



## Did U Know?

Until 1967 it wasn't illegal for Olympic athletes to use drugs to enhance their performance during competition.



**Bob Woolmer**  
(Pakistan cricket coach)  
"The whole irony and tragedy of this particular story (the ball-tampering) is Law 42.3. It was brought in because of tampering with razor blades and bottle tops and everything else in the past, but that's been shoved out of the game now. I'd scrub out the law completely."  
While calling for the abolition of the law, which governs the condition of the ball and which was the centre of the controversy surrounding the forfeiture of The Oval Test this week.

## Practice tie rained off

Heavy overnight rain has forced the cancellation of Pakistan's preparations on Thursday for the one-day series against England.  
Pakistan were due to play Middlesex but overnight rain in Uxbridge had left the ground wet and it was considered unfit to play on.  
Middlesex coach John Emburey told Sky Sports News: "It's just not going to dry. It was a mutual decision with the two captains, the coaches and the umpires."  
"The pitch is still very damp and it's not conducive to play cricket, someone could get hurt."  
"It would be unfair on the public if we would make them hang around."  
The decision came as a big disappointment to the crowd of around 500 inside the ground.  
The one-day series is due to start on Monday with a Twenty20 International.

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## Bangladesh impress

**SPORTS REPORTER**  
Grand Master Niaz Murshed won his sixth round board against IM Jimmy Liew to share fourth position in the IGM 3rd Dato Arthur Tan Malaysian Open Chess Championship in Kuala Lumpur.  
Zia secured 4.5 points while Grand Master Ziaur Rahman drew with International Master Nasib Ginting to secure four points.  
IWM Rani Hamid shared point with IM Mas Hafizulhelmi and FM Mehdi  
Hasan Parag lost his board to IM Yves Ranola, to earn 3 points each after the 6th round.

## CCL to start in October

**SPORTS REPORTER**  
The season's curtain raiser, the Corporate Cricket League will begin in the first week of October this year.  
Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has requested the interested teams/corporate houses to submit their entry fees by September 7 at its Gulshan's management office.  
The 50-over-a-side competition will take place at six different venues across the country.  
It can be mentioned that last year the organisers had to sweat and bend their rules to complete their 12-team quota.

# One last shot at gold!



**SPORTS REPORTER from Colombo**

Bangladesh have a realistic chance to win their second and probably, the last gold medal at the 10th South Asian Games when hurdler Mahfuzur Rahman Mithu gets into action today, the second day of the athletics competition.

Mahfuz, only the second hurdler in the 13-member athletics team, will compete in the 110m hurdles this afternoon at the tracks of Sugathadasa Stadium.

He will be facing stiff competition from Pakistan, who bagged both the gold and silver at Islamabad 2004.

Bangladesh coach Kitab Ali told yesterday that SA Games gold medalist Abdul Rashid was ignored for the Pakistan squad but they have brought a new face whose recent timing is 14.18s.

"Mahfuz won the national championship in 14.10s (hand timing), which means around 14.35s in electronic timing. His timing has bettered during preparation. I am hoping he could finish in 14.20."

"I am expecting an exciting battle as both Mahfuz and his Pakistani opponent are making

their first international appearances. Mahfuz needs to hold his nerve if he wants to win as he has been put under pressure by colleagues to win a gold," Kitab told. There was however bad news for the men's 4x100m relay team as top sprinter Masudul Karim injured his little finger in the left hand during baton change at practice.

The men's team compete in today's final event but Kitab Ali was worried about Masudul, who is the most important member of the relay team.

"He was in tremendous pain last night and has received treatment. He will have to run with a bandage. I am more hopeful to win a relay medal, so we might have to sacrifice his 200m sprint today. We need him to recover before tomorrow's relay," the coach informed before yesterday's men's 200m heats.

Hafizul Islam, Shamsuddin, Mohon Khan are expected to team up with Masudul with Al Amin as a reserve for the relay.

The two female jumpers meanwhile will find it hard to win a medal. India's top athlete Anju Bobby George will start as favourite to win the long jump after recovering from an injury while Bangladesh's Fozia Huda Jui, who won silver in Pakistan two years ago, will be under pressure to be among the

top three. Sathi Parveen will compete in high jump.

The Bangladeshi women also compete in 4x100m relay. Nazmunnahar Beauty, Shamsunnahar Chumki, Sumita Rani Das and Ishrat Jahan Eva make the women's relay team.

The hockey competition concludes today with India defending their gold medal against archrivals Pakistan in the final at Matala. Earlier on the day, Bangladesh will take on hosts Sri Lanka at the same venue for the bronze play-off.

## BANGLADESH IN TODAY'S GAMES

**ATHLETICS (women's):** Sathi Parveen (high jump), Fozia Huda Jui (long jump), Sumita Rani Das (100m hurdles), 4x100m relay; (men's) Mahfuzur Rahman (110m hurdles), Afzal Hossain Surya (400m hurdles), 4x100m relay.

**SHOOTING:** Sabrina Sultana 50m air rifle (three positions)

**HOCKEY:** Bangladesh v Sri Lanka (bronze play-off)

**KABADDI (men's):** Bangladesh v Nepal

**VOLLEYBALL (men's):** Bangladesh v India

**OTHERS:** Archery, karate, taekwondo, wrestling.



A scene from the kabaddi encounter between Bangladesh and India at the 10th SA Games in Colombo on Thursday.

## Row might split ICC: Pak boss

**AFP, London**

Pakistan's sports minister has warned that the ball-tampering row which blew up here last week could split cricket's world governing body.

Mian Shmim Haider said there was a "real possibility" Asia's four Test-playing countries would form a faction within the International Cricket Council (ICC) over the row, which has prompted racism claims against umpire Darrell Hair.

"He's been controversial. He had done the same thing with the Indians, he had done the same thing with the Sri Lankans, Bangladesh," Haider told the BBC.

"There could be groups and the ICC would be divided into two groups."

The minister called for the ICC to withdraw the claim that Pakistan cheated in the fourth Test against England or bring evidence to prove it.

"We feel they should withdraw these allegations or if they have the cameras, they have the proof, they can prove it. If they prove it, fine, we don't mind."

Pakistan refused to return to the field after tea at The Oval in protest at Hair's decision to punish them for ball-tampering, prompting the Australian official to call the first forfeit in Test history.

Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf has also weighed into the dispute, a move endorsed by his sports minister.

"I think the president did the right thing. He had to support his team," Haider said.

# Speed on peace mission



**AFP, London**

International Cricket Council (ICC) chief executive Malcolm Speed was said to be flying in to London from the governing body's Dubai headquarters to help broker a deal that could keep Pakistan's tour of England on track after the fall-out from last week's ball-tampering controversy at The Oval.

"We have an indication from our lawyers that they have information Malcolm Speed is likely to be coming," said Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Shaharyar Khan at the team's London hotel on Wednesday after meetings ended with the future of the upcoming one-day series against England still uncertain.

Officials from both boards met before Pakistan's players, who earlier in the day had taken part in a closed training session at Lord's, held a meeting amongst themselves as they too considered the fall out from the ball-tampering row which cut short last weekend's fourth and final Test.

Pakistan had threatened to boycott the five-match one-day series if captain Inzamamul Haq was banned as a result of charges of ball-tampering and bringing cricket into disrepute following their forfeiture of the fourth Test against England at The Oval.

A disciplinary hearing was due to take place on Friday in London but was postponed Wednesday because of the unavailability of International Cricket Council (ICC) chief match referee Ranjan Madugalle, who had been due to

hear the case.

In a statement Speed said he thought it would be "extremely difficult" to reschedule the hearing during the one-day series proper which starts this coming Wednesday in Cardiff.

Later in the day England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chairman David Morgan met with Pakistan counterpart Shaharyar and Inzamam for more than 30 minutes with the Welshman refusing to reveal afterwards what had been discussed.

Inzamam faces the possibility of a two-match limited-overs ban for ball-tampering and an eight-match suspension for bringing the game into disrepute -- but it is the lesser charge, with its associations with cheating which is causing most anxiety to Pakistan.

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## Academy lose their way

**SPORTS REPORTER**

The BCB National Academy team lost their way on the second day as Pakistan Cricket Academy took control of the second and final four-day match at Multan yesterday.

The visitors suffered a batting collapse on the second day morning when they lost their last five wickets for only 44 runs to be bundled out for 285 runs in 113 overs after resuming on 241 for five.

Overnight batsman Nadif Chowdhury, who started the day at 42, managed to complete his half-century (57), the third of the inning after Nazmus Sadat (64) and Zahurul (53).

Pakistan Cricket Academy finished the day's play in a strong position as they made 274 for one at stumps with Nasir (125) and Usman (38) batting. Khuram was the other notable scorer with 97.

## Howard bats for Hair

**AFP, Sydney**

Australian Prime Minister John Howard weighed into the Pakistan cricket controversy Thursday, saying the game would descend into "chaos" if umpires did not receive support when enforcing the rules.

While refusing to comment on specific issues arising from Australian umpire Darrell Hair's involvement in the ball-tampering controversy, Howard said umpires deserved support for applying the rules.

"I always believe that umpires and referees should be supported by the governing body of the game," Howard told public radio.

"There are rules and, provided the rules are followed and properly applied, then the umpires should be supported."

"Once you start cutting and running from supporting umpires, you have chaos."

Asked if he gave Hair his full backing, Howard said: "I'll leave that to the International Cricket Council."

The crisis erupted last Sunday when Hair and fellow umpire Billy Doctrove ruled Pakistan had forfeited the Fourth Test against England when they refused to take to the field after tea in protest at a ball-tampering allegation.

Howard's position is at odds with Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, who phoned national captain Inzamamul Haq after the incident to express his support for the protest.

The prime minister said he hoped the matter would be resolved because Pakistan was a great cricketing nation.

"Their president is a cricket fanatic, like I am, and I just hope that the matter is resolved and we go back to normal operations," he said.

Howard also involved himself in the previous controversy involving Hair, when the umpire no-balled Sri Lankan spinner Muttiah Muralidaran for throwing at a

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# Keeper keeps SL on gold course



**AL MUSABBIR SADI from Colombo**

Goalkeeper and captain Sandun Devinda stopped four penalties including three in the shootout to keep Sri Lanka's hopes alive to win their first football gold medal in the history of South Asian Games.

The hosts, down to 10 men, edged India 6-5 in tiebreaker after the regulation and extra times ended 1-1 in the first semifinal here yesterday to reach the final of the 10th edition of the biennial regional event.

The first 90 minutes ended goalless at the Sugathadasa Stadium but the match came alive in extra time as Sri Lanka's Lochana was sent off for his second bookable offence after three minutes.

India took the lead in the 98th

minute when Lalramluah scored from a freekick and looked set to book a place in the final when they won a penalty in the dying moments of the first-half.

But Sandun saved the 12-yarder from India skipper Zaidin to keep the home side in the game. Sri Lanka were fortunate to force a draw when defender Perera cancelled India's lead from a controversial penalty one minute from the final whistle.

Indian defender Hirohito, who handled the ball to concede a penalty against Bangladesh in the group stage, similarly threw a lifeline to the home side while trying to clear a freekick. However, it was harsh from the referee to award a penalty as the ball hit the arm of the defender rather than him handling it intentionally.

In the nerve wrecking shootout, both sides were locked 4-4 after five shots each. In the sudden death, there was more drama, both sides missing their first chances and

scoring from the second.

Finally, Sadun denied rival fullback Vashum, inspiring Charaka to shoot past Indian keeper Shilton Paul, who had stopped two penalties, to separate the two sides.

## SHOOTING

Two Bangladeshi shooters put on a dismal show at the Welisera Navy Range yesterday. Toufiq Shahriar Chandan clinched fifth place in the men's 50m prone event scoring 683 points, 10 less than Sri Lanka's gold medalist Mangala Samarakoon.

Mahendra Kumar Sinha failed to reach the finals, finishing 10th among 13 competitors in the men's 10m air pistol.

## KABADDI

Both Bangladesh kabaddi teams suffered heavy defeats to their Indian counterparts in the league phase.

Gold medal holders India trounced the men's team 50-19 with three Ionas. The winners led

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Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar jokes with young fans before his match for county side Middlesex at their Uxbridge ground on Thursday. The match was washed out.

# Woolmer staying put



**AFP, London**

Bob Woolmer said Thursday he would remain as Pakistan coach but admitted he had contemplated resigning in the wake of the ball-tampering row that has threatened to wreck the team's tour of England.

And, in a separate announcement, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Shaharyar Khan, also on London, insisted the side would go ahead with the one-day international leg of the tour.

Woolmer, who some press reports suggested was on the verge of resigning, told AFP: "Throughout this whole affair I have

remained solidly behind the Pakistan team and captain.

"I did contemplate resigning as I am 58 and at an age where I do not need these things in my career and life," the former England batsman admitted.

"I was very 'down' at the time but I feel it is important now to stay strong at this time."

"I have always been 100 per cent with the team and the captain," Woolmer, keen to stress there was no rift between himself, skipper Inzamamul Haq and the players, added.

Pakistan threatened to boycott the remainder of their tour if captain Inzamam was banned as a result of charges of ball-tampering and bringing cricket into disrepute following their forfeiture of the

fourth and final Test against England at The Oval.

His case was due to be heard in London on Friday but the hearing was delayed because of the unavailability through personal reasons of International Cricket Council (ICC) chief match referee Ranjan Madugalle to hear the case.

However, Shaharyar said there would be a meeting in London on Friday between legal representatives which he was confident would produce a new date and venue for the hearing.

"A team of ICC legal experts are coming and they will meet with Pakistan's legal experts. We will know the new date of the hearing on Friday."

He added there had been no

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# Dhaka ride their luck



**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet**

Lady luck favoured Dhaka as they booked their place in the semifinal of the Jubok Phone National Football Championship as they won the toss against Magura in the Group A decider yesterday.

The organiser had to separate the teams via a toss after Dhaka and Magura both finished on same points and goal difference after playing their allotted two group matches.

Defending champions Narayanganj was the first team to qualify for the last four as Group B champions.

In the day's match, Gaibandha made good start with a comfortable 4-1 victory against Tangail at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday.

Aziz Rubel struck twice while Ataur Rahman and Zahid Hasan added one each to the winners account. Shamim Al Mamun scored the lone goal for the losers.

Gaibandha took a 1-0 lead in the first half through a Rubel's 30th minute strike. Rubel found the net from Ataur's brilliant pass.

Ataur then doubled the margin after the breather with a solo effort in the 60th minute while Rubel netted his second goal in the 78th minute before Zahid sealed the winning margin in the 90th minute. Mamun scored the consolation goal in the 77th minute.

Aziz Rubel was adjudged best player in the match.

## TEAMS

**GAIBANDHA:** Rashedul Hassan, Nazrul Islam, Rakib Hassan Shibab, Abu Raihan Russel, Aminur Rahman Tarek, Sujon, Abdul Aziz Rubel, Ataur Rahman, Parvez Sarker, Zahid Hassan and Inam Ahmed Ratan.

**TANGAIL:** Liton Miah, Saidur Ali Khan, Govinda Chandra Sarker, Sajon Miah, Ujjal, Mizanur Rahman (AI Amin), Sajim, Mizanur Rahman, Mukhlesur Rahman (Rubel), Mehedi Hassan and Shamim Al Mamun.

**Referee:** Mansoor Azad



Tangail striker Shamim-Al Mamun evades the Gaibandha goalkeeper to score his team's lone goal during yesterday's match between the sides in the Jubok Phone National Football Championships held at the Sylhet Stadium.

PHOTO: STAR