



Did U Know?

The record holder for the maximum ducks (zeroes) in Test cricket is Courtney Walsh of the West Indies (25). He overtook Danny Morrison's (New Zealand) record of 24.



BTV

Nitol-Tata Nat'l Football League
Final
Mohammedan vs Muktiyoddha

Live at 4:30 pm

TEN Sports

Bangladesh vs Pakistan

Third Test, Day Three

Live at 11:00 am

ESPN

England vs South Africa

Fifth Test, Day Two

Live at 3:45 pm

Sportscentre Hindi

Sport News

Live at 11:00 pm

STAR Sports

Sportline Tonight

Sport News

Live at 8:00 pm

US Open Tennis

Men's Doubles Final

Live at 9:00 pm

&

Women's Singles Semis

Live at 11:30 pm



Graham Thorpe

(England batsman)

"I'm a different bloke, that's the bottom line, a totally different person."

After being recalled to the national team.

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

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

Name

Class..... Roll No.....

School Address

Phone: (If any)

Gough warns of burnout

BBC ONLINE, London

Darren Gough believes international cricket careers will be cut short because so many games are being played these days.

The pace bowler was forced to

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Captain Courageous



HASAN MASOOD from Multan

Sanjay Manjrekar must have followed his instincts when he boldly told his fellow commentator Rameez Raja that Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud would take five wickets during the second day's play of the third and final Test at the Multan yesterday.

The former Indian batsman obviously did not enter into the bet with his Pakistani counterpart based on Mahmud's abysmal bowling statistics. The right-arm seamer came to Pakistan armed with only one wicket and at the cost of 406 runs in seven Tests.

However by the end of the day, the feisty cricketer may not have won the bet for Manjrekar, but he did something far better to put Bangladesh on the verge of a famous Test win.

The military medium of the 32-year-old all-rounder helped himself to a career-best 4-36 since he made his debut against Zimbabwe in November 2001. He ripped the heart out of the Pakistani batting claiming the wickets of opener Mohammad Hafeez (21), debutant Salman Butt (12), Inzamamul Haq (10) and Younis Khan (34).

His exploits in seaming conditions together with left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique's third five-wicket haul, helped Bangladesh to a significant first -- the Tigers bowled

Pakistan out for 175. Before then Bangladesh had never dismissed a Test opponent below the 200-run mark. The effort had more importantly gave them a 106-run lead.

Constantly under media scrutiny, Mahmud knew that his days as Bangladesh captain were numbered if he failed to perform in Pakistan with bat or ball.

He captured only his second wicket in the first Test at Karachi. That was the launching pad for the born-fighter, who took a further three wickets when teams moved to Peshawar.

Mahmud's closest ally in all his troubles was coach Dav Whatmore. Because it was only he who had a great belief in the player he affectionately calls 'chacha.'

For the time being Mahmud has silenced his critics at home and abroad. Besides, he is assured of leading the side until the next series at home against England in October-November.

Mahmud has also played 45 one-day internationals since January 1998 and taken 39 wickets. And interestingly, his best bowling figures in the abridged version (3-31) also came against Pakistan at the 1999 World Cup that saw Bangladesh pull off a historic win.

"I'm very happy to get four wickets because I was under pressure," he said after the end of second day's play.

"I was confident after seeing the wicket on Wednesday that it would help me," he said.

He added that Whatmore and his teammates always stood by him so he never lost confidence.

"I think we have a great chance of winning this match if we can take a lead of around three hundred runs. Our lead is now 183. So, it will be better if we can score another 120 runs," concluded Mahmud.

B'DESH-PAK SCORECARD

REUTERS, Multan

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the third and final cricket Test between Bangladesh and Pakistan at the Multan Cricket Stadium yesterday:

BANGLADESH: First innings (over-night248-6)	
Hannan c Latif b Gul	13
Javed c Younis b Gul	38
Bashar c Latif b Ali	72
Ashraf b lbw b Saqlain	12
Saleh run out	49
Kapali b Gul	11
Mashud c Latif b Gul	29
Mahmud lbw b Shabbir	19
Rafique b Shabbir	11
Baisya lbw b Shabbir	0
Manjurul not out	0
Extras: (lb-10, b-4, nb-13)	27
Total: (All out in 99.2 overs)	281
Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-102, 3-136, 4-166, 5-179, 6-241, 7-248, 8-278, 9-278	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shabbir	25.2	3	70	3
Gul	32	7	86	4

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PHOTO: AFP

Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud (L) is joined by his teammates in a successful appeal for a caught behind decision against Pakistan's Salman Butt on the second day of the third Test at Multan yesterday.

Abahani third

SPORTS REPORTER



Abahani Krira Chakra finished third in the Nitol-Tata Third National Football League with an emphatic 4-2 victory over the season's surprise package Moulvibazar Wan-

derers Club at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

The result however gave the sky blues, who finished runners-up last year, some consolation that it not only secured them the third place but also they avenged their 0-1 robin league round defeat against the greater Sylhet division side.

Mintoo, Sandro, Khokon and Donald Ague shared the goals for the popular Dhanmondi side while Jalal and Milon narrowed the mar-

gin.

The Dhanmondi outfit came from behind to lead the first half 3-2.

Jalal put Wanderers ahead in the fifth minute when he dodged past Abahani goalkeeper Titumir before placing the ball in with a left-footer. But after five minutes Mintoo equalised, also with a left-footer.

Brazilian midfielder Sandro scored in the 15th minute with a fine placing shot from a Khokon cross to double the Abahani margin while Wanderers captain Milon fired home from top of the box in the 23rd minute to go level.

But Abahani were able to take first-half lead when Khokon scored the third goal from a Liton pass.

Nigerian Donald Ague extended the Abahani lead when the well-built striker pounced on a rebounder in the fifth minute of the second half.

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Rose joins Surrey

AFP, London

English county champions Surrey have signed West Indies fast bowler Franklin Rose as an overseas replacement for Pakistan's Saqlain Mushtaq for the rest of the season.

Off-spinner Saqlain was summoned back to Pakistan for their series against Bangladesh and is currently playing in the third Test at Multan.

Rose went straight into the Surrey team for Wednesday's National (One-Day) League first division match away to Kent at Canterbury where he made an early breakthrough by dismissing England batsman Robert Key.

Keith Medlycott, Surrey's 1st XI manager, said: "Signing Franklin on a short term contract was very important to the Club.

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Gibbs gives SA control



AFP, London

Herschelle Gibbs' unbeaten hundred took South Africa into a dominant position on the first day of the fifth Test at The Oval here Thursday.

At tea, Gibbs was 122 not out and Gary Kirsten 71 not out, the pair having putting on an unbroken stand of 167.

Such was the 29-year-old Gibbs' command that in reaching his 10th Test hundred 86 of his runs came in boundaries.

In all he faced 190 balls including 23 sixes and one four while left-hander Kirsten's runs came from 130 balls with 12 fours.

South Africa started the second session on 111 for one with Gibbs 50 not out and Gary Kirsten 29 not out. On a good Oval pitch, England's mediocre attack rarely troubled either Western Province batsman.

Surrey fast bowler Martin

Bicknell, on his home ground, set the tone when his half-volley to Gibbs was driven through the covers for four.

Gibbs was equally assured



PHOTO: AFP

Alec Stewart was presented with a commemorative bat from Surrey yesterday.

against left-arm spinner Ashley Giles, advancing down the pitch to drive him for four.

And four balls later he used his feet before lofting the Warwickshire bowler for a magnificent straight driven six on the biggest Test ground in England.

Gibbs was hit on the side by recalled paceman Stephen Harmison, bowling from around the wicket.

But Gibbs responded by stylishly forcing Harmison off the backfoot through cover for four.

An on-driven boundary off England captain Michael Vaughan's occasional off-spin, his 20th four, took Gibbs through to his hundred in 167 balls. But soon afterwards England missed him twice in two balls.

Gibbs had smashed fast bowler James Anderson through extra cover for four and cut him for another boundary when, on the third ball of the 55th over, he saw a mis-

cue d pull

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PAKISTAN DIARY



HASAN MASOOD from Multan

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) yesterday issued a clarification rejecting the Bangladesh team's claim of discrimination in seat

distribution during their flight to Multan from Rawalpindi on September 1.

A letter signed by PCB Media general manager Samiul Hasan, claimed that there was no executive or business classes on that flight and Pakistan team travelled in economy plus class leaving

B a n g l a d e s h behind in the economy class.

The clarification also said that the only difference between economy plus and economy class was the allowance of extra baggage and a separate check-in counter.

The PCB also claimed that the statement of Bangladesh team officials including coach Dav Whatmore over the incident was in a 'bad taste'.

But it was very clear from the PCB's own statement that two teams travelled in two separate classes no matter whatever name they have given and had separate check-in counters.

Finally, the clarification also reminded the media that Bangladesh team would once again fly in economy class with Pakistan in the economy plus if the aircraft was small during the domestic flights. Bangladesh have two more domestic flights to avail.

CONFUSING COMMENTARY

Rameez Raja, Aamir Sohail and Athar Ali Khan, the three Ten Sports commentators, are more concerned about each team's performance than giving a neutral view.

Whenever the umpire raises his finger on lbw decisions, the commentary team lock themselves in arguments over the merits and demerits.

In the second Test in Peshawar, the Pakistani commentators were praising the umpire when he adjudged Rajin Saleh leg before off Shoaib Akhter.

But Athar Ali said that the in-swinging yorker would have never have hit the stumps as it was going down the legside.

It happened again on Wednesday when Mohammad Ashrafu was trapped leg before by off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq.

Sohail was praising the Sri Lanka umpire Ashoka de Silva for giving a correct decision while Athar was dead against that saying the ball would have never hit the wickets.

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

Kashmir minister for Indo-Pak cricket

AFP, Srinagar

The sports minister of Indian-administered Kashmir said on Thursday he will dedicate the first event to India-Pakistan friendship whenever international cricket returns to the insurgency-wrecked region.

"This government is working hard to see the return of international matches to Kashmir," Nissar Ali told this news agency, but admitted he did not foresee India and Pakistan playing each other in the Valley in the near future.

"Once relations start improving between the two nations, we will work towards arranging such a match also, Insha Allah (God willing)," the minister said.

Ali said he was in favour of inviting two or three international teams to Kashmir for a tournament that would be named the "India-Pakistan friendship Cup."

"If our efforts succeed the tournament will send a message of friendship to the outside world and to Pakistan also," he said.

"Through this tournament we want to further relations between India and Pakistan and prove that sports is above politics."

Indian cricket chief Jagmohan Dalmiya on Monday told AFP he was seriously considering the state government's request to organise international cricket matches in Kashmir.

"The state government has told me the time is ripe to bring back big cricket to the valley and we may decide to host a Test match or one-day international there in the near future," Dalmiya had said.

Dalmiya, however, declined to set a time-table for staging an international in the Valley, saying "all factors will be taken into account before that."

In a bid to put Kashmir back on the world cricket map, a national-level junior tournament will be played in Srinagar from September 5 to 12 featuring teams from 20 states.

MSC-Mukti final today

SPORTS REPORTER



competition.

The battle of black and whites versus all reds in the final of the Nitol-Tata Third National Football League kicks off at 4:30pm at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

Bangladesh Television will provide live coverage of the final.

While holders Mohammedan will be desperate to keep the trophy at their Motijheel tent for another year, Muktiyoddha will leave no stone unturned to capture their first National League title.

Although the first meeting of the two teams last early this week pro-

duced a boring goalless draw, the final promises an altogether different level of intensity and passion.

Confidence is running high in the Mohammedan camp after a morale boosting 1-0 victory over bitter rivals Abahani in the action-packed second semifinal on Tuesday.

"We are very confident that we can win the final because our morale is really high at the moment after the victory against Abahani in the semifinal," Mohammedan captain and left-wing back Masud Rana said before the team's final training session at the Rajarbagh Police Lines ground yesterday.

The experienced national campaigner also said that his team wants to achieve victory in the regulation 90 minutes.

"We don't want to roll the match into a tiebreaker," said Masud Rana.

Mohammedan coach Abul Hossain said that his team made some mistakes in the semifinal but sounded confident those mistakes would not be repeated.

Muktiyoddha coach Shafiqul Islam Manik, on the other hand, expected full commitment from the star-studded line-up to clinch the maiden national league title.

"We have clinched the League title and Federation Cup earlier but we were unsuccessful in the National League on the two previous occasions," Manik said.

"But this is a very much balanced side and I just want full commitment from my players to win the final," said the former national player.

The Reds failed to even make it to the final during the first two editions, but a 58th goal by ace striker Alfaz Ahmed against Moulvibazar Wanderers enabled Muktiyoddha to advance into the final this time.

The last the two teams met in a final was the Federation Cup last year, which Mohammedan won by a controversial penalty.

But Manik wants a repeat act of the 1998 Premier League deciding match when his emerging team blanked Mohammedan 2-0.

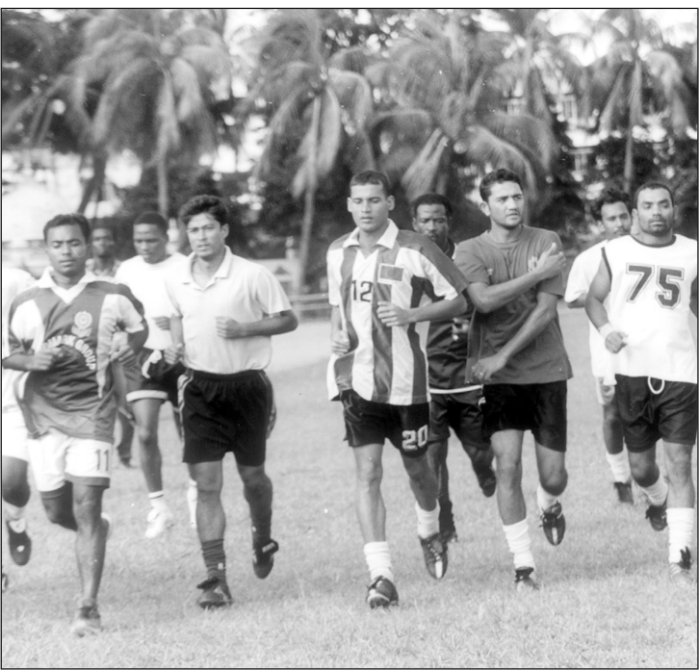


PHOTO: STAR

Mohammedan players warm up prior to a practice session at the Rajarbagh Police Lines ground yesterday.