

## Going nowhere

### Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Muktijodha Sangsad Krira Chakra are determined to hold on to prized possession -- the country's number one goalkeeper Aminul Haq until the end of players transfer. The four-day board begins on September 20.

"It would not be wise to invite more trouble for Aminul if don't take care of him," Muktijodha coach Shafiqul Islam Manik told The Daily Star sport yesterday.

Aminul returned to his club after disappearing for 24 hours on Wednesday. Within hours news quickly spread that he had been kidnapped as a part of a plot by rivals Abahani to capture his signature. But the player made a daring escape on Thursday and was later reunited with his club officials.

Muktijodha Sangsad president Kabir Ahmed Khan, however, said that they brought Aminul under their wings after submitting an undertaking to the police.

"He was in police custody after his brother filed a case of kidnapping. But we brought him in our care with a promise of ensuring full security," he said.

The newly crowned National Football League champions in a press release issued on Friday also protested Abahani's comments made on Thursday. "Sports lovers never expected such irresponsible remarks from the famous club" read the statement.

"The national goalkeeper Aminul is our regular player and in July he agreed to sign an agreement to play



AMINUL HAQ

for us next season," it further said. Muktijodha officials also photocopies of the deal.

Muktijodha also requested the sports minister, Bangladesh Football Federation to take appropriate action against the culprits who kidnapped Aminul and violated the sanctity of the country's sports arena.

On the other hand, high officials of Abahani met last night to decide their next course of action.

"We absolutely reject claims that we plotted to kidnap the player. He should prove the allegations he made at the press briefing on Thursday night," Abahani manager Monem said.

"I think everybody can understand there was no fact behind his story if carefully considered.

"We gave him cheque after the Barisal leg of the National league and he committed his services for Abahani," the footballer of yesterday said.

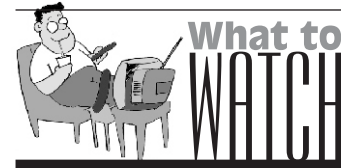
Meanwhile, Bangladesh Football Federation president SA Sultan condemned the whole incident.

"It cannot be acceptable when any club decides to raid in the name of capturing a player. Also it is downright shameful when any clubs resort to a crime like kidnapping in order to get their desired player."



## Did U Know?

India played her first Test match in 1932. New Zealand played their first in 1930.



## What to WATCH

**ESPN**  
English Premier Football League  
Arsenal vs Portsmouth  
Live at 7:55 pm  
&  
Charlton Athletic vs Man United  
Same Day Delay at 10:30 pm  
**STAR Sports**  
English Premier Football League  
Charlton Athletic vs Man United  
Live at 7:55 pm



## TALK TURKEY



**Darren Gough**  
(England fast bowler)  
"I'm bitterly disappointed. They've picked that many bowlers this summer they had to fit them in somewhere so they've shared their out and I was the easy target to miss out."

**Notice**  
Dear WHIZZ KIDS, due to some technical difficulties the draw of Competition-198 could not take place last night. It will now take place on September 26.  
--Sports Editor

**Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 198**  
Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star. Win attractive prizes. Competition closes at 8 pm Sept 26, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards.

- Who won the Champions Trophy hockey title?  
Netherlands    Australia    Pakistan
- Who clinched the Europa college basketball crown?  
Khulna College    Mastermind Note    Dama
- 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?  
Name .....  
Class ..... Roll No. ....  
School Address .....  
Phone: (If any) .....

## Klusener wants to tour Pakistan

**THE DAWN, undated**  
All-rounder Lance Klusener wants to travel to Pakistan with the South African cricket team.  
The 'forgotten' man of South African cricket says he will board a plane tomorrow if he is selected. "Absolutely, I'm available," said Klusener.  
The national selectors are to meet towards end of this week to select the team for the tour.  
Klusener performed well for South Africa in the subcontinent in the past, and boasts career-best one-day bowling figures of 6-49

## PAKISTAN DIARY

### Cricket

HASAN MASOOD from Faisalabad

Faisalabad was originally called Lyallpur until 1979 when the government decided to change the name of their third biggest city (by population) in honour of the late Saudi King Faisal.

The city's former name was given in recognition of Sir James Lyall, one of the most successful governors of Punjab during British rule because turned it into the country's biggest textile during the late 19th century.

The rapid growth in this sector made the place become known as the 'Manchester of Pakistan.'

Besides, the former British governor authorised the construction of the famous 'Ghanta Ghar' (clock tower) in the city centre, which also is known for having junction of nine roads.

There are thousands of cloth shops. The biggest market in the area is Kachari (court) Bazar.

Apart from textiles, the city is the home of Pakistan hockey. Greats like Shahbaz Ahmed and Tahir Zaman were born in this city.

The country's biggest Agricultural University is located here.

### THANKS MUSHFIQ

Bangladesh's best fielders Alok Kapali and Rajin Saleh almost ruined Khaled Mahmud's day. Both spilled easy chances to get rid of Pakistan's openers inside the first ten overs.

Alok dropped Yasir Hameed off Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza in the sixth over when he was on 12. Rajin should have taken Mohammad Hafeez from Hasibul Hossain's bowling. The left-hander was batting on 21.

But thankfully the Bangladesh captain didn't have to wait long as all-rounder Mushfiqur Rahman, coming in for an expensive Hasibul, dismissed the pair in his first over.

He bowled Yasir with his second ball to end their 45-run partnership and then had Hafeez caught behind two deliveries later.

## Inzamam relieved

### Cricket

HASAN MASOOD from Faisalabad

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq was a relieved man after his side had secured a 74-run win over Bangladesh in the second one-day international here yesterday. The hosts took a 2-0 lead in the five-match series.

Speaking to reporters after the game, Inzamam said that Bangladesh bowled very well to keep Pakistan tied down for long periods.

"I think their bowlers did a good job today. When I say that even I found getting runs difficult tells you how splendidly they bowled. But unfortunately their batting let them down and we won in the end," he said.

Apart from a century by Yousef Youhana and Inzamam's 41, the rest of the Pakistani batsman struggled to make runs at the Iqbal Stadium.

The Pakistan skipper praised his bowlers for the way they maintained their discipline especially in energy-sapping conditions.

"My bowlers deserve plenty of credit because despite the hot and humid conditions they managed to

restrict the Bangladesh batsmen." Coach Javed Miandad said the series would help him prepare for the tougher assignment against South Africa.

"Although I don't want to talk too much about the coming matches against South Africa, but I think it will put us in the right frame of mind for the coming series."

South Africa are due to arrive in Karachi on September 22 to play three Tests and three one-day internationals.

"The series against Bangladesh has given us a good opportunity to try out the youngsters and also allow the seniors to get into a groove," Miandad said.

"All the homework we are putting in against Bangladesh will help us against South Africa. But that would be a much tougher contest," the former Test captain said.

Youhana, who won the man-of-the-match award for his brilliant 106, said that he wanted to occupy the crease till the end.

"The wicket was alright. But the Bangladesh bowling was rather difficult today. However, I knew there was a hundred for the taking if I only hung in."

Apparently downcast the Bangladesh team did not attend the post-match briefing.

## Kanchan, Joy bound for Muktijodha

### Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Although Brothers Union's coup of ten national booters is the talk of the town at the moment, Muktijodha Sangsad Krira Chakra is all set to break a few hearts as well even before the transfer deadline.

The Reds yesterday confirmed that they have roped in Mohammedan trio, striker Rokonzaman Kanchan, midfield dynamo Arif Khan Joy and winger Mahmud Hasan and Mohammedan officials also conceded the fact.

The defending Premier League champions have already lost two vital campaigners midfielder

Monwar Hossain and wing-back Firoz Mahmud Hossain Titoo, to Brothers. The latest development will no doubt leave them in deep trouble when the transfer market opens.

"We failed to fulfil their demands and that's why they have decided to leave the club. We can do nothing now," Mohammedan's manager Amirul Islam Babu told Daily Star Sport yesterday.

He also informed that they are trying to sign some upcoming players but will focus on recruiting quality foreign booters.

Muktijodha coach Shafiqul Islam Manik said that they were assured of the services of Kanchan and Joy after paying them in advance.

"We have already paid them the major part of their contact sums," said Manik.

## Wife wanted Abahani move

SPORTS REPORTER

One would expect after surviving a kidnapping, that the family of the victim would be overjoyed knowing he was alive and well.

But Aminul's family is not at all happy that the country's top goalkeeper will have to spend another season with Muktijodha.

"Actually every member of the family was keen on him joining a popular club like Abahani. But circumstances changed everything and we have to accept it," Aminul's wife Bilkis Ara Nipa told The Daily Star Sport over telephone on Friday.

She said that her husband did not return home since Wednesday afternoon.

"But he told me he was fine and was at Muktijodha club. However, he explained that it

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Bangladesh's Rajin Saleh executes a lofted drive during the second one-day international against Pakistan yesterday.

## B'DESH-PAK SCORECARD

PAKISTAN		BANGLADESH	
Saleh c Gul b Malik	64	Ashraf c Inzamam b Gul	3
Imran b Razzaq	1	Bashar lbw b Razzaq	25
Kapali c Younis b Zia	37		
Mashrafe c Youhana b Malik	1		
Mushfiqur lbw b Gul	0		
Mahmud c Akmal b Malik	4		
Mashud b Zia	12		
Rafique b Zia	3		
Hasibul (not out)	15		
Extras: (lb-1, w-8, nb-6)	4		
Total: (All out in 42.1 overs)	169		
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-87, 3-90, 4-128, 5-133, 6-133, 7-138, 8-160, 9-164			
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O M R W</b>		
Gul	8 0 29 2		
Shabbir	10 2 41 0		
Razzaq	7 1 22 2		
Hafeez	3 0 21 0		
Malik	10 0 34 3		
Zia	4 1 0 21 3		
<b>Result:</b> Pakistan won by 74 runs.			
<b>Man-of-the-match:</b> Yousef Youhana.			
<b>Toss:</b> Pakistan			
<b>Umpires:</b> Russell Tiffin (ZIM) and Aleem Dar (PAK)			

## Smith to put his bat down

### Cricket

REUTERS, London

Robin Smith, one of England's most successful batsmen over the last two decades, announced his first-class retirement on Friday on the eve of his 40th birthday.

The South African-born right-hander played 62 Tests for England between 1988 and 1996, scoring 4,236 runs at 43.67. He also played 71 one-day internationals with a batting average of 39.01.

Smith, one of Wisden's five players of the year for 1990, was ruled out of county cricket for three weeks earlier this month with a hamstring tear.

His retirement, at the end of the 2003 season, was announced at a news conference by Hampshire Cricket Club, for whom he played 307 matches in a first-class career that began 22 years ago. He scored 18,984 runs for the county and

made 49 centuries. Smith, a powerful cutter of the ball, was a particularly good player



ROBIN SMITH

of fast bowling and almost single-handedly stood up to the conquering Australian touring attack of 1989, which regained the Ashes. Smith headed England's batting averages in that series with 61.44.

However he was not so effective against spin bowling and struggled badly against Shane Warne -- as most of his teammates did from the early 1990s.

Smith was dropped by England after the 1995-96 series in South Africa, but there were widespread calls for his recall as his adopted country struggled to find a suitable replacement in the middle order going into the new millennium.

Popularly known as "Judgie" because of a hairstyle which supposedly resembled a lawyer's wig, Smith is completing his testimonial year at Hampshire.

He said earlier this year that he was thoroughly enjoying what has proved to be his final season.

"I'm fit, the desire, hunger and passion for the game is still there...I can't remember batting as well as this since I was playing Test cricket," he said.

His elder brother Chris also played for the county and represented England in eight Tests.

## Freddy the fearless

### Cricket

REUTERS, London

Andrew 'Freddie' Flintoff has been accused of many things during his colourful career but cricketing intelligence has rarely featured on the charge sheet.

Lovably irresponsible, yes. Uniquely powerful, certainly. A grinning, Bothamesque folk hero? Without doubt.

Good for a quickfire crowd-pleasing cameo, but not the sort of man worthy of too much trust in a crisis. Needing a single to win a game, the 6 foot 4 inch Flintoff would probably try to hit a six out of the stratosphere. It's simply the way he is.

Or was. On Sunday the England all-rounder, previously regarded as a compulsive hitter, played a captivating, calculating innings of 95, which as good as robbed South Africa of victory in the five-match series.



ANDREW FLINTOFF

But there was also real chess-board strategy, not just in the shielding of Steve Harmison from the strike -- the tailender scored three

during a 99-run stand -- but in his dealings with the South African bowlers.

Kallis, in particular, tried to get under his skin by inviting an exchange of words. Flintoff smiled back at him, kept his concentration and kept hitting the ball to the leg-side boards.

Later he ignored a ball he had blocked a yard up the pitch. Normally, he would have slung it back to the bowler.

Makhaya Ntini, forced to walk the length of the pitch to collect it, sent down a bad-tempered bouncer next ball, as Flintoff had hoped, and saw it pummeled for four.

"I don't think they think I'm very good, to be honest," he said later in mock disappointment when asked about the sledging. "They question everything I do."

Not South Africa coach Eric Simons, however, who was very impressed by the innings.

"It was a bit special and very intelligently played," Simons said. South Africa captain Graeme Smith went further.

"I think he's the England cricketer who has impressed me the most," he said.

"Not just by his results but the way he plays the game... That's the mark of a great sportsman, he never lies down and has never had enough."

Only a few years ago, Flintoff's appetite seemed more focused on junk food and the odd six-pack of lager. England coach Duncan Fletcher feared his burgeoning weight was contributing to his back problems.

"We can give him guidance but it's up to him as an individual -- we can try to control what they eat but it's their careers at stake," Fletcher had said mournfully.

Flintoff, losing out to Craig White as the team's all-rounder, took his time but the penny finally dropped. His weight fell and his stock rose.

"I'm getting a bit closer to where I want to be. It's been a big summer," Flintoff said after his Oval innings.

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## Sami back for Pakistan

AFP, Faisalabad

Pakistan's frontline fast bowler Mohammad Sami Friday rejoined the team after recovering from an ankle injury that has kept him off the field for three Test matches and two one-dayers against Bangladesh.

"Sami is fit now and has been included in the 15-man squad for the third one-day match against Bangladesh in Lahore on Monday," said a Pakistan Cricket Board

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## BJMC Pepsi h'ball champs

UNB, Dhaka

Defending champions BJMC retained the Pepsi 16th National Women's Handball Championship title beating Bangladesh Ansars 22-13 at the Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jessore yesterday.

BJMC led the first half 14-06. Sheuly netted six goals and Dalia five for the winners.

Dinaipur DSA finished third in the meet.

Dalia of BJMC was adjudged the best player of the final and also named the best player of the meet while Shahida, also of BJMC, named the highest scorer of the meet with 28 goals to her credit.

Rural Development and Cooperatives secretary M Hedayatul Islam Chowdhury witnessed the final as chief guest and later distributed prizes.



Members of the BJMC team, who became the Pepsi 16th National Women's Handball champions, pose for photographs yesterday.

### Cricket

AFP, Faisalabad

Former Pakistan cricket great Imran Khan Friday criticised a South African demand to change venues for two matches during a forthcoming tour of Pakistan because of security concerns.

"I see (the) South African demand (as) illogical after assurances by the Pakistan government that the team would be given highest security," said Khan, an ex-captain and now a member of the federal parliament.

"The government is the best judge of the security in the country," said Khan, who played 88 Tests and 175 one-day games for Pakistan.

"Terrorism can take place anywhere in the world and most countries have unpredictable security including South Africa," he said.

The South African team is due to tour Pakistan from September 22 until October 27 during which they will play three one-dayers and as many Tests.

They play a one-day warm up



IMRAN KHAN

game, a one-day international and a Test in Karachi and one Test in Peshawar.

United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) has demanded that the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) relocate the matches scheduled for the southern port city of Karachi and the northwestern border city of Peshawar over security concerns.

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PHOTO: COURTESY