



## Did U Know?

The first Women's FIFA World Cup tournament was held in 1991, 61 years after the men's.



**Chris Gayle**  
West Indies cricket captain  
"India beating Australia is a turning point for us. Getting more wins over such an opponent will make cricket even better."



**What to WATCH**

**Neo Cricket**  
India v England  
First ODI  
Live from 9:30am

**TEN Sports**  
Pakistan v West Indies  
Second ODI  
Live from 5:00pm

**ESPN**  
Sportscenter India  
Sports News  
Live from 8:30pm

## LOCAL SNIPPETS

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Bachelors and Victoria earned comfortable wins in their respective matches of the Green Delta First Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Bachelors crushed Shishu Kishore Sangha 6-0 with two goals each from Reza and substitute Azam while Maruf and Roman scored one goal each.

In the day's other match, Victoria outclassed Utara Hockey Club 5-0. Yousuf and Iftakher netted two goals each while skipper Rashed scored the other goal.

**NATIONAL CRICKET**

Moulavibazar (220-8) crushed Habiganj (94) by 126 runs and became zonal champions in the 29th National Cricket Championship at Sylhet Stadium.

In the other matches across the country, Madaripur (106) snuck past Narayanjanj (105) by just one run. Sherpur (170) beat Netrokona (113-9) by 57 runs, Bogra (168) beat Naogaon (126) by 42 runs, Meherpur (233-9) thrashed Bagerhat (129) by 104 runs and Comilla (242-9) beat Cox's Bazar (187-9) by 55 runs.

**DIV II FOOTBALL**

Bangladesh Boys Club defeated East End Club by a solitary goal in the day's only match of the Second Division Football League at the Bir Shreshtha Sepoy Mohammad Mostafa Stadium in Kamalapur.

Nabi scored the match-winner for Bangladesh Boys in the 70th minute.

With the day's result, Bangladesh Boys Club secured 24 points while

East End Club remained at 22 points, both playing 13 matches.

In today's matches, Sadharan Bima face Gazirchot while Police AC take on Friends Social Welfare Organisation.

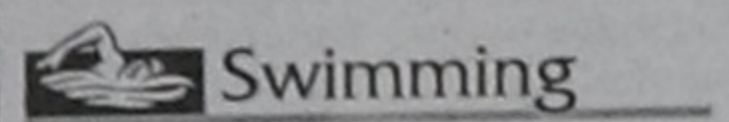
**POLICE KABADDI**

DMP emerged champions in the Bangladesh Police Kabaddi competition beating APBN 59-24 in the final match at the Rajarbagh Police Lines ground.

DMP's Rashid was adjudged the best player of the match.

IGP Nur Mohammad witnessed the final match as chief guest and later distributed prizes among the participants.

## 23RD NATIONAL SWIMMING Rony back with a bang



SPORTS REPORTER

Shahjahan Ali Rony celebrated his return to the National Swimming Championships with a new national record in the men's 100m breaststroke yesterday.

Rony, the 10th SA Games gold medalist in 50m breaststroke in Colombo in 2006, was disqualified for last year's nationals over a row between two teams who both claimed the Chapainawabganj lad to be their own.

The one-year gap has not damaged his performance though, as the Bangladesh Army swimmer shattered country's former breaststroke champion Karar Samedul Islam's six-year old record by 0.02s on the second day of the 23rd edition of the championships.

Rony clocked 1:07.76s to outplay his teammate Kamal Hossain and Bangladesh Navy's Shariful Islam at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur.

Kamal Hossain added two more gold medals to his opening day's two, winning 200m individual medley before teaming up with fellow Army swimmers Rezaul Haque, Rafiqul Islam and Sujjan Ali

to bag the 4x100m freestyle relay. Sonia Akhter, who claimed two gold medals with new national marks on Day 1, set her third national record but the Class VII student of BKSP had to remain satisfied with a couple of silvers later on the day.

Sonia shot to the 100m butterfly block in 1:14.66s to send Laboni Akhter Jui's 2004 record of 1:14.66s into history. It was the third time Sonia has broken Laboni's records in the meet.

Sonia, however, finished way behind her teammate Afsana Talukder in the 200m IM. Afsana, who lost her 50m freestyle crown on the opening day, won the medley event in 2:49.62s with Sonia timing 2:55.04s. Afsana had earlier won the 200m freestyle gold in 2:31.59s.

The BKSP duo was part of a record-breaking race in the day's final event but lost the women's 4x100m relay to Bangladesh Ansar.

Sabura Khatun, Dolly Akhter, Lovely Akhter and Laboni Akhter gave Ansars their fourth gold in 4:37.25s, edging BKSP's Sonia, Afsana, Seema, Nasima who took 4:38.73. The old 4x100m record was 4:41.99s.

Mahfizur Rahman, who placed



Shahjahan Ali Rony powers his way to win the 100m breaststroke with record timing in the 23rd National Swimming Championships at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Down but not out

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh conceded a 2-0 defeat to Indonesia to end their group matches of the 3rd Grand Royal Challenge Cup in Yangon yesterday but were still in contention for a semifinal spot.

Bangladesh, who drew 0-0 with hosts Myanmar on Tuesday to claim one point, will have to wait for the result of tomorrow's final Group A match between Indonesia and the home side.

Bangladesh will qualify for the last four if Indonesia beat the hosts by a three-goal margin.

The second game of the group at the Thuwanna Youth Training Centre Stadium began in tremendous pace although it was a very hot day.

After a long range effort by the Red and Whites, who recorded

their fourth victory against Bangladesh in seven internationals, went over the bar, Bangladesh keeper Aminul had to make twin saves in the third minute to inspire Shaiful Islam Manik's side to go on the offensive.

Bangladesh turned up with attacking midfielder Zahid Hossain, playing as the rightback for injured Ariful in a 5-3-2 formation, who created a move for strikers Alfaz and Emily to unsettle the rival defence in the sixth minute. Emily finally picked up Zahid who shotwide.

Two minutes later, Nazrul sent a long ball from their own half for Emily whose cross ran harmlessly across the goal.

Bangladesh kept the momentum and Emily, after getting the ball following hard work by Arman Aziz and Alfaz, failed to keep his shot under the bar in the ninth minute.

Indonesia then snatched the

initiative and went ahead in the 11th minute when man of the match Firman Utina scored from a rebound after Aminul had made a fine save.

Indonesia enjoyed superior possession but Alfaz, playing his first match for the national team after more than a year, wasted a chance in the 37th minute.

Alfaz was in the thick of things three minutes later but his effort was blocked by a defensive wall that inspired a counter attack for Taolahu Abdul Musafry to seal the victory.

Manik replaced leftback Waly Faisal with Mishu at the break, which saw a more attacking Bangladesh. Zahid and Mishu both threw their weights at the flanks creating gaps, but did not find the right man in the right time behind the crosses.

Robin replaced Alfaz and Zahed

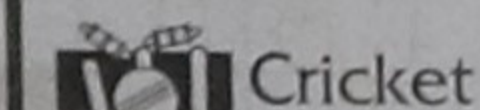
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Pakistan batsman Younus Khan forces the ball off the back foot during his enterprising 56 against West Indies in the first one-dayer at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Akmal steals Gayle show



SPORTS REPORTER

Kamran Akmal hit two sixes in paceman Jerome Taylor's last over to help Pakistan beat the West Indies by four wickets in a dramatic finish to the first day-night international here on Wednesday.

Chasing a daunting 295, Pakistan needed a tough 17 off the 50th over, but Akmal hit the second and third ball for sixes to give his team an unexpected win with a nine-ball 24 not out to overshadow Chris Gayle's brilliant century.

Gayle notched a 106-ball 113 to power his team to a challenging 294-9 in their 50 overs. Paceman Lionel Baker (3-47), making his one-day

debut, almost derailed Pakistan before Akmal and Fawad Alam (26 not out) changed the script.

Akmal walked in at the fall of Shoaib Malik's wicket whose enterprising 50-ball 66 nearly ended in vain but Akmal and Alam notched 33 needed off the last three overs to give Pakistan a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

The second match will be played on Friday.

Gayle's counterpart, Malik hit six boundaries and a six during his 50-ball knock to anchor Pakistan's run-chase.

Besides Malik, opener Khuram Manzoor scored an 89-ball 69 (five fours) in his only second one-day international while the experienced Younus Khan made a 62-ball 56.

Manzoor and Salman Butt (24) gave Pakistan a solid start of 64 before Baker bowled Butt who played on to a short delivery. Manzoor added 78 for the second wicket with Younus before Pakistan lost two quick wickets.

Manzoor edged Jerome Taylor to wicketkeeper, while Misbahul Haq (seven) was bowled by left-armer Nikita Miller, trying to reverse-sweep a straight delivery.

Baker returned for his second spell to have Younus and hard-hitting Shahid Afridi (four) bowled by Taylor dismissed Malik -- all well caught in the deep -- to put West Indies in sight of a victory.

Malik said he had expected Akmal to pull his side through. "Even when I was batting I had the feeling that Akmal is to come

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## TEST SERIES Tigers keep same squad

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh kept the same side that played the three-match one-day series against South Africa for the upcoming Test series.

The first Test will be held at the OUSurance Oval in Bloemfontein from November 19 while the second game will begin at the SuperSport Park in Centurion.

Only batsman Rajin Saleh has been omitted from the Test setup after a dry run in the last home series. Rajin played the two Tests against New Zealand last month but failed to make any impressions, totalling 26 runs in four innings.

## SQUAD

Mohammad Ashraf (captain), Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (vice-captain), Tamim Iqbal, Zunaed Siddiqui, Shakib Al Hasan, Mehrib Hossain, Mushfiqur Rahim (wicketkeeper), Nayeem Islam, Abdur Razzak, Shahadat Hossain, Syed Rasel, Nazmul Hossain, Mahubul Alam, Rokibul Hassan, Imrul Kayes.

## Olympic Day Run today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Olympic Day Run will be held this morning at all 64 districts of the country for the first time ever.

The annual event of the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) used to be an event for only the divisional headquarters but the organisers have decided to spread it across the country this time.

The Run will begin at 7:30am with Bangladesh Air Force Chief Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman as chief guest in Dhaka.

The BOA will also organise art competition and blood donation programmes on this occasion.

## MS closer to gun licence

PTI, Ranchi

Indian cricket captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni went one more step ahead in his quest to own a licensed gun after the local administration decided to go soft on the formalities, days after it sought a 'character certificate' from the wicketkeepers-batsman.

Softening its stance, the Ranchi district administration on Wednesday forwarded Dhoni's application to the office of Chhotanagpur Commissioner with a recommendation that he required no proof to furnish because of his celebrity status.

A couple of days ago Dhoni had received an official letter asking him to furnish his 'character certificate' to get license for a 9mm pistol.

Annoyed over the administration's directive to Dhoni for a 'character certificate', a group of fans last night demonstrated at the Elbert Ekka Chowk demanding immediate issuance of license to the cricketer.

## In search of Ntini



SPORTS REPORTER

BISHWAJIT ROY in East London

It is very easy to find out the house number twenty-seven in Lagoon drive in Beacon Bay in this city. Because there lives a hero of the Eastern Province called Makhaya Ntini, one of the most dazzling fast bowlers in modern day cricket.

How popular is he? Just ask a taxi driver and he will take you to the right destination and give you a lively lecture about the bowler, who is the first black cricketer to play for South Africa.

"You know, he (Ntini) is not only popular in the city but also all over South Africa. He is a very good cricketer and a nice guy and the role model of the youngsters. His behaviour is fantastic and that's

why everybody loves him," said Graeme, an aged taxi driver who has enough in his memory to provide almost all the statistics of world cricket.

Obviously he is a role model, as following his footsteps another quick bowler Monde Zondeki came into the fold from the same area.

The elderly man's excitement only showed that he has no boundary in his mind about anybody's skin colour as he also reminded how a certain quarter tried to put an end to his career by charging him on a rape case.

Ntini's career looked to be coming to an end in 1999 when he was charged and then convicted of rape, which caused widespread controversy in South Africa, and finally he was declared innocent and acquitted on appeal. He then began to rebuild his international cricket career.

"You know some people only tried to trap him," said Graeme.

It was not sure whether the cricketer is available in his house as the right-arm paceman has been playing domestic cricket before the start of the two-match Test series against Bangladesh but still the intention was to know about him from his family members as well as how a boy who was a cattle herd became a national hero.

Interestingly the light was switched off in the house once the car entered through the front gate.

There was no other choice for a couple of Bangladeshi reporters rather than returning from very near of the house of East London's hero with broken hearts.

Without any doubt it was a failed attempt but the journey helped to know about how popular one cricketer could be in his country regardless of colour and creed.

## THE DAILY STAR WINS DRU CUP Back where they belong



SPORTS REPORTER

After years of hurt and near misses, The Daily Star finally fulfilled their destiny by winning the DRU-Pepsi Media Cup beating Bhorer Kagoj by 13 runs in a closely fought final at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The Daily Star batted first scoring 81 from their stipulated six overs and then restricted the bangla-daily to 68 for four from their allotted six.

The popular Karwan Bazar outfit owed much to the efforts of

Jasim Uddin Khan whose strong showing in both the final and the semifinal, held earlier yesterday, saw him pick up the man-of-the-match gongs in both games.

Back to final, The Daily Star rode on the efforts of captain Abul Kalam Azad who top scored with 28 from 15 balls to give his side a rollicking start alongside Jasim who contributed 17. Near the end, guest player Shaiful Alam made himself at home as he provided the impetus smashing 23 from 7 deliveries to push the score above eighty.

In reply, Bhorer Kagoj made a solid start with Raquib (33) and Lablu (18) threatening to snatch away the game.

However, both fell in the face of disciplined bowling led by Jasim, the shaven-headed Shamim Ashraf and Shariful Islam. Helemul Alam was perfect behind the stumps and Bhorer Kagoj could only manage 68 bringing unbridled joy to The Daily Star.

Manager Julfikar Ali Manik, who evoked Calypso memories with his spiffy hat, and coach Pinaki Roy, with his conspicuous moustache and ponytail, led the celebrations in an hour-long photo session that followed the victory.

Captain Azad was adjudged the best batsman and man of the

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The victorious Daily Star team receive the Pepsi DRU trophy from Pepsi country manager Tejinder Khurana after defeating Bhorer Kagoj in the final at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday

PHOTO: STAR