



### Did U Know?

You must run the bases forward after you hit a homerun. Baseball made that rule in 1961. Thanks to Jimmy Persall of the Mets, he ran backwards after he passed 1 base. That gave him a life time total 100.



### STAR Sports

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First one-day international  
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Sportsline Today  
Sports News  
10:30 am  
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**The Daily Star**  
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Competition closes at 8 pm  
Feb 15, 2002 and draw  
shortly afterwards

1.	How many ODI matches did Sachin Tendulkar play to score 11000 runs?
	300      284      276
2.	Who won the Australian Open title?
	Hingis      Capriati      Davenport
3.	Who became National women's chess champion?
	Rani Hamid      Shabana Parveen      Janima Parveen
4.	Who won the man-of-the-series award in the Bangladesh-Pakistan one-dayers?
	Wasim Akram      Abdul Razzaq      Shahid Afridi
5.	Which team clinched the Victory Day hockey title?
	Bangladesh Army      Abahani      Mohammedan

Name .....

Class. .... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

## Throw the book at Mahmud



LENIN GANI

Cricket is a gentleman's game. Accordingly, every player's conduct is expected to be exemplary both on and off the field. They are taught to accept each decision and even the ones that go against their favour.

But nowadays cricketers are finding it harder and harder to control their emotions. With increased television coverage it is possible to capture rare moments when players, we all respect as goodwill ambassadors, choose to act in a manner that is absolutely unwarranted.

The International Cricket Council takes a rigid stance towards such matters. The game's governing body strongly advises match referees to penalise those players who violate the strict code of conduct through imposition of fines and suspension orders.

Recently New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming was severely reprimanded because of the way he remonstrated to the man in the middle about a certain fielding position during a tri-series match against Australia.

It seems Bangladesh is also not

immune from the curse. Khaled Mahmud's unsporting display is a perfect example.

Simply because a bowler, who had dismissed the Bangladesh Test cap cheaply in a National League match, began to celebrate his success so it prompted the usually mild-mannered Mahmud to respond in a most bizarre fashion -- hitting the young bowler in the face right in front of a stunned crowd.

Being a national player does not give him a license to act irresponsibly. And as the trend goes here, he might even get away with it. If that is the case, then he is sadly mistaken.

We only hope that Mahmud and others like him would face the music. The authorities must take the opportunity to hammer home a vital point to other players that reckless behaviour in all its manifestations will not be tolerated in future. Otherwise if they choose to allow these occurrences to go unchecked, then there is a real danger of similar high-profile players being under the impression that it is all right to take the law into their own hands.

At the cost of sounding rhetorical, we would like to mention, there is a very thin line between feeling aggrieved and expressing displeasure.

Bangladesh maybe the interna-

tional newcomers but their players have always been revered by the fans young and old alike. So, it was definitely a shock to hear Mahmud's name making the headlines for all the wrong reasons.

After all he is the captain of Dhaka, and as a leader that carries certain responsibilities, not least, being required to be on good behaviour at all times. It is not clear if he actually apologised to the bewildered young bowler after the game.

Mahmud should have known better that an outpouring of emotion by a bowler on claiming a wicket is part and parcel of the game anywhere in the world. However, if it was deemed too extravagant then the umpires could have easily stepped in and later refer the incident to the proper authority who would have acted without fear or favour.

There is little doubt of misconduct by Mahmud, the big question now is whether the sternest possible action will be taken against him or will the disciplinary committee and the Dhaka team management prefer to brush the affair under the carpet? The longer the unsavoury episode is not properly dealt with the longer it remains justice delayed is justice denied.

## Int'l Junior Tennis from tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

The 16th Bangladesh International Junior Tennis (under-18) Championships begins at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna tomorrow.

A total of 103 players including 35 girls from 20 countries will take part in the meet, regarded as an International Tennis Federation ranked one.

Singles champions will earn 60 points and the winners of doubles will get 50 points each.

Liu Tai-Wei of Chinese Taipei, ranked 47th in the world, is the top seed in the boy's group while 98th ranked Thai Pichaya Laosirichon tops the girl's section.

A press conference in this connection was held at the National Tennis Complex on Tuesday with Bangladesh Tennis Federation president Alamgir Farooq Chowdhury in the chair.

Following is the breakdown of the participants:

Country	Boys	Girls
Bangladesh	9	3
China	-	3

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## Mahmud, Mamun disciplined

SPORTS REPORTER

Former national vice-captain Khaled Mahmud was suspended for one match for an on-field incident involving him and a bowler of the Rajshahi team during a limited-overs match of the Ispahani National League at the Mymensingh Stadium on Monday.

The tournament committee, in a press release issued yesterday, said that it took the punitive measure against Mahmud after finding him guilty of creating 'trouble' while returning to the dressing room. The committee has also imposed a one-match ban on the Rajshahi bowler Abdullah al Mamun.

Both will miss their respective four-day matches of the league starting from February 14.

Earlier, it was reported in the national dailies yesterday that Mahmud had slapped Mamun in the face while he was passing him on way back to the dressing room after being dismissed by the bowler.

But match referee Dipu Rai Chowdhury on Tuesday told the Daily Star Sport that Mahmud did not actually strike Mamun but only

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## Abahani, Mariner in semis



SPORTS REPORTER

Aspirants Abahani Krira Chakra and Mariner Youngs Club booked their semifinal berths winning their respective first round matches of the Jamuna Bank Club Cup at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

Abahani found difficulty in taming Ajax Sporting 2-1 to collect maximum six points from Group C while

Group D leaders Mariner edged past Bangladesh Sporting Club by 2-0.

Abahani, who were not that impressive for the last few seasons, struggled to take lead in first half against the Elephant Road-based club.

After a couple of abortive attempts, Abahani could finally break the deadlock from their second short corner in the 23rd minute with Shamim Reza giving no chance to Ajax custodian Sohel.

During the rest of the time in the



PHOTO: STAR

Ajax Sporting goalkeeper Sohel Rana dives to thwart an Abahani attack during their Jamuna Bank Club Cup hockey fixture at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

## Victims are Asian minnows



AFP, Sharjah

Cricket minnows Hong Kong and the United Arab Emirates have 100,000 reasons to lament the stand-off caused by India's refusal to play against Pakistan, officials said on Tuesday.

Both the UAE and Hong Kong were assured of 100,000 dollars each when they qualified for the Asia Cup limited-overs tournament by virtue of being the two top non-Test playing nations in the continent.

But the Asia Cup, featuring these two teams and the big four from the region -- India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh -- shows no signs of taking place.

The tournament, originally scheduled to be played in Pakistan in April last year, has been repeatedly shelved due to the Indian government's refusal to have cricketing ties with arch-rivals Pakistan in protest at what it calls Islamabad's support to militancy in Kashmir.

With troops from both sides massing on the border in recent months, it is unlikely India will agree to play cricket against Pakistan in the near future, leaving smaller teams like Hong Kong and the UAE tearing their hair out in frustration.

"Not only are our cricketers not getting a chance to play against the big players from Asia, our boards too have been deprived of the 100,000-dollar appearance fee for the Asia Cup," a cricket official from the UAE said.

"We need the money to develop the game in our region."

The UAE and Hong Kong ensured their place in the Asia Cup by reaching the final of the qualifying tournament, the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Trophy for non-Test playing countries, held here two years ago.

"The next ACC Trophy is taking place in Singapore in July, but we still do not know the fate of the last Asia Cup," the official said.

The Asian Cricket Council, headed by Pakistan's Tauqir Zia, is due to meet here over the weekend to take stock of the losses generated

first session, a disorganised Dhanmondi-based club failed to penetrate the Ajax defence for a single time even.

After the breather, things turned bad to worse for Abahani when Ajax drew the level through striker Biaka Lusai from a short corner 15 minutes from final whistle.

It appeared to be a blessing in disguise for Abahani as they regrouped themselves to launch a series of offensives.

Their desperation finally paid off when forward Ishtiaque Ahmed found the net with a reverse flick from the top of the D box in the 65th minute.

Abahani will now face either Usha Krira Chakra or Sonali Bank in the second semifinal on February 16.

Earlier in the day's first match, Mariner Youngs Club confirmed their semifinals berth scoring both the goals in the first session.

Yasin Miah gave the Arambagh-based Club a fifth minute lead from a short corner while Raju Sarkar sealed the fate of the match with a field goal in the 13th minute.

The winners are due to face Mohammedan Sporting Club in the first semifinal on February 15.

Group B leaders Usha Krira Chakra will take on Sonali Bank in the last match of the first round at 3:15 pm today.

Usha require a draw while the bankers need a win to fill in the last berth of the 12-team race.

by the stand-off between India and Pakistan.

Officials from both Hong Kong and the UAE are hoping the meeting will take up their cause and atleast part of the 100,000 dollars -- if not the entire amount -- is handed over to them.

India cancelled a scheduled Test tour of Pakistan in 2000 and also declined to take part in the Asian Test Championship last year.

India's cricket chief, Jagmohan Dalmiya, is likely to be confronted at this weekend's meeting by his Pakistani counterpart, who believes the sport is suffering in the region by the Indian government's rigid stand.

"Every time India does not come to Pakistan, I lose around 10 million dollars and I am not prepared to lose that kind of money," said Zia, a serving general in the Pakistani army who heads the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

"If the Indian government continues to intervene, the ACC is finished and so is the International Cricket Council's 10-year Test

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