



Did U Know?

The United States finished third in the first World Cup held in Uruguay. The Americans were defeated 6-1 by Argentina in the semi-finals. There was no third place game back then, so the US shared the 3rd place distinction with Yugoslavia, who lost to eventual champion Uruguay in their semi-final match.

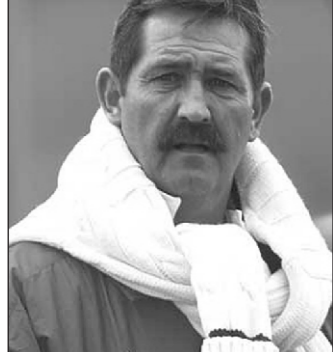


What to WATCH

ESPN
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
Taped Version at 11:55 am
Pakistan vs Kenya
Triangular Tournament
Third ODI
Live at 12:20 pm
English Premier Football League
Chelsea vs Arsenal
Live at 9:00 pm
Primera Liga
Barcelona vs Atletico Madrid
Live at 1:00 am (Monday)
STAR Sports
US Open
Men's 3rd Rd/Women's 4th Rd
Live at 8:30 pm



TALK TURKEY



Graham Gooch
(Former England cricket captain)
"I think he would be a very viable alternative for the next captain, whenever Nasser Hussain decides to pack it in."
On Mark Butcher.



Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Sept 13, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who won the Cuts Premier Division handball title?
BDR | Manner | Ajax
- Who became man-of-the-match in the 3rd Test between England and India?
D | R | A | V | I | D
Tendulkar | Kumble
- Who won New Haven Open tennis title?
Venus | Hingis | Serena
- Who are the current English Premier League champions?
Arsenal | Man Utd | Liverpool
- Who is the new French national soccer coach?
Santini | Metsu | Hiddink

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)



DAY'S EVENT
National Bank Premier Football League
Abahani vs Rahmatganj (7:30 pm)
Venue: BNS



Badda Jagarani's Shamim (L) and Dhanmondi Club's Shahidul fight for possession during their National Bank Premier Division Football League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Dhanmondi stay on course

Football
SPORTS REPORTER

Dhanmondi Club brightened their prospect for a place in the 'Super Five' of the National Bank Premier League with a 3-1 thrashing of Badda Jagarani Sangsad at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Young striker Parvez was the hero of Dhanmondi with two goals including a sublime free-kick that curled in to the net over the Badda defence wall.

The fleet-footed forward also set up Tapu for the first goal in the tenth minute with another free-kick from the left-flank.

Showing his expertise from dead ball situation, Parvez gave the Dhanmondi outfit an unassailable 3-0 lead in the 87th minute with a low shot from outside the box that rolled onto the net after hitting the far post.

It was good to see the energetic attacker rediscover his touch after being sidelined last year due to injury.

His first goal at the stroke of the short whistle was a spectator's delight as he stepped up to send the ball over the five-man Badda wall into the top right-hand corner of the net.

His second goal also reflected

that he had done a lot of homework with his attacking partner Hanif, who outfoxed the Badda defence with a wonderful dummy by leaving the ball to its destiny.

Badda scored the consolation goal three minutes into the injury time with Amin Rana volleying home an Uzzal cross from the right.

Badda however missed two good chances after Dhanmondi took a 2-0 lead in the first half. The promotees missed a golden opportunity to reduce the margin in the 72nd minute when Shamsher shot the ball to a grounded Dhanmondi keeper Biplob from a handshaking distance. Two minutes later substitute forward Uzzal failed to head a right side Mintu cross with Biplob at his mercy.

With this win Dhanmondi leap-

frogged Badda to join Arambagh in the fourth position, both having collected 11 points from seven games. Badda on the other hand remained glued to their previous collection of nine points.

Yellow cards: Dulal, Porimal (Dhanmondi), Shamsher, Bakhtiar and Uzzal (Badda).

TEAMS
DHANMONDI CLUB: Biplob, Dulal, Shahidul, Porimal, Narayan, Hanif, Nurul Islam, Polash, Monju, Tapu and Parvez.
BADDA JAGARANI: Munna (Rafique), Kingshuk, Anupom, Shamsher, Shamim, Wasim, Bakhtiar, Mintu, Askar Babu (Uzzal), Amin Rana and Jhonny (Anwar).
Referee: Abdur Rakib

LEAGUE TABLE

Teams	M	W	T/W	T/L	L	GF	GA	Points
Mohammedan SC	7	6	0	1	0	14	2	19
Abahani KC	7	5	0	2	0	15	6	17
Muktijoddha Sangsad	7	4	2	1	0	13	4	17
Arambagh KS	7	3	1	0	3	8	7	11
Dhanmondi Club	7	2	2	1	2	8	9	11
Badda Jagarani	7	1	2	2	2	7	11	9
Rahmatganj MFS	7	1	2	0	4	10	11	6
Victoria SC	7	1	1	1	4	5	15	6
Brothers Union	7	2	0	0	5	7	15	6
Farashganj SC	7	0	1	1	5	5	13	3

Leading goalscorers: 7 goals-- Colly (Abahani), 6 goals--Nakib (MSC), Emeca (Muktijoddha), 5 goals--Kanchan (MSC), 4 goals--Tipu (Rahmatganj), Oinu (Arambagh), Walid (Farashganj).

Safin sent packing

US OPEN 2002 US OPEN
INTERNET, New York

Not your average floater, Gustavo Kuerten soared past second seed Marat Safin.

Kuerten eliminated Safin, 6-4, 6-4, 7-5, in just over two hours Friday to advance to the third round of the U.S. Open. It was the Brazilian's first victory over a top-10 player this year.

"I would say this is the happiest day for me this year," Kuerten said. "I beat the No. 2 in the world. It was the best win for me on this stage."

No. 1 here last year but unseeded this season, Kuerten has sunk in the rankings after missing two months due to arthroscopic surgery on his right hip in February. Just last month, the three-time French Open champion retired from his first-round match at the Tennis Masters Series event in Toronto because of his painful hip.

"It hurts a little bit, but it's nothing compared with the pain I had at the end of last year," said Kuerten, whose best result after his comeback was a quarterfinal finish in Hamburg. "I wouldn't say it's been too frustrating, but it's been a lot tougher than other years for me."

On Friday, Kuerten had all his brilliant weapons at his disposal. He recorded 13 aces to counter 15 from Safin, hit 45 winners with 24 unforced errors and won 82 percent of his first serves.

"I really put a lot of effort on practice and on the gym and everything to be ready for this one," said Kuerten, who leveled his lifetime mark against Safin at 3-3. "I think everything came out in the right time for me. I had no pressure. I can take more chances maybe than other guys. It wasn't a day that I really played unbelievable from beginning to end, but I was able to maintain a great level. I think I was able to improve a little bit from every set I played."

But he will never be a typical spoiler.
"I'm never going to be the guy

that's going to get to a Slam and nobody will care. People know I'm recovering. I'm trying to get myself on track," Kuerten said. "They know I've been around for a while, I've been winning many matches. So I think I will always be trying to worry the guys in these tournaments, even if I'm not seeded."

Kuerten snatched Safin's first service game of the match and made the break hold to take the first set. A service break in the ninth game of the second set helped the Brazilian take a two-set advantage against Safin, who never has come back from two sets down.

In the third set, Kuerten never gave the Russian a whiff of a comeback as he won 90 percent of his first serves and 83 on his second. He gained the crucial break in 11th game.

"He was inspired," Safin said. "He was everything. Even with a frame, everything was inside the court. He played one of his best matches. He was playing fast, he served well. He was much better today than me, definitely."

Safin, the 2000 winner here from Russia, appeared a bit listless after

playing almost five hours in Tuesday's first-round, five-set triumph over Nicolas Kiefer. He said he also was bothered by a cracked rib sustained while practicing two weeks ago in Indianapolis.

"I cannot move fast to the forehand," Safin explained. "For example, on the return, I cannot move fast to the sides because I have little bit of pain in the right rib. It's bothering me all the time."

The 22-year-old from Moscow, who reached the Australian Open final and the French Open semifinals, had to face two top-five players in his first two matches here.

"You cannot complain," Safin said. "It's the draw this year. Maybe next year it will be easier or more difficult. But if you want to win this tournament, you need to beat the good guys. If you can't beat them, it is not your year. So, it wasn't my year."

Third seed Tommy Haas of Germany also was coming off a five-set match in the first round but found more than enough to dispatch Slovakia's Karol Kucera, 6-1, 6-4, 6-4.

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Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten is jubilant after beating Russian Marat Safin in the second round of the US Open in Flushing Meadows on August 30.

Siraj soccer

CU CORRESPONDENT

Amra Tarun and Principal Abul Kashem Smriti Sangsad won their respective matches of the Siraj Mohanagari Kishore Football League at the Dampara Police lines ground here Friday.

Striker Bappi scored four, including a brilliant hatrick, of Amra Tarun's 5-0 win over Kalarpole Krira Sangstha. Ripon netted the other goal.

Principal Abul Kashem Smriti Sangsad came from the behind to record a 2-1 win against the Betarigali Ekadash in the second match of the day.

Trailing by a goal, scored in the 28th minutes by Betarigali Ekadash's striker Sabbir Ahmed, Mohammad Saullah and Emul Haq struck one apiece within a space of 9 minutes late in the first half.

H'ball tourney in Chittagong

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Chattagram Jela Krira Sangstha (CJKS) Ruhul Amin & Brothers Handball League 2002 begins at the MA Aziz stadium here at 4pm tomorrow.

Five teams -- Chittagong WASA Ekadash, Chittagong Mohamedan Sporting Blues, City Corporation Ekadash, Shaheed Shahajahan Sangha, and Rising Star Junior -- will take part in the tournament, to be played on direct league format.

Mohammad Abdus Salam Khan, Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong and president of CJKS will inaugurate the tournament as chief guest.

BD A team returns

UNB, Dhaka

The Bangladesh A cricket team returned home yesterday after a 14-day tour of Kenya. According to team manager GM Nawsher Prince professional attitudes differed between the top players of both countries.

"There is no doubt that the Kenyan national players are far better in terms of professional attitude and it helped to motivate them in all departments," he said.

The former national paceman did not find any major problem in the A team's batting but thought that there were some lapses in bowling and fielding which cost them in the three-match limited-overs series.

He, however, rated the big win over the Kenyan Development squad in the second three-day match as significant.

"But don't underestimate the young Kenyans. Some of them could easily enter their national team."

Singa Div II kabadi champs

UNB, Dhaka

Singa Sangha emerged champions in the Metropolitan Second Division Kabadi League beating Abedin Sporting Club 66-62 in the final at the court next to the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Both teams earned qualified to play in next season's First Division League.

Mozaffar Smriti Sangshad finished third in the nine-day league. Minister for Science, Information-Communication Technology Dr Moyeen Khan witnessed the day's final and later distributed prizes.

Div II chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Fighter KC took a solo lead in the Second Division Chess League after the second round of matches at the NSC auditorium yesterday.

They have collected maximum eight points. Uttara Daba Sangha occupy second position with 7.5 points

Results of the second round are: Fighter KC beat Pallabi Jubo 4-0, Uttara Daba Sangha beat Crescent Club 3.5-5, Hazaribagh Friendship SC beat Bangladesh Deaf Sports Association 3-1, Pubali Bank Limited beat Sheikh Jubo 3-1, Rajshahi District Uttara Central Chess Club beat Family Chess Club 4-0, Chess Players Association beat New Star Club 3-1, Purabi KC beat Shapla SC 3-1, Dhamrai KC beat Chess Academy 3-1, Fighter (Blue) beat Distripolbandhi Daba Dal 4-0, Aparajayo Bangladesh beat Biplob Sangha 3-1 and Madaripur Chess Club beat Friendship Welfare 4-0 points.

However, Rajshahi Daba Unnyan Sangha drew with Dolphine Chess Club and Notre Dame Golden drew with Promise Co-operative.

Third round games will held at 3 pm tomorrow.

Real get Ronaldo

Football

REUTERS/AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid have agreed a deal to sign Inter Milan's Brazilian striker Ronaldo just hours before the European transfer deadline, Spanish media has reported.

Spanish radio stations said Real would pay Inter 30 million euros (29.5 million dollars) plus striker Fernando Morientes and another player of their choice valued at around 10 million dollars who will join the Serie A club during the winter transfer window.

This would bring the total value of the deal to approximately 50 million dollars, making it one of the five most expensive transfers in

football history.

According to the same source Inter have until December to choose a player from the Real squad as part of the deal - probably either Spanish international Pedro Munitis or Argentine midfielder Santiago Solari - though Madrid have the right to turn it down and instead pay an extra 10 million euros.

Ronaldo, who set aside memories of his nightmare 1998 World Cup final by netting twice in the 2-0 defeat of Germany in this year's final, had earlier arrived at Inter's headquarters to meet with director Rinaldo Ghelfi.

It has been reported that Inter will sell Morientes on to Barcelona for around 20 million dollars and then will buy Argentine striker Hernan Crespo from Lazio for a

similar price.

Real and Inter finally hammered out the Ronaldo deal on Saturday morning shortly after Real had stormed their way to a 3-1 victory over Feyenoord in the European Super Cup on Friday evening.

A week ago, however, Real announced that they had given up on the deal because of differences over the valuation of the twice winner of the World Player of the Year award.

The reigning European champions were reported to be offering Inter 13 million dollars (8.2 million pounds) plus two of their players valued at 30 million dollars for the Brazilian striker, whereas Inter were demanding in excess of 60 million dollars.

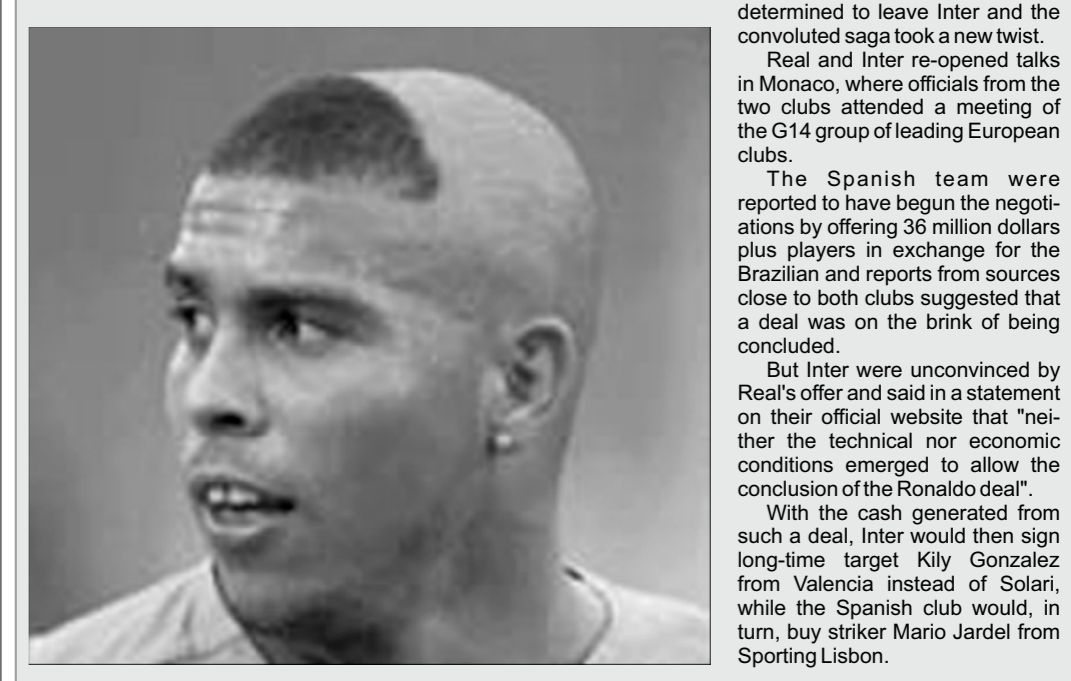
As the transfer deadline loomed, Ronaldo insisted he was determined to leave Inter and the convoluted saga took a new twist.

Real and Inter re-opened talks in Monaco, where officials from the two clubs attended a meeting of the G14 group of leading European clubs.

The Spanish team were reported to have begun the negotiations by offering 36 million dollars plus players in exchange for the Brazilian and reports from sources close to both clubs suggested that a deal was on the brink of being concluded.

But Inter were unconvinced by Real's offer and said in a statement on their official website that "neither the technical nor economic conditions emerged to allow the conclusion of the Ronaldo deal".

With the cash generated from such a deal, Inter would then sign long-time target Kily Gonzalez from Valencia instead of Solari, while the Spanish club would, in turn, buy striker Mario Jardel from Sporting Lisbon.



RONALDO

Thorpe in Ashes bid

Cricket

INTERNET, Undated

Graham Thorpe has told his captain Nasser Hussain that he wants to tour Australia with the England cricket team this winter in a bid to help them win the Ashes.

Thorpe has been speaking to Hussain "at length," the England captain revealed on Saturday.

After the First Test against India in July, left-handed batsman Thorpe pulled out of all cricket to spend more time with his children following the failure of his marriage.

Since then he has not played a competitive game either for England or his county Surrey.

The 33-year-old has a fine record against Australia but the selectors are unsure about his state of mind following an acrimonious split from

wife Nicky.

And Hussain, who is himself a selector, went public with his views on Saturday.



GRAHAM THORPE

Hussain said: "We spoke in messages for about three days and I

spoke to him at length for the last couple of days.

"He has said to me he would like to go to Australia but there are still problems he has to sort out and Graham has to convince himself and the selectors that he can get through.

"My hunch is that only Graham knows. Then the selectors have to decide if he is right mentally to get through the whole thing."

Thorpe meanwhile told the Daily Telegraph, "I've not really spoken to anyone on a regular basis since Lord's, so I want to see what kind of vibes I'm getting from the selectors."

"I'm well aware that I haven't played for a month, so I'm not looking for assurances.

"But I don't want to muck them around either and would like to know where I stand."

The Ashes squad is due to be announced on September 10.



A visually impaired player makes his moves on a special chessboard while his opponent watches during their match in the Second Division Chess League at the NSC auditorium yesterday.

Derby sees Sehwaq storm

Cricket

AFP, Derby

India predictably drew their tour match with Derbyshire on the third and final day here Friday.

But there was still time for Virender Sehwaq to strike a blistering 104 off just 97 balls albeit against a Derbyshire attack lacking captain Dominic Cork and fellow seamers Kevin Dean and Graeme Welch.

Stalemate was always likely when Derbyshire resumed Friday on 228 for three in reply to India's 445 for seven declared.

Home interest centred around

whether or not 20-year-old opener Rawat Khan, 77 not out overnight, could go on to a hundred.

But nine short he became one of four Ashish Nehra victims, Derbyshire 273 for five.

Left-arm quick Nehra, dropped from India's third Test innings victory over England, did what he could to make a case for inclusion in next week's series decider at The Oval.

He finished with four for 85 as Derbyshire were bowled out for 358. But with the Oval a spin friendly surface, it seems unlikely that India will alter their victorious Headingly attack.

Leg-spinner Anil Kumble ticked over with three for 25 from just 12 overs.

The match was effectively all but

dead as a contest when India began their second innings with a lead of 87.

But that did not stop Sehwaq from enjoying himself, the right-hander striking four sixes and 14 fours in his blistering assault.

Shiv Sunder Das chipped in with an 83-ball 52 including ten boundaries as India made 182 for three before a draw was agreed.

Now the thoughts of India's leading players are likely to turn to Dubai where the International Cricket Council's (ICC) executive board is meeting.

Top of the agenda will be the sponsorship row surrounding the ICC Trophy.

This has now left India the only