

## Column One

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- Who is the 'new England cricket coach?'  
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- Brazilian footballer Rivaldo plays for  
Lazio Barcelona Arsenal
- Who is the captain of Argentina soccer team?  
Simone Batistuta Ayala
- How many Grand Slam titles has Steffi Graf won till now?  
22 23 24
- Who is ATP's top ranked player right now?  
Sampras Moya Agassi

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## SPORTS TALK



**Bruce Yardley**  
(Former Sri Lankan coach)  
"Arjuna had to go and I always thought Jayasuriya would make a wonderful captain because he has a great passion for his country and the players like him."

### On Ranatunga's sacking.

## Shamsunnahar Hall in handball final

Sports Reporter  
Holders Shamsunnahar Hall of Dhaka University moved into the final of the Delta Life Inter-College-Hall Women's Handball Tournament thrashing Ishpani Girls' School and College 11-1 in the first semifinal played at the Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex ground in Dhanmondi yesterday.  
The winners led the first half 5-0.  
Rashida struck highest five goals to the winners' credit followed by Ritu who added two goals.  
The winners will now wait for the outcome of today's second semifinal between Viharunissa Noon School & College and Mirpur Ideal Laboratory Institute for Friday's final to be held at the same venue.

### Div I soccer

Dhanmondi Club registered their second win in the Keya Metropolis First Division football league beating East End Club 3-1 at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.  
The winners led the first half 2-0.  
Bulbul scored two goals in the 14th and 34th minutes while Babu netted the other goal in the 77th minute for the winners.  
Rabi scored the consolation goal for the old Dhaka outfit, East End Club, in the 55th minute.  
Dhanmondi Club so far collected 11 points while East End remained at their previous credit 11 points from eight matches.  
In the day's other match, Wari Club and Shantinagar Club split points in a 1-1 draw at the same venue.  
Paritosh scored first for Wari in the 9th minute while Royal of Shantinagar restored parity in the 64th minute.  
Wari so far earned 11 points while Shantinagar secured nine points from eight outings.



WE HAVE DONE IT AGAIN: Ecstatic Badda Jagarani booters celebrate their triumph over Abahani yesterday. — Star photo

## Badda again Abahani's bane

Sports Reporter

Badda Jagarani Sangsad caused a major ripple in the Keya Premier Football League when the boys in the men's group handed heavyweights Abahani Krira Chakra a lone goal defeat at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The promotes in the Premier League this year stepped on to the ground alongside the popular Dhanmondi outfit with a pronounced intention for a victory which will keep their boys alive for a place in the 'Super Four'. On the other hand, Abahani needed three crucial points from their newfound nemesis to stay in the title race.

But at the end of the day, it was the spirited boys of Sayeed Hasan Kanan who waded in glory, sending Abahani and its loyal supporters to depths of despair.

The toast of the Badda celebration after the match was none other than their striker Khokon, whose seventh minute beauty of a left-footer into the upper right-hand corner of the net eventually sealed the fate of a battle between two unequal—at least on paper—opponents.

It was Khokon's fifth goal in the League. But the young and energetic forward must have gone through mixed moments of joy and agony for not being called in the provisional list of 26 players for the forth-coming SAF Games.

Few might suggest Badda's triumph a stunning upset in the topsy-turvy league, but their record against Abahani tells a different story. This was their fourth meeting with Abahani this year and Badda enjoys 3-1 edge over their more colorful opponents. Abahani's stumped their only victory against Badda in the Federation Cup semifinal.

But the latest defeat served a severe blow in Abahani's hot pursuit to regain the coveted league title. Abahani finished the first phase with 17 points, five points behind leaders Mohammedan Sporting Club, who, however have one match in

hand against holders Mukti-joddha.  
On the other hand, Badda completed the first phase with 14 points. They will now have fingers crossed in hope of an Arambagh debacle when the traditional giant-slayers take on Brothers Union today.  
Back in the day's match, it was Badda who played enterprising and graceful soccer against a lethargic and unimaginative Abahani. They were the deserving winners not only because they enjoyed territorial dominance over Abahani, but for creating more openings than the giants of domestic football.



KHOKON

Badda broke the evening's duck from their first positive attack. Papal played a couple of one-tuos with Dipankar before the Indian pushed the ball back to Papal, who made a great running down the left flank.

Papal held the ball for a while before releasing it to an onrushing Khokon, who made no mistake to find net with a scorching left-footer from the top of the box, leaving Abahani's national custodian Aminul flat footed.  
The goal only added fuel in Badda's attack and with young national midfielder Monwar

playing like a spring chicken on a fast outfield, Badda never lost their firm control in the match. It would have been a more humiliating defeat for Abahani had not Aminul came to his side's rescue in a number of occasions.

Although Abahani fielded both their Ghanaian booters in the match, they got little enterprise from them as Benin and Ouppu eventually proved slow flops. On the otherhand, Fateh, Badda's tall Nigerian central defender, had an outstanding game neutralizing any aerial Abahani move.

The knowledgeable crowd at the big bowl, who had high hopes for the Ghanaians, were shell-shocked and took little time to vent their anger at Abahani's manager Monem Munna, who had spent about three weeks in Ghana to eventually return with the worst possible recruits for the sky blues.

Abahani, however, came close to scoring twice after conceding the goal. Iqbal's 29th minute pile driver was brilliantly saved by Badda's custodian Apel while Sabir Pasha, the Indian recruit of Abahani, got the other chance two minutes later. But his shot from an acute angle crashed on the side-net.

Abahani's hopes for even a face-saving draw was well and truly over when Benin's header of a Sabir Pasha cross from the left came off the right-hand post in the 80th minute.

### TEAMS

Badda Jagorani: Apel, Lajuk, Shamim, Papal, Hasan, Asad (Haider), Monwar, Tanvir, Dipankar (Parvez Babu), Khokon and Fathe.  
Abahani KC: Aminul, Dulal, Sohail Reza, Kingshuk (Barat), Partho, Benin, Sentu, Iqbal, Sabir Pasha, Arman (Ranjan) and Ouppu.  
Referee: R Alam.

**TODAY'S MATCHES**  
Farashganj SC vs Rahmatganj MFS (3.30 pm)  
Brothers Union vs Arambagh KS (5.30 pm)

## BFF names 28 for SAF trials

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Football Federation has mostly relied on experienced booters in naming a 28-man primary squad yesterday for the forth-coming 8th SAF Games to be held in Kathmandu from September 25 to October 4.

Sixteen of the eighteen footballers from the SAFF championship squad have been retained in the primary selection along with 12 new inclusions. But the most surprising omission was that of attacking midfielder Zakir Hossain. The Abahani player, who played as a makeshift forward and scored five goals before suffering a severe leg injury last week, and Mukti-joddha Sangsad defender Masood Rana are the two from the 18-member SAFF squad that have not been called. Bangladesh emerged runners-up in the SAFF football Championship last May.

Mukti-joddha striker Intiaz Ahmed Nakib, who went to the SAFF Championship as a reserve, has also been excluded.

The sixteen booters who have been retained in the primary squad for the SAF Games are: Goalkeepers—Aminul Islam (Abahani) and Biplob Bhattacharya (Mukti-joddha), Defenders—Jewel Rana, Rajani Kanta Barman, Hasan Al-Mamun (Mukti-joddha), Prodeep Kumar Poddar (Abahani) and Kazi Nazrul Islam (Farashganj SC), Midfielders—Rakib Hossain, Matir Rahman Munna (Mohammedan SC), Iqbal Hossain (Abahani), Monwar Hossain, Mustafa Anwar Parvez Babu (Badda Jagarani), Forwards—Alfaz Ahmed, Mizanur Rahman Don (Mohammedan SC), Sourav Majumder, Shahajuddin Tipu (Rahmatganj MFS).  
The new inclusions are:

Goalkeeper—Rakib Mehboob (Badda Jagarani), Defenders—Monwar Hossain Munna, Mohammad Selim, Mohammad Faisal (Mohammedan SC), Kingshuk (Abahani), Midfielders—Masud Haider, Zillur Rahman Lajuk (Badda Jagarani), Sentu, Mintu (Abahani), Rokonzaman Kanchan (Farashganj), Liton (Mukti-joddha) and Forward—Ritu (Arambagh).



Asian youth (under-19) champion Bangladesh cricket team members called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the International Conference Centre in the capital yesterday.

### PM hails youth cricketers

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday congratulated Bangladesh youth cricket team for their triumph in the under-19 Asian Youth Cricket Championship, reports BSS.

The felicitation came when the youth cricketers, who became unbeaten champions in the tournament, called on Prime Minister at her office.

Sheikh Hasina decorated the team members including its coach and manager with gold medals.

While lauding the success of Bangladesh in the field of sports including the World Cup cricket, the Prime Minister said since formation of the government by her party all kinds of patronisation are being provided for the development of sports.

The Prime Minister said, expansion of sports, culture and other creative arts was not possible without state patronisation and other logistic supports.

In any game, there is victory as well as defeat, she said adding that the team which has self-confidence and courage can win. "We are a nation of heroes as we achieved our independence through a bloody war," she said and added that there was no reason for us to be defeated in any game.

The Prime Minister expressed her earnest hope that Bangladesh would also register similar triumph in the World Youth Cricket Championship to be held in Sri Lanka next January.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Culture Obaidul Quader said the achievements of Bangladesh in various sports events are "the golden crops of the creative and dynamic leadership of Sheikh Hasina."

### Yawar new Pak cricket manager

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan. July 28 (Reuters/AFP): Pakistan's new cricket chief on Tuesday named former English county player Yawar Saeed as manager of the national team, who have been rocked by World Cup humiliation and allegations of immoral conduct.

Mujibur Rehman, chairman of an ad hoc committee of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), told reporters that Saeed would help build the team for the next World Cup to be held in South Africa in 2003.

Saeed, a former first class player, has "vast experience," Rehman told AFP.

"Since we believe in long terms we have appointed a manager for four years," Saeed, who played for Somerset in the early 1950s and was Pakistan manager in 1996-97, replaces Zafar Altaf, who managed the side during the recent World Cup in England.

Pakistan suffered a humiliating eight-wicket defeat by Australia in the World Cup final at Lord's last month.

Pakistan President Rafiq Tarar suspended the PCB on July 16 and appointed Rehman as head of the ad hoc committee of the board. Tarar is the patron of the PCB.

Rehman said a new coach would also be named shortly to replace Mushtaq Mohammad, whose contract ended after last month's World Cup tournament in England.

Reports here suggest the committee was in touch with some former Australian players for the job.

Pakistan's next international assignment is a five-match series against India in Toronto, Canada later this year.

"We are waiting for the Indian Board's meeting which will decide the fate of the one-day series. We are ready to play India," Rehman said.

Indian officials earlier said they would consider resuming cricket ties with Pakistan after tension in the disputed Kashmir region abated.

## Sachin skipper, Azhar sacked



NAGPUR, India. July 28 (AFP/Reuters): India's most successful cricket captain Mohammad Azharuddin has been sacked and replaced by master batsman Sachin Tendulkar. It was announced here on Wednesday.

Tendulkar will lead India in the three-nation limited-overs series in Sri Lanka next month and two subsequent tournaments.

The captain for the rest of the season, which includes home series against New Zealand and South Africa and a tour of Australia, will be named after the selection committee is reconstituted in September.

Tendulkar replaces Azharuddin who is doubtful for the series, which also involves Australia and Sri Lanka, following an operation on his shoulder.

"No other name was discussed, if the appointment of Tendulkar was unanimous," chief selector Ajit Wadekar said.

"We are looking at the future and thought Sachin was the right choice. He has many good qualities, will play for a long time and is really a thinker. He is likely to get the backing of all his colleagues."

Wadekar, speaking to reporters after a meeting of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), said Tendulkar would remain captain for two following tournaments in Singapore and Kenya.

The 36-year-old Azharuddin led India through the 1990s except for a 17-month period from August 1996 when Tendulkar took over.

Tendulkar led the country in 17 Tests, winning three and losing four while 10 ended in draws. In one day international he captained the country in 54 matches, of which India won 17, lost 31 with the other five abandoned.

Asked if Azharuddin's captaincy during the World Cup had come in for criticism at the meeting, Wadekar said: "There is nothing wrong with his captaincy. In fact he is the most successful Indian captain who has served Indian cricket well."

Under Azharuddin India won 14 Tests in 47 matches, way ahead of the nine wins each by Sunil Gavaskar and Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi.

His removal was widely expected after his poor batting form in the recent World Cup. There were public calls for Azharuddin to be sacked after India failed to qualify for the semifinals at the World Cup.

"We don't go by public opinion," Wadekar said.

He also said he did not expect captaincy to affect Tendulkar's batting.

Meanwhile, Azharuddin's future as a player remains uncertain. He must prove his fitness before August 6 when the team will be finalised.

Tendulkar was initially reluctant to take over for a second stint, but was persuaded to change his mind by Indian cricket chief Raj Singh Dungarpur amid reports that the little master will have a bigger say in selection.

The wristy Azharuddin has played more one-day international (323) and scored more one-day runs (9,110) than any player in world cricket.

Azhar, who hit the headlines in 1984 with centuries in each of his first three Tests, has scored 6,104 Test runs in 98 matches with 21 centuries and as many half-centuries.

Azharuddin, who replaced Tendulkar as captain, underwent surgery on his right



Suspended Pakistan cricket captain Wasim Akram (L) meeting the interim chief of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Mujeeb Rehman in Islamabad on July 27. — AFP photo

## Wasim to be interrogated



KARACHI, July 28: Pakistan's anti-corruption bureau said Wednesday its investigators would begin interrogating suspended cricket captain Wasim Akram and two other players over match-fixing and bribery allegations, reports AFP.

The chairman of the Accountability Bureau, Senator Saifur Rehman, said Akram agreed to cooperate with the investigative process during a meeting with him in Islamabad late Tuesday.

"He (Akram) said he would cooperate and promised his full support to the investigating process," Rehman said.

"Not only Wasim but all other charged players are being questioned by the investigators. The evidence is being corroborated," he said.

Wasim will be questioned Wednesday, Rehman said.

The investigators are highly qualified people like chartered accountants, economists, who are also specialists in sophisticated crime investigation," he said.

The findings will be submitted to Pakistan's President, Muhammad Rafiq Tarar, who is the patron of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), and then on passed to a judicial commission which has been conducting a probe since last year, Rehman said.

The 32-year-old Akram returned from England Tuesday and held talks with the chairman of the PCB's ad hoc Committee, Mujibur Rehman, who is a brother of the chairman of the Accountability Bureau.

Akram and star batsmen Ijaz Ahmed and Salim Malik have been suspended from the national team by the Ad-hoc Committee over match-fixing charges.

Only Ijaz is out of the country and is expected to return within a few days, sources said.

Cricketer officials said the three would not be considered for selection until they proved their innocence.

The suspension came after the Accountability Bureau laid charges against Akram and two others on the basis of last year's PCB interim report implicating the players in match fixing.

Akram had stayed back in England after his team's one-sided defeat at the hands of Australia in the World Cup final on June 20 which had triggered protests from angry fans in Pakistan.

He said Monday he had not done anything wrong. "I am sad and disappointed, whatever has happened, but I am confident to fight it out."

Akram ruled out any plans to retire and reiterated his commitment to the national team.

The one-man judicial commission of Lahore High Court judge Malik Mohammad Quayum is expected to finalise its inquiry in August.

The Accountability Bureau has also initiated a probe into the on and off-field activities of Pakistan players during the recent World Cup.

The cricket stars have repeatedly denied any wrongdoing.

Pakistani cricket is embroiled in match-fixing and bribery allegations since three Australian players, including Shane Warne, accused Salim Malik of offering bribes to perform poorly during a Test in 1994-95.

Cricketer legend Imran Khan has lashed out at the suspension of the trio and said the government had victimised the players.

Former captain Rameez Raja said, "The ball is rolling now and the present ad-hoc committee is trying to streamline a system that will give players a chance to clarify themselves."

Former Test cricketer and selector, Salahuddin Sallu, said Wasim's absence would be felt badly, adding: "They (the players) are diamonds and should be admired."

### DC Gold Cup Soccer

MYMENSINGH, July 28: A fine hat-trick by Hanif guided Kishoreganj into the zonal final of Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Gold Cup football tournament eliminating Netrokona by 4-1 goals at the local stadium today, reports UNB.

Kishoreganj will play the zonal final with Sherpur on Friday at the same venue.

Hanif scored three goals and Ruston one for the winners while Eco netted the only goal for the losers.

Earlier in the first semis Tuesday, Sherpur booked a seat for the zonal final eliminating host Mymensingh by 2-1 in a tie-breaker.