



Did U Know?

Injury time added on by referee is sometimes necessary. But Frenchman Michel Vautrot added on 8 minutes only in the first period of extra-time in the semifinal between Italy and Argentina in 1990! He later admitted he forgot about the time.



What to WATCH

BTV & SET Max

ICC Champions Trophy
Australia vs Bangladesh
Live at 10:00 am

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



Glenn McGrath

(Ace Australia pace bowler)
"I don't think there's a secret to fast bowling, no matter what pace you bowl at. If you land the ball 99 times out of 100 in the area you want, hitting the top of off (stump) then you'll take wickets, that's how my theory works."

Star WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION 180

Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
Sept 27, 2002 and draw
shortly afterwards

- Who will lead the Bangladesh U-17 team in the tri-nations series in Sri Lanka?
Nafis | Ashraf | Ashiqur
- What was the result of the England and India Test series?
2-0 | 2-1 | 1-1
- Who won the US Open singles title?
Agassi | Hewitt | Sampras
- Who became Champions Trophy hockey champs?
Germany | Pakistan | Netherlands
- Who clinched the Grand Prix chess title?
Reefat | Zia | Rajib

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)



DAY'S EVENT

National Bank Premier Division
Football League
Super Five
Abahani vs Mohammedan
(6pm)
Venue: BNS.



Mohammedan booters being briefed by team manager Amir Hossain Babu during a practice session at the Razarbagh Police Lines yesterday.

Abahani-Mohammedan battle for title today It doesn't get any better



SPORTS REPORTER

Stakes are as high as they can get for both Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani Krira Chakra as the two perennial foes clash in the title deciding match of the National Bank Premier Football League Super Five phase at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today evening.

The last match of the season is a must-win situation for the bitter rivals and provides the perfect climax to the two-month long Premier League. The two most popular teams of the country have already won the Dhaka league eleven times each.

Mohammedan, the defending National League champions last

won the Premier League crown in 1999. They are now in second position in the five-team Super Five table with 30 points from 12 matches, one point behind holders Abahani who have 31 points also from 12 matches. So only an outright win will ensure championship for the Motijheel giants.

To illustrate their intentions Mohammedan have flown in their fifth foreign recruit Nigerian striker Akeem Awoyemi yesterday afternoon. Akeem who plays for Tullygunj Agragami in the Kolkata First Division is the brother of defender Isiaka Awoyemi, who made his debut for Mohammedan in their previous match against Multijoddha on September 13.

For Abahani any kind of victory would be enough. If they don't win in normal time then they must make sure that they win in the tie-breaker.

Another possibility is that of a play-off provided Mohammedan pick up two points with a tie-breaker victory.

The mood in both camps ahead of this mouthwatering tie was befitting of the occasion yesterday.

Mohammedan captain Masud Rana said that he was not thinking of anything other than a victory.

Talking to The Daily Star Sport before a practice session at the Razarbagh Police Lines ground yesterday afternoon, the former national defender added that he wants a win tomorrow to fulfil a title double dream having already put the National League crown in the bag.

Another added incentive—if they need any—for Mohammedan will be the revenge factor as Abahani had defeated them 2-1 when the teams

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WE ARE COUNTING ON YOU: Abahani custodian Apel (L), Khokon (2nd from L) and captain Nazrul chat with prolific Nigerian striker Colley Burnes (R) at the club premises in Dhanmondi yesterday.

DSA Soccer Shipyard reach quarterfinals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna Shipyard Club moved into the quarterfinals of the 14th DSA Cup Football Tournament with a 6-4 win over Inter Milan Club in tie-breaker at the Khulna Stadium yesterday.

The match was locked at 1-1 after the regulation 90 minutes.

After a barren first half, Jamshed of Shipyard put his side ahead in the 64th minute while Mintoo of Inter Milan equalised in the 68th minute.

Youhana may also sit out Aussie series

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan's dependable batsman Yousuf Youhana is likely to miss next month's Test series against Australia because of a shoulder injury, officials said Tuesday.

Pakistan Cricket Board director Chishty Mujahid said the injury had been revealed in a bone scan. "It's unfortunate. ... He may not be able to play the series against Australia," Mujahid told the news agency.

"Youhana may return home before Pakistan's last match in the ICC (International Cricket Council) Champions Trophy later this week," he said.

Pakistan has been rocked by a string of stunning defeats in the last three one-day tournaments and the sacking of coach Muddassar Nazar on Tuesday.

Experienced paceman Wasim Akram and opener Saeed Anwar have already opted out of the Australian series while ace batsman Inzamam-ul Haq has a heel injury.

Pakistan meet Australia in the first Test in Colombo from October 3-7. The remaining two Tests will be played in Sharjah from October 11-15 and 19-23.

ICC goes happy

BBC ONLINE, London

The International Cricket Council is satisfied with the way the umpiring experiment being carried out at the Champions Trophy in Sri Lanka is progressing.

Under tournament rules, officials out in the middle can refer any decision to the third umpire, not just stumpings and run-outs.

Of the 24 referrals during the first six matches, eight were for lbws and three for catches, with three of the lbws adjudged to be out and none of the catches.

It has taken on average one minute for the third umpires to give a decision after studying TV replays and there have been no significant hold-ups to games as a result.

"Any definitive conclusions on this trial will obviously have to wait until the end of the tournament, but these early figures give an interesting insight into progress so far," said David Richardson, the ICC's General Manager-Cricket.

If the experiment is judged a success and is supported by the various member countries of the ICC, the system could be introduced for all one-day games and Tests.

The Sri Lankan economy, meanwhile, is expected to benefit to the tune of 25m USD from hosting the tournament.

Hundreds of players, officials, journalists, broadcasters and fans are on the island and Sri Lanka believes that TV exposure will also boost its appeal as a holiday destination.

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Hoggard gives Eng control

REUTERS, Colombo

England paceman Matthew Hoggard has struck three early blows to leave Zimbabwe in deep trouble chasing 299 for victory in their Pool Two ICC Champions Trophy match at Colombo yesterday.

The 25-year-old Yorkshireman bowled opener Alistair Campbell between bat and pad for two, had Grant Flower caught at slip and then sent back Dion Ebrahim for 20.

Hoggard returned superb figures of 3-25 from 10 overs as England looked set to complete a big win.

Opener Marcus Trescothick smashed 119 from 102 balls for his second consecutive one-day hundred, his fourth overall, as his side piled up 298 for eight in the day-night game.

Andy Flower offered some resistance for Zimbabwe, his unbeaten 39 enabling the Africans to reach 90 for three after 25 overs, still 209 runs adrift. Stuart Carlisle was 14 not out.

The Africans have to win the game to keep their semi-final hopes

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Pakistan in the clear



AFP, New Delhi

An International Cricket Council (ICC) investigation into Pakistan's defeat in the Champions Trophy last week has cleared the team of any wrongdoing, official sources said on Wednesday.

"The matter is over and Pakistan does not have to worry about anything," the source said, adding the Pakistani team management had been informed about it.

The ICC had on Monday announced that its anti-corruption unit reviewed the tapes of Pakistan's eight-wicket defeat to hosts Sri Lanka in the tournament opener played last Thursday.

Pakistani manager Yawar Saeed confirmed he had been told by the ICC that the issue was now closed.

"I was given a copy of the ICC statement issued on Monday and told there was nothing to worry

about," Yawar said. "The matter is finished."

Electing to bat first, Pakistan were shot out for 200 with two deliveries to spare and Sri Lanka romped home in the 37th over after an unbeaten century from captain Sanath Jayasuriya.

Seasoned opener Saeed Anwar (52) and rookie Misbah-ul Haq (47) were the only Pakistani batsmen among the runs as six others failed to reach double figures on the slow wicket.

Media reports suggested that the investigators were particularly interested in the run out of Pakistani batsman Yousuf Youhana for zero in the 10th over of the innings.

The ICC statement on Monday confirmed the anti-corruption unit (ACU) had asked for tapes of all games in order to review any "unusual" incidents.

"Specifically, it has reviewed a number of incidents that took place in the opening match of the tournament between Pakistan and Sri Lanka," the statement added.

Sources said such action was "normal procedure" and would not have been made public had a furore not been created after commentator Tony Greig announced on air that the tape of the first match had been sought.

The ICC is not bound to reveal its findings unless "something dramatic turns up," the source added.

The television company producing pictures of the tournament declined to comment when asked on Wednesday if the ICC had summoned the tapes of the five other matches played so far.

The Champions Trophy, regarded as a mini World Cup, features all the 10 Test-playing nations and two qualifiers, Kenya and the Netherlands.

The ACU was formed two years ago after the match-fixing scandal which led to life bans on three Test captains — Hansie Cronje of South Africa (since deceased), Mohammad Azharuddin of India and Salim Malik of Pakistan.

Of Mohammad Modest Kaif



REUTERS, New Delhi

Long after his colleagues have packed up for the day, India's Mohammad Kaif is still practising in Kanpur's Green Park stadium.

The thin frame looks bulkier because of a thigh pad and an arm guard. He goes backwards in defence of ball after ball, coaxing the tired local youngsters to bowl for just a little while longer.

To them, he is not India's newest cricket hero Mohammad Kaif but simply "Kaif".

The 21-year-old Kaif, already recognised as India's crisis man after two consecutive match-winning knocks, remembers each boy who has bowled to him at the nets for seven years in the northern city of Kanpur.

"I owe my success to everyone who has helped me," Kaif says.

Down-to-earth, modest and a devout Muslim, Kaif can be dogged and devastating on the pitch.

"He was perfect," Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak said after Kaif's maiden one-day century against them on Saturday in the

Champions Trophy. Kaif had walked in with India reeling on 87 for five in the 14th over but by the time he finished with an unbeaten 111 they were 12 short of 300.

"I knew I had to hang in there and repair the damage. I knew there was pressure but I wasn't worried, Kaif said.

"This is international cricket, I know it isn't easy."

A change of heart came during a talent search at the city's Madan Mohan Malviya Stadium, where Kaif had gone hoping for a free club drink.

Soon, he was Jamuna Christian College's young star and about to leave home for the Green Park hostel in Kanpur to hone his skills along with a dozen others.

His schedule was simple -- play, pray and sometimes study. His main form of entertainment was flying kites.

"I saw this kid for so many years, I've practically seen him grow up," says Ved Prakash, a vendor at the Green Park stadium.

"When everyone else had gone in, Kaif would still keep practising. Fielding, bowling, batting whatever.

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MOHAMMAD KAIF

Kaif, whose first love is still kite-flying, once considered cricket a difficult game he would rather avoid.

More tests on Lara



REUTERS, Colombo

West Indies batsman Brian Lara stayed overnight in a Colombo hospital after being admitted with suspected hepatitis during his team's Champions Trophy match against Kenya.

"He is still undergoing tests. We should have further details from the doctors later today," the Caribbean team manager Ricky Skeritt said Wednesday.

Skeritt said the batsman could spend at least another day in the hospital before the diagnosis was made.

Hepatitis is an illness that primarily affects the liver, is potentially serious and symptoms include a general lethargy.

If the illness is confirmed, Lara is likely to need two weeks of bed rest followed by four weeks of recuperation.

That would probably put him out of the tour of India which starts on 9 October, when West Indies will play three Tests and seven one-day internationals.

The star left-handed batsman complained of feeling unwell before the game at the Sinhalese Sports Club.

But he was passed fit to play and went on to score 111 out of the team's 50-over total of 261.

After Lara's innings came to an end, a doctor was called to examine him and it was immediately decided he should be taken to a local hospital.

Skeritt said: "Brian has been feeling below par for a couple of days but was well enough to take part in the game today (Tuesday)."

"When he came in from batting he was in obvious discomfort and the doctor was consulted."

Lara was named man-of-the-match, but was unable to pick up his award because he was still in hospital.

Fat TV deal for Proteas

INTERNET, Undated

South African cricket has been boosted by the signing of a four-year TV rights deal worth 24.75m US dollars.

The agreement with ESPN Star Sports will run from September 2003 until April 2007 and allows matches involving South Africa to be screened in the sub-continent.

It applies to all Tests and one-day internationals played in the republic during that period, except the tour by Pakistan in February 2007.

Among the high-profile series included are England's visit in December 2004 and tours by Australia and India two years later.

"This was a long and tough negotiation," said United Cricket Board (UCBSA) chief executive Gerald Majola.

"It provides the UCBSA with substantial revenue over the next few years.

"The sub-continent market includes India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh and it is an enormous market of fans who will be watching our cricket."