



Did U Know?

Manchester Chess Club, the oldest chess club in Britain, which began on September 3, 1817.



John Buchanan
(Australian cricket coach)
"He's just an exciting player as we've seen in the recent Sri Lanka-Australia series. The battle between he and Shane Warne and our batsmen is exhilarating stuff."
On Muttiah Muralitharan.



ESPN
Sportscentre
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
Hamburg Tennis Masters Series
Second Round
Live at 9:00 pm

STAR Sports
Sportsline
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm



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

Competition closes at 8 pm
May 21, 2004 and draw
shortly afterwards

1. Who is Bangladesh's fastest woman?	Iva	Chumki	Sabrina
2. Who is Zimbabwe's cricket captain?	Taibu	Streak	Olonga
3. Name the man-of-the-series in the India-Pakistan Test series:	Schwag	Dravid	Kumble
4. How many runs did Brian Lara score in the first innings of the final Test against England?	400	388	380
5. Who won the Singer 30th national			
Name			
Class	Roll No.		
School Address			
Phone: (If any)			

Nat'l jr tennis

SPORTS REPORTER

Prithul moved into the boys' (Under-17) singles semifinals of the National Junior Tennis Championship defeating Delwar Hossain 6-0, 6-3 at the Ramna National

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CALYPSO COCKTAIL



RABEED IMAM from St. Vincent

The Venetians are reputed to be the most hospitable and friendliest people in the Caribbean and it's not too difficult to feel that once you set foot on the island.

"I'm from Bangladesh and here for the cricket," it works like magic the moment you've uttered that, people of all ages will try to help you out in every way possible and even go out of the way if required.

Struggling to find a shortcut to the Amos Vale ground and barely escaping the wrath of two guard dogs after mistakenly stepping on to private property thinking it's approach road to be the way to their desired destination, two Bangladeshi sports journalists came across Nicholas, a plumber by profession.

"Bangladesh? No problema Maan. Just follow me," said the man with ragamuffin looks as he led them through a slippery path down the hill into the black sand beach that collides with the runway of St Joshua Airport, the main gateway to and from St. Vincent by air. Although trespassing is understandably prohibited, the trio got to the edge of the runway when Nicholas lifted his hand asking them to wait a second.

Big win for Friends

CU CORRESPONDENT

Friends Club inflicted a massive 132-run defeat on City Corporation Juniors in the relegation league of the CJKS-Ispahani Premier Cricket League at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

Friends elected to bat first and piled up a mammoth 302 for 9 in the stipulated 50 overs. Rony topscored an excellent 64 not out to lead the charge with good support from Manik (44), Pakistani cricketer Saifullah Magsi (34) and Titu (30). The team also bagged 50 as extras.

Tabilil and Azim Uddin of City Corporation grabbed two wickets each.

Chasing a huge target, City Corporation were bundled out for 170 in 48 overs. Lincoln smashed 75 with five hits to the fence. Mitu contributed 24.

Friends Club's Rashed took 4-34.

It was City Corporation Juniors first loss in the relegation league after three wins.

In another match of the day, Satabdi Goshti recorded a six-

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Dhaka ride on Mology

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka reached the final round of the Sher-e-Bangla Cup 22nd National Football Championship with a solitary goal win over Rajbari at the Gopalganj Stadium yesterday.

Mology separated the sides with a 39-minute strike in the Padma-zone final.

Zonal hosts Comilla, Bhola and Nilphamari also moved into the final round, which starts in Natore from May 16.

After the regulation time ended goalless, home side Comilla eliminated Sylhet 4-2 in tiebreaker.

Meanwhile Shah Alam and Tipu struck either side of the break in Bhola's 2-0 win over Bagerhat.

At Nilphamari, Shipon and Ilias scored one goal each as the hosts nipped Dinajpur 2-1. Sohel Rana reduced the gap.

On the other hand, the Brahmaputra-zone matches resumed yesterday at Gazipur Stadium after a four-day break following Friday's killing of local MP Ahsanullah Master.

Former national striker Mujibur Rahman Ritu slammed a hatrick to propel Narayanganj into the zonal semifinal with a 6-0 thrashing of Mymensingh. Abul, Topu and Ujjal added the rest.

In another match at the same

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Beximco's Masudur Rahman (M) is the toast of his teammates after his match-winning knock against Biman in yesterday's Corporate Cricket League clash at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Gazi Tank turn CityCell off

SPORTS REPORTER

Opener Ali Nishan hit a century to steer Gazi Tank into the Plate semifinal of the GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket League with a 60-run victory over CityCell at the Fatullah Stadium yesterday.

All three teams in Group Y finished on two points each but cellular operator CityCell crashed out of the meet due to inferior run-rate. Acme Laboratories topped the group, followed by Gazi Tank.

Gazi Tank will take on Group X champions Aktel in the first Plate semifinal on Friday at Fatullah while the second semifinal between Acme and MM Ispahani will take place at the same venue the next day.

Right-hander Nishan hammered an unbeaten 110 off 155 balls with seven fours and two sixes as Gazi Tank scored 219-6 in 50 overs after electing to bat.

In reply, the mobile phone side were bundled out for 159 in 48 overs despite captain Hasanuzzaman Rosel's patient 106-ball 53.

Pacer Sumon Barua was the pick

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Beximco win a thriller

SPORTS REPORTER



GrameenPhone CORPORATE LEAGUE

The Cup stage of the GrameenPhone Corporate Cricket League sprang to life after a jejeune start when Beximco pulled off an exciting one-wicket victory over fancied Bangladesh Biman at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Masudur Rahman Mukul won the high-scoring drama for the surprise package in the Cup phase when the number eight batsman hammered a blazing unbeaten 49 off just 37 balls.

Masudur, a seasoned cricketer better known for his exploits as an off-spinner, completed one of the biggest run chases that Dhaka cricket has ever seen when he smote a six and then sneaked a single in the nerve-wrecking final over as Beximco overhauled Biman's massive 286-6 with three balls to spare.

The match reached its climax when Beximco needed eight runs from the final over with one wicket in

hand and Masudur was stuck at the non-striker's end. But last batsman Suja Erfan pushed left-arm seamer Syed Russell's first ball to the covers and then ran as if his shirt was on fire, giving Masudur a chance for a last hurrah.

He seized the opportunity to finish the chase in style, whacking the young pacer's very next ball over the mid-wicket fence to level the scores. Masudur then angled the next delivery in between the two fielders on the on-side to bring up the winning run and punched the air in celebration.

The defeat was heartbreaking for national flag carrier after a six-match unbeaten run in the competition.

Masudur rounded off a fantastic run-feast that started with a bang thanks to a 46-run opening stand in just 4.4 overs between Sajjad Ahmed and Moniruzzaman.

Beximco's star Kenyan batsman Steve Tikolo also showed he had not lost his run appetite with a characteristically aggressive 48-ball 56 that featured eight fours and one six.

Returning to Dhaka after three

years, the muscular right-hander could have gone on for much longer had umpire Jahangir Alam not adjudged him leg-before. Tikolo was stunned by the ruling and waited a few seconds before trudging back to the dressing room.

The Kenyan master batsman, who piled up tons of runs while playing for Mohammedan Sporting Club a couple of seasons ago, also picked up three wickets for 56 from 10 overs to complete a satisfactory day at the office.

Neeaynur Rashid also made a vital 30-ball 35 but Masudur's heroics overshadowed everything else.

Coming into bat with his side still needing 81 runs from 11.3 overs, he virtually single-handedly carried Beximco to a memorable victory.

Earlier, Biman thrived on three half-centuries to post what they thought was a winning total.

Opener Humayun Kabir scored 56, skipper Sanwar Hossain contributed an unbeaten 62 and Biman's Pakistani recruit Ashraf Ali blazed his way to 68 after they won the toss and

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Match-fixing fears desert Abu Dhabi!

CRICINFO, undated

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has revealed that the proposed exhibition tie between India and Pakistan in Abu Dhabi was not permitted because of match-fixing fears.

Ehsan Mani, the ICC president, explained that the organisers of the event had bypassed the boards of both countries and directly contacted the players, which could have made match-fixing easier, according to a PFI report.

"Organisers' direct contacts with players could raise chances for match-fixing," Mani said, adding that the Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) had brought down such incidents significantly.

But the ICC's comments took BR Shetty -- the president of the Abu Dhabi Cricket Control Board -- by complete surprise, according to The Indian Express.

"There was no problem when the ICC president Ehsan Mani and the ACU chief Sir Condon visited the stadium some time back. They were all praise then for the facilities and architecture. I fail to understand how such issues have been brought up now."

IM chess Zia keeps his lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman continued his solo lead with 5.5 points after the end of the sixth round games of the seventh United Insurance and United Leasing IM chess tournament at the Chess Federation conference room yesterday.

International Master Abdullah Al-Rakib earned second position with 5 point. International Master Enamul Hossain Rajib, Sheikh Nasir Ahmed, Pakistani IM Mahmood Lodhi, IM Roktim Bandyopadhyay, Saptarshi Roy, Suvrajit Saha and Bisweswaran of India were in the third position with 4 points each.

In this round Zia beat Rajib, Rakib beat Saptarshi, Nasir beat IM Dinesh Kumar Sharma, Lodhi drew with Bisweswaran, Suvrajit beat Arghyadip, Roktim beat Sayantan Dutta, Gurpreet Pal Sing beat Saif Uddin Lavlu, FM Abu Sufian Shakil beat Krishna Thapa of Nepal, FM Khandker Aminul Islam beat Mehdi Hasan Parag, FM Rezaul Haque beat Shawkat Hossain Pallab, Abdul Maleq beat Arman Monir, Debaraj Chatterjee beat Zakia Sultana, Monir Hossain drew with Sankalp of India, Chanchal Kumar Gosh drew with sub-junior champion Imran Ali Elin, International Women Master Rani Hamid beat Sahaj Grover of India and Mohammad Javed beat Aminul Islam Polish.



PHOTO: STAR

Eight-year-old Indian chess player Sahaj Grover appears tensed as he smells a defeat against Rani Hamid during their IM Chess tournament fixture at the NSC conference room yesterday.

'The evil still there' Malaysia meet postponed

Cricket

AFP, Lahore

International Cricket Council (ICC) chief executive Malcolm Speed said Monday that the four-year fight against match-fixing has controlled the menace but not eliminated it permanently.

"In our fight against match-fixing we have got to a stage that our Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) chief Lord Paul Condon can say to us that he believed that the problem of match-fixing is under control but it's not gone for ever," said Speed.

"If we go back to 2000, cricket had a very serious problem with corruption when we saw then a number of captains and other players were implicated. We had to deal with that problem," Speed, an Australian, told reporters after an international seminar on cricket.

"We know that allegations come up and we are vigilant."

The ICC was forced to form the unit after late South African captain Hansie Cronje confessed to taking money from bookmakers in June 2000.

Former Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin and ex-Pakistani skipper Salim Malik were also banned for life after inquires in their respective countries.

"ICC spends in excess of one

Minister sick, no meeting

SPORTS REPORTER

The proposed meeting between State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman and Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) was postponed yesterday due to the minister's illness.

A BFF delegate was scheduled to meet Fazlur Rahman to get assurance from the minister about the possession of the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS).

The venue is due to be handed over to football in January according to a resolution adopted by the National Sports Council.

However, recent remarks made by an influential Bangladesh Cricket Board advisor has left BFF confused whether their cricket counterparts are going to hand over the ground according to the timetable.

According to the international calendar, the BCB needs the stadium at least until the end of January. It is expected that the BFF will win back possession on January 30.



GP Corporate Cricket League (Cup Group)
Bashundhara vs GrameenPhone
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

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