



Did U Know?

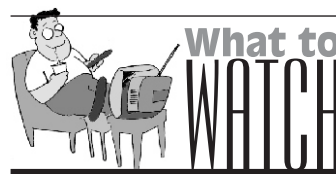
The most valuable soccer shirt was worn by Geoff Hurst (UK) during the 1966 Soccer World Cup final between England and Germany. The shirt sold for £91,750 (USD 134,393) at Christie's, London in September 2000.



Sachin Tendulkar

(Indian cricket super star)

"I want to tell the people to keep a balanced mind. There will be some good days, there will be some bad days. I think everyone should take responsibility. Not only players, but spectators and the media too. Whatever anyone speaks or writes should be correctly thought out."



ESPN

Sportscentre
Sports News

Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

Sportsline
Sports News

Live at 8:00 pm

TEN Sports

Australia vs Sri Lanka
First Test, Day One

Live at 10:30 am

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 207

Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
**Competition closes at 8 pm
March 12, 2004 and draw**

- How many runs did Bangladesh score in the first innings of the first Test against Zimbabwe?

331	400	390
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- Who is the first Zimbabwe bowler to have claimed a hat-trick in Test?

Blignaut	Olonga	Hondo
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- Who was man-of-the-match in the second ODI between Sri Lanka and Australia?

Vaas	Hayden	Ponting
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- Who clinched the Rotterdam World tennis title?

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Name
Class. Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (If any)



Western Union Premier Football League
Arambagh vs Wanderers (3:00 pm)
Muktijoddha vs Dhanmondi (5:00 pm)
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National

Slipping through BU's fingers

SPORTS REPORTER

WESTERN UNION A b a h a n i ensured that Brothers Union will have nightmares of the ghost of 1985 for the next five days after they inflicted a damaging 2-1 defeat on the men in orange in a breathtaking Western Union Premier Division Football League encounter at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

With the only other title contenders Sheikh Russell Krira Chakra sailing past Badda Jagarani 3-0 in the day's first encounter, Brothers had to win to confirm a maiden crown. But it was not to be as Abahani striker Saiful Islam Khokon scored his second goal with a minute of regulation time remaining to set up a fascinating final 24 hours of the season. It was the second consecutive loss for the Gopibagh big-spenders after they had gone through 15 games unbeaten.

If Russell (35 points from 17 games) win as expected against lowly Wanderers on March 11 in their last outing, Brothers (37 points from 17 matches) must also see off Muktijoddha in the final match of the Premier Division the next day if they wish to become champions. Only a draw or a loss for Sheikh Russell will make the result against Muktijoddha irrelevant.

Brothers faced a similar situation in 1985 when they took on Abahani in a league deciding encounter which was also incidentally the last game

of that year's championship. They only needed a draw but came unstuck against a charged up Abahani who fought back from 2-0 down to pip them 3-2 with an on-fire Sheikh Mohammad Aslam netting the winner.

"A tie would have been enough that time but this year we have no other option but to win. I would like to look at the scenario in a positive way as a do-or-die situation always brings out the best in players," said Brothers manager Amer Khan after the match.

"We dominated the match but luck didn't favour us. You don't expect a striker like Alfaz (Ahmed) to miss the two sitters, and on one occasion his header got away kissing the cross-piece," said the former Brothers booter adding that it would be a disaster for the expensively assembled club to drop the league after missing out on the Federation Cup earlier in the season.

Abahani, with nothing to lose, dominated from the onset of the match and almost took the lead in the 6th minute. But Mehedi Hasan Ujjal's blistering shot from top of the box hit the cross-bar and went out of play.

But an unmarked Khokon wasn't denied in the 25th minute when his well-directed header from an Abdullah Parvez cross from the right gave Brothers custodian Biplob no chance (1-0).

Brothers regrouped after swallowing the goal and created three chances with Alfaz send-

ing the ball wide twice from handshaking distance.

Right after the breather they however got the equaliser but it was referee Maruf Sikder who surprised all by pointing to the spot after Alfaz went down inside the box without any apparent challenge from left-back Nicolai. Liton made no mistake to convert the penalty (1-1).

With the match heading for a draw, Khokon served the killer blow. He struck his tenth league goal when he just got a foot to a Ujjal cross and the ball rolled into the net past a flat-footed Biplob.

Abahani manager Monem Munna believed that it was poetic justice when Khokon netted his second goal to seal the match.

"I have never seen such a penalty decision. We played badly all through the league but you found a different Abahani in this match because we requested the players to give something to remember on the historic 7th March," said the former national defender.

Yellow cards: Francis, Iqbal, Arman (Brothers), Sila, Joy and Khokon (Abahani)

TEAMS

Abahani: Nizam, Siraji, Osaman, Sila, Masud Rana, Parvez (Hasan), Pranotosh, Joy, Nicolai, Khokon, Ujjal

Brothers Union: Biplob, Nazrul, Parvez Babu, Rajani, Sujon, Francis, Iqbal, Arman, Alfaz, Victor and Liton (Constantine).

Referee: Maruf Sikder.



PHOTO: STAR

STABBING BROTHERS! Abahani's hero of the night Saiful Islam Khokon (C) being embraced by ecstatic teammates Parvez (L) and Masud Rana after scoring one of his two goals against Brothers Union at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Pak bowlers get hi-tech aid

AFP, Karachi



A top computer expert Sunday said he is helping Pakistani bowlers to analyze Indian batting power-house with their data-

based planning for the much awaited cricket series starting next week.

"We have made extensive planning to help our bowlers set virus in strong Indian batting and we hope that this planning would work to the best effect," Pakistan Cricket Board's computer wing head Ejaz Sandhu told AFP.

The ice-breaking series commences with the first of five one-day games in the southern port city of Karachi on March 13, three days after India fly into Lahore on their first tour of Pakistan for 15 years.

"Nearly all the cricket teams of the world take advantage of the data based systems but Pakistani players and management are for the first time taking keen interest and almost all the players have gone hi-tech for the series against India," said Sandhu, a Ph.D in image processing from Toulouse, France.

The series is billed as a contest between a formidable Indian batting boasting of stars like Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Vekatsai Laxman and Sourav Ganguly while Pakistan's bowling armoury has express pacer Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammad Sami and Shabbir Ahmed.

"Based on the data and video

footage of the last two years we have planned tricks on how to get the Indian batsmen out through their weak points and habitual shots," said Sandhu, who has two assistants and Khawar Rabbani as team's computer analyst. "We know how leading Indian batsmen get out and which are their weak

Riots mar ticket sales

AFP, Karachi

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) was forced to suspend the first day of sales Sunday of tickets for next week's historic Pakistan-India one-day match here after thousands of fans caused mayhem at sales booths, some clashing with police.

A large crowd gathered Sunday outside the National Stadium, the only outlet for the tickets for the March 13 game in this southern city, but the mayhem and clashes meant the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had to close the sales booths.

The PCB said it would resume the ticket sales on Monday after increasing the number of outlets for the tickets.

"We will resume the ticket sale from Monday and in an orderly manner by increasing the number of booths and will have outlets other than the National Stadium," PCB chief executive Rameez Raja said.

"We have only 20,000 tickets for

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areas but we have disclosed that to only our bowlers," said the expert.

PCB introduced the computer lab and appointed former Pakistan pacer Sikander Bakht as analyst in 2002 but due to lack of interest shown by some of the players and after team's humiliating first round exit in the World Cup, the lab was shut down and the analyst removed.

But Sandhu insists all the players now know how to use the laptop computers.

"Yousuf Youhana takes the most interest and has taken his one year data to improve on his batting, pacer Mohammad Sami is keen on overcoming his tendency of bowling no-balls and wides while Shoaib Akhtar is interested in getting more and more information," said Sandhu.

"Coach Javed Miandad is so supportive for this system and urges the players to get this help as much as they could.

The expert said not only Indian batting but his team has also analyzed Indian bowling.

Pakistan team manager Haroon Rasheed said the use of computer is more effective in improving team's own performance rather than targeting opponent's weaknesses.

"Pakistani players are using computer system to improve their own performance rather than trying to find chinks in our opponents' armoury," said Rasheed, a former Pakistan batsman.



PHOTO: AFP

Policemen use batons to disperse cricket fans who gathered outside the Karachi National Stadium yesterday to buy tickets for the first one-day international between Pakistan and India on March 13.

Rain spoils 2nd one-dayer

Game 3 in doubt

BBC ONLINE/AFP, Bulawayo

Zimbabwe and Bangladesh endured another wash-out on Sunday as the second one-day international was abandoned without a ball being bowled.

Umpires David Orchard and Kevin Barbour called off game two of five scheduled one-day internationals.

Following frequent and heavy rainstorms in recent days, many parts of the outfield were considered unplayable.

It means that of the seven days cricket scheduled, only one and half have been possible.

Even if the umpires had agreed to play, captains Heath Streak and Habibul Bashar had already expressed a reluctance to play and risk injury to their fielders.

Friday's opening match was also ruined by rain but the series now moves to Harare on Wednesday for three more matches.

However, a large tropical cyclone over Madagascar might cause heavy rains over the Zimbabwe capital during the next few days.

A proposal to play four matches in Harare this week instead of the three on the fixture list is being considered.

Tigers' fresh WI itinerary

CRICINFO

Sabina Park in Jamaica will host two Test matches in the current West Indian season, after one of the two Tests against Bangladesh was switched from Georgetown in Guyana.

Zorol Bartley, the West Indies Cricket Board's chief operations officer, explained on Saturday: "The Guyana Cricket Board has informed us that the timing of the tour coincides with their rainy season, hence the change."

St Lucia's Beausejour Stadium, originally the venue for the second Test, will now host the first one (May 28 to June 1), and the second Test will now take place at Sabina Park from June 4 to 8.

Bangladesh will also play three one-day internationals against West Indies at St Vincent's Arnos Vale Playing Field on May 15 and 16, and Grenada's Queen's Park Stadium on May 19.

It will be Bangladesh's first full tour of the Caribbean, although their A team took part in the West Indian first-class competition two years ago.

SCHEDULE

May 15: 1st ODI -- St Vincent

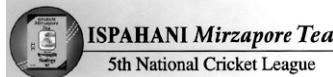
May 16: 2nd ODI -- St Vincent

May 19: 3rd ODI -- Grenada

May 28-June 1: 1st Test -- St Lucia

June 4-8: 2nd Test -- Jamaica

Dhaka rule on numbers



SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka won a two-way heady battle with Sylhet to lift the first-class competition for the second time after toppling current holders Khulna on the last day of the Ispahani Mirzapore Tea Fifth National League yesterday.

Dhaka made what was supposed to be a tough task look simple when they bowled out Khulna for 179 to register a comprehensive 152-run victory at the Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jessore.

Sylhet, who were tantalisingly close to lifting their maiden first-class title, did their part to finish on equal points with Dhaka defeating Rajshahi by 139 runs on home soil. But they were denied glory after the calculators showed they had an inferior run per wicket (25.55) compared to Dhaka's (27.17). It came into play after both teams finished on 42 points on completion of 10 home and away games.

Although Sylhet scored more runs (4446 runs) than their rivals Dhaka (3805) but they lost 174 wickets compared to Dhaka's 140, which ultimately cost them dearly.

But when the two teams went into the final day the odds were stacked against Dhaka, who needed to capture all ten Khulna wickets.

The capital outfit, who won the third edition in 2001-2002, however beat the clock and their opponents in style, dismissing Khulna in just 31.1 overs.

Left-arm spinner Illias Sunny led the Khulna demolition with 3-34 after occasional bowler Mehrab Hossain made early in-roads

dismissing opener Sanjay and one-down Salauddin cheaply.

Illias, who scored a brilliant 94 in Dhaka's first innings of 358, then ripped through Khulna's middle-order before skipper Sanwar Hossain mopped up the tail claiming 4-12 off only 13 deliveries.

Illias was later adjudged man-of-the-man for his brilliant all-round show.

Away at the Sylhet Stadium, the home team also wasted little time

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FINAL FOUR-DAY STANDINGS

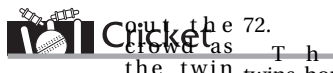
TEAM	P	W	AB	DLd	DLo	L	Pts	RPW
Dhaka	10	5	0	2	2	1	42	27.17
Sylhet	10	5	0	2	2	1	42	25.55
Rajshahi	10	2	1	1	3	3	24	-
Khulna	10	1	2	3	1	3	24	-
Chittagong	10	1	1	3	1	4	22	-
Bansal	10	1	2	1	3	3	20	-

Note: (P= played, W= win, AB= abandoned, DLd= draw first-innings lead, DLo= draw first-innings loss, L= loss, Pts= points, RPW= run-per-wicket)

ROLL OF HONOUR

Year	Champions	Runners-up
1999-2000	Chittagong	Sylhet
2000-2001	Bangladesh Biman	Chittagong
20001-2002	Dhaka	Rajshahi
2002-2003	Khulna	Dhaka
2003-2004	Dhaka	Sylhet

Waugh's over



AFP, Sydney

The illustrious Australian Test and one-day careers of Steve Waugh and Mark Waugh ended with a flourish as the twins, born four minutes apart, left their beloved cricket ground for the last time.

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STEVE AND MARK WAUGH ... final innings.