

## WOMEN'S SOCCER Dhaka dump Shariatpur

SPORTS REPORTER

Khushi slotted a double hat-trick as Dhaka humiliated Shariatpur 16-0 in the inaugural inter-district women's football tournament at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday.

Apart from Khushi's six-goal campaign, Suinu netted four and Ayesha two for the winners.

In the other match of the day, Champa Chakma's strike helped Rangamati edged Narayanganj 1-0.

## Double delight for Parash

SPORTS REPORTER

Ahsan Habib Parash fought back brilliantly to clinch double crown in the Sadat Smriti Summer Open badminton tournament yesterday at the Woodenfloor Gymnasium.

Parash lost the first set in the singles final to Mahub 18-21 but fought his way to win the remaining sets 21-9, 21-16. With his regular

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STANDING ON A WRECK: (L-R) Mushfiqur Rahim, Shahadat Hossain, Enamul Haque, Tapash Baisya, Tushar Imran, Nabil Samad and Shahriar Nafees are all smiles after signing for Epyllion Group on the first day of the Corporate Cricket League players' transfers at the under-construction Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

## What's ahead?

CCL players' transfer on

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

"Where have we come?" was the general feeling among the players on the first day of the three-day transfer for the Corporate Cricket League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

This was not only because that this year's curtain raiser domestic competition, scheduled to kick off on October 1, has already become a laughing stock but also due to the overall environment of the venue.

The feeling of bemusement was intensified considering the circumstances of the visit, a stark contrast to the last time the players called on the national number one stadium.

For last few months the premier venue of the country has emerged as the pile of construction materials due to the authority's lazy renovation work while the gathering of a political party at the adjacent Paltan Maidan simply added more bother.

However, the decline of the tournament itself was the real concern for out-of-favour batsman Tushar Imran who along with his colleagues appeared to complete formalities for last year's runners-up

Epyllion.

"You people know everything. Actually players are the ultimate sufferers. What happens with the players' registration is simply unfortunate although there was great excitement when it was launched two years back," said Epyllion captain Tushar, whose side's appearance gave the otherwise boring first day bourse a little meaning.

The organisers were idling for an hour until the star-studded Epyllion arrived in the scene by roping in national players like vice-captain Shahriar Nafees and pacer Shahadat Hossain although both will miss the group matches due to their commitment with the national team for next month's ICC Champions Trophy in India.

Epyllion, who have recruited sixteen players out of the total of fifty-three registered, also signed Tapash Baisya, Faisal Hossain, young wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim, Enamul Haque, Nazmus Sadat, Tareq Aziz Khan and Nazimuddin.

Biman were the other well-known side that meant business by registering nine players, most of them youngsters, while newcomers StarTel, Syfan Fan and Channel F2 were the other active houses.

But the interesting fact was that there were a considerable number of players who signed for little-known corporate houses without any assurance about the financial package.

"We didn't get any financial guarantee from my team but like me, most of them are at least playing in the season's first tournament. We are actually helpless," said a young cricketer.

The yet-to-be-stars were unsure in their search for teams as they were not aware of the people running the new teams.

"Have you got a team, friend?" was the talking point amongst them during the bourse.

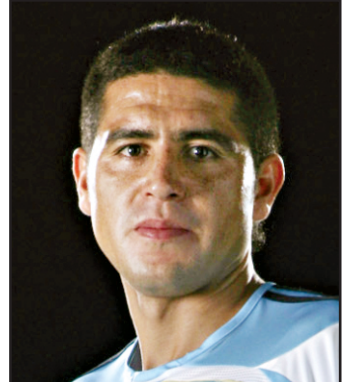
With all the odd goings-on member secretary of the CCL committee Ali Hossain was puzzled that he had to do everything to organise the meet although a board vice-president, Shah Nurul Kabir Shaheen, headed the tournament committee.

"What can I do? We have even failed to arrange a sponsor for the meet," said Ali, whose frustration was just a reflection of the day's transfer scene.



## Did U Know?

Table Tennis made its first appearance in the Olympics in 1988.



**Juan Roman Riquelme**  
(Argentine football star)  
"It was an easy decision to make. My family comes before the football. It will hurt me deeply not to wear the Argentina shirt again but my mother's health comes first."  
While explaining his decision to retire from international football.



**ZEE Sports**  
Australia v India  
Tri-Series, Third ODI  
Live at 12:30 pm

**ESPN**  
English Premier League  
Bolton Wanderers v Middlesbrough  
Live at 7:55 pm

**Primer Liga**  
Racing Santander v Barcelona  
Live at 11:55 pm

**STAR Sports**  
English Premier League  
Everton v Wigan Athletic  
Live at 7:55 pm

## Third win for Police

UNB, Dhaka

Police AC registered their third win in the Green Delta Insurance Metropolitan First Division Hockey League beating Uttara Hockey Club 2-0 at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 1-0. Ziaur Rahman opened the account for Police AC in the 23rd minute while Rana Das doubled the margin in the 39th.

In another match at the same venue, Farashganj Sporting Club split points with Bachelors SC in a 2-2 draw.

Faisal Hossain and Sheikh Sumon Ali scored for Farashganj while Mohammad Javed netted both the goals for Bachelors.

## Warne blasts Buchanan

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

Australia great Shane Warne has made another attack on coach John Buchanan, saying his role is unnecessary.

"I believe you need a manager rather than a coach," said Warne, whose side begin the Ashes series on 23 November.

"As an international cricketer, you know you're good enough and you don't need a coach getting too technical.

"John and I get along OK but... I think that his methods over-complicate issues and at some stages he has lacked common sense."

Buchanan has been at the helm since 1999, a period that has included two successful Ashes series before last year's 2-1 defeat, and victory in the 2002-03 World Cup.

The Queenslander is famed for his unorthodox methods - including on three occasions pushing notes addressed to his own players under the hotel room doors of opponents.

He came under fire during the Ashes defeat in England but had his contract renewed in October, although he has confirmed he will step down after next year's World Cup.

Warne, who turned 37 this week and is Test cricket's leading wicket-taker, recently questioned the need for the team's army-style bush training camp, organised by Buchanan.

Australia captain Ricky Ponting expressed disquiet at reports of the comments, which he heard while in Malaysia, where Australia are playing a limited-overs tournament.

"Both John and myself have left voice messages on his phone to have a chat with him and work out if he actually did say some of the

things that were mentioned in that article," he said.

"One thing I do know is that last time I spoke to Shane, he was all about team solidarity and was looking forward to the team being a very solid group."

Despite his outburst Warne, who has captained Hampshire this summer, is too important a figure to drop for the Ashes, which Australia need to win to regain the trophy.

Warne was speaking at the launch of his new book in London on Thursday, sporting an eye injury after being hit while batting in a Pro40 match on Wednesday.

He also admitted England's stand-in captain Andrew Flintoff would pose a real challenge this winter.

"We always try to nail the opposing captain early but Flintoff is an inspirational figure and it's hard to get under his skin," he added.

## Not quitting so soon

BBC ONLINE, undated

India's Sachin Tendulkar says he has no intention of retiring any time soon after returning from a six-month injury lay-off with a century.

The 33-year-old, who underwent shoulder surgery in March, hit 141 in India's 29-run loss to West Indies in Malaysia.

"Cricket has been my life. Let's be honest, I'm living a dream here. "Every time I go out on the field, there is a lot of enthusiasm and a lot of excitement and I just want to continue with that," he said.

"If I find it a burden, then I would know when say it's the end but I'm enjoying it so I want to continue."

Sachin Tendulkar said his 40th one-day century - almost double the tally of his nearest rival - was one of his best.

"It was a special hundred because it came on a difficult track and after a six-month break," the batsman said.

"I would rate this quite high because I played right to the end. It was part of our plan that I stay in and I was able to do that so I am happy about it."

Before finally undergoing surgery, Tendulkar endured a glut of poor form, going 11 Test innings without passing 50 and leading many to speculate his career could be over.

But former India opener Sunil Gavaskar said Tendulkar had now dispelled all doubts over his fitness.

"Once he hit that front foot down and straight drove the fast bowler, it was clear that he was mentally at peace with himself and had no doubts in his mind about his fitness," Gavaskar wrote in the Hindustan Times.

West Indies captain Brian Lara was fulsome in his praise for Tendulkar, saying: "For a guy coming back after six months, it shows how much of a genius he is. It was a very special innings."

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## Shaheen face Sunnydale in final

SPORTS REPORTER

BAF Shaheen School and Sunnydale reached the final of the Sunnydale-Bexi Fabrics fourth boys' mini handball tournament winning their respective semifinals yesterday.

Sarik fired eight goals to enable Sunnydale's way to tomorrow's final with a 14-3 defeat of Ansar VDP School at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex.

Four-goal Wasarut steered BAF Shaheen School to an 8-3 victory against Dhanmondi Tutorial in the other semifinal.

The third-place play-off between the losing semifinalists and the final will be held tomorrow at 11am.

Meanwhile, the third edition of the girls' mini handball tournament, sponsored by Bexi Fabrics, will get underway today at the same venue.

A total of 16 schools split into four groups will participate in the competition.



Action from yesterday's Green Delta Insurance First Division Hockey league clash between Uttara Sporting Club and Police AC at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium.

## Old foes meet again

Cricket

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

The battle between comeback kings Sachin Tendulkar and Glenn McGrath will take centre stage on Saturday when Australia take on India in a DLF Cup one-day day/night match here today.

The two veteran cricketers have both been out for an extended period - Tendulkar for shoulder surgery and McGrath to help his wife fight breast cancer.

But both have returned with a bang. McGrath found line and length

and was his old economical self in his first match in nine months against the West Indies on Tuesday while Tendulkar smacked an unbeaten 141 against the Windies Thursday in his first game since March.

"McGrath is a great bowler. No one needs to tell the world that Glenn has got so many wickets and he's a terrific cricketer," said Tendulkar, the world's leading one-day run scorer.

"To play him will be a challenge, to play a world class bowler like him is not going to be easy, one has to be honest.

"But I don't like to look at it as battles between individuals. It is a

cricket match between India and Australia and the other 20 players will also be participating in this game.

"We are looking forward to Australia, it should be an exciting game."

The Aussie bowlers took apart the West Indian batsmen in their opening tri-series game here but India will be a different ball game.

The showdown has added spice with Australian Greg Chappell coaching the Indians. It will be the first time the two teams have played since he took over last year.

McGrath, for one, is relishing the challenge against Tendulkar.

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WELL-DERIVED: Indian legend Sachin Tendulkar (R) enjoys a piece of fruit after a practice session in Kuala Lumpur on Friday.

## Rivals salute Sachin

Cricket

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Brian Lara and Ricky Ponting have paid tribute to Sachin Tendulkar's "genius" after the Indian batsman's unbeaten 141 in his first match in six months since a shoulder injury.

Lara, himself one of the best batsmen the world has seen, watched in awe as Tendulkar hit 13 fours and five sixes here on Thursday to carry his bat for only the second time in his 364 limited overs internationals.

"I think it was a very good pitch other than a small ridge, I think that spoilt it of course, but taking that into consideration Tendulkar played a magnificent innings on such a surface," said the West Indian captain.

"For a guy coming back after six months, it showed how much of a genius he is. We just had to watch him and appreciate him. It was a very special innings."

The 33-year-old had been out since March after surgery but proved he has fully recovered and lost none of his winning instincts in a major boost for India ahead of the

Champions Trophy next month.

It was his 40th one-day century - a world record, but not enough to save his side who lost to the West Indies by 29 runs on the Duckworth/Lewis method in their rain-hit DLF Cup match.

"Sachin is the best player I have seen and the best player I have played against," added Australian captain Ponting, who will come up against Tendulkar in a day/night match here on Saturday.

"He's got a good record against Australia and when I look at his overall record, something like 75 hundreds in international cricket, that is just an amazing statistic.

"He's obviously a world class player and having him back at the top of their order makes India even more formidable. Doing what he did on Thursday is just what he does."

In cricket-mad India, the media and former great Sunil Gavaskar were equally gushing in their praise.

The front page of the Hindustan Times had a picture of him under the headline "Batman returns", while the Indian Express cried: "He's back, and how," with a photo of Tendulkar with his arms raised.

The Times also carried an appreciative article by Gavaskar,

who said Tendulkar had dispelled all doubts over his fitness.

"Once he hit that front foot down and straight drove the fast bowler, it was clear that he was mentally at peace with himself and had no doubts in his mind about his fitness," Gavaskar wrote.

Tendulkar himself was buoyed by the way he played.

"It was a very special 100. It was made on a difficult track and I am very happy with it. Everything clicked," said the batsman, who has scored more runs than anyone else in the one-day game - 14,289 at an average of over 44.

"I'm feeling absolutely fine and very happy to last 50 overs and still be running. It is a reflection of what I have been doing the past few months."

"It has been a challenge because I am coming out of a serious injury. I had a couple of surgeries but you have just (got to) keep fighting and try to be mentally strong."

"I've been able to do that and I'm happy with that."

Tendulkar's injury forced him to skip seven one-dayers at home against England and a tour of the West Indies.