



Did U Know?

An Olympiad is a period of four successive years. The Olympic Games celebrate each Olympiad. For the modern Olympic Games, the first Olympiad celebration was in 1896. Every four years celebrates another Olympiad; thus, even the Games that were cancelled (1916, 1940, and 1944) count as Olympiads. The 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney was the Games of the XXVII Olympiad.



ESPN

English Premier Football League
Arsenal vs West Bromwich
Repeat at 9:00 am
Football Focus
Repeat at 11:00 am
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

English Premier Football League
West Bromwich vs Leeds United
Taped Version at 12:30 pm
Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
Same Day Delay at 7:00 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
US Open
Men's 1st Rd & Women's 2nd Rd
Live at 8:30 pm



Ronaldo

(Brazil soccer superstar)
"For me, nothing has changed. I want to leave Inter. I'm in no hurry. I will wait until this situation resolves itself."



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)



National Bank Premier Football League
Abahani KC v Muktijoddha Sangsad (5 pm)
Venue: BNS

Titans lock horns today



SPORTS REPORTER

Holders Abahani will take on Muktijoddha Sangsad Kriya Chakra in a crucial match as the National Bank Premier Division Football League resumes at the Bangabandhu National Stadium this afternoon after yet another day's rain break.

Both teams are very much into the title race with Abahani maintaining a slim one-point lead over the all-reds. Abahani are jointly sharing the lead with their arch-rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club, each having collected 16 points from six matches.

On the eve of the big match today, both the rival captains appeared concerned at the poor condition of the ground rather than the strategy about the match. They voiced the same observation that they could not play any standard game throughout the league

because of mostly the unplayable ground condition due to persistent rain.

Muktijoddha have formed the best team on paper this year but are not happy with their performances as yet.

"You can not blame the players because they give their maximum in a match. But the ground is not helping us to play fluent game. So how can we entertain the crowd for which they come to the stadium," said Matiur Rahman Munna, captain of Muktijoddha.

The Bangladesh midfielder also said that their previous match against Mohammedan was a flop show simply because of the soggy and slippery ground.

He how has his full confidence in his team's ability to win the today's match.

"I think we have a good defence despite Prodeep is injured. So, everything now depends on our three forwards Alfaz, Moni and Emeca. If they can have a well co-

ordinated game, we have a good chance to win."

His opposite number Nazrul Islam termed the all-reds as a balanced side and said that his team needs to lift their game much higher if they want to get a positive result.

"So far we have been going great. But you need to play far better tomorrow," said Nazrul, adding that his team's main strength lies in their three foreign recruits -- defender Ghansha and two forwards -- Colly Burnes and Donald Agu.

Colly has so far scored six goals in six matches.

"We are very much looking to these men. But again you need a good ground to play and win a match," said Nazrul.

Both teams had their final home works done yesterday. Abahani had their practice at their own ground under the supervision of Russian coach Anatoly while Muktijoddha had their practice under Shafiqul Islam Manik at the Army Stadium.

BDA's impressive start

SPORTS REPORTER

The touring Bangladesh A team made a bright start against Kenyan Cricket Association (KCA) development squad in their last three-day match at the Rouraka Sports Club ground in Nairobi, Kenya, yesterday.

The tourists, aided by a brilliant century from opener Javed Omar Belim, were on 226 for one in 60 overs when reports last came in.

Javed, the right handed batsman, who has been included in the 14-man Bangladesh squad for next month's ICC Champions Trophy, was not out on 116 while his opening partner Hannan Sarkar scored 56.

One down Rafiqul Islam, who scored 112 against the KCA XI in the last one-day match on Sunday, was batting on 21.

The hosts fielded a relatively inexperienced side in the absence of their top players who are now preparing for the tri-nation one-day series with Australia and Pakistan starting in Nairobi tomorrow.

India on a high

AFP, New Delhi

India's embattled cricket chief Jagmohan Dalmiya on Tuesday put aside a dispute with senior players over contracts to hail the team's greatest Test victory overseas.

Dalmiya joined the country's media in showering rich tributes on Saurav Ganguly's men for defeating England by an innings and 46 runs in the Headingley Test on Monday.

The win levelled the four-match series 1-1 and set up an enthralling climax at the Oval from September 5, which will be batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar's 100th Test match.

"My heartiest congratulations to you and the rest of the team," Dalmiya said in a message to skipper Ganguly.

"The entire nation joins me in looking forward to a repeat performance at the Oval."

Dalmiya is currently embroiled in a stand-off with the players over their refusal to sign sponsorship agreement with the International Cricket Council (ICC).

He has threatened to send a second-string team to the ICC's Champions Trophy tournament in Sri Lanka next month if the players did not sign the contracts.

Dalmiya is negotiating with the players amidst a Friday deadline set by the ICC to name its 14-member squad for the limited-overs tournament.

Asked to outline his strategy for the negotiations, Dalmiya said: "It will be resolved. Let us forget that for some time and celebrate a great win."

The Headingley win, powered by centuries from the three senior batsmen, Ganguly, Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid and incisive bowling from senior pro Anil Kumble, was India's biggest triumph abroad.

It surpassed the victory by an innings and two runs over Australia at Sydney in 1977.

"Indian August at Headingley" screamed a front-page banner headline in the mass-circulated Hindustan Times, dwarfing news of the kidnapping of a politician by dreaded bandit Veerappan.

"In the context of the present series, and the rebellious stand the team has taken by refusing to sign the ICC contract, it was a memorable day, especially for the senior pros," the paper wrote.

India, often referred to as tigers at home and lambs abroad, have not won an overseas Test series since a 2-0 verdict against England in 1986.

"Not only will the Indians go to the Oval with their heads held high, the win should serve as a succour for the legion of fans starved of overseas triumphs," said the Times of India under the headline "A victory, decisive and defining."

Legendary all-rounder Kapil Dev, who captained India in the successful 1986 series in England, said Monday's victory was significant because of the players' dispute with the authorities.

Norman's quest

REUTERS, New York

Woefully short of confidence, Magnus Norman suffered a painful first round defeat at the U.S. Open, succumbing in four sets to French Open champion Albert Costa.

The Swede, struggling to return from hip surgery, looked a shadow of the player who in 2000 reached number two in the world and the Roland Garros final.

There are many things to improve, he says. Big things.

"Yeah, I have some big things to work on, big things to improve... I'm pretty far off my form," he conceded after falling 6-2, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 to the Spanish baseliner.

"My shots are the same, I think, but my position is different -- I am more defensive."



Cricketers called up for the Bangladesh under 17-team's camp reporting at the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) office yesterday.

Time for mind games



REUTERS, Leeds

India, by crushing England in the third Test, have left Nasser Hussain's side rattled to the core.

The skipper did not say it but his concern was there, hanging heavily between the lines.

Keen not to sift through the Headingley wreckage for long, Hussain threw things forward to the deciding Test at The Oval.

"India will be under pressure," he suggested optimistically after his side had been annihilated by an innings and 46 runs. "They will be desperate to win. They have to make history in that last game. I'm sure they'll have some butterflies."

As mind games go, this was pretty weak fare.

Saurav Ganguly, looking to lead India to their first series win outside the sub-continent since 1986, seemed almost amused by the butterfly threat.

"We're under pressure to win away and we are under pressure to win at home," he said with a smile. "Pressure is good."

Ganguly's India are also good. Almost perfect at the moment, in fact, according to Hussain.

The front-line batting, regarded by many as the most powerful in world cricket, had fired at last in saving the second Test at Trent Bridge, the scorecard emphatically reading: "Rahul Dravid 115, Sachin Tendulkar 92, Saurav Ganguly 99".

Headingley was even more

impressive -- "Rahul Dravid 148, Sachin Tendulkar 193, Saurav Ganguly 128" -- as India amassed 628 for eight, their highest total ever in enemy territory, on their way to levelling the series.

The bowlers, though, have been as instrumental in turning the team's fortunes around. Anil Kumble led the way with seven wickets in the third Test, his spinning sidekick Harbhajan Singh

contributing four. The seamers also chipped in at key points, with fast bowler Zaheer Khan approaching 90 mph, while all-rounder Sanjay Bangar had a fine game with bat and ball.

After Lord's, Ganguly wore the crown. Now it is Hussain's turn to grapple with mounting problems.

There had been an upsurge in home confidence after the opening game, which England stroled by 170 runs.

Matthew Hoggard, standing in

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Fletcher set for future talks

REUTERS, Leeds

England coach Duncan Fletcher is due to discuss his long-term future with the England and Wales Cricket Board next week.

"I have been asked to a meeting on Monday. I think that it's important that it's sorted out before an important cricket tour," Fletcher, contracted until the end of the 2003 English season, told reporters on Tuesday.

England are due to tour Australia at the end of the year.

Fletcher, 53, added the England Ashes squad would probably also be discussed next week, with the final list of names due to be announced after the fourth and final Test against India early next month.

Fletcher, a former Zimbabwean international captain known for his close attention to detail, has helped transform England's fortunes since he was first appointed in 1999.

He and skipper Nasser Hussain teamed up to take England to four consecutive series wins in 2000-1 against Zimbabwe, West Indies, Pakistan and Sri Lanka before that run was halted by a 4-1 home defeat by Australia.

Youhana sent home



REUTERS, Nairobi

Pakistan batsman Yousuf Youhana has been sent home from Kenya two days before the start of the

He said no replacement would be called up.

Officials of the Kenya Cricket Association (KCA), who are helping to organise the August 29-September 7 series also refused to discuss the issue.

Youhana played in all four of Pakistan's matches in the recent Morocco Cup, scoring 80 in a game against Sri Lanka.

The 28-year-old right-hander from Lahore, was named in the 15-man Pakistani squad for the triangular tournament also involving world champions Australia and Kenya.

Youhana has also been included in the 14-man squad for the ICC Champions Trophy to be held in Sri Lanka in October, but officials could not say whether he would miss that tournament as well.

Batsman Misbah-ul Haq, in the squad for this tournament but not for Sri Lanka, looks likely to gain extra time in the line-up.

The Pakistan team, which took off on a two-day safari trip to the world-famous Masai Mara game reserve, is expected back in Nairobi on Tuesday. They play Kenya in the first match of the triangular tournament on Thursday before facing Australia on Friday.

Serena, Andre race thru'



REUTERS/AP, New York

Serena Williams dazzled New York's hot dog-munching, cat-calling U.S. Open crowd, flooring fellow American Corina Morariu 6-2, 6-3 in a brutal floodlit first round display.

Serena, in a short-legged, all-in-one, black leather-look, skin-tight outfit, was let loose and all eyes were on the court.

The younger sister and runner-up to Venus Williams here last year did not disappoint.

The brave Morariu, playing her first Grand Slam since recovering from leukaemia earlier this year, was powerless against a barrage of heavy hitting and vicious serving from the pink-shoed top seed.

"This is my new design, it's my little cat-suit," Serena said of her bizarre outfit. "It makes me run faster and jump higher and is really sexy. I love it."

Williams' play didn't sparkle as much as her diamond bracelet and tiara: She made more errors (32) than winners (26). She had nine aces, some topping 177 kilometres an hour.

Two-time U.S. Open champion Andre Agassi of the U.S. wrapped up Monday's action in the main stadium by beating compatriot Robby Ginepri 6-3, 6-3, 6-3.

Serena's victory completed a successful day for the leading women's seeds. Earlier, Lindsay Davenport and Justine Henin wasted little time tearing past stunned opponents.

Others advancing were fifth-seeded Jelena Dokic of Yugoslavia, No. 8 Justine Henin of Belgium, and 2000 semifinalist Elena Dementieva of Russia.

The leading men did not have things all their own way, however, as Albert Costa and James Blake dropped sets on their way to the second round.

Fourth seed Davenport needed just 41 minutes to demolish Denmark's Eva Dyrberg 6-2 6-1 in a performance of power and precision on Arthur Ashe court.

"I'm feeling really, really good," the former world number one said. "I'm just ready to go."

Her whirlwind victory followed Henin's 67-minute 6-1, 6-2 walloping of America's Samantha Reeves.

Men's French Open champion Costa joined them in the second round but he needed four sets to beat former world number two Magnus Norman of Sweden 6-2, 6-

4, 3-6-3. Fans' favourite James Blake had to survive a bout of cramps and a spirited display by fellow American Brian Vahaly to squeeze through 6-7, 6-3, 6-3, 7-6. Two-time finalist French Open winner Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia and American Michael Chang also progressed to the next round.

But 25th-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain, who counts the 1994 Open among her four Grand Slam titles, was knocked out by Marion Bartoli of France 6-3, 6-1.

The former Harvard student was massaged for leg cramps when trailing 5-4 and had his left shoulder treated when 6-5 down.

"I was pretty happy to get it over with," he said afterwards. "I didn't want to play five sets where there was a chance it could have got worse."



SERENA WILLIAMS

Indians move up



REUTERS, London

Sachin Tendulkar, who hit 193 to help India crush England by an



innings and 46 runs in the third Test in Leeds, has climbed three places to second in the latest world Test batting rankings.

TOP 10 BATSMEN		Points Average
1. Adam Gilchrist (Aus)	881	60.00
2. Sachin Tendulkar (Ind)	863	57.99
3. Inzamam-ul-Haq (Pak)	852	49.40
4. Brian Lara (WI)	837	49.49
5. Matthew Hayden (Aus)	836	49.04
6. Jacques Kallis (SA)	783	47.27
7. Mahele Jayawardene (SL)	780	48.89
8. Andy Flower (Zim)	776	52.30
9. Herschelle Gibbs (SA)	764	40.49
10. Kumar Sangakkara (SL)	751	49.05

TOP 10 BOWLERS		Points Average
1. Glenn McGrath (Aus)	908	21.91
2. Muttiah Muralitharan (SL)	899	23.32
3. Shaun Pollock (SA)	874	20.72
4. Shane Warne (Aus)	764	26.52
5. Saqlain Mushtaq (Pak)	710	28.52
6. Anil Kumble (Ind)	703	27.87
7. Waqar Younis (Pak)	695	22.98
8. Matthew Hoggard (Eng)	670	30.32
9. Chris Cairns (NZ)	667	28.80
10. Darren Gough (Eng)	661	27.57
Jason Gillespie (Aus)	661	26.05

Tendulkar's teammate Anil Kumble has risen to sixth in the bowling rankings, his highest placing for nearly three years, after the leg-spinner picked up seven wickets in the Leeds victory.

England paceman Matthew



Hoggard has dropped two places to eighth. Latest PricewaterhouseCoopers test ratings:

for the injured Darren Gough as the main man, was exemplary in taking seven wickets. Andrew Flintoff offered useful support and debutant Simon Jones was frighteningly quick on a wicket perfect for batting. Hoggard, supported by the towering Steve Harmison, was almost as good in the first innings at Trent Bridge.

Since then, though, the bowlers have sprayed off the radar, despite traditionally helpful English conditions so suited to swing. Even the Indian batsmen admitted they could not believe they had scored more than 600 at Headingley.

Hussain will spend the next 10 days huddled with his bowlers as they seek a solution.

"The ball was swinging around, we haven't got our length right," he lamented on Monday. "When they tried to go full they got floaty and bowled leg side."

Hoggard, with 11 wickets at just over 22 runs apiece in the first three innings of the series, has taken just two more at 105 each. Flintoff, meanwhile, has taken one for 95 and one for 68 before succumbing to a groin injury.

Perhaps, suggested England's captain, they had not managed to compensate after performing so well on flatter wickets on their most recent tours.

Or perhaps Ganguly and Co have now got his measure.

More worrying still for England, The Oval will be perfectly suited to India's world-class spinners. If they managed 11 between them in swinging conditions, what will they make of Surrey's high-bouncing home ground, where the wickets are tailored for their overseas player Saqlain Mushtaq?

Hussain was right in suggesting that England, having beaten Sri Lanka earlier in their summer with a string of major scores, were due a fall.

"Something like this was always going to happen," he said. "India are a fine, fine side. They were going to click at some stage and they clicked here."

"Whatever we do first up at The Oval will be the key. We have got to dent their confidence."

He is right. But it will take