



Did U Know?

Football was the first team sport added to the Paris Olympics in 1900



Sania Mirza

(Indian tennis sensation)

"Maybe if I were a guy I would be playing cricket."

While disclosing where her priorities lie.

What to WATCH

ESPN
Football Crazy
Live at 9:00 am
English Premier Football League
Bromwich vs Birmingham City
Live at 5:55 pm
Everton vs Blackburn Rovers
Live at 10:00 pm
Brazilian Football
Palmeiras vs Santos
Live at 12:55 am (Monday)

STAR Sports

South Africa vs Zimbabwe
First Test, Day 3
Live at 2:30 pm
Primera Liga
Deportivo vs Malaga
Live at 1:55 am (Monday)

DAY'S EVENT

Ispahani Sixth Nat'l Cricket League
(Day Three of 4-day match)

Rajshahi vs Dhaka
Venue: Bogra Stadium
Chittagong vs Khulna
Venue: CDVS
Barisal vs Sylhet
Venue: Barisal Stadium

India-Pakistan series on Sony

BBC/CRICINFO, undated

Pakistan's Test and one-day series in India will be televised internationally by Sony Entertainment Television after a last-minute deal.

"Sony has been given the satellite rights for the (three Tests and six one-day internationals) series for 11.5 million dollars," said Ranbir Singh Mahendra, president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

"I was authorised by the BCCI's working committee earlier this week to take the decision on satellite rights," said Mahendra. "Since Sony was the highest bidder, it was given the rights."

India's TV rights have been subject to an ongoing court battle but a stop-gap arrangement was agreed last month.

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Zia keeps lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman won the eighth round board against national junior champion Mehdi Hasan Parag to maintain his solo lead in the Mercantile Bank 31st National Chess Championship at the federation hall room yesterday.

The leader improved his tally to 7.5 points.

Grand Master Niaz Mursheed beat Mainuddin Ahmed in this round to follow the leader with 7 points while International Master Reefat Bin Sattar was in the third position securing six points. Reefat beat Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Emon.

Mahmud puts Dhaka atop



SPORTS REPORTER

Khaled Mahmud defied a sore shoulder when he bowled holders Dhaka into a commanding position against hosts Rajshahi on the second day of their Ispahani Sixth National Cricket League match at the Shaheed Chandra Stadium in Bogra yesterday.

The Dhaka captain, who did not bowl in the first innings due to pain in his left shoulder, took five wickets to send Rajshahi crashing to 179 in their second innings.

Set a victory target of 185 with two more days in hand, Dhaka were 18 for no loss at stumps.

The visitors need a further 167 runs for their first outright victory after two draws at home. When bowlers dictated terms at Bogra, batters flourished at the Barisal Divisional Stadium, where home opener Nasiruddin Faruque slammed a century to guide his side to 282-5 against Sylhet, who were dismissed for 202 on the first day on Friday.

At the Chittagong Divisional Stadium, the hosts piled up 461. But

Khulna, in their chase, were in danger of following-on after they had slumped to 68-4 at close of the day's play.

DHAKA-RAJSHAHI

Bogra certainly turned out to be bowlers' paradise when Mahmud became the third medium-pacer to take a five-wicket haul after Alamgir Kabir and Sumon Shahid did it for Khulna.

Alamgir added another wicket to his overnight figures of 4-33 while Sumon finished with 5-40 as Dhaka, resuming the day on 107-5, were bowled out for 135, giving Rajshahi a first-innings lead of five runs.

But at the end of the day, Dhaka emerged on top with Mahmud starting the carnage by removing opener Zahirul Islam for a duck.

Soon Rajshahi collapsed to 53-6 before Hasanuzzaman, captaining Rajshahi in the absence of suspended skipper Khaled Mashud, gave the innings some respectability with a 121-ball 67.

Mahmud finished with five for 50 in 22.4 overs while his young partner Dipojjal Roy, who captured two wickets in the first innings, took three for 31.

Openers Rashedul Haque (6) and Anwar Hossain (10) safely ended the day for Dhaka.

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CHITTAGONG-KHULNA

Ehsanul Haque took his overnight 107 to 132 while Mohammad Rabbi (59) and Habib Mobbalek (46) made useful contributions down the order as Chittagong, resuming the day on 327-5, added another 134 runs before being all out before tea.

Chasing a huge total, Khulna, without their inspirational captain and Bangladesh skipper Habibul Bashar, lost wickets at regular intervals. They were tottering at 86-4 after the Chittagong new-ball pair of Gazi Alamgir (2-12) and Mobbalek (2-23) bowled with venom under fading lights.

Monirul Islam was batting on 27 and Jamaluddin remained not out on 19 when bails were drawn for the day.

BARISAL-SYLHET

Nasiruddin Faruque hit an unbeaten 133 as Barisal got off to a flying start in their chase for an outright victory.

After losing his opening partner Tarique Islam in the very second over, Nasiruddin repaired the innings, putting on 94 runs for the second wicket with Imran Ahmed, who fell for one run short of his fifty.

Nasiruddin then added 141 runs for the fourth wicket with Shaheen

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PHOTO: AFP

IT DOESN'T GET ANY BIGGER THAN THIS! Indian Jaspal Singh Kalshi displays a 2.5-inch wooden cricket pitch in Amritsar yesterday ahead of the mouthwatering series between India and Pakistan.

BCB constitution challenged in HC

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday issued rule upon the Sports Secretary, National Sports Council (NSC) and Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to explain why the BCB constitution-2003 should not be declared illegal.

The court ordered them to restrain from acting upon the impugned constitution -- meaning uncertainty of election to BCB that already expired its 4-year term on Thursday.

The order came upon a writ filed by three directors of BCB challenging the legality of its constitution-2003.

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Musharraf waits for invitation from India

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf would consider going to watch his country's cricketers on their first tour of rival India for six years if he is invited, officials said Friday.

"I love watching sports and I also love cricket, but I would not go anywhere where I am not invited. If I am invited to watch cricket, I would consider," a presidential spokesman quoted Musharraf as telling Al-Arabiya television.

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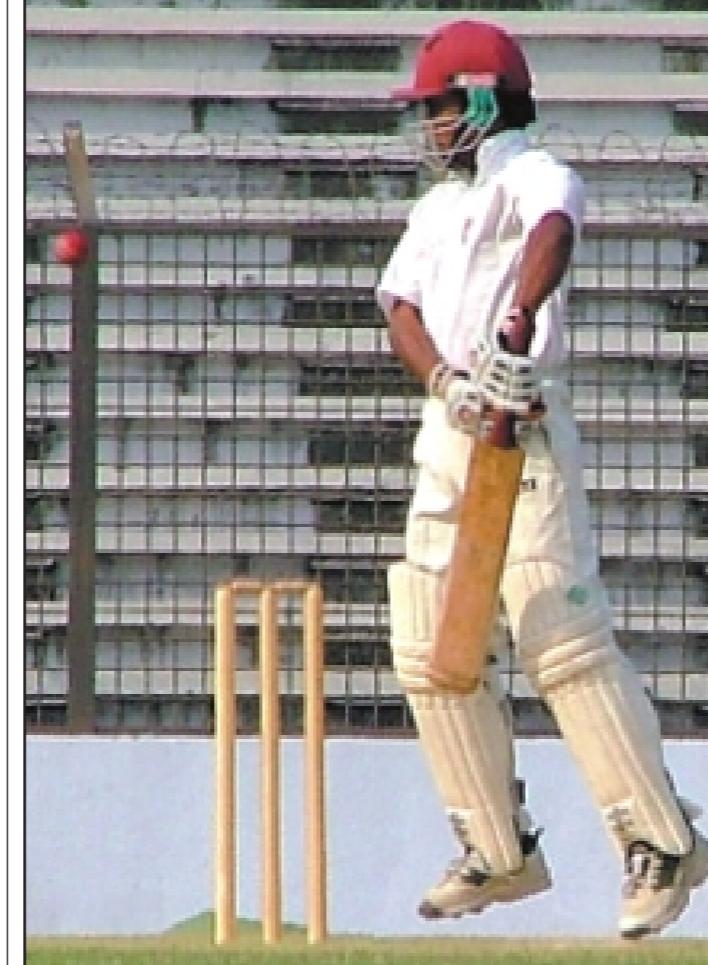


PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

Khulna middle-order batsman Monirul Islam sees off a rising ball on the second day of their National Cricket League match against hosts Chittagong yesterday.

SPONSORSHIP ROW

WI drop Lara & six others

REUTERS, London

West Indies captain Brian Lara is one of seven senior players who will not be selected for the home series against South Africa and Pakistan because of a sponsorship dispute.

The dispute centres around a potential clash between the West Indies' main official sponsor Digicel and the seven players' personal deals with Cable and Wireless.

In a statement West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) president Teddy Griffith said Lara, Ramaresh Sarwan, Chris Gayle, Dwayne Bravo, Dwayne Smith, Fidel Edwards and Ravi Rampaul would not be selected until the WICB was satisfied that their personal contracts would not infringe on the team deal made with Digicel.

"The Board cannot allow the whole structure of West Indies cricket to be put in peril as a result of individual contracts which will profit a few layers on the West Indies team as opposed to bringing benefit to the entire West Indies cricket family," Griffith said.

The WICB said they had written

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FEDERATION CUP

Arambagh through

SPORTS REPORTER

The lineup for the final round of Tibet 20th Federation Cup football tournament was completed yesterday when Arambagh Krira Sangha booked their place with a solitary goal victory against Bangladesh Army.

Abkar Hossain Ridon struck the all-important goal in the 80th minute at the Birsreshtha Sheik Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur as the Premier League side got through to the eight-team final round as Group C champions.

Youngmen's Club Fakirpool and Dhaka Wanderers Club have already qualified for the round as group champions.

Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra, Mohamedan Sporting Club, Abahani, Brothers Union and Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra got direct entry into the final round.

Meanwhile, the tournament faces a long break as the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has decided to hold the Independence Cup from March 10 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The date for the final round has not been fixed yet.

ASTEST TEST 50

lowest Test score.

On a day when records tumbled, Kallis completed a successful day for the hosts by following up his haul of four for 13 by bringing up his half-century in just 24 deliveries.

Kallis hit five sixes and three boundaries before being out for 54.

The all-rounder hit a six off Graeme Cremer to reach the landmark and eclipse the record of England all-rounder Ian Botham, who had taken 26 balls to score 50 against India in the 1981-82 season.

The Zimbabwean's paltry tally beat their previous worst showing of 63, which was against West Indies in 1999-2000 season.

Zimbabwe won the toss and chose to bat but were dismissed in 31.2 overs with only opening bat

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