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Competition 137
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- Who will be the match referee in the Bangladesh's inaugural Test against India next month?
Shepherd | Subba Row | Bucknor
- Who lifted the Princess Cup tennis title?
Serena | Hings | Dokic
- Who is the new managing director of United Cricket Board of South Africa?
Peter Pollock | Gerald Majola | Duncan Fletcher
- Who won the Shaheed Major Nazmul Haq International rating chess title?
Refaat | Rakib | Rajeeb
- Who is new cricket coach of Zimbabwe?
Houghton | Rackemann | Pycroft

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SPORTS TALK



Ravi Shastri
(Cricket commentator)
"Glenn McGrath's ability to consistently dismiss the best batsmen in the world makes him special. He has mastered the art of new-ball bowling."

Muktis leave for Delhi tomorrow

Sports Reporter

Premier Division football giants Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra leave Monday for Delhi to take part in the Durand Cup. The competition begins the same day.

Muktijoddha open their campaign against Calcutta league champions East Bengal on Wednesday.

The other teams in Muktijoddha's group are Churchill's Brothers and JCT Club of Punjab.

Calcutta Mohammedan Sporting Club heads Group B. It contains Salgaokar Club of Goa, and invitational teams from Nepal and Bhutan respectively.

The competition, considered the oldest football tournament outside the English FA Cup, will run on robin league basis with the top two teams from each group advancing into the semifinal phase.

National central defender Rajani Karim leads the 15-player squad. Besides, five officials will accompany them.

PLAYERS: Rajani (captain), Hasan Al Mamun (vice-captain), Masud Rana, Prodip Kumar Poddar, Aminul Haq (goalkeeper), Tushar, Joy, Liton, Sourav Raju, Moni, Sujon, Farhad, Amin Rana, Prodip Barua, Bijon Barua, Nazim Uddin (Uzbekistan), Eftan Witojo (Nigeria), Mintoo and Asif.

OFFICIALS: SM Jahangir Alam (manager and team leader), Anwar Hossain (official), Shafiqul Islam Manik (coach), Anwar Rahman (assistant coach) and Abdul Jabbar Khan (masseur).

CBI to report on Monday

NEW DELHI, Oct 28: The CBI will submit its interim report on match-fixing in cricket, which names five Indian players and a cricket official, to the government on Monday, agency sources said here yesterday, reports PTI.

The final go-ahead to the submission of the report was given by CBI director RK Raghavan before he left for Athens (Greece) to attend the 69th Interpol conference, they said.

The 150-page report is to name five Indian players and one cricket official as beneficiary of match-fixing.

Dutch Bangla Bank Inaugural Test Match 2000

Organized by BANGLADESH CRICKET BOARD



Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Saber Hossain Chowdhury speaking to journalists during a briefing in connection with Bangladesh's historic one-off Test against India at the Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Dutch Bangla Test

Sports Reporter

Dutch Bangla Bank has earned the title sponsor rights to the historic inaugural Test match between Bangladesh and India.

The multinational financial institution would be a part of an epoch-making event when the newest Test nation plays its first-ever official five-day game at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. The august event takes place on November 10.

"I'm glad to announce Dutch Bangla Bank as title sponsor of our historic one-off Test against India," said president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Saber Hossain Chowdhury at a press briefing at the Sonargaon Hotel yesterday.

Saber also announced that Coca-Cola would be co-sponsor of the unique occasion. The famous soft drinks company will provide refreshments to players of both teams during the intervals.

Acclaimed production company WorldTel will broadcast the match across the world.

The BCB president while lauding the bank's desire to be a part of the development of Bangladesh cricket as very noble, rather than trying to score commercial points, said that it was always good to see the business community patronising sports.

"Everybody likes to back a winning team. But we have just entered into the Test arena and I strongly feel in order support our cricket is like running in a marathon than dashing in the 100 metre sprint," Saber said.

The BCB president however disclosed that the Board would get a handsome package amounting to Taka 68.25,000 for all the rights.

"This is the highest amount we have got after an open tender," said Saber adding that the package offer has been made by Media Com Limited.

Although the head of the BCB carefully avoided other issues, he revealed that Al Baraka Bank would be entrusted with once again sale of tickets for the Test.

He however did not disclose the rate of tickets and the amount Al Baraka, which was criticised for its role in the recent Asia Cup, would be paying to gain the Board's approval.

Saber also said that he would disclose the name of sponsors of the national team shortly. It was learnt that Coca-Cola has signed a three-year contract to sponsor the team. The press briefing was also attended by managing director of Dutch Bangla Bank Shawkat Ali and Coca-Cola country manager P K Chatterjee.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh will announce the 14-men squad on October 30. India will also name their team on the same day.

With injured Rahul Dravid already out of contention, India might also miss the services of champion leg-spinner Anil Kumble.

Kumble, now in Sharjah, is suffering from a sore right shoulder.

Barlow's future
Saber will wait

Sports Reporter

The president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Saber Hossain Chowdhury yesterday said that the Board is going to review the South African tour debacle as well as make a decision on the fate of their director of development Eddie Barlow after the inaugural Test.

While reports from different quarters suggest Barlow, who is now discharging his duties in a wheelchair since suffering cerebral infarction six months ago, is incapacitated, Saber said that he would have an open discussion with the former South African all-rounder regarding his future after the Test.

"He (Barlow) has been a source of inspiration. I have heard a lot of things but I want to talk to him personally first before making any decision," Saber said.

He also disclosed that Sarwar Hossain will also stay as coach of the national team for at least Test.

Two leads
NZ assault

Sports Reporter

KIMBERLEY, South Africa. Oct 28: Roger Twose took advantage of a fortuitous power failure as New Zealand hammered the South African bowlers in the fourth limited-overs international at De Beers Diamond Oval here Saturday, reports AFP.

Twose hit top score of 89 in a New Zealand total of 287 for six.

The tourists enjoyed a run feast after South African captain Shaun Pollock surprisingly sent them in to bat on a good batting pitch in hot weather.

Twose had a lucky let-off before he had scored, however, when the South Africans celebrated what they thought was a run-out after quick fielding by Jonty Rhodes, who flicked the ball into the stumps as Twose strayed from the non-striker's end.

Although fixed cameras were operating in line with the creases, a power failure affected the television and third umpire Wilf Driedicks had no conclusive picture on which to rule Twose out.

The English-born left-hander went on to hit nine fours and a six in a 91-ball innings. He shared in a third-wicket stand of 110 with skipper Stephen Fleming, who made an elegant 85 off 103 balls.

The pattern for the innings was set by opener Chris Nevin who hooked and drove impressively in an innings of 68 off 69 balls.

South Africa lead the six-match series 2-0.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the New Zealand innings in the fourth limited-overs international against South Africa at De Beers Diamond Oval on Saturday:
NEW ZEALAND
Nevin b Boje 68

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Purabi b'ball

Sports Reporter

Dharmketu Club got off to a winning start in the Purabi Insurance First Division Basketball League defeating the Gregorians convincingly in the opening match at Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

The final score of the match was 83-63. Masud and Pintu scored highest 22 points each for Dharmketu, who led the breathers 42-25.

In the second match of the day, Eagles thumped down a 91-31 points defeat on Hornets with Shakil and Shipu leading the winners' charge. Both scored 18 points each.

"We're okay. A little bit tired, but we're okay and we are going to be ready for Japan," said Al-Jaber, confirming he will be fit for Sunday after shaking off a leg injury.

"We'll see on Sunday who is the best team in Asia," he said.

"It means a lot to us that we've done so well in the past, and we

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Duel in the desert today

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Oct 28: Sri Lanka's surge through the Sharjah tri-series has been so breathtaking that only the unpredictable nature of one-day cricket gives India a chance in Sunday's final, reports AFP.

The classy Sri Lankans not only won all their four league matches convincingly, they showed what lay ahead for the Indians in the final by a 68-run romp on Friday.

In a game the Sri Lankans dominated from start to finish, centuries by Marvan Atapattu and Mahela Jayawardena were backed by a magnificent 7-30 by off-spinner Muthiah Muralitharan, the best figures ever in one-day cricket.

Sri Lanka are, however, aware that runaway success in the preliminary round does not guarantee a win in the final. Everything depends on how a team performs on the big day.

Sri Lankan captain Sanath Jayasuriya said he was delighted by his team's performance, but warned against being complacent in the final.

"We have to come out and do it again on Sunday," he said. "All the effort of winning four games will go waste if we lose the final."

Indian skipper Saurav Ganguly added: "It takes one game to win a tournament and hopefully Sunday will be our day."

The Indians, who came here as the favourites after beating world champions Australia and South Africa on their way to the final of the ICC tournament in Kenya, have had a bumpy ride so far.

They were twice destroyed by Sri Lanka in the league and only two hard-earned wins over lowly Zimbabwe ensured them a place in the final.

Saurav Ganguly put in across Sri Lanka on Sunday.

Ganguly conceded the team had not fared as well as expected, but held out hope for the final.

David and Anil Kumble injured and the rest of the team working in fits and starts, India need a miraculous turn of fortunes to

Today's final will be live on Set Max from 4:00 pm BST.

put in across Sri Lanka on Sunday.

Ganguly conceded the team had not fared as well as expected, but held out hope for the final.

Seasoned medium-pacer Venkatesh Prasad, who was rested on Friday, will return for

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CELEBRATING MANHOOD: Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi, who took five England wickets and then scored 61, receives the cheque for man-of-the-match after the second one-day international in Lahore on October 27. This was his first match after getting married last week. — AFP photo

India Murali-ed over

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Oct 28: Muthiah Muralitharan returned one-day cricket's best ever figures of 7-30 as Sri Lanka destroyed India by 68 runs on Friday to gain a psychological edge before the final of the Sharjah tri-series here, reports AFP.

Sent to bat in the last league match, the Sri Lankans rode on a monumental third-wicket stand of 226 between centuries Marvan Atapattu and Mahela Jayawardena to pile up 294.5 in their 50 overs.

Muralitharan, the wily off-spinner, then bettered Pakistani Aaqib Javed's record of 7-37 and also surpassed the 200-wicket landmark as India were shot out for 226 with seven balls to spare.

Sri Lanka, who meet India again in Sunday's final, ended the preliminary round with four straight wins. India had two victories over bottom-of-the-table Zimbabwe.

Atapattu made an unbeaten 102, his fifth one-day hundred, and Jayawardena hit 128 off 122 balls for his third as the Sri Lankans decimated the stungless Indian attack.

Sachin Tendulkar made a bold attempt to secure India victory, smashing 61 off 54 balls, but once he was removed by Muralitharan in the 22nd over, India faded away in the desert lights.

Robin Singh (31) added 75 for the third wicket with Tendulkar to lift India to 99-2 in the 18th over, before a four-wicket burst by Muralitharan reduced them to 129-6.

Muralitharan had Robin caught in the covers to complete 200 wickets in his 147th one-day and, three overs later, forced Tendulkar to hole out to Chaminda Vaas on the mid-on fence.

Muralitharan also dismissed Yuvraj Singh and Vinod Kambli

in quick succession, and later accounted for Hemang Badani (42), Vijay Dahiya (40) and Sunil Joshi to achieve the world record.

Sri Lankan captain Sanath Jayasuriya said he was delighted by his team's form, but warned against being complacent in the final.

"We have to come out and do it again on Sunday," he said. "All the effort of winning four games will go waste if we lose the final."

Indian skipper Saurav Ganguly said the absence of star bowlers Venkatesh Prasad and Anil Kumble, who were rested ahead of the final to recover from minor injuries, proved costly.

"We gave away too many runs and even though Sachin and Robin fought back well, the loss of quick wickets hampered our chances," he said.

"But I am confident we will do well in the final. It takes one game to win a tournament and hopefully Sunday will be our day."

Atapattu and Jayawardena came together in the eighth over after seamer Ajit Agarkar had removed openers Jayasuriya and Ramesh Kaluwitharana to make it 25-2.

The in-form Jayasuriya failed for the first time in the series when he slashed Agarkar's short ball to third man where Zaheer Khan was perfectly placed to take the catch.

In his next over, Agarkar trapped Kaluwitharana leg-before for eight, but the Indians had to wait till the 44th over for their next success.

Jayasuriya reached his third one-day century in the 39th over, flicking Sunil Joshi for two runs.

He became Agarkar's third victim when he was caught on the long-off fence by Zaheer attempting his 16th boundary.

Atapattu, who made 90 and 58 against Zimbabwe, cruised to the three-figure mark in the 49th over. He finished with five boundaries.

Sri Lanka scored 82 runs in the last 10 overs as Russel Arnold hit 28 off 21 balls before Vaas was run out off the last ball of the innings.

SCOREBOARD
Full scoreboard of the Sharjah tri-series one-day international between India and Sri Lanka on Friday:
SRI LANKA: 294 for five in 50 overs (Jayawardena 128, Atapattu 102 not out, Arnold 28; Agarkar 3/48)

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Asia's battle-royale

BEIRUT, Oct 28: Japan's goal-happy young turks are poised to dethrone Saudi Arabia as the kings of Asian football when the two heavyweights clash in the Asian Cup final here Sunday, reports AFP.

Sixteen years of near-unbroken Saudi dominance is under threat as Philippe Troussier's youthful Japanese team prepares for the climax of the competition as heavy favourites.

Saudi Arabia are the defending champions and have a remarkable record in the competition - three of the four last Asian Cups sit in the Saudi FA trophy cabinet, and the Gulf kings have appeared in every final since 1984. The only blip came against Japan in the 1992 final in Hiroshima.

Eight years later, and the Saudis are on the brink of being usurped once again by Japan.

The Japanese, who boast a talented squad with an average age of just 24, have been a class apart, blitzing all opposition in a free-scoring blitz to the final at Beirut's Sports City Stadium.

Saudi Arabia were their first victims, trounced 4-1 when the two sides met in Group C - a result which led to the sacking

of coach Milan Macala.

On their way to Sunday's showdown, Japan have averaged four goals per match. China's defence the latest to be run ragged in Thursday's 3-2 semifinal defeat.

Significantly, Japan have twice come from behind to win, a factor that French coach Troussier - known as the 'white witch doctor' after his spell coaching in Africa - believes highlights his side's attacking philosophy.

"If the opposition score one, our players know they can always score two," Troussier quipped. "They don't panic, they just keep playing."

Few would bet against Japan's forward line of Akhiron Nishizawa and Naohiro Takahara - who have 10 goals between them with five apiece - adding to their tally on Sunday.

Takahara however is wary of the threat posed by the holders, and predicts a far tighter tussle than the one-sided rout of earlier in the tournament.

"The 4-1 win mean doesn't mean anything now. This is a completely different match and Saudi Arabia will be a different side in spirit," Takahara told reporters.

Channel i will show the final live from 12:45 am BST on Monday.