



Did U Know?

Fastest goal in a soccer World Cup match in 15 seconds by Vaclav Masek (Czechoslovakia) against Mexico in Chile, June 1962.



Talk Turkey



Pele
(Brazilian soccer legend)
"Only in Brazil I could have named 100 players. When FIFA completes a 1,000 years, if I'm still here, I will happily pick a 1,000 players."



What to Watch

- ESPN**
Football Focus
Live at 6:30 pm
Sportscentre
Sports News
Live at 8:30 pm
UEFA Champions League
Man United vs FC Porto
Live at 1:30 am (Wednesday)
STAR Sports
Sportsline
Sports News
Live at 8:00 pm
UEFA Champions League
Chelsea vs VfB Stuttgart
Live at 1:30 am (Wednesday)
New Zealand vs South Africa
First Test, Day One
Live at 4:00 am (Wednesday)
TEN Sports
Australia vs Sri Lanka
First Test, Day Two
Live at 10:30 am

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

2. Who is the first Zimbabwe bowler to have claimed a hat-trick in Test?
Blignaut Olonga Hondo

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

4. Who clinched the Rotterdam Worldtennis title?
.....

Name
.....
.....
Class Roll No.
School Address
.....
Phone: (if any)



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

Top players to form A side

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The national selectors included eight players who are now touring Zimbabwe for the full Bangladesh side when they announced a strong 25-member Bangladesh A squad for two four-dayers and five limited-over matches against Zimbabwe.

The second string Zimbabwean side will arrive in Bangladesh on March 10 for a 27-day tour.

Chief selector Faruque Ahmed said yesterday that the continuous wash-outs in Zimbabwe had robbed the players of precious experience and that's why his panel had decided to include Shahriar Hossain, Hannan Sarkar, Alok Kapali, Rajin Saleh, Mohammed Ashraf, Al Shahriar, Manzarul Islam Rana and Tareq

Aziz Khan in the A side.

"The tour of Zimbabwe has been very frustrating so far. Only one Test match could be held properly and the players hardly had any chance to take the field. That's why we wanted to have them in the A squad," said

ZIMBABWE'S 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.

Faruque.

The former national skipper also said that a formidable A team was necessary, as the tourists will come with seven Test players.

There was room for some of the cricketers who had impressed in the recently concluded U-19 World Cup and the National Cricket League.

World Cup's top wicket-taker Enamul Haque Junior, young tearaway Shahadat Hossain Rajib, his new ball partner Nazmul Hossain, wicket-keeper Dhiman Ghosh and opener Nafis Iqbal were the U-19 faces in the squad. Attacking batsman Aftab Ahmed was not considered as he is due to sit for the SSC examinations while fast bowler Talha Jubair and U-19 captain Ashiqur Rahman were overlooked because of injuries, informed Faruque.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

CCDM sits on Premier League

SPORTS REPORTER

The meeting of Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) ended yesterday without any decision on when the Premier Division Cricket League would start.

"The meeting has been adjourned till March 11. But we are determined to start the Premier Division League from first week of April under single league format," said CCDM chairman Khandokar Jamiluddin.

He informed that they failed to reach a decision because club representatives wanted to more time to get ready for the inter-club transfer, which is supposed to start in the mid-March.

It was learnt that most of the clubs were reluctant to play without the national cricketers and also in March-April, which is dominated by rain.

Windies bowler has suspect action

SPORTING LIFE

Rookie Jamaican pace bowler Dwight Washington, who has been selected in West Indies' 16-man squad for the first Test against England, has been reported for having a suspect bowling action.

The 20-year-old, who played for the West Indies B team in the Caribbean Regional Cricket competition and captured 20 wickets at an average of just over 20, is one of six bowlers under scrutiny.

"I can confirm that umpires in the regional tournament submitted reports and Washington's action was called into question," a source close to the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) said.

When asked why he was selected in the West Indies squad with a suspect action, the source said: "The West Indies 16 was named before the reports from the umpires came into the board."

Last year against Australia, West Indian fast-bowling sensation Jermaine Lawson was reported to the ICC for having a suspect bowling action.

Lawson is now on the rebound and seems to have corrected his bowling action sufficiently and has featured in the two warm-up games that the touring English team has played to date.

23 BD chess players in India meet

SPORTS REPORTER

A total of 23 players from Bangladesh will participate in the second Parsvnath International Rating Chess Tournament that begins tomorrow in Delhi.

The players are GM Niaz Murshed, IM Enamul Hossain Rajib, IM Abdullah Al Rakib, FM Sheikh Nasir Ahmed, FM Abu Sufian Shakil, FM Khandakar Aminul Islam, IWM Rani Hamid, Shukat Hossain Pollab, Mehdi Hasan Parag, Abdul Maleq, Manjur Alam, Debaraj Chettarjee, Mohammad Javed, Arman Monir, Masuda Begum, Afroza Khanam Bably, Mohammad Ali, Mahmuda Haque Chowdhury Moly, Feroza Haque Chowdhury Poppy and Saimon Siddiqur Rahman.

The tournament will be held according to Swiss League system.

'They were too attacking'

REUTERS, Galle

Muttiah Muralitharan believes Australia's batsmen paid the penalty for an over-aggressive approach as the tourists were bowled out for 220 on the first day of a three-match Test series on Monday.

The spin bowler ripped through Australia's formidable batting lineup, taking six for 59 in 21.3 overs, the 40th time in his 86-match career that he has taken five wickets in an innings.

It was Muralitharan's best figures against Australia, surpassing the five for 71 at the same venue in 1999 and he rated the performance as the fourth best of his career.

"The wicket was spinning but very slow and they were very positive -- that helped me take a few wickets," Muralitharan told reporters.

"That is their plan. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't. If the batsmen are attacking, it is a good sign for me. Most of the time the bowler will win because you cannot keep on attacking."



A fan displays the tickets he purchased for the first one-day international between Pakistan and India while others wait for their turn in Karachi yesterday.

Tickets snapped up

REUTERS/AFP, Karachi



Monday.

Things went smoothly when booths reopened on Monday morning and it took just a few hours for more than 21,000 tickets to be snapped up.

"Everything has gone well today," said Zakir Khan, the Pakistan Cricket Board's general manager for cricket operations.

"We sold tickets from five other spots in the city apart from the booths at the stadium and that helped."

"We are happy this process is over because what happened on Sunday was most unfortunate," Khan said.

Ticket sales for Saturday's match at the National Stadium in Karachi were suspended after clashes between some of the thousands seeking tickets and police.

"Sales have shaped up smoothly after we increased the number of

outlets for the tickets," said Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief executive Rameez Raja.

"We have now put on sales of low-priced tickets at 100 rupees (about two dollars) each at five different grounds to distribute the load."

There has been an unusual interest in Saturday's match because bitter rivals India will be playing in Pakistan for the first time since September 1997.

The opening day when tickets went on sale, saw dozens of people, frustrated that only three counters were selling tickets, pelted police with stones, triggering baton charges by security forces.

Several people were injured in the mayhem but none was seriously hurt.

One of the ticket sellers said demand was so high that "latecomers will not get tickets."

The National Stadium has a capacity of 33,000. Around 20 per cent of tickets have already been sold through the Internet.

Saturday's match is the only opportunity for Karachi's fans to watch India as it has been eliminated as a venue for Test matches because of security concerns.

BCCI to invite VVIPs to see historic series

PTI, New Delhi

The Indian cricket board is keen to invite Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Deputy Prime Minister L. K. Advani and Congress chief Sonia Gandhi to watch the historic Indo-Pak cricket series in Pakistan.

A formal invitation would be extended to the three leaders when BCCI president Jagmohan Dalmiya, who is currently in New Zealand to attend an International Cricket Council executive committee meeting, returns to the country.

Chairman of BCCI's Communication and Coordination Committee Rajiv Shukla said on Sunday.

Shukla said Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka and her husband Robert Vadhra have accepted the invitation of BCCI and would be going to Pakistan to watch either the first match in Karachi or the second match in Rawalpindi.

The Pakistan Cricket Board has been informed about their visit and all the arrangements have been made, Shukla said.

Aussies in Murali maze

Cricket

Warne's comeback wicket

REUTERS, Galle

Spin wizard Muttiah Muralitharan took his 40th five-wicket haul as Australia were bowled out for 220 on the opening day of the first Test against Sri Lanka on Monday.

The hosts closed on 81 for one off 22 overs in reply with Shane Warne taking the sole wicket to fall on his return from a 12-month drugs ban.

Muralitharan ripped through Australia's batting to finish with figures of six for 59 from 21.3 overs, taking his career tally to 491 wickets in his 86th Test.

Australian middle-order batsman Darren Lehmann provided the main resistance on his return to the national side after an Achilles injury with a battling 63.

Lehmann added 72 for the fourth wicket with Damien Martyn (42) and a useful 53 for the seventh wicket with fellow returnee Warne (23).

Australia's hopes of building a big total were dashed when they

suffered a mid-afternoon collapse, losing three wickets for 15 runs, and then a dramatic post-tea slump during which the last four wickets fell for five runs in the space of 13 balls.

Sri Lanka openers Sanath Jayasuriya (35) and Marvan

Atapattu (29 not out) then added 53 for the first wicket before Jayasuriya missed a sweep and was trapped lbw by Warne.



WARNE ... 492nd Test wkt

Lehmann and Martyn repaired

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4



LEGEND'S ADVICE: Pakistan bowling great Fazal Mehmood (L) shares a light moment with speedster Shoaib Akhtar after delivering a lecture at the National Cricket Academy in Lahore, Pakistan on March 7.

BSFNA cricket

RU CORRESPONDENT

Jubo Cricket Academy A defeated Katakali Cricket Academy by seven wickets in quarterfinals of

the Bangladesh Sports Foundation of North America (BSFNA) cricket tournament at the Rajshahi college playground yesterday.

Winning the toss, Katakali Cricket Academy decided to bat first and they made 139 before being all out in 44 overs. Jubo CA reached the target scoring 143-3 in 32 overs.

Jubo Academy all-rounder Farhad was later adjudged man-of-the-match.

DC Cup soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Pabna Zilla Dal defeated Rangpur Zilla Dal 3-1 in the Deputy Commissioner Gold Cup football tournament at the Gaibandha Stadium yesterday.

Likhan, Aftab and Biplob netted one each for Pabna while Milon scored a consolation goal for the losing team.

Hamilton turns spin-friendly

NZ-SA 1st Test tomorrow

Cricket

AFP, Hamilton

Unseasonal heavy rainfall has turned the pitch for the first Test match between New Zealand and South Africa into a spin bowler's paradise.

New Zealand usually offers infamously green and slow pitches but heavy rain last month, five times the February average, has killed the grass on the Hamilton wicket and left turf manager Karl Johnson with a headache.

Johnson had to abandon his preferred test pitch and shift to a strip on the far side of the scarred block which has never been played on but which still had a tinge of grass cover.

"I'm reasonably happy where

we're at. It has been a tough ask and it's a big call to do it, but I wouldn't have done it if I wasn't confident," Johnson said.

"It's one of the toughest things I've had to face, being my second test match and having to produce a pitch that hasn't been played on before."

Johnson opted for the back-up pitch because it was made from a different kind of clay to that used in the pitches in the middle of the wicket.

He said he hoped it would last five days but said the ball would scuff up quicker than normal, meaning the quicker bowlers will be less effective and two spinners each would seem likely.

This means New Zealand spin

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1



Sri Lanka's ace off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan (2nd from right) leads his teammates off the pitch after claiming 6-59 in Australia's first innings on the opening day of the first Test in Galle yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP