



Did U Know?

Sunil Gavaskar opened the batting for India in 119 of his 125 Tests which isn't unusual. That he opened the bowling in four Tests definitely is. The first time it happened was against England at Chepauk in 1972/73. The final instance occurred at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium in 1978 and marked Gavaskar's longest spell with the new ball, a marathon four overs! His last new ball partner was a 19-year-old from Chandigarh called Kapil Dev, then playing his second Test. Skipper Bishen Bedi was perhaps influenced by the previous Test in Faisalabad when Gavaskar, coming on as fifth change, removed Pakistan great Zaheer Abbas for what remained his only Test wicket.



ESPN

England vs India
Fourth Test, Day One
Repeat at 8:30 am
Western Union World Football
Taped Version at 1:30 pm
England vs India
Fourth Test, Day Two
Live at 4:00 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 12:00 am (Saturday)

STAR Sports

English Premier Football League
Chelsea vs Arsenal
Taped Version at 12:00 pm
England vs India
Fourth Test, Day One
Highlights
Same Day Delay at 2:00 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
US Open
Men's Doubles Final/Women's Singles
Semis
Live at 8:30 pm



Heath Streak

(Zimbabwe cricket captain)
"I am proud to be a Zimbabwean and to play for my country."

Star WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION 179

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 Cute Premier Division handball title?
BDR Mariner 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)



Muktijoddha's prolific striker Emeka Achilefu (L) towers above the rest to head in a goal against Farashganj during their NBL Premier Division League match yesterday.

Emeka energises Mukti



Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Title aspirants Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra ended their first round campaign of the National Bank Premier League on a winning note with a hard-fought 1-0 win over Farashganj Sporting Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Nigerian forward Emeka Achilefu headed the game's only goal from a Rafik flag-kick 40 minutes into the first half.

Despite suffering a shock tie-break against Victoria in their previous encounter, Muktijoddha were not in the mood to go for goals.

After creating good scoring opportunities, it was Emeka, returning after a one-match self-imposed absence, that found the net.

It was his seventh goal and it placed him atop the scorers' list with his compatriot Colly Burnes of Abahani Krira Chakra.

In fact Nigerian could have had

nine goals but he missed two easy chances.

In just the second minute, Emeka headed wide of the near post from a Alfaz's left sided cross. He then fumbled in front of an empty net after receiving a short pass again from Alfaz at the stroke of the bell.

Farashganj came close to finding an equaliser in the 57th minute when Walid entered the danger area only to hit the crosspiece.

Muktijoddha raised their tally to 21 points from nine matches. Their position in the first round table would be determined tomorrow after the Dhaka derby between Abahani and Mohammedan Sporting Club who have played eight matches each so far. Mohammedan are leading the table with 22 points while Abahani have 20 points.

On the hand, it was the seventh defeat against two draws for Farashganj that kept them at the bottom of the standings with only three points.

Yellow cards: Matiu Munna (Muktijoddha) and Shawkat (Farashganj SC)

TEAMS

MUKTIJODDHA SANGSAD: Biplab, Hasan Al-Mamun, Rajani, Sujon, Abdullah, Papel, Matiu Munna (Lajuk), Arman, Rakib, Alfaz (Moni) and Emeka.

FARASHGANJ SC: Sainik, Khaled, Shawkat, Masud Rana, Akram, Shafique, Amirul, Mithu, Jahed, Walid (Mamun) and Rizvi (Sajjad).

Referee: R Alam.

Rahmatganj-1 Victoria-0

Nigerian forward Basanta Thapa. Earlier, a late second half strike from Mujibur Rahman Ritu guided Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society to a solitary goal win over Victoria Sporting Club.

Ritu netted the all-important match winner ten minutes from the end after being nicely fed by Nepalese forward Basanta Thapa.

With that win, Rahmatganj closed their first round account on nine points from as many matches. On the other hand, Victoria remained second from the bottom along with Brothers Union with each having eight points.

CJKS h'ball

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong City Corporation Ekadash and Rising Star Junior Club won their respective matches in the CJKS Ruhul Amin and Brothers Handball League at the MA Aziz Stadium on Thursday.

In the first match of the day, City Corporation Ekadash beat Chittagong WASA 21-8.

Kamrul, Rakib, Enayet and Tareq of City Corporation scored the three apiece while Shantu, Rapon and Rubel netted two each. Imtiyaz, Litu and Rapon also scored once each for the winners.

On the other hand, Haider Ali and Rezaul of Chittagong WASA scored two each while Ferdous, Didarul Alam, Atiqur Rahman and Shamsuzzaman netted one goal each for the losers.

Rising Star Junior defeated Shaheed Shajahan Shingha 20-16.

Rising Star's player Abijit Barua netted nine times.

Siraj soccer

CU CORRESPONDENT

Hathazari Khelower Samity defeated Agrabad Pioneers 2-1 in the lone match of the Siraj Mahanagari Kishore Football League played at the Dampara Police Lines ground on Thursday.

In the other match of the day, Rasad Club got a walk-over as their opponents Ghosaidangha Young Boy's Club did not turn up.

Jayasuriya may play in Champs Trophy

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lankan cricket captain Sanath Jayasuriya is expected to be fit for next week's Champions Trophy tournament, a board official said here on Thursday.

The hard-hitting Sri Lankan batsman suffered a shoulder injury while taking a catch in the Morocco Cup final against South Africa at Tangiers last month.

"Jayasuriya held the bat on Wednesday for the first time since the injury and had a light workout with physio Alex Kontouri," the official said.

Sri Lanka open their campaign in the Champions Trophy with a match against Pakistan on September 12.

Kantouri said Jayasuriya had a "60-40 chance" of playing in the tournament. "He appeared tentative at the start but picked up," he was quoted as saying in the press here.

Jayasuriya said on television Wednesday that he had felt comfortable with his shoulder during the workout.

Experienced opener Marvan Atapattu is likely to be named captain if Jayasuriya does not regain fitness in time for the 12-nation tournament, the biggest international cricket event to be hosted by Sri Lanka.

Fairbrother's farewell

AFP, London

Former England Test batsman Neil Fairbrother has announced his retirement from first-class cricket.

The 38-year-old, who has spent 20 years at Lancashire, said his disappointing performances this season had prompted his decision to stop.

He will say goodbye to Old Trafford in Sunday's one-day match against Northamptonshire.

The former Lancashire captain, who had an eye operation before the start of last season, said: "I have always said that I wanted to continue playing while I was enjoying my cricket and maintaining a standard which I found acceptable."

Test sides bat for Hollioake charity

INTERNET, London

England and India hope to raise more than 10,000 pounds for the Ben Hollioake Memorial Trust during the final Test at The Oval.

Surrey sponsors AMP have pledged a 1,000-pound donation every time a batsman strikes a specific part of the boundary hoarding.



National Bank Premier Division Football League
Arambagh v Dhanmondi (3:30pm)
Brothers Union v Badda Jagarani (5:30 pm)
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Mashud wants definite progress



UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh captain Khaled Mashud gives more emphasis on the present performance of his team than dreaming of success.

"We need to overcome the team's present frustrating show and I believe we'll be able to do so by utilising our potential," he said yesterday.

"I want the best players, irrespective of their age."

He is of the opinion that the national team should be a composition of youth and experience.

"I think there are some players in the A team that can be considered for the future."

He however deflected a question on whether he needed to be involved in the selection process.

About his target in the ICC Champions Trophy starting in Sri Lanka on September 12, the Bangla-desh skipper said, "It is pointless to think about beating Australia or New Zealand. Realistically, our aim is to put up a credible performance."

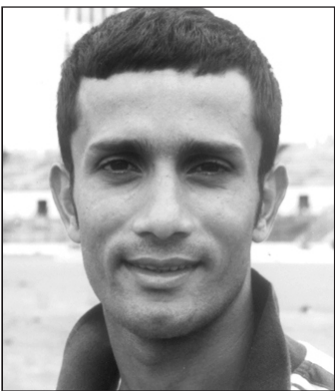
He recognised that the team was passing through a rough patch in the international arena since being elevated to a Test nation.

Mashud, who also has the responsibility of keeping wicket, emphasised on a united team effort as opposed to individual performances. "It is more important that the team has done well."

He said everybody would have to

work harder because they face a tough schedule in the next couple of months.

Bangladesh tour South Africa later this month to play a couple of Tests and one-day internationals. Then they host West Indies in November-December. And next year comes the World Cup in South Africa and a historic visit to



KHALED MASHUD

Australia.

Mashud expressed dissatisfaction over practice facilities at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protis-than.

"We went to residential camp in BKSP on August 20 but there was no proper pitch for batting practice," he said.

The Bangladesh team leaves on September 8.

They will take on world champions Australia on September 19 and face reigning champions New Zealand on September 23 in the first round.

GP chess

Zia, Rajib share lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman and International Master Enamul Hossain Rajib were the joint-leaders in the Grand Prix Chess Tournament at the end of the fourth round at the NSC chess room yesterday.

On the opening day, Zia and Rajib won three matches against a draw each.

Zia beat Shakil, Nasir and IM Reefat-bin-Sattar and drew with IM Abdullah Al-Rakib while Rajib beat Zakia Sultana, Nasir and Reefat. He also drew with Rakib.

Both had three-and-a-half points each, a point more than IM Rakib and IWM Rani Hamid who managed 3 points each.

A total of 12 players including nine of the Bangladesh team for the 35th Chess Olympiad are taking part in the warm-up tournament.

The rounds five-seven are scheduled to be held today.

Div II chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi Daba Unnayan Sangstha held on the top spot in the Second Division Chess League with a 3-1 sixth round win over Uttara Daba Sangha at the NSC chess room yesterday.

With that win, Rajshahi earned 18.5 points.

Hazaribagh Friendship Sporting Club and Fighter Krira Chakra were jointly in the second position with 17 points each.

The seventh round starts today at 3 pm.



PHOTO: STAR

Top chess players of the country in action yesterday in the Grand Prix 2002 rapid chess competition organised to prepare them for the Chess Olympiad in Russia next month. (Front) Grand Master Ziaur Rahman (R) against Abu Sufian Shafi. (Back) International Women's Master Rani Hamid vs International Master Reefat bin-Sattar.

England pile on runs



AFP, London

Michael Vaughan was on the brink of his fourth Test century of the season as England built a strong foundation to their innings against India here at The Oval on Thursday.

At tea, on the first day of the fourth and final Test, England were 201 for one off 59 overs after captain Nasser Hussain had won the toss.

Opener Vaughan was 92 not out off 179 balls including 12 fours and Mark Butcher 35 not out, the pair sharing an unbroken stand of 103 as they batted through the session.

Vaughan has made three of his four Test hundreds this summer, starting with 115 and 100 in the Lord's series openers against Sri Lanka and India respectively.

The Yorkshire player followed that up with a career-best 197 in the drawn second Test against India at Trent Bridge and looked in equally

good form here.

India's spinners Harbhajan Singh and Anil Kumble put a brake on the run-rate but England, assisted by occasional fielding errors, were rarely troubled having resumed on their lunch total of 113 for one off 29 overs.

Yorkshire's Vaughan, 42 not out at lunch, brought up his fifty with an elegant backfoot cover-driven boundary off Ajit Agarkar.

But when he had made 59, and England were 142 for one, Vaughan

LATEST

England sent India on a leather chase as the hosts amassed 272/2 in 72 overs on the first day of the series deciding Test last night.

Opener Michael Vaughan was batting on 142.

was almost run out in the 36th over.

He drove medium-pace Agarkar and set off for a single. But Mark Butcher was not interested.

Vaughan turned round and dived back towards the batting crease, wicket-keeper Ajay Ratra taking off the bails following India captain Sourav Ganguly's throw from mid-off.

South African umpire David Orchard at square leg signalled for replay assistance and television pictures suggested Vaughan had just made his ground.

Earlier Vaughan's opening partner Marcus Trescothick marked his return to international cricket with a dashing 57.

Trescothick, who until last weekend had been out of action since July 17 because of a broken left thumb, looked in superb touch.

But Trescothick, seemingly on course for a big score, then played a major part in his own downfall.

Trying to hook left-arm quick

Venus, Amelie in last four



AFP, New York

Defending champion Venus Williams overwhelmed former world number one Monica Seles to reach her sixth consecutive US Open semifinal, where France's surprising Amelie Mauresmo awaits.

Second seed Williams routed sixth seed Seles 6-2, 6-3 in just 57 minutes here Wednesday after Mauresmo ended host-nation hopes for an all-American final four by ousting Australian Open champion Jennifer Capriati 4-6, 7-6, 6-3.

Williams, seeking her third Flushing Meadows title in a row, is 4-0 against Mauresmo, including triumphs last February in Paris and Antwerp semi-finals. But Mauresmo has earned respect with her second consecutive Slam semi-final trip.

"She is a very speedy player, very powerful," Williams said.

"She's been to the semi-finals at Wimbledon and the US Open. She's has had a terrific season."

World number one Serena Williams, who lost to older sister Venus here in last year's final, plays fourth seed Lindsay Davenport in

Friday's other semi-final.

The sisters could meet in the final for the fourth time in the past five Grand Slam events. Serena defeated Venus in all-Williams finals at Wimbledon and the French Open.

"People are going to get bored seeing the same final," Mauresmo

said. "It gets a little bit irritating. You want to go out and beat these guys. I think I have a good chance. It's going to be a very tough match."

Williams broke Seles at love in the seventh game of the second set, yet Seles fought back in the next

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PHOTO: INTERNET

American Venus Williams in action against compatriot Monica Seles in the US Open quarterfinals on September 4.