



Did U Know?

Jan Zeleny is the only javelin thrower in Olympic history to win three consecutive gold medals in 1992, 1996 and 2000.



Geoffrey Boycott
(Former English batsman and cricket commentator)
"Darrell Hair is the first man to apply the five-run penalty for ball-tampering and he got it wrong. He is also the first man to call a Test match forfeited, and I believe he got that wrong too."



ESPN
Sportscenter India
Live at 8:30 pm

Army Stadium to host Asian Cup qualifier

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has changed the venue of the Bangladesh-Uzbekistan match of the 2007 Asian Cup qualifying round according to a decision of the Asian Football Confederation.
The BFF announced yesterday that the October 11 match would be held at the Army Stadium at Banani in the capital instead of the Sylhet Stadium. The kick-off time has been scheduled for 3pm.

Lloyd boost for Windies

West Indian great Clive Lloyd will mastermind the campaign of Brian Lara's team during the Champions Trophy one-day tournament starting in India on Saturday.
Lloyd, captain of World Cup-winning teams in 1975 and 1979, has been appointed a consultant to coach Bennett King and Lara during the 10-nation event, the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) said in a statement on Tuesday.

"He has agreed to make himself accessible to captain, coach and manager to assist in any way which will build morale, strengthen performance and encourage a stronger culture of professionalism and discipline," the statement said.
Lloyd, 62, quit the game in 1985 after scoring 7,515 runs in 110 Tests and 1,977 runs in 87 one-day internationals. He led the West Indies to a record 36 wins in 74 Tests between 1974 and 1985.

"Lloyd will serve the dual purpose of WICB representative, to explore opportunities for additional games next year as well as to make his vast experience available to the team," the statement added.
"It is something we've done before and we know that Clive's vast experience in leading victorious West Indian teams in the past would be an additional asset to the touring team."

The West Indies, who slipped in rankings after winning the 2004 Champions Trophy in England, play Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe in the qualifying rounds this time.
They meet Zimbabwe in their first match on October 8 in Ahmedabad.
The top two sides will advance to the main draw that features world champions Australia, India, England, South Africa, New Zealand and Pakistan.
The tournament opens on October 7 at Mohali with a match between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

Shooters uncertain for Asian Games Families in despair

AL MUSABBIR SADI

Even the most hardened individual can be moved by witnessing a mother's agony or a sister's tears and more so if their beloved ones have been tortured and humiliated by people whose duty it is to offer protection.

Rehana Hossain Khan, mother of Commonwealth Games gold medalist shooter Asif Hossain Khan, yesterday broke down while talking about her son who became the victim of a brutal police assault and arrest on Monday.

"When my son won the Commonwealth Games gold medal, I dedicated him to the countrymen. He belongs to this country and a country also has some responsibility to its hero," Rehana said at a press conference organised by the National Shooting Federation (NSF) at DRU conference room.

"I am shocked at what has happened to my son and I am worried about his future. I expect that the Prime Minister shall take measures to punish the guilty," appealed Asif's mother.

Shahina Mamtaj Suromi, shooter and younger sister of Shoebuzzaman -- the Commonwealth Shooting Championships gold medalist who is still lying at bed in Metropolitan Hospital in the city along with Asif -- was pushed by policemen during

Monday's assault at the National Shooting Federation Complex.

"They (police) behaved cruelly with us as if we were terrorists. One told my brother to leave the country or he will get him into 'crossfire'. This is a blow for us physically as well as mentally. We are sports persons, not criminals who can be tortured like this," said Suromi in tears.

Bangladesh's chances to send the shooting team to the Asian Games to be held in Doha this December looks remote as the doctors fear that Asif, who was preparing to lead the shooting team to the Asiad, would not be able to take part in competition within months although the injuries he suffered following severe beating with sticks and rifle butts would heal within six-seven weeks.

"According to the doctors, the foot injuries of Asif won't allow him to properly stand in position for shooting for at least five months. He also suffered injuries in his left hand with which he has to hold the rifle," NSF general secretary Nazimuddin Chowdhury told at the press conference adding that

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DOES ANYBODY CARE? Leading shooters of the country hold placards and sport black badges in front of the Dhaka Reporters Unity Auditorium in the city yesterday as they protest 'Black Monday's' heinous police brutality.

PHOTO: STAR

Old foes in final Prince propels Mohammedan



SPORTS REPORTER

An early strike by national forward Ariful Haq Prince sunk Usha Krira Chakra and propelled Mohammedan Sporting Club into the final of the Shah Sports Club Cup Hockey Tournament with a 1-0 win in the second semifinal yesterday.

Two-time champions Mohammedan who were eliminated from the same stage of the tournament last time will take on archrivals and holders Abahani, who downed Mariners 2-0 in Monday's first semifinal, in tomorrow's final.

The match began half an hour late due to power failure at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium as the synthetic turf could

not be duly watered and it was Mohammedan who dominated a rather dull first 35 minutes.

For the cash-starved local giants, who have yet to make payments to most of their players after the season's transfer, it was a splendid performance against the big-budgeted Usha.

The black and whites did not take long to go ahead when Towhidur Rahman Tuhin deflected a freehit by Sharafat Mia into the area after nine minutes. Prince picked the ball and went round one defender to score with an angular hit.

Mohammedan looked more interested to hold onto the slender lead with an indefatigable Mamunur Rahman Khan dominant in the midfield and Yamin Hossain's stubborn show at the back.

Usha enjoyed superior possession after the break but the old-

Dhaka outfit failed to beat the wall created by Yamin and Moshirur Rahman Biplab. Goalkeeper Mahub Ullah came to Mohammedan's aid when he saved a powerful reverse hit by Hassan Ahmed shortly before Al Masum's scoop missed the post for inches.

Usha put relentless pressure on the rival goal but Rafiqul Islam Kamal was denied by Yamin's inspired defending before Mohammedan hit back on a quick counter attack. But Usha goalie Zahid Hossain pulled off a superb save to thwart Prince's hit from point-blank range and keep the side in the game.

Usha forced consecutive penalty corners on the hour and Yamin

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Mohammedan Sporting Club striker Ariful Haq Prince (R) is hounded by two Usha Krira Chakra defenders during their semifinal of the Shah Sports Club Cup Hockey Tournament at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Blasters behind stumps



AFP, New Delhi

Australia's Adam Gilchrist spearheads a pack of explosive wicketkeepers in the Champions Trophy, ensuring plenty of fast and furious entertainment.

He is safe behind the stumps and devastating in front of them -- the perfect modern-day example of how an effective wicketkeeper-batsman can be as much a match-winner as any batsman or a bowler.

Gilchrist, who has established himself as a player who can change the course of a match with breath-taking stroke-play even in a crisis.

South African Mark Boucher, Sri Lankan Kumar Sangakkara, Indian Mahendra Dhoni, Pakistani Kamran Akmal and New Zealander Brendon McCullum are all potential match winners.

Gilchrist opens the innings in one-dayers and bats in the middle in Tests with the sole purpose of dominating the attack.

Australia know what a gem they have in Gilchrist, 34, and are keen to save him for important tournaments, such as the Champions Trophy, the Ashes and the 2007 World Cup.

No wonder he was rested for the

recent triangular one-day series involving India, the West Indies and Australia in Kuala Lumpur.

Gilchrist has been an integral part of the one-day team since he appeared on the scene in 1996. He already boasts 8,233 runs and 393 victims in the shorter version of the game.

Boucher's big-hitting was on view against Zimbabwe at Potchefstroom where he hammered a 44-ball century last month, the second fastest in one-day internationals after Pakistani Shahid Afridi's 37-ball effort.

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Tigers' practice match today

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bangladesh may be facing a daunting task in their first qualifying match against Sri Lanka in the ICC Champions Trophy in Mohali on October 7, but pace spearhead Mashrafe Bin Mortuza is quite upbeat about a good show.

But before that, the man known as 'Narail Express' will have to concentrate on the team's practice match against the Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) President's Eleven in Chandigarh today.

Twelve players were selected for the match at the northern Indian city, with batsman Rajin Saleh and fast bowler Shahadat Hossain being left out.

Although Mashrafe admits that wickets in India are not encouraging for fast bowlers but he thinks Mohali will be different.

The 23-year-old paceman, who had a haul of twelve wickets in the recent one-day series in Kenya including a Bangladesh record of 6-26 in the third one-day international, said he was also hopeful of a good performance against Sri Lanka in their first qualifier at Mohali.

"I am looking forward to the

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Faisal in for Inzamam

REUTERS, Islamabad

Batsman Faisal Iqbal will replace banned skipper Inzamam-ul-Haq in Pakistan's Champions Trophy squad after the country received clearance from the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Inzamam was due to captain Pakistan in this month's tournament in India but he picked up a four-match one-day international ban at a hearing in London last week for bringing the game into disrepute.

Under ICC regulations, teams are only allowed to replace injured players in their confirmed 14-man squads, but Pakistan Cricket Board official Saleem Altaf told Reuters on Tuesday the authority had given Pakistan permission to call up Faisal.

"Faisal has been selected to play in the Champions Trophy as he has been with the team for a while now, and was also in the 30-member provisional list we sent to the ICC," Altaf said.

The 24-year-old Faisal has played 17 Tests and 17 one-day internationals and was a member of the team that toured England.

Younis Khan will lead the side in Inzamam's absence.

Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer is confident his players will be able to regroup and focus on a tournament they have never won at a three-day conditioning camp in Lahore.

"Losing Inzamam is a big setback as he is such an experienced player and top class batsman," the former England player said.

"But his absence can't be helped and I would be hoping the boys will put everything behind them and try to do their best."

Ambassadors or punch bags?

SPORTS REPORTER

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia recently tagged the sports persons as the country's ambassadors to the world. Within a week of her speech during the inauguration of the National Sports Council Tower, one of the country's top sportsmen Asif Hossain Khan and his mates were violently beaten up by police without provocation and got arrested.

Among five arrestees, three had to spend one night in jail before being released on bail. Asif and fellow shooter Shoebuzzaman were spared the humiliation of being sent to jail, but both have been struggling to forget the pain and horror on hospital beds.

Surprisingly, the State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman has so far kept mum about the whole incident when everyone expected the protector of sport to

react. Not only he was unavailable to the reporters but also the shooting officials could not contact him.

"We have tried to contact the sports minister but in vain. We have had a talk with the sports secretary and want to go step by step. We have appealed to the sports federations to join us in this protest," National Shooting Federation general secretary Nazimuddin Chowdhury told yesterday.

Meanwhile, different sports bodies and organisations have already announced their unity with the shooting federation.

Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) president and Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Moeen U Ahmed condemned the police brutality and expressed his heartfelt sympathy to the injured shooters.

A BOA press release mentioned that if Asif could not take part in the coming Asian Games as a consequence of this police assault, it

would be a great loss for the country and the persons involved would have to take responsibility.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board adopted a resolution condemning the attack in its annual general meeting yesterday.

Bangladesh Football Federation president SA Sultan and the other high-ups claimed that the incident has tarnished the image of the country to the world and demanded punishment of the guilty.

Mohammedan Sporting Club, Swadhin Bangla Football Dal, Narayanganj Shooting Club, Usha Krira Chakra and ex DG of BKSP and former national cricket manager MA Latif Khan denounced the barbaric incident and expressed their concern over the security of sportsmen. They also demanded punishment of the responsible

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BCB talks money



SPORTS REPORTER

In what appeared to be his farewell speech, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Ali Asghar said that he was pleased to leave the affluent sports federation on a strong financial footing.

He was speaking at a press conference which followed the daylong Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of BCB at the China-Bangladesh Friendship Conference Centre in Dhaka yesterday.

"I am hoping that this is my last AGM. The past five years have seen major developments in Bangladesh cricket," said Asghar.

"Certainly the situation is better than when I took charge five years ago because of our hard work. The performance of the team has been at the forefront of our efforts and they have done very well over the period."

He termed the tour of Bangladesh to Australia in July 2003 and a presentation, done by the former chairman of the development committee Arafat Rahman, to previous International Cricket Council (ICC) president Ehsan Mani and CEO Malcolm Speed during the preparation for hosting the Under-19 World Cup in 2004 as the two major 'turning points' during his period in office.

Bangladesh hosted the premier age-level tournament back in January 2004 and was also mentioned in the ICC Annual Report as the best-ever tournament in the history of all Under-

19 tournaments, informed the Khulna lawmaker.

"We began with relatively lower fund back in 2001 when I took over but since then a FDR of Taka 40 crores and numerous sponsors actually shows how well he have done. We are making sure that we keep earning over the period of the next five years through ICC revenues in the shape of the World Cup, Champions Trophy and other earnings.

"We are also expecting a very encouraging TV deal very soon. I believe it would be five times higher than our last five-year deal.

"Besides, the country's image will be on display when we host the opening match of World Cup 2011," added Asghar.

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Bangladesh Cricket Board president Ali Asghar, MP (2nd from L) speaks during a press conference at the China-Bangladesh Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR