



## Did U Know?

Cricket's only appearance at the Olympics was in 1900 where Great Britain defeated France by 158 runs.



**Rameez Raja**  
(Former Pakistan cricket captain)  
"The ICC needs to pull up their socks and take a firm decision now on Darrell Hair."  
After Inzamamul Haq was cleared on ball-tampering charges.

## What to WATCH

**ESPN**  
English Premier Football League  
Bolton Wanderers v Liverpool  
Live at 5:40 pm  
Charlton Athletic v Arsenal  
Live at 7:55 pm  
**Primera Liga**  
Barcelona v Espanyol  
Live at 1:55 am (Sunday)  
**STAR Sports**  
Mumbai Open  
Live at 5:30 pm  
English Premier Football League  
Chelsea v Aston Villa  
Live at 7:55 pm

## Football for indigenous people

RU CORRESPONDENT

Talithpara Jumo defeated Thirkupara Mitai Club 3-2 in the tiebreaker in the opening match of the Sargram Mazi Memorial indigenous football tournament at the Kakonhat high school ground yesterday.

The tournament is being organised by Adivashi Unnayan Sangstha (AUS) in memory of the first indigenous leader Sargram Mazi, who was an MLA in erstwhile Pakistan in 1954. A former UP chairman of Gogram under Godagari upzilla in 1974, he fought for land rights of indigenous peoples in northern districts.

It is also the first football tournament for indigenous people in the Rajshahi region.

Firoz Kabir, a national footballer in 1973, declared the meet open.

A total of 16 indigenous youth football teams are participating in the meet. The other teams are

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## MANIKGANJ SOCCER Sana Sangha Div II champs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Sana Smriti Sangha lifted the Namira 2nd Division Football League title with a crushing 4-0 victory over Dautia Bulbul Sangha at the Shaheed Mirja-Tapan Stadium here yesterday.

Abbas fired twice while Arif and Babu added one goal apiece for the winners.

Dautia Bulbul Sangha's Arif was adjudged the best player of the league.

Vice-president of Manikganj Chamber of Commerce and Industries Ainul Haque Babul, Manikganj DSA secretary SMM Iqbal Hossain and convenor of the league Abdus Salam Badal gave away trophies and medals after the match.

# MSC set Usha clash

Abahani to play Mariners in other semifinal

Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Goals by Mamunur Rahman Chayan and Maksud Alam Habul either side of the break helped Mohammedan Sporting Club emerge Group B winners in the Shah Sports Club Cup Hockey Tournament with a 2-0 win over Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club yesterday.

The victory not only maintained two-time champions Mohammedan's all-win record but also helped them avoid a possible last four clash against archrivals and holders Abahani, the Group A champions who face Group B runners-up Mariners in the first semifinal on Monday. Mohammedan meet Usha Krira Chakra in the other semifinal for a place in the October 4 final.

The black and whites, who finished on nine points compared to Mariners' six, shrugged off rather lacklustre shows in the previous

group games and could have gone ahead in the very first minute when they won a penalty corner.

After the rival defence weathered the attack, national forward Ariful Haque Prince cut back a daring pass from the right but Habul's powerful hit was brilliantly stopped by Mariners goalkeeper and skipper Jahangir.

Mariners -- who needed a draw to become group champions by virtue of superior goal difference -- reasserted soon but Rahul, taking the ball from veteran Yusuf, saw his effort denied by Mohammedan custodian Mahbub, who again saved his side by intercepting a powerful cross by Mosharrif Hossain Kuti to deny Sohail a shot at the goal.

Mohammedan finally broke the deadlock in the 27th minute when Chayan efficiently dragged the ball into the back of the net from their second and last penalty corner of the game.

Mariners mounted heavy pres-

sure after the break in search of an equaliser but suffered due to poor finishing. They wasted their only penalty corner before Shishu failed to connect the ball from the goalmouth after hard work from Prince.

Mohammedan hit back soon but Rana committed an unpardonable mistake when he hit the ball straight to the lone keeper while Yusuf's inspired defending kept Habul's effort at bay.

Mariners squandered another golden chance with Sohail sidestepping from close, initiating a counter attack that saw Mohammedan seal the victory on the hour with Habul pushing the ball into the near post from a goalmouth scramble.

Mohammedan could have widened the margin in the last five minutes but Rana and Habul both mislaid their chances from hand-shaking distance.

# Safety no issue: BCCI



AFP, Mumbai

India's cricket chiefs added a new twist to the Darrell Hair saga on Friday, insisting there were no security concerns that forced him off the Champions Trophy panel.

"I don't know why the International Cricket Council has said that Hair was stopped from standing in the tournament because of security concerns," Indian cricket board secretary Niranjan Shah told reporters here.

"There are no security concerns in India. We have never said that Hair or any other umpire could face security problems."

Shah confirmed that the Indian board had earlier this week asked the ICC not to consider Hair for the Champions Trophy, but denied they cited security concerns as the reason.

Shah had told AFP on Tuesday: "We have nothing against the man (Hair), but since there is so much

controversy surrounding him, it may be better that Hair is not appointed for the Champions Trophy."

"We don't want any trouble during the tournament."

Asked on Friday what he had meant by "we don't want any trouble," Shah said: "We had only expressed concern about the controversy surrounding him which could distract attention from the tournament."

The ICC announced on Thursday that Hair would not officiate in the October 7 to November 5 Champions Trophy due to "concerns over his safety and security and also the safety and security of those around him during the tournament."

The announcement came hours after Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq was absolved of ball-tampering charges levelled against him by Hair and co-umpire Billy Doctrove during the infamous Oval Test against England last month.

Pakistan twice refused to take the field in the match to protest at the umpires' verdict, resulting in the first forfeited match in the 129-year history of Test cricket.

ICC match referee Ranjan

Madugalle said on Thursday he found no evidence of ball-tampering, implying that Hair had been wrong to accuse Pakistan of cheating and penalising them five penalty runs.

Madugalle's ruling raised speculation that Hair's international umpiring career may be over and his removal from the Champions Trophy panel was seen as the first step in that direction.

Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Shaharyar Khan on Thursday reiterated his stand that Hair should not stand in Pakistan matches and wanted the ICC to carry out an investigation into the umpire's conduct.

"We have already written to the ICC asking them to investigate Hair's conduct in this Test and bringing the game into disrepute," Khan said.

Sri Lanka, who have been at loggerheads with Hair since he no-balled spin wizard Muttiah Muralitharan for throwing in 1995, said earlier on Friday that Madugalle's verdict came after a "very fair inquiry."



Maksud Alam Habul (L) of Mohammedan Sporting Club tries to get the better of two Mariners defenders during their Club Cup clash at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Rain threatens today's practice match

SPORTS REPORTER

The chances of Habibul Bashar's men playing today's second practice game at BKSP looked remote due to inclement weather.

The ICC Champions Trophy-bound cricketers' first preparation match on Thursday was also washed out due to rain.

"There is very slim chance to play the second match tomorrow as the outfield has already been soaked due to heavy rain today. And there it is highly likely that it would rain tonight, so it would be very difficult to prepare the ground although the pitch is covered," said curator Badiul Alam Khokon.

Team manager Khaled Mahmud however said that both teams will go to the country's lone sport institute today disregarding the fact.

After the seniors put on a very pathetic batting display against Tushar Imran's second-string national side, it is crucial for the Tigers to get some match practice as well as shrug off the first match failure.

The selectors, meanwhile, will take final decision about injured left-arm paceman Syed Rasel and in case his recovery is not satisfactory, experienced Tapash Baisya will replace him in the 14-member squad.

Bangladesh team will leave here tomorrow for Delhi to play the qualifying rounds of ICC's second biggest tournament after World Cup where they meet Sri Lanka, West Indies and Zimbabwe in the preliminaries which will start on October 7.

## CHAMPIONS TROPHY Younis to lead Pakistan

AFP, Karachi

Younis Khan will lead Pakistan's cricket team in next month's Champions Trophy in India after the ICC slapped a four-match ban on captain Inzamamul Haq, officials said.

"Younis will lead Pakistan in the ICC Trophy," Pakistan Cricket Board director Abbas Zaidi told AFP.

The International Cricket Council on Thursday penalised Inzamam for bringing the game into disrepute but absolved the star batsman of ball-tampering charges after a two-day hearing in London.

The hearing followed a standoff in the fourth Test at The Oval after the Pakistani team refused to take the field on the fourth evening following a ball-tampering row.

Umpires Darrell Hair of Australia and Billy Doctrove of the West Indies changed the ball over suspicions it had been tampered with, a decision which led to Pakistan's protest. The Test was awarded to England on forfeit.

Younis said Inzamam was a big

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# Hair not leaving soon

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Darrell Hair cut a lonely figure when he was brought to face the world's media at The Oval seconds after an ICC spokesman had revealed that he had been withdrawn from the Champions Trophy on "safety and security" grounds.

But he faced his inquisitors for almost three-quarters of an hour with calm assuredness, making jokes and even brushing aside attempts by the press officer to limit the number of questions put to him.

Asked if he had considered retirement, Hair said he had not, and pressed why not, he said: "Because I'm bloody good. Of course I wish to keep on being an umpire. My umpiring performance or career is on public record and if other people consider I am still good enough to umpire I will continue."

Hair made clear from the off that under ICC regulations he was unable to answer any questions relating to incidents during the Oval Test or the hearing itself -- not that it prevented several attempts to do so.

"I think the last few weeks have been quite trying on everybody," he said. "The Code of Conduct is there to be applied. It's been applied, I'm bound by my own code of conduct but it's good to have it over."

With regards to the offer to resign in the aftermath of The Oval row, he admitted that "it may well have been an ill-advised thing to do at the time, I think I've already admitted that." But he took a swipe at the ICC's decision to make the letters public. "I believe (such things) should remain confidential. We learn lots of things from the things we do in life. I still believe that those matters should be kept confidential. It's something that's part of the ICC Code of Conduct hearing and I've explained why I can't discuss that."

Asked if the decision to penalise Pakistan was wrong, he gave a rueful smile. "My contract at the ICC clearly states that I must



DARRELL HAIR

umpire to the best of my ability ... all I will say is I'm out there doing my

best. I'm not here to defend any decision. I umpire matches in good faith. I do it to the best of my ability." "I've umpired since 1985 and from the day I started umpiring my career was in the hands of other people. People make assessments on my career on a ball by ball basis. If other people who have always made those decisions consider I'm good enough to still umpire, I will continue."

Some were surprised that Billy Doctrove and Mike Procter were not present. "Whether he (Doctrove) chooses to come to press conferences is his choice; that's nothing to do with me. Yes, there were two umpires and I might reiterate that decisions cannot take place unless the umpires agree."

He was asked if he would umpire in England as he was on the ECB's reserve list -- that drew a big grin from him and he admitted that he was unaware of that. "I've umpired in the Championship for the last two years luckily without the publicity that we have here. If I'm available I'll do it. I'd love to."

He also brushed aside suggestions that he had effectively put himself out of the equation for umpiring some countries. "That will be up to other people to decide whether it has damaged my relationship with any other team around the world."

# Greats urge Hair removal

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Former Pakistani Test cricketers and fans Friday called for Darrell Hair to quit as an umpire or be sacked after captain Inzamamul Haq was cleared of ball tampering.

"The way he treated the country's captain at The Oval clearly showed he was disrespectful. Either he must resign or the ICC (International Cricket Council) should ban him," legendary all-rounder Imran Khan told AFP.

"I think he is a mini-dictator like Hitler," added the former skipper, echoing comments made in August when the furor first broke out -- and which were later used on placards at protests by angry fans.

Hair insisted he is a "bloody good" umpire but the Australian official's career was in left in the balance after he was withdrawn from next month's Champions Trophy in India because of security concerns.

He and fellow umpire Billy Doctrove changed the ball in the fourth Test at The Oval last month after alleging it had been tampered with, prompting Pakistan to refuse to return to the field after tea.

Pakistan forfeited the match but the ICC cleared Inzamam of ball

tampering on Thursday. He was banned for four one-day internationals for bringing the game into disrepute.

Khan said there was enough evidence for Hair to be banned. "His past record proves he always courts trouble and he always tries to implement laws without leeway. He levelled serious cheating allegations against Pakistan without any decent evidence," Khan said.

"Hair caused one of cricket's greatest controversies and then demanded 500,000 dollars as compensation. What does that tell you about the man," he said, referring to a leaked email from the umpire to the ICC demanding payment in return for his retirement.

Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Shaharyar Khan said Thursday the PCB wanted an investigation into whether Hair himself brought the game into disrepute.

"We are grateful to all the Test playing countries, especially India, for their support and now we would consider the next course of action against Hair," PCB spokesman Abbas Zaidi said.

Another former captain, Rashid Latif, said the ICC's actions indicated that Hair's career was all but over.

"By withdrawing Hair from the Trophy, the ICC has hinted he would not be in the elite panel of umpires from next year," Latif said.

"I think Hair would now write a book on the Oval incident and earn the money which he had sought from the ICC."

Cricket fans also called for the Australian to go.

"Hair was controversial, he will remain controversial -- so what is the use of having such an official? Just ban him forever," said Mohsin Ahmed, an avid cricket fan from the southern port city of Karachi.

"He is unlike most Australians who are professional, honest and play cricket in the best of spirits."

## Guessing game proved costly

AFP, London

Umpire Darrell Hair was accused of "guessing" when he punished Pakistan for ball-tampering, according to a key witness at captain Inzamamul Haq's disciplinary hearing.

TV analyst Simon Hughes, who was asked to analyse the ball during the hearing in London, claimed Hair did not have firm evidence of anything untoward.

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SAMUEL ETO'O