



Did U Know?

CV Grimmett's record of 3 ten-wicket match hauls in succession is unequalled. The Australian recorded the feat in the 3rd, 4th and 5th Tests against South Africa in 1935-36. He returned with figures of 5-32 and 5-56, 3-70 and 7-40, 7-100 and 6-73.



BTV & SET Max

ICC Champions Trophy
South Africa vs West Indies
Live at 10:00 am

ESPN

Western Union World Football
Repeat at 11:30 am
English Premier Football League
Newcastle United vs Leeds United
Repeat at 6:00 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

Gillette World Sports Special
Int'l Sports News
Repeat at 7:00 am
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 8:00 pm
Football Asia
Taped Version at 9:00 pm



Sunil Gavaskar

(Indian cricket legend)
"Sachin Tendulkar is the closest thing to batting perfection I've seen in terms of technique and temperament."

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

1. Who won the Cote Premier Division handball title? BDR Mariner Ajax
2. Who became man-of-the-match in the 3rd Test between England and India? D R A V I D Tendulkar Kumble
3. Who won New Haven Open tennis title? Venus Hingis Serena
4. Who are the current English Premier League champions? Arsenal Man Utd Liverpool
5. Who is the new French national soccer coach? Santini Metsu Hiddink
Name
Class
School Address



National Bank Premier Division Football League Super Five
Mohammedan SC v Muktiyoddha Sangsad (6 pm)
Relegation League
Badda Jagarani v Victoria SC (4 pm)



PHOTO: STAR

Dhanmondi's Shahidul (R) intercepts an attempted volley from Abahani's Nigerian recruit Donald Agu during their National Bank Premier Division Football League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

After Muktis it's Abahani

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Match-fixing syndrome seems to have struck the local football permanently as even a popular team like Abahani could not refrain from the unholy practice in a National Bank Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Two more foreign booters for MSC

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club brought in two foreign players ahead of their crucial Super Five match of the National Bank Premier League against Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra today.

The clash of the title-contenders kicks off at the Bangabandhu National Stadium at 6 pm.

Mohammedan are desperately looking to claim the top spot, which they surrendered to bitter rivals Abahani in a 1-2 defeat last Saturday.

Uzbek midfielder Turabekov Davronbek arrived in the city yesterday. Fellow attacking midfielder Nigerian Isiaka joined him on the same day.

Isiaka plays for Tollygunji Agragamee in Kolkata.

Though Mohammedan signed up Davronbek last night, but his international transfer clearance (ITC) was yet to reach Dhaka late last night.

Both players will help reduce Mohammedan's injury worries.

The match is equally important for Muktiyoddha, who now trail league leaders Abahani by two points and Mohammedan by one.

Muktiyoddha won the first meeting 3-1 in the tiebreaker after a goalless draw in normal time.

Venus skips Swisscom Challenge

REUTERS, Berne

World number two Venus Williams has pulled out of next month's prestigious 1.224 million dollars Swisscom Challenge, organisers have said.

Williams, who withdrew from this week's Brazil Open after losing the US Open final to sister Serena at the weekend, will not take part because of "other plans and tiredness".

But tournament director Beat Ritschard told a news conference at Swisscom's Berne headquarters that the rest of world's top ten will attend the October 14-21 tournament in Zurich.

World number one Serena Williams is likely to be top seed, and defending champion Lindsay Davenport, who beat Jelena Dokic in last year's final, will also be one of the eight seeded players.

But Swiss Martina Hingis, currently ranked 10th in the world, is unlikely to be seeded for her home event despite the absence of Venus Williams.

Former world number one Hingis only recently returned from an ankle injury, which prevented her from competing in the French Open and Wimbledon. She reached the fourth round of the US Open 10 days ago.

Anna Kournikova, ranked 38th in the world, is one of three wild card entries. Ritschard said a decision on the other two would not be made until later this month.

The top four seeds will be exempt from the first round and the winner will take a prize 182,000 dollars.

After Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra beat Arambagh by a solitary goal in a fixed-match on Wednesday, it was the holders Abahani who registered a dubious 2-0 win against neighbours Dhanmondi Club on Thursday to keep their lead in the race.

Both teams played 'honeymoon football' in the first half without bothering each other and there was not a single notable move made by either side. They remained busy within the midfield.

Play continued like this till the middle of the second half when suddenly Abahani launched offensives and Dhanmondi defenders turned lethargic.

The outcome of the comedy was obvious with Abahani getting their lead in the 67th minute.

A long ball came from right and no Dhanmondi defenders tried to block that. An unguarded Donald had no problem to send the ball home with a left foot shot.

After the goal both teams once again played friendly game till the final minute of the game when Abahani got a corner at the right flank. League's leading scorer Colly headed home the Liton flag-kick to make it 2-0.

It was the 12th goal for the Nigerian striker in the league so far, four more than his compatriot Emeca Achilefu.

Abahani's ninth win in eleven matches kept them atop the 'super five' table with highest 29 points. On the other hand, Dhanmondi remained fourth in the table with their previous collection of 15 points.

TEAMS

ABAHANI KC: Apel, Partho, Nazrul, Ghansha, Mintu (Shuvro), Lawrence, Liton, Iqbal (Khokon), Asad (Parvez), Colly and Donald.

DHANMONDI CLUB: Biplab, Dulal, Shahidul, Parimal, Narayan, Hanif, Palash, Nurul Islam, Monju, Topu and Mishu.

Referee: R Alam.

BROTHERS-2 FARASHGANJ-0

Earlier, in a relegation league affair, Brothers Union posted an identical (2-0) win over Farashganj Sporting Club.

Liton Khan put the orange-blues ahead in the 40th minute while Chanchal made it 2-0 in the 45th minute.

It was an important win for Brothers that helped them to move into the second position of the five-team relegation league table having raised their tally to 12 points from ten matches.

On the other hand, Farashganj, who have already confirmed their relegation, remained at the bottom with only 3 points from 11 matches.

Malik lbw bowled TV!



REUTERS, Colombo

Pakistan batsman Shoaib Malik became on Thursday the first batsman ever to be given out leg before wicket by the third umpire.

South African television umpire Rudi Koertzen ruled Shoaib had been trapped lbw for one in the opening match of the ICC Champions Trophy between

Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Shoaib had been hit on the pads by left-arm paceman Chaminda Vaas bowling over the wicket. Umpire Daryl Harper referred the decision to Koertzen who decided the ball had been in line with the stumps.

Under experimental regulations in force for the one-day tournament, field umpires can refer any decision, including lbws and bat-pad catches, to the third umpire. He in turn can then study two television replays in a 20-second period before giving his verdict.



PHOTO: INTERNET

MAKING HISTORY! Pakistan batsman Shoaib Malik who became the first cricketer to be declared LBW by the third umpire during the opening match of the ICC Champions trophy against Sri Lanka in Colombo yesterday.

Cricketers play Holland today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh play their first warm-up match against Holland at the NCC ground in Colombo today.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Khaled Mashud will lead the team in the first meeting of the two countries since the 1997 ICC Trophy championship.

Bangladesh also play another practice game against England on September 16 before facing the two toughest opponents in the ICC Champions Trophy.

Mashud's men take on world champions Australia in their first match of the 12-nation meet at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground on September 19. Then they meet defending ICC Knockout champions New Zealand at the same venue on September 23.

The 12-nation mini-world Cup began in the Sri Lankan capital yesterday.

A 14-member Bangladesh left Dhaka on September 9. It is their second visit to the Emerald Island in two months after their two-match Test and three-match one-day series.

The Test babes will fly straight from Colombo to South Africa for a month-long tour, starting on September 27.

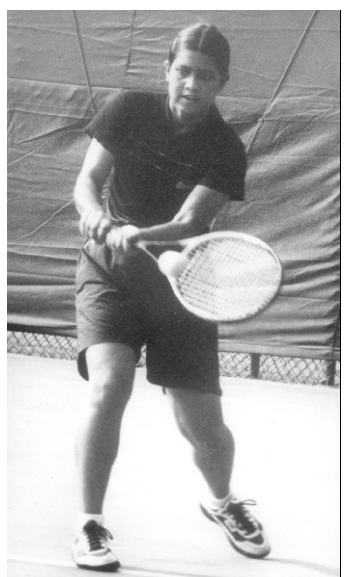
Double crowns for Baishakhi, Roy

SPORTS REPORTER

Shefat Nusrat Baishakhi and Amol Roy earned a delightful double in the Sheltech National Tennis Circuit and Junior Competition at the National Tennis Complex yesterday.

Baishakhi won the women's singles final against Israt Sultana Ruma 6-0, 6-3. Later she and Ruma clinched the doubles title defeating Shathi Sarkar and Asma Khatun 7-6, 6-1.

Roy of the Engineers' Club clinched the men's singles crown in style with a comfortable 6-2, 6-4 win



SHEFAT NUSRAT BAIASHAKHI

over top seed Hira Lal.

They then bagged the doubles event after a hard-fought 7-5, 2-6, 7-6 win over Dilip Pasia and Alamgir Hossain.

Land Minister M Shamsul Islam witnessed the final day's action as the chief guest and distributed the prizes.

Thorpe's sour comeback

AFP, London

Australia batsman Mark Waugh played himself into form ahead of the Ashes with 117 for Essex on the first day of their Second Division county championship match against Durham.

England reject Aftab Habib made 123, helping Waugh add 218 for the fourth wicket, as Essex closed on 368 for five.

In the top flight already-crowned champions Surrey welcomed back England middle-order maestro Graham Thorpe

However, there was no fairytale return for Thorpe, who only managed a 45-ball 19 against already relegated Hampshire at the Rose Bowl.

Left-hander Thorpe has been in self-imposed exile from all cricket since July in order to deal with difficulties caused by the break-up of his marriage.

But that did not stop the England selectors including him in the Ashes tour squad Tuesday.

Seles sails

REUTERS, Salvador

Monica Seles has begun the defence of her Brazil Open WTA title by brushing past Slovenia's Tina Pisnik 7-5, 6-1.

The former Australian, US and French Open champion, aiming for her third WTA title this year after her wins in Doha and Madrid, went

Pakistan fall apart



REUTERS, Colombo

Pakistan were restricted to a limp 200 all out in the opening match of the Champions Trophy against Pool 4 rivals and tournament hosts Sri Lanka on Thursday.

By the sixth over Pakistan had scored just 17 runs for the loss of three wickets.

With both sides expected to

easily beat the third team in the pool, the Netherlands, defeat in this day-night match is likely to mean an early exit from the 12-team tournament.

Opener Saeed Anwar rescued the Pakistan innings from total disarray by scoring 52 his 43rd one-day fifty and raising a 70-run fourth wicket partnership with Younis Khan (35) before being the sixth batsman to be dismissed.

Off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan once again led the bowling, taking three for 29 from his full quota

of 10 overs while paceman Dilhara Fernando finished with three for 30 after taking two wickets in the final over.

The 34-year-old Anwar cut left-arm Chaminda Vaas through point and swept and cut slow bowlers Upul Chandana and skipper Sanath Jayasuriya, before top-edging a pull against paceman Fernando to square leg in the 34th over. He hit five fours during his 82-ball effort.

Muralitharan had broken the partnership between Anwar and Khan, bowling the latter leg-stump after an attempted paddle sweep.

The aggressive Rashid Latif then scored a swift 22 in just 24 balls before Muralitharan struck again and he was caught at the mid-wicket fence.

Misbahul Haq, playing in place of the injured Inzamamul Haq, had an important innings, scoring 47 from 70 balls and narrowly missing his third fifty in only his fifth one-day by being the last man out.

Aside from Shoaib, Shahid Afridi caught behind off the bowling of paceman Pulasthi Gunaratne for four and the recalled Yousuf Youhana run out for a second ball duck were the other victims of the early wicket blitz.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of Pakistan innings in the ICC Champion Trophy match against Sri Lanka at the Premadasa Stadium on Thursday:
PAKISTAN

Anwar c Chandana b Fernando	52
Afridi c Sangakkara b Gunaratne	4
S. Malik lbw b Vaas	1
Youhana run out	0
Y. Khan b Muralitharan	35
Latif c Fernando b Muralitharan	22
Misbahul b Fernando	47
Razzaq c Aravinda b Gunaratne	16
Akram b Muralitharan	0
Younis c Aravinda b Fernando	4
Akhtar not out	0
Extras: (lb-8, nb-3, w-3, pen-5)	19
Total: (All out in 49.4 overs)	200
Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-17, 3-17, 4-87.	

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WI up against SA today

Hooper's prep worry



REUTERS, Colombo

West Indies captain Carl Hooper is worried about the quality of his team's preparations for their opening ICC Champions Trophy match against South Africa in Pool 3 on Friday.

While Shaun Pollock's team played in the recent triangular series against Pakistan and Sri Lanka in Morocco, the West Indies players had to make do with a limited warm-up in their domestic one-day competition.

"I've been following the progress of the other teams and their preparation seems ideal," Hooper told reporters on Thursday.

"Our problem is that we are coming off a one-day tournament in the Caribbean, but forever and a day I've been saying our wickets are not conducive to good cricket."

"We were wanting to use that tournament as a build-up for this tournament but we were sat in St Lucia and the only chance for practice was when you were out in the middle -- otherwise practice was just batting on concrete strips in the stadium."

"It was not ideal preparation and I'd have loved to be able to practise more. I wouldn't say we are underdone but I would say we could have

prepared a little better," he added.

With lowly Kenya the other side in Pool 3, Hooper knows that Friday's showdown with South Africa is shaping up as an effective quarterfinal clash in the 12-team competition.

"It looks that way," he said. "The Kenyans are not to be underestimated and they have beaten us before in the World Cup, but you would have thought that whoever

easy," said Hooper. "But on two occasions in the Caribbean we had convincing wins and that is what we will be looking at."

"If we've had one fault over the years, it's that we've not been consistent but, if we play good cricket, we are capable of beating them. We've just got to make sure we put it together."

The West Indies have arrived in Sri Lanka without pace bowler Cameron Cuffy and off-spinning all-rounder Marlon Samuels, both having been sidelined following knee surgery.

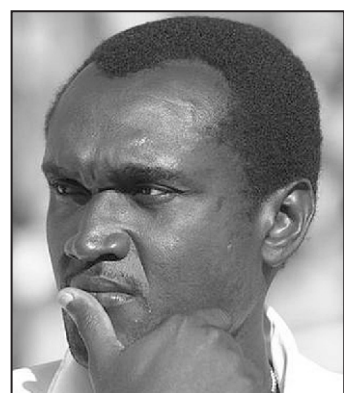
Cuffy's absence and a change in the eligibility rules for West Indies representation has allowed the return of all-rounder Vasbert Drakes, who last played international cricket seven years ago.

The 33-year-old Drakes has played first-class cricket for Border province in South Africa for much of that time, ruling him out of West Indies contention as the selectors are only allowed to choose players who play domestic cricket in the Caribbean.

But that regulation has been changed, permitting players to be picked for West Indies if they took part in the domestic tournament immediately before selection.

Drakes, who has been repressive Barbados this season, was therefore back in the frame for selection.

"It's a big advantage to have



CARL HOOPER

wins tomorrow stands a very good chance of going through to the next phase."

South Africa's recent record against the West Indies is impressive, having triumphed 5-2 in a one-day series in the Caribbean in early 2001.

"They are very disciplined, a good side and we know it won't be

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Flemo's number one



REUTERS, Sydney

Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne says New Zealand's Stephen Fleming is probably the best captain in world cricket.

Warne, named in 2000 as one of Wisden's five cricketers of the century, said Fleming possessed an astute tactical brain and always made the most of the weapons at his disposal in matches between rivals Australia and New Zealand.

"I think Stephen Fleming is probably the best captain in world cricket," Warne told Sydney's Daily Telegraph newspaper from Sri Lanka.

"I think he's in the top few, if not the best, in Test and one-day cricket."

Warne and Fleming will be on opposite sides in the ICC Champions Trophy, which begins in Sri Lanka later on Thursday, when New Zealand begin the defence of their title against Australia on

Sunday. Warne also praised his Test captain Steve Waugh and Australia's one-day skipper Ricky Ponting.

"I think Steve Waugh is a wonderful captain and probably is the best in test cricket, and Ricky's doing a

fantastic job in one-day cricket. But Stephen Fleming is an excellent captain," Warne said.

The leg-spinner, who turns 33 on Friday, has shed more than 12 kg

since January under a strict new training and diet regime, prompting former Australia captain Allan Border to suggest he could be on the brink of another wicket-taking surge.

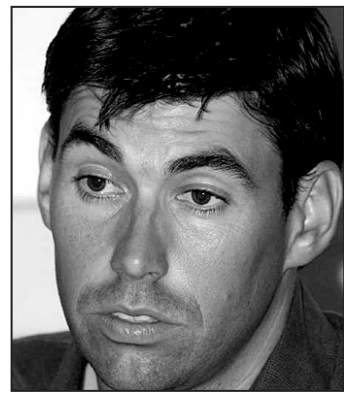
Warne boasts 450 wickets in 101 Tests and 278 scalps in 181 one-day internationals. He was man-of-the-match in Australia's World Cup final victory over Pakistan in 1999.

While New Zealand's test and one-day achievements were more modest than his own country's, Warne said Fleming always seemed to use the right tactics against him and Australia's leading fast bowler Glenn McGrath.

New Zealand won three of four one-day matches against Australia last season, with the Kiwi batsman usually putting up resolute defence against McGrath and Warne before hitting out against the rest of the attack.

"Some of the things they came out with last summer were very, very good," Warne said.

"They saw me and McGrath off and worked on the other blokes," he said.



STEPHEN FLEMING