



## Did U Know?

As might be expected, much bigger scores were made from single hits in the days when the ball was not considered lost if it could be seen. According to one history of the MCC, during a match in Australia a ball was hit high into the air and lodged in the junction of two branches in a tall tree. Everyone could see it and, while fielders were borrowing a shotgun and eventually shot the ball down, the batsmen trotted up and down the pitch 286 times!



## What to WATCH

### BTV & SET Max

**ICC Champions Trophy**  
Bangladesh vs New Zealand  
Live from 10:00 am  
**ESPN**  
India vs Sri Lanka  
NatWest Trophy  
Highlights at 9:30 am  
**English Premiership**  
Aston Villa vs Everton  
Repeat at 3:30 pm  
Newcastle United vs Sunderland  
Repeat at 5:30 pm  
**Sportscenter Hindi**  
Sports News  
Live at 8:30 pm  
Cricket Programming  
Super Selector  
Repeat at 9:00 pm  
**English Premiership**  
Manchester United vs Tottenham Hotspur  
Repeat at 9:30 pm

**STAR Sports**  
Transworld Sports  
International Sports News  
8:30 am  
Real Betis vs Real Sociedad  
Primera Liga  
Repeat at 10:30 am  
Asia Sports Show  
Sports News  
3:30 pm  
**Sportsline Tonight**  
Sports news  
Live at 8:00 pm  
Best of Harsha Online  
Cricket Talk Show  
11:00 pm



**Shane Warne**  
(Ace Australia leg-spinner)  
"My number one priority is Australian cricket, it always has been, and I don't think anyone question my devotion to Australian cricket over the years."



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) .....

## Ian, Nick lift Eng



AFP, Colombo

Ian Blackwell and Nick Knight scored solid half-centuries under pressure to rally England against India in a crucial match of the ICC Champions Trophy cricket tournament here on Sunday.

Blackwell slammed a 68-ball 82 and Knight 50 as England overcame a horror start to reach 269-7 after electing to bat in the day-night match at the Premadasa Stadium.

The winners of this match will clash with South Africa in the first semifinal on September 25 as both India and England have beaten Zimbabwe in their opening match of the three-team Group B.

England were reeling at 7-2 in the sixth over before being bolstered by left-handers Blackwell and Knight.

Knight curbed his shots to steady the innings with a 73-run stand for the third wicket with Ronnie Irani (37), while Blackwell helped his team reach a competitive total with a flurry of big shots late in the innings.

The 24-year-old Blackwell, playing only his second match, showed a sound temperament in testing conditions to dominate the Indian attack as he shared a 104-run stand for the sixth wicket with veteran Alec Stewart (35).

He struck off-spinner Harbhajan Singh for two sixes just when England needed quick runs to put pressure on India. He then plundered 16 in one over off left-arm seamer Ashish Nehra.

Blackwell cracked three sixes and six fours before being caught short of the crease while coming back for the second run in the last over.

Knight batted according to the needs of the situation as he kept his end intact for nearly 28 overs, relying more on singles and twos to keep the scoreboard moving.

Irani, Owais Shah (34), and Blackwell went for shots from the

other end as England added 79 in the last 10 overs after being rattled early in the innings by Nehra.

Nehra had put England on the backfoot with an inspired opening six-over spell, dismissing in-form Marcus Trescothick for nought and skipper Nasser Hussain for one.

It began in his eventful second over, the fourth of the innings.

Trescothick, who scored 119 against Zimbabwe, fell to a splendid low diving catch by Vekatsai Laxman at second slip; Hussain was dropped by wicket-keeper Rahul Dravid; and then Knight survived a run-out chance.

Hussain continued to bat dangerously, twice charging down the track to play big shots off Zaheer but missing on both occasions.

Tempers were frayed as Zaheer exchanged a few words with the England captain, who appeared to have lost his cool before falling to a wild shot in the next over.

Hussain lasted 11 balls before top-edging a pull off Nehra to Dravid, who ran to his right to take an easy catch.

Irani tried to ease the pressure by counter-attacking, lofting straight and then reverse-sweeping leg-spinner Anil Kumble for two fours in an over.

Kumble conceded 16 in his opening two overs before being replaced with Sourav Ganguly. Irani punished Ganguly also, smashing two boundaries in an over.

Irani hit five fours in his 47-ball knock before being trapped leg-before by Kumble, but Blackwell, Shah and Stewart continued the good work with their sensible knocks.

**SCOREBOARD**  
Scoreboard of the England innings against India in a day-night match of the Champions Trophy cricket tournament at the Premadasa Stadium on Sunday:

**ENGLAND**  
Trescothick c Laxman b Nehra 0  
Knight c Harbhajan b Yuvraj 50  
Hussain c Dravid b Nehra 1

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## Dutch dazed by Pak wreck



AFP, Colombo

Netherlands skipper Roland Lefebvre conceded Saturday he had never expected his team would suffer a huge defeat against Pakistan in the Champions Trophy one-day cricket tournament here.

"We got hammered in the end. I did not expect the game to be over that quick," Lefebvre said after his team's nine-wicket defeat in an inconsequential league match.

Sri Lanka have already qualified for the semi-finals from the three-team group after beating both Pakistan and the Netherlands.

Pakistan finished the match in just 16.2 overs, comfortably surpassing the Dutch total of 136 for their first win in two matches.

"We knew they will go for their shots, but thought we could contain them. They have got some clean hitters of the ball. Afridi scored 100 off 37 balls against Sri Lanka in Kenya (in 1996), so it must have been like this."

Shahid Afridi made merry against an inexperienced Dutch attack as he cracked the second-fastest half-century in one-day internationals,

taking just 18 balls to score an unbeaten 55 with six sixes and four boundaries.

The Netherlands, playing only their seventh one-day international, had the consolation of batting the entire 50 overs for the first time in two games.

"I am glad we stayed for 50 overs and this is one of the positives from the match," said Lefebvre.

He defended his decision to bat first after winning the toss despite his team's batting limitations against strong attacks.

"The wicket was good and flat and I thought we had to be positive and score around 180-200 and then go after them. It is important for batsmen to take some responsibilities. You cannot hide at this level," he said.

Pakistani skipper Waqar Younis said he was impressed with his team's top-order batting ahead of a three-Test series against a formidable Australia.

"There were a few positives in the win, though the opposition was weak," said Waqar. "We have started batting better and I hope we continue to do so in the upcoming Test matches."

Pakistan will play their opening Test against Australia here in the first week of October and the last two at Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates.



Commonwealth Games gold medalist Asif Hossain Khan reloads his air rifle during a training session in preparation for the Asian Games at the National Shooting Complex at Gulshan yesterday. On the left is his teammate Fauzia.

## Asian Games torch lit

SPORTS REPORTER

The 14th Busan Asian Games torch was formally lit in the city yesterday.

This is the first time that the torch is being lit in the participating countries on its way to the South Korean city, where the Games will begin on September 29.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman formally performed the ceremony at the South Plaza of Jatya Sangsad Bhaban in the morning.

The State Minister then handed over the torch to Bangladesh Olympic Association president and Bangladesh Army chief Lt Gen Hasan Mashud Chowdhury who in turn gave it to former national footballer Golam Sarwar Tipu.

Later a rally was held and nine athletes carried the torch. Commonwealth Games gold medalist Asif Hossain Khan passed the torch to BOA secretary general Zafar Imam after the rally, which paraded the main streets.

Zafar is scheduled to carry the torch to Busan on September 25.

## Badda defeat Brothers

SPORTS REPORTER

Badda Jagarani Sangsad beat Brothers Union Club 4-2 in tie-breakers in a Relegation League tie of the National Bank Premier Division Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium last night.

The match ended goalless after normal time.

The result left both teams atop the five-team relegation league table each having 17 points. It was Brothers' last match in the league while Badda still have a game against Rahmatganj tomorrow.

Victoria Sporting Club play Farshganj Sporting Club in today's match.

## Cricket faces new foes!



AFP, Colombo

Elite police units deployed to guard the teams taking part in the ongoing Champions Trophy tournament here have come up with an unexpected foe -- prostitutes -- in addition to crooked lawyers and bookies.

Police said Sunday that they were battling to keep women away from the rooms of cricket players from the 10 Test playing nations as well as Holland and Kenya, but some of the cricketers were getting wise to police tactics.

The police lodged a formal complaint with the International Cricket Council (ICC) last week after three women were found in the rooms of West Indies manager Ricky Skerritt and West Indies computer operator, Garfield Smith.

"We are not making a moral judgement but are simply trying to enforce the 'access control' guidelines issued to us by the cricket authorities," a top police official said. He said one of the women found in the company of the West Indian players was a daughter of a former Sri Lanka police chief. Another girl was a 17-year-old student.

Police said the women had been in the rooms of the two West Indians with their consent, but the authori-

ties have begun investigating if the three women had criminal records or were linked to bookies.

Police said some of the players were leaving their hotel to sidestep the tight security at the deluxe Taj Samudra where plain-clothed policemen have been deployed to check on those meeting the cricketers.

The ICC sought police protection for the Champions Trophy tournament which started on September 12 and is due to continue till the end of the month not so much to protect players, but to make sure they don't get up to dirty tricks.

The Sunday Leader newspaper said players were seen trying to pick up women at the Taj Samudra and even two women reporters had been propositioned by unnamed players in the hotel lobby.

More than 300 plain-clothed police are being deployed for the largely covert operations during the tournament, officials said. This is in addition to uniformed police for usual crowd control at match venues in the capital.

Banning mobile phones for cricketers at the match venues and at the team hotel has become standard practice, but the surveillance was extended to the players' car park, the grandstand and even during practice at nets.

But the players were getting wise to the police tactics and some were

slipping out of the team hotel, police said.

Police had deployed an elaborate screening operation before the tournament got underway with hotel staff checked to establish if they had any links with bookies.

In previous years when games were hosted amid the threat of Tamil Tiger suicide bombings, the players were accorded security that is generally reserved for visiting heads of state.

However, this time the focus is on keeping the players under check as fears of bombings receded with the government and Tamil Tiger rebels entering into a ceasefire since February.

"Gambling on cricket has got so much out of hand that bookies take bets on how many players wear a certain type of sunglasses at the opening of a game," a police officer said at the start of the tournament.

The Pakistan-Sri Lanka match which was won by the host team by eight wickets was under review by the ICC to establish if there was any fixing, but later the Pakistanis were cleared of wrongdoing.

Two Sri Lankan players, former skipper Arjuna Ranatunga and his deputy Aravinda de Silva have been accused -- and cleared -- of match-fixing charges by a probe team which cited "inadequate and untested" evidence against them.

The allegations against the two

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## Kallis' spin hopes



REUTERS, Colombo

South Africa all-rounder Jacques Kallis believes his side can win back the Champions Trophy by dominating rival spinners on the slow tournament pitches.

"Our ability to play spin has improved dramatically," the 26-year-old told the news agency as his team prepared for their semi-final clash on Wednesday.

South Africa, who won the inaugural Champions Trophy in 1998 in Dhaka, face the winners of the deciding Pool 2 clash between India and England on Sunday.

"We have been to the sub-continent many times and we know how the wickets behave -- we have got the ability to win here," said Kallis, who hit a quickfire 60 during South Africa's big win over Kenya on Friday to top Pool 3.

South Africa lost to India in the semi-finals in Nairobi two years ago and could face them again, in particular their spin duo of leg-break bowler Anil Kumble and off-spinner Harbhajan Singh.

South African batsmen have long been suspect against spin and could also be up against Australia's Shane Warne or Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan if they reach the final.

But Kallis added: "We have got our gameplan set against them."

World champions Australia take on the hosts in the second semi-final on Friday and skipper Ricky Ponting

has already warned that leg-spinner Warne was yet to find his best form.

Kallis' batting at number three and his swing bowling have been a big boost for South Africa in the last few seasons he is confident he can continue to shoulder the workload.

"It obviously is a lot of work. But the team needs me and that's the way I have played it. I don't think it is too much stress, it's been managed

"It's all about getting the right things in the right place, a matter of adjusting a little bit," Kallis added.

"The basic game plan is still there, so we can get that pretty much in order even here."

Kallis has scored 5,486 runs in 157 one-dayers at an impressive average of 43.53 and claimed 146 wickets.

He will be even more crucial to South Africa's chances at the World Cup because of Lance Klusener's gradual decline as the main all-rounder.

Kallis, whose side pulled off a thrilling last-ball win over West Indies in the opening Pool game of the Champions Trophy, said his team had learnt from fumbleings in the past.

"Looking at all the situations we have come up against, we have learnt from it," Kallis said. "Hopefully we will turn it our way when it is in South Africa."

South Africa have a history of nail-biting finishes in major one-day tournaments.

In the 1999 World Cup they were knocked out in the semi-finals after their match with Australia ended in a tie when last man Allan Donald was run out with two deliveries still left.

A rain-revised target in 1992 also left them facing an impossible target of 21 runs from one ball during their semi-final loss to England.

But Kallis said it did not worry his team.

"We have the philosophy that the more you practice the luckier you get."

## Pak, WI to shift focus on Tests

REUTERS, Colombo

The West Indies and Pakistan will play a three-day practice match in Colombo next week ahead of Test series against India and Australia respectively.

With the two sides knocked out of the ICC Champions Trophy, they will take the opportunity their early exit has provided for players to look to get into Test-match mode.

The West Indies are about to begin a tour of India that includes three Tests. Pakistan playing the first match of their three-Test series against Australia in Colombo early next month.

The practice match will take place on September 27-29, but will not be first-class with both sides keen to get as many players as possible involved.

Pakistan team manager Yawar Saeed told Reuters: "This match will give our fast bowlers the chance to have longer spells in these conditions so they can get used to them and also allow us to test out our middle order players in a match."

West Indies team manager Ricky Skerritt said: "The match will be middle practice with flexibility. It will give us the chance to get all our players involved."

Skerritt said no replacement for Brian Lara had yet been confirmed after he was ruled out of the India series with a mystery illness

## Sanowara Soccer

CU CORRESPONDENT

Madarbari Uddoyan Sangha registered a lone goal victory against BCIC Junior in the inaugural match of the CJKS Sanowara Diplomat Milk Powder Kishore Football Tournament 2002 at the MA Aziz stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

Shaheed scored the all-important goal.

The Chhatragram Jela Krira Sangstha (CJKS) organised the nine-team tournament in association with Sanowara Group of Companies.

Earlier, Eminent sports organiser, columnist and Managing Director of Sanowara Group of Companies Nurul Islam inaugurated the tournament as chief guest following a simple ceremony.

## Gaibandha h'ball

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Four Cute Handball League matches were held at the Gaibandha Stadium yesterday.

Shagatha Upazila won the day's first match in the morning with a 14-2 whitewash of Modern High School boy's team while Swadhinata Rajat Jayanti Girst School beat Sunderganj Girsts High School 8-1 in the other match of the session.

In the afternoon session, Modern High School beat Sunderganj High School 8-2 while Jubo Sangstha beat Modern High School girl's team 8-1.

## Boje, Dawson blow to SA

REUTERS, Colombo

All-rounder Nicky Boje and fast bowler Alan Dawson have been ruled out of South Africa's ICC Champions Trophy semi-final on Wednesday due to injuries, a team official said on Saturday.

"Boje has a hairline fracture in his right finger and Dawson has a right calf injury," South African media manager Gerald de Kock told Reuters.

He said 37-year-old fast bowler Steve Elworthy and uncapped all-rounder Robin Peterson were being flown in as cover.

Dawson played in South Africa's 176-run victory over Kenya in Pool Three on Friday which sealed their semi-final place. They will meet the winners of Sunday's deciding Pool Two clash between India and England.

Boje, a left-arm spinner and lower order batsman, missed Friday's game because of the injury he suffered on September 13, attempting a return catch against Carl Hooper during South Africa's win over the West Indies.

Peterson and Elworthy played for South Africa A in the home series against Australia A which ended earlier this week.

Peterson, 23, who bowls left-arm spin and bats right-handed, travelled to Sri Lanka two years ago as cover for left-arm spinner Paul Adams but did not play.

Elworthy, who has 38 one-day international caps, last played at the top level in January in a five-match series in Australia which South Africa lost 5-0.



Former star footballer Golam Sarwar Tipu leads a rally, brought out to mark the Asian Games, in the city yesterday. The torch rally started from the South Plaza of the Sangsad Bhaban in the morning.

PHOTO: STAR