

## Tigers' practice matches called off

SPORTS REPORTER

The two proposed practice matches for preparation of the national cricket team for next month's ICC Champions Trophy have been postponed due to inclement weather.

The first limited-overs match between Team A and Team B was supposed to be held today at the BKSP but according to a Bangladesh Cricket Board source, the ground at the Savar sport institute would not be ready within a week following three days' heavy rain.

The second match was scheduled for Monday.

The Tigers will now return to training at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium Indoors in Mirpur today.

Bangladesh will leave Dhaka for Mohali, India on September 30 to play the four-team qualifying round of the mini World Cup.

## Double delight for Rifles School

SPORTS REPORTER

Bir Shreshtha Munshi Abdur Rouf Rifles School and College lifted both the boys' and girls' titles in the 14th NZ Textile Mills School kabaddi tournament which ended yesterday.

The Rifles boys edged Dolairpar High School 57-56 in a cliffhanger final at the NSC gymnasium but their girls won effortlessly, outplaying Siddheshwari Girls High School 46-14 with four lonas.

Advisor to the Ministry of Children and Women Affairs Barkatullah Bulu distributed prizes after the finals.



## Did U Know?

Volleyball made its first appearance in the Olympics in 1964.



## Ricky Ponting

(Australia cricket captain)  
"As I say, it is important to have the best umpires umpiring international cricket and obviously the ICC consider him to be one of those. If he wasn't he wouldn't be there in the first place."  
On Darrell Hair.

## What to WATCH

- ESPN**  
English Premier Football League  
Liverpool v Tottenham Hotspur  
Live at 5:40 pm  
Fulham v Chelsea  
Live at 7:55 pm  
**Primera Liga**  
Real Betis v Real Madrid  
Live at 1:55 am (Sunday)
- STAR Sports**  
English Premier Football League  
Arsenal v Sheffield United  
Live at 7:55 pm  
Reading v Man United  
Live at 10:05 pm
- TEN Sports**  
Sunfeast Open  
Day 6  
Live at 5:30 pm



Abahani's Russell Mahmud Jimmy (R) is being chased by a Bangladesh Sporting Club defender during yesterday's match of the Club Cup hockey tournament at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium.

# Sumon, Kamal notch trebles

Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Two hatricks marked the opening of the Shah Sports Club Cup Hockey tournament yesterday as title contenders Abahani and Usha Kirira Chakra got off to satisfactory start in Group A.

The first treble of the day went to Abahani debutant Monirul Alam Sumon who helped the defending champions brush aside an understrength Bangladesh Sporting Club 6-0 in the inaugural match at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

Veteran Rafiqul Islam Kamal scored all three goals in the day's second outing to inspire two-time champions Usha beat Sonali bank 3-1.



MONIRUL ALAM SUMON

Sumon, who moved to the local giants from Railway, put the sky-blues ahead after nine minutes. The Chittagong-based lad, who originally hails from Comilla, and star striker Russell Mahmud Jimmy tormented the rival defence with their speed and spectacular stickwork to dominate the whole show and Sumon struck again in the 21st minute. Seven minutes later, he completed his hatrick with another field goal.

Cushioned with a 3-0 first half lead, Abahani continued the pressure and Jimmy converted a penalty corner in the 49th minute before newcomer Moududur Rahman Shuvo made it 5-0. Jimmy sealed the victory five minutes from time with his second goal.

Although the first match was held in comfortable weather due to a break in the three-day incessant rainfall, Usha were not spared from downpour. However, Kamal - one

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## Another feather in Rafique's cap

SPORTS REPORTER

Just a couple of days after being adjudged the Best Bowler and All-Rounder at the Bangladesh Cricket Awards night, Mohammad Rafique was voted Cricketer of the Year at the Partex Bengal Tigers Cricket Awards yesterday.

The ace left-arm spinner received 213 votes to beat his national teammates Shahriar Nafees, Habibur Bashar, Shahadat Hossain Rajib and Mohammad Ashraf.

Nafees, who received second highest 179 votes, had notched Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) Best Batsman and Cricketer of the Year awards on Wednesday night. Bashar came third with 169 votes.

Former national captain Akram Khan announced the name of the winner after another ex-national captain Aminul Islam Bulbul had introduced the nominees on the beautifully decked stage at the NSC conference room yesterday.

BCB vice-president and Partex Group vice-chairman Aziz Al Kaiser Tito handed over a crest and a cheque of Tk 25,000 to Rafique in presence of the country's cricket fraternity.

National coach Dav Whatmore and cricket board officials were also present.

Bengal Tigers - the unofficial fan club of the Bangladesh cricket team - organised the show with its members, ex national cricketers, all BCB standing committee chiefs, umpires, match referees and sports journalists voting the five nominees on the basis of their international performance in 2005-06 season.

## Four athletes tested positive at 10th SA Games

AP, Colombo

Four athletes from Sri Lanka, Nepal and Pakistan tested positive for banned performance enhancing drugs at last month's South Asian Games.

The competitors involved were Pakistani boxers Nauman Karim and Mohamed Lassi, Sri Lankan 100m silver medalist Jani Chathurangani Silva and a Nepalese athlete whose name was not released. Sri Lanka's National Olympic Committee president Hemasiri Fernando said Friday.

They were all proven positive for using banned drugs at the conclusion of the eight-nation Games held from August 14-29, said Fernando, who was also South Asian Games chairman.

"We have informed the respective sports bodies of those countries about the investigation's results and are yet to receive their response," he said.

Fernando said the athletes can challenge the preliminary investigation results by requesting a second sample test.

Meanwhile, local newspapers reported Friday that a hearing into Silva's doping results, scheduled for Thursday, were postponed to Monday after her lawyers submitted medical certificates saying she was unwell.

Silva was also a member of Sri Lanka's gold medal-winning 4x100 relay team.

Ace all-rounder Mohammad Rafique (L) receives the Player of the Year trophy of the Partex Bengal Tigers Cricket Awards 2005-06 from BCB vice-president Aziz Al Kaiser Tito (R) as former captain Akram Khan looks on at the National Sports Council conference room yesterday.

# Lee storm blows India

Cricket

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

A fiery Brett Lee bowled Australia into the DLF Cup one-day final on Friday, grabbing three late wickets to hand his side a tense 18-run victory over India at the Kinrara Oval in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

It sets up a final showdown with the West Indies on Sunday. Set 214 to win, India looked on the brink of winning at 185-6 before Lee returned to the attack and polished off the tail.

He accounted for Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag in his first spell and ended with 5-38 off 8.5 overs.

Dinesh Mongia was India's rock, remaining not out on 63.

Australia were skittled out for 213 but the target was never going to be easy with Glenn McGrath and Lee in action, and India got off to a bad start when Tendulkar fell for four.

McGrath thought he'd got the master batsman on his first ball when Tendulkar attempted a pull but missed. It hit his shoulder, rifling into wicketkeeper Brad Haddin's gloves. He appealed for the catch and umpire Mark Benson gave him out before deciding he'd got it wrong and waved him back to the crease.

Ricky Ponting wasn't happy but cheered up five balls later when Tendulkar sliced a Lee rocket to Michael Hussey at point.

Lee was storming in and bowled Sehwag for 10 in his next over.

Stuart Clark, who was smacked for 87 off seven overs in his last match, took the chance to redeem himself, taking a reflex catch off his own bowling to dismiss Mohammad Kaif for 21.

He followed it three balls later by bagging the key wicket of Rahul Dravid, trapping him lbw for seven to leave the Indians in big trouble.

But Mongia and Suresh Raina knuckled down, putting on a 46-run stand for the fifth wicket before Raina fell for 26 to spinner Brad

Hogg. MS Dhoni joined Mongia and they added 62 before Lee came back for his second spell and temped Dhoni (23) to hole out to Damien Martyn.

Hogg got Ajit Agarkar and Andrew Symonds snared Harbhajan Singh, before Lee ripped into the tail.

Earlier, a seventh wicket stand of 77 between Haddin and Hogg saved Australia's blushes after poor running between the wickets cost them dear.

The pair came together with Australia in trouble at 117 for six to steer them to a defendable score after Ponting won the toss and batted.

Harbhajan Singh was again in top form, taking 1-24 from his 10 overs. Matthew Hayden top-scored with a gritty 54. Haddin (46) and Hogg (38) were the only others to find their groove.

Agarkar made the early breakthrough, tempting Simon Katich to flay at a ball outside off stump and Raina took a spectacular diving catch.

Then he marched Ponting, knowing that the last two Australian captains who failed to reach the finals of a tri-series - Mark Taylor in 1997 and Steve Waugh in 2002 - lost their jobs.

He looked nervous and lasted just eight balls, caught at fine leg by Agarkar for four off Patel.

Hayden appeared set for a big innings before a disastrous mix-up with Martyn cost him his wicket, run out.

Mongia was brought into the action and his left arm spin paid dividends when Martyn was also run out, for 19. Symonds went the next ball for two.

Haddin and Hussey came together but didn't last long, with Hussey edging Harbhajan to Dravid at slip on 13.

It brought Hogg to the crease, and with Haddin he steered Australia towards the 200 mark.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the DLF Cup one-day international between Australia and India at the Kinrara Oval on Friday:

### AUSTRALIA

Hayden run out (Dhoni)	54
Katich c Raina b Agarkar	9
Ponting c Agarkar b Patel	4
Martyn run out (Mongia)	19
Hussey c Dravid b Harbhajan	13
Symonds lbw b Mongia	2
Haddin c Dhoni b Rudra Pratap	46
Hogg run out (Rudra Pratap)	38
Clark b Agarkar	2
Lee c Sehwag b Rudra Pratap	7
McGrath not out	0
Extras: (lb-6, w-9, n-4)	19
Total: (All out in 48.1 overs)	213
Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-49, 3-87, 4-97, 5-97, 6-117, 7-194, 8-208, 9-213, 10-213.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Agarkar	8	0	44	2
Patel	9	1	32	1
Rudra Pratap	9	1	43	2
Harbhajan	10	2	24	1
Mongia	9	0	43	1
Sehwag	3	0	21	0

### INDIA

Sehwag b Lee	10
Tendulkar c Hussey b Lee	4
Kaif c & b Clark	21
Dravid lbw b Clark	7
Mongia not out	63
Raina b Hogg	26
Dhoni c Martyn b Lee	23
Agarkar lbw b Hogg	9
Harbhajan c Haddin b Symonds	0
Rudra Pratap c Hussey b Lee	4
Patel c Symonds b Lee	1
Extras: (lb-7, w-16, nb-4)	27
Total: (All out in 43.5 overs)	195
Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-20, 3-47, 4-50, 5-96, 6-158, 7-185, 8-186, 9-193, 10-195	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Lee	8.5	0	38	5
McGrath	8	1	25	0
Clark	8	0	36	2
Symonds	9	0	41	1
Hogg	10	0	48	2

Result: Australia won by 18 runs.  
Man-of-the-match: Brett Lee.



ON FIRE: Fast bowler Brett Lee (C) of Australia appeals unsuccessfully as India's ace batsman Sachin Tendulkar refuses a single during their DLF Cup series match at the Kinrara Oval in Kuala Lumpur on Friday.

# Younis 'promises' clean ball

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Pakistan's bowling coach Waqar Younis claimed in an interview Friday that the ball in the controversial tampering saga that led to Pakistan forfeiting a Test to England last month had showed no signs of illegal alteration.

The fourth Test between England and Pakistan at The Oval ended in bizarre fashion on the fourth day when the tourists refused to take the field after tea in protest at being penalised five runs for ball-tampering by umpires Darrell Hair and Billy Doctrove.

It led to the first forfeit in 129 years of Test cricket and an England win which gave the hosts a 3-0 series victory.

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq was subsequently charged with ball tampering and bringing the game into disrepute. The International Cricket Council will hold a hearing into the charges in London on September 27-28.

No television cameras at The Oval are understood to have captured Pakistani players engaging in illegal ball tampering and the condition of the ball will be central to the umpires' case against Inzamam.

But Waqar insisted Friday that

Herald from his Sydney home he saw the ball immediately after it was taken from the field.

"I went straight into the referee's room and asked to see the ball," Waqar told the paper.

"There was nothing wrong with it. I went and told the boys that I thought it was totally wrong -- I promise you, nothing was wrong with it.

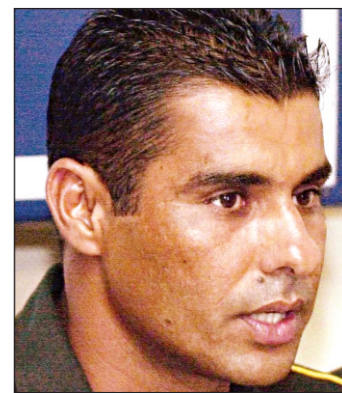
"There were 30-odd cameras at the ground that didn't see anything, so you would think there had to be something wrong with the ball for Darrell (Hair) to do what he did.

"But I promise: I saw the ball and there was nothing wrong with it."

"It was bad for cricket, but if you ask me, it was good for our country and our reputation," Waqar added.

"It wasn't just about ball tampering. By doing what he did, (Hair) was calling the whole Pakistan team cheats, penalising us five runs with no evidence. That was totally wrong."

If Inzamam is found guilty at the ICC hearing he could be suspended for a maximum of five Tests or 10 one-day internationals and may also be fined.



WAQAR YOUNIS