



Did U Know?

The smallest crowd to watch a World Cup soccer game was the 300 who showed up to the game between Romania and Peru during the 1930 World Cup in Uruguay.



What to WATCH

TEN Sports
History of Football
Repeat at 5:30 pm

ESPN
Sportscentre India
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm



TALK TURKEY



Emmanuel Petit

(French soccer star)
"It was not an easy decision to make. But I made up my mind and this is now irrevocable."
While announcing his international retirement.

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 19

Tick the correct answers, post
The Daily Star

Competition closes at 8 pm
Oct 17, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who won the Asia Cup hockey title?
Pakistan India Malaysia
- Who was man-of-the-series in the Bangladesh and Pakistan one-day series?
Inzamam Youhana Bashar
- Who became the Pepsi 16th national men's handball champions?
Army BDR Navy
- Who are the European Champions League holders?

Name

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

School Address

Phone: (If any)

Women's TT

UNB, Dhaka

Abahani Krira Chakra, Biman (Red), Blue Bird and Dhaka TT Club won their respective matches on the opening day of the Women's Table Tennis League at the wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday.

Abahani outplayed Surf Netting, Biman (Red) defeated Brothers Union and Blue Bird beat Swamibagh Girls, all by 3-0 sets, while Dhaka TT Club defeated Biman (Green) by 3-1 sets.

Meanwhile, in the AB Bank Metropolitan First Division League matches, Purbachal Parisad beat Cynthia, New Colony outplayed Bangladesh Boys, Management Net defeated Cynthia, Bangladesh Boys beat Gop KC, Swamibagh Boys defeated Khelaghar and North South beat Reazul Smrity Sangha, all by 3-0 sets.

Draw by a whisker



SPORTS REPORTER

Last man Enamul Haque Jr. survived the final two deliveries of the match bowled by England pacer Stephen Harmison as the BCB President's Eleven deprived the tourists of a win in their three-day practice game at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

But Michael Vaughan's side won't be too unhappy with the result as their batsmen got some important batting while all the key bowlers had decent spells. England will play another three-day match against Bangladesh A at the BKSP tomorrow before the first Test in Dhaka on October 21.

Beginning the day on a precarious 46 for six, the home side weren't allowed to progress too much by a fired-up Matthew Hoggard who snared three of the four remaining wickets to shot them out for 57.

Paceman Hoggard, who bamboozled the President's XI youngsters with his away swingers, returned with fantastic figures of six for 13 from 9.3 overs.

England decided against enforcing the follow on in a bid to give few of their batsmen, who missed out on scoring in the first innings, a chance to have a knock around.

The classy Graham Thorpe opened with Rikki Clarke. Although Clarke didn't make too many,

Thorpe stroked to a merry 47 not out off 42 balls with eight fours before Vaughn declared 265 runs in front.

The President's XI, who could last only 31 overs in their first innings, were left with 66 to negotiate in the day and displayed an improved technique and temperament for the better part of those overs.

After opener Nafees Iqbal had made a breezy 20 of 28 balls with two spanking drives and pulled boundaries off Harmison, one down Aftab Ahmed took charge. Aftab top-scored with an attractive 45. The diminutive 19-year-old right-hander from Chitagon pulled medium pacer Clarke over the mid wicket boundary for a majestic six and hammered four fours in his 89-minute stay before Clarke trapped him leg before.

He contributed 60-run with his skipper Hannan Sarker for the second wicket. Sarker (16 off 104 balls) played the typical sheet-anchor role and was looking to see out the day. But left-arm spinner Ashley Giles deceived him with one that went with the arm and the Test opener was lbw offering no shot.

With the most experienced member of the side gone, there was a familiar collapse with Giles and off-spinner Gareth Batty getting into the act.

The duo shared six wickets and it was only a resolute 26 from the highly talented number eight Nadif Chowdhury that just saved the day.

Chowdhury, a member of the national under 19s, defended brilliantly and even attacked with gusto whenever he got the opportunity. He clubbed Batty over long on for a huge six and also added three fours in his 65-ball innings before being bowled by Harmison with just two deliveries remaining in the day.

In stride Enamul Jr., the man who didn't let England get away with four wickets in the first innings, and again stood in the way of the tourists by calmly defending the last couple of balls.

In a match where the batsmen found the going difficult, not surprisingly England opener Marcus Trescothick was adjudged man-of-the-match for his first innings 90.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the third and final day of the three-day tour match between Bangladesh Cricket Board President's XI and England on Tuesday:

ENGLAND: First innings 253 (M Trescothick 90; E Haque 4-59)

BCB PRESIDENT'S XI: First innings (overnight 46-6)

Hannan c Butcher b Hoggard	7
Iqbal c Thorpe b Hoggard	0
Aftab lbw b Saggars	10
Ashiq c Trescothick b Hoggard	0
Mushfiq lbw b Hoggard	8
Bashar b Saggars	0
Anwar c Butcher b Harmison	6

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NEW KID ON THE BLOCK: BCB President's XI's Aftab Ahmed follows through on an exquisite cover drive during his knock of 45 in the second innings against England in the tour match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTOS: STAR

Big win for U-15 cricket team

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh under-15 cricket team got off to a flying start in their tour of West Bengal with a comprehensive 203-run win over the Cricket Association of Bengal Under-15 (CAB) team in a three-day match in Kalyani, Nadia, yesterday.

According to a message, Bangladesh scored 287 and 128 in their two innings while the home side managed 131 and 81 runs respectively.

Bangladesh off-spinner Sumon Kumar Shaha was the wrecker-in-chief to bowl out the home team for 81 in the second innings. Sumon, who took three wickets in the first innings, bagged five wickets for 18 runs in the second innings to finish with eight wickets.

Bangladesh under-15 batsman Sakib Al-Hasan, who scored 71 and 23, was named as the player-of-the-match.

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Saiful feels disgraced



SPORTS REPORTER

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman has assured Saiful Islam that the government would take necessary steps to resolve over a piece of land in Mymensingh that the former national fast bowler was given as a reward for his heroics in the 1997 ICC Trophy.

But the kind words of the sports boss to the mentally-shattered cricketer at his Secretariat office yesterday came as little comfort as Saiful now feels the police harassment in Mymensingh on Saturday was an attack on his dignity.

"I don't want to think about that piece of land anymore. It has already caused me an amount of anguish that I never experienced in my life. I feel disgraced as a crick-

eter after the way they (police) treated me," said Saiful to The Daily Star Sport over phone last night.

Saiful experienced the brunt of police brutality when he was trying to erect a fence on his six decimal of land that was handed to him by the Mymensingh DC only last Thursday. Police not only picked him up they also handcuffed him knowing he was a local hero. At the station Saiful was allegedly physically abused.

After being put through a nightmare all Saiful wants now is justice.

"I expressed my woes to the sports minister. I have told him that the land was no longer important to me. I want justice. What has happened to me is an insult to all cricketers," said Saiful.

Meanwhile, more people and organisations condemned the shocking incident.

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Youngsters inspire selectors

SPORTS REPORTER

Chief selector Faruque Ahmed was impressed with the way youngsters of the BCB President's XI learnt from their first innings mistakes during the three-day match against England that ended in a draw yesterday.

Faruque with his fellow selectors Athar Ali Khan and Golam Nowsheer Prince had kept a keen eye on the future cricketers throughout the match and have admittedly, seen some positives.

"It is a good sign that the boys didn't make the same mistakes in the second innings like they did in the first. That was inspiring for us," said the chief selector.

"The innings of Aftab Ahmed was brilliant and Nadif Chowdhury also showed his batting potential. However, Ashiqur Rahman and Abul Bashar failed to do justice to their talent, but we are confident about their abilities," said Faruque.

The former national captain also praised the bowlers for their performance in restricting the formidable England batting line-up.

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Result makes 'em happy



SPORTS REPORTER

BCB President's Eleven captain Hannan Sarker was happy to earn a draw in the three-day practice match against England yesterday.

"I think we showed real character in the second innings. That was a plus point after our first innings failure. But we still could have played better," said the national opener while talking to reporters after the match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

England came within one wicket of winning the first of the two practice matches ahead of the first Test starting on October 21.

Hannan said that their aim was to draw the match against the formidable England side and he had no complaints after achieving the target.

The young right-hander the team's only fault was the inability to

distinguish between a good and bad ball. "There was nothing in the wicket for the bowlers. But our inexperience against a disciplined bowling attack was the main reason for the first innings debacle. The way the English bowlers maintained a nagging line and length was something new for us which we did not even face in Pakistan where bowlers gave us the occasional loose ball to put away," said Hannan who stayed at the wicket for 145 minutes to score 16.

Australian Richard McInnes, who is preparing the youth team for the next year's ICC Under-19 World Cup, thought that his first competitive match was a mixed bag.

"We bowled okay. I was happy to bowl England out inside three days. But our batting let us down with some pretty poor shot selection in both innings," said McInnes.

The Australian also said that a draw never makes him happy.

"I'm not very happy with this draw. My philosophy is always win," said the under-19 coach who took

over earlier this month.

"We need to change our mental approach and go for wins," he said adding that there would not be any surprises for the visitors at BKSP when they face Bangladesh A in the next three-day match starting tomorrow.

McInnes however was impressed with left-arm spinner Enamul Haque and right-arm pacer Anwar Hossain Munir. Enamul finished with a match haul of five wickets including four in the first innings to dismiss Michael Vaughan's men for 253.

England coach Duncan Fletcher was happy with the result for a different reason.

"From our point of view it went very well I think. It's important that all the batsmen got some batting and all the bowlers got a decent spell to bowl. So, the match was played to the full except for the first two sessions on the opening day," said the former Zimbabwean captain.

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English players rise in unison in appealing for an lbw decision against BCB President's XI opener Hannan Sarker on the third and final day of the tour match yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

India under pressure



AFP, Mohali

India go into Thursday's decisive final Test against confident New Zealand looking for a match-winning performance from the Indian bowlers to maintain their enviable home record.

India's reputation of being tigers on home pitches suffered a setback when Saurav Ganguly's men were forced to settle for a draw from a winning position in the first Test at Ahmedabad which ended on Sunday.

Now, a victory alone will silence critics and satisfy fans.

India have not lost or even drawn

a home Test series in the last three years under Ganguly, thanks to magical spells from spinners Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh on helpful tracks.

The record is now under threat after Stephen Fleming's Black Caps proved tough customers at Ahmedabad by warding off the Indian bowlers with a determined batting display.

Critics have blasted India's inability to bowl the opposition out twice even in home conditions. Their number will increase if the hosts failed to force a win here.

"The draw (at Ahmedabad) will make Ganguly's critics sharpen their pens, finding fault with his bowling changes, field placements and just about everything," said former India captain Sunil

Gavaskar.

"The fact is New Zealand have come better prepared mentally and are thus tougher customers than their previous teams."

Needing 370 to win the first Test, New Zealand were facing defeat at 86-4 and then 169-6 before Craig McMillan and Nathan Astle steered their team to safety with unbeaten half-centuries.

The draw boosted the confidence of the tourists, who have now set their sights on winning their first Test series in India.

"We feel that we can still get our hands on the silverware if we play well in Mohali," said Fleming.

"I had mentioned that the first Test is crucial in a short series. Now

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Inzamam out of first Test

REUTERS, Lahore

Pakistan have lost their captain and most experienced batsman Inzamamul Haq for the first Test against South Africa from Friday.

"Doctor Tauseef Razzak today examined Inzamam and has confirmed he needs at least a week's rest to recover from his hamstring strain," Pakistan manager Haroon Rasheed told Reuters on Tuesday.

However, there was some good news for Pakistan when Razzak expressed confidence that vice-captain Yousuf Youhana would be available for the match.

Youhana is also suffering from a hamstring problem.

Inzamam and Youhana are the cornerstone of the Pakistan batting line-up. Youhana led the side in the third and fourth matches of the recent one-day series in Inzamam's absence due to injury.

Meanwhile Pakistan could have

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Nat'l basketball begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The 24th National Basketball Championship, organised by the Khulna District Sports Association (KDSA) and sponsored by Barger Group and Choitee Group, begins today at the KDSA gymnasium at 8 am.

Khulna City Mayor Sheikh Toyebur Rahman will inaugurate the five-day meet as chief guest.

A total of 16 teams including four services teams -- split into two groups -- are taking part in the meet.

On the inaugural day, six matches will be played. Final will be held on October 19.



AFP, Lahore

A Pakistani court on Tuesday summoned fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar and two cricket officials to hear a petition demanding an apology and damages for attending a fashion show on a Muslim holy day, court officials said.

Civil court judge Mohammad Azam has asked Shoaib along with Pakistan Cricket Board chief executive Rameez Raja and chief selector Amir Sohail to appear for a hearing on October 28.

The petition, submitted by a private individual Muzamal Hassan Shah, demands damages worth 25,000 rupees (431 dollars) and an apology for hurting religious sentiments by attending a fashion show on the Muslim holy night of Shab-e-Barat (a holy night for prayers) on Saturday.

Shab-e-Barat is a festival for

Muslims to offer prayers, two weeks before the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan starts.

"The damages we are claiming are just a token, the main thing is apology for hurting religious sentiments," the petitioner's lawyer Anwar Mahmood Bajwa told this news agency.

Pakistani media splashed photographs of players and officials attending a fashion parade in the capital Islamabad until late Saturday night, the eve of Pakistan's final one-day match against South Africa.

Pakistan lost the match by seven wickets to lose the series 3-2.

Newspaper reports cited the catwalk show as a reason for the late start of the next day's fifth one-day game against South Africa in the nearby garrison city of Rawalpindi.

"People are trying to make an issue out of a non-issue," Raja told AFP.

"Since it was a day-night game players did go to the show for just

half an hour."

Pakistan team manager Haroon Rasheed played down the issue.

"Even if the players had gone for a show, they came back within an hour and this is wrong to say that they came late," said Rasheed.

Shoaib, famous for his pace as well as his off-field showmanship, is contesting another court case, also launched by a private citizen, after an interview in the British newspaper Guardian in June in which he is alleged to have hurt the national pride.

Shoaib, 27, known as "Rawalpindi Express" for his extraordinary speed, reportedly told the paper that teammates Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis "are in decline".

"They were great but they're not match-winning bowlers any more. So I have to make it all happen on my own," he reportedly said.

Shoaib denied saying anything wrong in the interview and said private citizens sought publicity through such cases against famous players.

Pepsi v'ball starts today

UNB, Dhaka

The Pepsi Inter-district Volleyball Championship (men's & women's) begins at the Dhaka Volleyball Stadium today.

Eight matches of men's group and two of women's group will be held in the opening day, organised by the Bangladesh Volleyball Federation and sponsored by Transcom Beverage Limited.

A total of 10 teams for men's event splitting into three groups and eight teams for women's event dividing into two groups will take part in the league basis first phase meet.

MEN'S TEAMS

Group A: Khulna DSA, Comilla DSA and Gazipur DSA.

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England opener Marcus Trescothick receives the man-of-the-match crest from Bangladesh Cricket Board advisor Nurul Kabir Shaheen at the end of the practice match.

PHOTO: STAR