



## Did U Know?

The greatest recorded crowd at any soccer match was 199,854, for the Brazil v. Uruguay World Cup final in the Maracana Municipal Stadium, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on July 16, 1950.



## What to Watch

- ### BTV
- Nitol-Tata Nat'l Football League Semifinals
  - Muktijodha vs Moulvibazar Wanderers
  - Live at 3:30 pm
  - &
  - Mohammedan SC vs Abahani KC
  - Live at 5:30 pm
- ### ESPN
- Football Focus
  - Live at 6:30 pm
  - Sportscentre Hindi
  - Sport News
  - Live at 8:30 pm
  - UK Domestic Cricket
  - Glamorgan vs Leicestershire
  - Live at 9:00 pm
- ### STAR Sports
- English Premier League Highlights
  - Taped Version at 3:00 pm
  - Sportsline Tonight
  - Sport News
  - Live at 8:00 pm
  - US Open Tennis
  - Men's 4th Rd/Women's Quarterfinals
  - Live at 9:00 pm



## Talk Turkey



**Thierry Henry**  
(Arsenal's ace striker)  
"Getting married is part of the evolution of my career."



## Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 198

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

Competition closes at 8 pm Sept 12, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who won the Champions Trophy hockey title?  
Netherlands | Australia | Pakistan
- Who clinched the Europa college basketball crown?  
Khalina College | Westminster | Notre Dame
- Bangladesh lost the first Test against Pakistan by:  
7 wickets | 42 runs | 3 wickets
- Who became man-of-the-match in the 4th Test between England and South Africa?  
Kirsten | Ntini | Flintoff
- Who won the Spanish Super Cup?  
Real Madrid | Mallorca | Barcelona

Name .....

Class .....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

## TT Leagues from September 28

**SPORTS REPORTER**

The AB Bank Metropolis Senior Division and First Division Table Tennis Leagues will begin on September 28 at the Wooden Floor gymnasium adjacent to Bangabandhu national Stadium.

The teams have been instructed to enroll their names at the



**GEARING UP FOR THE BIG GAME:** Abahani football players warm up for their practice session at the club ground yesterday. They face Mohammedan tomorrow.

# NFL semis today

### SPORTS REPORTER

The focus undoubtedly will be on the Dhaka Derby between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani Krira Chakra when the semifinals of the Nitol-Tata Third National Football League take place at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today.

The clash of the titans will kick off at 5:30pm after the first semifinal featuring star-studded Muktijodha Sangsad Krira Chakra and dark horse Moulvibazar Wanderers Club at 3:30 pm.

Bangladesh Television will provide live coverage of both semifinals.

It is always dubbed 'the battle' when the country's two popular giants Mohammedan and Abahani lock horns at any sporting event.

Although Mohammedan will walk into the field with an impressive run

of form behind them, Abahani will take heart from the fact that the supposed underdog on the day has enjoyed a superior win ratio.

"They (Mohammedan) are no doubt favourites on paper. They have got six national players while we have only one. But this statistic means little when it comes to a clash between the two teams where nerves play a big role," said Abahani manager Monem Munna, who knows better than anybody else what it feels like to be in a blood and thunder battle.

Mohammedan captain Masud Rana also echoed the sentiment of his long-time rival on the field.

"Mental matters play a vital role when two popular teams meet. So there is always a fifty-fifty chance for both sides. No doubt we are a balanced team but we will have to give hundred per cent to win the battle," said the experienced left-wing back prior to his team's final training session at the Rajarbagh Police Lines ground.

While Mohammedan and Abahani prepare for their first clash

## Miandad finds Pakistan fine

AFP, Multan

Pakistan coach Javed Miandad said the rebuilding of his team was firmly on track after the series victory against Bangladesh.

"After playing well in three one-day tournaments, this Test series against Bangladesh provided us with a chance to analyse weaknesses and now we are progressing well," said Miandad, whose two previous tenures as coach ended in acrimony. Dubbed 'Mr Fixit', Miandad had a fall out with senior players a fortnight before the 1999 World Cup and his second spell ended in dismissal following Pakistan's tour of the New Zealand in March 2001.

A nine-wicket win over Bangladesh in the second Test in northwestern city of Peshawar last week not only gave Pakistan their first series win on home soil in five years but marked Miandad's first home win as coach.

"It is nice that we have won the series, not for myself but for the country and hope that in future we will do better," he said.

"We have analysed what are the weaknesses before the series"

## Pillay likely to arrive today

SPORTS REPORTER

India hockey captain Dhanraj Pillay is likely to arrive here today to bolster Abahani Krira Chakra ahead of their crucial Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League clash against Mohammedan.

The virtual title decider takes place at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium tomorrow.

The sky blues have no choice other than winning the battle to retain the title while their archrivals need only draw to regain.

The celebrated Indian playmaker will be the fourth foreign player for the Dhanmondi-based club after his compatriots MK Prakash, Christopher Thomas and Amor Ayamma.

On the other hand, Mohammedan have already exhausted their quota of four foreigners by signing Pakistanis Kamran Ashraf, Mohammad Anis, Mohammad Sarwar and Selim Amir.

# Multan haunts 'em



HASAN MASOOD from Multan

Bangladesh reached in Multan with two things to accomplish when they take on hosts Pakistan in third and final Test on Wednesday.

The first target of the Tigers is to erase the bitter memories of their innings and 264-run defeat against the home side in the second Asian Test Championship in August 2001. The other goal will be to maintain their upward performance graph that they showed in the first two Tests despite losing on both occasions.

Bangladesh lost the Karachi Test by seven wickets while they suffered a nine-wicket defeat in the second Test at Peshawar after promising a lot on a batting paradise.

The tourists took a 66-run first innings lead in Peshawar after part-time leg-spinner Alok Kapali wrapped up the innings with a hat-trick. But it all went horribly wrong when the Tigers started the second innings. They were blown away by 'Rawalpindi Express' to be

shot out for only 96 in 33.5 overs.

However, Bangladesh are relieved to know that Shoaib Akhtar, who made the difference in Peshawar by grabbing ten wickets (6-50 and 4-30), will not be around this time as he will be in England playing county cricket for Durham.

But with leg-spinner Danish Kaneria in the side there is every possibility of a Multan nightmare recurring. Kaneria destroyed Bangladesh here two years ago with a match-haul of 12 wickets (6-46 and 6-52). Besides, Pakistan have recalled their champion off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq as Akhtar's replacement.

In their first-ever meeting with Pakistan here, Bangladesh managed to score 134 and 148.

The home side on the other hand piled up 546 for three before declaring. The innings contained a record five centuries with openers Saad Anwar, recently retired from international cricket, and Taufeeq Umar making 101 and 104. They were joined by Inzamamul Haq (105), Yousuf Youhana (102) and Abdul Razzak (110 not out) as the Test babes were punished in a match that lasted only three days.

Habibul Bashar was the lone



A view of the Multan Cricket Stadium, the venue for the third and final Test between Bangladesh and Pakistan that starts tomorrow.

## MSC need to draw against Abahani



SPORTS REPORTER

Title aspirants Mohammedan Sporting Club maintained their lead in the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League with a comprehensive 6-3 victory over Ajax Sporting Club in their penultimate "Super Five" encounter at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

The popular black and whites will play their last match with Abahani Krira Chakra tomorrow. The heavy-weight clash will also decide who will lift the coveted title.

Mohammedan however have the edge over their archrivals going into the match as they need only a draw to regain the most prestigious title. With yesterday's win the Motijheel side extended their tally to 32 points from 12 matches while the sky blues followed them with 31 points from same number of outings.

The result not only helped Mohammedan stay on top of the table, but also came as a huge relief as their strikers showed their real strength before the big match.

Rafiqul Islam Kamal and Pakistani defender Mohammad Sarwar struck twice each while Ariful Haq Prince and Pakistani Kamran Ashraf also sounded the board.

Mohammedan led the first-half 2-0 after Sarwar put his side ahead in the 8th minute with a field goal. Kamran netted another field goal in the 27th minute.

The winners kept the momentum going after the breather as Prince and Sarwar put them further in front, scoring in the 46th and 49th minutes.

After that Ajax staged a sort of comeback as they scored two goals in the 60th and 67th minutes.

But ace striker Kamal, who scored the 59th minute goal, struck again in the 68th to widen the gap. And when Ajax's Indian recruit Gopinath reduced the margin in the 69th minute, the match was all but over for them.

# Reliving the hat-trick



HASAN MASOOD from Multan

Two days after becoming the first Bangladesh bowler to claim a hat-trick in Test cricket, Alok Kapali was still reliving the finest moment in his career.

It was Friday and the sun was beating down on the Arbab Niaz Stadium, the venue for the second Test, when the 19-year-old leg-spinner, who had until then bowled only one over in the entire innings, came to bowl his second over at the Pakistan tail.

And with the fourth and fifth balls of the over he had Shabbir Ahmed caught at mid-off, Danish Kaneria leg before and then in his next over Umar Gul, who was rapped on the pad, watched as Zimbabwean umpire Russel Tiffin raised his dressed finger.

Kapali instantly became the 32nd bowler and provided the 29th instance in Test cricket's glorious history of a bowler to take a hat-trick.

The young cricketer from Sylhet more known in the international arena for his batting exploits, reflected on his achievement when he talked to this correspondent at

MacGill and he passed on quite a few tips especially during the Test matches.

"He advised me to take an angular run-up instead of coming in straight and bowl.

"But I'm still running straight as I didn't get any time to practice before coming to Pakistan," he said adding that he was trying not experiment.

"I'm only concentrating on bowling leg-breaks. Once I have mastered that, I will try to add some variety."

Even after getting two successive wickets Kapali never thought he would join the illustrious hat-trick-takers' list but only wanted to follow his captain's advice.

"After getting the wickets of Shabbir and Danish our captain told me to just to bowl it straight to Umar. And that paid off."

"I felt great after the hat-trick. Now I have the confidence that I can bowl even better," he said adding that he wished his family were there with him on the occasion.



**ALOK KAPALI**  
the hotel lobby in Rawalpindi on Sunday night.  
"I spent sometime working with Australian leg-spinner Stuart

## Mahmud positive



REUTERS, Multan

Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud hopes his side can build on their improved performance at Peshawar for the third and final Test against Pakistan, which starts in Multan on Wednesday.

Although mercurial Pakistan will be expected to complete a clean sweep in the series, Bangladesh were heartened by their display in the second Test, where they earned a first-innings lead for the first time in 23 matches.

"The Multan Test is very important for us," Mahmud told Reuters on Monday. "We want to overcome the mistakes we made in the first two Tests and play much better cricket here."

"We will try to be positive."

"We were in the driving seat in Peshawar after two and half days, but then we let ourselves down in the second innings. Shoaib Akhtar also got back his rhythm and clicked

for Pakistan. That was the deciding factor between both teams."

Apart from taking a first-innings lead, Bangladesh also celebrated their highest Test batting partnership a second-wicket stand of 167 between Habibul Bashar and century Javed Omar plus their first hat-trick.

Part-time leg-spinner Alok Kapali took three for three to leave Pakistan 66 runs behind the touring side's first innings total of 361, but all that was later undone by Shoaib's raw pace and reverse swing as the home team regained control.

"They (Bangladesh) have proved worthy opponents," Pakistan captain Rashid Latif said after the second Test. "They have shown improvement despite their limited resources."

"In Peshawar, we were lucky that Shoaib Akhtar got into his rhythm at the right time and helped us win the match."

Pakistan, who won the first Test in Karachi by seven wickets and the



Action from yesterday's Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League Super Five clash between Mohammedan and Ajax at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium.

## End of Rhodes?

BBC ONLINE, London

Jonty Rhodes is on the verge of retiring from cricket after Gloucestershire announced he would not be returning to the club in 2004.

The South African star was signed for the 2003 season after giving up international cricket at the start of the World Cup with a hand injury.

He proved an instant hit with the county where he is on the verge of hitting 1,000 Championship runs and he also helped them to win the C&G Trophy on Saturday.

Rhodes, 34, is expected to concentrate now on family life and make use of his business degree, having received five job offers for non-cricketing work.

He is unlikely to work as a coach or as a media pundit.

Gloucestershire coach John Bracewell, who is also leaving the county to coach his native New Zealand, said: "It's sad for cricket that Jonty will not be continuing."

"Having said that, we knew that the odds on him coming back for another year were probably against us."

# Agassi, Roddick roll on 'Federer facing the unbeatable'



AFP, New York

Wimbledon champion Roger Federer must devise a way to defeat his greatest nemesis, Argentina's David Nalbandian, if he is going to make this the year he finally reaches the US Open quarterfinals.

The Swiss second seed downed American James Blake 6-3, 7-6 (7/4), 6-3 here Sunday to book a fourth-round date Tuesday against 13th-seeded Nalbandian, who has a 4-0 ATP career record against Federer.

"I'm really looking positive to this next match because it's really time I beat him," Federer said. "I have been very close a few times. I've got to change something about my game plan I guess. I'm ready to fight."

Nalbandian's mastery over Federer includes a five-set triumph in the fourth round at January's

Australian Open, a Cincinnati Masters victory three weeks ago and a triumph in the 1998 US Open junior finals.

"I'm really looking forward to playing him and beating him for the first time," Federer said. "All the times we've played, it has been really close. I'm not worried about the record."

World number one Andre Agassi and fourth seed Andy Roddick also advanced to the fourth round, the home-nation favourites staying on course for a possible meeting in next Sunday's final.

Federer, 22, is trying to become the first man to win Wimbledon and the US Open in the same year since Pete Sampras in 1995. But his South American rival knows how hungry Federer is to break his losing streak against him.

"It's going to be a tough match," Nalbandian said. "I'm ready. I think I'm playing good this week."

Nalbandian defeated Australia's Mark Philippoussis 7-5, 6-7 (10/12), 6-3, 6-2 in a match of the past two

Wimbledon runner-ups. The Aussie ace hit 34 aces and 66 winners but had 74 unforced errors. Federer will offer fewer such gifts.

Federer won the only break point of the first set against Blake but was forced into a second-set tie-breaker because he failed to convert on 19 of 20 break-point chances in that set, missing 20 of 23 overall.

"I've had some tough matches where I missed a similar amount," Federer said. "That just happens. I should have made the first or second one but he made them and got a rhythm going and it gets tougher after that."

Agassi beat Yevgeny Kafelnikov 6-3, 7-6 (7/4), 6-4 in the finish of a match halted by rain Saturday. Agassi ripped US Open officials for finishing all matches Saturday except his.

"To be the only match that didn't finish, I think, was a mistake, an oversight in judgment," Agassi said. "It puts me or Kafelnikov in