



Did U Know?

Abdur Razaq is the youngest bowler to perform a hat-trick in a Test match. He was 20 years and 203 days old when he achieved this feat against Sri Lanka at Galle.



ESPN
England vs South Africa
Second Test, Day Four
Repeat at 11:00 am
Sportscentre Weekend
Sport News
Repeat at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports
Tennis Masters Series, Montreal
Quarterfinals
Live at 7:30 am
Soccer Soap
Dream Team
Repeat at 10:00 am & at 5:30 pm
Tennis Masters Series, Montreal
Semifinals
Live at 11:00 pm



Dav Whatmore
(Bangladesh cricket coach)
"I think we've got a better chance of gaining confidence with any opposition (other) than Australia."

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 19

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

Competition closes at 8 pm August 15, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards.

- How many runs did Bangladesh score in the first innings of the 2nd Test against Australia?
301 289 295
- Who became Asian Youth Cup cricket champions?
Malaysia Bangladesh
Nepal
- Who won the Pepsi handball title?
Chittagong Narsingdi Bandarban
- Who clinched the CONCACAF Gold Cup?
Brazil USA Mexico
- How many Test tons has Steve Hogg scored?

Name

Class

School Address

Phone: (If any)

Shoaib allowed to rejoin Durham

REUTERS, Karachi

The Pakistan cricket board (PCB) is allowing fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar to re-join Durham after the first two Tests against Bangladesh this month.

A board spokesman said Durham had released Akhtar for the Tests but wanted him back in the first week of September to complete his contract.

Durham's chances of promotion from the second division would be greatly boosted by the return of Shoaib for the closing games.

Fellow paceman Mohammad Sami, who has been out with an injured ankle, is expected to be fit for the third Test on August 22.

Sami, 22, said: "I will complete four weeks of rest this week and then start training."



A Chittagong Mohammedan attack on the Bangladesh Army goal during their Nitol-Tata National Football League match at Khulna Stadium yesterday.

Tapu pulls Ctg MSC thru'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The Nitol-Tata National Football League Super Six line-up was completed when Chittagong Mohammedan Sporting Club became the last team to qualify after they beat Bangladesh Army 3-1 at the Khulna Stadium yesterday.

Coming into the must-win Group B match, Chittagong MSC were tied on points with Army but were behind on goal-difference.

They however thrived on an outstanding performance from striker Mehedi Hasan Tapu, who scored two spectacular goals.

Chittagong Mohammedan finished third in Group B after Muktiyoddha Sangsad KC and Abahani.

Moulvibazar Wanderers, Mohammedan Sporting Club and Arambagh Krira had earlier made their Super Six berths from Group A.

Teams	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Muktiyoddha Sangsad	4	3	0	1	9	3	9
Abahani KC	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
Ctg Mohammedan	4	2	1	1	5	3	7
Bangladesh Army	4	1	1	2	7	7	4
Sirajganj Mohammedan	4	0	1	3	3	13	1

Warne hits back

REUTERS, Melbourne

Shane Warne told the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) to mind their own business on Friday as debate continued over the issue of allowing the Australia leg-spinner to play in charity matches while serving a doping ban.

"As far as I'm concerned it's got nothing to do with these guys," Warne said in an interview aired on Australian Broadcasting Corp. Radio.

"I'm an employee of the Australian Cricket Board and both the ACA (now called Cricket Australia) and us have come to a decision.

"I've abided by their rules and had an arbitration meeting and they said I can play in charity games, I can train with the team, I can do all those things."

Warne, the second highest wicket-taker in Tests with 491 victims, was banned for 12 months after testing positive for diuretics in February.

Cricket Australia had said the 33-year-old should not be allowed to play any cricket.

But last month it released a joint statement with the Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA), the players' representative body, announcing that an independent arbitrator had cleared the way for Warne to play in charity matches.

WADA chief executive David Howman told The Sydney Morning Herald on Thursday: "It's not a ban if he is training or playing. I find this ruling particularly bizarre because it is out of character with Australia's strong anti-doping stance."

ACA chief executive Tim May the arbitration was not simply about Warne but the wider issue of whether CA had the power under its anti-doping policy to ban a player from charity matches.

"It has been proven -- it does not," May said.

Hegg scared of Hick heroics

AFP, London

Warren Hegg pinpointed Worcestershire's Graeme Hick Friday as the man Lancashire had to stop if they wanted to reach the C and G Trophy final.

The two teams meet at New Road on Saturday for the right to play Gloucestershire in the August 30 final of English cricket's knockout cup competition.

And Lancashire captain Hegg said his fellow ex-England international Hick was still capable of playing match-winning innings.

"Worcestershire have made some good signings and have brought through players like Vikram Solanki and Kabir Ali -- and, of course, there is always Graeme Hick," said wicketkeeper Hegg.

"The last time we played a semi-final at New Road he scored a century and you can never be complacent with him around," added Hegg of the Zimbabwe-born Hick.

That match in the 1995 edition of the now defunct Benson and Hedges Cup saw Lancashire win a close encounter by three wickets after Pakistan great Wasim Akram made a quick 64 late on with Hegg at the other end.



ICC ground consultant Andy Atkinson inspects the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday. The official who arrived on August 4 on a seven-day visit to assess preparations for next year's Under-19 Cricket World Cup, will visit other match venues in the country before leaving for London on August 10. He expected to return to Bangladesh in October and stay until the end of the February-March tournament.

BCB to appoint CEO next week

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board will appoint a chief executive officer (CEO) after interviewing two candidates in Dhaka next week. BCB advisor Mahabubul Anam confirmed yesterday.

He told The Daily Star Sport that after assessing the applications, the Board has short-listed two persons for the position.

Anam, however, did not disclose the identity of the applicants who are scheduled to reach the capital either on Monday or Tuesday.

He also revealed that an Australian coach will also arrive to be interviewed for the post of Under-19 team coach ahead of next year's Under-19 World Cup.

"We have more or less decided to appoint the Australian as the Under-19 team coach. The interview would be merely a formality," Anam said adding that a trainer would also be appointed shortly.

Pakistan keen to host SAF Games again

REUTERS, Karachi

Pakistan is hoping finally to be able to host the ninth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games after postponing the regional event three times.

"Now the government feels the time is right to host the Games," the Director General of the Pakistan Sports Board, Brigadier Saikat Abbas, said on Friday.

"The cabinet believes the Games, if held in Pakistan, will help promote ties with India and other countries in the region. We will now approach the South Asian Federation to give us new dates and then plan accordingly," he said.

The jinxed Games, in which Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Maldives traditionally compete, were first postponed in October 2001 after the September 11 terror attacks on the United States.

Pakistan rescheduled them for March 2002 but again cancelled after an escalation in border tensions with India. They were called off again in April this year due to the war in Iraq.

Div II soccer

SPORTS REPORTER

Bashabo Tarun Sangha blanked Gandaria Famous Club 3-0 in the Shahjalal Bank Metropolitan Second Division Football League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The winners led the first half 1-0. Nuruzzaman, Sharif and Linkon shared the goals.

Pepsi v'ball Final round begins today

SPORTS REPORTER

The final round of the Pepsi Volleyball League begins today at the Faridpur Stadium.

A total of 32 teams will take part in the final round.

Akmal stuck in England

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan's reserve wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal is unable to return home in time for training after his boss in England locked his passport away and went on holiday, Pakistan's Cricket Board said Thursday.

"Wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal will be unable to join the training camp starting later this week as his club boss has left for vacations and at the same time has locked Kamran's passport in his locker," said a PCB press release.

"Kamran, in a message to the selectors, has conveyed that he will not be available to get his travel documents until August 16."

Akmal, 21, plays for Ireland's Leemavadi club and made a record 160 in the final of the North West Cup final last month.

He played four Tests and seven one-day internationals for Pakistan on the tour of Zimbabwe and South Africa after the first-choice keeper Rashid Latif fell unfit.

Pakistan faces Bangladesh in the first of three Tests starting in Karachi from August 20 for which 20 probables were announced on Tuesday.

A number of Pakistani players feature in county and league cricket in England, Scotland and Ireland at lucrative rates.

Goal crazy MSC

Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Title aspirants Mohammedan Sporting Club demolished Bangladesh Sporting Club 10-0 in the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

While the popular black and whites cruised to their sixth straight win, their opponents, who were last year's most impressive side, have yet to open their account from same number of outings.

Mohammedan went into the match with a comfortable 3-0 lead.

Striker Ariful Haq Prince helped himself to a fine hat-trick while captain Musa Miah and Sohag Gazi struck twice each. Besides Mohammad Anis, Rafiqul Islam Kamal and Mazharul Islam Muksed scored one apiece.

However, Anis opened the floodgates in the tenth minute when the Pakistani forward found the target from a goalmouth melee.

Soon after Prince struck a superb field goal. The clever striker flicked to find the target from Ashiquzzaman's angular hit in the 16th minute.

Prince then executed an angular shot from pass by Rafiqul Islam Kamal to score his second goal in the 29th minute.

Prince didn't have to wait long to complete his treble. Because it came after the break when he brilliantly placed the ball from a Kamal pass.



Scene from yesterday's Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League match between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Bangladesh Sporting Club at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium.

Kallis clicks immediately

REUTERS, Canterbury

South Africa's Jacques Kallis dispelled any doubts about both his form and focus as he hammered a run-a-ball 77 against Kent on Thursday.

He missed the first two Tests, both dominated by South Africa as they took a 1-0 lead in the five-match series, but is set to be recalled for the third at Headingley next week.

Neil McKenzie, batting at five, scored 105 not out while Jacques Rudolph made 92.

Earlier, opener Gary Kirsten was given a scare when he was forced to retire hurt after being struck on the right elbow by quick bowler Martin Saggars after scoring 40.

"It's bruised and swollen but he's okay," a team spokesperson said.

Herschelle Gibbs missed out when he was dismissed for four, while Boeta Dippenaar also failed, making a single.

Captain Graeme Smith was rested after making two double hundreds against England.

Thorpe's D-Day

CRICINFO, London

The presence of Thorpe, Hussain and Alec Stewart in the same side might be considered a retrogressive step.

Hussain, whose appetite for the game had been in question since his resignation, answered his critics with a batting 61 at Lord's and a century at Trent Bridge next week.

Graham Thorpe may be forced to wait a while longer to make his return to Test cricket, as England's selectors on Saturday are expected to resist the temptation for wholesale changes ahead of the third Test against South Africa at Trent Bridge next week.

Thorpe has been beset by marital problems for the past year and has not played a Test since July 2002, against India at Lord's. On that occasion, he cut a distracted figure in an otherwise victorious side and failed twice with the bat before taking a temporary break from all forms of cricket. He was subsequently selected for England's tour of Australia, but withdrew at the last minute after admitting he was not mentally prepared for such an arduous trip.

He has since returned to the form and frame of mind that made him England's best batsman for much of the past decade, but Thorpe's return to Test cricket is far from guaranteed. A back spasm ruled him out at Lord's, but Michael Vaughan, Nasser Hussain's successor as captain, is said to be wary of leaning too heavily on England's old guard.



fabulous unbeaten 161 for Essex in the National League last week. And though Stewart's place remains in jeopardy after his less-than-mobile performance behind the stumps at Lord's, the retirement of Darren Gough may have saved his place for the time being. England cannot afford to dispense with all of their experienced players in such an unseemly rush, and Chris Read should therefore be told to wait his turn.

"All selection meetings are important but this is one of the most important we have held in quite some time," admitted David Graeveney, England's chairman of selectors.

"We have some big decisions to make and we also have to find a line-up capable of improving on our performance during the last Test at Lord's."

One of the biggest decisions will be the identity of Gough's replacement. Two of the likeliest lads, Matthew Hoggard and Richard Johnson, are suffering from injuries, so James Kirtley will probably make his first Test appearance after being 12th man for four matches in succession. James Ormond, who has 41 wickets at 26.80 this season (including a hat-trick against Sussex last week) is also on the brink of a recall, while Gareth Batty's offspin and handy lower-order batting is sure to earn a mention in dispatches.

England's batting, the Thorpe saga notwithstanding, is equally problematic. A tough decision needs to be taken on Anthony