lub in Bandra, Mumbai, Tendulkar said, "I want to tell the people to keep a balanced mind. here will be some good days, there will be some bad days.

"I think everyone should take responsibility," he continued. "Not only players, but spectators and the nedia too. Whatever anyone speaks or writes should be corectly thought out.

"Just as players are trying their

Africa's march through the Central

Districts (CDs) batting on the second day of the three-day tour

with a first class average of 55.6

from seven matches this season

was out for 99, caught and bowled

CDs declared their first innings closed at 239 for six, in reply to

South Africa's 286 for five declared

on Friday, at the dismissal of Englefield for 77.

for three in their second knock, with Herschelle Gibbs bowled by

Michael Mason for 26 and Jacques

Rudolph well caught at first slip by

Sinclair for 31. Five minutes before

stumps Martin van Jaarsveld went

The day began with CDs 36 for two, but the fiery Andre Nel quickly

removed overnight batsman Glen

Sulzberger, caught Boje for two

and the exciting prospect Ross

Sinclair and Englefield consolidated the innings, with Sinclair hitting a quiet 106-ball half-

century. His 99 came off 187 deliv-

eries with 15 boundaries and two

Nel was the pick of the South

The first Test begins in

Africa bowlers, taking three for 45

off 19 penetrating overs.

Hamilton on Wednesday.

At the close South Africa were 95

match on Saturday.

by Nicky Boje.

leg before for 19.

Taylor for 12.

Former Test player

best so that they can play a good game, everyone should try to enjoy the game well. This is my request.

A number of India players have spoken out in the last few days about how they are in a positive frame of mind, and are looking forward to the cricket without worrying about security.

Tendulkar, in similar mode, said that he was eager to just get on with the game. "It's a great feeling and I am really excited.

Part of the excitement, of course, came from the fact that India is touring Pakistan after a passage of more than 14 years. Tendulkar is the only member of the current Indian squad who played on that tour. "At that time I was 16 years old, I

was very young," he said. "Now, having been around for 14-and-ahalf years, it's exciting that I am getting an opportunity to play in Pakistan.'

As always before a major series, Tendulkar spent a lot of time in the nets preparing for the challenges ahead. He has spent the last ten days practising with a bowling

"This is better than 10-15 bowlers coming at you," said Tendulkar, after one of his sessions. "It becomes a different ball-game when you are playing against a machine because you don't see the bowler come charging in. Sometimes, even 70mph seems like 90 mph. It's much faster than

Interestingly, Tendulkar also practised playing reverse swing against the machine. "You can SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

CDs hold up **South Africa REUTERS,** Napier A fifth-wicket partnership of 151 between Mathew Sinclair and Jarrod Englefield halted South



Zimbabwe's grounds superintendent Noel Pick walks across the rain soaked covers of the pitch at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo yesterday.

1st ODI washed out

More showers likely today

Cricket

REUTERS, Bulawayo

The first one-day international between Zimbabwe and Bangladesh on Saturday was abandoned without a ball being bowled because of a waterlogged outfield.

A thunderstorm on Friday night and rain on Saturday morning rendered the ground unfit for play.

The second game in the fivematch series is scheduled to be played at the same venue on Sunday, but the Zimbabwe Cricket Union is facing the prospect of a econd successive washout.

It is doubtful whether any play will be possible on Sunday.

"A large part of the outfield is unplayable at the moment," said grounds superintendent Noel Pick. Rain also prevented play on three of the five days in last week's second Test.

Bangladesh have added former captain and all-rounder Khaled Mahmud to the Test side.

The match provides another pportunity for current skipper labibul Bashar to find form. His tour scores have been 10, 0, 0, 0, 12 and 13 not out (retired hurt).

His forearm was struck while

batting against Zimbabwe A, but an X-ray revealed no damage and he is

Zimbabwe have named a squad of 14 for the one-day internationals, the last three of which will be played in Harare.

Fast bowler Andy Blignaut is back after a thigh strain. He achieved Zimbabwe's first ever Test hattrick in the first Test in

Medium pacer Gary Brent is included but there is only one specialist opening batsman in Dion Ebrahim.

TEAMS

ZIMBABWE (from): Heath Streak (captain), Dion Ebrahim, Stuart Carlisle, Grant Flower, Sean Ervine, Tatenda Taibu, Travis Friend, Andy Blignaut, Barney Rogers, Ray Price, Douglas Hondo, Gary Brent, Stuart Matsikenyere, Blessing Mahwire.

BANGLADESH (from): Habibul Bashar (captain), Shahriar Hossain, Ĥannan Sarker, Mohammad Ashraful, Rajin Saleh, Monjurul Islam, Khaled Mashud, Khaled Mahmud, Mushfiqur Rahman, Mohammad Rafique, Al Shahriar, Tapash Baisya, Tareq Aziz, Alamgir Kabir, Manjarul

Beating betting

THE GUARDIAN, London

India and Pakistan are to employ special security officials to shield players from any approaches from would-be match-fixers during the highly anticipated series due to take place between the two countries from next week

Fears are increasing that the series, which starts on March 13, could be targeted by illegal betting syndicates in the sub-continent, with millions expected to be wag-

Anyone approaching the players in their hotel will be strictly vetted and will have to provide a reason for wanting to speak to them. Both teams will also have regular security guards to take care of more tradi-

a commotion

Stadium Saturday for the first limited-overs international match between arch-rivals India and Pakistan only to be told the sales had been delayed by a day.

"The ticket sale for the first oneday will start from Sunday and electronic tickets have been arranged, so that only genuine ticket holders enter the stadium," said a Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB)

Officials refused to disclose the reason for the delay as it was earlier announced tickets for each match would go on sale a week before the

Asia Cup in SL from July 15

from July 15 to August 1, cricket officials said on Saturday.

be named later would join the four Test-playing nations of Bangla-desh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in the tournament, not held since May 2000 due to political tensions between India and Pakistan.

Thursday," Asharful Haque, secretary of Asian Cricket Council told a news conference. "We are glad the tournament will finally resume after a long

India has won the tournament three times, Sri Lanka twice, and Pakistan once.

Council Trophy from June 12 to June 22 in Kuala Lumpur, he said.

Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iran and

Final day will tell

ISPAHANI Mirzapore Tea 5th National Cricket League

SPORTS REPORTER

Sylhet closed in on securing full points against Rajshahi while challengers Dhaka faces an uphill task to take the title-race of the Ispahanai Mirzapore Tea National Cricket League into a playoff. At the end of day three, both

different venues vesterday, but Sylhet have the advantage of taking fewer wickets compared to Dhaka. Sylhet, who enjoyed an overall lead of 315, picked up five Rajshahi second innings wickets for 102 going into the fourth and final day

teams sat on comfortable leads at

on home soil today. Dhaka on the other hand took an impressive 329-run lead against Khulna. The capital outfit will have to take all ten wickets of the defending champions on the final

day at the Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jessore.

Elsewhere Arif Ahmed transformed his 90 into a fine 122 as Chittagong took a first-innings lead against Barisal in a less important match at the Barisal Stadium.

SYLHET V RAJSHAHI

Nabil Ahmed spun Sylhet to a strong position when the legspinner captured four wickets to send Rajshahi reeling to 102-5 at stumps.

Nabil finished the day with 4-21 after Sylhet thrived on two halfcenturies by Imtiaz Hossain and Golam Rahman to post 273 in their second innings. Opener Imtiaz hammered 53 off

79 balls and Rahman hit a blazing 52 off 48 balls. Sylhet captain Syed Parvez (32), Nasirul Alam (30) and Zakwan (36) also made quick runs. Rajshahi, who scored 329

DHAKA V KHULNA

caught in Nabil's spinning web. Only Ashraful Islam provided some

resistance with a patient 48 off 123

Dhaka raced to 223-5 in their

second innings after Khulna, resuming the day on 141-6, were all out for 252 The visitors rode on a 127-run

opening partnership between Rashedul Haque and Moniruzzaman to build the impressive lead before the stumps were drawn for the day.

Rashedul smashed 65 off 79 balls and Moniruzzaman made 53 off 75 deliveries after the hosts' lower-order wagged to thwart Dhaka's hopes for a quick kill. Asadullah Kĥan (33), Abdur Razzak (25) and Mohammad Selim (36 not out) were the main scorers after Tamim Bashir added 11 more runs to his overnight 49.

New ball bowler Mahbubul SEE PAGE 14 COL 2

Waughs may be rained off

against Sylhet's 371 in the first

innings, lost their way after being

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Heavy rain seemed poised to bring down the curtain on the first-class careers of cricketing greats Steve and Mark Waugh after two of the three Australian domestic cricket competition matches being played on Saturday were washed out with little or no play possible.

The remaining few days in the careers of the about-to-retire twin brothers are now out of their own

The pair, playing for their home state of New South Wales in the Sheffield Shield competition, need their side to score an outright win over Queensland in Sydney if they are to have any chance of making the final later this month.

But that outcome is also

dependent on Victoria, who head the competition, taking maximum points from Tasmania -- who are

Victoria are already assured of a finals berth but both New South Wales and Queensland can potentially sneak past Tasmania if they score an outright win. However torrential rain ruined

the entire third day's play in the Tasmania versus Victoria match at Hobart's Bellerive Oval as well as the Sydney Cricket Ground game. Victorian captain Darren Berry, whose team is still 89 runs behind Tasmania's first innings, is now expected to declared the innings closed and concede first innings

points to his rivals in search of an outright win with one day remain-

If he does, the season, and the careers of the Waugh twins, will be over after the current match.

"I can't control what they (Vic-

toria) are going to do," said Steve Waugh, the New South Wales captain.

New South Wales are due to resume their first innings on Sunday on 196 for four, still 222 runs behind Queensland's 418 for nine (dec).

"There's enough time to get something happening," said Waugh. "It's not all over for us." But if the rain continues, the Waugh twins' goodbye match could be a wash-out

"Cricket's like that," said Waugh

"Don Bradman got a duck in his last dig. It doesn't always end the way you want. We've had a good run for 20 years. It's not going to SEE PAGE 14 COL 1



International Cricket Council president Ehsan Mani (L) hands over a trophy to Jai Kumar Nath Shah, president of the Cricket Association of Nepal since 1965, in recognition of his lifetime achievement during a ceremony of the Asian Cricket Council at Sonargaon Hotel yesterday.

Western Union Premier

Sheikh Russell vs Badda

Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National

Led by captain Sourav Ganguly, 15-member Indian team is due here on March 10 for a muchawaited cricket encounter between the foes now treading a peace path. The Indians will play a practice game in Lahore before flying to Karachi to play the first of the five

one-day matches on March 13. But Lahore, known as Pakistan's

No room for hire

A commercial

the offing in

Lahore as Pak-

istan's second

largest city

prepares to

cricketers next

week for the first time in 15 years.

All hotels have already been

fully booked while roadside eater-

ies and restaurants known for

traditional dishes are undergoing a facelift while shopkeepers are planning special lighting in main

Even the taxi drivers are upbeat

pazaars, officials said.

as the big event draws closer.

nost Indian

cultural capital will host two day and night matches on March 21 and 23 as well as a Test match later. "From the posh five-star to the

middle class, all hotels have been sold out in Lahore," travel agent

Irfan Ahmed said. "The cricket enthusiasm will surpass the usual boisterous annual kite flying festival of Basant when the city of eight million goes berserk with joy," general manager of a four-star hotel, Nadeem Qadir,

told AFP. He said his hotel was booked to capacity starting from March 15 until late April because of the cricket matches.

Lahore's three internationalstandard hotels have a capacity of around 1,000 rooms. Most of the 8,000 Indian fans will be arriving here through the nearby Wagah border, the only

land crossing between the two counties, while thousands of oth-

we are sorry we have no room unti April 25," said the Pearl Continental hotel's deputy general

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq pulls teammate Saqlain Mushtaq for a six

during practice at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore yesterday. Pakistan are

preparing for the home series against neighbours India

manager, Haseeb Gardezi. from the rush," said Gardezi whose hotel will host the Indian team. He

from different countries. "If you are calling for a booking,

ers are expected to fly into the city

"This is an event which will attract a lot of people from across the world and hotels will benefit

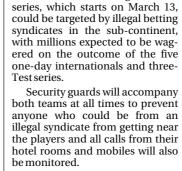
said security would be stringent for

the Indian guests.

The city's posh and popular hotels are charging up to 20,000 rupees (330 dollars) a day from the usual 100 to 120 dollars. Smaller hotels have also increased their room rents from 30 dollars to 150 dollars a day.

"This is the time to make most profits and enjoy the kind of income that we are going to generate in the next four weeks," said

Upper Mall neighbourhood.



Tickets sales delay causes

Frustrated fans thronged Karachi

REUTERS/AFP, Dhaka

Six nations will participate in the Asia Cup, the symbol of limited-overs cricket supremacy in the continent, to be played in Sri Lanka Nepal and another country to

"The decision was taken at a meeting of the executive board on

gap," Haque said.

The meeting also decided to hold a 16-nation Asian Cricket

Mohammad Arif, owner of a 25-Saudi Arabia would participate in the trophy for the first time. room hotel in the city's fashionable