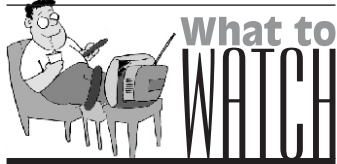




Did U Know?

Today, Special Olympics Athletics is the most popular Special Olympics sport with 272,865 athletes from 153 Programs participating.



BTV

India vs Pakistan
Third ODI
Live at 10:30 am

ESPN

ATP Masters Series
Quarterfinals
Live at 9:00 am
Sportscentre
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

Sportsline
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
New Zealand vs South Africa
Second Test, Day Three
Live at 3:27 am (Saturday)

TEN Sports

India vs Pakistan
Third ODI
Live at 10:30 am
West Indies vs England
Second Test, Day One
Live at 11:30 pm



Geoffrey Boycott

(Cricket commentator)
"Corey Collymore and Adam Sanford wouldn't bowl my mum out."
After West Indies' abysmal performance in the first Test against England.

Star WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION 208

Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
March 27, 2004 and draw

- How many runs did Bangladesh score against Zimbabwe in the third ODI?
230 242 238
- Who clinched the first Division Football League title?
Farashganj Victoria
Youngmen's
- Who won the Qatar Open tennis title?
Hings Henin Myskina
- Who won the four-day National Cricket League title?
Name
.....
Class. Roll No.
School Address
.....
Phone: (If any)

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Bangladesh A vs Zimbabwe A (Day Three)
Four-Day Match

Over-rate Pak worry Bowlers' injuries handicap India

AFP, Peshawar



Pakistan's bowlers will speed up the over-rate in Friday's third one-day international against India here to prevent captain

Inzamamul Haq from being banned.

Match referee Ranjan Madugalle of Sri Lanka fined Inzamam 80 per cent of his match fee after the hosts fell three overs short of the required rate during the second one-dayer at Rawalpindi on Tuesday.

If the offence is repeated over the next 12 months, Inzamam faces a ban from two to four Tests or four to eight one-day internationals.

"Inzamam is definitely worried, but we have made our calculations and will keep a check on the over-rate," team manager Haroon Rasheed told reporters.

"The over-rate becomes slow because when 300 runs are scored in an innings, it takes time to retrieve the ball from the boundary line.

"But the bowlers will not let their captain down on Friday or for the rest of the series," Rasheed said.

The five-match one-day series has lived up to the hype generated by India's first full tour to Pakistan in 15 years with the first two matches both producing 300 runs in each innings.

Friday's wicket at Peshawar is

expected to produce another run feast.

"The wicket looks slightly green, so that might help the bowlers a bit more," Ganguly said.

"This is a small ground and they've left some grass on the wicket because otherwise it leaves no margin for error for the bowlers at all."

The teams are locked at 1-1 with India edging out Pakistan by five runs in Karachi while the hosts hit back with another close 12-run win at Rawalpindi.

The victor on Friday will gain a definite edge going into the last two matches at Lahore on March 21 and 24.

TEAMS

PAKISTAN (from): Inzamamul Haq (captain), Shahid Afridi, Yasir Hameed, Yousuf Youhana, Younis Khan, Abdul Razzaq, Shoaib Malik, Moin Khan, Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammad Sami, Shabbir Ahmed, Saqlain Mushtaq, Navedul Hasan, Imran Farhat, Taufeeq Umar.

INDIA (from): Sourav Ganguly (captain), Rahul Dravid, Virender Sehwag, Sachin Tendulkar, Venkatsai Laxman, Yuvraj Singh, Mohammad Kaif, Hemang Badani, Zaheer Khan, Laxmipathy Balaji, Irfan Pathan, Murali Kartik, Parthiv Patil, Amit Bhandari, Ramesh Powar.

Umpires: David Shepherd (England) and Nadeem Ghauri (Pakistan).

Jubo School win BSFNA tourney

RU CORRESPONDENT

Jubo Cricket School won the Bangladesh Sports Foundation of North America (BSFNA) cricket tournament beating Al Rashid Cricket Club by five wickets in the final at the Rajshahi College playground yesterday.

Winning the toss, Jubo Cricket School put Al Rashid Cricket Club into bat and they collected 87 runs before being all out in 37 overs.

In reply, Jubo Cricket School reached their target in 18 overs scoring 88 runs for the loss of five wickets.

Jubo Cricket School all-rounder Mustak was later adjudged man-of-the-match.

Rajshahi City Corporation
SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

M'singh cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT

County Club beat Abahani Krira Chakra by 93 runs in the Navana Premier Division Cricket League at the Mymensingh stadium yesterday.

Batting first, County Club scored 201 all out in 45 overs. In reply, Abahani were shot out for 108 in the same number of overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

COUNTY CLUB: 201/10 in 45 overs (Shuva 62, Uttam 36, Motasim 18, Iqbal 16, Sumon 10; Uttam 3/27, Hira 2/19 and Ilias 2/46)

ABAHANI KC: 108/10 in 45 overs (Ilias 29, Lapon 12, Arman 11, Emon, 10, Musa 10; Saiful 3/14, Iqbal 2/10 and Shuva 2/13)

Result: County Club won by 93 runs.

'You're all seeing it'

REUTERS/AFP, Peshawar



India captain Sourav Ganguly appeared to raise fresh doubts over Pakistan pace bowler Shoaib Akhtar's action on

Thursday on the eve of the sides' third one-dayer.

"I was asked if he was chucking or not," Ganguly said, when asked to clarify local media reports that he had questioned Shoaib's action after the second match at Rawalpindi.

"I said: 'You're all seeing it on TV. I don't need to answer that. Everyone knows the truth.'"

Shoaib, regarded as the world's fastest bowler and who has been clocked at 100mph, has been reported three times for a suspect bowling action. He was given the all-clear in 2001. Experts in Australia said he had an abnormally flexible elbow joint.

Shoaib took three wickets in Rawalpindi, where Pakistan won a tense match by 12 runs after piling up 329 for six.

"Ganguly is entitled to his own opinion," Pakistan team manager Haroon Rashid said.

"This matter is the International Cricket Council's concern. As far as we are concerned, Shoaib has been cleared and his action is legal."

Matches between India and Pakistan are always tense because of the high expectations from hundreds of millions of fans in both countries.

Ganguly's remarks have added an extra edge to the five-match series, which is tied at 1-1 after two high-scoring games.

India, meanwhile, are pondering their limited bowling options after seamer Ashish Nehra was sent home with a hand injury. The tourists are already without three injured frontline bowlers, Ajit Agarkar, Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh.

Nehra, who bowled India to victory in the first match at Karachi by conceding just three runs in the final over when Pakistan needed nine to win, will be replaced by Delhi teammate Amit Bhandari.

It is likely that young seamer Irfan Pathan will play his first match in the series to bolster the new ball attack of Zaheer Khan and Laxmipathy Balaji.

"Injuries are part and parcel of the modern game because we play so much these days," said Indian captain Sourav Ganguly.

"I expect Pathan to deliver. We are very keen to win this one because taking the lead will be very handy before the last two games.

"There appears to be some grass on the wicket, but it remains to be seen how much of it will be there on Friday morning," he said.

India rejected this north-western city as a Test venue over security fears due to its proximity to the volatile Afghanistan border, but agreed to play a one-day game after receiving safety assurances from the Pakistan government.

The provincial government has banned the entry of Afghan refugees into the 16,000-capacity stadium, which is being guarded around the clock by 1,500 policemen and para-military troops.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

NO EYE CONTACT! Bangladesh skipper Habibul Bashar (C) shakes hands with coach Dav Whatmore (R) while spinner Mohammad Rafique fiddles with his bag at the Bangladesh Cricket Board's management office in Gulshan yesterday. The three went to appear before a disciplinary hearing on Rafique's alleged misconduct during the just concluded tour of Zimbabwe. The Board's four-member disciplinary committee also spoke to team manager MA Latif and spinner Manjarul Islam Rana. The committee will meet some other players and officials on March 22 and 23 before they present their findings and recommendations to BCB president Ali Asghar.

AIUB cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

North South University (NSU), American University Blues (AUB) and Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) won their respective matches of the third AIUB Cup inter private university cricket tournament at different city venues yesterday.

At the Jagannath Hall ground, NSU trounced Northern University of Bangladesh by 162 runs.

NSU won the toss and they amassed 267-1 batting first in the stipulated 40 overs. Saquib top-scored with 60 and Rahat made an unbeaten 49. Junayed claimed four wickets for the losing university.

In reply, Northern University were all out for 105 in 27.4 overs. Junayed made highest 28.

Mithu was the most successful NSU bowler with four for 16.

American University Blues outplayed Darul Ihsan University by 152 runs at the Mirpur City Club ground.

Batting first, American University scored an impressive 247 before being all out in 39.3 overs.

Rumi made highest 54 while Rabbi and Hafiz contributed 45 and 30 runs respectively.

Darul Ihsan's Nasim Hossain was the chief wicket-taker with four for 33 while Shibbir Ahmed grabbed two wickets giving away 32 runs.

The stiff target was always beyond Darul Ihsan University who were eventually bundled out for 95 in 25.1 overs.

The IUB coasted to nine-wicket win over Prime Asia University (PAU) at the Gulshan Youth cricket ground yesterday.

Prime Asia were dismissed for 97 34.4 overs and IUB wasted little time to score 98-1.

The American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) is the hosting the tournament from March 15-31. A total of 24 private universities of the country are taking in the competition.



PHOTO: AFP

WHAT HAVE YOU SAID IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE? Indian superstar Sachin Tendulkar (L) shares a light moment with captain Sourav Ganguly during their practice session at the Arbab Niaz Stadium in Peshawar yesterday.

A bowlers strike back



SPORTS REPORTER

Young paceman Shahadat Hossain and Alamgir Kabir shared seven wickets as Bangladesh A staged a comeback on the second day of their four-day match against Zimbabwe A at the Rajshahi Stadium yesterday.

Kabir took four wickets and 19-year-old Shahadat, who made his mark in the recently concluded ICC U-19 World Cup, returned with three wickets as the tourists, resuming the day on 113-2, were bowled out for 229 in 78.4 overs.

Kabir, who was the only successful Bangladesh bowler on the opening day with 2-44, finished with 4-76.

But it was Shahadat, who started the day brilliantly by dismissing Zimbabwe's Test discard Trevor Gripper for 59, Gripper added 13 runs to his overnight score of 46 before being clean

bowled by the right-arm quick.

Shahadat then dismissed Zimbabwe A captain Maregwede and Panyangara to finish with 3-49 in his 16 overs.

Despite the collapse, the second string Zimbabwe side still managed to eke out a first-innings' lead of 29 runs after the home team was bowled out for exactly 200 on Wednesday.

And when it was Bangladesh's turn to bat again they also failed to flourish on a dicey wicket. By stumps they were uncomfortably placed at 156-6 after 44 overs.

Opener Nafees Iqbal hit a cracking 41 off 48 balls with the help of seven boundaries and first-innings centurion Tushar Imran made 21. But nobody showed the determination to stay at the wicket and build a big partnership.

Only Faisal Hossain, fresh after an outstanding showing in the National League, scored a fighting 40 before becoming the last batsman to fall on the day. Another gritty campaigner Jamaluddin was

unbeaten on 21 along with wicketkeeper Salim.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the four-day match between Bangladesh A and Zimbabwe A at the Rajshahi Stadium yesterday.

BANGLADESH A: First innings all out for 200 in 57 overs (Tushar 103, Faisal 38; Panyangara 2-30, R. Bennett 2-23, Gripper 2-45)

ZIMBABWE A: First innings (over-night 113-2 in 33 overs)

Sibanda c Salim b Kabir	21
Gripper c Nafees b Shahadat	59
Taylor c Salim b Kabir	0
Sims c Salim b Jamaluddin	43
Coventry b Kabir	26
Chigumbura c Shahadat b Faisal	3
Maregwede lbw b Shahadat	6
Ewing b Kabir	27
Panyangara lbw b Shahadat	0
Bennett not out	3
Mwayenge b Enamul	1
Extras: (b-14, lb-10, nb-12, w-4)	40

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5



PHOTO: AFP

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq bats in the net during a practice session at the Arbab Niaz Stadium in Peshawar yesterday.

Parsvnath chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Fide Master Khandakar Aminul Islam and Debaraj Chettarjee both earned seven points after the tenth round of the second Parsvnath international rating chess tournament in New Delhi yesterday.

They are sharing third position with other 16 players.

International Master Abdullal-Rakib and Mehdi Hasan Parag are on 6.5 points each. Behind them are group of four players -- IM Enamul Hossain Rajib, IWM Rani Hamid, FM Abu Sufian Shakil and Mohammad Javed -- with six points each.

With 5.5 points are: FM Sk. Nasir Ahmed, Sawkat Hossain Pollab, Abdul Maleq, Monjur Alam and

SEE PAGE 14 COL 1

Mini handball

BSS, Dhaka

Eight matches of the second Sunny Dale mini handball tournament (boys) were decided yesterday at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex.

The hosts clinched a 14-1 win over Radiant International and also blanked Hope International 9-0 in the one-sided contests.

Radiant later suffered their second defeat when Dhanmondi Tutorial dumped them 6-0.

Bangladesh International School (BIS) thrashed Green Herald 9-0 and BAF Shaheen College 7-2, Rahmatullah High School beat Hope International 3-0 and The British School recorded a 6-4 win over St. Jude's Tutorial.

Green Herald bounced to post a hard-earned 5-3 win against The British School in their second match of the day.