

## Mukti's moment

SPORTS REPORTER



Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra at long last can say they have emulated Bangladesh's other football powers by lifting the Nitol-Tata Third National Football League title for the first time in their history yesterday.

The Reds dethroned defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club 3-2 in the tie-breaker after both sides finished the stormy affair 1-1 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in front of 45,000 football fans.

After two superb semifinals, the final itself failed to live up to expectations. And the same giants frustrated the crowd with their dull approach.

In fact, the busiest person on the pitch was referee Mansoor Azad. He had to caution nine players with yellow cards before sending off Muktijoddha midfielder Arman Mia in extra-time.

The grand final rolled into a

shootout with no goals coming in 30 minutes of extra-time.

Mohammedan shot in front when none other than Rukun-uz-Zaman Kanchan used his lethal left foot to fire a 17th minute goal at the second attempt after the country's number one custodian Aminul failed to gather the ball cleanly.

It was the ace striker's sixth goal in the competition and he collected man-of-the-tournament award ahead of Moni who finished as the top-scorer with seven goals.

Muktijoddha had to wait until the 66th minute for leading scorer Saiful Islam Moni to equalise.

The goal was the result of Alfaz Ahmed's clever pass in the opponents' box.

Once Moni received the ball he rifled a right-footer into the near post.

Both goals conceded in regulation play were the fault of each team's defence.

Even though Muktijoddha were down to ten men as they began the second period of extra-time, Mohammedan couldn't capitalise on their numerical advantage.

Now the drama would have to be decided by penalties.

Mohammedan's first three penalty-takers (veteran defender Jewel Rana, striker Farhad and midfielder Anwar) all missed while captain Masud Rana and veteran striker Nakib converted.

On the other hand, Muktijoddha's stocky defender Sujon made no mistake with the night's last penalty to join teammates Hasan Al Mamun and Papel. However, experienced Rajani who stepped up to take the first kick in the shootout, blasted the ball over the bar like Jewel. Mohammedan's substitute goalie saved Belal's shot.

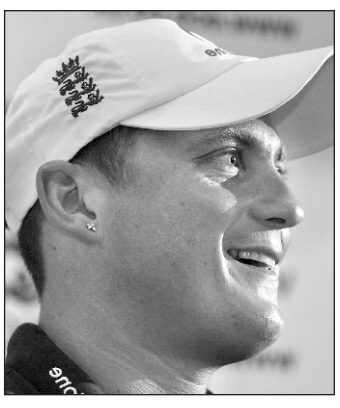
"We actually played against a 14 member team (including referee and two linesmen) but thankfully we won the match," said an upset Muktijoddha coach Shafiqul Islam Manik.

ROLL OF HONOUR		
Year	Champions	Runners-up
2001	Abahani	Mohammedan
2002	Mohammedan	Abahani
2003	Muktijoddha	Mohammedan

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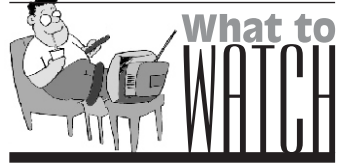
REDS RULE: It's party time for the Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra squad and their loyal band of supporters after the Nitol-Tata National Football League triumph at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.



**Darren Gough**  
(England pace bowler)  
"Alec Stewart is one of the best England cricketers ever... he's got to be. Without him we would have been a poor side over the years. He's been a great all-rounder and a great ambassador as well."



**Did U Know?**  
The best Test bowling figures on debut are those of Narendra Hirwani (India). He took 16 for 136 versus the West Indies. He broke Bob Massie's record of 16 for 137.



**TEN Sports**  
Bangladesh vs Pakistan  
Third Test, Day Four  
Live at 11:00 am

**ESPN**  
England vs South Africa  
Fifth Test, Day Three  
Live at 3:45 pm

**Sportscentra Hindi**  
Sport News  
Live at 11:00 pm

**STAR Sports**  
Football Mundial  
Repeat at 2:00 pm  
Gillette World Sports Special  
Int'l Sports News  
Taped Version at 5:30 pm

**US Open Tennis**  
Men's Singles Semifinals  
Live at 10:00 pm

## Sagar 7th, Liza 8th

SPORTS REPORTER

Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar became seventh and Shamima Akter Liza eighth respectively in the Telegraph Schools' Chess Tournament in Kolkata.

Sagar earned 8.5 points and Liza got 8 points.

Besides, Sharmin Sultana Shirin received a special second prize in girls' section with 6.5 points. In the boys' group Abdullah Saif won a special prize in under-6 age-group. He collected six points.

The results of other Bangladesh players were: Kishoara Shirin Evana (7.5 points), Nazir Arifee (6.5 points), Mimi Arjuman (6 points) and Farjana Hossain Anne (5.5 points). Rahul Sangma of Bihar School become champion with 10 points.

A total of 246 payers participated in the event.

## PAKISTAN DIARY

### Cricket

HASAN MASOOD from Multan

Pakistan captain Rashid Latif played a trick on Alok Kapali to send him back to the pavilion.

Known as one of the most honest cricketers in Pakistan, Latif took a catch off Umar Gul diving to his right but then dropped the ball. However, before either Ashoka de Silva or Russell Tiffin noticed the error, he quickly picked the ball up, which was clearly visible on television.

The incident not only invited controversy it also raised a big question on Latif's character because he had been fighting for the truth in Pakistan cricket for a long time.

Latif should have called Kapali back knowing he had spilled the catch.

The ICC on catches (law 32 Para 3) says, "The act of making the catch shall start the from when a fielder first handles the ball and shall end when the fielder obtains complete control both over the ball and over his own movement."

**AGAINASHOKA**  
Umpire Ashoka de Silva continues to make mistakes in Bangladesh's second innings that were genuinely not out. He unnecessarily adjudged Mohammad Rafique lbw off Shabbir Ahmed despite the ball pitching outside the line of leg stump.

It is nothing new for the Sri Lankan who has already earned a reputation of giving outs on not outs.

**UMAR OUT OF ACTION**  
Pakistan opener Taufeeq Umar has been ruled out of action for at least three months because of knee injuries.

The left-hander, already missing the third Test against Bangladesh in Multan, won't be featuring in the five-match one-day series against the Tigers and the forthcoming series against South Africa and New Zealand.

According to a PCB media release yesterday, Umar suffered a double injury in his left knee and also suffered recurrence of an old injury in his right knee.

He will now rest for two weeks before undergoing surgery. He expected to require ten weeks to recover.

With Umar out of action Pakistan will have to rely another young opener Salman Butt for the upcoming season.



SUPER SUB: Mushrafeez bin Murtaza who came on as a substitute fielder takes a diving catch to get rid of Pakistan opener Salman Butt at Multan yesterday. It was the first of his three catches.

## PCB to convince UCB

Cricket

AFP, Multan

Pakistan will try to convince South Africa not to change cricket fixtures over security fears during their tour of the country later this month, officials said Thursday.

"We have received a letter from the United Cricket Board (UCB) of South Africa requesting to relocate matches from Karachi and Peshawar but we will convince them not to change the fixtures," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief executive Rameez Raja told this news agency.

Reports from South Africa said cricket authorities had asked the PCB to change fixtures from Karachi and a Test from the border city of Peshawar amid concern for the team's safety.

"I will write them in the next two days and request them not to demand any venue changes, we cant deprive the people of Karachi from international cricket," said Raja, a former captain.

The Department of Foreign Affairs in South Africa told the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) that although they did not think South Africans would be targeted specifically, there were nevertheless "areas of concern", the South African Press Association (SAPA) reported.

And Bronwyn Wilkinson, head of communications at the board, said the UCBSA wants fixtures set for Karachi and Peshawar to be played at other venues.

"We know their foreign office has not forbidden them to travel to these cities because the situation is safe and we hosted two Tests in these cities against Bangladesh in the last fortnight," Raja said.

"The tour itinerary was confirmed by the UCBSA and we hope all will settle down."

The South Africans arrive in Pakistan on September 22 and play a warm up one-day game in Karachi two days later. They will then play the first of three one-day internationals in the port city on September 26.

"We have awarded the warm up one-day to former Pakistan opener Shoaib Mohammad and the one-day international to former captain Wasim Bari as benefit games and they have already done a lot of work," said Raja.

South Africa also plays three Tests in Rawalpindi, Peshawar and Karachi during the tour, which ends on October 28.

South African skipper Graeme Smith earlier said that the side would abide by whatever decision the UCB made regarding the tour.

Reports from England, where they are playing a Test series, also suggested the South African players have discussed security in Pakistan.

Pakistan suffered a cricket

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## Bangladesh to lodge protest

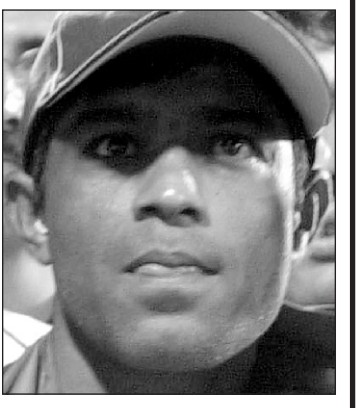
SPORTS REPORTER from Multan

Bangladesh on Friday said they would be lodging an official complaint against Pakistan captain Rashid Latif to match referee Mike Proctor for his unjustified appeal for a caught behind that saw middle order batsman Alok Kapali out for nothing.

"TV replays clearly showed that the ball was dropped by Latif. Then how could he and his team appeal for the caught behind," said a dejected Bangladesh manager M A Latif at the end of the third day's play.

"I have already drafted the letter and will submit to the match referee (Mike Proctor) tonight," he said.

Meanwhile, Proctor warned the Bangladesh team not to make excessive appeals during the Pakistan second innings. He made the observation after summoning captain Khaled Mahmud and coach Dav Whatmore to a hearing.



RASHID LATIF

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## B'DESH-PAK SCORECARD

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

**BANGLADESH:** First innings 281 (Bashar 72, Saleh 49; Gul 4-86, Shabbir 3-70)

**PAKISTAN:** First innings 175 (Hameed 39; Rafique 5-36, Mahmud 4-37)

**BANGLADESH:** Second innings (overnight 77 for 4)

Hannan c Latif b Gul	3
Javed c Inzamam b Shabbir	16
Bashar c Latif b Gul	3
Ashraf c Salman b Shabbir	3
Saleh c Latif b Gul	42
Kapali c Latif b Ali	22
Mahmud lbw b Shabbir	2
Mashud lbw b Shabbir	28
Rafique lbw b Gul	4
Baisya not out	14
Manjurul c Younis b Saqlain	5
Extras: (b-5, lb-2, nb-3, w-2)	12
Total: (All out in 46.3 overs)	154

Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-9, 3-23, 4-41, 5-77, 6-91, 7-111, 8-127, 9-137

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## Rajib clinches Active chess

SPORTS REPORTER

International Master Enamul Hossain Rajib won the Active Chess Tournament on Friday.

He earned 6.5 points out of 7 games. Fellow IM Abdullah Al Rakib finished runner-up and Saifuddin become third with six points each.

Sixty-four players participated in the competition.

## Ganguly warns NZ

Cricket

AFP, Bangalore

India's cricket captain Saurav Ganguly on Friday sounded a warning to New Zealand, saying his team was determined to win both the upcoming Test and one-day series against the Kiwis.

"We've been working hard at the training camp here and are confident of doing well," Ganguly said ahead of the busy new season starting next month with a two-Test series against the Kiwis.

World champions Australia will later join in for a limited-overs triangular before India travel to Australia in late-November for four Test matches.

Ganguly said India were keen to avenge last season's disastrous tour of New Zealand where they lost both the Test and one-day series on seamer-friendly pitches.

"We're determined to make amends this time," Ganguly said in an interview.

"Let's see how quickly New Zealand adjust to the conditions here. We're thinking only about New Zealand at the moment because we're playing them first. We'll think about Australia later."

Ganguly said the absence of fast bowler Shane Bond due to back injury would affect New Zealand's chances.

"No doubt, he (Bond) is a quality bowler. Obviously, New Zealand will miss him. It doesn't affect us, but it affects them."

"Every tour is a challenge," said the 31-year-old, who has so far scored 4,100 runs in 67 Tests.

"The World Cup also was a big challenge for us and we had done outstandingly well before losing in the final."

"Against Australia, it's as much about mind games as about skill. They're a very good side and playing very well."

Ganguly said his aim in the new season was to do well both as captain and batsman.

"You don't set any personal goals," he said.

"You want to do well just like any other cricketer and, as captain, you want your team to do well. So, these are the two goals."

India, yet to win a Test series outside the sub-continent since 1986, had a dismal tour of Australia three seasons ago when they were blanked 3-0 under Sachin Tendulkar's captaincy.



SAURAV GANGULY

because we've beaten them even when he was in the team," Ganguly said, referring to India's victory in the World Cup.

## Pollock's Oval joy

Cricket

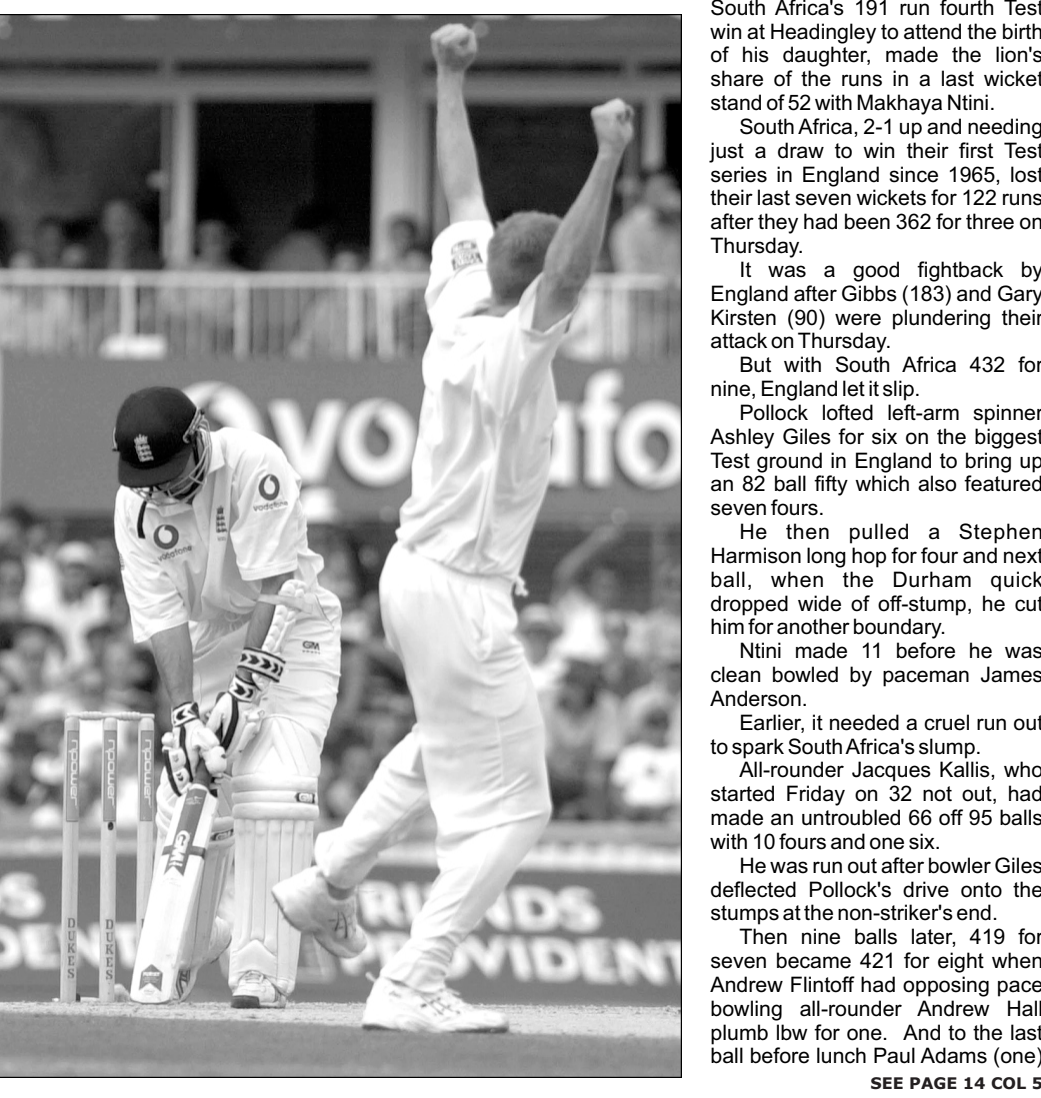
AFP, London

Shaun Pollock took his 300th Test wicket on England in the fifth and final Test at The Oval here Friday.

At tea on the second day, England were 51 for one in reply to South Africa's first innings 484, with captain Michael Vaughan the man out for just 23.

The not out batsmen were opener Marcus Trescothick, 12, and Mark Butcher, 14.

Fast bowler Pollock, who had made an unbeaten 66 in South Africa's innings, became the 19th man in history, and only the second South African, after longtime new-ball colleague Allan Donald, to take 300 Test wickets when he had



300TH WICKET: Shaun Pollock celebrates after trapping England captain Michael Vaughan leg before yesterday

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