



Did U Know?

Newcastle United is an amalgamation of two clubs Newcastle East End and Newcastle West End. They combined in 1892.



ESPN

English Premier Football League
Aston Villa vs Newcastle United
Live at 6:55 pm
Primera Liga
Barcelona vs Malaga
Live at 10:30 am (Monday)

STAR Sports

ATP Championships
Semifinal
Live at 6:00 am

TEN Sports

West Indies vs England
First ODI
Live at 7:30 pm



Athletics

SPORTS REPORTER

The top athletes of the country bade goodbye to the Sher-e-Bangla Mirpur National Stadium yesterday after the 29th national athletics championships concluded without a single new record.

It was the last national meet held on the good old track since the country's number two national stadium was built ahead of the 1987 SAF Games. The venue has recently been leased to Bangladesh Cricket Board, which is set to uproot the running track in a couple of months' time to give it a cricket look.

Athletics however will finally sign off from Mirpur after the junior national championships in May.

But the parting shot did not leave behind any impression apart from one instance of brilliance by Ishrat Jahan Iva, who defied the scorching heat and the pain of losing a home away from home to win the women's 100m sprint.

The 16-year-old Class X student

from BKSP, who clinched the 200m gold on Friday upsetting Shamsunnahar Chumki, took 12.40 seconds to become the country's fastest woman in her first-ever national appearance.

Iva, who hails from Lalmonirhat and is the current national junior champion, was over the moon after her latest triumph.

"I never thought I would be able to do better than Chumki but now I've done it and it's great," said the Iva who is being trained by a Chinese coach.

The daughter of a Railway clerk, Iva is now looking forward to competing in the Asian Junior

MEDAL TABLE

Army	15	14	10
BJMC	12	15	7
BKSP	6	3	4
Navy	3	4	3
Khulna	0	0	4
Noakhali	0	0	3

Note: Chittagong Physical College, BDR, Sylhet and Gopalganj won one bronze each.

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PHOTO: STAR

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN! A combo photo shows the country's fastest woman and man Ishrat Jahan Iva (No. 120) and Abu Abdullah (No. 203) touch the finish tape during their respective 100m sprints in the 29th national athletics championships at the Sher-e-Bangla Mirpur National Stadium yesterday.

Iva shines in Mirpur swansong

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from BKSP, who clinched the 200m gold on Friday upsetting Shamsunnahar Chumki, took 12.40 seconds to become the country's fastest woman in her first-ever national appearance.

"If I had not run in the 400m just before the 100m, I would have finished with a better timing," opined Iva, who wants to concentrate on shorter distances in future.

It was on the other hand a double disappointment for Chumki as the BMC's sprinter, who still holds the national record in both events, finished with 12.60 seconds to settle for silver while the bronze went to her teammate Sumita Rani Das (12.65 seconds).

Abu Abdullah of Bangladesh Army became the fastest man with 10.90 seconds. The 23-year-old sprinter from Noakhali, who had a less than impressive SAF Games, finally basked in glory at the fourth attempt in the national championship.

Abdullah, who finished fifth in the 9th SAF Games just two weeks ago in Islamabad, won a bronze last year but he was a gold winner at the last Summer Athletics.

Abdullah's Army mate Shahidul Islam (11.10 seconds) and Abdullah Hel Kafi (11.32 seconds)

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BAAF council today

SPORTS REPORTER

The council meeting of the Bangladesh Amateur Athletics Federation (BAAF) will be held today at Sher-e-Bangla Mirpur National Stadium.

This is the first council in two years for the struggling federation, which lost five key members including its general secretary two years ago after change of the government.

The main agenda of the council will be either to fill the five vacated posts or go for fresh elections. The speculation is that most of the 68 voters are interested to have a new election.

The federation is also looking forward to its councillors to remove the 'amateur' tag from its name.

Among the five surviving executive members general secretary Ibrahim Chenghis, joint-secretary Iqbal Hossain and member Mostak Ahmed are now residing in Canada while treasurer Dewar Hossain and member Mujibur Rahman never appeared in the federation since the change of power.

'We have done it'

AFP, New Delhi

The Indian press was euphoric Saturday, heaping praise on the cricket team which clocked a maiden Test series win against Pakistan on their rivals' soil and their first overseas victory in a decade.

National dailies splashed front-page pictures of a jubilant Indian team celebrating their first 1-Test victory over their arch-rivals under headlines such as "Spirited win, India high" and the "Cup of joy runs over".

"How sweet it is!" exclaimed the Hindustan Times. The Tribune newspaper headlined its piece "We have done it," adding "Indians create Test history on Pakistani soil."

The photographs of an ecstatic Indian team were juxtaposed with those of the visibly distraught Pakistani skipper Inzamamul Haq.

As Indians blearily woke up from a night of firecrackers and partying, they opened newspapers to glowing sports reports, which pushed aside news of national elections starting Tuesday.

The Indian team's visit -- the first full tour of Pakistan in 15 years -- came as part of confidence-building measures to normalise ties upset by a bitter conflict in Kashmir in 1999 and another near-war in 2002.

Pakistan issued visas to more than 8,000 Indian fans to watch the

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CJKS-Ispahani cricket

CU CORRESPONDENT

Mohammedan Sporting Club recorded a massive 154-run victory over Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Sports Association in the CJKS-Ispahani Premier Division Cricket League at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

The popular Sadarghat club amassed 262 for seven in stipulated 50 overs. Middle-order batsmen Rafiqul Islam and Abu Sama Biplob contributed the bulk of the runs.

Rafiqul hit a run-a-ball 92 with 11 sweetly-executed boundaries. His partner made a patient 70 off 101 balls.

CPA Sports Association were bundled out for 108 in 36.1 overs with Aminul Haque Amin making 32.

Mohammedan's Shafiq Al Jabir and Iqbal Hossain grabbed three wickets each.

Bashundhara, BADC open

SPORTS REPORTER



Bashundhara Group and Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) Krira Sangha will launch the first-ever GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket League (CCL) at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on April 20.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has taken the 13-team CCL as a challenge to overcome the non-appearance of Dhaka clubs who have over the years dictated how the game is run in the country.

The Board was compelled to float the new league involving 12 corporate houses and invited Bangladesh under-19 side after

influential capital clubs including two popular houses Mohammedan and Abahani decided not to take part in the Premier League that has been regarded as a major source of income for the cricketers.

Although the 11 corporate houses could only accommodate 147 cricketers in their line-ups, it was however not a bad figure at a stage when the cricketers were almost set to suffer a year of financial loss.

There was more good news for the players that CityCell, a leading cellular phone company, decided to make their presence felt in the unique competition. After missing

the two-day registration proceedings, the country's first mobile phone operators are expected to rope in national vice-captain Rajin Saleh and pacer Tapas Baishya to complete their roster today.

The registration window will reopen today from 4-8pm and MM Ispahani, one of the leading tea companies of the country, are also set to take the advantage of the extended time. They have signed up five players so far and are likely to confirm the services of former national captain Minhazul Abedin Nannu, who is known for offering plenty of surprises when it comes to transfer talks.



PHOTO: STAR

THIS IS HOW YOU STOP THE BALL: Mike Young, the new fielding coach of Bangladesh cricket team, is giving some tips to (R-L) Enamul Haque, Habibul Bashar and Hannan Sarker during a practice session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

India can only get better

AFP, Islamabad

Former cricket great Imran Khan Saturday predicted the Indian team would go from strength to strength after their maiden series win in Pakistan.

"They look in strong shape and this current team will rise further as their players are performing and have the knack of handling pressure well," Imran said.

"India fought well throughout the tour and the 19-year-old Parth Patel's innings in the third Test displayed their fighting abilities."

Patel, a wicketkeeper batsman who was asked to open the innings, hit a fighting career-best 69 to solve a selection problem for India and help his team overwhelm Pakistan in the third and decisive Test.

With their innings and 131-run

win, India also took the series 2-1 to jump to fourth position in the ICC (International Cricket Council) rankings.

And they won the preceding one-day series 3-2 to cap their remarkable series 3-2 to cap their remarkable

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