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COMPUTERS



Did U Know?

In the Leeds Test between England and India in 1986, Maninder Singh edged a ball from fast bowler Graham Dilley to Graham Gooch in the slips. After Gooch dropped the ball wicketkeeper Bruce French tried to hold the rebound - but failed. The ball popped out of French's glove. An alert Gooch kicked it up with his foot and completed the catch at the third combined attempt.



What to WATCH

ESPN
Cricket Magazine
Cricket Archives-1905-60
3:00 pm
Sportscenter
Live at 8:30 pm
Leeds United vs Valencia
UEFA Champions League
Repeat at 9:00 pm
Football Focus
Live at 12:00 am (Thursday)
Bayern Munich vs Real Madrid
UEFA Champions League
Live at 12:30 am (Thursday)

Star Sports

Sportsline Today
8:00 am
South Africa vs West Indies
4th one-day international
Highlights at 6:30 pm
South Africa vs West Indies
5th one-day international
Live at 7:30 pm



Inter-club players' transfer begins Biggies have a busy day

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Firoz Mahmud Hossain Tito, Dulal, midfielders Iqbal Hossain, Zakir Hossain, Arman and forwards Kanchan and Kaf.

Abahani's five pool players are Sujon, Nazrul, Tito, Iqbal and Kanchan.

League champions Mukti Joddha Sangsad who had ten, the most number of pool players, when the list was announced, lost six of them to different clubs and roped in one in the form of Matiur Rahman Munna from Mohammedi.

Abahani, Mohammedi Sporting Club and Mukti Joddha Sangsad, the big three of domestic football, spent the duration of the market (5pm to 8pm) on the opening day in pursuit of their preferences.

The focus was on the 26 booters under the national pool announced by the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF). The BFF has allowed each club to register a maximum of five players from the pool.

Abahani, who have not won the Premier Division League title for last four seasons, looked very determined to end the jinx and have ensured the services of the most sought-after pool player Mohammed Sujon from champions Mukti Joddha.

The well-built defender made his debut in the Premier League last season and was so impressive that he also completed his national team debut shortly afterwards.

Other players to join Abahani on Tuesday were Badda Jagarani, goalkeeper Titumir Chowdhury, defender Ashraful from Farashganj, Hasan from Badda, Asad and Tanveer from Badda and striker Mujib Rahman Ritu from Arambagh.

Besides, the sky blues have also managed to retain Rakib Mehbub Apel, defenders Nazrul, Partho, Faiq and Selim.

Among the other clubs, Arambagh Kira Sangha, Farashganj Sporting Club and Dhamondi Club were more active than the rest in the market where some 170 booters issued their tokens on Tuesday.

For Masood Rana, it was a first time Mohammedi experience. The elegant defender has spent his career played for champion clubs like Abahani and Mukti Joddha since making his debut in 1991.

Mohammedi are confident of retaining the services of strikers Alfaz and Nabil and defenders Faiq and Selim.

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In a curtailed 20-over-a-side affair, Police Institution piled up 137 for five after being invited to bat first.

Sujit hammered 40 while Subrata and Sharif chipped in with 26 and 25 respectively.

In reply, Sher-e-Bangla High were shot out for 42 in 9.3 overs with wicket-keeper Rashed taking four wickets for 20 runs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Manikganj Govt High School: 111 for 9 in 25 overs (Asad 21, Arif 18, Hasan 2/21)

Arun Chandra High School: 32 all out in 17.3 overs (Asim 4/4)

Result: Manikganj Govt High School won by 79 runs.

Police Institution: 137 for 5 in 20 overs (Sujit 40, Subrata 26, Sharif 25, Reza 1/18)

Sher-e-Bangla High School: 42 all out in 9.3 overs (Reza 14, Rashed 4/20, Subrata 2/2)

Result: Police Institution won by 95 runs.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Rangpur High School v Mymensingh Zila School (Sylhet Stadium)
Jhalakati Govt High School v Rajshahi Collegiate School (Medical College ground)

Akhtar back to business

Cricket

INTERNET, Derby

Fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar sparked a Derbyshire collapse with two wickets early in the afternoon session just 24 hours after his arrival in England.

The 25-year-old bowled Matthew Dowman off the inside edge and then won an lbw decision against Stephen Bassano with an in-swinging yorker.

Akhtar's spirits were visibly lifted after struggling at the start of play when he sent down five undistinguished overs with the new ball when the three-day tour game between Derbyshire and Pakistan started.

Derbyshire left out senior batsmen Rob Bailey and Michael Di Venuto and Akhtar's double strike put the onus on skipper Dominic Cork to try and build a respectable total.

Akhtar was cleared to join the tour on Monday after recovering from a stomach problem but his recent lack of match practice was

obvious as he appeared carrying a few surplus pounds in weight.

He had only bowled six overs in a club match last Friday since suffering a thigh injury during a one-day international in New Zealand in February.

His first ball was cover driven to the boundary by Luke Sutton as Akhtar gave the crowd a first look at his remodelled action.

And it was captain Waqar Younis who made the initial breakthrough by having Stephen Stubbings caught low at slip by Inzamamul Haq for eight.

He took one for 16 before bringing Abdur Razzaq and Azhar Mahmood into the attack in a double change.

All-rounder Razzaq struck in

SEE PAGE 15



Pakistan's Shoaib Akhtar forces Derbyshire's Matthew Dowman onto the back foot on the first day of their three-day tour match.

Star SPORT

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1. Star combo photo shows Mohammedi mid-fielder Matiur Munna (2nd from L), defender Monwar Munna (C) and national custodian Aminul Haq (R) appear to sign for Mukti Joddha Sangsad. 2. Talented defender Masood Rana (C), who spent most of his career with Abahani and Mukti Joddha, is in the queue to join Mohammedi for the first time. 3. Abahani skipper Iqbal (R) poses with star defender Mohammad Sujon (2nd from R), Nazrul (C) and forward Kanchan (R) on completion of their registration formalities.

Santos may tour Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

Brazilian football club Santos may tour Bangladesh next month.

In a Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) press release issued yesterday, the club, which is expected to arrive here on June 2, has sought 1.75,000 dollars as appearance fee and also to cover air fare.

BFF general secretary Harun Rashid told the Daily Star Sport last night said that they haven't given the go-ahead to the one-time Brazilian giants, who became famous as Pele's club.

Harun said that it will be discussed in BFF's next meeting.

Mahanama's allegation

AFP, Melbourne

Australian fast bowler Glenn McGrath is seeking legal advice over allegations he called a Sri Lankan opponent a "black monkey."

He said McGrath called Sanath Jayasuriya a "black monkey" during the one-day final at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1995-96.

Mahanama did not play in that match and was not on the field and the umpires involved, Peter Parker and Steve Randell, received no complaints.

Speed said the ACB would not investigate the claim further unless there was more concrete information because it was hearsay and unsubstantiated.

Former Sri Lankan opener Rohan Mahanama made the allegation in an autobiography.

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Aussies got dubious calls

Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

Australian cricketers Adam Gilchrist and Colin Miller and coach John Buchanan received anonymous phone calls seeking match information during the recent tour of India, it was revealed here Tuesday.

The unidentified caller rang during the third Test in Chennai, enquiring about pitch information, the state of the match and what they thought the likely outcome of the match might be, Australian vice-captain told Australian Associated Press.

"I said that hopefully we would do well and then he asked questions about the wicket and whether it would turn and would that help Warne (Shane Warne) and Miller.

"The incident invoked memories of the bookmaking scandal in 1994 when senior Test players, Mark Waugh and Shane Warne, later confessed to selling weather and pitch reports to an Indian bookie during the tour of Sri Lanka.

They were fined a total of 18,000 dollars (9,000 US) but the punishment was initially kept private by the ACB.

The latest incident was immediately reported to Australian team manager Steve Bernard and passed on to Speed.

The ACB boss said that, on the face of it, the calls were not illegal because no offers were made to

"It was reported about the management very quickly and they got us to write a statement and explain exactly what happened.

"Then it became a non-issue and we could focus on the game."

Speed said the Australian players were now well aware of the risk involved in inappropriate approaches.

"We don't know whether this

person was a gambler, a bookmaker, who this person was but I think the good news that came out of it was that it was reported and dealt with straight away," he said.

Speed said Bernard had also established that no other player or team official had received anonymous calls seeking information about the match.

The same caller rang Gilchrist, Miller and Buchanan "at about the same time".

"The players had been alerted that if they received any calls from persons not known to them who enquired about matters such as this it's reported straight away," Speed said.

"It's the first step of the players' defence against being compromised in a position like this."

Speed said any similar incidents had to be reported and dealt with.

He said the players were happy to follow the protocol because they had seen what happened to those who had not done so in the past.

Meanwhile, Speed would not talk about his meeting tomorrow with Buchanan, who has been the subject of speculation he would be dropped as a selector for this year's Ashes tour.

"I'll be talking to John about a number of issues tomorrow. It's not appropriate that I discuss them today," Speed said.

The captaincy and imposed a fine.

Mud sticks. When Wasim's marvellously talented Pakistan team, already qualified for the next phase of the tournament, contrived to lose to Bangladesh in the 1999 World Cup, the tongues wagged again.

Cricket was Wasim's only remaining weapon. If he cannot convince his detractors of his integrity, he can at least remind them that he can play.

He and Waqar destroyed England in 1992 with an unprecedented exhibition of high-class bowling, giving the hosts a shock introduction to the art of reverse swing. He returned in 1996 to lead his team to their third successive series win.

Team coach Richard Pybus thinks Wasim is determined to produce an encore.

"He's sharp, fresh and hungry. A lot of passion is still burning," said Pybus.

"He had a really rough time during the 1999 World Cup, with all the innuendo and people sharpening their knives. The guy's only human. If you do well (in Pakistan) you are a god, if you fail everybody wants a piece of you."

"He can relax here."

Pybus just has to look at Wasim, rather than his bowling figures, to know he means business.

"There's no comparison to his physical condition in 1999, when I last worked with him," he said. "He's lost four or five kilos. And where is he now? In the gym."

The news broke ironically enough on the day the club were facing up to life outside the Premiership. Allison, 73, was taken to hospital after breaking his collarbone in a fall near his home.

He has been in poor health for some time now and barely recognisable as the man who lit up Maine Road.

With his fedora hat, sheepskin coat and fat cigar, he was one of football's most flamboyant characters.

But he was also a first-class coach and in tandem with manager Joe Mercer made City a side to be feared at home and abroad.

In