



## Did U Know?

Volleyball was invented by William George Morgan of Holyoke, Massachusetts in 1895.

## What to WATCH

### ESPN

Sportscentre  
Sports News  
Live at 8.30 pm  
Harsha Dream Job  
First Semifinal  
Taped version at 9 pm

### STAR Sports

English Premier League  
Portsmouth v Aston Villa  
Taped version at 11 am  
Sportsline  
Sports News  
Live at 8 pm  
FA Cup Classic Matches  
Arsenal v Man United  
Taped version at 8.30 pm

# Sizzling Shahadat

## BD A cruise to first Test victory



SPORTS REPORTER

The country's fastest bowler Shahadat Hossain Rajib tore through Zimbabwe A to effect an exciting 50-run victory for Bangladesh A in the first Test at Bulawayo yesterday. It gave Bangladesh A a 1-0 lead in the three-Test series.

Shahadat recorded his best first class performance (five for 63 from 25 overs) in the home side's second innings and captain Enamul Haque Jr, whose name must have started sounding like a never-ending nightmare for the Zimbabweans, completed a match haul of ten wickets as Zimbabwe were dismissed for 248 within the first hour of the fourth and last day after they had resumed on 229 for six in pursuit of 299.

Blessings Mahwire was the first to go in the morning when 18-year-old Shahadat had him caught by Shahriar Nafees Ahmed after just three runs had been added to the overnight total. Enamul then cleaned up wicketkeeper Mufambisi (38) who was looking dangerous, on the same score. Enamul got his third victim in the innings and tenth in the match when he had Graeme

Cremer lbw (241 for nine), Campbell McMillan was snapped up by Raqib al-Hasan seven runs later as Shahadat had his first five-for in his career. Zimbabwe A's resistance lasted just ten overs on the final day as Shahadat and Enamul bowled



SHAHADAT HOSSAIN

unchanged.

The home team had given themselves a fighting chance on Day Three when they mopped up the Bangladesh second innings for 232 after they had started the day on 209 for five.

That total was built around Tushar Imran's 52 and solid contri-

butions from Wasseluddin (46) and Mahmudullah Riyad (42).

Zimbabwe began their chase well, and moved to 77 without loss before Enamul had Vusi Sibanda stumped. Shahadat, bowling with great pace and hostility on a green-top wicket, unsettled Zimbabwe's best batsmen Terrence Duffin (56) by striking him on the helmet three before Duffin fell to the part-time spin of Imran.

Shahadat came back for his last spell and removed Dion Ebrahim, who finally came good with a cultured 63, with a sharp rising ball which the batsman could only fend to second slip. Shahadat earlier had Strydom caught at point first ball. SK Russell got Ervine out towards the end of the day to leave the game nicely poised.

### SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard of the first four-day Test between Bangladesh A and Zimbabwe A at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo yesterday:

**BANGLADESH A:** First innings 254 all out in 70.3 overs (Raqibul 100, Mahmudulla 55, S Nafees 27; Macmillan 4-63, Mahwire 3-48, Nicolson 2-80)

**ZIMBABWE A:** First innings 188 all out in 54.5 overs (Duffin 65, Mahwire 3)

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IT'S TIME TO STEP UP A GEAR: Members of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) XI, who will take part in the Duleep Trophy in India later this month, listen to physical trainer Stuart Karppinen during the opening day's training at the Army Stadium in Babani yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# A vintage Mehrab



SPORTS REPORTER

Go slow was the motto of defending champions Dhaka on the opening day of their four-day match against Barisal yesterday but elsewhere there was no such restrained approach from Khulna and Sylhet.

The strikingly different approach also meant different equation in the second round matches of the Sixth National Cricket League. The ultra-cautious approach by two senior statesmen of Dhaka Javed Omar and Mehrab Hossain saw them crawl to 186 for four at close.

Khulna, on the other hand, raced to 273 all out with national captain Habibul Bashar scoring an entertaining half-century on their home ground against Rajshahi. Sylhet tried to be positive against hosts Chittagong but were bundled out for 216.

### DHAKA-BARISAL

Test opener Javed Omar scored a typically slow 60 and his former national teammate Mehrab Hossain, playing his first match in the competition, missed a century for just a couple of runs after the home side were sent in to bat at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

After the early loss of opener Rashedul Haque, Javed and one-day opener Mehrab batted with caution on a damp and slow pitch and failed to get out of the defensive shell before lunch.

The two took the score to 47 at the break but added a further 98 runs in the second session during a 151-run stand for the second wicket. As it often happens after a long partnership, both batsmen were dismissed in quick succession after tea.

Barisal captain Anisur Rahman finally broke the partnership when Javed, who faced 225 balls in four and a half-hours, edged the ball to wicketkeeper Shahin Hossain after hitting three boundaries.

Number four Mehrab Hossain Jr was run out for a nine-ball duck two overs later and his more illustrious namesake gave a tame return catch

to veteran left-arm pacer Anis while on 98 as Dhaka lost three wickets in the space of ten runs.

Mehrab batted over five hours and struck 13 fours in his 214-ball vigil.

Halim Shah (two) and skipper Khaled Mahmud (16), however, saw off the remaining 11 overs without any damage.

### KHULNA-RAJSHAHI

Khulna, the only team to record an outright victory in the first round, failed to put up a big total despite their captain Bashar won a good toss and contributed a healthy 64 at the Khulna Divisional Stadium.

Although Bashar, the top batsman

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PHOTO: STAR

WELCOME BACK: The out of favour Bangladesh opener Mehrab Hossain executes a classic cover drive during his 98 for Dhaka against Barisal at the Fatullah Stadium yesterday.

# Kiwi appetiser today



AFP, Auckland

New Zealand and Australia square off in a Twenty20 cricket match here Thursday, using the new rapid-fire form of the game to try to ignite interest in their upcoming series which includes five one-day internationals and three Tests.

New Zealand, although ranked second in the world in limited-overs cricket, go into the series plagued with injuries while Australia arrive off the back of a series in which they trounced both Pakistan and the West Indies.

Four players in the New Zealand squad - Kyle Mills, Jeff Wilson, Daniel Vettori and Scott Styris - have injury niggles bringing a lopsided feel to the series and warning public interest.

Twenty20, though, is "ideal for marketing the tour and starting the

juices flowing," former New Zealand captain Martin Crowe wrote in a weekly newspaper column.

The new cricket phenomenon is designed to push people through the turnstiles and hold them for three-hours of non-stop scoring, rather than the day-long, stop-start nature of 50-over one-day cricket where public interest appears to be waning.

"In three hours you can't get away from an exhibition of fast and furious action," Crowe said.

"There will be little thought from captains compared to ODIs and little strategy compared to "Tests".

Although the tour focus remains firmly fixed on the opening one-day international in Wellington on Saturday, New Zealand coach John Bracewell said the Twenty20 match was a good opportunity to have an early "sighter" of each other.

"The Twenty20 match might be a chance to get first psychological

points with a long series ahead," he said.

Statistics may favour New Zealand who have not lost a home series in four years and in the 1974 calendar year won 76 per cent of all ODIs, shading Australia's 73 per cent, but statistics count for nought compared to current form where Australia have an aura of invincibility.

Double All Black Wilson, who returns to the international line-up after a 12-year lay-off, said it was no secret Australia were viewed as the toughest opponent on offer, but he took confidence from the form of the New Zealand side over the past 12 to 18 months.

"The Aussies are the world's premier team but we're a pretty accomplished one-day side too, and I'm looking forward to being a part of the challenge," he said.

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### FED CUP FOOTBALL

## Teams to receive appearance fees

SPORTS REPORTER

The tournament committee of the Tibet 20th Federation Cup football has decided to give appearance fees to all the 23 participants.

"We have decided to give participation money to the all the teams. The amount is yet to be decided because we will disburse the cash from the gate-money," said Anwar Hossain Ujjal, secretary of the committee, after a meeting yesterday.

He informed that the champion team would receive Tk 1 lakh and the runners-up Tk 75, 000 as prize money.

The curtain raiser of domestic football will kick off on February 25 at the Bir Sheshthra Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

In the first round, 18 teams will split into three groups and only the group champions will progress to the eight-team finals which will take place at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Muktijoddha, Mohammedan, Abahani, Sheikh Russel and Brothers Union will play directly into the final round.

## Shishu Kishore, Bachelor win

UNB, Dhaka

Shishu Kishore Sangha and Bachelor SC won their respective matches in the Green Delta First Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

In the day's first match, Shishu Kishore earned a facile 3-1 victory against Shantinagar Club after dominating the first half 1-0.

Maksud, Qamruzzaman and Mostafa scored for the winners while Noor Hossain netted the consolation goal for the losers.

In the day's other match, Bachelor beat Combined SC 3-2 after the match was locked at 1-1 during the first session.

Zafar, Muhid and Zubair scored for the winners while Jahangir and Mamun netted for the losers.

## Nabin Sangha relegated

SPORTS REPORTER

Nabin Sangha were relegation from First Division League when they suffered a 53-run defeat to Jatrabari Krira Chakra at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

With the defeat Nabin Sangha stayed at the bottom of the table with eight points in the 18-team fray with one match in hand. The other relegated team will be decided after the match between Surjo Tarun and Wari Club, both level on 10 points from 15 outings.

Jatrabari thrived on half-centuries by Nuruzzaman (65) and RP Gupta (52) to score 232 before being booked in 49 overs.

In reply, Nabin Sangha were bundled out for 179 in 48.5 overs. Mohammad Younus captured 3-27.

At the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Eskaton Sabuj Sangha

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# Indian tour in danger?



AFP, Karachi

Pakistan's first cricket tour of India in six years could be under threat if a row over venues is not resolved within the next two days, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief said Wednesday.

"With just nine days left for the tour, it might be in danger if (the venue issue is) not solved in the next 48 hours," PCB chief Shaharyar Khan told AFP.

The dispute erupted after Pakistan refused to play at the riot-hit western Indian city of Ahmedabad. It has delayed the announcement of the schedule with Pakistan due to arrive in New Delhi February 25.

Shaharyar, speaking by tele-

phone from the northwestern city of Mardan where he went to offer his condolences to cricketer Younis Khan over his father's death, would not elaborate on the "danger" and said he hoped it would be averted.

"The matter of venues should be solved in the next two days as we face huge problems of logistics and, above all, television rights," Shaharyar said. "With just over a week left we are running short of time and would find it tough to complete preparations."

Pakistan are due to play three Tests and five one-day internationals on their first full tour of India since 1999.

The two governments were expected to intervene in the venue row with Indian Foreign Minister Natwar Singh and his Pakistani counterpart Khurshid Kasuri likely to

bring it up during their meeting in Islamabad on Wednesday, officials said.

"The two foreign ministers are also likely to discuss the matter and it would be nice if they can solve the matter," said Shaharyar, who is also due to meet Singh during a breakfast meeting on Thursday.

The International Cricket Council on Tuesday moved in to resolve the dispute, saying it was working behind the scenes to come out with a solution.

India's cricket chiefs face numerous obstacles standing in the way of the tour.

Venues have still not been finalised, broadcasting rights are embroiled in a court tussle, tickets are still to be printed and flights and accommodation have yet to be booked for the tour.

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# 'England will be ready for Ashes'



AFP, London

England cricket vice-captain Marcus Trescothick has insisted the side will be fully fit and mentally fresh for the visit of Australia later this year.

England have lost the last eight Ashes campaigns but their recent 2-1 Test series win in South Africa followed series victories against West Indies (home and away) and New Zealand.

However, England will have to raise their game further against

Ricky Ponting's all-conquering team and Somerset opening batsman Trescothick, returning from South Africa here Tuesday, said: "We've beaten South Africa but how much we have to improve before we face Australia is the million-dollar question."

"We have some time off now to reflect, to improve, get fit and begin work for the summer. We'll be in good shape and ready to go by the time the series arrives."

Tournament hosts England beat Australia in September's Champions Trophy semifinal before losing The Oval climax against the West Indies.

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# Nobody from BFF attended Munna's qul

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Former national football captain Monem Munna's quikhwani was held at the Suhrawardy Club premises adjacent to his residence here yesterday.

Munna's father Hassan Ali led the prayers.

Munna died of kidney related complications on Saturday morning at the Bangladesh Medical College Hospital at the age of 39.

Fans, family members, relatives and well-wishers attended the quikhwani to pay respect to the local hero and the beloved son of the river-port town. But what struck

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## Pepsi volleyball

UNB, Dhaka

Khulna qualified for the final round of the Pepsi inter-district volleyball championship as zonal champions after beating Kushtia 3-1 in the final at the Chuadanga Stadium yesterday.

Youthful Sathkira finished third in the meet eliminating Jessore in straight sets in a play-off at the same venue.

Kushtia and Sathkira also earned the rights to play in the finals.

## Hasan leader

SPORTS REPORTER

Hasan Imam took solo lead in the qualifying phase of the Mercantile Bank 31st National Chess Championship with maximum points at the end of the fifth round at the federation hall-room yesterday.

Hasan beat FIDE Master Sheikh Nasir Ahmed for his fifth consecutive victory.

Aminul Islam, Mehdi Hasan Parag and Syed Mahfuzur Rahman followed the leader with 4.5 points each.

In the day's other matches, Amin drew with Parag, Emon beat Arman, Khurshed drew with Liza, Lavlu beat Delwar, Sohul beat Javed, Pratul beat Mohammad Ali, Palash beat Obaidul, Robin beat Nazrul, Rani drew with Shamim, Mainuddin shared points with Salim, Uten beat Sharif and Chapal beat Monir.