



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.



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
Sportline 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



Trevor Chappell
(Bangladesh cricket coach)
"We've got to put good sessions together to make a good day, and then we've got to put five good days together."

Sports Whizz Kid

Competition 149
✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
May 18, 2001 and draw
shortly afterwards

1. Who clinched the Monte Carlo Tennis Masters Series title?	Agassi	Arazi	Kuerten
2. Who lifted the Ary Gold Cup Sharjah tri-series cricket trophy?	New Zealand	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
3. What was the result of the South Africa and West Indies Test series?	4-1	3-2	2-1
4. Who was the man-of-the-match in the Bangladesh and Zimbabwe first test?	Heath Streak	K Masood	Javed Omar
5. How many Test wickets did Courtney Walsh capture when he retired?	536	520	519

Name.....
Class..... Roll No.....
School Address.....
Phone (if any).....

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

Football
SPORTS REPORTER

As predicted top local clubs secured their squads for the forthcoming football season on the first day of the three-day long booters transfer held at the Dhaka Mahanagar Football League Committee (DMFLC) office at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Tuesday.

Abahani, Mohammedan Sporting Club and Muktiyoddha 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 Muktiyoddha.

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 Titumeer Chowdhury, defender Ashraf from Farashganj, Hasan from Badda, Asad and Tanveer from Badda and striker Mujibur Rahman Ritu from Arambagh.

Besides, the sky blues have also managed to retain Rakib Mehbub, defenders Nazrul, Partho,

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

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

League champions Muktiyoddha 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 Matior Rahman Munna from Mohammedan.

National custodian Aminul Haq, defenders Rajani Kanta Barman, Prodeep Kumar Potter and Hasan Al-Mamun are the four pool players who decided to stay.

The all-reds have also registered, defender Monwar Munna of Mohammedan, Manju of Dhanomdi Club and striker Mizanur Rahman Don from Abahani.

Mohammedan, on the other hand arrived late in the market and hurriedly signed nine new players—goalkeeper Bijan Barua, defender Masood Rana, midfielders Tushar and Joy from Muktiyoddha, Monwar Hossain and Papel of Badda Jagarani, strikers Anwar and Tipu from Rahmatganj and defender Narayan from Dhanomdi Club.

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

Mohammedan are confident of retaining the services of strikers Alfaz and Nabib and defenders Faisal and Selim.

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



1. Star combo photo shows Mohammedan midfielder Matior Munna (2nd from L), defender Monwar Munna (C) and national custodian Aminul Haq (R) appear to sign for Muktiyoddha Sangsad. 2. Talented defender Masood Rana (C), who spent most of his career with Abahani and Muktiyoddha, is in the queue to join Mohammedan 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 Harunur 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."

Australian Cricket Board chief executive Malcolm Speed said Tuesday McGrath absolutely rejected the claim.

Former Sri Lankan opener Roshan Mahanama made the allegation in an autobiography. 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 Randall, 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.

Colombian coach resigns

AFP, Bogota

Luis Chiqui Garcia resigned as Colombian national coach late Monday as a result of the humiliating 2-2 draw with South American minnows Venezuela in their last World Cup qualifier.

The result left Colombia in fifth place, one away from automatic qualification for their fourth successive finals.

Garcia's successor is likely to be either Pacho Maturana, who guided them to the 1990 and 1994 finals but resigned following their surprise first round exit in '94 amid allegations of death threats against him and the team, or Brazilian Paulo Carpegiani, who coached Paraguay to the last finals

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 Cricket Board (ACB) chief executive Malcolm Speed said.

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

the players.

The ACB reported the incident to the International Cricket Council's Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) and the Indian police for investigation.

Gilchrist said his phone rang as he was preparing to leave his room to go to the team bus.

"We get about 10 calls a day from Indian fans. This person was obviously of Indian descent. He said he was a very enthusiastic supporter and asked how I thought the game would go," the 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."

"It didn't really set off any alarm bells then but then I asked who he was and he asked more questions. I said don't worry about it and hung up."

"It was reported to 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 documented.

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.

BCCI unaware about it

AFP, New Delhi

A top Indian cricket official said Tuesday he was unaware of an alleged attempt to bribe two Australian players and the side's coach during their recent tour of India.

"We've so far not been informed by the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) about any approach made by bookies (bookmakers)," secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Jaywant Lele told.

"I cannot comment on the news because I do not know anything about this," he said.

The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) said Tuesday an attempt to bribe cricketers Colin Miller and Adam Gilchrist and coach John Buchanan was made during the recent Test series, which India won 2-1.

ACB chief executive Mal Speed, however, said no offers were made because the Australians ended the conversations quickly.

Australia bring in new keeper

AFP, Melbourne

Queensland wicketkeeper Wade Secombe was added to Australia's Ashes squad Tuesday as understudy to Adam Gilchrist.

Secombe, 29, said he had almost given up hope of getting the call-up after New South Wales' Brad Haddin was flown over to give Gilchrist a break on Australia's tour of India earlier this year.

"I was a little disappointed not purely because he was selected over me but because I thought that the door had firmly closed on my aspirations of ever playing for Australia," Secombe said.

"What makes this an even greater surprise for me is the fact that the opportunity went to somebody else previously."

"I'm still well and truly over the moon."

When the 14-man one-day and 16-man Test touring parties were announced last month, chairman of selectors Trevor Hohns said Gilchrist's workload on the three month, 21-match tour would be assessed.

"We did that and the decision to include Wade in the touring parties was the conclusion," Hohns said.

"Wade has been a key component in Queensland's success over the past few years and fully deserves his call up."

Secombe, picked for Australia A last summer, got the nod over Haddin because of his greater experience and a better technique behind the stumps.

Alcohol killing Allison

AFP, London

Malcolm Allison, the man who helped steer Manchester City to the English first division title in 1968, is in hospital suffering from alcoholism.

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 a glittering trophy-laden haul in the late 1960s and early 1970s, City not only won the league, but also the European Cup Winners Cup, FA Cup and League Cup.

Akram aims an encore

Cricket

REUTERS, London

It didn't take Wasim Akram long to make his England tour intentions clear last week. Four balls of the opening match, to be exact.

Balls four, five and seven. Three wickets without conceding a run.

Never mind that it was against the British Universities. In fact, that was the whole point.

In normal circumstances Wasim, the only player in history to take more than 400 wickets in both Tests and one-dayers, would not need to turn out against a bunch of students on a chilly, damp morning at a sparsely-populated Trent Bridge. Especially after just returning from injury.

These are not normal times, however.

Wasim knows he is on probation after Pakistan's new captain Waqar Younis — a man with whom he has not seen eye to eye in the past — suggested the England tour could be the ideal time to blood the team's next generation of pace bowlers.

Wasim responded on Friday with three wickets in his first and second overs as British Universities were dismissed for 74 on their way to a hefty innings defeat.

As a player, Wasim has little to prove. He is already assured of going down in history as one of the cricketing greats, alongside the

likes of Gary Sobers, Kapil Dev, Ian Botham, Richard Hadley and his former mentor Imran Khan.

He has won one World Cup, in 1992, and led his team to another final seven years later.

His batting and bowling figures compare with the best.

It is only his goodwill statistics that need sharp improvement.



WASIM AKRAM

Indeed, Wasim's image may never recover after he was implicated in a match-fixing investigation in Pakistan last year.

He protested his innocence and was given the benefit of the doubt after former teammate Ataur-Rehman accused Wasim of paying him to underperform in a match before withdrawing the allegation. But Pakistan, on the advice of investigating judge Malik Qayyum, still stripped Wasim of

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 is 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 here.

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 around 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."

Windies make 3 changes

Cricket

REUTERS, Bridgetown

Wavell Hinds and Nixon McLean have been axed as West Indies attempt to fight their way back into the one-day series against South Africa.

Opening batsman Leon Garrick was also dropped, with the West Indies' cricket selectors replacing them in the 14-man squad with spinner Dinesh Ramnarine and fast bowler Corey Collymore.

West Indies lost back-to-back matches at the weekend to go 3-1 down in the series with three games to play. They already lost the preceding five-match Test series 2-1.

Hinds and McLean have seen their form nosedive against the South Africans.

The 24-year-old Hinds, seen as a bright batting prospect when he made his debut last year, played in four of the five Tests, averaging 16.62 and managing just one half-century in eight innings.

The Jamaican's only one-day innings earned him 11 runs.

McLean, meanwhile, who has never managed to find the control to match his undoubted pace, was also selected for the Test series but dropped after two games.

Recalled for the one-dayers, he failed to take a wicket in two appearances before again being shown the door. His four overs in

the defeat in Antigua cost 40 runs.

The fifth one-dayer will be staged in Barbados on Wednesday.

SQUADS

WEST INDIES (from): Carl Hooper (captain), Chris Gayle, Darren Ganga, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Ricardo Powell, Brian Lara, Marlon Samuels, Ridley Jacobs, Neil McGarrell, Mervyn Dillon, Corey Collymore, Dinanath Ramnarine, Cameron Cuffy, Kerry Jermy.

SOUTH AFRICA (from): Shaun Pollock (captain), Gary Kirsten, Neil McKenzie, Jacques Kallis, Neil McKenzie, Jonty Rhodes, Boeta Dippenaar, Mark Boucher, Lance Klusener, Allan Donald, Makhaya Ntini, Justin Kemp, Nicky Boje, Roger Telemachus, Paul Adams.

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 Downman 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 Stubblings caught low at slip by Inzamam-ul-Haq for eight.

He took one for 16 before bringing Abdul 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 Downman onto the back foot on the first day of their three-day tour match.