



## Did U Know?

Post the 1956 Games, about 40 per cent of Hungary's Olympic contingent chose to defect rather than return to their home country, invaded by the USSR.



## What to WATCH

- BTV**  
Pakistan vs Sri Lanka  
Morocco Cup, Second Match  
Live at 3:30 pm
- ESPN**  
Football Focus  
Repeat at 11:00 am  
Sportscentre Hindi  
Sport News  
Live at 8:30 pm  
English Premier Football League  
Newcastle United vs Arsenal  
Repeat at 9:00 pm
- STAR Sports**  
Gillette World Sports Special  
International Sports News  
Repeat at 8:00 am  
Football Asia  
Repeat at 3:00 pm  
Sportsline Tonight  
Sport News  
Live at 8:00 pm  
Harsha Online  
Cricket Talk Show  
Same Day Delay at 11:00 pm



## TALK TURKEY



**Intikhab Alam**  
(Former Pakistan cricket captain)  
"It's very, very unfortunate for Pakistan cricket that we can't play cricket at home, but international events beyond our control."  
After Australia's refusal to tour Pakistan this October.

**Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 177**

Tick the correct answers, post to  
**The Daily Star**  
Win attractive prizes

**Competition closes at 8 pm Aug 16, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards**

- Who won Bangladesh's first gold medal in the Commonwealth Games shooting competition?  
Asif Hossain / Arif Hossain / Avid Hossain
- Who won the men's Commonwealth Games 100m sprint title?  
K Collins / F Greene
- Who clinched StanChart FIDE Rating chess title?  
Rakib / Reefat
- Who won the man-of-the-match award in the first Test between England and India?  
Nasser / Sourav / Agarkar

Name .....

Class .....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....



**Nat'l Bank Premier Division League**  
Mohammedan v Arambagh (5pm)  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

# Scandal rocks BFF

## Ctg Abahani's London trip shrouded in mystery

**Football**

**SPORTS REPORTER**

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday came under fire from different Dhaka-based clubs for allowing their registered players to go to England with Chittagong Abahani.

Chittagong Abahani left for London on Saturday to play a couple of exhibition matches. But the team's silent departure and identity of its 25 members have triggered the trip to be labelled as an attempted 'human trafficking' rather than a goodwill visit.

Three Premier Division clubs -- Badda Jagarani Sangsad, Dhanmondi and Farashganj Sporting -- have lodged official complaints with the BFF, asking why it allowed their players to travel with the port city team without their approval.

It was learnt that Badda's midfielder Bakhtiar, Dhanmondi's Monju and Nurul Islam and Farashganj's Shaiful Islam left with the Chittagong club. Even the touring team coach Abu Yousuf did not bother to inform his own club Victoria that he would be travelling to England.

Mohammedan Sporting Club secretary Lokman Hossain pointed

out that one of their long-serving ball boys Shamsuddin, popularly known as Shamsu, is also accompanying the team as trainer-cum-player.

Former general secretary of the BFF Harun-ur Rashid is said to have approved the list of 25 before he resigned on July 27.

But our Chittagong correspondent reported that the tour party is far bigger than the initially approved one. The tour party now stands at 38, of which 16 are footballers and the rest are officials of different 'categories' and 'identities.'

Shamsul Haq Chowdhury, the member secretary of Chittagong Abahani Limited, was leading the team on its 13-day tour. And he sneaked out without bothering to hold a customary press briefing.

Though London-based hosts Canary Wharf would be bearing expenses of 16 players and 6 officials, but 16 more officials reportedly joined the team at their own expense. Among them are Abahani's director Haji Rafique, F H Khan Fazu, Aminul Haq Babul, Akbar, Nasir Miah and Salauddin.

Some officials of Chittagong Abahani on condition of anonymity said the tour-organisers actually made some quick bucks. They took Taka 1-1.5 lakh from those who promised to return and Taka 4-6

lakh from those who would stay back in England.

The trip appeared to have become a financial bonanza for a few officials, who have reportedly made about half a crore taka from the fortune-seekers.

A youth, named Mintu from the city's Madarbari area, is also travelling with the team. His relatives were seen weeping while they gathered at Chittagong Railway Station last Friday to see him off.

Responding to a query a relative of Mintu said that they had spent Taka 5 lakh to get him on the list.

Chittagong Abahani are scheduled to play two exhibition matches with West Ham United Under-19 and Chelsea FC.

Following is the list of 25 players and officials as approved by the government: Mintu, Bakhtiar, Asif, Kader, Monju, Jalal, Bidyut, Mahabub Alam, Nurul Islam, Giasuddin Siraj, MN Shakil, Anisur Rahman, Abir Mahmud, Nazmul Karim, Nasir Miah, Abu Sufian, Badrul Islam, Mohammad Kasem (manager), Abu Yousuf (coach), Sahabuddin (asst. coach), Mohammad Sadek (asst. manager), Shamsuddin (trainer-cum-player), Nurul Afsar (official), Taherul Alam (technical manager) and Fazlur Rahman Babul (co-ordinator).

# Asghar in the dark

**Cricket**

**SPORTS REPORTER**

The High Court ruling on the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) remains unclear to Board president Ali Asghar as yet.

Asghar, who returned home on Monday after taking over the ACC presidency from Pakistan's Tauqir Zia, said that he was yet to receive the copy of the court's verdict.

"My knowledge on the matter is based purely on newspaper reports," said Asghar yesterday while talking to the Daily Star Sport over phone. "I have heard that I can receive a copy of the ruling by paying one thousand taka. So, I will send somebody tomorrow (Wednesday)."

On Sunday a Division Bench of the High Court comprising Justices MA Aziz and Mohammad Mottazuddin ruled that why Clause 12 of the Board's constitution would

not be declared illegal following a petition by Rafiqul Islam, a BCB councillor from Indira Road Kira Chakra.

Also in its show cause notice the High Court asked the secretary of



**ALI ASGHAR**  
the ministry of youth and sports as well as the BCB to clarify the matter within four weeks.

The Court empowered Asghar with absolute authority to run the

Board for the interim period.

Two days have gone by after the ruling, but both the parties claimed that they have not been served with the notice yet.

This situation has given birth to a lot of speculations in various quarters and created a sense of confusion in the minds of Board directors.

"This event is very unexpected and unprecedented. We are all surprised. We are trying to obtain the official document pertaining to the Court order. We will then assess and evaluate the situation and what implication it may have in future," said Ahmed Sajjadul Aaim, a BCB director.

While Sajjadul voiced his concern, another director Mahmud UI Haq was rather inclined to say 'no comment' when approached.

It is widely rumoured that the Board splits into two camps, one is desperate to hold on to their position and the other group is busy to ensure a place in case a new Board is formed.

# Patel ensures draw

**Cricket**

**AFP, Nottingham**

India debutant Parthiv Patel, at 17 the youngest wicketkeeper in Test history, saw his side to a draw against England here at Trent Bridge on Monday.

Patel, who came in on a pair, resisted gamely for 82 minutes as India squared the second Test of the four-match series.

The result left England still 1-0 ahead after their 170 run win at Lord's last month.

Left-hander Patel finished on 19 not out with Zaheer Khan 14 not out as India, in their second innings, made 424 for eight declared in reply to England's mammoth first innings of 617.

With 10 overs left in the day, the teams agreed a draw as a capacity 15,400 crowd -- a rare sight on the fifth day of a Test in England -- looked on.

Had England batted, two overs

not have got such a first innings lead.

Looking at the match, Madras-born Hussain added: "I'm not feeling frustration, just tiredness and disappointment."

"We just couldn't quite finish it off."

Defeat here would have ended India's hopes of winning their first series outside the sub-continent since 1986.

At tea Monday India were 315 for four in their second innings, a lead of 55 with captain Sourav Ganguly 81 not out and Venkatesai Laxman one not out.

There were still 42 overs remaining, plenty of time for England's bowlers.

And with the new ball just one over old on a sunny day, with no prospect of the weather causing a stoppage, the odds were starting to stack up against India.

But despite India's position, Laxman -- the last of the recognised batsman -- still gave his wicket away.

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Mohammedan players (L), after their National Bank Premier Division League match against Arambagh was called off because of rain, enjoy some football at the empty Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) yesterday. (R) Spectators gather outside the BNS expecting the game to get underway.



PHOTO: STAR

## No football

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Rain forced yesterday's National Bank Premier Division Football League match between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Arambagh Krira Sangha to be called off. The game was scheduled to kick-off at the Bangabandhu National Stadium at 5pm.

Weather-permitting the game will be played today.

## Bang A fly to Kenya tonight

**SPORTS REPORTER**

A 15-member Bangladesh A team leaves for Kenya tonight to play a series of matches against different Kenyan selections.

Discarded middle order batsman Sanwar Hossain will be leading the second string team while opener Hannan Sarkar, along with five other players who recently toured Sri Lanka, is his deputy.

The five are Mohammad Ashraf, Alok Kapali, Tushar Imran, Talha Jubair and Taposh Baishya.

During their 16-day tour, the A team are scheduled to play two three-day matches and three limited-overs matches before returning home on August 30.

The tour begins with a three-day game against the Kenyan Cricket Association Eleven at the Aga Khan Sports Club ground in Nairobi on August 17.

The three limited-overs matches against Kenya A, are on August 21, 24 and 25 at the Rukara Sports Club ground. The final three-dayer begins at the same venue on August 27.

**SQUAD**

Sanwar Hossain (captain), Hannan Sarkar (vice-captain), Javed Omar Belim, Rafiqul Islam, Mazharul Haque, Mohammad Ashraf, Alok Kapali, Anwar Hossain (wicketkeeper), Mushfiqur Rahman, Tushar Imran, Sabbir Khan, Talha Jubair, Taposh Baishya, Safaq Al-Jabir and Anwar Hossain Munir.

GM Nowsher (manager) and Ali Zia (coach).

## Amrito Lal Dey Rating Chess from Aug 16

**SPORTS REPORTER**

The Third Amrito Lal Dey International Rating Chess tournament begins at Public Library Auditorium in Barisal from August 16.

The Barisal Press Club and Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) are jointly organising the meet.

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman and other rated players from Bangladesh and India are expected to take part in the nine-round Swiss League tournament.

Interested players have been asked to complete entry formalities with the BCF by August 15.

## John Player in Maldives

**PRESS RELEASE, Male**

The John Player, a 140-foot Brigantine, arrived in the Maldives on August 7 marking the successful completion of the first-leg of its 2002 World Adventure voyage since the Dubai launch on July 23.

Male, the Maldivian capital, has historically been gently rocked by the moves of sailboats anchoring in its harbour. This tropical island renowned for its high quality fish has been for years a mandatory point of stop for re-supply when crossing from east to west. John Player explained, "It seems some habits just don't wear off easily! This necessary stop allows us, as it did our fellow sailors of centuries past, to stock up on provisions in order to continue our crossing of the Indian Ocean."

Completion of the first leg of the 2002 Spirit of Enterprise provided the captain and crew of the John Player with an opportunity to test

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# Sponsorship storm

**Cricket**

**AFP, Sydney**

A sponsorship wrangle between cricket's highest-profile players and the sport's administrators intensified Tuesday, with the Australian players' union warning the battle could jeopardise the upcoming Champions' Trophy and next year's World Cup.

Leading player associations, including the Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA), have advised their members against signing player agreements for the Champions' Trophy in Sri Lanka from September 12.

The dispute centers over the players' personal sponsorships potentially conflicting with those of the International Cricket Council (ICC) and the tournament hosts.

"It isn't about a money grab, it's about a fundamental principle," ACA chief executive Tim May said here on Tuesday.

"A player is not being allowed to endorse any product or service where that product or service conflicts with that of an ICC major sponsor."

May said it was premature to talk about a boycott of the Champions' Trophy, which involves cricket's 10 Test-playing nations, but he said the players would not sign the current agreements.

"That would mean a player would have to breach an existing contract and that's not only unreasonable, it's unlawful," May said.

"The players want to play in the tournament -- make no mistake about that -- but they are very concerned about that one clause."

The World Cup, to be held in South Africa next February and March, faces the same problem because the ICC won't budge on its intention to fully protect its major sponsors.

That creates a potential conflict of interest for some of cricket's biggest names, including the Australians and Indian Sachin Tendulkar.

Tendulkar's sponsors include car company Fiat, while rival Toyota is among the World Cup sponsors.

"There are some serious international cricketers who will be affected by this," May said.

"It's a very difficult situation and it may only be settled as a temporary measure for the Champions' Trophy."

ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed has said letters had been sent to national boards reminding them of their obligation to send their best teams to Sri Lanka.

The ICC said national boards had agreed to certain personal endorsement and sponsorship restrictions for ICC events until 2007.

"The ICC is well aware of ambush marketing programs being developed in conflict with tournament sponsors," Speed said in London.

"Every major sporting event provides protection to their partners and anyone else involved in elite sport would recognise that this is an essential component of being able to stage these events."

"To change the agreement in the manner sought would dramatically undermine the essential protection ICC's commercial partners are entitled to enjoy."

Australian players are not believed to be affected by sponsorship conflicts for the Champions' Trophy but it would be different for several players at the World Cup.

# Gibbs gives SA the start

**Cricket**

**AFP, Tangiers**

Herschelle Gibbs scored 114 and took two catches to steer South Africa to a 54-run victory over Pakistan in the opening match of the three-nation Morocco Cup here on Monday.

The gifted opener batted till the 45th over to compile his seventh one-day century as South Africa piled up 283 for nine from 50 overs after electing to take first strike.

Pakistan were shot out for 229 in reply with Lance Klusener picking up three late wickets after Jacques Kallis, Nicky Boje and Allan Donald had wrecked the top order with two wickets each.

Sri Lanka are the third team in the 250,000-dollar limited-overs tournament being held for the first time in this north African country.

The South Africans, wearing black arm bands in their first match since the tragic death of former captain Hansie Cronje on June 1, were joined by the Pakistanis in a minute's silence before play to mark his memory.

"We dedicate this win to Hansie," said Shaun Pollock, Cronje's successor as captain.

"I hope he was watching from above because he would have been happy at the way we played."

"Herschelle was superb as always and I am delighted we

bowled well. To beat a good side like Pakistan by more than 50 runs is a great achievement."

Pakistan captain Waqar Younis, who bagged five wickets, blamed the batsmen for the defeat.

"We had the starts, but did not build on them," he said. "I think chasing 283 on this wicket was not difficult, but the batsmen did not settle in."

Some 500 Moroccans, who turned up at the picturesque Tangiers stadium to get their first

Boje's pinch-hitting role fetched him five boundaries and two sixes before he holed out in the deep off Shahid Afridi.

Rhodes hit a typically pugna-cious 46 when his run out sparked a late collapse in which Waqar clean bowled Mark Boucher and captain Shaun Pollock.

Boeta Dippenaar was run out off the last delivery of the innings, leaving last man Makhyha Ntini stranded in the pavilion.

Pakistan got off to a rollocking start as Imran Nazir and Saed Anwar hammered 55 by the eighth over.

Kallis, coming on as first change, removed Anwar for 23 in his first over and then trapped Nazir leg-before after only 29 balls.

Gibbs caught both Yousuf Youhana and Afridi and Boje did

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# Kashmiris for Pakistan

**Cricket**

**AFP, Srinagar**

With India and Pakistan both involved in international cricket matches on Monday, there was no mistaking where the loyalties of cricket fans in Indian Kashmir's Srinagar lay.

And it certainly wasn't with the heroics of Indian's master batsman Sachin Tendulkar and teammate Rahul Dravid against England at Nottingham.

"When it comes to a choice, there is no choice. We will always support Pakistan," said Mohammad Amin, one of many people watching the match between Pakistan and South Africa being broadcast from Morocco.

"We will never support India," Amin added. "Whenever India is playing, we will always support the opposing team. Whenever Pakistan is playing, we will always support Pakistan."

He went further, to murmurs of

approval from other Muslims crowded into one of many stores screening the match in downtown Srinagar, the summer capital of Indian-administered Kashmir.

"If India is playing Israel, we will even support Israel," he said emphatically.

Separatists claim the majority of Kashmiris would prefer either to live in an independent state or to be ruled by Pakistan than to be under New Delhi's governance.

The Indian government cites recent opinion polls to claim the opposite.

The Himalayan state is divided between India and Pakistan but has been claimed by both since Partition in 1947.

On the streets of Muslim-dominated Srinagar on Monday it was clear that most people at least support the Pakistan cricket team, even if their attitudes towards the state of Pakistan are not clear.

"I always support them, they are from another Islamic country," said a youthful fan, Shakeel Ahmed, speaking from under a prayer cap.

Of about 30 shops surveyed by AFP where televisions were tuned into the cricket Monday afternoon, not one was showing the England-India match.

In one store, the reception on the Ten Sports channel, which was screening the Pakistan match, was so snowy that proceedings were just a blur.

The reception from Star Sports, the channel broadcasting from Nottingham, just happened at that time to be exceptionally clear, yet no one would hear of switching over.

"Even if the reception is bad, we would rather watch the Pakistan match than a crystal clear game involving India," said Sajjad Ahmad.

"And if we did watch the Indian game, we would support England," chimed in another cricket fan, Munner Hamad.

Only one person, possibly a cricket purist, offered a sporting explanation for the overwhelming support in Srinagar for the Pakistan cricket team.

"It's just that Pakistan plays more attractive cricket," said Mohammad Tahar. "And they usually win..."



17-year-old India wicketkeeper Parthiv Patel leads the teams off the field at the end of the second Test against England at Trent Bridge on August 12.

PHOTO: AFP