



Did U Know?

Diego termed his left hand as 'Hand of God' with which the legendary Argentinian scored his infamous World Cup goal against England.



What to Watch

ESPN
Football Focus
Repeat at 7:00 am
English Premier Football League
Blackburn Rovers vs Liverpool
Repeat at 9:00 am
Pakistan vs Kenya
Triangular Tournament
First ODI
Live at 12:25 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
STAR Sports
Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
Repeat at 8:30 am
English Premier Football League
Arsenal vs West Bromwich
Taped Version at 12:30 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
US Open
Men's and Women's Second Rd
Live at 8:30 pm



Nasser Hussain
(England cricket captain)
"Something like this was always going to happen. India are a fine, fine side. They were going to click at some stage and they clicked here."
After losing the third Test against India.

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 178

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 Ashrafur
- Who became Asia's fastest woman?
Darsisha 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
Mohammedan vs Rahmatganj (5 pm)
Venue: BNS

Muktis complete double kill

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Title aspirants Muktijodha Sangsad Krira Chakra crossed yet another major hurdle when they overcame holders Abahani Krira Chakra in a tiebreaker in their crucial National Bank Premier Division football league match last afternoon at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Muktijodha thus completed back to back victories over the two most popular clubs of the country having beaten Mohammedan Sporting Club, also in a tiebreaker, in their previous match.

The exciting encounter between the two local giants was locked 2-2 after the regulation 90 minutes. In the nerve-wracking shoot-out Muktijodha won 5-4.

The teams were level on 4-4 after five penalties each but Abahani defender Partho missed the sudden death sixth shot sending the ball wide of the right post. Muktijodha's prolific Nigerian forward Emeka Achilefu then confirmed the two points for the all-reds by converting his penalty.

The outcome of yesterday's match left both sides sitting atop the ten-team league table with 17 points from seven matches one point ahead of Mohammedan. However Mohammedan, who have played a game less, can move to the top if they beat Rahmatganj in today's fixture.

Muktijodha made the more enterprising start and created a number of chances in the opening minutes. But Abahani sucked in the pressure and went ahead against the run of play in the 36th minute.

Liton's freekick found Iqbal who redirected to ball to

Colly Burnes on the left flank. Burnes' thunderous shot from an acute angle gave Muktijodha and national custodian Biplob no chance. It was the Nigerian's seventh goal of the league in as many matches and placed him atop the goalscorer's list.

But Abahani's delight lasted only nine minutes as veteran national striker Alfaz leveled for Muktis with a superb left foot shot from the top of the box at the stroke of the breather.

Muktijodha came out all guns blazing in the second half and went 2-1 up when Emeka headed home from an Alfaz cross from the right in the 57th minute.

But Abahani's latest foreign recruit, another Nigerian Donald Agu, came up with an equaliser in the 73rd minute through a nice left footer that went inside after kissing the inner edge of the far post.

Muktijodha could have secured all three points in the dying seconds of the match but Alfaz's attempt from a close range was brilliantly saved by Apel in the Abahani goal.

In the tie-breaker Rajani, Hasan Al-Mamun, Rakib, Sujon and Emeka scored for Muktijodha while Moni hit the post. On the other hand, Bulbul, Asad, Mintu and Liton were successful for Abahani but Burnes and Partho failed to convert their shots.

TEAMS
MUKTIJODHA SANGSAD: Biplob, Hasan Al-Mamun, Rajani, Sujon, Papel, Abdullah, Maitur Munna, Rakib, Moni, Alfaz and Emeka.
ABAHANI KC: Apel, Partho, Nazrul, Ghansha, Mintu, Shuvro, Liton, Iqbal (Asad), Parvez (Bulbul), Donald and Colly Burnes.
YELLOW CARDS: Ghansha, Iqbal, Colly (Abahani) and Sujon (Muktijodha).
Referee: Tayeb Hasan.

Sanath 50-50 Youhanna tight-lipped

BBC ONLINE, London

Opener Avishka Gunawardene is likely to join Sri Lanka for next month's ICC Champions Trophy if skipper Sanath Jayasuriya fails to recover from a shoulder injury.

Jayasuriya's injury will be assessed next week after a sling is removed from his right shoulder.

His chances of making the tournament were rated as 50/50 by team physiotherapist Alex Kontouris when he was injured taking a catch in Sri Lanka's Morocco Cup final victory over South Africa.

"If Sanath is not 100% fit, we will not force him to play," Colombo's Daily News quoted chairman of the selectors Guy de Alwis as saying.

A hard hitting left-hander, Gunawardene, 25, is often compared with Jayasuriya because of his ability to compile runs quickly.

Considered a limited-overs specialist, he has played 39 matches since making his debut in 1997/98, scoring 1,135 runs at an average of 29.10, with one century and seven 50s.

But he does not bowl and is not as agile as his captain in the field.

If he misses the tournament, Jayasuriya will aim to return to fitness in time for Sri Lanka's two-Test tour of South Africa in October.

Vice-captain Marvan Atapattu would be the most likely to take the helm in his absence.

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Cricket star Yousuf Youhanna had a very unhappy 28th birthday on Tuesday after he was expelled from Pakistan's cricket squad in Kenya on disciplinary grounds.

"I will not comment on the issue until I meet the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman and tell him my side of the story," Youhanna told the news agency.

A PCB spokesman told the news agency that Youhanna was sent home on disciplinary grounds and his expulsion was endorsed by PCB chairman Tauqir Zia.

"The PCB chief has endorsed Youhanna's expulsion, maintaining that no-one is above discipline," the spokesman said.

Pakistan take on world champions Australia and hosts Kenya in a double-league tri-series one-day tournament from Thursday, an event shifted from Karachi over security fears.

Pakistan team manager Yawar Saeed gave no explanation for the action.

Saeed said a detailed report has been sent to the PCB but declined to give any further information.

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Safin, Hingis struggle

US OPEN 2002 US OPEN

REUTERS, New York

Mighty Marat Safin has mustered all his energy and strained every sinew in a four-and-a-half-hour, five-set war of attrition before clambering past a hobbling Nicolas Kiefer into the second round of the US Open.

Champion in 2000 and second seed this year, the Russian powerhouse needed all his reserves on Tuesday to outlast the badly-cramping German on Arthur Ashe stadium court.

Ninth seed Martina Hingis also looked far from convincing, nosing tentatively past American Marissa Irvin 6-3, 5-7, 6-4.

"In a way I can be happy to still be in this tournament," said the former world number one and champion here in 1997.

But it was a different story for the defending champions at Flushing Meadows as they cruised through with ease.

Venus Williams wasted no time at all demolishing Croatia's Mirjana Lucic 6-0, 6-0 in a 50-minute white-wash and third seed Jennifer Capriati also won all 12 games of her night match, thrashing fellow American Bethanie Mattek 6-0, 6-0.

"Just played like I was on a mission," Capriati smiled afterwards. "I was on a mission to hit my shots."

Men's champion and top seed Lleyton Hewitt also looked on a mission as he crushed France's Nicolas Coutelot 6-2, 6-3, 6-3.

"I feel pretty good...every day I am feeling better," he said.

Safin made heavy weather of his opening match in hot and humid conditions at Flushing Meadows.

After tying up the first set he allowed Kiefer back into the match and was forced to come back from two-sets-to-one down before clinching victory 6-3, 4-6, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 on

his fourth match point.
"He fought really hard, played a great match," Safin said.
"I am relieved to get through that."

You know he used to be ranked number four in the world...he knows how to play tennis."
SEE PAGE 15 COL 5



Martina Hingis of Switzerland plays a backhand against American Marissa Irvin at the US Open on August 27.



Muktijodha Sangsad's Nigerian striker Emeka Echilefu heading in his team's second goal past a diving Abahani goalkeeper Apel during yesterday's NBL Premier Division League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Kambli moves to SA for WC boost

BBC ONLINE, London

Former India batsman Vinod Kambli is to play provincial cricket in South Africa in the hope of earning a place in his country's World Cup squad.

Boland, based in Paarl, expect Kambli to arrive on Wednesday to join them for the coming season.

The World Cup is due to begin in nearby Cape Town on 9 February next year.

"We secured his signature some time ago but were awaiting approval from the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) and that only came through last night," Boland chief executive Pietie Williams said.

"He wants to come to Boland and gain experience, hopefully so that he can regain his place in the Indian side."

"At the moment we are also lacking a lot of experience in the squad and we believe that Kambli can play an important role with our youngsters."

Kambli is famous for having shared a record 664-run stand with Sachin Tendulkar for his Bombay school in 1986.

But off-field problems have seen the 30-year-old lose favour with the Indian selectors recently, despite averaging 54.20 in Tests and 32.59 in one-day internationals.

He last played for India in a Sharjah one-day final nearly two years ago, while his most recent Test was against New Zealand in Cuttack in 1995.

But he scored a century in a tour match against England as recently as last November, and declared at the recent Wisden Indian cricketer awards, "I'll be back".

India U-19s go one up

AFP, London

India's under-19 cricket team hold the upper hand in their three-match one-day international series with England after an impressive three-wicket win at Bristol on Tuesday.

Set an imposing target of 266 to win, the Indians recovered from a mid-innings slutter to win with five balls to spare as England's bowlers struggled to contain a steady flow of runs.

Kuldeep Rawat top-scored with 53 not out, and Irfan Pathan helped him guide the tourists to victory with an unbeaten 42 to go alongside the two wickets he took in the England innings.

England had looked likely winners after batting intelligently on a good wicket, with Worcestershire's Kadeer Ali top-scoring with 62 and Surrey's James Benning adding 60 at more than a run-a-ball.

The tournament is part of

ICC sets Friday deadline Indian cricketers remain unbending

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

World cricket chiefs were left walking a tightrope Wednesday after India's top players offered to play in next month's Champions Trophy without signing sponsorship agreements.

Sourav Ganguly's team, currently touring England, said they would take part in the limited-overs tournament in Sri Lanka from September 12 to 30 and even urge their personal sponsors to put advertisement campaigns on hold during that period.

But the players stress they will not sign the International Cricket Council (ICC) pact prohibiting them from advertising for companies which are rivals of official sponsors for events, such as the Champions Trophy and the World Cup, during and one month before and after the event.

The ICC, however, is equally adamant that only those cricketers who sign the agreement in its

totality by Friday can take part in the Champions Trophy.

India and Sri Lanka are the only teams that have not signed the contract, with the Sri Lankans demanding 30 per cent of the revenue earned by their board from the ICC as compensation.

The latest offer from India's star players, including batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar, has caught the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in a bind.

BCCI president Jagmohan Dalmiya concedes the ICC contract does not suit Indian players and wants the world body to reconsider its stand at the emergency meeting of its executive board in Dubai on Saturday.

But he needs to sort out the matter with his own players before the Friday deadline, otherwise India may be forced to field a second-string team at the 12-nation event regarded as a mini-World Cup.

Even that is not acceptable to the ICC which insists that all nations send their best players to the tournament.

"Dalmiya is caught in a muddle and it will need all his famed negoti-

ating skills to get out of it," former BCCI chief Raj Singh Dungarpur said.

"I don't envy his position. But someone will have to be very flexible to sort the mess."

Ravi Shastri, a former Test captain and television commentator who has been nominated by the Indian players as their spokesman, said the ball was now in the BCCI's court.

"The players have decided in the interest of the game to back off for the period of 18 days during the Champions Trophy and will speak to their sponsors about it," Shastri told reporters in England.

"But the players are adamant they will not sign anything with the ICC and will not agree to any other concessions."

Dalmiya was himself in no mood to give ground -- either to the players or the ICC.

"I am speaking to captain Sourav Ganguly directly, why should we deal with a former player like Shastri," Dalmiya was quoted as saying.

"But I don't think we will be able

Caution at Aussie camp

Cricket

REUTERS, Nairobi

Australia will be keen to avoid a repeat of the last time they visited Kenya when Ricky Ponting leads the Test and limited overs champions into the triangular one-day tournament on Thursday.

Australia, who have arrived in Nairobi after one of their longest breaks from international cricket in almost a decade, were beaten in the first match of the ICC Knock Out Trophy in their previous visit to Kenya in October 2000.

Ponting, who is one-day captain, and his deputy, Adam Gilchrist, are part of the 14-man squad that are hot favourites to win the trophy against Pakistan and Kenya, however.

The world champions, whose last international match was in South Africa in April, declined interviews on arrival at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport.

The tournament is part of

camp in Brisbane.

Pakistan captain Waqar Younis has said Pakistan failed to live up to their potential in Morocco after the middle order collapsed. Pakistan finished last, while Sri Lanka beat South Africa by 27 runs to win.

"It was unfortunate that the team failed to click in Morocco. We are still a very good team capable of beating any good side," Younis told the news agency, adding that the team was upbeat following the return of pace bowler Shoaib Akhtar.

Kenyan coach Sandip Patil said his team want to keep up the tempo after beating Bangladesh 'A' 3-0 in the three one-day matches.

"There is no shame in losing to world champions, but beating them will be great. The confidence is high and players are very positive," Patil said.

Captain Steve Tikolo admitted the Kenyans were the underdogs, but said: "In cricket, one never knows. We may well win."

The tournament opens on Thursday with Kenya playing Pakistan.

Javed on song

SPORTS REPORTER

National opener Javed Omar Belim scored a solid 228 as the touring Bangladesh A team posted an imposing total against the Kenya Cricket Association Development Squad on the second day of their three-day match at the Ruaraka Sports Club ground in Nairobi yesterday.

Resuming the day on 116, Javed kept up his good run of form against a depleted Kenyan side to steer his side to a commanding 502-6 declared.

The youthful home team, in reply, were 82 for three at lunch. Kenya fielded a relatively inexperienced side for the final tour match after their national team completed a 3-0 whitewash of the visitors in the one-day series.

Returned to national duties after missing Bangladesh's away series against Sri Lanka due to injury, Javed played aggressively to raise the visitor's hopes of their first win after the inaugural three-day match at the Aga Khan Sport Club ground ended in a draw.

Skipper Sanwar Hossain, who batted impressively throughout the tour, scored 45. Tushar Imran also contributed an unbeaten 54 in the Bangladesh A first-innings total.

But Ashrafal was again a disappointment scoring only one against a friendly bowling attack.

CJKS cricket

CU CORRESPONDENT

City Corporation Junior Club defeated the City Corporation Ekadsh Senior by 40 runs in the concluding and unimportant match of the Super Six CJKS-Ispahani Cricket League 2002 at the MA Aziz Stadium here yesterday.

The Rising Star ensured the trophy with matches in hand.

Deciding to bat first, the Junior were all out for 141 runs in 45.3 overs with tail-ender Rashed scoring 39 runs off 78 balls and middle-order batsman Saeed 33.

In reply, Senior were all out for 101 runs in 40 overs, one down batsman Masum topscoring with 55 runs of 89 balls. Opener Ujjal was the second man to reach double digit (11).