



Did U Know?

Luiz Felipe Scolari's Brazil not only managed to lift the first FIFA World Cup of the century, but also beat three records in doing so: the first tournament winner to notch up seven straight victories, a captain (Cafu) who played in his third consecutive World Cup final and a striker (Ronaldo) who was the first to score more than six goals in the final stages since Germany 74. Ronaldo netted eight times in the 2002 World Cup.



What to WATCH

- BTB**
Pakistan vs Sri Lanka
Morocco Cup, Fourth Match
Live at 3:30 pm
- ESPN**
English Premier Football League
Liverpool vs Blackburn Rovers
Repeat at 9:00 am
English Premier Football League
Manchester United vs Arsenal
Repeat at 11:00 am
English Premier Football League
Leeds United vs Manchester City
Live at 7:55 pm
- STAR Sports**
Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
Repeat at 10:00 am
Football Asia
Repeat at 2:00 pm
Futbol Mundial
Repeat at 6:00 pm
Gillette World Sports Special
Int'l Sports News
Repeat at 6:30 pm
Asia Sport Show
Int'l Sports News
Taped Version at 7:30 pm
English Premier Football League
Manchester United vs West Bromwich
Live at 7:55 pm



TALK TURKEY



Mats Wilander
(Swedish tennis legend)
"I would never have played tennis if it wasn't for Bjorn Borg. Bjorn Borg is definitely the person all Swedish tennis players owe the most to for paving the way."
While thanking Bjorn Borg during his induction into the International Tennis Hall of



Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Aug 30, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

- Name the Bangladesh A team captain for the Kenya tour:
Hannan | Sanwar | Ashraf
- Who became Asia's fastest woman?
Jayasinghe | Jones
- Asif Hossain clinched gold in which Commonwealth Games event?
Athletics | Shooting | Swimming
- Who won the Orient handball title?
Wari | BDR | Young Pegasus
- Who was man-of-the-match in the second Test between England and India?
Tendulkar | Vaughan | Stewart

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (If any)



Mohammedan's hero Kanchan (R) heads under pressure from Arambagh defender Kamal (C) during their National Bank Premier Division Football League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Kanchan on target

Football
SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club maintained their all-win record in the National Bank Premier Division Football League with a hard fought solitary goal victory over Arambagh Krira Sangha at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

In a see-saw encounter between the two powerful neighbours, national striker Rokonzaman Kanchan scored the all-important goal from a Joy back header 10 minutes into the first half.

Mohammedan's fifth successive win raised their tally to highest 15 points, two points ahead of arch-rivals and defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra.

On a difficult pitch both teams struggled to play their natural game as the ball got stuck several times. However, the black and whites earned all the points after Joy, the

rough and tough Mohammedan midfielder, cleverly passed the ball to an unmarked Kanchan with an accurate back header and the short striker found the net.

Stunned by the goal, Arambagh raised their game and kept their mighty opponents cornered inside their own half for most of the first period.

In the 37th minute they almost equalised when substitute forward Mizanur Rahman Don got the ball inside the danger area after a cross from the right.

But his powerful right footer was somehow fisted away by Mohammedan goalie Nizam.

Arambagh continued to put Mohammedan under pressure after the break creating some good chances. But poor marksmanship together with solid defending by the popular Motijheel club proved their undoing.

Mohammedan's Nigerian defender Abdullah got his marching orders after receiving two yellow cards.

Late in the second half Mohammedan came to life when creative forward Ariful Kabir Farhad replaced Kanchan.

The balding striker almost doubled the margin in the 82nd minute when he only had to beat the Arambagh keeper. But he fired straight at the man under the bar.

It was Arambagh's second defeat in five matches that kept them on eight points.

Red card: Abdullah (Mohammedan).
Yellow cards: Shahin and Don (Arambagh).

TEAMS
Mohammedan SC: Nizam, Jewel Rana, Masud Rana, Tito, Mahmudul Hasan, Abdullah, Joy, Monwar (Faisal), Salisu (Pappu), Nakib and Kanchan (Farhad).
Arambagh KS: Himu, Juku, Al-Arman, Shahin, Biplab, Kamal, Saiful, Bidyut, Tanveer (Apu), Oinu and Awal (Don).
Referee: Ibrahim Nessar.

Ashes Aussie ambition

Cricket
REUTERS, Melbourne

Ricky Ponting says the Ashes series starting in November remains a major challenge for Australian players despite their recent domination of England.

Australia has won the past seven series, including a 4-1 drubbing in England last year by Steve Waugh's team.

But Ponting said on Friday: "Any time we play England it's a big one for us as Australian players."

He said in a telephone interview: "They would probably say exactly the same thing."

"There's no doubt that they are going to be extra keen to come out and knock off Australia."

"It's the biggest test series for us, and probably on a par with South Africa now."

The International Cricket Council (ICC) Test Championship, introduced last year, ranks Australia number one, with South Africa second and England fifth.

Australia's recent Ashes successes has led to suggestions that

the series could be brought into line with most other series by being shortened from five or six matches to three.

England last won the Ashes in 1986-7, since when Australia have recorded 24 victories to England's six, many of those in 'dead rubber' matches.

Ponting, though, Australia's one-day captain, said he had been a keen viewer of England's on-going Test series against India.

"(Michael) Vaughan and (Gra-

ham) Thorpe had injuries in the Ashes series last year," Ponting said.

"Vaughan is playing well, (Andrew) Flintoff's doing well, they've got a couple of new quickies who have looked okay."

"They're a good side. They just haven't performed well against Australia in the last few series." England currently lead their four-match series against India 1-0, with the third test starting next week.

Australia will host England for a five-Test series, followed by a triangular one-day series including Sri Lanka and the World Cup.

Ponting, just back from a foot injury, added: "We're going to consciously from now on not talk too much about the World Cup. That will look after itself when it comes around."

Ponting, 27, was elevated to the captaincy of the one-day side when Steve Waugh was dumped for the South Africa series in March this year.

Ponting, though, said he had learned a lot from Waugh and would not discount the chances of the 37-year-old Waugh twins forcing their way back into the one-day side for the World Cup.



RICKY PONTING

Proteas slump

Cricket
AFP, Tangiers

Veteran Aravinda De Silva hit an unbeaten 73 to inspire Sri Lanka to a shock 93-run win over South Africa in the Morocco Cup here on Thursday.

The 37-year-old hero of Sri Lanka's World Cup triumph in 1996 smashed his 58th half-century to steer the islanders to 267-7 from 50 overs after they elected to bat first.

The total proved beyond the reach of the spin-wary South Africans, who were shot out for 174 in 45 overs with the Sri Lankan slow bowlers sharing six wickets.

Captain Sanath Jayasuriya polished off the tail with 3-23, leggie Upul Chandana claimed 2-40 while off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan took 1-12 from eight overs.

The emphatic win, which gained Jayasuriya's men a bonus point, left Sri Lanka, South Africa and Pakistan level with one victory each

after the first round of the preliminary league.

The second round starts on Saturday after a day's rest, promising a keen struggle in the race for the final on August 21.



ARAVINDA ... m-o-m

De Silva hit just four boundaries in his 84-ball knock, but his substantial contribution with well-placed singles and twos enabled Sri Lanka to put up a fighting score.

"Aravinda showed his vast experience," Jayasuriya said. "We needed someone to stay there and get the runs and he did it for us."

"This win sets up the tournament nicely. We are lucky to have the advantage of having won a bonus point today."

"But a place in the final is not certain. Any of the three teams can make it."

South African captain Shaun Pollock blamed the defeat on the soft dismissals of Jacques Kallis and Gary Kirsten, but also took a dig at the slow wicket.

"It's easier scoring runs batting first because the wicket gets very slow in the afternoon," he said.

"The toss will prove very crucial in the remaining games. You win the toss, you bat, that's the bottomline."

"But there is a lot of cricket ahead in the tournament. We've got to pick up."

South Africa were reduced to 79-3 by the 16th over, triggered by the reckless dismissal of Herschelle Gibbs who was bowled attempting

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Bang A open tour today

UNB, Dhaka
Bangladesh A start their tour of Kenya today with a three-day match against the Kenyan Cricket Association (KCA) XI at the Aga Khan Sports ground.

The national second-string team led by Sanwar Hossain will play another three-day match and three limited-over matches during their two-week long tour.

The team left for Kenya on Wednesday.

AB Bank TT

UNB, Dhaka
Wari Club and Brothers Union won their matches in the AB Bank Metropolitan Table Tennis Super League at the NSC Wooden Floor Gymnasium yesterday.

Wari Club overpowered Armanitola JS 3-0 sets with Pappu beating Baban 21-16, 21-12, Edison defeating Tuhin 21-10, 18-21, 21-8 and Kachi got walkover in the last game.

Brothers beat Inter Sports 3-2 as Ripon beat Monir 21-4, 15-21, 21-12, Badal lost to Munna 19-21, 21-23, Shahed beat Mona 21-17, 21-18, Ripon lost to Munna 21-18, 16-21, 15-21 and Badal beat Monir 21-8, 21-11.

In the First Division Super League, Ajax SC smashed Orka by 3-0, Mariner Youngs defeated Shamibagh TTS 3-0 and Khealagar SKS overpowered Cynthia SC 3-0.

Meanwhile, the women's league started in the morning and eight teams -- Khealagar SKS, Shamibagh Girls, Biman Green and Azimpur Young Star TT Club won on the opening day.

Cute handball

UNB, Dhaka
Bangladesh Police and Narinda Pragati Boys Club won their respective matches of the Cute Premier Division Handball League yesterday.

The league resumed after a three-day break.

At the court next to the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Police defeated Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club 34-16 after leading the first half 19-8.

Narinda beat Arambagh KS 27-13 after dominating the first half 17-8.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Menjis KC vs Old Ideals, Bangladesh Rifles vs Dhaka Wanderers Club.

WI oppose ICC deal
INTERNET, undated

The West Indies Players Association on Thursday became the latest body advising players not to sign ICC contracts preventing them from endorsing rival sponsors during the World Cup and Champions Trophies.

ICC contracts require that players forfeit their rights to endorse companies who are in direct competition with ICC sponsors.

Now the West Indies have become the latest side to voice concern about the contracts.

Speaking to Associated Press Roland Holder the secretary of the West Indies Players Association said his organisation was following the recommendation of the Federation of International Cricketer's Associations.

"Their opinion is that players should not sign as there is a clause in the contract that is illegal," he said.

Meanwhile, the West Indies Cricket Board has named a 14-man squad to participate in the ICC's Champions Trophy limited-overs competition starting next month in Sri Lanka.

The WICB had hoped that the

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WHIZZ KID-177 winner Rafat

(Willes Little Flower School, Dhaka)
Please produce your ID card and an attested passport size photograph while collecting the winner's prize from the Sports Desk of the Daily Star at 7:30 pm on August 22.



Indian batsman Shiv Sunder Das raises his bat after reaching 250 not out against Essex on Thursday.

Aus-Pak Tests in Colombo, Sharjah

Cricket
INTERNET REPORT, Karachi

Pakistan has agreed to play their home Test series against Australia this October at two neutral venues. The first Test will be played in Colombo while the remaining two will be played in Sharjah.

The decision was taken Thursday after the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) received the support of national team players, the Cricketers Benefit Fund Series (CBFS) and Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL).

Bangladesh was ruled out as one of the possible venues at the request of the Pakistan players who argued that they would feel more at ease playing in Sharjah which they consider as their second home.

The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) had given a free hand to pick the venues between October 1 and 29 for any number of Tests or one-day internationals. The Australians were scheduled to tour Pakistan but cancelled the trip citing players security.

However, the PCB preferred

Tests over a proposed tri-national one-day series also involving Zimbabwe besides the two teams. The argument given was that Pakistan could not ignore five-day cricket.

The CBFS had offered to host a triangular one-day series under lights that would have helped the PCB generate more revenue than the Test series through television rights and sponsorships.

The Sharjah officials had also advised the PCB that the temperature would range between 35 and 40 degrees Celsius and the humidity would be more than 90 per cent in October.

But, the PCB is believed to have succumbed to TransWorld International (TWI)'s pressure who have the television rights with their contract expiring in March 2003.

The TWI pressurised the PCB because according to the contract they have signed, they don't have the tournament rights. And had the PCB decided to go ahead with the tri-nation series and that too in Sharjah, it would have been in a position to negotiate with various broadcasters, including Ten Sports who are likely to get the contract for next five years.

Eng fret over Flintoff

Cricket
AFP, London

England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff is to see a surgeon later Thursday in a bid to find out just how bad his persistent groin injury really is.

Flintoff's fitness is a major worry for England's selectors in the build up to Saturday's announcement of the squad for next week's third Test against India at Headingley.

After the conclusion of the drawn second Test at Trent Bridge on Monday, England captain Nasser Hussain admitted that Flintoff's participation while injured was "slightly unprofessional".

Lancashire star Flintoff had a scan on Tuesday. But this was inconclusive so England have ordered a second consultation "for a further assessment on his groin".

Flintoff is not the only injury concern England have as they look

to build on a 1-0 lead in the four Test series against India.

Derbyshire all-rounder Dominic Cork's participation remains uncertain as England wait on the result of a scan on a knee injury sustained while fielding at Trent Bridge.

But the third of England's seam-

bowling all-rounders, Craig White, is definitely out of Thursday's Test on his home ground.

The Yorkshireman, who made an unbeaten 94 in England's huge 617 at Nottingham, was revealed Tuesday to have an abdominal muscle tear.

However, one positive piece of news for England is that middle-order batsman John Crawley has not torn his cartilage as was initially thought and should be fit to take his place at Headingley.

England's selectors have been confronted with continual fitness problems this summer, fast bowlers Darren Gough, Andrew Caddick, Alex Tudor and Simon Jones all missing Tests because of injury.

And adding to their difficulties has been the indefinite break from all cricket announced by senior middle-order batsman Graham Thorpe, after the first Test at Lord's, following difficulties associated with the break-up of his marriage.

selected for either of India's first two Tests against England.

But, with India 1-0 down in the four match series, he could hardly have done more to boost his case for international selection ahead of next week's third Test at Headingley.

Opener Das' innings eventually ended with him three runs short of his highest first-class score when he was last man out as he holed out against left-arm Tim Phillips to Mark Ilett at long-off.

Das faced 380 balls including four sixes and 32 fours.

Earlier, India resumed on 331 for

Devastating Das

Cricket
AFP, Chlemsford

Shiv Sunder Das ensured there was no let up for the Essex bowlers as he made 250 out of India's huge 516 here on Thursday.

At stumps on the second day of this four-day match Essex were 173 for three in reply, a deficit of 343.

Zimbabwe's Andy Flower was 45 not out.

Das, 165 not out overnight, was in no mood to let up after failing to be



Indian batsman Shiv Sunder Das raises his bat after reaching 250 not out against Essex on Thursday.

SA name ICC Champs squad

REUTERS, Tangiers

South African selection chief Omar Henry has confirmed his country's squad for the ICC Champions Trophy in Sri Lanka, although clearly unhappy at having to do so almost a month before the tournament begins.

Speaking in Tangiers where South Africa are playing a triangular tournament against Sri Lanka and Pakistan, Henry said: "It has been almost impossible to select a squad so far in advance, especially with us having played so little cricket."

"It would have been better for us to name a larger squad and then reduce it closer to the tournament."

Spinner Paul Adams has been jettisoned from the squad in Morocco in order to reduce it to the necessary 14. Five players have been named as being on standby, including Adams.

SQUAD
Gary Kirsten, Herschelle Gibbs, Graeme Smith, Jacques Kallis, Boeta Dippenaar, Jonny Rhodes, Justin Ontong, Mark Boucher, Shaun Pollock, Lance Klusener, Nicky Boje, Allan Donald, Makhaya Ntini, Roger Telemachus.

Standby players: Neil McKenzie, Justin Kemp, Steve Elworthy, Paul Adams, Loots Bosman.

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Earlier, India resumed on 331 for

six with Das partnered by India captain Sourav Ganguly.

The left-hander attacked the Essex bowling from the start and looked on course for a century.

But on 74 Ganguly, going down the wicket against off-spinner James Middlebrook, was stumped by Barry Hyam.

He had faced just 57 balls putting on 105 with Das for the seventh wicket.

In reply Essex began briskly through openers Darren Robinson and Richard Clinton.

The pair had put on 46 from the first six overs before Clinton (23) was bowled by a good-length delivery from Tinu Yohannan.

Flower was given a life early on when off-spinner Harbhajan Singh, at point, dropped the Test star's square cut off Sanjay Bangar.

Robinson looked in good touch, putting on 53 with Flower, before Wasim Jaffer caught him at short leg off Harbhajan for 53.

The India pair combined again when, in the penultimate over of the day, Rav Bopara fell for 29.

Kirtley takes Gough's place
AFP/REUTERS, London

Sussex fast bowler James Kirtley's chances of appearing in next year's World Cup received a boost Friday after he was named as Darren Gough's replacement in England's squad for next month's ICC Champions' Trophy tournament. Kirtley feared his chances for next year's tournament in South Africa had gone when he was overlooked for the original squad, with captain Nasser Hussain indicating there would be few changes between now and the World Cup.

But following another setback in Gough's attempts to overcome his knee problems this season, Kirtley has been called up as a replacement for the three-week tournament in Colombo.

His call-up completes an eventful opening year in international cricket for the 27-year-old seamer.

Kirtley had a controversial start

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