

SPORTS TALK



Nelson Mandela
(former South African President)

"I am saying to him, without excusing in any way what he has done if the allegations are proven to be right, that he can be a role model and turn this tragedy into triumph."

His request to Hansie Cronje.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

Competition 136
✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Oct 13 2000 and draw
shortly afterwards

- Who is India's new cricket coach?
Amarnath Gakwad Simpson
- Who lifted the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League title?
Mohammedan Abahani Usha
- Who is the fastest man in the world?
Greene Bailey Johnson
- Who is the 400m Olympic champion?
Johnson Boldon Campbell
- Who won the women's singles tennis title at the Sydney Games?
Hingis Williams Davenport

Name:

Class: Roll No.

School Address:

Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH EN-VITS
ENERGY-RELEASING VITAMINS

Star on course

Sports Reporter

The Daily Star came from behind to settle for a 1-1 draw with Mukta-kantha in their second group league match of the six-a-side football tournament of Dhaka Reporters' Union at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Shahid gave Mukta-kantha the lead in the first half. But undaunted by the setback, the Daily Star came back strongly in the second session and levelled the margin with their prolific scorer and

skipper Al-Anin stabbing home a perfect through pass from Syed Ashfaqul Haque. The goal, which was the result of a superb defence-splitting by Ashfaq, found Al-Musabbir who then delivered a telling cross from the right for inspirational Al-Anin to do the rest.

With a 3-1 victory against Ajker Kagoj on Saturday, the reputed English daily now leads the Group C with four points.

Meanwhile, in the other matches of the day, Inqilab defeated The Daily Al-Amin 1-0 with Azim notching the all-important goal in the second half. While Jugantar and Bangladesh News Service shared points after a goalless draw.

Hair unfazed

NAIROBI, Oct 8 (Internet report): Australian cricket umpire Darrel Hair has refused to buy into the latest row in his ongoing feud with the Sri Lankan team.

The Sri Lankans successfully appealed to the International Cricket Council to have Hair stood down from officiating in the match against Pakistan, the second quarter-final of the ICC Cup.

The team vowed before the start of the tournament that it would not allow Hair to umpire any of its matches, having never forgiven him for no-balling its champion off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan for throwing in the Boxing Day Test of 1995.

But when the list of umpires for each match was released, Hair's name was down for Sunday's match along with English umpire Peter Willey but now his next game will not be until the fourth quarter-final between South Africa and England on Tuesday.

Referees remain at risk

Premier League resumes today

Sports Reporter

The National Bank Premier Football League resumes today after a two day break with a sense of serious insecurity among referees.

League leaders Muktijoddha will take on Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society in the opening match of the Super Four while Dhanmondi face Victoria Sporting Club in the Relegation affair at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Holders Mohammedan, who finished second at the end of the first phase, will meet their arch-rivals Abahani on October 10. Abahani finished third with 19 points, five points behind Muktijoddha and four short of Mohammedan.

But the organisers Dhaka Mohanagari Football League Committee (DMFLC), who run the most attractive event in the domestic football, are very concerned about the successful completion of the League.

Their cause for concern was the safety of referees, who have become the chief target of unruly supporters and officials. The helpless referees found it invariably very hard to officiate matches after being verbally abused and assaulted during the first phase of the League.

The local referees threatened to boycott the League after Golan Mostafa, who officiated the Mohammedan-Abahani match, was mercilessly beaten up by an Abahani supporter after the final whistle on Friday.

Refereeing is considered as a demanding job elsewhere in the world, but in Bangladesh it is like stepping on to a minefield. Unlike other countries, the security and the authority of men in blacks have never been

guaranteed in Dhaka football.

"To be in trouble, you necessarily don't have to make a bad call. Any ruling, be it a bad or good, that goes against any team might invite you the trouble. Any one can get away with any type of offences in Dhaka football in these days," lamented a referee, preferring not to be named.

The sad incident involving Mostafa was so shocking that even the bravest of souls would have thought twice before agreeing to officiate a match.

An unidentified hooligan reportedly ran out to field from adjacent to the Abahani dressing room and started kicking and punching indiscriminately at a bewildered Mostafa in front of a few hundred police personnel. Police however finally nabbed the culprit but, for some mysterious reasons, allowed him to give all the slip. Eyewitnesses claimed that the courage of the cops saved in following an intervention of an influential Abahani official.

Although in a refreshing change this year, players

seemed to be obeying, if not respecting, the referees during the first phase of the League, but officials are yet to give up their flexing of muscles.

It was also not understandable why Abdul Gaffar, an Abahani official, entered the ground during the break and charged the referee when the games rule strictly prohibited such practice. Gaffar was doubly at fault as he, being a technical committee member of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), violated the BFF rule, which clearly stated that none but manager and coach would be allowed to enter the ground during the match.

Only yesterday, the Disciplinary Committee of the League fined Abahani Taka 25,000 and reprimanded Gaffar and manager Subash for their misconduct. But, will this meagre fine and warning be good enough to erase hooliganism from Dhaka football? And, if that is what the Disciplinary Committee hopes for, then it must be living in a fool's paradise.

SUPER FOUR SCHEDULE

Date	Match	Kick-off Time
Oct 9	Muktijoddha v Rahmatganj	3 pm
Oct 10	Mohammedan v Abahani	5 pm
Oct 12	Muktijoddha v Abahani	5 pm
Oct 13	Mohammedan v Rahmatganj	5 pm
Oct 15	Mohammedan v Muktijoddha	5 pm
Oct 16	Abahani v Rahmatganj	5 pm
Oct 19	Muktijoddha v Rahmatganj	5 pm
Oct 21	Mohammedan v Abahani	5 pm
Oct 24	Muktijoddha v Abahani	5 pm
Oct 25	Mohammedan v Rahmatganj	5 pm
Oct 27	Mohammedan v Muktijoddha	5 pm
Oct 28	Abahani v Rahmatganj	5 pm

Note: All the matches will be played at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Autopsy on Aussie loss

NAIROBI, Oct 8 (Internet report): An angry Steve Waugh said his Australian team faced some searching self-examination after India sent it crashing out of the ICC Knock-out tournament in its first match.

One moment the Australians were kings of the jungle, the next the vultures were picking at their carcasses after India inflicted a 20-run defeat in their quarter-final at Nairobi's Gynkhana Club ground on Saturday.

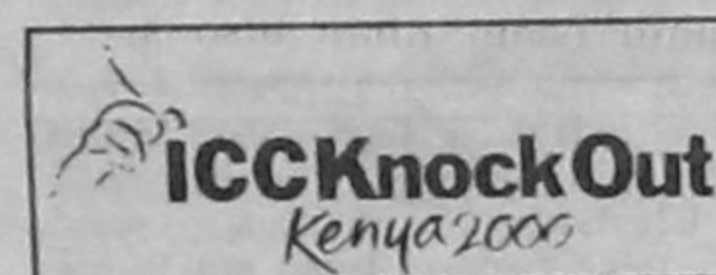
The Australians came to Kenya with a mission to erase the disappointment of being eliminated by India from the first ICC knockout in Dhaka two years ago. The 11-nation contest is considered a mini-World Cup and, as the 1999 World Cup winner, Australia were the tournament favourites here. But it all went horribly wrong, Australia being bowled out well short of India's 9/265.

"We've got to learn from this," Waugh said. "I'm certainly hurting from it. It wasn't good enough for an Australian side. We've got to have a good look at ourselves and perhaps want it a bit more."

"I think we've only won one of our last seven one-day games, which is not enough for the side we've got."

Waugh was fighting off claims after the match that the Australians had come crashing back to earth after believing blindly in their status as world champions.

"We're down to earth. I don't consider us to be big heads," he said. "We're confident in our ability and I believe if you think



STEVE WAUGH

you should win there's nothing wrong with saying that.

"We didn't play well and we'll cop it in the papers tomorrow but there's no problem with that, we deserve it."

"But we think if we're a good side and (we're) confident, I'm going to say that I think we should win. There's nothing wrong with that. Today we lost and I expect to cop it tomorrow."

He dismissed suggestions that his team had considered itself invincible.

"I never said we were invincible, particularly in one-day cricket," Waugh said. "Test cricket, I think, puts the teams

further apart, one-day cricket, I think, brings them closer together."

"Our goal in one-day cricket is to win between 70 to 80 per cent of our one-day games, and we did that for quite a while, but we're on a bit of a lean trot at the moment."

"I'm sure we can come back, but one-day cricket is always going to be close and each team can beat the other."

It was with that in mind that Australia arrived here a fortnight ago for an intensive preparation.

After six gruelling days of practice games and training sessions, Waugh and team coaching staff tested an experimental tapering process, taking two days off on a wildlife safari and training lightly on the eve of the Indian match.

After the safari, Waugh was satisfied that tapering a process employed by swimmers and athletes, could be the way of the future Australian cricket tours. The manner of the loss to India has him thinking again.

"We knew what we had to do, (but) we didn't do it for some reason," Waugh said. "I'm not sure what the answer is but we'll be trying to find out when we get home because we're going to be working hard now."

"We had a couple of days off and we relaxed, which I thought was good for the team, but we didn't switch on today (Saturday), so we won't be having such luxuries next time."

There was nothing more systematic of Australia's lurching, unfocused performance than its lack of discipline after being penalised two crucial overs for a tardy overrate.

History mirrored in chess

LONDON, Oct 8 (Reuters): History is repeating itself for the king of world chess Gary Kasparov -- only this time the roles are reversed.

When he sits opposite the young pretender to his throne at the opening of the world chess championships today, he will be facing a challenger in his early 20s, just as he was when he snatched the title from Russia's Anatoly Karpov in 1985.

He confessed on Thursday that 24-year-old former pupil and acknowledged world number two Vladimir Kramnik of Russia will be the toughest opponent he has faced since becoming world champion.

"I would predict that this match would be the most interesting and the most important for the game of chess," Kasparov said at the official launch of the contest.

"I'm facing an opponent who is fearless," he added. "I think it will be a really very, very tough match. It will be the toughest challenge (since Karpov). He is a very dangerous opponent."



GARY KASPAROV

parov, the fresh-faced yet hulking Kramnik is the "first real challenge from the next generation" after his last two challengers -- England's Nigel Short in 1993 and India's Viswanathan Anand in 1995 -- gave him "no real resistance". Kramnik is unperturbed by

the confrontation with the man who took him into his Boris-nik-Kasparov chess school in Moscow when he was just 11 years old, and whom he seconded in Kasparov's title defence against Anand.

Nor is he focusing on the 2 million USD (1.38 million pounds) prize for the winner of the tournament, which will be broadcast live on the Internet at www.braingames.net.

"I'm not too nervous personally in general," said the soft-spoken Russian, who has developed special mental exercises to banish visions of chessboards that interrupt his sleep during tense chess tournaments.

"I have my strategies," he said with an impassive smile. The pair will play 16 games and the winner will be announced in a month's time.

Cash bonus for Sino medalists

BEIJING, Oct 8: China has awarded its Olympic medalists a total 2.4 million US dollars for their achievements at the Sydney Games, state media reported Saturday, reports AFP.

SL-PAKISTAN SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the ICC Knockout Trophy quarterfinal match between Sri Lanka and Pakistan on Sunday:

SRI LANKA

Jayasuriya c A. Khan b Akram	39
Gunawardena b Akram	5
Attapattu c A. Khan b Mahmood	0
Jayawardena run out (Razaq)	11
Sangakkara b Razaq	19
Arnold c Khan b Mahmood	38
Kaluwitharana lbw Mahmood	27
Vaas c Nazir b Saqlain	11
Chandana not out	13
Zoysa b Saqlain	10
Muralitharan b Akram	0
Extras (lb-7, nb-5, w-9)	21
Total (all out in 45.3 overs)	194

Fall of wickets: 1-7: 2-8: 3-63: 4-76: 5-100: 6-156: 7-159: 8-179: 9-191

Bowler:

Akram	7.3	2	40	3
Mahmood	10	0	52	3
Razaq	10	1	30	1
Saqlain	8	0	30	2
A. Khan	10	1	35	0

PAKISTAN

Anwar not out	105
Nazir run out (Attapattu)	40
Youhana not out	42
Extras (lb-1, w-2, nb-5)	8
Total (For one wicket in 43.1 overs)	195

Fall of wicket: 1-90. Did not bat: Inzamam ul Haq, Ijaz Ahmed, Moin Khan, Abdul Razaq, Wasim Akram, Azhar Mahmood, Saqlain Mushataq, Arshad Khan.

Result: Pakistan won by nine wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Saeed Anwar.

MSC threaten to boycott league

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting Club yesterday threatened to boycott the Super Four phase of the National Bank Premier Division Football League if the organisers, Dhaka Mohanagari Football League Committee (DMFLC), don't amend their fixture list.

The Premier Division champions, in a letter to the DMFLC, complained that the taxing schedule would have them playing three matches in six days.

The popular Motijheel club also wanted a reassurance that the Bangabandhu National Stadium would remain the venue of the league.

Mohammedan have sought protection of referees and harsh punishment against those culprits who assaulted Golan Mostafa after the Dhaka derby on Friday.

Having finished second behind Muktijoddha at the end of the first round, the black and whites will ironically play their first Super Four match against arch-rivals Abahani on October 10.

Their second match is against Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society on October 13. The holders will face Muktijoddha in last first leg match of the four-team super league on October 15.

ACC draws up ambitious plan

COLOMBO, Oct 8 (Internet report): The Development Committee of the Asian Cricket Council unveiled ambitious plans for the future of Asian Cricket in the next ten years at their inaugural meeting in Colombo on Saturday.

During the course of the two-day meeting, which was attended by Thilanga Sumathipala (President of the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka), P. Krishnasamy (Malaysia), J. Shah (Nepal), Mazhar Khan (United Arab Emirates), Anil Kalaver (Singapore) and Duleep Mendis (Sri Lanka), the Development Committee addressed its objectives, drew up an events schedule for the next five years, created a fast track system for the attainment of Test and ODI status, and finalised expenditure plans for various development initiatives.

Sumathipala, who led the discussion with the media, announced that since the ICC had entrusted the ACC with the responsibility of developing cricket in the Asian region, the Development Committee had one overriding goal: "To make Asia the strongest cricketing region in the world."

The Development Committee also revealed a busy schedule for the next five years. This included the continuation of the Asian Test Championship, which was played for the first time in 1999, in 2002. The Asia Cup will be expanded to six teams when it is next played in 2002. An Under-19 Asia Cup will begin in 2001 and be played every two years thereafter, and an Under-15 and 17 Asian Championship will be held every year.

Fletcher also believes the rarefied atmosphere of Nairobi - a city at high altitude - means the speed of the ball is different and difficult to judge at times.

He said: "The ball is coming through a bit quicker to them here than what they are used to."

"It just feels as if it is rushing through a bit."

"All in all, though, their fielding was not too good. But everybody has off days, so maybe we were fortunate it was



Pakistan fast bowler Wasim Akram is elated after delivering a perfect yorker at Muttiah Muralitharan to wrap up the Sri Lankan innings during their ICC Knockout encounter in Nairobi yesterday.

'Keep pressure off Yuvraj'

NAIROBI, Oct 8 (Internet report): Indian captain Sourav Ganguly has pleaded with his cricket-mad nation to keep the pressure off newest batting sensation Yuvraj Singh.

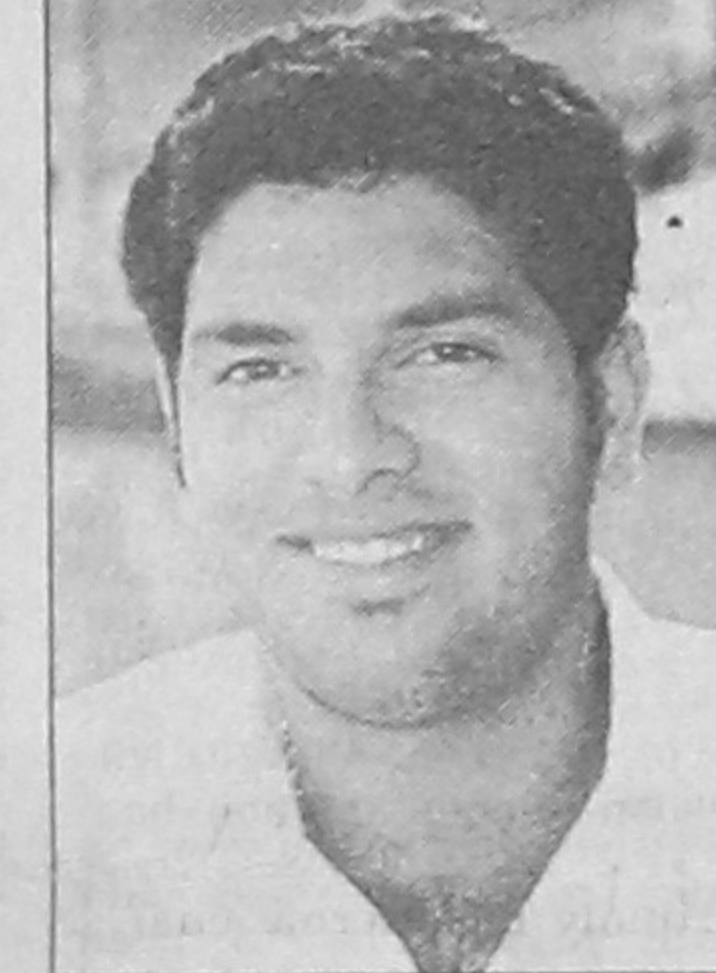
The 18-year-old was the talk of the ICC Cup tournament Saturday after smashing 84 off 80 balls against world champion Australia in his international batting debut to help India to a 20-run quarterfinal win.

And if that wasn't enough, Yuvraj also took a great diving catch to dismiss Ian Harvey and later ran out Michael Bevan with a direct hit to claim man-of-the-match honour.

"Just leave him alone and let him play," Ganguly urged after the match. "It was only his first knock, he has a long way to go."

But Ganguly predicted the likes of Yuvraj and fellow newcomer Zaheer Khan, a fast bowler who took 2-40 off 10 overs, including the wicket of Steve Waugh, would ensure cricket continued to flourish in India.

"We need to have youngsters



YUVRAJ SINGH

in the side, they are the future of Indian cricket," he said. Yuvraj himself said he was

confident he could handle the weight of his nation's expectations.

He came into this tournament with a big reputation and after smashing 12 fours against Australia, he is now certain to have an even bigger one.

"I'm not worried about that. I will just play as I play," the quietly-spoken Yuvraj said.

Yuvraj also managed to get under the skin of Aussie skipper Waugh and not just because of his brilliant batting.

Waugh was displeased at Yuvraj's constant calls to the dressing room for assistance.

Asked if he had been impressed by Yuvraj, Waugh replied: "Yes, but he likes going off the field as well."

"You can't go over (to the dressing room) every second over but as a striker of the ball he was excellent."

"He played a really good innings and kept the composure of the side going and basically saw it right through to the end. It was a match-winning innings."

Yuvraj's father Yograj played one Test for India in 1980-81.

Fletcher points at fielding

NAIROBI, Oct 8 (Internet report): England still have to prove to coach Duncan Fletcher that they are right on their game as they shape up for their ICC Knockout quarter-final clash against South Africa on Tuesday.

Nasser Hussain's men were in good form in their encouragingly efficient eight-wicket qualifying victory over Bangladesh at the Gynkhana Club.

But there were still a few rough edges in that display - notably in the fielding department - and Fletcher is not a coach to let such sloppiness pass without comment.

As England were put through their paces on a quiet morning's training, Fletcher was prepared to accept there were mitigating circumstances for Thursday's moderate fielding display.

But he made it equally clear that he will not be in such forgiving mood if there is a repeat against South Africa.

"One area that was worrying was the fielding," he said.

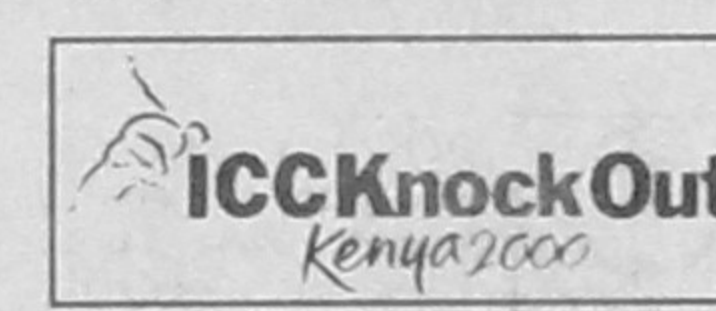
"But it was not for lack of effort - they were probably just too keen."

Fletcher also believes the rarefied atmosphere of Nairobi - a city at high altitude - means the speed of the ball is different and difficult to judge at times.

He said: "The ball is coming through a bit quicker to them here than what they are used to."

"It just feels as if it is rushing through a bit."

"All in all, though, their fielding was not too good. But everybody has off days, so maybe we were fortunate it was



DUNCAN FLETCHER

against a side like Bangladesh. Fletcher, nonetheless, issued an upbeat report on Hussain's new England - who have impressed coach and captain with their professionalism in recent months.

"I think they are feeling very confident. They are very happy within themselves. They are very confident within their own game now," Fletcher gloved.

One man new to that optimistic England camp was Essex all-rounder Paul Grayson, who flew into Nairobi as cover for Ashley Giles.

Fletcher explained that his

captain - a county colleague of Grayson's - had identified the 29-year-old left-arm spinner as the right man to come in as back-up for Giles, who is still struggling with a calf strain.

The medical jury is still out, meanwhile, on how Giles will recover from the injury he suffered in last Tuesday's practice match against Australia.

It is yet another unlucky break for the Warwickshire all-rounder, who has yet to establish himself in the international game for a variety of reasons.

The latest setback is a source of regret not only for Giles but for Fletcher too. "I think it was very unfortunate for him."

"We believe he had a huge role to play here, and it was going to be interesting to see how he performed at this level."

While the prognosis continues to be depressing for Giles, one of his former Warwickshire team-mates is about to take on a new lease of life.

That is not good news for England, though, because the man in question is South Africa's pace spearhead Allan Donald - who is returning to the one-day international fray having officially retired from this form of cricket last Spring.

Donald adds an extra dimension to his team, and South Africa captain Shaun Pollock said: "We welcome him back with open arms, because he is such a class performer."

Magura cricket

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Oct 8: Shaheed Minto Sangha defeated Jeon Club by 154 runs in the Abdus Sattar Laskar cricket tournament at the Mithun-Kazal Musa playground today.

Minto Sangha batted first and made 191 losing all wickets in 22.1 overs.

In reply, Jeon collected only 37 runs for all out in 12 overs.

BRIEF SCORES

SHAHEED MINTU SANGHA: 191 all out in 22.1 overs (Kadar 46, Kanai 36, Joni 32, Rukil 9, Tuhin 8, Iqbal 4/30, Ashraf 2/30, Rajib 1/24).

JEON CLUB: 37 all out in 12 overs (Ashraf 13, Rajib 4, Shipon 4/8, Koton 3/12, Rubenich 1/10, Rukil 1/14).

Result: Shaheed Minto Sangha won the match by 154 runs.

Man