



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 of soccer in Uruguay.



Steve Waugh
(Australia Test skipper)
"I know I am playing as well as I have ever played in my career. There's no reason I can't get a cou-

Scores not settled

Abahani to face Mohammedan in semis

SPORTS REPORTER



Abahani Krira Chakra had a score to settle with Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra after their much-publicised rivalry over national custodian Aminul during the inter-club booters' transfer.

But at the end of the first big match of the Tibet 19th Federation Cup football tournament honours were shared in a 1-1 draw at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Although the result of the crucial match confirmed Abahani's place in the last four, however the popular Dhanmondi outfit now have to face their bitter rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club in the first semifinal tomorrow.

The Dhaka derby will kick off at 2.15pm at the same venue.

Muktiyoddha on the other hand will have a relatively easier opponent in a youthful Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra on Tuesday.

There was plenty of hype before the sky blues took on the reds, but the quality of football hardly did justice to the billing.

Abahani drew first blood through Arif Khan Joy in the ninth minute only for Saiful to restore parity for Muktiyoddha four minutes before the

break.

But apart from two first-half goals the clash of the giants frustrated the smallish crowd.

Abahani started the game at a blistering pace with their Brazilian recruit Sandro and promising striker Mehdi Hasan Uzzal making a couple of early openings. But the lack of a quality finisher was once again exposed as their frontline failed to occupy the right place to put away those dangerous crosses from Sandro.

The opening goal however came from an unusual source. Joy, better known as a workhorse during his days with Mohammedan, relieved the Dhanmondi band heading home a Masud Rana flag-kick.

The shaven-headed Joy put the ball in past Aminul after an Ujjal back header came his way.

A minute before Aminul was called into action when he brilliantly fisted away a bending free-kick taken from the top of the box by Sandro.

Aminul also saved his side twice by coming out of his area with the Muktiyoddha defenders caught napping. He was lucky to escape a booking after handling the ball outside the box.

The reds, who were understandably relaxed being a semifinalist going into the match, however flexed their muscles only after the rude awakening.

They took the attack to Abahani in

the last ten minutes of the first half with Saiful heading home a Motiur Munna cross in the 41st minute.

The second half was not worth describing, as both sides seemed satisfied with what they had achieved in the first 45 minutes.

Even then Muktiyoddha gave Abahani a late scare by creating two distinctive scoring chances. Their Nigerian recruit Gerald had Abahani keeper Nizam at his mercy in the 80th minute but fired wide of the mark.

Then Moni wasted a great chance of ending as a hero when the national striker blasted the ball past the side post from inside the box.

Yellow cards: Moni (Muktij-oddha), Pranatosh (Abahani)

TEAMS

MUKTIJODDHA: Aminul, Hasan Al Mamun, Prodip, Riyad, Harry, Lajuk, Matiur Munna, Kabir Hossain (Paper), Jerald, Saiful (Toe) and Moni.

ABAHANI: Nizam, Masud Rana, Kingshuk, Sila Fode, Mahmudul Hasan, Rakib, Joy, Sandro, Ujjal, Parvez (Wali Faisal) and Pranatosh.

Referee: Abdur Rakib.

DULL DRAW

In another match, Arambagh Krira Sangsad drew goalless with Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4



BEGINNING OF THE GOAL: An Ujjal (L) header sails towards Arif Khan Joy (not in picture), who opened Abahani's account against Muktiyoddha Sangsad with another header during their match at Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



ESPN

West Indies vs Zimbabwe
Second Test, Day Five
Live at 1:50 pm
STAR Sports
Football Mundial
Repeat at 11:30 pm
Tennis Masters Cup
Final
Live at 3:00 am (Monday)

Zim also in trouble



REUTERS, Bulawayo

Zimbabwe, chasing 233 for victory, slumped to 33 for three at tea on the fourth day of the second Test against West Indies on Saturday.

Earlier, spinner Ray Price claimed his 19th wicket of the series as the tourists collapsed to 128 in their second innings, giving Zimbabwe real hopes of victory.

But the home side subsided, with Stuart Carlisle unbeaten on one at the interval after off-spinner Omari Banks had Trevor Gripper caught by Daren Ganga at short leg for eight with the last ball of the afternoon session.

Left-armed Price, who took 10 for 162 in the first Test and five for 199 in the first innings, claimed four for 36 as the West Indies were skittled.

West Indies resumed their second innings on 13 for one and lost nine wickets for 115 runs to be dismissed 18 overs after lunch.

Price was supported by fast bowlers Heath Streak, who found swing and seam movement to complete figures of three for 39, and Andy Blythe, who took three for 29.

Ganga fell for eight in the third over of the day when he drove a ball from Blythe to Carlisle at cover.

Streak accounted for Brian Lara in spectacular fashion with an inswinging yorker that bowled the West Indies captain, who scored 191 in the first innings, for one with the 12th ball he faced.

West Indies slumped to 21 for three when Ramnaresh Sarwan, on nine, drove expansively at a wide delivery from Blythe and was caught by Craig Wishart at slip.

Six balls later with the score unchanged, opener Wavell Hinds's two hours at the crease for 28 runs was ended when he was given out caught at short leg by Carlisle off Price.

Shivnarine Chandepaul and Ridley Jacobs stemmed the tide for seven overs, until Streak trapped Chandepaul in front for 15 to make it 82 for six.

Price struck again six balls later when Jacobs was out for 10 after he edged a ball on to his pad and into the waiting hands of Blythe at short leg.

West Indies went to lunch on 85 for seven, and they were spared further difficulty when Streak, in the covers, failed to hold a leading edge offered by Merv Dillon, on one, off Blythe just after the interval.

Zimbabwe paid for the error when Dillon and Banks mounted an eighth-wicket stand of 45.

They held up Zimbabwe's progress for 20 overs before Price had Banks caught at silly point for 16.

Price claimed his fourth wicket four balls later when he bowled Corey Collymore around his legs for a duck.

The innings ended 10 balls after that when Fidel Edwards was bowled by Blythe without scoring.

Zimbabwe's run chase got off to a poor start when Vusi Sibanda edged

SEE PAGE 14 COL 7

Sehwag, Sachin run riot



REUTERS, Hyderabad

Virender Sehwag smashed a career-best 130 and Sachin Tendulkar 102 off 91 balls as India amassed 353 for five in their deciding TVS Cup one-day tri-series game against New Zealand on Saturday.

Tendulkar, the most prolific one-day batsman in history, led the early assault with 12 fours and a six in his second tournament hundred and 36th overall after captain Sourav Ganguly chose to bat first in the day-nighter.

Sehwag, relatively quiet during their 182-run opening stand, then took over to hammer his sixth one-day hundred, studded with 15 fours and two sixes.

Rahul Dravid then tore into the demoralised Kiwi bowling by hammering a 22-ball unbeaten 50 to propel India to their third highest one-day total.

With the winners to face world champions Australia in Tuesday's final at the Eden Gardens, the Kiwi batsmen seemed headed for more trouble on a powder-dry pitch throwing up puffs of dust.

Going into the match without injured captain Stephen Fleming and uncertainty over next week's one-day tour of Pakistan due to security concerns, the Kiwis looked jaded from the start.

Sehwag hit six fours in a row before Tendulkar took over to smash the next seven and race to a 47-ball fifty.

Sehwag hit seamer Daryl Tuffey for three consecutive fours but was lucky to be dropped on 26, slashing Jacob Oram to deep third man where a diving Lou Vincent only got a touch.

Tendulkar went after Oram, hitting him for a flurry of fours then hoisting Scott Styris over long-on for six before steering Chris Cairns to third man to reach his hundred.

Cairns, standing in for Fleming as skipper, operated at half pace after missing the last two games because of a hamstring injury.

Tendulkar fell four balls after reaching his second hundred of the series, lofting Chris Harris to deep extra cover

but there was no respite for the bowlers.

The 24-year-old Sehwag played audacious shots to go past his previous best one-day score of 126 before

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

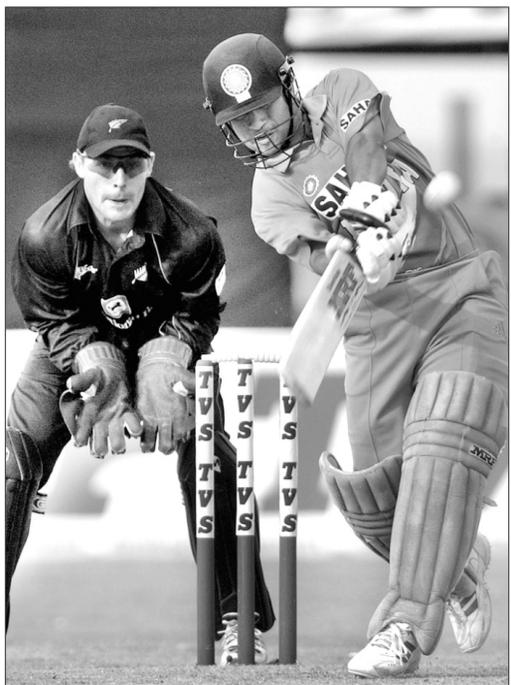


PHOTO: AFP

India's Sachin Tendulkar pulls one for four on way to scoring his 36th one-day century during the TVS Cup clash against New Zealand at Hyderabad yesterday.

Abedin brothers turning coaches

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has involved two more former national cricketers in their activities.

The Abedin brothers, Minhazul and Nurul who are popularly known as Nannu and Nobel respectively, are going to start professional coaching career.

Former national skipper Nannu is still a player and regularly features in both national championship and club cricket in the capital. He is also involved with a coaching clinic.

On the other hand, Nobel has been working as the curator of pitches at MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong for the last few years.

Both Nannu and Nobel left here last night for Singapore to take part in the level-one coaching programme.

Asian Cricket Council (ACC), in collaboration with Cricket Australia, is organising the week-long course.

As part of its policy the BCB, which decided to involve more and

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

Mahmud on way out?



SPORTS REPORTER

The selectors overlooked captain Khaled Mahmud when they yesterday named a 26-member squad for the Patron's Cup and Patron's Trophy competitions in Pakistan.

The tour is being treated as a means to build confidence among some Test caps and national hopefuls ahead of Bangladesh's tour of Zimbabwe next year.

Mahmud was under fire during the home series against England for poor performances with bat and ball and his exclusion from the Pakistan first-class competitions may be because the selectors are thinking about a change in the leadership before the Zimbabwe trip in February.

Chief selector Faruque Ahmed however gave a vague response as to why Mahmud was not considered since the Pakistan trip was designed to help

those non-performers against England.

"We didn't consider a senior like him or Habibur Bashar. But if you're asking me if it's the end of the road for Mahmud, I cannot say that right now," said Faruque.

Replying to another question why they ignored Al-Shahriar, who has been out of international cricket since the

World Cup in South Africa, he said Al-Shahriar would first have to impress everybody in the domestic cricket before coming into consideration.

"We actually selected the non-performers of the national team. It would be a great chance for them to get confidence before going to Zimbabwe," Faruque said.

Bangladesh A will feature in eight matches that is made up of four-dayers and one-dayers and Faruque said all the players would be given a chance to prove their worth during the two-month tour.

The chief selector feels that the tour would greatly benefit Alok Kapali to get back among the runs after a dismal series against England. Also it will open the door for Mohammad Ashraf to reclaim his place in the senior team after the youngest Test centurion on debut was left in the cold after coming back from Pakistan.

But Faruque was more concerned with unearthing a solid

SEE PAGE 14 COL 8

Pakistan too will not tour NZ if ...



AFP, Karachi

Pakistan cricketers threatened Friday to cancel their upcoming tour of New Zealand if the New Zealand team abandons a scheduled tour of Pakistan due to start later this month because of security concerns.

"If they (New Zealand) are not going to fulfill their obligation, we are not going to tour New Zealand," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Tauqir Zia said.

New Zealand cricket officials said Friday they would decide by Monday whether the tour of Pakistan would go ahead after threats were made against the players in an email message.

Full details of the threats have not been released but New Zealand Cricket (NZC) chief executive Martin Snedden said it was "very direct it is explicit about the Black Caps in Pakistan and a warning not to go."

The email message "certainly threatened consequences if the team were to

ignore the warning".

New Zealand aborted their tour to Pakistan last year when a bomb explosion killed 14 people outside their hotel on the day the second Test was due to begin.

New Zealand are due to play five one-day internationals at Faisalabad (November 22), Rawalpindi (November 24 and 25) and Lahore (November 29 and December 1).

Pakistan are scheduled to play two Test matches and five one-day internationals from December 5 to January 21, 2004, during a tour to New Zealand.

"It is a policy decision that we will not go to New Zealand if it does not come to play in Pakistan," Zia said.

The PCB termed the letter a "hoax".

"South Africa also received a similar hoax letter before coming to Pakistan but after we gave them the assurance they believed us and sent their team," PCB spokesman Samiul Hasan said.

"We have passed the letter to the concerned authorities for further investigations."

WI need a wicket

STAR SPORT MONITOR

West Indies were one wicket away from winning the second and final Test against Zimbabwe when bad light stopped play on the fourth day at Bulawayo yesterday.

The hosts suffered a dramatic collapse while chasing a target of 233 to win and were 90 for 9 in their second innings.

Omari Banks took three for 35 while Corey Collymore and Wavell Hinds took two wickets apiece.

England off to rainy start

AFP, Moratuwa

England's practice game against a Sri Lankan Cricket President's XI could not be completed because of rain here on Saturday.

England scored 237-8 after a delayed start reduced the game to 38 overs per side. In reply, the home side were 76-1 off 17.1, when rain came back to prevent the game from being completed at the Tyrone Fernando Stadium.

For the visiting side, left-hander Andrew Strauss (83) and Ian Blackwell (63) put on 110 runs for the fourth wicket to help post a big total after electing to bat.

The uncapped Strauss hit five fours and a six during his 88-ball innings while Blackwell's strokeful 52-ball knock contained four boundaries and three sixes.

Opener Chris Read (34) and Gareth Batty (24) were the others to

SEE PAGE 14 COL 8