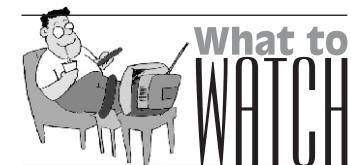




Did U Know?

England was the first team to achieve an innings victory in Test cricket. They beat Australia by an innings and 27 runs at Melbourne in 1982-83.



ESPN

West Indies vs Sri Lanka
Second Test, Day Two
Taped Version at 8:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
STAR Sports
Soccer Soap
Dream Team
Repeat at 8:30 am
Gillette World Sports Special
Int'l Sports News
Repeat at 6:00 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Live at 6:30 pm
Soccer Soap
Dream Team
Taped Version at 11:00 pm



Saiful of Moulvibazar (2nd from R) celebrates scoring the fifth goal of his side over Jagarani in the Nitol-Tata National Football League at Chittagong's MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

Schools soccer Three reach group finals

SPORTS REPORTER

Willes Little Flower, Rayerbazar High and Mollartek Udayan High moved into their respective group finals in the Dhaka Metropolis inter-school football tournament yesterday.

Little Flower got walkover against Faizur Rahman Ideal for their berth in the group final at the Basabo Club ground where the other match between Ali Ahmed High and Kamalapur Sher-e-Bangla Railway High ended goalless.

At the Dhanmondi Club ground, Rayerbazar defeated Sunbeams 3-0 to proceed further while Loretto and Badsha Faisal Institute played to a goalless draw at the same venue.

Mollartek ensured their progress with an emphatic 6-0 victory over IAS School at the Police Lines ground in Uttara while Emarat Hossaini Adarsha School got walkover against Shahid Ramizuddin High at the same venue.

At the Dhaka University ground, Shahid Nabi High came from behind to beat Shahid Nabi High 1-0.

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Rana feels ruined

Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

The life ban imposed on national player Mahabub Ehsan Rana along with Abahani coach Jummon Lusai evoked mixed reactions from the hockey community.

While Abahani termed the action taken by the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) as 'too harsh' a dazed Rana called it unprecedented in the history of local hockey.

But the BHF general secretary Shamsul Bari defended the executive committee's decision on Monday saying that it was not unique.

"This was not the first time a player was banned for life since Haider Alam faced the same fate in 1996," said the long-serving Bari.

But the case of Haider was far less serious than what had happened with Rana, who has just started his international career.

Haider was banned because he didn't return home from Istanbul after participating in the World

Cup qualifiers.

"I don't think it was a harsh decision. We took it unanimously because everybody wanted to set an example," said the BHF general secretary.

"I can assure you that we will follow the example in future if anybody involves in such kind of activities, especially in our tenure," vowed Bari.

But Rana claimed that he was denied justice.

"I have never heard of a player being punished for life after one bad incident. I agree I got carried away and I'm very sorry for that. But why should I have to pay such a high price that will end my career, said the Abahani captain in tears.

"It is so shocking and unexpected that I can hardly believe that I can no longer be able to do what I love most," said the 24-year-old mid-fielder.

"They (BHF) have the right to punish and fine me. But they can simply destroy my career to satisfy their whims. I cannot accept even a one-year ban," said the talented player from Mymensingh.

Asked what he would do in response to the life ban, Rana said

he would be fighting to clear his name through his club and with the help of the media.

His club Abahani was also surprised by the over-reaction of the BHF executive committee, which usually endorses any league committee decision.

The league committee last month recommended a one-year ban on Rana on his involvement in the assault on umpire Golam Kibria during the Club Cup final against Mohammedan Sporting Club.

"This was the first time any Abahani official or player had insulted an umpire. We never supported it that's why we made an unconditional apology for the incident. But it was unfortunate the way the federation took a hard-line against us," Abahani hockey secretary Zahidur Rahman Pushkin told The Daily Star Sport yesterday.

"I think the decision is unwise because it is impossible to produce a quality player overnight, especially when the country is desperately short of one," Pushkin said.

The Abahani official also said

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Wanderers eat Jagarani

Football

Langer pays respect

Cricket

AGENCIES, Darvin

It may be potentially the biggest mismatch in cricket history, but Justin Langer says Australia's historic two-Test series against Bangladesh is important for the game.

Despite the visitors' woeful record, the Australia opening batsman said he looked forward to the series between the world's top

Milner opened the floodgates with a perfect header from a Shamim cross in the 9th minute. Man of the match Jumratul Hossain Mithu doubled the margin with another headed goal two minutes later off a Govinda chip from the right flank.

Although Wanderers totally dominated, there were no further goals in the half.

In the 57th minute, Mithu got his second capitalising on a loose ball after it had rebounded off Jagarani custodian Ujjal.

Four minutes later, Jalal was set clear by Saiful and he ran inside the box to slot the ball into an open net. It was Saiful's turn to join the party in the 76th minute when he dodged past a defender to beat Ujjal.

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JUSTIN LANGER

and bottom ranked sides, which starts at Marrara Oval in Darwin on Friday.

"I will certainly be respectful to the Bangladeshis, they've earned the right to play Test cricket," Langer said of the tourists, which has endured 18 losses and one draw in its 19 Tests.

"I'm looking forward to it, particularly playing in Darwin and Cairns. It's a good opportunity for cricket."

"It's great for cricket in general. I think it's important not to look at your own backyard, but it's always a bigger picture."

"It's great to have Bangladesh playing a Test match against Australia."

In contrast to Bangladesh's ordinary start to its Test status, world No.1 outfit Australia has won 285 of its 640 Tests with 174 losses, 179 draws and two ties.

Langer admitted he didn't know much about his opposition before the series which concludes with the Second Test in Cairns starting on July 25.

"We've got our first team meeting tomorrow, so I'm sure we will have video footage and plenty of information about them," he said.

"I've never played against them before. I'm sure in our preparations, come Friday morning I'll know a fair bit about them."

He said the Darwin pitch looked

SEE PAGE 14 COL 4

StanChart chess Rahul, Liza & Sifat victors

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

Australia coach John Buchanan has told his team to cut down on sledging if they want their achievements to gain maximum respect.

Buchanan has helped to make the current Australian side into world-beaters.

Rahul kept up his all-win record in the tournament as he collected maximum nine points. Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar of Hazrat Shah Ali School finished runner-up with eight points.

However, Buchanan said: "The players concerned let their team down and they let themselves down.

"They lose respect and teammates are distracted."

Stop sledging

Cricket

AP, London

The coach is determined to improve Australia's image after sledging disputes tarnished victory this year.

The bitterest exchanges came when Glenn McGrath and West Indies batsman Ramiya Sarwan eyeballed each other in Antigua.

Australian captain Steve Waugh was also involved in heated discussions with Windies star Brian Lara earlier in the match.

It also led to calls from the then International Cricket Council chief executive Malcolm Speed for umpires to take a tough stance over such behaviour.

Buchanan was speaking ahead of Australia's first Test against Bangladesh, which begins on Friday in Darwin.

The current table sees results more than two years old excluded from the ratings.

That has had a detrimental effect on the standing of both Pakistan and India.

Pakistan have slipped from third to seventh with World Cup finalists India moving down three places into eighth spot.

The first one-day international of the post-update period will be Australia's opening home match against Bangladesh on August 2.

ODITABLE (position, pre-update position in brackets, team, rating, rating change in brackets):

1 (1)	Australia	134	(+2)
2 (2)	South Africa	118	(-2)
3 (7)	England	107	(+4)
4 (6)	West Indies	106	(+3)
5 (8)	New Zealand	106	(+5)
6 (4)	Sri Lanka	105	(-1)
7 (3)	Pakistan	105	(-3)
8 (5)	India	104	(0)
9 (9)	Zimbabwe	63	(-3)
10 (10)	Kenya	28	(0)
11 (11)	Bangladesh	3	(-1)

If ratings are equal, the ratings calculation is refined to three decimal places to determine the higher ranked team.

England, West Indies climb

AFP, London

England and West Indies have climbed up the International Cricket Council's one-day international rankings while world champions Australia have extended their lead at the top.

The latest rankings, released here Monday, show that England have leapt from eighth to third.

England beat Pakistan 2-1 and thrashed South Africa by seven wickets in Saturday's triangular NatWest Series final at Lord's during their home one-day programme this season.

West Indies are just a point behind England in fourth place.

At the top of the table Australia have extended their lead over South Africa to 16 points.

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Ill Wasim quits Hants

AFP, London

Wasim Akram is quitting Hampshire halfway through a one-year contract because of ill health.

"Wasim, 37, who is a known diabetic, has suffered ill health in the past few months and is very sad to be leaving," said a Hampshire statement.

The Pakistan all-rounder, who announced his retirement from international cricket in May, had intended this season with second division Hampshire to be his last in first-class cricket but has missed three of their eight championship matches.

Hampshire's director of cricket, Tim Tremlett, said: "Wasim has proved to be a very valuable and popular member of the team and we are very sorry to be losing him at this stage in the season."

The county are expected to try to find an overseas replacement for Wasim, one of the club's two permitted overseas players along with Australian batsman Simon Katich.

At the World Cup, left-arm quick Wasim became the first bowler in history to take 500 one-day international wickets.

His 502 one-day international wickets in 356 matches remain world records.

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Wasim Akram

Born: June 3, 1966, Lahore, Pakistan

Batting style: left-hander