

2nd win for Sonali Bank

SPORTS REPORTER
Sonali Bank thrashed Sadharan Bima 6-0 at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday for their second win in the Green Delta Insurance Premier Hockey League.
The bankers, who pushed their tally to six points in five outings, led the first half 2-0. Bima have just three points from one victory and five losses.
Forward Satyender Singh struck twice while his Indian compatriot Gurinder Singh and local boys Sunon, Moksed and Shuva scored one goal apiece.
In today's lone match, joint-league leaders Abahani will take on contenders Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club at 3pm.
Abahani have won all five matches to warm up for their first big match but Mariners also have a perfect record - four wins in as many games including an impressive 2-1 defeat of mighty Moha-medan in the previous game - to talk for their own strength.

Freak injury for Pathan

PTI, Vadodara
Irfan Pathan, who suffered a minor cut in his right hand, is all right and would be available for India's next outing in the ICC Champions Trophy.
"He had a minor cut in the forearm of his right hand. He might have sustained it from some glass splinter at home. We have done the dressing and it is nothing major. He is alright now," said Sachin Saha, a plastic surgeon, who saw Irfan in his hospital on Friday morning.
India is slated to play West Indies on October 26 in Ahmedabad.
Baroda Cricket Association secretary and former chairman of selectors Kiran More said Pathan is practising daily and would attend the nets on Friday as well.
"There is nothing to worry about. It is a very minor injury. He is coming to the ground everyday and will be coming on Friday also," More said.

Did U Know?
A total of 147 goals were scored in the FIFA 2006 World Cup matches.
TALK TURKEY



Didier Drogba
(Chelsea's Ivory Coast striker)
"I'm not superman. I just do what the team needs me to do, just keep playing well and score more goals."
After scoring against Barcelona in the Champions League.

What to WATCH

- BTV & SET Max
ICC Champions Trophy
Australia v England
Live at 2:45 pm
ESPN
English Premier Football League
Wigan v Man City
Live at 5:40 pm
Chelsea v Portsmouth
Live at 7:55 pm
Primera Liga
Deportivo v Atletico Madrid
Live at 1:55 am (Sunday)
STAR Sports
English Premier Football League
Everton v Sheffield United
Live at 7:55 pm
Aston Villa v Fulham
Live at 10:10 pm



Sri Lankan legendary spinner Muthiah Muralidaran delivers the ball during the ICC Champions Trophy match against New Zealand in Mumbai on Friday.

TROPHY TREATS

SPORTS REPORTER from Jaipur
There was no rush for tickets right at the moment for the ICC Champions Trophy matches as it seemed that all roads led to the cinema halls in the city on the eve of Diwali.
The Sawai Mansingh Stadium looked like a no man's land despite a big match between Australian and England scheduled for Saturday as people were chasing tickets to watch the 'Clash of two Khans'.
On occasion of the big religious festival, Bollywood released two movies -- Don and Jaan-e-Mann -- where Shahrukh Khan and Salman Khan played the major roles respectively. The local media branded it as 'two Khans' battle.
The two movies have already made the moviegoers crazy and no wonder everybody wanted to have a seat at the theatres on the day of Diwali including local and foreign journalists covering the tournament.

BETTER TAKE COVER
Australian skipper Ricky Ponting showed very good sense of humour while he was talking with the reporters at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium yesterday.
The Australians had expressed annoyance over the air pollution in India during previous tours and one local journalist made no mistake to raise the issue whether pollution would be a factor in their ICC Champions games as tens of thousands of fireworks and crackers have been set off as part of the Diwali festivities.
"I have sent the boys out this morning to buy some gas-masks," he said with his tongue firmly in cheek. "We know there'll be a bit of haze, a bit of smoke, but we just hope we can see the ball," he replied.
CRICKET'S NOT EVERYTHING
Staging a match of the ICC Champions Trophy on the day of Diwali will force the local media people to miss the colourful carnival. No

doubt, the media people have been disturbed by the International Cricket Council (ICC) decision and it is not unlikely that many of them would have their mind elsewhere rather than the match.
Also indifferent about the game were the auto rickshaw pullers of the Pink City.
The auto rickshaw pullers never like to carry their passengers to the Sawai Mansingh Stadium rather they love to take them to shopping malls or any other tourist attractions.
"Fine, there is a match tomorrow but let's go shopping or sightseeing. It will be more interesting than the match," said an auto rickshaw puller. He was not alone as his other colleagues were also eager to give the same lesson.
Having ultimately failed to convince the passengers, their next request would be: Can you give me a free pass?
Don't think it was because he wanted to watch the match. He actually wanted to sell this.

AL promises a lively sporting arena

SPORTS REPORTER
Awami League leaders yesterday accused the present government of neglecting the sports sector during their five-year tenure.
In a press conference organised by the AL youth and sports sub-committee at the DRU auditorium, AL general secretary Abdul Jalil blamed the BNP-Jamaat led coalition for its failure to uplift sports.
"The BNP-led government has politicised sports and their interference has all but stopped sporting activities throughout the country.

We want to bring normalcy in sports and young talents must be involved to bring life to this sector," the AL general secretary told in his welcome address.
Former sports minister and AL joint-secretary Obaidul Kader gave a detailed account of the corruption in sports in the past five years.
"We upheld the image of the country to the world with sporting success, building infrastructure. We tried to bring democracy in sports and find talents. The present government has not only completely failed to continue that by politicising sports but

also tarnished the face of sports with undemocratic activities," accused Kader.
"The sports federations have been run mostly by their own party members as they replaced elected bodies with ad-hoc committees led by their party members. As a result of this, the Bangladesh Football Federation was banned by FIFA, which is one of the darkest chapters in our sports history.
SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



Awami League general secretary Abdul Jalil addresses a press conference organised by the Youth and Sports sub-committee of the party at the Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium yesterday.

Freddie sorry for shirt antic

AFP, Jaipur
England captain Andrew Flintoff on Friday described his bare-chested shirt-waving episode on his team's 2002 tour of India as "ten seconds of madness".
"It was embarrassing to be honest," Flintoff said ahead of his team's crucial Champions Trophy match against Australia here on Saturday.
"Was 10 seconds of madness. I think the series was hinged on the final over, but it is not something I am going to do again. I got a bit of stick in the dressing-room," said the England captain.
Flintoff did not please the purists when he celebrated his team's five-run victory over India at Mumbai in February 2002 by taking off his shirt. The win also helped England square the one-day series 3-3.
He played an important role in the series-levelling victory, scoring 40 runs and taking three wickets. He himself bowled the tight last over which denied India victory in a tense match.
Then India skipper Sourav Ganguly repeated the act when he took off his shirt at the Lord's balcony to celebrate his team's victory over England in the NatWest Trophy final the same year.
England and Australia need to win Saturday's game to keep alive hopes of making it to the semifinals after losing their first match in the four-team Group A.
Australia lost to the West Indies and England to India. The top two teams advance to the semifinals.

NZ-SL SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the Champions Trophy Group B match between New Zealand and Sri Lanka at the Brabourne Stadium on Friday:
NEWZEALAND
Vincent b Maharroof 13
Fleming lbw b Vaas 0
Astle c Malinga b Muralidaran 42
Marshall c Dilshan b Malinga 4
Styris c Sangakkara b Jayasuriya 3
Oram b Muralidaran 6
McCullum c Jayawardene b Muralidaran 9
Vettori not out 46
Mills lbw b Muralidaran 6
Bond c Sangakkara b Jayasuriya 1
Patel c Jayawardene b Malinga 10
Extras: (lb-1, w-4, nb-8) 25
Total: (All out in 49.2 overs) 165
Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-37, 3-56, 4-66, 5-82, 6-87, 7-101, 8-115, 9-118.
Bowler O M R W
Vaas 10 1 41 1
Malinga 9.2 1 22 2
Maharroof 8 0 34 1
Jayasuriya 10 0 26 2
Muralidaran 10 1 23 4
Dilshan 2 0 11 0
SRI LANKA
Tharanga st McCullum b Patel 56
Jayasuriya c McCullum b Mills 20
Jayawardene c Vettori b Patel 48
Sangakkara not out 19
Atapattu not out 10
Extras: (lb-1, w-4, nb-8) 13
Total: (For 3 wickets in 36 overs) 166
Did not bat: Kapugedera, Dilshan, Maharroof, Vaas, Muralidaran, Malinga.
Fall of wickets: 1-45, 2-134, 3-135.
Bowler O M R W
Mills 5 0 24 1
Bond 7 0 46 0
Oram 4 0 14 0
Vettori 10 0 45 0
Patel 9 0 32 2
Astle 1 0 4 0
Result: Sri Lanka won by 7 wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Muttiah Muralidaran.

Ready to die for it

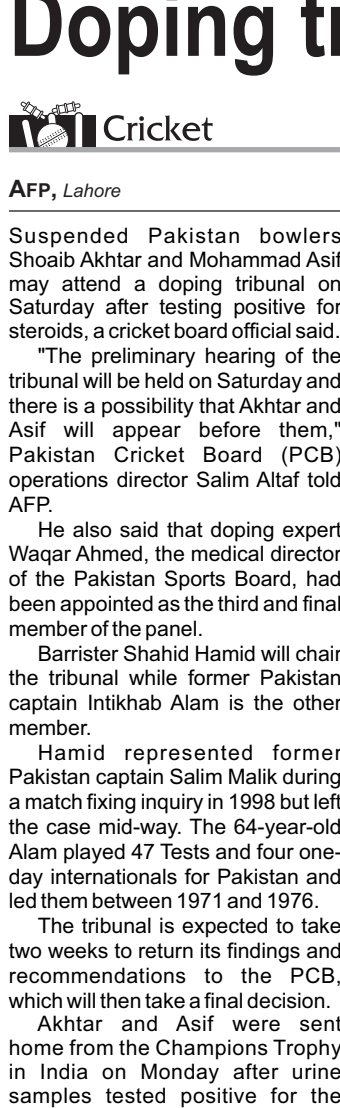
promise that his guys will go hard at the English.
The world champions got a wake-up call losing their opener against a resurgent West Indies by ten runs in Mumbai while England suffered a four-wicket defeat to hosts India at the same venue.
"Whenever you lose, you break things down and analyse what went wrong. We made crucial mistakes at bad times - lost wickets up front, and then one run-out really set us back when we seemed in control of the situation. You can't afford to make those in low-scoring games," Ponting explained their shocking defeat against the Caribbean.
The Aussie skipper, however, had some observations over the current form of the English team.
"England's one-day form hasn't been that good since we played them last year. They haven't played as well as they would have liked. But anything can happen in a one-day game. I hope that it would be a very good match tomorrow," he opined.
Ponting also talked about the pitch conditions and dew factor that have played mysterious roles in the tournament so far.
"To be fair, some of the pitches we've played on haven't been great. The dew's been unpredictable, both here and in Mumbai. It certainly didn't get very wet the other night in Mumbai. I think everyone there will bat first, while maybe bowling first at the other venues. Whatever you end up doing first, just have to do it very well."
Flintoff also said that they were least little bothered by the festival.
"We are only concentrating on the pitch because it is a must win game for both sides," said the all-rounder who is going to face their old foes as a captain for the first time.
"It is always a challenge to face Australia because they have some great players. And they play very hard cricket so it would be a tough competition for us," said Flintoff who had to deal with questions about the Ashes build-up most of the time but played down the early hype like Ponting.
"I always enjoy cricket against the Australians as you need to be at your best to compete. I hope the tomorrow's game will also be a competitive one. We have passed few good days in Jaipur since we played the first game against India and I think it will be helpful for us," he said.
England beat Australia by six wickets in the previous edition of the tournament at home and went on to regain the Ashes but Flintoff was not ready to take those results as a sign.
"It's a new match. It would be a big challenge for us to win. We are just looking forward to the game, not anything else," he said.

Doping tribunal starts today

Cricket
AFP, Lahore
Suspended Pakistan bowlers Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif may attend a doping tribunal on Saturday after testing positive for steroids, a cricket board official said.
"The preliminary hearing of the tribunal will be held on Saturday and there is a possibility that Akhtar and Asif will appear before them," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) operations director Salim Altaf told AFP.
He also said that doping expert Waqar Ahmed, the medical director of the Pakistan Sports Board, had been appointed as the third and final member of the panel.
Barrister Shahid Hamid will chair the tribunal while former Pakistan captain Intikhab Alam is the other member.
Hamid represented former Pakistan captain Salim Malik during a match fixing inquiry in 1998 but left the case mid-way. The 64-year-old Alam played 47 Tests and four one-day internationals for Pakistan and led them between 1971 and 1976.
The tribunal is expected to take two weeks to return its findings and recommendations to the PCB, which will then take a final decision.
Akhtar and Asif were sent home from the Champions Trophy in India on Monday after urine samples tested positive for the banned steroid nandrolone. Their 'B' samples are yet to be examined.
Under International Cricket Council doping rules the penalty for

Playing on a gluepot

Zealand and at Old Trafford in England so we are confident it will be successful.
"It is not a panacea - it will not make a bad pitch into a good pitch - but it has been proven to be an effective method of preventing pitches from disintegrating as the game goes along.
Smith hit out at the state of the pitch after his side lost by 87 runs to the Black Caps New Zealand in the Champions Trophy on Monday.
The Kiwis had been bowled out for just 195 but fought back to dismiss the powerful South Africans for 108.
"It's always tough to sit and moan about a wicket when you've lost, but



Suspended Pakistan bowlers Shoaib Akhtar (L) and Mohammad Asif leave after meeting with Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) officials at Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on Friday.

Flemo equals Ranatunga

PTI, Mumbai
New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming on Friday equalled former Sri Lankan skipper Arjuna Ranatunga's record of leading in most number of One Day International.
When Fleming went out for the toss against Sri Lanka in the Champions Trophy match here during the day, he was appearing in his 193rd ODI as skipper.
Thirty-three-year-old Christchurch-born Fleming has a win loss record of 85-94.
As luck would have it, Fleming won the toss as well.
Fleming, who holds the distinction of being the most successful Kiwi Test captain, made his ODI debut as the losing skipper also coincidentally against Sri Lanka at his birthplace in 1996-97.
As a player, he has amassed 7273 runs in 254 ODIs with six centuries to his credit.
Fleming, considered one of the shrewdest captains in the business, made his ODI debut against India at Napier in 1994 and has also

Ad
Large stylized yellow 'Ad' text on a dark background.