



Did U Know?

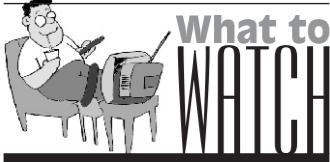
The largest number of goals scored in one tournament record was by Fontaine when he scored 13 goals in one tournament in 1958 in Sweden.



Zinedine Zidane

(Real Madrid's French super star)
"I put forward 2005 because it's the end of my contract with Real. But that's simply a landmark and nothing has been definitely decided."

On his retirement plans.



TEN Sports

Sri Lanka vs England
First ODI
Highlights at 2:00 PM
ESPN
Western Union World Football
Repeat at 4:30 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
STAR Sports
Rugby World Cup
New Zealand vs France
Playoffs
Live at 3:00 pm
Sportsline Tonight
Sport News
Taped Version at 10:30 pm



Tick the correct answers, post to

The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm

Dec 5, 2003 and draw

1. How many runs did Bangladesh score against England in the last ODI?
143 190 182

2. Who is the International Cricket Council (ICC) president?
Malcolm Speed Ali Asghar Ehsan Mani

3. Who became Asian Under-19 cricket champions?
Pakistan Bangladesh India

4. Who clinched the women's title in the Asian Zonal Chess?

Name

Class

Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

B'desh going to f' ship kabadi

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Kabadi Federation (BKF) has selected an 18-member team to take part the International Friendship Kabadi Tournament in Haryana, India from December 5 to 7.

The invitational tournament will also feature Japan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and the fancied hosts.

The Bangladesh contingent will leave Dhaka on December 2.

SQUAD
Badshah Moah, Zahidul Islam, Ziaur Rahman, Al-Mamun, Tariqul

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MSC Cameroon-equipped Federation Cup final today

SPORTS REPORTER



Revenge will play on the minds of both teams when giants M o h a m m e d a n Sporting Club and Muktijoddha Sang-sad Krira Chakra meet in the final of the Tibet Federation Cup football tournament today.

Mohammedan are the defending champions and had beaten the Mukts through a penalty goal in the final last season but the Reds have had the better of the Black and Whites in every other competition since.

The clash of the country's two premier football clubs kicks off at 2pm at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Mohammedan received a timely boost ahead of the all-important clash with the completion of transfer formalities of their five new recruits from Cameroon.

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) general secretary Anwarul Haq Helal confirmed that all the five had their registered done on Tuesday night and are eligible for the final.

However, the availability of the foreigners has put Mohammedan in a dilemma about whether to play them or continue with the all-local winning combination.

Sources close to the team manage-

ment informed that they were thinking of giving debuts to three Cameroonian in this crucial match.

Mohammedan coach Abul Hossain believed that the overseas booters can fit in easily without upsetting the balance of the team as they had already trained with the club for nearly two weeks.

"Central defender Shuvro is out of the match as he is suspended. So Biarthelemy Bessala will take his place. I am also thinking of putting striker Kisato and midfielder Olinga in the starting line up," said Abul.

Abul said he still hasn't decided who to drop but it seems that energetic midfielder Bakhruddin and forward Monju might find themselves on the bench for the first time in the tournament.

Mohammedan captain Jewel Rana said that his team was full of confidence after beating archrivals Abahani in the semifinal but also warned against complacency.

"We will end up losing if the boys repeat the second half performance against Abahani when we swallowed two goals inside a minute," said Jewel.

"The players are in very good touch and we can lift the Cup again if we carry the same spirit into the final. We are also gunning for revenge after the loss in the National League final against the Mukts," said the former national captain.

Muktijoddha's coach Shafiqul Islam

Manik said that he was more worried about decisions going against his team.

"I want to believe that this time we will not fall victim to any bad decision. Last year Mohammedan won the final with a controversial penalty," said Manik, who has been the most successful local coach over the last two seasons.

"We don't have any weak spots in the team at the moment and I am hopeful that the boys will show their best form in the big match," added Manik.

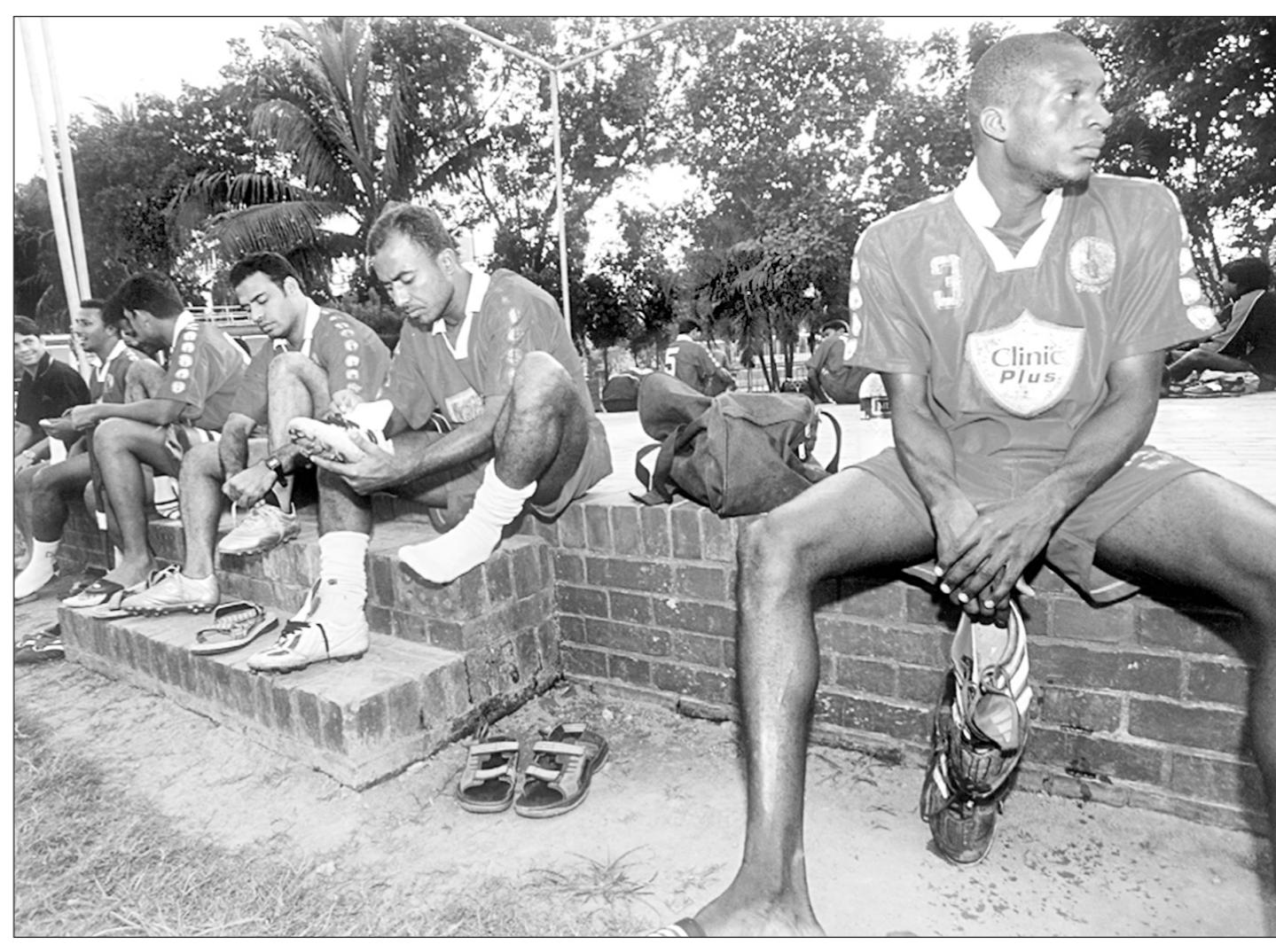
Manik said that his defenders have to keep a close eye on two Mohammedan players in particular if they are to taste success.

"Amin Rana played for us last year and I have no doubt that he is a special kind of talent. He has made a fantastic start to the season for Mohammedan. I am also very impressed with the performance of Khokon Das. We have to keep them in check."

The Reds have one major injury concern. National left-back Hasan al-Mamun is nursing an ankle sprain and is a doubtful starter.

PROBABLE TEAMS
MOHAMMEDAN SC: Milon, Bessala, Jewel Rana, Faisal, Amin Rana, Khokon Das, Kisato, Olinga, Kaiser, Pappu and Farhad.

MUKTIJODDHA SANGSAD KC: Aminul, Hasan Al-Mamun, Prodeep, Harry, Riad, Gerald, Bidyut, Matir Munna, Ghansha, Kanchan and Moni.



Players of Muktijoddha Sangsad get themselves ready before practice at the Armed Police Battalion ground in Uttara yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Unstoppable Aussies

Cricket

AFP, Calcutta

Seamer Andy Bichel uprooted Tendulkar's off-stump and then Clarke bowled Dravid.

Jit Agarkar smashed two sixes in his 25-ball 26 not out, but it was too late.

"I think it was my day," said Clarke.

"It was a great experience bowling in India. I am happy with my performance as I don't bowl too much in Australia."

India were indebted to spinners

Murali Kartik and Harbhajan Singh for containing Australia.

The spinners shared two wickets, but conceded just 64 runs in 20 overs to ensure the dropped catches did not prove costly.

Martyn hit six fours in his 19th half-century before driving part-time spinner Virender Schwag to

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A MERE CONSOLATION: India's Sachin Tendulkar with the man-of-the-series' trophy after the end of the TVS Cup final against Australia in Calcutta on November 18.

National cricket Star-studded final today

SPORTS REPORTER

Holders Biman take on Comilla in the final of Emirates 27th National Cricket Championship at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

Biman, the joint-winners of the last edition along with Rajshahi, reached the final with a three-wicket win over Jessor last week while Comilla upset favourites Chittagong by five wickets in the other semifinal to Mymensingh Stadium on Tuesday.

The final has created added interest among the cricket fans as both sides have strengthened their line-ups by including a numbers of national cricketers.

Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud will feature in the Biman side along with opener Javed Omar, all-rounder Mushfiqur Rahaman, left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique and two national discards Mohammad Ashraful and Sanwar Hossain.

On the other hand, Comilla will field country's premier batsman Habibul Bashar, Rajin Saleh, Tapash Baisya, Hannan Sarker and veteran left-arm spinner Enamul Hoque.

Nat'l badminton

BSS, Dhaka

Newly 25th National Badminton Championship will be held from December 18 to 22 at Jessor.

All divisional and district sports associations as well as affiliated clubs are requested to send their entries and submit players' lists by December 12.

Jessor District Sports Association will organise the meet.

Div II hockey

BSS, Dhaka

The lone match of the Green Delta Insurance Second Division Hockey League between Shantinagar Sporting Club and Combined Sporting Club ended in a goalless draw at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

McInnes not upset

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Holders Biman take on Comilla in the final of Emirates 27th National Cricket Championship at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

Bangladesh under-19 coach Richard McInnes said that he was not at all upset with the disappointing performance put up by his boys in a four-nation tournament in Pakistan early this month.

The Australian, who took over the youth team last month, also said that the score of 34 against India in that competition did not reflect the true strength of his team.

"They were out by good deliveries. So, I'm not frustrated with that performance. However, our target is the Under-19 World Cup and I can assure you that they would be a completely different team by February next year," said McInnes after a two-day match against a combined Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Under-19 selection at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

McInnes has been entrusted with the job of preparing the youth team for the Under-19 World Cup to be held in Bangladesh in February-March next year.

But the Australian's first assignment in Pakistan was not so inspiring where his boys suffered heavy defeats against India, Sri Lanka and the hosts.

However, the youth team managed to take a five-run first innings lead in the drawn encounter on Wednesday after the visitors, chasing a fighting

home side total of 232, were all out for 227 in 77.3.

Right-arm paceman Nazmul Hossain was the pick of the local bowlers, claiming four wickets for 46 runs.

The combined ACC U-19 selection, dominated by Nepalese cricketers, lost their way despite two brilliant knocks

McInnes.

RICHARD McINNES

from Shakti Gauchan and Anand Illyas. Shakti hammered 84 with the help of eleven fours while Illyas struck ten boundaries and a six in a potentially match-winning knock of 60.

The Hosts were 26 for one in the second innings at stumps.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH U-19: First innings 232 all out in 88.3 overs (Rahman 53,

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Lee, McGrath still doubtful

REUTERS, Melbourne

Australia pace bowlers Brett Lee and Glenn McGrath are struggling with their fitness ahead of the first Test against India next month.

McGrath is recovering from two ankle operations and has not played since the second Test against Bangladesh in Cairns in July, while Lee is on the way back from ankle surgery and torn stomach muscles sustained during the second Test against Zimbabwe in Sydney in October.

A Cricket Australia spokesman said on Wednesday that McGrath was "further advanced" than Lee but it was too early to say whether the pair would be fit for the December 4-8 Test in Brisbane. Both could still be named in an extended squad on November 27 before facing fitness tests.

Fast bowler Jason Gillespie, however, returned from a side strain for South Australia on Tuesday.

Gillespie bowled his first seven overs for 10 runs and finished with two for 46 off 19 overs in New South Wales' first innings of 267 in Adelaide.

If Lee or McGrath are ruled out, Queensland's Andy Bichel is expected to start with Brad Williams and Nathan Bracken, who have impressed on Australia's one-day tour of India, next in line.

India not after Akram

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

"Why Akram? Simply because he is the greatest fast bowler of the modern era," the newspaper quoted

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"I don't know why some people are making such speculation. We never even thought of it," Dalmiya told reporters at his Calcutta office.

"The matter was never discussed with Akram, nor has he ever broached the subject before us."

The Indian Express said in a front page story on Wednesday that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had agreed to a request from captain Saurav Ganguly and coach John Wright to hire Akram for the upcoming tour of Australia.

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WASIM AKRAM



Mohammedan footballers gather at their club ground before practice yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR