



Did U Know?

Injury time added on by referee is sometimes necessary. But Frenchman Michel Vautrot added on 8 minutes only in the first period of extra-time in the semifinal between Italy and Argentina in 1990! He later admitted he forgot about the time.



What to Watch

ESPN
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Repeat at 6:30 am
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
South Africa vs New Zealand
Third ODI, Highlights
Repeat at 9:00 pm
England vs Sri Lanka
Second Test, Day Two
Highlights
Repeat at 10:30 pm

STAR Sports
India vs Sri Lanka
Third ODI, NatWest Series
Taped Version at 8:30 am
Trans World Sport
Int'l Sports News
Taped Version at 3:00 pm
Sportline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 6:30 pm



Talk Turkey



Kim Clijsters
(Belgian tennis star)
"I don't know where they get it from, I've never been to the Eiffel Tower." On rumour that her boyfriend Lleyton Hewitt had proposed to her on top of the Eiffel Tower during the French Open.

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 175
Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm July 19, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

- What was the result of the 2002 World Cup final between Brazil and Germany?
2-1 1-0 2-0
- Who won the Golden Ball award?
Rivaldo Miroslav Klose
Oliver Kahn
- Who became the top scorer in the 2002 World Cup?
Michael Owen
Ronaldinho
- How many goals did Ronaldo score during the 2002 World Cup finals?
8 9 7
- Name the former coach of the South Korean national football team.
Name:
Class: Roll No:
School Address:
Phone: (If any)



DAY'S EVENT
Nat'l Bank Premier Football League
MSC v Victoria SC (5 pm)
Venue: BNS
First Division Football League
Agrani Bank v Dhaka Wanderers (5



MAN-OF-THE-MATCH: Badda Jagorani goalkeeper Munna makes yet another save against Abahani during the opening match of the National Bank Premier Division Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Abahani's stumbling start

Football
SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra stumbled in the opening match of the National Bank Premier League when they went down 4-2 in the shootout to newcomers Badda Jagorani at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Although Abahani clawed back from a goal down to draw 1-1 in the regulation time, but it all went horribly wrong when their midfielder Iqbal fired a soft shot straight into the lap of Badda custodian Munna and Khokon drove the next 10-yarder miles over the crossbar.

It was not the start a few thousand sky blue supporters had hoped for.

Badda, who have the uncanny knack of being the boggy team during the popular Dhanmondi outfit, almost gave the impression that 1975 was being revived when their forward Uzzal drove home in

the 70th. Abahani, as defending champions, had never lost an opening League match since 1975 when they suffered a lone goal defeat to Brothers Union.

But national midfielder Liton saved their blushes when he unleashed a first-time shot into the top right-hand corner of Munna's post nine minutes from the final whistle.

Abahani pressed hard after the late equalizer but the Badda keeper kept their fancied opponents at bay with a spectacular Bulbul left-footer during injury time.

Munna, who walked out taller than his Abahani counterpart Apel after the match, showed nerves of steel on a number of occasions.

The flamboyant goalie also denied Abahani from taking an early lead when he fisted away Iqbal's point-blank grounder over the bar.

The new-look Abahani, who recruited as many as six booters in the players' transfer this year, were impressive in the first half and got their second chance to go in front in

the 26th minute. But this time the metalwork thwarted a close header from Parvez Babu, who recently joined from Brothers.

Badda, who holds an impressive record when it comes to a clash with Abahani, came out as more organised after the break. But Badda also had their share of misfortune when Amin Rana's intelligent shot over an out of position Apel bounced off the top left hand post in the 54th minute.

Badda, who has been in and out of the top flight, took the lead from a counter attack that involved three players. Rana pushed the ball to an advancing Azim who raced down the left-flank before releasing a neat through that Uzzal after outpacing two defenders latched on to it and cut an onrushing Apel to slot the ball into the vacant net.

The match though, relatively incident free, still the referee as promised by the organisers had to rule with an iron hand.

He cautioned three Abahani

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Bangladesh in Lanka Last practice tie starts today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh take on the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL) Development squad in their final practice match, a three-day affair, ahead of Test series at the NCC ground in Colombo today.

The visitors put up commendable show, holding Sri Lanka A to a draw in their opening three-day match at Moratowa that concluded on Sunday. Bangladesh, on the back foot in the first innings, kept the hosts' second string side at bay with their two youngsters - opener Hannan Sarkar and Ehsanul Haque, producing encouraging batting display.

The first Test starts at the P Sara Stadium from July 21.

SQUADS

BANGLADESH: Khaled Mashud (captain), Hannan Sarkar, Al-Shahriar, Ehsanul Haque, Habibul Bashar, Mohammad Ashraf, Fahim Muntasir, Enamul Hoque, Alamgir, Monjurul Islam, Talha Jubair, Aminul Islam, Akram Khan, Tushar Imran and Tareq Aziz Khan.
BCCSL DEVELOPMENT SQUAD: Sanatha Kalavittigoda, BMAJ Mendis, CS Fernando, Sumalka Perera, Tilina Kandamby, Malintha Gajjanayake, TMI Muralipah, MKGCP Lakshita, RHS Silva, KHRK Fernando, WRD Dissanayake, Rally Tissera, KGN Randika, Lasith Malinga, Thushara Miranda, LHD Dilhara, Dammika Niroshan, Malinga Suriyapulle, Nishitha Rupasinghe, NC Komarasu and Ganganath Ratnayake

Kaif, Yuvraj in first Test?

REUTERS, Calcutta

Batsmen Yuvraj Singh and Mohammed Kaif could be added to the Indian squad for the Test series against England as reward for their performances in the triangular one-day series, an Indian cricket board official said on Monday.

The Indian board has called a special selection meeting on Tuesday to decide whether the duo should join the 16-player squad for the four-Test series starting on July 25.

Kaif and Yuvraj, who had been picked only for the one-day series with Sri Lanka and England and were scheduled to fly home on Monday, have been asked to stay in England and wait for the selectors' decision.

Kaif, 21, played the last of his four tests during India's 2-1 series defeat in Sri Lanka last year while Yuvraj has yet to play any tests.

Kaif led India to victory over England in the high-scoring final at Lord's on Saturday, top-scoring with 87 not out to achieve the target of 326 - the second highest successful run-chase in one-day history.

The 21-year-old scored 174 runs in five innings batting at number seven, being dismissed only twice.

Yuvraj, 20, whose aggressive strokeplay was a highlight of the tournament, piled up 254 runs in seven innings.

The official said though the two batsmen were unlikely to play during the test series, they could play in the other first-class games and work with the squad.

"This way they will be ready for the ICC Champions Cup in Colombo in September as there is hardly any domestic cricket in between," he said.

Lifebuoy soccer

BSS, Dhaka

The Independent, Ajker Kagoj, Bhorer Kagoj and Banglabazar Patrika reached the semifinals of the Lifebuoy-Community Football tournament at Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The Independent saw off the Jugantar, the last year's champions of the six-a-side football tournament, by a solitary goal.

Ajker Kagoj defeated ATN Bangla 1-0. Bhorer Kagoj beat Janakantha 2-0 while Banglabazar Patrika defeated Bhorer Dak 2-0 in a tie-breaker.

The Independent take on Banglabazar Patrika while Ajker Kagoj meet Bhorer Kagoj in the semifinals today.

Hingis at US Open after all!

REUTERS, Geneva

Former world number one Martina Hingis says she could still play in next month's U.S. Open despite the WTA confirming she will miss Monday's entry deadline.

The WTA said on Friday that representatives of Hingis had confirmed the Swiss world number four would not be submitting an application to play in the final Grand Slam of the year by the July 15 deadline.

Cheers for Reefat, Rajib

Chess
SPORTS REPORTER

International Masters Reefat-bin-Sattar and Enamul Hossain Rajib of Biman earned a brilliant feat on Sunday when they finished joint runners-up in the Paris International Chess Tournament in France.

Both the Bangladeshis collected seven points each, half a point adrift of joint champions IM Yochanan of Israel, GM Andrei Shchekachev of Russia and GM Jean-Luc Chabanon of France in the nine-round tournament.

In the final round, Rajib, the junior most IM of the country, defeated his much illustrious opponent French Grand Master Manuel

Apisila (Rating 2510) while Reefat drew with Russian Grand Master



REEFAT-BIN-SATTAR
Andrei Shekharov.
Grand Master Ziaur Rahman,

Bangladesh's highest rated player, however, ended his campaign with



ENAMUL HOSSAIN RAJIB
another defeat. He earned 5.5 points.

Ben remembered

Cricket
BBC, London

Surrey captain Adam Hoolioake paid tribute to his brother Ben at the memorial service for the young cricketer held in London on Monday.

Ben Hoolioake, a rising star on the international scene, was just 24 when he died in a car accident in March.

At Southwark Cathedral on Monday, older brother Adam described him as an outstanding athlete but also a non-conformist who was unflinched by pressure.

He said he believed his brother was "one hundred percent happy" at the time of his death.

But he told the congregation: "Life has changed for my family: Before there were good days, bad days, hard-working days and relaxing days."

"Now all these things have gone and been replaced with before and after Ben."

"That's how my life will be from now on."

Pausing to regain his composure, he added: "Benny-boy... I'll

never forget you. Not a day goes by when I don't think about you and all the fun times we had."

"Of all the people I have ever met, if I could be anyone I'd be you. I need you to know that I will always love you."

John Major, a keen cricket fan and a former president of



BEN HOLLOIAKE
Hoolioake's county club, Surrey, said the 24-year-old all-rounder was an "unforgettable young man."

He had left a "legacy of love" both on and off the pitch, said the former Prime Minister.

The service, led by the Dean of

Change the calendar

Cricket
AFP, London

England coach Duncan Fletcher wants world cricket administrators to draw up a new international schedule in a bid to prevent player burn out.

The former Zimbabwe all-rounder was speaking in the wake of England batsman Graham Thorpe's decision to retire from international one-day cricket in order to prolong his Test career and see more of his children after the break-up of his marriage.

England captain Nasser Hussain said Thorpe's move was "a massive blow", adding: "He's the first casualty of the amount of cricket we've been playing."

To combat this problem Fletcher has drawn up a plan for future tour arrangements which could be considered by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) at their management meeting later this week.

Under Fletcher's proposals, England's players would be given

greater rest during the winter but perhaps start tours in April and May prior to the home international season allowing them more time with their families.

"Why don't we play Test cricket in August, September and October and have November and December off," said Fletcher.

Just two days after the fourth and final Test against India at The Oval, which is due to end on September 9 - the latest finish to an English international season in living memory - some of the very same players are due to fly out to Sri Lanka for the one-day Champions Trophy.

From there England go to Australia for a full Ashes series, followed by a one-day campaign against their oldest rivals before the World Cup.

If England go all the way in South Africa that could mean players not returning home until after the final on March 23.

"We're going to have to plan this winter," said Fletcher, speaking in the aftermath of England's triangular series final defeat by India at Lord's on Saturday.

"At this stage we're not saying that any players are going to miss anything, but we will be looking at it as things progress."

Looking ahead the ECB have responded by planning to give players a break in between the 2003-4 tours of Sri Lanka and West Indies.

But Sunday's announcement of a further three one-day internationals

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Tickets delayed on opening day

AFP, Johannesburg

Cricket World Cup organisers sold tickets to 12 spectators for next year's tournament in South Africa before the system crashed Monday morning, sending organisers into a tailspin and stretching the patience of hundreds of fans.

Some fans had been camping out in icy winter weather since Friday night.

Though the computer glitch was fixed an hour later, long queues were snaking down the road away from ticket offices at Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg, Newlands in Cape Town and Kingsmead in Durban.

At Wanderers, first in line, Peter Moss said he had been braving sub-zero temperatures since last week.

"Friends drove past on Friday morning and saw about 300 people queuing so we decided to join. When they left I was first, and I decided to stay," he told the Johannesburg-based daily The Star.

"If my wife divorces me, at least I'll have my cricket ticket," said self-confessed Johannesburg cricket devotee Ashley Petersen.

On Monday a total of 222,000 tickets sold in packages - ranging from 30 rand (three dollars/euros) to 225 rand a game, depending on the seats - were available to the South African public and a further 70,000 follow-the-team tickets to certain games will become available on December 2.

The tournament will begin in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

India need all-rounder

Cricket
BBC, undated

Former Indian captain Kapil Dev believes they are only one player short of being serious contenders to win next year's World Cup in South



KAPIL DEV
Africa.

Kapil, who led India to victory in the 1983 World Cup final, thinks a top-class all-rounder is all that India are lacking.

He is one of the greatest all-rounders of all time, having scored more than 9,000 runs and taken 687 wickets in Test and one-day cricket.

His comments followed their magnificent two-wicket win over England in Saturday's NatWest Series final at Lord's when they

successfully chased a daunting target of 326.

India's World Cup prospects have been enhanced by the emergence of young batsmen Mohammed Kaif and Yuvraj Singh and new ball bowlers Zaheer Khan and Ashish Nehra.

Kapil hailed their win as "fantastic" but added: "The side needs to have at least one accomplished all-rounder to perform better."

And he warned Indian supporters not to over-burden the team with expectation because of the manner of their win.

"We still have a long way to go. There's a lot of cricket to be played before the World Cup. It is a tight calendar. They have to be in a high pitch at that time."

Other Indian cricket figures are less cautious, however, about the team's prospects for the 2003 World Cup.

Former opening batsman Kris Srikanth said: "The cohesion, as a team, shown by the players in winning the series should be a forerunner towards winning the World Cup next year."

"Youngsters performing well and winning matches for India is the best thing that could happen to boost the morale of the team."

Yashpal Sharma, a member of the 1983 squad, added: "It is the first step to the World Cup. This is a team that has the ability and the determination to go all the way."

Premiership not his type

Football
INTERNET, Rio de Janeiro

Brazilian hot-shot Ronaldo has ruled out a switch to the Premier-ship, after admitting he is not suited to the pace of the English game.

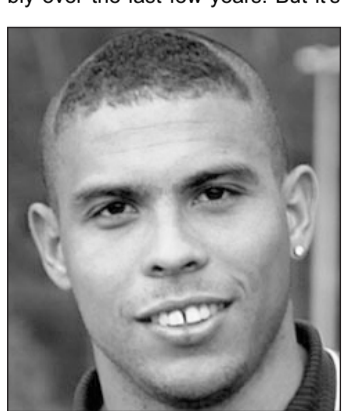
The Inter Milan striker was being tipped to make a move to British shores with either Manchester United or Newcastle reportedly lining up season-long loan deals.

However, that was before Ronaldo took the World Cup by storm by scoring eight goals in seven games to claim the Golden Boot. As a result, his stock has now increased - meaning a switch away from the San Siro seems ever-more unlikely.

But when questioned on whether he might ever fancy a move to the Premiership, the former Barcelona and PSV Eindhoven star said: "It's not something I have ever really considered, and if I ever left Italian

football I would be more likely to return to Spain or go home to Brazil.

"I think English football is exciting and the game has moved on incredibly over the last few years. But it's



RONALDO
not a league I have any desire to play in.

"I don't think going to the Premiership would make me a better player - something I'm always

striving to do.

"The pace of the English game is so frantic and it doesn't suit the way we are brought up to play - perhaps that is why so many Brazilians avoid going there."

Ronaldo admits that the best opportunity to play in England passed him by a few years ago, when he left Brazil after the 1994 World Cup and moved to Holland.

"If there had been more interest I think it would have been something I would have considered," he said.

"I was at a stage in my career when I wanted to prove myself. I was extremely hungry for success and European football was the obvious place to go."

"There was talk of interest from England and tentative enquiries from Italy and Spain. But PSV didn't talk, they signed me - and my career took off. I had two great seasons at PSV - it was an education and an honor."

"But after that, like most Brazilians, I was always destined to play in either Spain or Italy."



PRACTICE MAKES A 'WOMAN' PERFECT: Suchandra, who became runner-up in the just-concluded Standard Chartered Bank Schools Chess Tournament, honing her skills by playing a board against none at the Bangladesh Chess Federation yesterday. Standing next to her is Sumit Sao, who finished sixth.

India's Rahul chess champ

SPORTS REPORTER

Rahul Sangma of India lifted the Standard Chartered Bank School Chess boy's (Class six to ten) title with a win over local boy Shahin in the final round at the NSC chess room yesterday.

With that win, Rahul bagged highest eight points from nine games, half a point more than his compatriot Amrithesh Roy and Minhazuddin Ahmed of Hazrat Shah Ali Model School.

Amrithesh, however, finished second through a tie-breaker while Minhaz finished third.

Seven players -- Souparna Ghosh, Hasib Dewan, Mahfuzur Rahman, Sumit Sao, Awwad Hossain and Shahin -- shared the crowded fourth spot with seven points each.

Later in the evening, Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed gave away prizes among the winners as chief guest of the closing ceremony.