



## Did U Know?

Jonty Rhodes of South Africa holds the world record for the maximum catches, by a fielder, in a one-dayer. He took five catches against West Indies, in India.



## What to WATCH

### BTV and Ten Sports

5th ODI

Bangladesh v Pakistan

Live at 2.45 pm

### ESPN

Premiership Preview Show

Live at 5.35 pm

English Premier League

Middlesbrough v Everton

Live at 6.55 pm

English Premier League

Man United v Arsenal

Live at 9 pm

### STAR Sports

Wisden cricket awards



## TALK TURKEY



### Brian Lara

(West Indies captain)  
"If we can take care of South Africa, I believe we are well on the way to go down to Australia in 2004-05 and take them on because dominating the world means dominating Australia."



Tick the correct answers, post  
The Daily Star

Competition closes at 8 pm  
Sept 26, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who won the Champions Trophy hockey title?	Netherlands	Australia
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
4. Who became man-of-the-match in the 4th Test between England and South Africa?		
Name .....		
Class .....	Roll No. ....	
School Address .....		
Phone: (if any) .....		

## Schools b'ball underway

UNB, Dhaka

South Breeze registered a hard-fought 29-28 victory over Scholastica on the opening day of the inter-school boys' and girls' basketball competitions at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

Education Minister Dr Osman Faruque inaugurated the meet as chief guest.

# Ahoy band of Brothers

## Football

BISHWAJIT ROY

The inter-cub footballers' transfer experienced an extraordinary scene yesterday afternoon when the season's sensation Brothers Union Club signed up their 'galaxy players' after parading the city streets with a colorful rally.

The Gopibagh outfit, which has been in the doldrums for the six years, made its presence felt in the most empathic fashion when they arrived at the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Federation (DMFA) office on the first day of the four-day bourse.

It was something that local football had never seen when a few thousand Brothers supporters entered the all-purpose Bangabandhu National Stadium on horse-driven carriages in traditional Old Dhaka style with a motorcycle and car procession closely following.

There were joyous scenes as the Brothers caravan move through the commercial hub of the city. The air was filled with the beating of drums, wild cheering mixed with the cries of 'we are the champions.'

"This is unique. For the first time a club came to the transfer market with such a colorful rally. It has added a new dimension to the transfer event," said DMFA chairman Abdur Rahim.

The tension and excitement regarding the player transfers was all but over on the very first day when the other giants Abahani Krira Chakra, Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra and this year's biggest loser Mohammedan Sporting Club entered after the Brothers coup.

Country's number two custodian Biplob Bhattacharya was the first player to submit his token to a proud

Brothers president FM Jahangir Alam. Then it was the turn of the new band of Brothers— Mohammad Sujon, Rajani Kanta Barman, Alfaz Ahmed, Nazrul Islam, Firoyz Mahmud Hossain Titoo, Monwar Hossain, Iqbal Hossain and Parvez Babu.

The only star missing in the Brothers galaxy was midfielder maestro Arman Miah, who underwent a nose surgery on the same day.

Trustworthy central defender Rajani Kanta Barman, who was aboard during the pre-transfer drama, put behind the last minute speculation by joined the Gopibagh tent on Friday night.

After signing for Brothers Rajani, reportedly the highest paid player this year, said that he was confident to fulfill the club's dream of clinching a maiden league title.

"We will give our best to win the title for Brothers fans. I think we will have a lot of people behind us which we missed while playing for Muktiyoddha," said Rajani, who played for the Reds for six seasons.

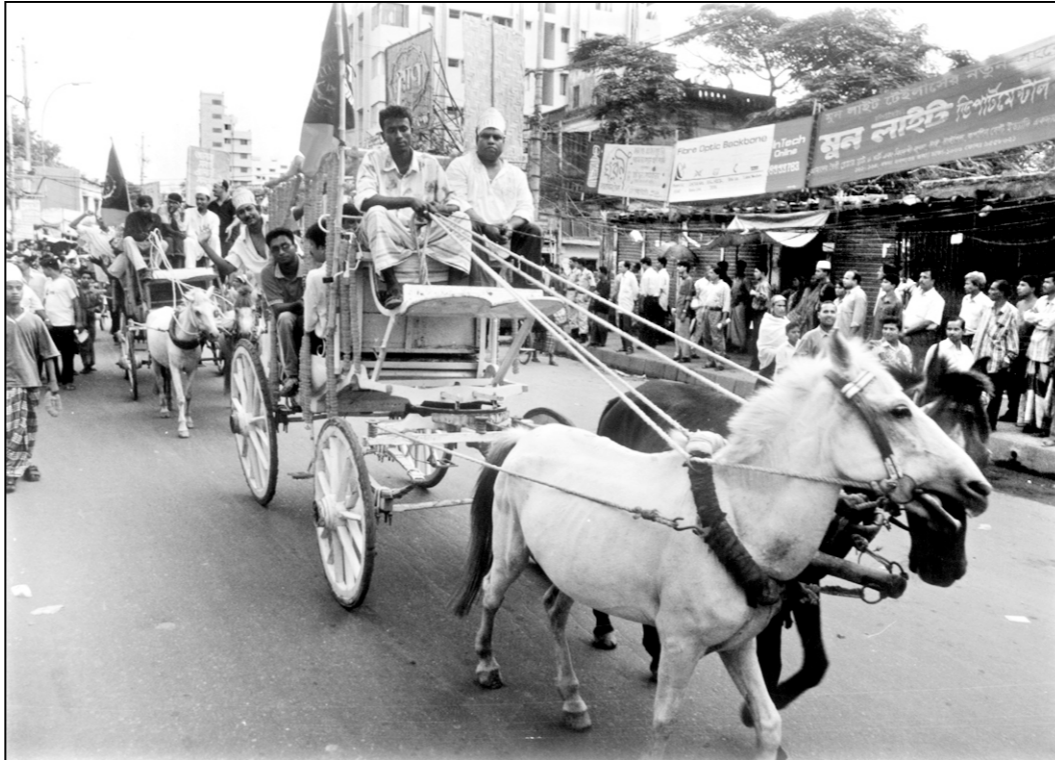
Although Brothers hogged the spotlight, manager Amir Khan believed that his side was still not ready to challenge for the League title.

"We should bring some quality foreign players to achieve the target. And this time you will find a more professional Brothers management," he said.

Abahani Krira Chakra emerged as the second-best team on paper signing up big names like Masud Rana, Arif Khan Joy, Mahmudul Hasan, Nizam Majumdar and veteran forward Rakib. A total of 18 players submitted their tokens for the sky blues.

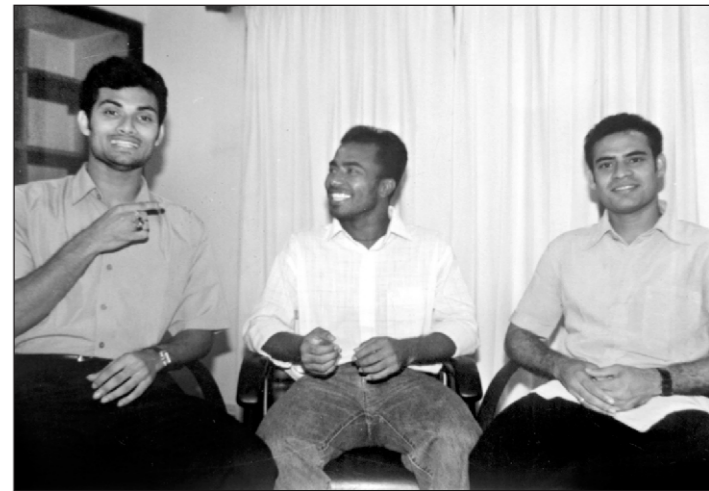
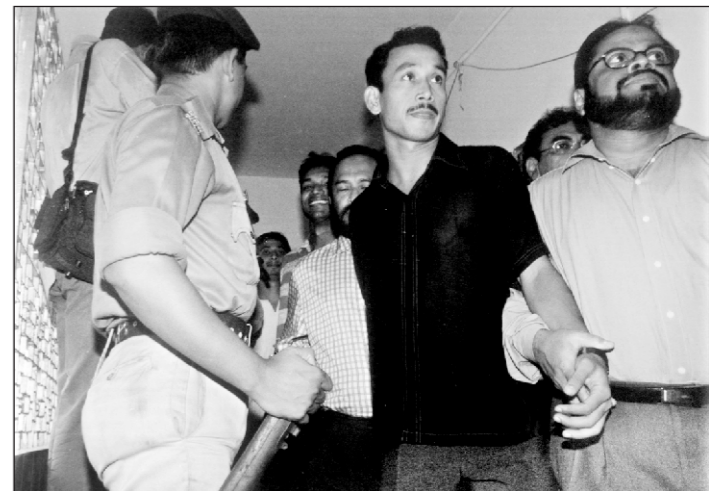
"I love to take up a challenge that's why I joined Abahani even though I knew that it won't be the

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PHOTOS: STAR

(Clockwise from L): Big names in the local football arena sign for Brothers Union. Brothers Union came to the transfer market on horse-pulled carts. New faces for Abahani (L-R) Rakib, Nizam, Joy, Hasan and Masud Rana. Most expensive booter Rajani with Brothers president Jahangir Alam. Pre-transfer controversial goalie Aminul (L) with Kanchan (C) and Bidyut at the Muktiyoddha Sangsad office.



## SA call off Pak tour

### Cricket

AFP, Johannesburg

South African cricket officials called off their tour to Pakistan Saturday, citing security fears following a bomb blast in its largest city of Karachi Friday.

"The decision has been taken with much regret. We know how much the tour means to the people of Pakistan and it is also a tour which we have been looking forward to. But the safety of our players is our primary concern," said United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) president Ray Mali.

Mali said the UCBSA and the Board of Directors of Cricket South Africa had no alternative but to call the tour off since the security situation in Pakistan had deteriorated to an unacceptable level, the SAPA news agency reported.

South Africa would have been the first Western team to tour Pakistan since May 2002, when New Zealand cut short their tour after a bomb outside their Karachi hotel killed 15 people.

The South African decision to pull out of the tour was taken after talks with UCBSA's safety and security consultants, the High Commissioner in Islamabad and international intelligence sources after the Karachi bomb blast.

Nobody was injured in the attack on a downtown office block.

"Cricket SA (Pty) Ltd also consulted with the South African government at the highest level before making its decision. Based on that information and our consultations, the Board decided that the team's departure to Karachi tomorrow would have constituted an unacceptable risk," a UCBSA statement said.

South Africa were due to leave for Pakistan on Sunday for the month-long tour which would have included three Tests and as many one-day internationals.

Last week, South Africa sent a three-man delegation to Karachi to carry out a security survey and returned to declare Thursday that the tour would go ahead.

But then came Friday's attack. UCBSA commercial director Ian Smith, who led the delegation, said in Saturday's statement: "We have

gone to great lengths to make sure the tour could go ahead, but the most recent developments have left us with no option."

The port city of Karachi was scheduled to host a Test match and two one-day games against the South Africans.

Pakistan were forced to play its "home" series against the West Indies and Australia at neutral venues last year due to security concerns.

The Pakistan government promised to provide adequate security to the South African team during its tour.

The UCBSA have offered to host the one-day international and Test series in South Africa, or alternatively at a neutral venue to be agreed by both parties.

Otherwise the tour could be postponed to a later date when the level of risk in Pakistan is acceptable, the body said.

The International Cricket Council has been informed of the UCBSA's decision.

## U-19 cricket meet BD leave for Pakistan Oct 28

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will play their first match on the opening day of the four-nation under-19 cricket tournament against Pakistan in Lahore on October 31.

The tournament got a special flavour when the hosts' bitter-rivals India agreed to let its side to participate in the meet. Sri Lanka is the other team in the seven-day tourney.

Member secretary of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) development committee Khandakar Jamil Uddin said that a 17-member Bangladesh side that includes coach, physiotherapist and manager would leave for Pakistan on October 28.

Jamil also informed that Australian under-19 team would visit the country in December to play three limited-overs matches. The first match will be held on December 28, second on December

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## PCB shocked

### Cricket

HASAN MASOOD from Karachi

South Africa's decision to pull out of their tour of Pakistan at the eleventh hour left cricket officials here utterly shocked.

The Proteas were scheduled to arrive in Pakistan tomorrow to play three Tests and as many one-day internationals at different venues across the country including Karachi where a bomb went off in a city office block on Friday.

Police ruled out terrorism, linking the blast instead to a commercial dispute involving the 12-storey Kawish Crown Plaza at Sharea Faisal area.

It was the second blast in the same office in two months. The July 11 bomb, also described as low-intensity, exploded outside office hours but killed two people.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief executive Rameez Raja derided the incident as "uncalled for and disappointing".

"They have shocked us by calling off the tour," Raja was quoted as saying.

## Bangladesh begin campaign today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh hockey team start their 6th Men's Asia Cup campaign today against giants Pakistan in Kuala Lumpur.

Although Bangladesh were scheduled to play a practice match against hosts Malaysia, they cancelled the game fearing injury to players as they don't have many of them in reserve.

Bangladesh, who have been pencilled in Group B, will take on another giant neighbour India on Tuesday and then play their last group match against China the day after.

## B'baria cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Three Star Club defeated Chalantika Club by 30 runs in a cricket competition at the Eidgah playground here yesterday.

After winning the toss, Three Star batted and collected 180 runs. Tapon was the top scorer with 71.

In reply, Chalantika were restricted to 150 for seven in the stipulated 40 overs.

Tapon was declared man-of-the-match.

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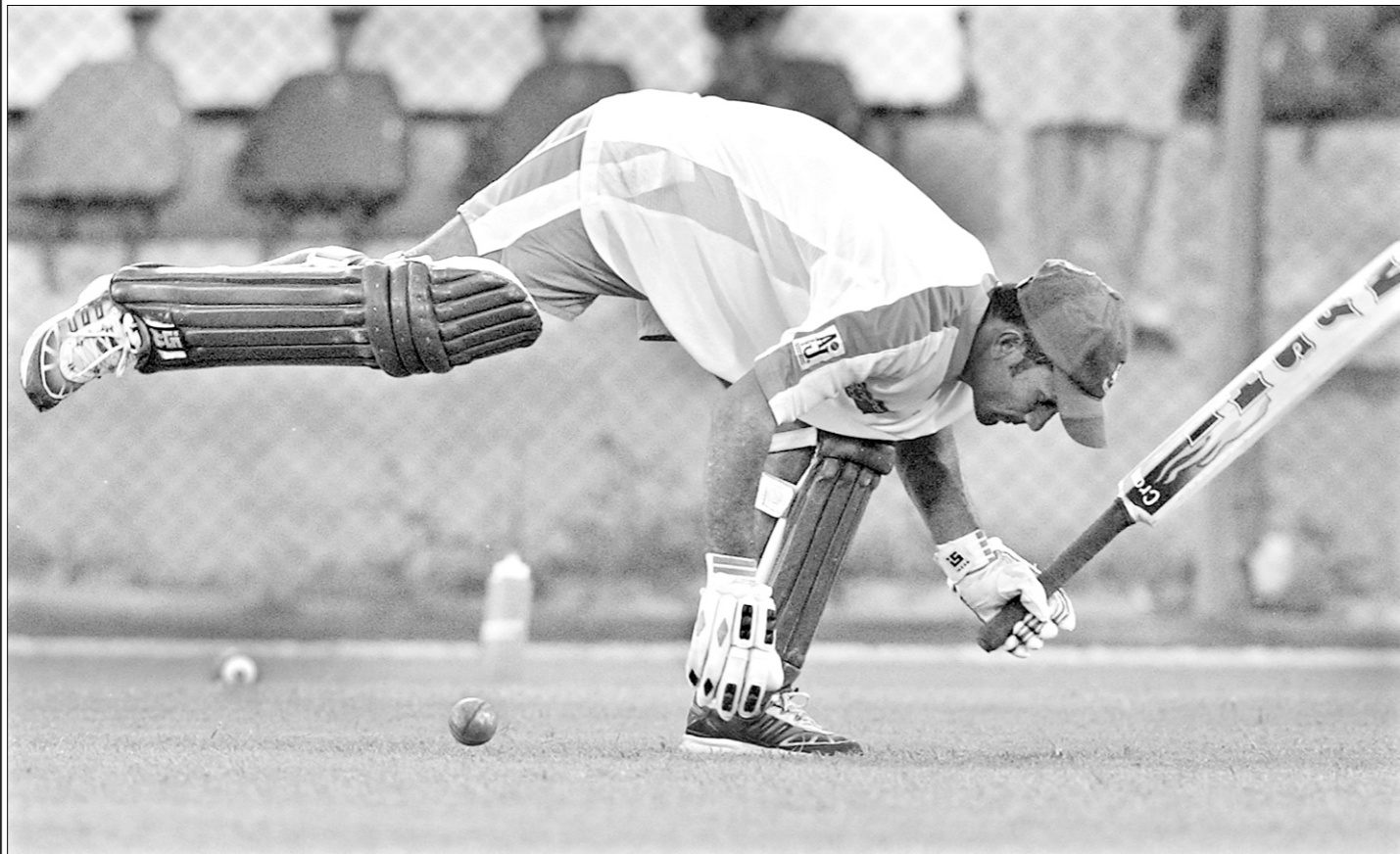


PHOTO: AFP

BATTING IN KEEPING STYLE! Bangladesh wicketkeeper-batsman Khaled Mashud is off balance after attempting a shot during practice at the Karachi National Stadium yesterday. Bangladesh face Pakistan in the last of the five-match one-day international series here today.

## Asian war starts today

AFP, Kuala Lumpur



The 6th Asia Cup gets underway in Kuala Lumpur Sunday with the eight competing countries looking to secure an auto-matic place in the 2006 World Cup to be held in Germany.

With the champions guaranteed a spot in Germany, defending champions South Korea are expected to put on a good show in Group A which also includes Malaysia, Japan and Hong Kong.

Group B comprises traditional foes India and Pakistan as well as China and Bangladesh.

The Koreans are odds-on favourites to bag their third consecutive title after winning the last two in 1994 and 1999 but they are expected to see stiff competition from Pakistan, the winning team in 1982, 1985 and 1989.

India, Malaysia and Japan are also tipped to perform well at the National Hockey Stadium in Bukit Jalil.

Despite the long-term dominance of Asian hockey by India, Pakistan, South Korea and Malaysia, Japan

has also emerged as a force to be reckoned with of late.

The Japanese have undergone intense preparations for the tournament and their five-match series against South Korea proved that they are on the right track.

Though Japan lost two and drew three matches, scoring 14 goals and conceding 17 during the competition, their coach Toichi Nagai believes his team has what it takes to make the last four in Kuala Lumpur.

"Our target is to make the semis and looking at how the team has performed we are capable of achieving it," he said.

"The Koreans will be difficult to displace but we are optimistic that we can get the better of the Malaysians this time around."

The Malaysian team has been in turmoil following allegations of misconduct by the junior team which played in Poland last month.

Meanwhile, Indian coach Rajinder Singh could be out of a job if his team does not win the Asia Cup following his scathing attacks on his players.

Singh, who has barred his players from talking to the press, has said that some of his team have been distracted from the game by

personal sponsorship and endorsement deals.

There was somewhat of an uneasy truce within the Indian team when they flew into Kuala Lumpur on Thursday.

Singh's predecessor, Cedric de Souza lost his job in the midst of the World Cup last year.

The Pakistanis are expected to capitalize on the discontent within the Indian camp when the two teams meet next Wednesday.

"We are as ready as we can be for the tournament and look forward to winning our fourth title in the series," Pakistan team manager Abdul Rashid Junior said.

"Our clashes against India have always been epic encounters and I feel it will be no different this time around."

With penalty corner ace marksman Sohail Abbas in fine form, evident from his three goals in the friendly against Malaysia on Friday, Pakistan have every right to be confident.

It was in Malaysia in March that they ended their barren run of trophies over the past few years by capturing the Azlan Shah Cup in

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