



Did U Know?

The largest crowd to watch a World Cup soccer game live are the 199,850 people who crammed into a stadium in Brazil for a game between Brazil and Uruguay during the 1950 World Cup.



Ricky Ponting
(Australian one-day captain)
"I am extremely happy with our performance as we missed our regular fast bowlers (Glenn McGrath, Jason Gillespie and Brett Lee). It shows the depth of Australian cricket. We kept improving with every match."
After the TVS Cup final.



TEN Sports
Sri Lanka vs England
Second ODI
Live at 2:00 pm
ESPN
Football Focus
Repeat at 11:30 am
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
STAR Sports
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Taped Version at 10:30 pm

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 201
Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Dec 5, 2003 and draw

- How many runs did Bangladesh score against England in the last ODI?
143 190 182
- Who is the International Cricket Council (ICC) president?
Malcolm Speed Ali Asghar Ehsan Mani
- Who became Asian Under-19 cricket champions?
Pakistan Bangladesh India
- Who clinched the women's title in the Asian Zonal Chess?

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (if any)

Div I chess

The First Division Chess League will begin from December 7 at the NSC chess room.
Sixteen teams will participate in the meet.
They are: Bangladesh Biman, Bangladesh Ansars, Titas Club, Kamalapur Samaj Kallyan & Krira Sangha, Leonine Chess Club, Mohakhali Prodig Sangha, Sonali Bank, Destiny-2000 Limited, Narayanganj City Club, Anushilan Daba Krira Chakra, Monipur Chess Club, Dhaka University Chess Team, Nakhapara Jubo Kallyan Sangha, Farashganj Sporting Club, Rajshahi Daba Unnayan Sangstha and Fighter Krira Chakra.
All teams are requested to enroll their names with entry fee Tk. 660 before December 3.

Reds' golden moment

SPORTS REPORTER



National striker Rokonuzzaman Kanchan headed in a golden goal to give Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra the Federation Cup title after a hard-fought final against Mohammedan Sporting Club at the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The 2-1 victory was also sweet revenge for the Reds who had relinquished the crown of the traditional curtain-raising event last year to the Black and Whites.

The goal came as a personal triumph for Kanchan who joined Muktiyoddha this season from Mohammedan. The stocky attacker connected a Lajuk cross with eight minutes of sudden-death extra time remaining in trade-mark fashion.

Victory further established Muktiyoddha's status as the number one football club in the country. Apart from the Federation Cup loss last season, Shafiqul Islam Manik's charges have won every major domestic competition on offer since, including the prestigious National Football League a few months ago.

It was a keenly contested match as expected, but Mohammedan, perhaps buoyed by the presence of their recruits from Cameroon for the first time, showed more purpose from the beginning. It took them only ten minutes to break the deadlock.

Midfielder Bakhtiaruddin, who had brilliant match, sent striker Farhad clear with a daft touch, which caught the Muktiyoddha defence napping. Farhad entered the Mukti's box and unleashed an angular left footer that beat country's number one custodian Aminul Haque



KANCHAN ... the golden boy
to kiss the far corner of the net (1-0).
Inspired by the lead, Mohammedan continued to go forward and Farhad was presented with a couple of opportunities that he muffed up. First

he shot wide of the far post in the 23rd minute and then headed the ball away with an open net in front of him in the next minute. Cameroon's Afala had another good chance to increase the lead in the 30th minute when he received a pass from compatriot Basala but Aminul was there to save the Reds as he bravely cleared the ball almost from the toes of the tall forward.

Muktiyoddha, who were content to soak up the pressure for most of the game, were banking on counter-attacks and set pieces and punished Mohammedan for their inability to score. The impressive Mukti's skipper Matiuur Munna floated in a corner in the 32nd minute and an opportunistic Moni headed in past Mohammedan custodian Milon Barua (1-1).

The game got physical after the break and referee Ehsanul Haque was a busy man trying to keep tempers in check. He had to show as many as eight yellow cards to defuse potentially explosive confrontations as the match petered out into a contest of fouls and interruptions.

Mohammedan virtually besieged the Muktiyoddha half in the sudden-death period and their defence, marshalled by the impregnable captain Jewel Rana, was hardly being tested until that fateful decisive moment.

Bangladesh right-back Hasan al-Mamun, who had an otherwise uneventful day, suddenly burst past

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Muktiyoddha Sangsad's Ghanaian recruit Charles Ghansa tries to take the ball away from a Mohammedan player during the Federation Cup football tournament final at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Happy defending

SPORTS REPORTER



Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra captain Matiuur Munna said that they play to first absorb the pressure and then try to hit on the break when they the Tibet 19th Federation Cup yesterday.

The Reds dethroned the black and whites with an exciting 2-1 win with Rokonuzzaman Kanchan scoring the golden goal 22 minutes into the sudden-death extra time.

"We had to resort to a defensive tactic because both of our attackers Kanchan and Moni were carrying slight injuries. But Kanchan showed his class with that beautiful header," said an elated Munna after avenging their 1-0 in last year's final.

But the national midfielder admitted that his team had a slice of luck on their side against a stronger opponent.

"The luck was smiling on us because we really perform to our high standards. May be we were awful, but it's the result that counts in the end," said the country's number one midfielder and hero of Bangladesh SAFF Championship triumph in January this year.

But the Muktiyoddha captain was not happy with the refereeing, as the official was unable at times to control the clash of the titans.

"Refereeing was very poor today. Had he been tough on rough play it could have been an entertaining affair, he said adding that he was very pleased seeing a handful of red supporters cheering them from start to

finish.

Muktiyoddha coach Shafiqul Islam Manik thought that the negative attitude of Mohammedan helped his players on the day.

"They were not in a positive frame of mind today and that did allow them to play their normal game. That's why they lost even though were laden with foreign talent," said one of the highly regarded coaches for the last half a decade.

Although Muktiyoddha are known as a team that loves to attack, Manik admitted that he was forced to adopt a defensive game because Kanchan and Moni were not hundred percent fit.

Man of the moment Kanchan, who joined the reds from Mohammedan this season, was understandable over the moon for enhan-

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Indian cricketer reported for offering bribe

AFP, New Delhi

Indian cricketer Abhijit Kale faces a life ban from the game after he reportedly offered bribes to the selectors to get picked for the national 'A' team, sources said on Thursday.

"Yes, it has happened. We are investigating the matter," a highly-placed source at the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) told AFP.

Kale was not selected for the India 'A' team taking part in an ongoing series at home against Sri Lanka's 'A' team.

The 30-year-old cricketer, who hails from Maharashtra state in western India, is a right-hand batsman and played one limited-overs international in Bangladesh in April this year.

The two selectors who were offered bribes of one million rupees each (21,700 dollars) were former Test cricketers Pranob Roy and Kiran More, the source said. Both men rejected the bribes.

The duo are part of the five-member selection committee headed by former Test wicket-keeper Syed Kirmani. The remaining selectors in the panel are Sanjay Jagdale and Kirti Azad.

BCCI president Jagmohan Dalmiya was expected to make a statement late Thursday.

Kale could be banned for life if found guilty by the BCCI investigators.

NZ boss to be with players in Pakistan

REUTERS, Auckland

New Zealand Cricket chief executive Martin Snedden is to accompany the team on their troubled tour of Pakistan, according to reports on Thursday.

"I like the idea of going with the team at the moment because with so much going on it is preferable to see it for yourself," Snedden told Wellington's Dominion-Post newspaper.

The tour was due to start on Thursday but was put back a week after threats were made to New Zealand players.

Scott Styris, Lou Vincent, Ian Butler and Craig McMillan made themselves unavailable following the threats. The tour party is due to be announced on Friday.

"You sit here in New Zealand and make judgment but nothing beats experiencing what they are getting," Snedden added.

Pakistan police say they have traced the e-mail threat to an Internet cafe in a middle-class neighbourhood of Lahore. New Zealand cut short a tour of Pakistan last year when a bomb near their Karachi hotel killed a dozen people.

New Zealand are also considering sending John Bracewell to Pakistan as the team's coach. The former New Zealand off-spinner was not due to take over his coaching duties until next month.

Wicket spoils final

Biman retain nat'l title



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Biman retained the National Cricket Championship title when they defeated Comilla by five wickets in the final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Although the national airline outfit celebrated their seventh championship crown, it was never going to be a run-feast despite the presence of a host national cricketers in both teams.

The pitch at the national stadium gave a reminder of what happened in Mymensingh, where on a sub-standard surface Comilla upset Chittagong a couple of days ago to set up a final clash in the capital.

Sent into bat, Comilla struggled to make just 132 before being all out in 47.3

overs with number nine batsman James notching highest 29.

Biman also found it difficult to score on a slow and low wicket before Mushfiqur Rahman and Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud combined in a match-winning partnership for the fifth wicket after the airliners were reduced to 59-4.

They added 51 runs as Biman eventually made a safe landing, scoring 136-5 in 42.1 overs.

All-rounder Mushfiq, who was the outstanding performer for Bangladesh during the home series against England, continued his good run of form hammering an unbeaten 45 off 55 balls.

Fittingly, it was the Rajshahi right-hander who finished the chase in grand style, hitting off-spinner Ali Arman for a massive six over long-on.

Mahmud might have had a forgettable series against England, but the experienced middle-order batsmen

provided the support Mushfiq needed to get Biman out of the gutters. He scored a typically aggressive 24 off 39 balls that included a towering six against Comilla paceman Simon Barua.

But no matter how many aggressive shots were hit, it could not conceal the fact that how a pitch played a major role in deciding a winner.

Can somebody explain the way Habibul Bashar, who won the match for Comilla the other day, was out playing a textbook on drive against Mushfiq. Bashar was through with his shot but the ball arrived so late that it kissed the back of the bat into the hands of the bowler.

Bashar made only one. His only remarkable contribution in the match was a stunning catch in the slips that saw the back of Biman and national opener Javed Omar, who scored 23 off 69 balls.

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Bangladesh Biman captain Sanwar Hossain (R) receives the trophy of the Emirates 27th National Cricket Championship after his side beat Comilla in the final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Aussies seeded top in Champs Trophy



AFP, London

World champions Australia have been confirmed as top seeds for the 2004 ICC Champions Trophy in England next September.

The groupings for the 12-team tournament will be based on the official One Day International ratings on December 1 and with no further matches before this date, Australia (136) and South Africa (118) cannot be caught.

South Africa will be seeded No.2.

India's defeat at the hands of Australia on Tuesday means they will have a rating of 105 when the groupings are announced.

This currently puts India in seventh place and heading for a meeting with South Africa but as all five of their closest rivals still have matches left to play, they could yet move up or down the table.

Sri Lanka are now third on 107 after beating England comprehensively on Tuesday but are only four points ahead of eighth-placed New Zealand.

Sri Lanka have two more matches to play against England while New Zealand will play in Pakistan before

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WI warm up for ODIs in style

AFP, Kwekwe

The West Indies wrapped up an easy seven-wicket win over Zimbabwe A here on Wednesday as their top level batsmen all made vital runs ahead of Saturday.

Facing a target of 239-9 from their 50 overs, West Indies passed it with 11 overs to spare and just three wickets down.

Wavell Hinds retired on 69 and Shivnarine Chanderpaul on 63 before Marlon Samuels made an unbeaten 51 and Ramnaresh Sarwan was undefeated with 39.

Winning the toss and choosing to bat, Zimbabwe A captain Dion Ebrahim chose to bat first in front of a large and boisterous local crowd.

Local star batsman Alester

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Players of Muktiyoddha Sangsad celebrate with the Federation Cup trophy.

PHOTO: STAR